

Submitted By: Laurie Lauzon Clabo, PhD
Acting Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Academic Student Affairs and Global Engagement

Office of International Programs

The OIP team has been recruiting students in-person and virtually, hosting an open house for Ontario residents in Windsor Nov. 8, visiting Windsor-Essex high schools, and attending fairs in Montreal, Brazil and UAE. Additionally, recruiting visits were made to 15 Chinese universities and institutions to strengthen our partnerships and foster new collaborations, which resulted in the creation of three new partnerships that will enhance our network and broaden Wayne State's reach in Asia.

The Office of Fellowships offered a Fulbright seminar for new faculty and facilitated a Fulbright workshop by IIE (Institute of International Education), which manages the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program. The office also has instituted a weekly advising hour for faculty interested in Fulbright awards but unsure where to start.

The Center for Student Global Engagement has expanded events to involve more international (and domestic) students in activities including a shopping trip for fall/winter clothes at Great Lakes Crossing Outlet mall; a grocery run to Meijer; a visit to Detroit Harvest Fest; Global Café events every Thursday; and a group Pistons game.

International Education Week, a joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education, celebrated the benefits of international education and exchange with a variety of globally themed events including an international tea tasting, information sessions about international study/fellowship opportunities, a visit with the Peace Corps and international trivia competition.

Transfer Student Success Center

The TSSC hosted Signing Day and offered free bus transportation for Henry Ford College students to visit Wayne State University's campus and learn about the Learn4ward Transfer Pathways. Students met HFC advisors and TSSC transfer advisors at the event.

In celebration of National Transfer Student Week, the TSSC hosted events for prospective and current transfer students including Transfer Tuesdays drop-in advising, an info session on how to become a business major, Maximizing Your Success with

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Career Services, [a meet and greet with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the chance to destress with therapy dogs.](#)

The TSSC team hosted an information session at the WSU/Schoolcraft extension center to explain Transfer Pathways, transfer credit, the application process, scholarships and the Michigan Transfer Agreement, and also participated in the Kellogg Community College Virtual College Fair.

The inaugural Transfer Success and Recognition Summit drew more than 80 community college counselors, faculty and leaders to Wayne State to learn about transfer success strategies that support students in degree completion and prepare them to launch their careers.

Executive and Professional Development

EPD coordinated the National Association of County Collectors, Treasurers, and Finance Officers' fall session, providing an economic forecast to 35 government finance professionals from across the country. EPD provides continuing education to association members.

Apex Accelerator, part of EPD, provided outreach, training, certifications and counseling to businesses in the government industrial base/defense industrial base, and five contract/bidding training sessions to small businesses in Detroit.

Undergraduate Admissions

Wayne State University is one of 10 public universities in Michigan participating in a new assured admissions program for FTIACS entering college in Fall 2024. Universities participating in the [Michigan Assured Admission Pact \(MAAP\)](#) will admit Michigan high school graduates who have earned a cumulative high school GPA of 3.0 or higher (on a 4.0 scale). Wayne State will work with the other institutions to promote the initiative to high school students, parents, secondary school partners and college access organizations throughout the state.

Undergrad applications for fall 2024 are up 8% and admits up 25% over this time last year. Winter 2024 transfer applications are up 28% but admits are down 9%.

Undergraduate Admissions, in partnership with three area universities, co-hosted Explorando Tu Futuro, a bilingual college admissions program that drew more than 100 students and guests. The program was offered in Spanish and included admissions presentations from the host universities, a college fair and a "Cafecito". The WSU Center

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for Latino/a and Latin American Studies provided information about its summer enrichment pre-college program, the Chicano-Boricua Scholar program and the College to Career program.

Fall Open House drew 508 students and 1,256 guests who learned about academic programs, student support resources, student life and had the opportunity to participate in campus tours. 23 high school students from the Chicago/Chicagoland area enjoyed an overnight bus trip (provided by Admissions) to attend the Fall Open House.

College Onsite Decision Day included 13 of the state's public universities and an onsite admission decision program for students of DPSCD and select Detroit charter schools. Of the 634 students registered for the event, 225 attended. A total of 1,080 applications were submitted with more than 680 admit decisions rendered.

Admissions hosted the Michigan Pre-College and Youth Conference and the Giant Step Teen Conference on campus in October, as well as the Detroit College Access Network's Counselor Conference, which focused on strategies for improving the college-going culture within schools and community organizations that support students. WSU hosted the ACT College and Career Readiness Workshop for high school counselors to learn strategies and best practices to improve students' knowledge, skills and the behaviors needed for success.

Scholarships and Financial Aid

Launching ScholarshipUniverse has helped OSFA award \$800,000 more in endowed and annual scholarships in its first year than through the previous scholarship system. Applications for the 2024-2025 awarding cycle will be available to students in December.

