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## **FEDERAL AFFAIRS**

### The Higher Education Act

Although action on comprehensive reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA) seems unlikely this Congress, Wayne State University has been actively working with the House Education and Labor Committee and the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee regarding possible inclusions in legislation going forth. It is expected that there will be smaller bills adopted that address some concerns.

### Pell Grants for Prisoners

The Administration held a day-long event in which Administration officials heard from state and local officials about successful education initiatives for incarcerated students. It's part of the "administration-wide goal of rethinking education for incarcerated individuals," according to the announcement. This drive most notably includes support for expanding Pell Grants to students in prisons, something Congress outlawed in the 1990s. But there's bipartisan growing support to scrap the ban as Congress rewrites the federal higher education law. The Administration of President Barack Obama began a pilot program to expand aid to some prisoners, and Secretary of Education DeVos has continued it.

### Title IX Compliance

Another section of concern is Title IX compliance. President Richard Nixon signed title IX of the Education Amendment into law in 1972. The main purpose of Title IX is to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex in any education program or activity that is federally funded. Many states are leading the effort to put in place formal regulations for schools responding to allegations of sexual harassment and assault. The Administration is doing so as well. The regulation of this process is a first in many states, and for the federal government.

Lawmakers are pushing bills on campus safety that in some cases are set to conflict with proposed federal regulations. The moves in state capitals again will test DeVos' constant refrain that education issues are best left to the states. DeVos and state officials notably parted ways when she told them they lacked the authority to crack down on predatory practices by some of the nation's largest student loan companies. If the bills cracking down on sexual assault pass, though, they could put colleges in those states in the difficult position of picking whether they obey state laws or federal rules

### Congressman Fred Upton Receives Top Award

The Science Coalition's Champion of Science Award recognizes members of Congress whose actions and votes consistently reflect their belief that basic scientific research, conducted at universities and national labs across the country, is essential to the nation's ability to address pressing issues in health, security, energy and the environment. It is also a recognition of the value of investing in scientific research. Wayne State University and the University of Michigan co-sponsored one of this year's recipients, Congressman Fred Upton. Congressman Upton has a long record of leadership in medical research and progress, and has a deep commitment of advancing medical and health research as a national priority. As the sponsor of the landmark 21st Century Cures Act, which aims to speed up the development of new treatments by integrating the

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patient's perspective into the regulatory process, modernizing clinical trials, fostering the future of science, investing in research, incentivizing the development of new drugs and devices for unmet medical needs and facilitating data sharing and the use of new technologies.

Currently, both of Michigan's U.S. Senators and Congressman Upton are recipients of this award. All of our recipients were co-nominated by Wayne State University and the University of Michigan. Congressman Upton will receive his award at an event in Michigan at a site to be determined in September.

## **STATE RELATIONS**

### Mortuary Science Legislative Fix

The mortuary science bill, SB 239, sponsored by Sen. Chang, passed the Senate unanimously in the week of May 6.

Current state law allows only those with a license to perform this process in Michigan. Ironically, one cannot obtain a license without meeting the graduation requirements - which include embalming – at least 10 times.

SB 239 amends the law to add the language we require. The bill is now in the House, where the Regulatory Reform Chair has agreed to take it up quickly.

## **GOVERNMENT HEALTH AFFAIRS**

### Michigan Department of Corrections

Since December of 2017, the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) has contracted with WSU to provide their Chief Medical Officer, Chief Psychiatrist, and Assistant Chief Medical Officer. Over the past 18 months, the three WSU faculty members have become an important part of the MDOC leadership team in helping support better health outcomes and support for the prison population. They have been relied upon for infectious disease issues, chronic disease, prevention, and more. The director of MDOC has mentioned the WSU relationship in public settings as an important partnership and a great example of cooperation between the state and a public university. The relationship has developed so well that the department will likely offer a five-year extension, rather than a one- or two-year shorter term. The five-year extension could be worth up to \$5 million in revenue.

