
FEDERAL AFFAIRS

Republican Lawmakers Hold Roundtable on Student Loans

Ranking Member of the House Education and Labor Committee Virginia Foxx (R-NC) held a closed roundtable with other republican members of the Committee, the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, and the Student Loan Servicing Alliance to discuss the Biden Administration's extension of the pause on student loan payments and interest accrual through May 2022. In a statement released after the closed roundtable, Ranking Member Foxx criticized President Biden for further extending the pause, saying "the Biden administration owes Congress and the American people a plan that will address challenges facing student loan servicing companies and borrower confusion, and provide a clear timeline for when student loan payments will resume." Republicans in the House and Senate have opposed the numerous extensions to the student loan payment pause, arguing it is causing financial strain to the Department of Education.

Voting Rights Act Extension Fails in the Senate.

Republican opposition to voting rights concluded in a defeat on the Senate floor of voting rights legislation. An attempt to change the Senate filibuster rules in order to pass the combined John Lewis Voting Rights Act and the Freedom to Vote Act failed on a 52 to 48 vote. No Republican voted for the bill, and they were joined by Sens. Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ). The proposed rule change – which was approved by the Senate in December for a separate bill that would extend the nation's debt ceiling – would have forced lawmakers to come to the floor and speak in opposition to the bill (which was the filibuster process for over 100 years. No one knows what the next step in the process to protect the vote and voting process, at least this year.

Department of Education Releases Announcements on ARP Funding and COVID-19.

On Thursday, the Department of Education released new guidance on how colleges and universities can use funding from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) (Pub. L. 117-2) to "provide students with the basic needs supports to persist academically and navigate challenges exacerbated by the pandemic." The guidance outlines strategies for colleges and universities to use ARP funding to help students find childcare, provide meal vouchers, subsidize student transportation costs, and reduce textbook costs. In Thursday's announcement, Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona said the Department will be releasing a \$198 million grant opportunity for institutions of higher education (IHEs) next week. The competitive funding opportunity will target IHEs who continue to have unmet needs from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department will prioritize community colleges and rural IHEs when making awards. Finally, Secretary Cardona released a Dear Colleague letter to all IHEs explaining how they can use data from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to help connect students with other public assistance programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Also on Thursday, the Department released a second announcement summarizing actions taken by the Biden Administration to support K-12 schools and IHEs throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

CFPB Expands College Oversight Operations.

On Thursday, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) announced it will begin investigating for-profit universities who make loans directly to students. Specifically, the agency will be investigating proprietary universities that prey on students because of their inability to pay back loans granted from the institution itself, such as “placing enrollment restrictions, withholding transcripts, improperly accelerating payments, failing to issue refunds, and maintaining improper lending relationships.” The CFPB also published the review manual they will use when investigating these IHEs.

Dept. of Education Announces Changes to Loan Rules Under the Previous Administration.

On Friday, the Department of Education announced that student borrowers would no longer be required to complete an Annual Student Loan Acknowledgment process before receiving their loans. The previous Administration issued a rule that required students to engage in an annual process of viewing how much student loan debt they currently owe before signing the Master Promissory Note (MPN) and receiving their next year’s federal aid and loan disbursement. However, the rule was never officially implemented due to delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Some schools argued requiring this annual review of loans would put an administrative burden on financial aid offices.

Dept. of Education Holds First Week of 2022 Rulemaking Meetings.

This week marked the first week of meetings for the Institutional and Programmatic Eligibility Rulemaking Committee. The Committee was the first to meet as part of the Department of Education’s 2022 negotiated rulemaking, which will make regulatory changes for various programs authorized by Title IV of the Higher Education Act. Specifically, the Committee is tasked with considering regulatory changes related to 90/10, gainful employment, change of ownership and change in control of colleges and universities, and financial responsibility for institutions. Notably on the first day of discussions, the Committee voted to include a civil rights representative on the panel, although they declined a petition to include an additional representative from proprietary universities. The Committee will meet again from February 14-18 and from March 14-18, 2022.

Wayne State University receives “minority-serving institution” eligibility

The University applied for and received designation as a minority serving institution. Among other things, this designation immediately means:

WSU is eligible to apply for Titles III and V grant programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965 as an **AANAPISI Serving Institution** and **Strengthening Institutions Programs (SIPs)** at the Department of Education.

WSU is also eligible for a waiver of non-matching Federal share requirements under the Federal Work Study Program, the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Program and the TRIO Student Support services Program.

WSU is potentially eligible, upon demonstrating a need, for waivers in matching programs in other areas.

