

## ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

#### **College of Nursing**

The College of Nursing continued its enrollment growth during the Winter 2021 semester. Following the university census date, we have maintained our Undergraduate enrollment and our Graduate enrollment. We have been able to continue face to face clinical placements for 95% of our clinical nursing courses (both graduate and undergraduate). We have employed numerous active strategies (e.g. calls to applicants from the faculty and specialty coordinators, regular contacts by the Office of Student Affairs staff) to support robust admissions. In addition, our Fall 2020 applications were strong. We will have more details on the data in future reports.

The College continues to provide ongoing service to the university and the community. The CON remains instrumental to the University Public Health Committee and COVID-19 tracking and prevention efforts on campus, as well as, the COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan. The CON also provided substantial logistics support and volunteer efforts for the Detroit Health Department COVID vaccine distribution efforts at the TCF center, senior centers/high rise buildings and homeless shelters. The CON created a WSU student and faculty volunteer sign up and logistics strategy along with leaders from the School of Medicine and Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. Numerous CON students and faculty volunteered to support the effort.

<https://www.michiganradio.org/post/drive-thru-covid-19-vaccinations-begin-detroits-tcf-center?fbclid=IwAR2I3UQ1R1PV3gUZk8rC7gAYpBufdLZzBgpV4P8Fy99ttWffWUYRp6-TCQ>

We also supported the efforts with technology including Wi-Fi hot spots, laptop computers and google nest hubs. We received extended funding from the United Way and the Michigan Coronavirus Task Force on Racial Disparities Rapid Response to provide these services.

The CON is embarking on a new virtual reality simulation project using *UbiSim*<sup>TM</sup> technologies, *Oculus Rift*<sup>TM</sup> virtual reality goggles and real life health care simulations. We will incorporate our simulation nurse and a faculty champion in the development of clinical simulations for students (undergraduate and graduate).

In the first two months of 2021, our faculty have submitted two training grants (over \$3 million in funding) and six external research grants were submitted by faculty and students to Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation and several different NIH Institutes (over \$6 million in funding). We are holding our annual Urban Health Research conference (UHRC), *Social Determinants of Health and Intersectionality in Vulnerable Populations*; it will be held in a virtual platform on April 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. <https://urbanhealthconf.wayne.edu/> The UHRC will include two nationally recognized nurse researchers, faculty presentations and student/community partner posters.

A ribbon cutting for our new Student Commons and our 75 plus 1 celebration will occur September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021. We hope that members of the Board of Governors can join us for the event. More details are forthcoming in future reports.

### **Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences**

EACPHS started the New Year off strong. In-person classes and laboratories have resumed in both the Applebaum and Mortuary Science buildings. Several faculty members remain engaged in the fight against COVID-19: directly treating COVID patients, engaging in research, serving on regional and national task forces, and administering the vaccine. Our Pharmacy students have been volunteering to help vaccinate Detroiters as well.

In January, Wayne State alumni Kathleen Pawlicki and Kevin Desmond were appointed to the College's Board of Visitors. Another College alumnus, Dr. Zhongcong Xie, was the recipient of the 2021 Wayne State University Distinguished Alumni Award.

In February, the EACPHS commemorated Black History Month through a series of events that celebrate the contributions of Black health professionals and address health inequities within the Black community.

### **Graduate School**

The 2021 Graduate Research Symposium was held March 1-5 showcasing Wayne State graduate students and postdocs from multiple schools and colleges. For the first time, the Graduate School administered the Symposium virtually, with all poster presentations and talks happening through Zoom and other interactive technologies. More than 150 students and postdocs presented their research during the week-long event, with each day focusing on a different theme based on current societal topics. Themes included women's issues, LGBTQIA+ topics, diversity and inclusion, health disparities, and fine, performing, and communication arts. With a vast array of speakers and students presenting these topics throughout the week, the Symposium provided unique, data-driven perspectives and commentary.

### **Honors College**

On January 26, the Honors College hosted an Honors Showcase event via Zoom, which was attended by almost 100 prospective Honors students. The event included a welcome and Honors overview from Dean John Corvino, and a panel of current Honors students who shared their Honors and WSU experience, followed by a Q&A from guests.

The Honors College presented in partnership with the WSU Alumni Association the Arthur L. Johnson Urban Perspectives Lecture Series held on February 25. This year's speaker was Reginald Dwayne Betts - known for his inspiring "From Jail to Yale" story – who presented an excerpt of a solo show based on his new book of poetry, *Felon*. His presentation was engaged with modern politics, mass incarceration, and the challenges of having a complicated conversation about crime, punishment, and sorrow in contemporary America.

