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## FEDERAL AFFAIRS

### ***Executive Branch Update***

#### Department of Education Announces 2022 Priorities

Education Secretary Miguel Cardona gave an [address](#) in Washington, D.C. to outline the Department of Education's priorities for 2022. During the address, Secretary Cardona pledged to "make higher education more inclusive and affordable," by taking steps such as offering targeted student loan relief, enacting tougher restrictions on predatory for-profit universities, strengthening the gainful employment rule, diversifying loan repayment options, and making continued improvements to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program. He also discussed strengthening career preparation programs and grant funding to support students in these programs.

#### Supreme Court to Hear Cases on Affirmative Action

The Supreme Court [agreed](#) to hear two cases on affirmative action from Harvard University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In the *Students for Fair Admissions (SFFA) v. Harvard* case, SFFA alleged Harvard intentionally discriminated against Asian American students during the admissions process. SFFA proposed combining the case with a separate case they have against the University of North Carolina to be heard by the Supreme Court justices. SFFA and other proponents see these cases as an opportunity to prohibit the use of affirmative action in college admissions.

#### Departments of Education and Homeland Security Discuss Threats at HBCUs

The Department of Education and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) [held](#) a roundtable with presidents of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) across the country to discuss campus security and safety. The meeting comes amid multiple bomb threats made to HBCUs over the past several months. DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said the Department is "eager to deepen our partnerships with HBCUs to protect students and faculty from an evolving range of threats, and to cultivate the next generation of remarkable talent, including by increasing access to careers in the federal government."

#### Department Publishes Updated College Scorecard

The Department of Education [announced](#) the addition of updated data to the College Scorecard, a database to assist students in comparing tuition costs, graduation outcomes, post-graduation earnings, and related metrics across universities. Education Secretary Miguel Cardona insisted "the updated and enhanced College Scorecard shines a spotlight on affordability, inclusivity, and outcomes, over exclusivity and colleges that leave students without good jobs and with mountains of debt." Included for the first time since the Trump

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Administration, the updated College Scorecard now also includes institution-level earnings data to give potential students an overview of alumni earning potential.

#### Department Considers New Consumer Reporting Requirements

Reports emerged that the Department of Education is considering requiring colleges and universities to disclose the salary and graduation outcomes of enrolled students and portray the data by academic program. While the Department of Education already collects most of this information, the Department would separate this data by program, as opposed to institution. This new rule would apply to private non-profit, for-profit, and public non-profit institutions. The Department will consider this regulatory change as part of their [negotiated rulemaking session](#) by the end of March.

#### President Biden Delivers State of the Union Address

President Joe Biden gave his State of the Union address. While most of his speech focused on conflict in Ukraine, health care, and the economy, he also dedicated a portion of his speech to education. In his speech he expressed support for raising Pell Grants, increasing support for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), and making additional investments in community colleges. Notably, the speech did not include any mention of forgiving student loans.

#### President Biden Announces Supreme Court Nominee

Late last week, President Biden nominated Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to serve on the Supreme Court. If approved by the Senate, she will replace retiring Justice Stephen Breyer. When she served as a district court judge, she oversaw a case brought by Democratic state attorneys general against former Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos regarding a delay in implementation of the Obama Administration's gainful employment rules. Judge Jackson tossed out the case, arguing the attorneys general did not have the standing to bring the case to court in the first place. Regarding affirmative action, it is likely she will be forced to recuse herself from many of the high-profile cases heading to the Court, as she serves on the Board of Harvard University and K-12 schools, including Georgetown Day School and Montrose Christian School. The Senate Judiciary Committee is expected to approve Judge Jackson along party lines, and since Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV) announced his support for her nomination, a floor vote on the Senate is expected to succeed as well.

#### CDC Releases New Mask Guidance

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [published](#) new guidance for masking based on community spread and hospitalization rates. For individuals and schools in low and medium spread areas of the country, the CDC said masking can be based on personal preference. Low and medium spread areas cover almost three-quarters of the country. The agency declined to recommend that those who are unvaccinated should always wear masks

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but continued to recommend individuals get vaccinated and boosted. In response to the announcement, Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona said this announcement will ensure “we can continue to keep schools safely open while allowing for educators and parents to get back to focusing on what is most important: our students' futures. Moving forward, districts should continue to work with local health experts, parents, and educators to identify what works best for their communities and consider the appropriate mitigation strategies needed to keep students and staff safe.”

