

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

College of Engineering

The Women Engineering, Engineering Technology and Computer Science Leadership Society was established to bring together College of Engineering female alumni from diverse backgrounds with a common goal to empower female student engineers. Each year the group will invite alumni who have reached significant levels of achievement in their professional endeavors and are committed to maintaining the highest standards of their profession. The society will empower female students to achieve their full career potential, expand the image of the engineering professions as a positive force in improving the quality of life, and demonstrate the value of diversity and inclusion. Members will work in concert with the college and its student organizations to plan strategies for promoting women's initiatives, including mentoring, K-12 outreach, and student recruitment.

The Wayne Mobility Initiative (WMI) has completed the first phase of the yearlong, campus-wide Mobility for All competition. Nine semifinal groups chosen in January are working to create solutions to a variety of mobility challenges — including food access, transportation and accessibility for people with disabilities — and vying for \$5,000 prizes as well as the opportunity to become phase three finalists. Teams are primarily comprised of students, faculty and researchers from six schools and colleges across the university, demonstrating the WMI's objective of promoting interdisciplinary collaboration and innovation in the area of mobility.

The Engineering Solution Center, a division of the Anderson Engineering Ventures Institute, and Little Caesar Enterprises, Inc. (LCE) have entered into a master agreement that gives students in the College of Engineering opportunities to work on a series of projects that will deliver the next phase of LCE's digital customer-facing platforms. Wayne State students will work with executives-in-residence to create market-ready solutions that will seamlessly integrate with LCE's in-store systems, online ordering and delivery.

Children diagnosed with SARS-CoV-2 have experienced severe respiratory illnesses, and today there are no methods to discern the spectrum of the disease's severity and predict which children with SARS-CoV-2 exposure will develop such illnesses. In response to this urgent need, a team of Wayne State University researchers led by Dongxiao Zhu, associate professor of computer science, are collaborating with scientists from Central Michigan University and Penn State University to develop an artificial intelligence model to aid in the early detection of severe SARS-CoV2 illness in children. The two-year project received \$1.4 million from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development of the National Institutes of Health.

Skypersonic Inc., a drone and software solutions company that found its footing as a startup affiliated with the Anderson Engineering Ventures Institute, announced in February the signing of a definitive agreement to be acquired by Red Cat Holdings Inc., an industry leader in drone technology. The acquisition by Red Cat is a big win for the Anderson Institute,

the College of Engineering's entrepreneurial incubator, which was an early investor and helped guide the growth of the company.

Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences

In March, the EACPHS Master of Occupational Therapy program posted its 2020 graduation rate and first-time passing rate on the national board exams (NBCOT); both are at 100% for the third straight year. The college hosted Dr. Dayna Bowen Matthew, dean of the George Washington University Law School, on April 7 as she delivered a virtual presentation titled “A Lawyer’s Prescription for Achieving Health Equity” in a revival of the annual EACPHS Martin Barr–Stephen Wilson Lecture Series on health care policy, laws and ethics. Students in the EACPHS Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy organization earned a spot in the finals of the 21st Annual National Student Pharmacist Pharmacy & Therapeutics (P&T) Competition, one of top 8 in a competition of 51 teams from across the nation. Professor of Pharmacy Practice Dr. Paul Kilgore continues to serve as a COVID-19 virus and vaccine expert across many media outlets and in WSU presentations.

Honors College

In February, the Honors College resumed its popular “Lunches with Leaders” series for students– in a virtual format – with Dr. Patricia Wren, chair of Public Health at WSU, discussing her roundabout path to becoming a professor and administrator on February 10. On February 23 another “Lunches with Leaders” took place with WSU President Emeritus Irvin D. Reid discussing his journey into higher education, personal history and time as president of Wayne State.

In March, Honors hosted and conducted virtual interviews for the new class of Wayne Med Direct scholars. Representatives from the Honors College, CLAS, Medical School, and Undergraduate Admissions interviewed 25 semifinalists throughout the day. Candidates were then reviewed, and finalists selected.

