

Submitted by: Melissa Smiley, Chief of Staff and University Relations Officer

UNIVERSITY RELATIONS DIVISION

This is the first combined report from the University Relations Division, the new division led by Chief of Staff and University Relations Officer Melissa Smiley. This regular report will typically focus on updates from Marketing and Communications and Government and Community Affairs. If appropriate and not already shared with the Board, there may also be updates from the Office of the Board of Governors.

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

The team is refining messages, channels, and frequency of communication with our audiences. To continue those changes and strategize for the future, we are searching for [Senior Vice President, Marketing and Communication](#). It is an exciting time for a leader to join the team that tells Wayne State's story to all of our audiences. Interest in the position is high and the search has just started.

A new Spotlight feature to celebrate the accomplishments of our [Faculty, Staff, Students](#) launched on the [Today@Wayne](#) website. Members of the Warrior community are invited to nominate faculty, staff and students to be featured on the website and the forthcoming Today@Wayne newsletter redesign.

WSU gear is now available at more than 50 retailers, including online retailers and various brick and mortar locations. A full list of retailers offering WSU branded merchandise is available at mac.wayne.edu/marketing/retailers. WSU Born in Detroit apparel was available for purchase at the Born In Detroit pop-up shop, located on Woodward Ave., during the 2024 NFL Draft.

Of all the recent news stories about WSU, these are a couple you might want to share:

- Wayne State ranks within the top 1.6% of universities worldwide according to the [Center for World University Rankings](#)
- Celebrate our graduates who are excelling as [leaders in public health](#) and those who have had transformative [College to Career experiences](#).
- WSU faculty who are [addressing mental health](#), and promoted how the university [boosts social mobility and powers community health](#) by broadening access to health care careers for underrepresented and disadvantaged students.
- Drs. Michael C. Petriello and Richard Pilsner around the impact of PFAS exposure and children's health ([Newsweek](#))
- The ongoing [historic preservation of Malcolm X's home](#) led by the Department of Anthropology
- The Wayne Mobile Health Unit's leadership in community health ([Flintside](#)).

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Commencement is not only a joyous time on campus, but also a busy time for social media posts from us and our graduates. Read on for some of the best celebrations:

- Instagram Stories - event coverage and celebration of individuals ([View Instagram highlight](#))
- Instagram Reel – Warrior moms at Commencement ([View reel](#))
- Facebook – Ph.D. and Ed.D. ceremony celebration ([View post](#))
- LinkedIn – Celebration of all Commencement ceremonies ([View post](#))
- Instagram – Celebration of the College of Nursing, School of Social Work, Mike Ilitch School of Business, College of Engineering and Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Commencement ceremony ([View post](#))

GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

FEDERAL

President Kimberly Espy, Governor Terri Lynn Land and Vice Presidents Ezemenari Obasi and Patrick Lindsey visited members of the Michigan congressional delegation in Washington DC on April 16. The purpose of these meetings was to introduce VP Obasi, explain WSU's prosperity agenda, and thank members for supporting our congressionally directed spending requests – Rare Earths from U.S. Extractions (REUSE), Freer House and Wayne County/WSU Small Business Economic Development. The day culminated with an Alumni reception attended by nearly 100 alumni and friends.

Hill meetings included: Senator Gary Peters (D-MI), Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-MI-12), Rep. Bill Huizenga (R-MI-04), Rep. John Moolenaar (R-MI-02) and staff from the offices of Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI-06), Rep. Shri Thanedar (D-MI-13)

VP Patrick Lindsey and VP Ned Staebler hosted Caryn Shannon, SE MI Regional Director for Sen. Peters, for a tour and discussion of TechTown's programs and services on May 8. She is interested in identifying and funding and partnership opportunities to benefit small businesses and entrepreneurs.

Wayne State University is in Michigan's 13th Congressional District. Incumbent Democrat Shri Thanedar is running for re-election and attorney Shakira Hawkins and Detroit City Council member Mary Waters have qualified for the Democratic primary. Candidate Adam Hollier did not qualify for the ballot and is no longer running.