#### Department of Education Announces New Strategy for Student Loan Management

The Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA) at the Department of Education released a new proposal to help students manage their student loan payments. According to the new plans, the Department will be awarding multiple contracts to loan servicers with the hope of one day merging all payment platforms into one singular portal on StudentAid.gov. Each contracted loan servicer will be responsible for staffing their own call centers and managing student questions and concerns. The Department is accepting comments on their [draft proposal](#) until March 9, 2022. Ranking Member of the House Education and Labor Committee Virginia Foxx (R-NC) was critical of the proposal, arguing “this is yet another sign the Department does not have a cohesive, workable plan for the future of student loan servicing.”

#### President Biden Ends China Initiative at DOJ

President Joe Biden announced he would be ending the China Initiative at the Department of Justice (DOJ). The program was originally launched under the previous Administration to investigate funding from China for research in the United States and suspected espionage. Critics of the Initiative argued the DOJ unfairly targeted Chinese researchers or other university researchers for failing to disclose any funding ties or partnerships with China. Instead, the DOJ will be implementing a broader program titled “The Strategy for Countering Nation-State Threats” to address threats from countries like Russia, Iran, and North Korea, in addition to China.

#### EPA Creates HBCU Council

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a new internal council to increase collaboration with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). The Council will be responsible for connecting HBCUs with grant and funding opportunities and creating hiring pathways for HBCU graduates. In response to the announcement, EPA Administrator Michael Reagan said he is “proud to create this council to assess ways we can strengthen our recruitment of students and provide broader support to help fortify HBCUs into the future.”

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## ***Legislative Branch Update***

### Lawmakers Request Memo on Student Loans

A group of 80 lawmakers led by Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) sent a [letter](#) to President Joe Biden requesting he release the Department of Education's memo on student loan forgiveness. The Department has been preparing the memo since April 2021. The letter also requested that the Biden Administration forgive \$50,000 per borrower, which "would give 36 million Americans permanent relief and aid the millions more who will eventually resume payments their best chance at thriving in our recovering economy.

### House Releases American Competes Act

The House of Representatives released the *America Competes Act* ([H.R. 4521](#)), the counterpart to the Senate's *United States Innovation and Competition Act (USICA)* ([S.1260](#)). The bill would increase reporting requirements for universities receiving foreign funding, requiring them to report gifts of over \$100,000 per year or \$250,000 over three years. Unlike the Senate bill, the House bill neither requires research universities to create a database of foreign gifts granted to individual researchers or professors nor expands the requirements from the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS). The House Rules Committee is expected to meet to consider the legislation next week.

### Senators Send CFPB Letter on Student Loan Lenders

A group of nine Democratic Senators led by Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) sent a [letter](#) to Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) Director Rohit Chopra asking him to investigate reports about private student loan companies and servicers misrepresenting the possibility of bankruptcy discharge to student borrowers. The letter specifically references an investigation by the Student Borrower Protection Center (SPBC) that found student loan servicers were not informing borrowers that only "qualified education loans" are ineligible for discharge during bankruptcy. The report argued that many students do not meet the definition of qualified education loan because they have been offered loans fraudulently, and therefore are eligible for discharge. In the letter, the Senators criticize student loan servicers, alleging the companies "included misleading language in their promissory notes, misrepresenting to students that they could not discharge their loans in bankruptcy." The Senators indicated the CFPB's findings could inform future legislative action on student loan bankruptcy laws.

### Lawmakers Send Letter on Antisemitism

A group of almost 40 lawmakers sent a [letter](#) to Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the Department of Education Catherine Lhamon requesting that the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) provide technical assistance for institutions of higher education to address rising reports of antisemitism on college campuses. The lawmakers argued "Jewish students need assistance

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and protection from the growing threat of antisemitism on American campuses.” The letter also asks the Department of Education to advance rulemaking on antisemitism.