### Discount Drug Pricing for MDOC

WSU and MDOC have been working together for 12 months to develop a new discount drug program. This would help save MDOC millions per year on medication prices. As a result, more funds would be freed up to pay for population health projects, leading to better management of chronic disease and better health outcomes. This would also help address the health of prisoners when they leave the prison system and return to public life. MDOC has given us a new \$100,000 contract to continue the work. We hope to have the project completed by the end of the current calendar year.

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Graduate Medical Education (GME) Reform – MiDoc’s

We are pleased to report that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (CMS) has officially approved federal funding for the MIDOCS program. We will be starting our first cohort of medical residents this summer, include eight across Michigan and two in Detroit at WSU. Next summer, that number will increase to 40 residents, including 10 in Detroit at WSU. The MIDOCS initiative is a great example of the public universities working together, leveraging our strengths, putting aside our egos, and providing value to the taxpayers. It is also a great example of us delivering on our public mission to serve the most vulnerable in our communities. Within a few years, the program will be producing approximately 35 to 40 new physicians per year working in underserved communities.

Lycaki-Young Fund

The Lycaki-Young fund was first introduced in the mid-1990s. Since that time, WSU has received more than \$100 million in state funds to support care for the mentally ill and those affected by substance abuse. WSU has been a leader in providing critically important services to those affected in Wayne County and beyond. For example, we host one of the largest Methadone clinics in the country.

Seven years ago, Governor Snyder introduced a state budget that completely eliminated the Lycaki Young Fund. Due to strong support from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, as well as a concerted effort to educate the Governor’s office on the fund, we were able to save the fund from elimination. Each year since then, there have efforts to cut the funds either by the executive branch or the legislature. Fortunately, Governor Snyder did not cut any of the funds for FY19. We are also happy to report that Governor Whitmer has recommended full funding for FY20.

Poison Control Center

The legislature approved \$580,000 in supplemental appropriation funds to transition the PCC from DMC to WSU. The new Michigan Poison Control Center will officially open on WSU’s campus on July 1, 2019. The state has also including more than \$600,000 in extra funding in the FY20 budget to offset structural deficit issues and to make sure we are made whole in running the PCC. Our leadership of the PCC will demonstrate our public health expertise and be a good example of our statewide impact, as the center receives more than 60,000 calls from every county in the state.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services HIV-AIDS Roundtable

On May 9, WSU hosted a roundtable discussion with leaders from the state of Michigan and federal government. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services chose WSU to host a special meeting on their new national HIV initiative. The Deputy Assistant Secretary of HHS attended, as well as senior leaders from the CDC, HRSA, and NIH. The roundtable was attended by senior health officials from the state of Michigan, Wayne County, and the city of Detroit. The visit included a tour of the WSU-run HIV clinic. The visit was an excellent opportunity for us to highlight our HIV-AIDS expertise and to build a relationship with senior government officials who approve funding for research and operations.

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### Mackinac Policy Conference

Wayne State University will be hosting a session at the Detroit Regional Chamber's Mackinac Policy Conference. The session is on Precision Public Health, which relates to designing community health initiatives that align health solutions with the particular social determinants of a neighborhood. The session will preview Dr. Phil Levy's Phoenix Project, which uses data mapping technology and clinical information, to help inform community health initiatives. The session also includes participation from the Michigan Public Health Institute, the Michigan Hospital Association, Wayne County, and the city of Detroit. The session is also an opportunity to showcase WSU as an important leader in population health in Detroit, Wayne County, and the state.

### **COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

#### Homegoing Services for Hon. Judge Damon J. Keith

Representatives from WSU attended the funeral service for the Honorable Judge Damon J. Keith on Monday, May 13, 2019, at the Hartford Memorial Baptist Church. President M. Roy Wilson was one of the featured eulogists for this service. Government and Community Affairs hosted former US Attorney General Loretta Lynch, who traveled to Detroit to attend the service. Community Affairs Director Victor Green and WSU Police Chief Anthony Holt worked closely with the Keith Family and Hartford Church staff to ensure the expedient arrival of President and Mrs. Wilson and AG Lynch.