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STATE

Fiscal Year 2024-25 budget proposals include mostly ongoing increases and minimal one-time appropriations. The Governor presented her budget in February and the House and Senate passed their budgets in May. State law requires that the budget be completed before July 1 and we expect that the final budget will be approved and signed by the Governor at the end of June or in early July.

FY24-25 Budget Proposal Funding Overview

	Executive Proposal	House Proposal	Senate Proposal
Operations Increase	\$5,620,900 (2.5%)	\$7,412,500 (3.3% ongoing)	\$5,620,900 (2.5%)
Best Practices Incentive	-	-	\$5,620,900 (2.5%)
Michigan Achievement Scholarship	\$30,000,000	\$36,000,000	\$0
Student Aid Index ^[1]	\$30,000	\$36,000	\$30,000
Tuition Restraint	5% or \$781	4.5% or \$703	4.5% or 703
ITEMS	-	\$100 (placeholder)	\$100 (placeholder)
MI Security Operations Center	-	-	\$2,810,000
FAFSA Completion & University Outreach	-	-	\$1,500,000
Children of Veterans & Survivors Grant	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$600,000
Center for Healthcare Workforce	-	\$10,000,000	-
MIDOCs	\$6,400,000	\$11,000,000	\$6,400,000
Lycaki-Young	\$5,600,000	\$5,600,000	\$5,600,000
Frontline Strong	\$2,500,000	\$5,000,000	\$2,500,000
Poison Control Center	\$1,508,500	\$2,629,900	\$1,508,500
Mobile Health Units ^[2]	\$7,000,000	\$2,500,000	\$10,100,000
Nurse Incentive Program	\$10,000,000	\$2,500,000	\$0
Behavioral Health Workforce	\$3,500,000	-	\$100
GME – Addiction Workforce Curriculum	-	\$1,500,000	-
Title IV-E Educational Pilot	\$1,744,100	\$1,744,100	\$1,744,100
School Psychologists Programming	-	\$1,000,000	-
Mental Health Worker Scholarship	-	-	\$1,500,000
Michigan Innovation Fund	\$60,000,000	\$0	\$60,000,000
Michigan Skills Fund ^[3]	-	\$5,000,000	-
Tech Innovation Hubs	-	-	\$100 (placeholder)
Higher Education Reenrollment Services	-	\$4,000,000	-
Total Funding^[4]	\$44,473,500	\$60,486,600	\$45,505,500

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We continue to monitor state legislation and regulations that could impact our students, faculty, community, and 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:

- **Senate Bill 32** (Santana) Amends the Wage & Fringe Benefits Act (Wage & Hour) to allow a law enforcement agency and law enforcement training academy to recoup the costs of training based on time served.
- **Senate Bill 74** (Singh) Creates the “Higher Education Sexual Assault Prevention, Advocacy, and Resource Officer Act” to be housed within the Michigan Department of Civil Rights.
- **Senate Bill 184** (Webber) Supplemental Appropriation bill that would provide funding for university and community college safety grants.
- **Senate Bill 329** (Irwin) Creates a “bill of rights” for policyholders, requiring insurance companies to exercise “good faith and fair dealing” in investigation, adjustment, evaluation, and payment of claims and to “give all reasonable benefit of the doubt” to claimants.
- **Senate Bill 350** (Bayer) Allows for room and board expenses under the Promise Zone Authority Act.
- **Senate Bill 354** (Geiss) Modifies teacher certification assessment to move away from the Michigan Teacher exam to Praxis.
- **Senate Bill 402** (Moss) Establishes the Voting and Elections Database and Institute Act and would require the SOS to enter into an agreement with a Michigan public university to create and manage the database.
- **Senate Bill 555** (Anthony) Modifies Michigan Promise Zone authority membership.
- **Senate Bills 559** (McMorrow) and **562** (Cavanagh) Amends the Strategic Outreach and Attraction Reserve Fund (SOAR) and the Critical Industry Fund programs to create a new Michigan 360 program that makes universities eligible for funding and provides funds for public transit.
- **Senate Bill 568** (Polehanki) Adds requirements for approval of teacher education programs.
- **Senate Bill 463** (Camilleri) Amends the Revised School Code to require completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by pupils as condition of graduation.
- **Senate Bill 687** (McCann) Amends the Michigan High-Speed Internet Office Act and would earmark 1/3 of federal broadband expansion funds to Michigan for educational institutions.
- **Senate Bill 737** (McCann) Creates the Statewide Higher Education Security Operations Center Act, which would protect universities from growing cyber security threats.