Academic Success Center

The ASC is providing embedded learning support to Warrior 360, the Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies, the College of Nursing, College of Engineering and the radiologic tech program.

The center launched the Academic Persistence initiative for students working to raise their grades in current courses, find success in the repeated course, or those navigating academic probation. In collaboration with Warrior 360 and the University Advising Center pre-nursing advisors, Academic Persistence Specialists have been working one-

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to-one with students referred to the Academic Rebound program. This multi-faceted approach to academic support is designed to arm students with the connections needed to guide them back on track, regardless of the cause of their challenges.

65% of Warrior 360 students on academic probation who've been invited to meet with a specialist have made appointments. In the first two weeks of the program launching, 46% of students invited completed at least one appointment.

In partnership with Warrior 360, the ASC hosts Study Club—a weekly, academically-focused space for W360 students to learn collaboratively or independently. Students are invited to the commons space of the ASC where school supplies, refreshments, study skills coaches, subject tutors, and full-time staff are available to offer multiple layers of academic support. The message to students is simply to "show up" and they will benefit from not only a culture of academic excellence but also direct academic support. Weekly attendance averages 15 students per session.

Warrior 360

Warrior 360 members are eligible to take advantage of pre-priority registration. Students are encouraged to meet with their academic advisor and financial aid in preparation for early registration. To normalize an early registration culture, W360 hosted an event on the first day of pre-priority registration for students to celebrate their persistence and connect with academic advisors, W360 success coaches, and the Student Service Center as needed.

University Advising Center

OMVAE, the Office of Military and Veterans Academic Excellence, hosted a pre-priority registration event to support military-affiliated students' early registration for winter 2024. Staff provided supplemental advising, registration assistance, enrollment certification assistance for military education benefits and success coaching.

Federal TRIO Programs

Four McNair Scholars presented their research at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, McNair Research conference and two scholars presented their research at the University of Kansas McNair conference.

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College of Liberal Arts and Sciences:

On Sept. 21, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences celebrated the grand opening of its [new Humanities Commons](#). Located in the Undergraduate Library, the Commons serves as a hub for arts and literary events, community exhibitions, classes and group collaboration.

Governor Gretchen Whitmer appointed WSU Anthropology Chair Krysta Ryzewski as Chair of the State Historic Preservation Review Board. The board reviews and approves each national register nomination prior to submission to the Keeper of the National Register, has appellate jurisdiction under the Local Historic Districts Act, as amended, and provides general advice, guidance and professional recommendations to the State Historic Preservation Office on matters related to historic preservation.

On Saturday, Nov. 4, [CLAS Alumni Family Day](#) welcomed alumni and their families back to campus for a day of exploration, creativity, and shared memories. The well-attended event featured planetarium shows, hands-on activities and science demos for all ages.

Scholarships were created in the name of Gina Horwitz, a recent retiree of the revered CLAS Philanthropy and Alumni Relations team and, in memoriam for Gayle McCreedy, a beloved advisor in the Department of History.

The WSU Planetarium now offers special shows for Wayne State students, faculty and staff on the first Friday of every month. The planetarium still hosts free public planetarium shows for the whole community on many Friday evenings throughout the year. Check their Eventbrite page for dates and times, and to reserve seats.

The Grosscup Museum of Anthropology unveiled its newest exhibit in October. The traveling exhibit [Exiled to Motown: A History of Japanese Americans in Metro Detroit](#) was developed by the Detroit Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, in conjunction with the Detroit Historical Museum. It is on exhibit at the Museum of Anthropology through Jan. 31, 2024.

CLAS faculty continue to help students and the broader community better understand and synthesize the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Professors Saeed Khan, an associate professor of teaching in Near East and Asian studies and director of the Center for the Study of Citizenship, and Howard Lupovitch, a professor of history and director of the Cohn-Haddow Center for Judaic Studies have held on-campus events and participated in several media interviews to share their thoughts and expertise. The Department of

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Political Science held a lecture and discussion on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on Nov. 13.

Maintaining a collective and inclusive approach to student recruitment, each department within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences actively engaged in WSU's Fall Open House on Oct. 14. Academic departments offered lab tours and special sessions dedicated to their programs.

The latest book by Wayne State University professor and celebrated historian Kidada E. Williams, was [nominated for the 2023 National Book Award for Nonfiction](#), one of the most prestigious literary honors in the country. Williams' book, *I Saw Death Coming: A History of Terror and Survival in the War Against Reconstruction*, offers a powerful and detailed look at African Americans' struggles against hatred, violence and systemic racism in the aftermath of the Civil War. The book was named to the National Book Award Longlist last week.