#### Community Concerns Regarding Announced Arena Project

On Thursday, May 9, Board Chair Kim Trent, Board Member Sandra Hughes O'Brien and other WSU representatives attended a meeting of the Woodbridge Estates Community to address community concerns regarding the announced arena project on our athletic campus. The main issues raised were, 1) failure of WSU to discuss the project with the community prior to the announcement, 2) potential parking concerns, 3) prospect of increased noise, 4) potential loss of use of green space, and other issues. Governors Trent and O'Brien responded to most of the issues raised and committed to working more closely with the community moving forward. Community Affairs, Economic Development, Facilities and Planning and Public Safety will continue to work with this group to ensure that their concerns are appropriately addressed.

### **OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY**

#### Spirit of Community Awards

On Thursday, April 11, 2019, Wayne State University celebrated the 3rd Annual Spirit of Community Awards. This year, we gave out ten awards: one Inspire from Within Philanthropy Award, four Spirit of Community Awards, and five Champions of Diversity Awards. More than 200 people attended this celebration, which was held in the Student Center Ballroom.

The Inspire from Within Philanthropy Award recognizes WSU faculty and staff who help strengthen the Wayne State community through philanthropic investment. Through annual, major and planned giving, WSU faculty and staff serve the university, illustrate the power of philanthropy and inspire others to give. This year's honoree was Lisa Rapport, Department of Psychology.

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Wayne State encourages all faculty, staff and students to participate in meaningful, sustainable and mutually beneficial relationships with our community. The Spirit of Community Awards honor members of our university who best exemplify the spirit of Wayne State University's deep commitment to community engagement. Winners included: Donna MacDonald, Institute of Gerontology; Steven Kahn, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Kavya Davuluri, Irvin D. Reid Honors College; and Auntie Na's House Health Clinic.

The Champions of Diversity and Inclusion Awards were a new addition to this year's program. Sponsored by the Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility Working Group, which is part of the Office for Diversity and Inclusion, the awards recognize faculty, staff and students with an established and successful record in creating and/or sustaining a diverse, inclusive and welcoming campus. Through this recognition, the working group aims to increase understanding and appreciation of diversity and inclusion efforts throughout the WSU community. Winners include Jami Pittman, Clinical Psychology; Shanese Ross, Mike Ilitch School of Business; Simone Chess, Department of English; Andre Furtado, Department of Mathematics; and the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers.

University leadership supported this event and speakers/presenters included Patrick Lindsey, Vice President, Government and Community Affairs; Kim Trent, Chair, Board of Governors; Peter Caborn, Associate Vice President, Alumni Affairs Advancement Services; Marquita Chamblee, Associate Provost for Diversity & Inclusion; Keith Whitfield, Provost; and David Strauss, Dean of Students. Laura Reyes Kopack, Director of Government & Community Affairs, MCA Detroit, delivered this year's community partner welcome. Laura serves on the President's Community Advisory Group, and is an actively involved board member of LA SED.

#### On-Campus Polling Location

Plans have been finalized to move the polling location for the WSU precinct onto campus at the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights. We have a signed letter of agreement in place with Detroit City Clerk Janice Winfrey.

The first election that will be held at the Keith Center will be the presidential primaries on Tuesday, March 10, 2020. This falls during the WSU spring break.

As part of our work with the Clerk's office, our office will be working closely with DOSO to recruit WSU students to be poll workers for the city of Detroit on Election Day. This opportunity is a great way to promote civic engagement among our students, provide an opportunity for them to make some extra money, and help usher in a new generation of poll workers who will be able to work with new technology that is being introduced at polling locations.