### **Mike Ilitch School of Business**

On January 29, AACSB International – The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) – officially notified Dean Robert Forsythe that the Ilitch School's academic programs had been approved for full continuation of accreditation. AACSB International holds the highest standard of achievement for business schools around the world. Of the more than

16,000 business schools worldwide, less than five percent meet the rigorous standards for AACSB International accreditation.

The Mike Ilitch School of Business is one of the nation's most outstanding business schools, according to *The Princeton Review*. The education services company included the Ilitch School once again on its annual list, "Best Business Schools for 2021." Rob Franek, *The Princeton Review's* editor-in-chief, noted that the company chose the schools for its 2021 list based on data from the company's surveys of administrators at business schools during the 2019-20 academic year. The administrator survey, which numbered more than 200 questions, covered topics from academic offerings and admission requirements to data about currently enrolled students as well as graduates' employment.

University HQ, an independent educational organization that gathers and ranks information on colleges, admissions and career paths, has ranked Wayne State University's Mike Ilitch School of Business 26th on its list of the Best 55 Business Management Schools and Colleges in the U.S. for 2020. University HQ analyzed research on scholastic offerings, pricing and program outcomes. They compiled a list of schools that deliver top value for students.

The Mike Ilitch School of Business is pleased to share that Ally Financial, a leading digital financial services company, has pledged \$150,000 over three years to extend and grow its role as the key sponsor and primary corporate partner of the Corporate Mentor Program. Established in 2015, the Corporate Mentor Program affords Ilitch School students who are the first in their family to attend college with the opportunity to be matched with a professional corporate mentor and work one-on-one throughout the entire academic year.

**STUDENT SERVICES:** On Thursday, February 18, the winter semester Mental Health Day was held. Due to the popularity of the fall day, the programming spanned the week so students, faculty, and staff could participate in multiple events and programs. The week included a student "check-in" calling campaign where over 100 faculty and staff members called over 1,500 first year students. Over 150 students participated in a virtual arts and crafts activity called "stuff a plush", The academic success center presented workshops on learning successfully while being virtual, counseling and psychological services presented group chat discussions and Koru meditation workshops. Mental health awareness was the theme of the two home Warrior basketball games that week that was streamed for free online, and new this winter were "virtual relaxation stations" where faculty and staff led special interest topic discussions with students. Topics included puppy raising, favorite movies and tv shows, and parenting during a pandemic.

### **DIVISION OF ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT**

**Office of Student Financial Aid Emergency Funding Update:** Wayne State University (WSU) received **\$19,306,183** in Federal Stabilization Funds through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund authorized by the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act*. From this fund, WSU was required to provide \$9,653,092 as direct emergency cash grants to students who have been disrupted by the coronavirus outbreak.

- Total students who have received a CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grant: 7,658
- Total amount of CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grants distributed: \$9,653,092
- Remaining funds: \$0

- The annual CARES report which included student and institutional spending was submitted on 2/5/2021.

**CRRSA:** We are expecting to receive funds from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act totaling \$32,377,451, of which \$9,653,092 must be spent on student grants. Now that the annual CARES report has been submitted, we expect to receive notice that these funds are available for download soon. The allowable use of funds is more flexible and we can provide awards to students in distance education programs. With the student's permission, funds can be applied to tuition and fees. The award does not count as estimated financial assistance, and does not affect eligibility for other aid programs. Institutions are required to prioritize grants to students with exceptional financial need, such as those who receive Pell Grants. International students are not eligible for these funds as federal law prohibits us from disbursing federal aid to these students.

**Career Insight:** The Office of Undergraduate Admissions launched the interactive Career Insight (CI) software in 2020. Career Insight is an interactive tool that allows current and prospective students to align interests and skills with WSU majors. In addition, CI offers real-time aggregate information on careers available in the local job market - including a list of the top hiring employers and the entry-level salaries related to all WSU programs offered. To date, over 37,000 people have used Career Insights to research major and career interests. CI has been integrated into the WSU Career Services website, the College of Education major pages, and is currently being added to all College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) major pages, as well as linked to a Career Outlook page associated with each major in CLAS. The School of Information Sciences, the School of Social Work, and the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Information Sciences are working with the Division of Enrollment Management, as well as the Marketing and Communications web team, to create implementation strategies, as well. EM aims to integrate CI into all school/college websites so that no matter where a current or prospective student visits a WSU program webpage, they can reliably research relevant and associated career information from that site in a familiar way.