Biological Sciences graduate students Katrina Lewandowski and Brenna Friday were selected as Knauss fellows through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Sea Grant College Program. The pair work in Environmental Studies Program Director Donna Kashian's lab. The Knauss fellowship is a one-year paid opportunity for current and recent graduates from advanced degree programs to apply their scientific knowledge and experiences to lasting careers in the sciences, policy, and public administration.

Sixteen faculty across the social sciences and humanities are participating in the fourth year of the CLAS's grant writing workshop. This year's workshop is led by professors Samuele Zilioli (Psychology), Krysta Ryzewski (Anthropology), and Jonathan Flatley (English). Dow Chemical sponsored the [dedication of the ACS National Historic Chemical Landmark honoring Dr. Bettye Washington Greene](#), the first Black American female Ph.D. chemist to be hired by The Dow Chemical Company and alumna of the Wayne State University Department of Chemistry. Washington Greene was a leader in the field of polymer chemistry and had a long and successful career at Dow Chemical.

Bridging colleges, Ed Cackett, chair of physics and astronomy, [participated in WSU Theatre and Dance's production of Silent Sky](#). Cackett took the opportunity to engage with audiences and discussed the impact of female Astronomers.

Neuroscience researcher [Ana Daugherty received a two-year grant](#) from the American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR) and the Glenn Foundation for Medical Research to identify the causes of iron accumulation in the brain, a condition associated with

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cognitive decline. The prestigious grant supports early career scientists who are emerging leaders in their fields and studying the aging process. Applications are subjected to rigorous review: only 14 recipients were selected from 83 applicants.

CLAS loves Halloween and co-hosted a student Trick Or Treating events in the Faculty Administration Building and Old Main. Anthropology professors Andrew Newman and Jaymelee Kim gave a tour of Elmwood Cemetery and CMLLC professor Anne Duggan led a podcast called, "The Lost Princess: Women Writers and the History of Classic Fairy Tales."

Led by lead by Professor Haiyong Liu, [three teams of faculty and staff from across campus ran the Detroit Free Press Marathon](#). Two teams won first place for both the female and male masters groups and the mixed masters group came in second.

The [Wayne State Economics Club hosted Rick Matton, VP for Chicago Federal Reserve](#), for a student symposium on Oct. 25.

CLAS commemorated Malcolm X's historic 1963 speech at Wayne State in the newly renovated Wilson Hall. The college and the Departments of Anthropology and African American Studies [unveiled a commemorative plaque near room 101](#), where the speech took place.

African American Studies professor Rhonda Williams gave the keynote at Wayne Law's 8th Damon J. Keith Biennial Lecture.

College of Education

Grants/Contracts (September 2023 – October 2023)

Principal Investigator	Title	Agency	Amount
Sarah Lenhoff (Educational Leadership and Policy Studies)	Neighborhood Change and Educational Opportunity in Detroit	Kresge Foundation	\$85,000
Anna Miller (WSU/MPSI Early Childhood Centers)	Wayne RESA Great Start Readiness Program 2023 - 2024	Wayne RESA	\$372,790
Sandra Yarema (Science Education)	National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium 2024	National Science Teachers Association	\$21,750

2023-2024 Scholarship Reception

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On October 16, the College of Education hosted its annual Scholarship Reception in the Student Center Building Ballroom. The gathering welcomed 82 members of the college community including donors, students, faculty, staff, and alumni. This year, the College awarded nearly \$850,000 in scholarships to students from 160 endowed and/or annual scholarship funds. Dean Denise Taliaferro Baszile welcomed guests and conveyed a deep sense of gratitude to the donors for their support. One highlight of the event was a video compilation of students expressing the impact that scholarships have on their academic and personal lives. The video, produced by the Development Communications Team, was shared with donors who could not attend in person and can be viewed here: [College of Education 2023 Donors and Scholars Reception COE2023 V86 - YouTube](#). Photos from the event can be found here: <https://flic.kr/ps/2ReQmu>.

In addition to congratulating scholarship recipients, the event recognizes the scholarship and service of our faculty and alumni. The Professor Arthur Brown Endowed Memorial Award Fund was established in 1998 in memory of Dr. Brown, a professor of History and Philosophy of Education program at Wayne State University, to recognize outstanding teaching, scholarship and leadership of College of Education alumni.

This year's Brown Memorial Award recipient was Dr. GERALYN STEPHENS GUNN, who retired from the College of Education in May 2022 as an Associate Professor-Clinical. Dr. Stephens Gunn was regularly recognized for her work in online teaching. She is the recipient of the 2013 President's Award for Excellence in Teaching, the 2012 Blackboard Catalyst Award for the Exemplary Course Program, the 2013 Blackboard Catalyst Award for Faculty Development, and was recognized as a Blackboard MVP in 2014. She also served as C&IT's Faculty Liaison for online learning projects for many years. She is a double graduate of COE programs earning a master's degree in Career & Technical Education and a Doctorate in Curriculum & Instruction.