Law School

The Law School continues its upward trajectory in 2021. Since our last report, *U.S. News & World Report* has released the 2022 Best Law School rankings. Wayne Law has jumped 28 spots in the rankings over the last four years — to No. 72 in the country, a historic best this year, and again the second-highest ranked law school in Michigan. Wayne Law also ranked No. 24 in part-time law programs, the best in the state and No. 3 in the Midwest. The Law School's recruitment efforts are expanding with the upcoming launch of the Damon J. Keith Summer Pre-Law Institute, supported by a \$47,000 grant from the AccessLex Institute. The four-week program, which is free to all participants, is open to rising college juniors and seniors who are Detroit residents or are graduates of Detroit Public Schools Community District Public High Schools. And the interdisciplinary Minor in Law program for undergraduate Wayne State students has grown to 167 declared minors.

With the launch of its sixth fellowship cohort in February, the Detroit Equity Action Lab is expanding its efforts to develop a national blueprint in Detroit to combat structural racism. The Levin Center and the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights have joined forces to offer “Lawyering in the Nation’s Capital” – a semester-long externship in Washington, D.C. that allows students to earn credit while working on an investigative congressional committee or with a civil rights and social justice nonprofit organization. The Levin Center’s national scholarly footprint is growing with a grant from the Sunwater Institute to launch its

inaugural Oversight Fellowship program. One non-resident scholar will receive \$22,000 to lead a research project on congressional or state-level oversight. And Assistant Professor Sanjukta Paul's paper "Reconsidering Judicial Supremacy in Antitrust" has been accepted by the prestigious *Yale Law Journal*. Professor Paul is renowned in the legal academy and beyond as a leading voice on the intersection of labor and antitrust.

OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

A group of students, staff, and faculty have been meeting to plan a University commemoration of Juneteenth, the holiday celebrated on June 19 to commemorate the 1865 emancipation of enslaved people in the US. The weeklong series of activities will begin with an opening celebration on Sunday, June 13 that features music, a performance by Wayne State's Freedom Players, a speaker, and other activities, and conclude with the annual African American Graduation Celebration on Saturday, June 19. On Wednesday, June 16, historian Hannibal Johnson, author of *Black Wall Street 100*, about the 100th anniversary of the Tulsa, Oklahoma massacre, will be interviewed and participate in a panel discussion along with members of the Wayne State and Detroit communities. More details on the Juneteenth celebration week will be made available through a special Juneteenth website.

As part of the preparation leading up to Juneteenth, the planning committee has hosted two panel discussions under the banner "Looking Ahead to Juneteenth," focusing on issues of interest and concern related to the African American community in Detroit and beyond. The most recent panel was titled, "Food Insecurity: The Effects of Systemic Racism on Detroit's Residents." Both panels featured Wayne State students, staff, and faculty, and a member of the Detroit community. The purpose of the panels was to engage the community about Juneteenth and get them looking forward to the Juneteenth celebration. They have been well-received and well attended.

STUDENT SERVICES

DOSO hosted the Alternative Spring Break Detroit (ASBD) traditional program this year during spring break completely virtually. We had 54 students participate in two 27-person cohorts across six teams over six days, hearing from seven community service sites within each team. Additionally, students were able to interact over crafting via Zoom creating materials to destress for themselves and for the service sites they had heard from. This year's pillars included "diversity, inclusion and education", "sustainability, food security and housing stability", and "arts and culture". In all, these students "gave up" their traditional spring break to hear from over 10 hours of presentations and interactions during this program.

DIVISION OF ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management Dawn Medley was honored March 10, 2021 with the 2020 [Michigan Association for College Admission Counseling \(MACAC\) Achievement Award](#). The Achievement Award is presented to institutions or individuals who have established a tool, program, or procedure that greatly aids in the high school to college transition. AVP Medley was selected for the award based on her ground breaking work in creating the Warrior Way Back debt-forgiveness program as well as the Heart of Detroit Tuition Pledge. Find additional details in the [Today@Wayne press release](#).

Transfer Student Financial Aid

Over the last year, we have maintained our current our Wayne Promise Two Year award for needy students and expanded our financial aid options for students transferring to WSU. In

September 2020, OSFA began participating in the Detroit Chamber of Commerce's Promise program for transfer students. This program builds on the programs these students were eligible for at their community college and now will continue to assist as they complete their bachelor's degree. The Detroit Promise Award for Transfer students will cover the gap between federal, state and other institutional aid to cover the cost of tuition and standard fees for two years. At this point, we already have already brought 16 students to campus that qualify for this program.