**AdmitHub Retention Bot:** The Divisions of Enrollment Management and Student Success and the Dean of Students Office are preparing to introduce our chatbot, W, to current undergraduate students. Many students are already familiar with W, as the Office of Undergraduate Admissions has been utilizing the technology to communicate with prospective students since 2018. Powered by artificial intelligence software, the technology allows students to interact with W via text message 24/7. This platform offers a unique way to reach students where they are, which is often on their phones. W is populated with over 1,000 questions and answers that cover topics related to anything from financial aid to accessing tutors to how to get involved on campus. In addition to on-demand text messaging, targeted text messaging campaigns can be designed to deliver messages to students, as well as gather feedback from them through these campaigns. Campaigns typically yield a 50% response rate and yields the majority of student responses within the hour. In addition, the bot can be added to any WSU website to provide additional on-demand answers to student questions.

**Wiser Warriors Launch for F21 Admitted Students:** Wiser Warriors for fall 2021 admitted first-year and transfer students is now live. As of February 8<sup>th</sup>, we have over 300 admitted students actively engaging with their fellow admitted students, current students, staff and

faculty on the Wisr platform. Now in its second year, Wiser Warriors for admitted students offers users multiple ways to connect with their peers and with WSU staff in a low-pressure virtual environment. The Wisr platform boasts an instant message feature, discussion boards, an events page events, and allows users to link to video, polls, and more. Staff and a select population of current students share relevant content with admitted students who are in turn encouraged to ask questions and make connections with one another. To encourage participation, we also offer exclusive content on the Wisr platform, including games nights, prize drawings, and other engagement activities. In April, Student Success will also begin offering supplementary Orientation content via the Wisr platform, creating a seamless virtual engagement experience for our admitted student population from the date of admission throughout the entire yield cycle up to the first day of class.

**Student Service Center New Phone System:** The Student Service Center is excited to launch a much-improved phone system on Tuesday February 9th. This upgrade will directly and positively enhance the student experience during their phone service wait times. Students have the ability to reserve their spot in line and have us call them back or arrange a call for the following day.

**Office of Undergraduate Admissions Winter 2021 Newsletter:** Please take a moment to view our [Winter Counselor Newsletter](#) to see some of the initiatives that have been highlighted for our local high school counselors and students.

### **STUDENT SUCCESS**

**Academic Pathways to Excellence (APEX):** APEX advisors continue their bi-weekly meetings with assigned students. Advisors have enhanced their supports and outreach to students who may have encountered challenges during their first fall term by meeting with them weekly. Our office continues to hold daily study/tutoring sessions to support our student's academic success. We have begun to start planning for our APEX Summer Bridge program. The program will continue to be offered virtually/online. We are also accepting applications from upperclassmen to serve as Peer Advisors in the summer program. APEX administrators will host monthly informational sessions for parents and students who have accepted admission offers for 2021. APEX New Student Orientation sessions are being planned to begin in April in collaboration with the Orientation Office. Sessions have started to select fall 2021 classes so students can register as soon as their window opens. In addition, advisors and students are discussing their class options for Spring/Summer enrollment to either get ahead or catch up with credits in pursuit of sophomore status by next fall. APEX is auditing the individual course grades (beyond semester GPAs) for fall 2020 to develop an Honor Roll. Students will be recognized for outstanding achievement and some may qualify for additional scholarship support. Our Summer Bridge Chem/Biology support seminar continues to pay dividends for those who enroll in Biology in their first fall semester. Despite the challenges of the online environment, APEX students experienced their highest grades yet in BIO 1050.

**Office of Federal TRIO:** The Office of Federal TRIO are preparing the following grants: Educational Talent Search 2021-2026 and Educational Opportunity Center for 2021-2026 for renewal. Our Upward Bound program are developing a careers focused pathways support program. The Pathways Program will provide intensive support for students interested in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. Our Veterans Student Support Services has hired a Student Success Coach. We are now currently working on recruiting

participants. We must recruit at least 75% of the participants within the first six months of the grant. Staff is committed to enrolling 80 TRIO eligible students and provide services starting by March 31, 2021.