Dr. Stephens is well known for empowering her students through the practical knowledge she shared and the tools that they could directly apply in their everyday work. She mentored many faculty members from across the university - ensuring that they always felt valued, supported, and appreciated. In addition to her work, Dr. Stephens also is also a generous donor to the College of Education.

Finally, Dr. Min Yu was presented with this year's Kathleen Reilly Koory Endowed Faculty Development Award. The purpose of the award is to recognize faculty achievement, encourage continued progress, and to recognize faculty who demonstrate significant contributions to the college. Dr. Yu is an associate professor of Comparative and International Education & Social Studies Education in the College of Education at Wayne

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State University. Her area of research draws on critical theories to examine how changing social, political, and economic conditions affect teachers and schools serving migrant and immigrant families and communities. Her scholarship reflects her commitment to understanding the ways school curriculum and educational policies impact students, families, and communities. Her research embodies the commitment and critical care that is required of researchers who work towards achieving more equitable forms of educational transformation that are representative of the interests and needs of marginalized communities by furthering and amplifying the efforts of those communities. Dr. Yu's work has been published as a sole-authored book (AERA award winner) and in over 30 articles in top-tier journals and edited volumes. She has received the WSU Academy of Scholars Outstanding Junior Faculty Award and the COE's Faculty Scholarship Award. She has also received over \$325,000 in grant funding from different Federal Agents and Foundations.

AWARDS

Meina Zhu, assistant professor of learning design and technology, received the 2023 Outstanding Publication Award: Book from the Association for Educational Communications and Technology's (AECT) Culture, Learning, and Technology Division. Zhu and Curtis J. Bonk, Ph.D., professor of Instructional Systems Technology at Indiana University, served as editors of *Transformative Teaching Around the World: Stories of Cultural Impact, Technology Integration, and Innovative Pedagogy*, which includes 41 stories of transformative educational innovation and change in 22 countries. The pair were presented with the award during the AECT international convention, which was held Oct. 15-19, in Las Vegas.

IN THE NEWS

Sarah Lenhoff, associate professor of educational leadership and policy studies and director of the Detroit Partnership for Education Equity and Research (PEER), was quoted in an article in *The Atlantic* about the national chronic absenteeism crisis.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2023/11/american-schools-absenteeism/675892>

Sarah Lenhoff, associate professor of educational leadership and policy studies and director of the Detroit Partnership for Education Equity and Research (PEER), was quoted in a *Bridge Michigan* article about efforts to hire bus drivers.

<https://www.bridgemi.com/talent-education/how-michigan-schools-are-trying-attract-1000-or-more-new-bus-drivers>

Nate McCaughtry, assistant dean of the Division of Kinesiology, Health and Sport Studies and director of the Center for Health and Community Impact, discussed the

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Building Healthy Communities initiative and its positive impact on students during an interview on WOOD-TV 8. Now in its 15th year, the statewide, school-based initiative seeks to address the social determinants of health that have contributed to wide disparities in many communities across Michigan.

<https://www.woodtv.com/news/ottawa-county/state-program-helps-holland-schools-focus-on-healthy-eating>

Irvin D. Reid Honors College

President Espy and Provost Kornbluh made a visit to the Irvin D. Reid Honors College on September 20, 2023 and had the opportunity to meet with college leadership, students, faculty, staff and donors. The President and Provost were briefed on the Honors College's mission and values, the HON1000 first-year curriculum, and heard first-hand from students about the positive impact of the Honors experience, undergraduate research, summer programs, studying abroad, and more.

The popular Honors College series "Lunches with Leaders" resumed for the Fall 2023 semester. The series connects Honors students with a variety of campus and community leaders over an informal lunch for discussions of careers, community impact, pathways to success and other important issues. Guest speakers for the Fall semester were:

- September 26, 2023: Dr. Simone Chess, Director of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies, Associate Professor of English
- October 24, 2023: Mary Zatina, General Manager, WDET – Detroit Public Radio
- November 14, 2023: Noah Hall, Professor, WSU School of Law
- December 5, 2023: Dr. Denise Taliaferro Baszile, Dean, College of Education

The Honors College participated in the Global Programs & Study Abroad Fair held on campus for students interested in study abroad experiences. Honors was on hand to engage with students and promote HON4260 – Modern Paris, a long-running Honors course that includes student travel to Paris over spring break.

The Irvin D. Honors College took part in the WSU Fall Open House on October 14, 2023 by hosting a special Honors College information session and providing an information table staffed with an Honors academic advisor at the resource fair. Honors representatives spoke with dozens of prospective students and parents.