In sum, this designation enables WSU to apply for grants – not loans – solely designated for MSIs by Congress and the Department of Education (within our categories of eligibility). By augmenting or supplanting the support Wayne State University has already committed to low-income and ethnic minority students, this designation strengthens and leverages support of all our students and faculty. This is a significant, legacy development for WSU.

STATE AFFAIRS

State of the State Address

The Governor gave her fourth State of the State address on January 26, 2022. She gave remarks virtually from Detroit Diesel and highlighted several accomplishments including road projects completed; her reinstatement of prevailing wage for state construction contracts; federal investment in the Soo Locks; expanding access to low and no cost childcare; building new state police posts; criminal justice reforms; the construction of a new veteran's home; and the creation of successful educational access programs, Futures for Frontliners and Michigan Reconnect. Further, she spent time discussing major bipartisan successes she's had with the legislature, like the historic K-12 educational investment and the multi-billion-dollar economic development package recently passed that has now resulted in a \$7 billion commitment from GM.

Most importantly, Governor Whitmer offered a preview of several proactive proposals. It's an election year, so it's no surprise that many of these items were designed to appeal to the people. Governor Whitmer proposed five primary objectives: repealing the retirement tax, increasing the Michigan Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), lowering the cost of insulin, making electric vehicles more affordable, and increasing the mental health workforce.

Budget Updates

Governor's Executive Recommendation: The Governor's Executive Budget Recommendation was presented to a joint convening of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees on February 9th. The issuance of the Governor's budget kicks off the official budget process. The Governor funded several large-scale priorities, including most notably \$100 million to support the construction of the Wayne State School of Medicine joint project with Karmanos Cancer Institute on Wayne State's campus. Further, she proposed a robust increase to higher education funding through a 5% increase in the base and an additional 5% increase in one-time dollars. Further, the Governor proposed a \$141.5 million allocation for deferred maintenance of campus buildings and information technology systems. It is incredible to see the investment in WSU as well as the massive funding increase for all 15 public universities in the Executive's recommendation. These investments should be applauded not only for the Governor recognizing our value but also for every individual legislator who amplified the importance of investing in higher education and in Wayne State University in particular. There

is more work to be done to ensure these items are retained in the final state budget, but inclusion in the Executive Recommendation is a major step in the right direction. WSU has several active budget requests in addition to those mentioned above, and regardless of inclusion in the Executive Recommendation, we will be advocating for:

- Investing \$100 million dollars to support the construction of a new school of medicine building, jointly occupied by Karmanos Cancer Institute.
- Supporting MASU's request for a \$400 million dollar investment in the Michigan Competitive Scholarship.
- Supporting funding to grow the state's social work workforce.
- Supporting funding expand the C2 pipeline program to allow for mental health training opportunities for in-school and out of school personnel.
- Retaining and growing existing state funded items like MiDOCS, Lycaki-Young, Poison Center, Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner growth, and Frontline Strong Together.

Legislation

WSU DGCA continues to monitor state legislation and regulations that could impact our students, our faculty, our community, and our ability to carry out our mission. When formulating a university position, we work with internal subject matter experts to both craft the best position and to provide feedback to legislators. Further, we work collaboratively with both our URC partners and all 15 public universities to leverage our collective positions and create favorable outcomes as often as possible. We are currently monitoring, and actively engaging, on several pieces of legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- House Bill 4512 (Hornberger) clarifying the removal procedures for university board members. WSU is monitoring this legislation.
- House Bill 4615 (Marino) requiring candidates for university boards to file a financial disclosure. WSU is monitoring this legislation.
- Senate Joint Resolution F (McBroom) requiring university board meetings to be open to the public. This is a constitutional amendment proposal requiring a heightened 2/3 vote of both chambers before being put onto the ballot during the next general election for approval by the people. WSU is monitoring this initiative.
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- Senate Bills 637 (Chang) and 638 (Outman) create important opportunities for co-response models and community crisis responses teams to actively engage in the criminal legal process, potentially diverting individuals who would be better served through behavioral health interventions from the traditional criminal justice system. This legislation was actively informed by WSU team members and the WSU Center for

Behavioral Health and Justice. WSU is supportive of these bills. These bills were signed by the Governor.

- Senate Bill 582 (Wojno) would prohibit a public body, including a university, from carrying out research involving canines. Legislation that aims to restrict, or arbitrarily eliminate the ability to conduct potentially life-saving research, is not something WSU supports.
- House Bill 5183 (Tate) which moves up the effective date of legislation signed last term allowing student athletes to be compensated for their name, image, or likeness. WSU is monitoring this legislation.
- House Bills 5556(Roth)-5557 (Damoose) allowing community colleges to offer a four-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree program. This legislation is a reintroduction and has been consistently reintroduced each legislative session for nearly 18 years. WSU opposes this legislation but is actively working with the bill sponsors to convene a stakeholder workgroup to discuss the issue, non-legislative solutions, and ways the legislature could leverage existing infrastructure to support rural healthcare needs.
- House Bills 5361 (VanSingel) and 5362 (Steckloff) would prohibit a community college from collecting local taxes if they began offering a new four-year degree program. This legislation is in response to HBs 5556-5557, and strategically creates opportunity to further the discussion around the roles of public post-secondary institutions in the state as well as their funding streams. WSU is supportive of this legislation.