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- **HJR A** (Johnsen) is a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the state constitution of 1963, by amending sections 5 and 6 of article VIII, to prohibit public universities from restricting or regulating the carrying of concealed pistols on university property except as authorized by law.
- **House Bills 4277 & 4278** (Paiz) Requires certain research facilities to offer certain laboratory animals for adoption before euthanization.
- **House Bill 4319** (Witwer) Authorizes university officials to provide guidance to student athletes on Name, Image, Likeness compensation.
- **House Bill 4482** (Brixie) Extends period of limitations for civil actions for criminal sexual conduct from age 28 to age 52, extends statute of limitations after the time of discovery from three to seven years, and eliminates SOL if there is a criminal conviction in each case, and establishes a two-year revival window for survivors whose SOL previously expired.
- **House Bill 4482** (Steckloff) Modifies civil actions for criminal sexual conduct.
- **House Bill 4483** (Arbit) Revises statute of limitations and notice requirements for actions against state government regarding sexual conduct violations.
- **House Bill 4484** (Miller) Eliminates statute of limitations for certain criminal sexual conduct violations.
- **House Bill 4485** (Whitsett) Allows governmental agency and employee liability for criminal sexual conduct.
- **House Bill 4486** (Scott) Provides exception to notice requirements for civil actions for criminal sexual conduct filed in court.
- **House Bill 4497** (Rheingans) Amends Public Employment Relations Act to delete a provision that excludes graduate research assistants **and** student athletes from unionizing.
- **House Bill 4681** (Breen) Creates a “bill of rights” for policyholders, requiring insurance companies to exercise “good faith and fair dealing” in investigation, adjustment, evaluation, and payment of claims and to “give all reasonable benefit of the doubt” to claimants.
- **House Bill 4849** (Koleszar) Would prohibit research on dogs if the research or training activities cause any pain or distress to the animal.
- **House Bills 4853** (Steckloff) and **4854** (Scott) Amends the Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act to prohibit discrimination against students for wearing traditional regalia.
- **House Bills 4907** (Hoskins) and **4908** (Roth) would amend the Michigan Strategic Fund Act and the Income Tax Act, respectively, to create a transferrable income tax credit administered by the Michigan Film and Digital Media Office that would be available to companies that produce qualified productions in Michigan.
- **House Bill 5102** (Puri) Provides additional research and development tax credit for collaboration with research universities.
- **House Bills 5184** (Brabec) and **5185** (Ewards) Amend the Public Health Code to make modifications to licensure requirements for Social Workers in the State of Michigan.

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- **House Bill 5187** (Hood) Creates the Research and Development Tax Credit Definitions Act and defines research university as a public university or an independent nonprofit college or university in Michigan.
- **House Bill 5522** (Glanville) Adds Director of MiLEAP as a non-voting member to the Michigan’s commissioner delegation to the Midwestern Higher Education Compact.
- **House Bills 5606** (Filler), **5608** (McFall), and **5609** (Steckloff) Creates a program that awards grants to certain postsecondary schools that establish or expand certain educational programs that lead to degrees or credentials supportive of the nuclear and hydrogen industries; and to provide for the powers and duties of certain state officers and entities.
- **House Bills 5651** (VanWoerkom), **5652** (Hoskins) and **5653** (Farhat) Creates the Michigan Innovation Fund; TechTown Detroit is eligible for the funding allocated from the bills.
- **House Bill 5656** (Puri) Requires Institutional Adoption of Religious Accommodation Policies.
- **House Bills 5768** (Hoskins), **5769** (Morgan) and **5770** (McFall) Creates the Michigan Mobility Trust Fund, which distributes funding for public transit activities.