On November 6, 2023 the Honors College hosted the "Campus Lab Research Workshop" to help advise and guide students interested in pursuing lab research opportunities with faculty on campus. The event was extremely successful with more than 50 Honors students attending. Dr. Elena Past served as facilitator for the workshop, and the panel

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of presenters included Dr. Lori Pile, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies, CLAS, and Co-Director of MARC at WSU, Erin Bachert, Academic Services Officer, Chemistry, and three Honors students who have successfully participated in faculty research projects on campus.

The Honors College hosted a “Donuts with the Dean” event for the fall semester on November 8, 2023. This regular event provides Honors students with direct access to the dean of the college by informally sitting down together over snacks. Students are encouraged to ask questions, voice concerns, and get to know more about Honors. This event included a special guest, Dr. Anne Duggan, Professor of French.

As first-year Honors students prepared to write their first term paper as part of the HON1000 course, the Honors College collaborated with the WSU Writing Center to host the “Honors Writing Center Workshop” designed to support students with tools that will help them be successful with the process of writing their papers, including important steps: reading the assignment and planning to address all of the questions; crafting a thesis; developing an argument; integrating source material into the text. The workshop was facilitated by Grace Williams, Assistant Director, WSU Writing Center.

The Honors College provided its students with “Home Stretch Strategies” – a program created by an Honors student to help other students with resources and strategies for being successful in the final weeks of the semester. The initiative included an option for interested Honors students to team up with an “Accountabili-Buddy,” another Honors student, and the two help keep each other on-track with assignments, studying, etc. through the final weeks. In addition, several other resource activities were held to provide students other end-of-semester support:

- November 28, 2023: Study Skills Workshop (with emphasis on exam preparation)
- November 30, 2023: CAPS engagement
- December 5, 2023: Mediation event
- December 7, 2023: Therapy dog session

On December 7, 2023, the Honors College celebrated the Honors students who have made significant impact on the Honors community with an Honors Appreciation Dinner. Students were nominated by Honors faculty and staff and recognized for their contributions.

Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

The American Board of Funeral Service Education awarded the maximum seven years of continued accreditation to the **Mortuary Science** program with no stipulations and six commendations.

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Associate Professor of **Pharmaceutical Sciences** Randy Commissaris represented our college and the university at the Detroit Auto Show, where his lab team (including students) operated an interactive booth at the entrance of the show to educate attendees on the dangers of distracted driving.

Associate Clinical Professor of **Pharmacy Practice** Amber Lanae Martirosov received the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Best Practice Award, presented to outstanding practitioners in pharmacy who have successfully implemented innovative systems and can demonstrate positive patient outcomes. Dr. Martirosov practices in the pulmonary clinic at Henry Ford Health System and leads a multidisciplinary team of seven health care professionals. Meanwhile, **PharmD** students and faculty joined more than 175 Michigan Pharmacists Association members in Lansing this fall to advocate for their profession with lawmakers during Pharmacy Day at the Capitol.

Assistant Clinical Professor of **Physician Assistant Studies** and Clinical Coordinator Bindiya Nandwana was awarded the highly competitive Physician Assistant Education Association Clinical Education Award in October. In addition, students and faculty from WSU Applebaum's Physician Assistant Studies program offered hands-on health care to Detroiters at the annual Ford Field Men's Health Event as well as Special Olympics sports physicals to local children.

Radiation Therapy Technology Program Director Jeannetta Greer was named Educator of the Year by the Michigan Society of Radiologic Technologists in September.

In October, WSU Applebaum's 20th annual College Research Day showcased the work of 75 students and faculty mentors across the spectrum of our programs, with teams on hand to discuss their **research** with attendees. Following a keynote address from the American Association for Cancer Research president-elect, Outstanding Research Awards were presented to students.

During fall semester, the **Office of Student Affairs** implemented several new initiatives to foster increased student engagement. The office instituted a monthly DEI documentary series highlighting Hispanic heritage, LGBTQ+ and Native American history. Additionally, the OSA provided success workshops focusing on study skills, test taking strategies and reducing imposter syndrome. As of this writing, the college-wide Apple Days community outreach event was set to take place on Nov. 8, with 400+ students from the Detroit Public School Community District and beyond scheduled to learn about our programs and health care career options.