GOVERNMENT HEALTH AFFAIRS

FY '23 Health Affairs Budget Requests

1. **MIDOCs:** The MIDOCs program improves access to primary care in underserved areas across Michigan. In July, we will begin training 20 new physicians, making the total number of MIDOCs residents 52. These physicians have made a commitment to practice in a Michigan primary care health professional shortage area (HPSA) during and after training. Of Michigan's 83 counties, 75 counties have at least partial designation as a primary care HPSA. Studies indicate that resident physicians who train in these community settings are nearly three times more likely to practice in an underserved area after graduation.

Request: \$6.4M

2. **Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program Funding:** Funding included in the House budget recommendation will allow the WSU College of Nursing (CON) to recruit, educate, and train an additional 32 Advanced Practice Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioners and provide each new student with a one-time stipend to commit to practicing for two years in a medically underserved community upon program

completion. The project will be accomplished through funding to WSU with oversight by the department and the office of nursing programs.

WSU CON has the **oldest** and **only** fully online Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner program in Michigan, allowing us to train students anywhere in the state. Overall, we have 84 students currently enrolled in this specialty. COVID-19 has only exacerbated the need for additional mental health providers. Psychiatric Mental Health NPs work with individuals, families, groups and communities to address both psychical and mental health needs. They offer primary care and mental health care services. They are trained to assess, diagnose and treat individuals and families with psychiatric disorders using therapeutic skills, including administering psychotherapies and prescribing medications.

Request: \$1.573M

- 3. Frontline Strong Together:** WSU has been working with members of the law enforcement and fire communities to create programming in response to \$2.5 million in funding initially included in the Fiscal Year 2021 budget. That funding allows for the creation and delivery of multidisciplinary support and services for first responders. While the initial funding will allow for the development and initial deployment of a program to provide care opportunities for first responders, we are supportive of continuing to fund this program, which will allow for long-term care opportunities to be designed and disseminated.

Request: \$2.5M

- 4. Lycaki Young:** The Lycaki Young fund has allowed the WSU Department of Psychiatry to provide care to Michiganders who are low income and who experience severe and persistent mental illness. Services are provided for over 50,000 patients annually. Many patients served are indigent, uninsured or enrolled in Medicaid or Medicare. An increase in funding would allow for an expansion of current services and the creation of a new residency program in partnership with McLaren.

Request: \$10M (increase of \$4.4M)

- 5. Michigan Poison & Drug Information Center:** The MiPDC has been the only poison center in Michigan since 2009. They are the 5th largest poison center in the nation. WSU took over the center in 2019. The MiPDC operates at high capacity to provide real-time exposure treatment, education, and prevention services free of charge to all callers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Request: \$2.2M (increase of \$1M)

- 6. Wayne Health Mobile Units:** WSU and the physician practice group, Wayne Health have run the Mobile Health Unit program since March of 2020. Initially, services focused on COVID-19 testing and vaccinations. The units are now expanding into primary care services. Much of the costs associated with the units and care for the uninsured are

supported by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and WSU donors such as the Cielo Foundation, Ford Motor Co., among others.

As pandemic-related needs level out, the mobile health units will continue to and enhance their focus on identifying people with problems that could lead to chronic disease. The MHUs aim to rethink health care delivery, bringing care to people and meeting their needs in their community. An additional target for expansion will be work-site screenings, targeting those who do not have the flexibility to leave work for appointments.

Request: \$2.2M

7. **SSW Workforce Proposal:** To prepare social workers to partner with law enforcement, we propose a new crisis response certificate designed for current social work students or social workers to specialize in crisis response. We propose a \$1.65 million investment to support this pilot project over the course of five years. The end goal is to train 250 social workers in crisis response, enabling them to effectively work within the criminal justice/behavioral health/healthcare continuum.

Request: \$1.65M

Opioid Task Force:

The Opioid Task Force had its quarterly meeting in January. Topics of discussion included providing feedback to opioid use disorder related legislation and the NaloxBox Pilot Program.

As a reminder, the Task Force has identified a NaloxBox Pilot Program as a main priority. The Pilot Program would place doses of Naloxone in student housing on campus. The Pilot Project has been approved by the School of Medicine and the Task Force is in the planning stages.