Since the last Board of Governor’s meeting, we continue to engage statewide elected officials, legislators, department personnel, and key staff issues impacting Wayne State University. Below is a selected list of recent meetings since the last Board of Governors meeting:

Senate Majority Leader Winnie Brinks
State Senator Sarah Anthony
State Senator Sam Singh
State Senator Stephanie Chang
State Senator Sue Shink
Speaker Joe Tate
Speaker Pro Temp Laurie Pohutsky
State Representative Christine Morse
State Representative Carol Glanville
State Representative Jerry Neyer
State Representative Julie Rogers
State Representative Tyrone Carter
State Representative Kelly Breen
State Representative Will Snyder
State Representative Phil Green
State Representative Curt VanderWall
State Representative Amos O’Neil
State Representative Sarah Lightner
State Representative Ann Bollin
State Representative Timmy Beson
DHHS Director, Elizabeth Hertel

Senate Minority Leader Aric Nesbitt
State Senator Sylvia Santana
State Senator Kevin Hertel
State Senator Mary Cavanagh
State Senator Paul Wojno
House Minority Leader Matt Hall
State Representative Angela Witwer
State Representative Sam Steckloff
State Representative Natalie Price
State Representative John Fitzgerald
State Representative Helena Scott
State Representative Kimberly Edwards
State Representative Stephanie Young
State Representative Mike McFall
State Representative Graham Filler
State Representative Greg VanWoerkom
State Representative Pauline Wendzell
State Representative Rachel Smit
State Representative Andrew Fink
MiLEAP Director, Michelle Richard
DHHS COO, David Knezek

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MEDC CTO, Kerry Ebersol
House Budget Director, Joe Fedewa

State Budget Director, Jennifer Flood
Deputy State Budget Director, Kyle Guerrant

LOCAL

Director Stacie Clayton was recently elected Chair of the Wayne State Chapter of the President's Commission on the Status of Women. The team continues initiating new and supporting existing WSU external community engagement. Recent efforts include:

- Facilitated the Rhonda Walker Foundation 24-hour Girl Talk where 35 high school students spent a weekend of workshops, mentoring, other activities on campus
- In partnership with Political Science Dept, hosted the Michigan Citizens Redistricting Commission's public meeting for redrawing certain Michigan Senate Districts
- Created and executed The Women of Ferry Street: Then and Now event, in partnership with the Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute, the Freer House and Center for Gender and Sexuality to highlight the significant role women played in the development of Ferry Street and how modern-day women are inspired by them and continue their legacy
- Coordinated a visit by the Seattle Chamber and a delegation of key public and private stakeholders for an afternoon on campus to learn about the city's expanding economic development, creative culture and Wayne State University.
- In partnership with the Michigan Black Business Alliance, WSU Black Student Union, Detroit NAACP and the Detroit LGBT Chamber, hosted the Road to DC Town Hall
- Director Clayton moderated the Organization of Black Alumni's Juneteenth panel discussion on the current and future status of DEI in higher education

Wayne State recently sponsored the following events:

- LASED Cinco de Mayo Luncheon
- Michigan Chronicle's Pancakes and Politics 2024 Season
- Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion's 74th Annual Dinner
- City Year Detroit Red Jacket Gala
- Detroit Public Schools Homecoming Gala
- Coleman A. Young Foundation Annual Breakfast
- NAACP 69th Annual Fight for Freedom Fund Dinner
- Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce Annual Gala

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- Mighty Real Queer Detroit Art Exhibit
- Detroit Zoological Society's Sunset at the Zoo