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School of Social Work

Center for Behavioral Health and Justice:

- The CBHJ operates 21 projects across six different initiatives with community partners in 39 counties across Michigan and a total operating budget of \$2.8 million.
- The CBHJ met with White House Director of National Drug Council Policy Dr. Rahul Gupta and Wayne County Wayne County Director of Health, Human & Veteran Services Dr. Abdul El-Sayed on September 25. The meeting was requested by Dr. Gupta to learn more about the programs of the CBHJ, including the opioid treatment ecosystems, naloxone vending machine program, crisis response, and harm reduction efforts of the CBHJ.
- The CBHJ has been featured in at least four news media articles about opioid settlement dollars, assisted outpatient treatment, and naloxone vending machines. [\(1\)](#) [\(2\)](#) [\(3\)](#) [\(4\)](#)
- The CBHJ had one peer reviewed research [article](#) published, titled “Assessing the reentry needs of incarcerated individuals with co-occurring opioid use and mental health concerns”, making 59 CBHJ academic publications to date.
- The CBHJ presented/spoke at six in-person events, including conferences, community events, and summits.

Awards:

- School of Social Work Assistant Professor and Director of Continuing Education, Shantalea Johns recently [selected by the Michigan Chronicle for their 40 Under 40 Award](#) recognizing local African American young professionals who inspire others through their vision, leadership, exceptional achievements, and participation in community service.
- Shani Saxon, a fourth year School of Social Work doctoral student, [won the Minority Fellowship Program \(MFP\) award](#) for 2023-2024 from the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). Saxon’s research explores how Black women’s experiences with racism and racial trauma throughout their lives.
- Professor and Associate Dean for Research Richard Smith recently [received the Lisa Robinson Community Research Award](#) from Hope Village Revitalization, a nonprofit resident-driven organization that serves a 100-block area called Hope Village in Detroit. Smith has collaborated with Hope Village community members

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on projects such as working to improving area drinking water, reducing flooding and enrich public health.

- Kellan McNally, a Social Work and Anthropology (SWAN) program doctoral student, [recently received a Douglas A. Fraser Center research award](#) for his study, "Competing Constructions of Labor Value: Representations of Patient-Workers in State Mental Hospital Reports Before 1970." The award will support McNally's goals of sharing publicly his research findings over the next 18 months.

Training:

- The College of Nursing (Umeika Stephens) and School of Social Work (Anwar Najor-Durack) have been [awarded a \\$1,060,000 HRSA grant](#). The project aims to develop and enhance the behavioral health workforce while advancing nursing, social work and clinical practice through the provision of culturally competent, enhanced interprofessional education with an emphasis on children, adolescents and transitional-age youth at risk for developing, or who have developed a recognized behavioral health disorder, in the community setting. The funding will also support the training of 36 master's level graduate students from the College of Nursing and School of Social Work, along with a minimum of 110 community-based health care professionals in interprofessional didactic training courses in addition to 60 clinical supervisors, preceptors and faculty in Activating Clinical Excellence in Supervision (ACE*S) workshops.

College of Engineering

Wayne State University welcomed officials from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) and three other higher education institutions to its Midtown Detroit campus on Oct. 23 for an announcement of the largest investment in state history to expand semiconductor education and workforce training resources. More than \$1.1 million in MEDC grants and matching funds will support the launch of new Wayne State programs led by Assistant Professor Gozde Tutuncuoglu and Professor Amar Basu from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering in an effort to develop the future workforce in the semiconductor industry. MEDC is investing more than \$3.6 million combined in this domain, including more than \$320,000 for Oakland University, \$150,000 for Washtenaw Community College and \$140,000 for the University of Michigan.

The three new programs created through MEDC's Semi Higher Education Initiative will not only allow Wayne State students as well as working professionals to explore

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emerging career possibilities in this space, but will expand Wayne State's outreach and accessibility to middle and high school students, including those in underserved communities.

- **CareerCraft:** Industry-Aligned Certificate Programs in Electrical Engineering
- **PCBCraft:** A Hands-on Workforce Training Program in Printed Circuit Board Design, Manufacturing and Testing
- **Semiconductor Stars:** An Experiential Learning Program for Future Semiconductor Engineers

Jitao Zhang, assistant professor of biomedical engineering, recently received a two-year, \$329,862 grant from the National Institutes of Health for a project that further leverages Dr. Zhang's expertise on a novel imaging technique called Brillouin microscopy that can map cell and tissue stiffness often associated with disease progression. The goal of this project is to use this technology to develop a new non-invasive, non-contact optical tool that can rapidly acquire images of narrative neural crest cells (NCC) which contribute to embryo development. Aberrant NCCs can lead to severe malformations and diseases, but causes for this cellular behavior are difficult to quantify. Dr. Zhang's project aims to provide new data to advance our knowledge of the physical aspects of development.

The undergraduate computer science program in the College of Engineering was ranked among the top 26% in the country by *U.S. News & World Report*, which recently released its 2024 Best Colleges list. The annual survey assessed 554 undergraduate computer science programs nationwide that meet the requirements of being accredited by ABET and have recently awarded at least 20 bachelor's degrees in computer science. Wayne State's programs are listed at No. 139.