### Lawmakers Send Letter on HEERF

Reps. Marilyn Strickland (D-WA) and Alma Adams (D-NC) sent a [letter](#) to Congressional leadership asking them to include language in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 appropriations bill to allow HBCUs to use funding from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) to “address deferred maintenance, improve public safety measures and preserve historic buildings on their campuses.” Currently, money from the HEERF allocated through the COVID-19 relief bills cannot be used for infrastructure spending if it is unrelated to COVID-19. The letter was also signed by 32 other members of the House of Representatives and 9 members of the Senate.

### Education and Labor Committee Held Hearing on MSIs

On Wednesday, the House Education and Labor Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment Subcommittee held a hearing titled: “Investing in Economic Mobility: The Important Role of Hispanic Serving Institutions and Other Minority Serving Institutions.” Dr. José Luis Cruz Rivera, President, Northern Arizona University; Dr. Patricia Ramsey, President of Medgar Evers College; Dr. Janine Davidson, President, Metropolitan State University of Denver; and Dr. Robert Teranishi, Professor of Education, Morgan and Helen Chu Endowed Chair in Asian American Studies, University of California, Los Angeles served as witnesses. Broadly the hearing covered: (1) the impact of Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) on the economic outcomes of students; (2) supporting modern student demands; (3) ensuring education and workforce alignment; (4) financial support and debt alleviation; and (5) federal funding and legislation.

## **STATE AFFAIRS**

### Higher Education Budget

The Executive recommends \$1.85 billion gross, \$1.38 billion GF/GP, for the state’s 15 public universities. This recommendation includes a 5% increase in base funding and an additional one-time 5% increase in operations funding. The Executive proposed utilizing \$12.7 million to phase in, over 4 years, a per-student “floor” of \$4,500. For universities with per-student funding below the floor the Governor proposes this separate allocation which in year one will bring each to \$3,500 per-pupil. The universities that would benefit include Oakland, UM-Flint, UM-Dearborn, Grand Valley, and Saginaw Valley. This proposal should be considered a respectful, and strategic, nod to the institutions who benefit as well as to the House Appropriations Chair who has championed the FYES/per-pupil approach to reviewing higher education financing. Finally, the Governor included \$141.5 million in a FY 22 supplemental proposal to support

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deferred maintenance and information technology costs for universities, ITEM funding mentioned below.

In keeping with years past, the Governor retained usage of a tuition restraint for universities to be eligible for her proposed funding increases. Specifically, she recommended a 5.0%, or \$722 dollar per student, tuition restraint, which is two times the projected rate of inflation. Additionally, the Governor included a requirement that universities participate in the Michigan Transfer Network, reverse transfer agreements, and prohibiting consideration of high school dual enrollment when deciding if those credits transfer to university credits.

The Governor included an increase in both the Michigan Competitive Scholarship and the Michigan Tuition Grants, utilizing savings from instituting a cap on the Tuition Incentive Program (TIP) of 2.5 times the in-district rate of community college. The Michigan Competitive Scholarship award is increased from \$1,000 to \$1,200 and the Michigan Tuition Grant is increased from \$2,800 to \$2,900.

Specifically, **Wayne State University** was allocated \$213,499,700.00 in ongoing funding. This is an increase over the FY22 budget, however, the Executive utilized FY 20 as her base number for calculating overall increases. Broken down, Wayne State University will receive \$202,996,700 for operations, \$10,149,900 in operational support, and \$353,100 for the North American Indian Tuition Waiver. In addition to the ongoing funds, the Governor proposes an additional \$10,149,900 in one-time support bringing the total proposed investment for FY 23 to \$223,649,600. Wayne State would also receive \$13 million in the Governor's proposed FY 22 supplemental payment for information, technology, equipment, and maintenance (ITEM) funds to support costs associated with deferred maintenance and IT needs.

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.

### 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

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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.
- House Joint Resolution K (Hornberger) 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.
- 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.