School of Medicine Engagement with Community Leaders:

Dean Schweitzer is conducting meetings with community leaders and influencers in Detroit. The meetings are introductory in nature and for the Dean to form connections with key contacts. Thus far, we have focused on scheduling meetings with community health and wellness related organizations, women's health and LGBTQ primary care organizations, Latin, Arab, and Chaldean-American organizations, and religious leaders.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Provost Kornbluh and Dr. Chamblee meet with clergy leadership

DGCA continued its cadence of quarterly meetings introducing Detroit's clergy leaders to WSU Provosts, Deans and others in leadership to hear about WSU's work and how the clergy can assist from a community outreach perspective. The February meeting focused on WSU's 2022-2027 Strategic Plan and efforts to better support our diverse, multicultural student body. DGCA is working with Academic Affairs on an initiative to work with the clergy to increase

community awareness of the Heart of Detroit, Warrior Way Back and other WSU admission programs. A complete overview of this initiative will be included in the next update.

Woodbridge Citizens' Council Meeting

Stacie Clayton, Community Affairs Director, attends the Woodbridge Citizen's Council monthly meetings to maintain the relationship with WSU's closest neighborhood community. She is under consideration to become a board member, replacing Emily Thompson, WSU Deputy of Economic and Community Development, whose term has ended.

Connecting to the Community

- Stacie Clayton has been appointed to the Detroit Promise Zone Authority – representing higher education.
- DGCA coordinated an informational webinar in conjunction with Undergraduate Admissions on March 10 geared toward juniors and seniors who are Detroit residents and/or attending a high school in Detroit (emphasis was placed on DPSCD student and parent participation). Churches, DPSCD, sororities and fraternities, community groups, the President's Community Advisory Group, and social media were used to publicize the event. The information presented included The Heart of Detroit and other admissions and financial aid programs, campus life and student engagement presentations. WSU current students joined the presentations as well.
- DGCA has been making community introductions for Dr. Donovan Roy, Vice Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for the School of Medicine. Dr. Roy is new to Detroit and has expressed a sincere interest in meeting key community stakeholders. DGCA has facilitated meetings with the Woodbridge Citizens' Council (local youth initiatives related to medicine); Ken Donaldson, President & CEO, Black United Fund (DPSCD students in existing pre-med programs); Dr. Ken Harris, President, National Business League (medical field entrepreneurship & WSU's MBA/MD dual enrollment program); Carla Walker-Miller, President and CEO Walker-Miller Energy Services (African American youth in STEM).
- DGCA coordinated an introductory meeting for Dean Kubiak and her team at the Center for Behavioral Health and Justice at Wayne State with Detroit Police Chief James White and 1st Assistant Chief Todd Bettison to advance the Center's initiatives and improve outcomes with existing partners.
- DGCA has begun attending the third Thursday meetings of the Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce partner meetings to extend connections within the Hispanic community
- DGCA assisted Athletics in distribution 500 tickets to Detroit PSL, The Youth Connection, the Detroit Police Department, the Children's Center and the Woodbridge Community so Detroit youth can enjoy our male and female Warriors basketball games.

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- DGCA is serving on the planning committee for the Detroit Youth Mental Health Summit along with the Detroit Youth Connection, PAL, Detroit Police Department and others
 - DGCA continues to link WSU students with various internship opportunities with City of Detroit government – most recently Political Science major Yvonne Ragland was hired by Detroit City Council President Mary Sheffield as a paid, part-time policy analyst

Sponsorships

- WSU will serve as a table sponsor for the 17th season of the Michigan Chronicle's Pancakes and Politics. This series of events is one of the region's most prestigious and respected forums on economic and social equity issues. The provocative panel discussions have served to drive collaboration across socio-economic, racial and geographical lines. The 2022 dates are 3/18, 4/21, 5/19, 6/16 and all forums are at 7:30-9am at the Detroit Athletic Club. Governor Gretchen Whitmer will be this season's kickoff speaker on Friday, March 18 (all other dates are Thursdays). Please contact Stacie Clayton at stacie.clayton@wayne.edu if you are interested in attending any of the dates.

Black History Month Recognition

- DGCA in conjunction with the College of Education, Alumni Affairs and the Organization of Black Alumni recognized 48 black alumni working in Detroit/Metro-Detroit in public service and education via a full-page pictorial in the February 23 edition of the Michigan Chronicle.
- Patrick Lindsey and Stacie Clayton joined several other WSU faculty and staff to support the Black Student Conversation Café on Tuesday, February 22, hosted by the Office of Multicultural Student Engagement. These facilitated conversations were an opportunity for WSU's black students to have open dialogue with their peers and members of the Black Faculty and Staff Association.