#### **Student Disability Services:**

- Only 65 students out of 705 (9.2%) who received fall accommodation letters are not enrolled for the winter 2021 semester.
- 180 students responded to the SDS end of semester Fall 20 survey to better inform SDS regarding student needs and successes. This final survey was one of three sent out to students in the fall.
- On the final Fall 20 survey, students noted that the SDS staff had a positive impact on their performance during the fall semester and were grateful for how connected SDS made them feel.
- SDS transitioned to a new captioning (CART) vendor to better serve 9 students who are deaf/hard of hearing. SDS is providing CART in 33 classes per week. This is the largest number of classes we have supported in any given semester.
- SDS provided a full day of virtual activities on the fall Mental Health Day for students to socialize: trivia game, pet show and tell, coloring, and meditation.
- In the past four years, from Dec. 2016-Dec. 2020, the number of students being supported by SDS has increased 49%. We now have 1783 active caseloads.

#### **EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH AND INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS**

**Educational Outreach (EO):** Associate Vice President Ahmad Ezzeddine represented WSU during the first webinar in a series launched by the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities, National Governors Association and National League of Cities to spotlight the role of regional universities in supporting economic development. WSU was selected to highlight its work with the City of Detroit, the business community, and the State of Michigan around talent development. Joining Dr. Ezzeddine on the panel were Doug Ross, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's senior advisor for Michigan prosperity; Melanie D'Evelyn, director of education and talent initiatives for the Detroit Regional Chamber; and Michelle Rafferty, Detroit At Work's chief operating officer.

#### **Transfer Student Success Center (TSSC)**

Wayne State University is the only university in the state to be selected for the Equity Transfer Initiative (ETI), aimed at increasing transfer rates for African American, adult and first-generation learners from community colleges to four-year institutions. The two-year initiative supports partnerships between community and four-year colleges to advance pathways to increase transfer and degree completion for underrepresented student populations. WSU will collaborate on the effort with Jackson College and Oakland Community College. Led by the American Association of Community Colleges, in partnership with the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, the project includes 16 partnerships from 13 states representing 17 community colleges and 19 universities.

Wayne State University is offering a Frontliners Forward scholarship to essential Michigan frontline workers interested in pursuing a four-year degree. To be eligible, students must first complete the state's Futures for Frontliners program, which provides tuition-free access to community college for workers who provided essential frontline services during the COVID-19 "Stay Home, Stay Safe" orders. The first scholarship of its kind in Michigan, Frontliners

Forward will provide transfer students a \$4,000 scholarship — \$2,000 per academic year for two consecutive years beginning the term of admission. Working with Enrollment Management, the Transfer Student Success Center will be the point of contact for students as they transition from their college to WSU.

The TSSC has conducted more than 1,000 virtual advising appointments since March 2020, helping prospective, newly admitted and current transfer students. The team, including student ambassadors, also offers virtual “Coffee and Credits” meetings every Wednesday and “Transfer Chats” every Friday.

**Office of International Programs (OIP):** Wayne State was invited to participate in the 100K Strong Virtual Workshop convened by the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Embassy in Bogotá, and Partners of the Americas. The 100,000 Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund offers grants through the U.S.-Colombia Grant Competition for 21st Century Higher Education Partnerships to support new academic exchange and training programs between the U.S. and Colombia. WSU received a \$25,000 grant in 2017 that helped the Office of International Programs create a new pilot, student exchange program with the Universidad Externado de Colombia to study the fundamental approaches to conflict resolution and peace initiatives in both countries. Associate Vice President Ahmad Ezzeddine represented WSU during the virtual workshop, providing tips and guidance on creating a strong grant proposal.

International student recruitment is well underway via virtual events connecting OIP representatives with students from all over the world who are considering WSU in their college search. This spring, OIP will attend virtual fairs for these areas:

- Southeast Asia (Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Philippines, Macau, Mongolia)
- Middle East/North Africa (Iran, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Lebanon, Egypt, Kuwait, Israel, Qatar, Jordan, Morocco)
- Qatar
- Middle East (UAE, Lebanon, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, and Qatar)
- Colombia
- Latin America (Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Peru)
- Middle East (Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE)

Wayne State was featured in a webinar hosted by the EducationUSA Chennai center (India), and OIP will partner with the Office of International Students and Scholars later in the spring to host webinars to help admitted students navigate their next steps to enroll at WSU.

**Study Abroad and Global Programs:** The spring break virtual study abroad program to Paris shared between the Irvin D. Reid Honors College and the Department of Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures, has registered 18 students. Honors has received great feedback from students about the opportunity, with many saying they would not have been able to afford to participate in the actual experience in France, describing the virtual program as a chance to choose between “nothing at all or all in.”