

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES HIGHLIGHTS

The Wayne State University Graduate School recently received a national award that recognizes promising efforts in initiating or scaling up innovations in graduate education from admission through successful completion of a degree program. The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) and the Educational Testing Service (ETS) announced on Dec. 5 that Wayne State had won the 2019 ETS/CGS Award for Innovation in Promoting Success in Graduate Education: From Admission through Completion. Only one institution in the country is selected for the award during the annual competition. “We are truly honored and grateful to be the recipient of this important award,” said Ingrid Guerra-López, interim dean of the Graduate School. “This program embodies Wayne State University’s commitment to prepare a diverse student body to thrive and positively impact local and global communities.” Success for Underrepresented students in Graduate Education (SURGE) will use a multifaceted approach to address common challenges faced by students from nontraditional backgrounds. Working in partnership with well-established WSU student support services and graduate student mentors, SURGE combines intensive peer mentoring, training and scholarship funding to provide the necessary support for a competitive application to a WSU master’s program. “This initiative reduces barriers for students from underrepresented backgrounds,” said Guerra-López. “SURGE will strengthen students’ support network, promote a sense of belonging and a growth mindset, and develop specific skills that will prime them to be competitive applicants to WSU graduate programs.”

For the sixth consecutive year, Wayne State University Law School has been recognized as a Best Value Law School by The National Jurist and its sister publication, prelaw magazine. Of the 58 law schools on the list for 2019, Wayne Law was the only Michigan law school included. The ranking is designed to recognize the law schools where graduate have excellent chances of passing the bar and getting a legal job without taking on a ton of debt, according to publication. Criterial for selection includes ultimate bar pass rating and two-year pass rate employment rate, tuition, cost of living and average student debt accumulation. perLaw magazine also recognized Wayne Law among the top law schools in the category of Business Law.

ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

Student Service Center Update – Fall Opening and Upcoming Initiatives

The Student Service Center is eager to welcome students back in the winter! This fall, students experienced shorter wait times as part of an OSFA initiative to increase processing output and assist more students through verification much earlier. The SSC staff created workshops and outreach activities to engage students early to solve any enrolment issues before students return to campus. We will build from our successful fall opening by replicating and strengthening this approach for the winter. We are coordinating with OSFA to have additional staff on hand available to help students to reduce wait times even further. We plan to celebrate the start of each semester with refreshments for our students as they wait to receive support. This initiative has been well received and appreciated by students, so this term we plan to double the time that we offer this comfort. The SSC is also gearing

up for an expansion of a very successful SSC Express initiative. In summer 2020 we will double the impact by expanding our outreach to additional programs across campus.

Admissions site visits

Each year the Undergraduate Admissions Office participates in the Michigan Decision Day On-Site program (formerly Detroit Decision Day). This fall the event was held on November 9 at Cass Technical High School. Wayne State University admitted 327 students and 92 students were referred to the APEX program who registered for On-Site Day. The high schools selected to participate in On-Site day include Detroit Public High Schools and select schools where approximately 68% or more of their students receive free or reduced lunch. College Onsite Day is an opportunity for high school seniors to pre-apply to multiple Michigan colleges and receive decisions on the day of the event. The program is also geared toward helping students who attend high schools with limited resources in Academic Counseling and College Advising. The Detroit Recruitment Team also hosts select on-site Decision Day programs at Detroit and Metro Detroit High Schools including Communication and Media Arts High School, Crestwood High School, Taylor High School and University of Detroit Jesuit High School. WSU helps organize and plan the annual Michigan Decision On-Site program and is proud of our participation as it fulfills our access driven mission.

OSFA FAFSA Programming

The Office of Student Financial Aid has continued to demonstrate its commitment to providing students and their families with opportunities to interact and ask questions with staff regarding their financial aid at different events throughout the academic year. We host FAFSA Fridays in the Fall, Winter, and Spring-summer semesters to allow prospective and continuing students along with their families a time and space to come to campus to utilize our staff to help complete the FAFSA. We work with different high schools in the metro-Detroit area to aid in their FAFSA Nights to encourage FAFSA completion. We have also put on many events to current students regarding financial literacy and steps they can take to manage their money and take charge of their financial situation. In addition to what we have been doing as an office, OSFA is developing ideas to interact with prospective students at an earlier date to discuss the financial aid process and what to expect when students arrive to campus.

STUDENT LIFE AND STUDENT SERVICES

The annual finals week late night breakfast study break was held on December 11, 2019. 1,138 students attended in the three hour event and besides food, students enjoyed stress relieving arts and crafts activities.