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## GOVERNMENT HEALTH AFFAIRS

### FY 23 Health Affairs Budget Requests

WSU submits several requests to MDHHS each budget cycle. Below is a summary of programs, the request, and the Governor's recommendation for each program. We are currently conducting meetings with state legislators to provide information on the programs and submit our funding 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**

**Governor's Executive Recommendation: \$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**

**Not included in the Governor's Recommendation**

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



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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**

**Governor's Executive Recommendation: \$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. Most 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)**

**Governor's Executive Recommendation: \$5.6M**

5. Michigan Poison & Drug Information Center: The MiPDC has been the only poison center in Michigan since 2009. They are the 5<sup>th</sup> 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: \$1.2M**

**Governor's Executive Recommendation: \$1.2M**

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**

**Not included in the Governor's Recommendation**

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7. Center for Behavioral Justice: 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**

**Not included in the Governor's Recommendation**

Opioid Task Force:

The Opioid Task Force had its quarterly meeting on March 15. The group is composed of an interdisciplinary working group from the School of Medicine, College of Pharmacy, School of Social Work, College of Nursing, Law School, and CLAS.

During the most recent meeting, discussion topics included updates from the members on current activities across the university and updates on current opioid-related legislation at the state level. Additionally, an update was provided on the NaloxBox program. The program will allow for the placement of Narcan in some student housing buildings and other common areas. Trainings will be offered to anyone interested on how to identify signs of an overdose and how to administer doses of the Narcan. The initiative was led by the Student Senate and has support from the President and the Provost.

School of Medicine Engagement with Community Leaders:

Dr. Schweitzer and Dr. Roy, the Vice Dean of DEI at the SOM, are conducting meetings with community leaders and influencers in Detroit. The meetings are introductory in nature and for Drs. Schweitzer and Roy 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**

President's Community Advisory Group (PCAG)

On Wednesday, March 30, 2022, the Division of Government and Community Affairs hosted the President's Community Advisory Group (PCAG) meeting via Zoom. PCAG meets quarterly and its purpose is to provide input, feedback, and guidance to President Wilson and the Division of Government and Community Affairs (DGCA) regarding the University's mission, strategic plan, and priorities. PCAG serves in an advisory capacity, not governance.

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The Spring 2022 meeting was held virtually and featured President Wilson providing a campus health update and an overview of the spring graduations; Provost Kornbluh gave an overview of WSU's new 5-year strategic plan; and Patrick Lindsey informed the group of the FY23 Higher Education Budget.

#### Internal Support and External Community Engagement

Stacie Clayton, Community Affairs Director, continues to provide internal support and guidance to the university's various colleges, schools, and divisions:

- Coordinated a meeting with Dr. Shantalea Johns, WSU College of Social Work and Attendant Care to discuss their Autism Tuition Reimbursement Program designed to provide opportunities to increase enrollment of care specialists in WSU's schools and colleges.
- Introduced EBusiness Strategies and Detroit Parent Network to identify ways to increase parental involvement in student college enrollment decisions to attend WSU
- Developed, organized, and moderated the panel discussion, **Women Advancing Racial, Social & Gender Equality**, in honor of Women's History Month and as part of WSU's pre-Juneteenth activities
- Co-Presented with Ahmad Ezzeddine at the Strategic Leadership Meeting at Community Choice Credit Union to secure additional financial resources for WSU students.
- Coordinated meeting with Dr. Donovan Roy, WSU School of Medicine, and the leadership at Detroit PAL regarding a potential partnership for the upcoming Athletic Conference being coordinated by WSU SoM.

#### Stacie Clayton honored as a Michigan Chronicle 2022 Woman of Excellence

Stacie Clayton, Director of Community Affairs at WSU has been named as a 2022 Woman of Excellence by the Michigan Chronicle. The Chronicle's Women of Excellence Awards celebrates local African American women who inspire others through their vision and leadership, exceptional achievements, and participation in community service. They are women who exemplify extraordinary stature, poise, and grace.

In 2022, the 15th year, The Chronicle will induct a new class of honorees who are champions of economic empowerment and diversity, backbone of religious and educational organizations, and driving forces in politics and community service into the exclusive society of 650 plus professional women who have previously received the distinction of Women of Excellence.

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Sponsorships

- WSU will serve as a table sponsor for the 17<sup>th</sup> 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. Governor Whitmer was the keynote speaker on March 18 and there
- WSU will be a sponsor of LASED'S 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Recognition Luncheon on May 5, 2022, and President Wilson is serving as an honorary chair