The Wayne State University student chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) finished in second place in the national finals of the ELECTRI International/NECA Electrical Contracting Innovation Challenge (ECIC). A team of students in the College of Engineering's construction management (CMT) program traveled to Philadelphia for the 2023 NECA Convention in October to conclude a yearlong competition in which students collaborated with local professionals, applied classroom learning, and used their creativity and ingenuity to design a new electrical system for a proposed student center facility. Wayne State was one of three teams selected, along with the University of Wisconsin (the event winners) and Iowa State University. Wayne State was awarded first place in the video competition and received

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an award for the most innovative prefabrication plan. CMT student Will Sanders was named the competition's best presenter.

Mike Ilitch School of Business

College news:

The Ilitch School of Business Department of Global Supply Chain Management hosted the [GM/WSU Case Competition](#) October 19 and 21. Students from around the nation and Mexico visited our campus to learn about the automotive supply chain and compete for best solution to actual GSCM cases. Pictures available:

<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAZxtY>

The Ilitch School will host its [43rd annual Recognition and Awards](#) on November 17 honoring students, alumni, faculty and important business community members.

Faculty news:

[Marick Masters has done an outstanding job](#) (TODAY@Wayne article) representing his field, the Ilitch School and WSU in the media as a frequently relied upon UAW/Strike expert throughout the year as Stellantis, the big three automakers and UAW work through contract negotiations. He has appeared in all manner of news mediums, both local and national. A tiny example of many on the [school news site](#):

- [Wayne State University business professor Marick Masters discusses the United Auto Workers strike negotiations--with Marick Masters](#) – kpcw, NPR, November 3, 2023
- ['The big moneymaker': Pressure felt after Sterling Heights Ram plant joins strike--with Marick Masters](#) – ABC Detroit, November 4, 2023
- [US auto workers' union boss says strikes will continue in bid for better offers from companies--with Marick Masters](#) – Associated Press, November 5, 2023

Deborah Habel was honored by the [Michigan CPA professional organization](#) with an accounting teaching excellence award.

Faculty continue to publish papers in top-tier journals, including:

- [Mbodja Mougoué accepted for publication in Environmental Challenges](#)
- [Abhijit Biswas accepted for publication in Journal of Consumer Psychology](#)
- [Nusrat Jahan accepted for publication in AUDITING: A Journal of Practice & Theory](#)

Submitted By: Laurie Lauzon Clabo, PhD
Acting Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Student news:

Students participated in the school's annual [elevator pitch competition](#) on October 27 where \$1,750 in scholarship money was awarded. This is an opportunity for students to learn important interview skills by pitching a prospective employer about their skills and career goals in the time it takes to ride the Renaissance Center elevator from top to bottom.

Alumni news:

[Mike Ilitch School of Business Laptop Lending Program](#) application was launched November 1 with a generous gift from our remarkable alumnus, Byron Pond III. This program will provide up to 50 new laptops each semester to students who are struggling to meet the technical capacity of their classes. Students have the computer for the duration of their time at the Ilitch School. Upon completion of their program, they will be allowed to keep the computers following graduation.

Community news:

Early October, Dr. Lauren Scott, Director of the Multicultural Professional Readiness Education Program (MPREP) gathered student and staff volunteers for a clean-up day up at Cooley Park to clear vegetation and blight and cut lawns for our neighbors in the community.

The Law School

Wayne Law and WSU to receive \$30M for a new law school facility

Wayne Law and WSU have received a major multi-million-dollar funding commitment that will position the school for its next level of success. The commitment – an extraordinary \$30 million capital projects grant from the State of Michigan, outside the normal appropriations process – will anchor a new world-class facility for the law school. More details are to come about this project which, in addition to the State's funds, will rely on significant philanthropic support.

Wayne Law Helps Campus Explore Issues of Speech and Academic Freedom

Wayne Law has organized and is playing an intimate role in two events to help the community understand and grapple with free speech and academic freedom on university campuses. The first event, "Speech on Campus: Laws and Realities," took place Nov. 1 in a full room at the Student Center. It featured a panel discussion involving Wayne Law Professors **Jonathan Weinberg**, **Brad Roth** (jointly appointed with Political Science), and **Nancy Chi Cantalupo**, with Wayne Law's **Michael Oswalt** moderating. The second event will be a mini-symposium on Feb. 29 open to all members of the WSU

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community. It will feature morning and afternoon panels with nationally renowned speakers from across the country, plus a lunchtime moderated conversation between Berkeley Law Dean Erwin Chemerinsky and Seattle University President Eduardo Penalver on the challenges university leaders face around free speech on campus.