Winterfest student organizations day was held on Wednesday, January 22. Winterfest gives students an opportunity to become involved and engaged in campus life through joining student organizations. It is a very popular event, as students come back from winter break interested in getting more involved on-campus.

Student Auxiliary Services is pleased to announce an extension of Barnes and Noble College (BNC) as operator of the WSU Bookstore through 2025. Our partnership will continue the provision of high-quality goods and services that the campus community has come to expect. As a further sign of their commitment to affordability, BNC will now provide \$25,000/year for book and course material scholarships for students to be administered by Financial Aid. A renovation of the WSU Bookstore funded jointly by BNC and WSU was recently completed in December 2019 as part of the new agreement.

STUDENT SUCCESS

The **Warrior Vision and Impact Program (VIP)** will expand VIP students' leadership and service experiences to include mentoring and tutoring at three local high schools. In partnership with Wayne State University's Office of Admissions, Warrior VIP students will serve as mentors, tutors and role models beginning in the Winter 2020 semester to teach college-level study skills, share college prep information, provide homework assistance and lead book clubs.

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH (EO)

Wayne State and Jackson College participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Tuesday, Jan. 14, to celebrate the new partnership between our institutions. Students can now complete a bachelor's degree in business from the convenience of Jackson College's main campus.

The Higher Learning Commission recently conducted a site visit and affirmed that the university's off-campus locations have proper oversight, support, and assessment tools. The HLC reviewers report recommended continuance of the additional locations.

Transfer Student Success Center (TSSC)

The university has signed three statewide articulation agreements in business, criminal justice and psychology to make the overall transfer experience more efficient, easier to understand and navigate while optimizing credits earned at community colleges and transferred to four-year schools. The statewide agreements are a multi-institutional collaboration in conjunction with the Michigan Community College Association and Michigan Association of State Universities. Wayne State is participating in the development of additional statewide transfer pathways in art/graphic design, biology, communications, computer science, English, mechanical engineering, public health, social work, and sport exercise. The additional agreements are expected to be signed in the spring by all participating institutions.

A new articulation agreement between the Irvin D. Reid Honors College and Schoolcraft College will allow Schoolcraft students to transfer up to 14 of 28 credits required to graduate with University Honors at Wayne State.

Harris Literacy Program

HLP has expanded its community partnerships to include Neighborhood Service Organization (NSO), which delivers holistic care and wraparound services to address social determinants impacting health, education and economic stability. New classes are scheduled to begin in February at the former Michigan Bell Building on Oakman Boulevard in Detroit, where NSO provides permanent, supportive housing for homeless adults. This partnership builds on the HLP model of providing community services to people wherever they live and work.

HLP recently completed a semester of math instruction at the Michigan Veterans Foundation's Detroit Veterans Center, which serves homeless veterans by providing transitional housing and resources. HLP works with veterans on the educational skills and confidence needed for them to break the cycle of homelessness and return to independent living.

Executive and Professional Development (EPD)

EPD provided a Leadership Development Boot Camp to 40 working professionals at Mitchell Plastics in Sterling Heights. The program featured training on leadership and supervision, communication, performance management and problem-solving skills.

The Procurement Technical Assistance Center, managed by EPD, participated in the Great Lakes Women's Business Council and the Great Lakes Water Authority small business development events to promote its consulting services that help Detroit-based small businesses grow in the government markets at the federal, state, and local levels.

EPD responded to the Workforce Intelligence Network's MAGMA (Michigan Alliance for Greater Mobility Advancement) RFP with several proposals to meet needs of original equipment manufacturers and Tier 1 automotive suppliers. Proposed courses include systems engineering, project management, leadership development, cybersecurity, product design, and technologies in autonomous vehicles.

Office of International Programs (OIP)

Wayne State has been awarded the Fulbright Gateway Orientation program for summer 2020, making it the third time the university has hosted this activity. Gateway Orientation introduces international Fulbright Scholars to the United States and helps ready them for their year of study at a variety of universities across the country. Gateway Orientation is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs as part of the Fulbright Program, the U.S. government's flagship international exchange program, and administered by the Institute of International Education (IIE). All programming will be created and managed by OIP.

Study Abroad and Global Programs

Students can now sign up on AdvisingWorks for study abroad advising appointments to help them plan for academic work abroad. The office has also begun partnering with Financial Aid to offer collaborative walk-in advising sessions twice a month so students understand that some financial aid can be used for study abroad.

New study away and study abroad programs have been created for the Mike Ilitch School of Business that will offer students the opportunity to study in Puerto Rico or England, and a new College of Nursing Program open to all undergrad majors will focus on health care challenges and disparities in Ecuador.