Beginning in 2021, we are offering two new awards that build on committee the State of Michigan's initiatives to help Michigan students earn their associate's degrees. Students that participating the Michigan Reconnect or Future for Frontliners Program will be eligible for \$2,000 a year for two years at WSU to complete their bachelor's degree.

Student Service Center 50 Summer Sessions for Success

SSC will be coordinating and hosting a new "50 Summer Session for Success" program this year. Through this program students and families are invited to virtually connect with Student Service Center Specialists to get prepared for the upcoming semester. Current students are welcome to join some sessions but all sessions will be heavily marketed and geared toward prospective and incoming students. Sessions include: Navigating WSU, SSC Express (SSCX), Empowering Students to Ask Questions and more. We will also offer eight special exclusive sessions for Heart of Detroit Tuition Program recipients. Finally, as part of our campus outreach initiative, we will offer three WC Advocacy Program sessions, designed to help campus partners familiarize themselves with services provided by the SSC, Undergraduate Admissions, the Office of Student Financial Aid, Records, and Student Accounts Receivable as well as important dates and deadlines. These sessions will begin on May 7th, 2021 and continue through August 18th, 2021.

Update from the Office of Undergraduate Admissions

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions continues to support F21 admitted students and prospective students virtually through virtual appointments with Admissions Counselors, Virtual College Fairs, Information Sessions, Application Q & A Drop-In Sessions and Admitted Student Days with partner high schools and Community Based Organizations.

Spring Open House

The WSU Undergraduate Admissions Virtual Spring Open House was held on March 13, 2021. Featuring a 313 Detroit themed program and presented on our new Simulive format Platform Q, we drew 847 students to the platform on March 13th, 2021.

- 589 Students attended at least one program presentation
- 847 students accessed the platform on 3/13/2021
- 255 students attended Fall Open House; 130% increase in attendance from Fall to Spring

STUDENT SUCCESS

The focus of the Student Success division is supporting students in finishing the winter semester strong and to start preparing for the next academic year. In the University Advising Department the Advisor Training Academy has developed the following workshop series: Advising Conversations on COVID Learning and Grading, International Students and Global Experiences, and Supporting Transfer Students. The Pre-Med group is also offering workshops to show students the different health science programs WSU has. The UAC is

also in collaboration with Student Service Center, Financial Aid, and the Bursar Office to support the Registration Ready initiatives. New Student Orientation is working hard to bring in a strong 2021 cohort. We currently have 775 FITAC reservations and 268 transfer student reservations. Career Services continues to hold events and workshops for WSU students in collaboration with Financial Aid, WSU Libraries, and the College of Engineering to support their future career needs. Student Disability Services continues to register students for accommodations for the upcoming spring/summer semester and continuing to work with faculty requesting exam accommodations. The Office of Federal TRIO has successfully submitted Educational Talent Search grant and the TRIO Educational Opportunity Center grant to the United States Department of Education.

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH AND INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

The Institute of International Education inducted Associate Vice President Ahmad Ezzeddine into its inaugural class of the National Academy for International Education. It is the first learned society dedicated to international education. The Academy is an honorary society and think tank made up of distinguished leaders engaged in shaping international education and generating knowledge to advance the field. Only 23 international educators from around the world were invited to join the Academy's inaugural class. They represent the core tenets of the Academy including diversity of perspectives and a commitment to equity, collaboration, and pushing the boundaries of knowledge. Inductees are educators from higher education institutions and organizations of all sizes and represent countries from all over the world including Australia, Canada, China, Ghana, Japan, Taiwan, and the U.S. Ezzeddine was one of a small group of international leaders who supported IIE in creating the framework for the Academy.