Expungement Fair Serves More Than 200 Community Members

The first Wayne Law Expungement Fair on Nov. 3 offered free expungement services to the public. Nearly 400 community members attended, with 200 being eligible to have their records expunged. Over 20 Wayne Law students volunteered, alongside Wayne Law faculty and staff. Other partners included Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel (Law '94); the Michigan State Police; the Miller Johnson law firm; Safe and Just Michigan; the WSU School of Social Work; and local rapper Trick Trick. Wayne Law Clinical Fellow **Elizabeth Stapleton** secured a grant from the Michigan Bar Foundation to cover each attendee's application fee. On a post-fair survey, 9 of 10 participants indicated they would not have begun the process but for the fair.

Wayne Law Team Awarded PLEDGE Fellowship

A team from Wayne Law was one of only three teams chosen nationally for the AccessLex Institute's prestigious [Professionals in Legal Education Developing Greater Equity Fellowship Initiative](#), or PLEDGE. PLEDGE aims to better utilize empirical research methods to design, administer, and assess student success programs, with an emphasis on equity and access. Wayne Law's team—comprising Assistant Director of Scholarship Programs and Assessment **Michelle Taylor** and Interim Assistant Dean of Student Affairs **Tierney Hoffman**—submitted a proposal focused on studying cohort learning and its impact on the academic success and socio-emotional experience of the law school's first-year [Damon J. Keith Scholars](#). Taylor and Hoffman will receive \$25,000 for research activities and will participate in a 14-month program in which they will design and assess programs using empirical research methods and will host multiple meetings and a two-day, in-person session at Wayne Law during the fellowship.

The Graduate School

Wayne State's Graduate Research Symposium, hosted by the Graduate School, will return to an in-person format in 2024 with a full day celebrating the research and accomplishments of our students and postdoctoral fellows. After three years in a fully virtual environment, this year's Symposium will provide new interactive, engaging opportunities for everyone in the Wayne State community. The 2024 Symposium is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 28 in the Student Center starting at 8:30 a.m.

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Dean of Students

The Campus Activities Team (CAT) has had a successful fall involving students in campus life. 1,988 students have attended at least one CAT event and 1/3 of FTIACs have attended a CAT event. This does not include student attendance at student organization events and activities.

The Warrior Rewards program is off to a thriving fall semester. With Warrior Rewards, students attend events to earn points to redeem for Warrior swag items. This fall semester, 1,702 students have signed up and participation attendance at qualifying totals 7,014.

College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts

In October the College of Fine, Performing & Communication Arts celebrated our prestigious alumni at the 44th Annual Arts Achievement Awards ([Facebook Photo Album](#)). We also held an Intro to Industry event that introduced our communication students to the abundant career opportunities in the insurance industry and supported the Alumni Council Endowment with a fundraiser at the *Rocky Horror Show* at the Hilberry Gateway.

The James Pearson Duffy Department Art, Art History & Design Department Gallery is highlighting faculty and student work during Fall 2023. The *2023 Faculty Exhibition* opened on September 29 running through November 10, 2023. The *Graduating Seniors Exhibition* opens December 1 and runs through December 15, 2023.

The Department of Communication is sending a record-setting 10 PhD students to present their competitively selected work at the 109th National Communication Association Conference in National Harbor, MD.

The Department of Communication held its annual Communication and Journalism Internship Fair on October 19th at St. Andrews Hall on Wayne State's campus. Undergraduate/graduate communication and journalism students met throughout the morning with recruiters from TV, radio, print, digital media, public relations, corporate and nonprofit communication outlets.

The Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance successfully collaborated with the graphic design area to produce this season's artwork for theatre and dance performances. So far this season, we premiered 3 productions (28 shows total) at the

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Hilberry Gateway between September and November (*The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical, Silent Sky, The Rocky Horror Show*)

The Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance is also currently collaborating on a drive for I Support the Girls - Detroit, a non-profit organization dedicated to "collecting and distributing essential items, including bras, underwear, and menstrual hygiene products, allowing women and folx experiencing homelessness, impoverishment, or distress to stand tall with dignity." during the run of "The Wolves" - Drive will occur during the run of the "The Wolves" November 17-Dec 10.

Design faculty Siobhan Gregory and Prof. Gary Shields from MISB, along with an interdisciplinary team of 7 students, have been accepted for the Ford Technology for Social Impact Accelerator. The WSU team was one of ten universities invited into the competition nationwide. They will lead a team of seven volunteer students from MISB and industrial design in working with a local community organization, Deeply Rooted Produce, on a mobile food delivery project through the end of the winter semester of 2024, with the winning teams earning \$20-25K for their community organization. All the participants will also earn certification in design thinking from the Henry Ford Learning Institute as part of this competition.