Transfer Student Success Center (TSSC):

- Wayne State University is one of only 150 colleges and universities in the nation - and one of only two public universities in Michigan - recognized by the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society for the dynamic pathways it has created to support transfer students and help them succeed. That success is demonstrated by the fact that transfer students comprise around 50 percent of each graduating class. These transfer efforts are led by the TSSC, and it is the fourth time the university has received the honor.
- On behalf of the university, the TSSC signed four new articulation agreements for Engineering Technology programs with Monroe County Community College. The bachelor's degree programs include welding and metallurgical engineering technology, mechanical engineering technology, electrical/electronic engineering technology and construction management. The two institutions held a virtual signing ceremony featuring leaders from both schools in late April.
- Also, on behalf of the university, the TSSC signed a new welding and metallurgical engineering technology articulation agreement with Wayne County Community College District.
- A new "Thank a Transfer Champion" program launched by the TSSC allows students to express their gratitude in writing to someone who has made a difference in their transfer journey. Students can thank someone (advisor, faculty, staff) at Wayne State or another college/school, and remain anonymous or include their name. The note will be briefly screened and then delivered with a special thank-you note and a gift from the TSSC.

Office of International Programs (OIP):

The Fulbright Program has awarded grants to conduct Orientation for three flagship programs to Wayne State. OIP oversees the programs and will work with various departments and staff across campus to develop and execute plans for these projects:

- **Virtual Gateway Orientation** for all 1,500 foreign Fulbright awardees coming to the U.S. for the 2021-22 academic year. This is the fourth year WSU was selected to host Orientation, and the second time the university was awarded the entire virtual Orientation program, which includes a combination of asynchronous and synchronous sessions using the learning platform Canvas. Sessions will be held in August and December.
- **MENA (Middle East and North Africa) Pre-Departure Orientation** for 40 American grantees who will prepare for their scholarly projects in a variety of MENA countries. This is the third year WSU has hosted the program, which this year begins in June.
- The Fulbright **Global English Teaching Assistant (ETA) Workshop**, during which 200 ETA grantees will learn the requirements of their programs which include assisting local English teachers in countries around the world and serving as U.S. cultural ambassadors. The university is the sole provider for this nationwide program, which begins in July.

OIP and its Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) hosted a special international town hall meeting in March to answer questions from current students about the upcoming academic year including classes, travel and vaccinations. In April, the two offices hosted an Admitted Student Webinar for incoming Spring/Summer 2021 international students. That event served as a virtual space to welcome all new international Warriors and answer questions about starting their first semester at WSU.

In partnership with the Office of Housing and Residential Life, OIP is accepting housing applications for the 2021-2022 Global Living Learning Community. The Global LLC is a first-year residential experience program in which 19 students will live on a common floor in Chatsworth and collaborate on various internationally focused learning projects throughout the year with the goal of increasing students' intercultural competence and global understanding.

Spring Recruitment 2021 is in high gear, with OIP actively recruiting international students for the Fall 2021 term through numerous virtual events. OIP has engaged international students through virtual recruitment in India, Qatar, Mongolia and Colombia, as well as the broader Latin America and Central Asia regions.

Executive and Professional Development (EPD):

- EPD started delivering a revised Leadership Program for Wayne County in a blended approach that includes virtual and in-person sessions. This is the third year of the program, which has been developed through a strong partnership with county leaders.
- EPD partnered with the National Association of County Collectors, Treasurers, and Finance Officers to deliver a virtual learning development program for working professionals across the country pursuing certificate programs through WSU for government finance officers or finance executives. This program is a collaboration

between EPD and the university's Department of Political Science/Master of Public Administration Program.

- The Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC), part of EPD, provided help and guidance to client Anew Life Prosthetics in Detroit that helped the company apply for and receive a contract worth more than \$7 million from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The company will provide essential and lifesaving materials to veterans throughout Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.
- PTAC offered its Government Contracting 101 series in a virtual format to small business owners in Detroit, training over 45 business owners during five sessions between February and April. The center also partnered with the Michigan Department of Transportation to provide training on the government marketplace to disadvantaged business owners who are working with MDOT on overall improvements to roads and bridges across the state of Michigan.

Harris Literacy Program: In a continued effort to keep students safe while meeting educational goals, the Harris Program is using the Canvas platform to run virtual classes four days a week for 10 weeks, beginning in May. The program provides online adult literacy and math classes to Detroit community members who want to increase foundational skills that will help them move forward with additional schooling or expanded employment opportunities.