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President

## UNIVERSITY REPORT October 24, 2024

### **Division of Academic Affairs**

WSU was named a top 100 Public University (No. 97) and a "Top Performer on Social Mobility" in *U.S. News and World Report's* 2024 rankings. Wayne State was also ranked as a Tier One institution in Third Way's 2024 Economic Mobility Index, ranking 132 out of 1,353 institutions.

### **Applebaum**

For the second straight year, Mortuary Science students enjoyed a 100% pass rate on the National Board Examination. Currently, six WSU Applebaum programs have 100% board exam pass rates: Mortuary Science, Nurse Anesthesia, Occupational Therapy, Pathologists' Assistant, Physical Therapy and Radiologic Technology.

Assistant Clinical Professor of Medical Laboratory Science MaryAnne Stewart was inducted into the WSU Academy of Teachers for the 2024-25 academic year and submitted three manuscripts for publication, including "Redefining IPE During the Pandemic."

The Occupational Therapy program has officially transitioned from a master's to a Doctor of Occupational Therapy program, with the first cohort to start in January 2025. Alumni and special guests are invited to the program's Nov. 1 open house in honor of its 80th anniversary.

### **Education**

A new collaborative five-year award from the Institute of Education Sciences, led by the University of Washington, will test whether and how an educator-level implementation strategy maximizes paraeducators' use of an evidence-based social engagement intervention to improve peer-related social skills for autistic students and their non-autistic peers who are isolated or peripheral in the classroom (PI Andria Eisman - \$135,839). Faculty in mathematics education partnered on a three-year grant from the National Science Foundation to develop teachers' capacity to use technology to advance equity in the mathematics classroom for data literacy for students and underserved communities (PIs Jennifer Lewis and Asli Koca - \$254,853). Detroit



PEER, a college-based research center, is partnering with Michigan State University and the Michigan Department of Education to study the implementation and efficacy of the Partnership Model and how it may be improved to serve Michigan's students, families and educators (PI Jeremy Singer - \$ 23,738).

### **Engineering**

**Yinlun Huang**, professor of chemical engineering and materials science, received the 2024 AIChE Excellence in Process Development Research Award for his outstanding record in the research and education of sustainable process design and manufacturing, as well as his extensive collaboration with industry. Huang's research has led to groundbreaking advances in areas such as sustainable manufacturing, nanopaint design and multiscale modeling for process optimization and has been adopted in industrial settings to reduce environmental impact while increasing profitability.

**Jeffrey Potoff**, chair of the Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, received a three-year, \$600,000 NSF grant to develop software combining two powerful methods — Monte Carlo and molecular dynamics simulations. This software, called py-MCMD, will be freely available to the research community to help scientists better understand how atoms and molecules interact, which is key to designing new materials for the energy, medicine and manufacturing industries. The project also provides training for students in advanced computational techniques, offering open-source tools and video tutorials to broaden participation in scientific computing.

### **Fine, Performing, and Communication Arts**

The 45th Annual Arts Achievement Awards were held Oct. 17, celebrating prestigious CFPCA alumni and civic leaders; Dean **Hasan Elahi** and **Provost Dr. Laurie Lauzon Clabo** delivered opening remarks. This year's awards were held at the new Gretchen C. Valade Jazz Center, and attendees received an up-close look at the new venue.

### **Ilitch**

More than 800 students registered for the Ilitch School's career fair on Oct. 2. The first in-person fair post-COVID, it was an amazing success, with more than 80 employers signed up to interview, interact with and hire our students for full-time jobs and internships. Before the event, the Ilitch School of Business Career Services hosted several preparation workshops.



## Law

Since Michigan's new Uniform Bar Examination was implemented in February 2023, the state has seen a notable decline in bar passage rates. In response, Wayne Law, in collaboration with JD Advising Inc., crafted and launched an initiative to provide supplemental bar preparation programs, starting in 2024 and followed by a full-scale, comprehensive program for graduates in 2025. The program integrates bar preparation into the curriculum, offering academic workshops for first-year students and a newly approved two-credit required course for upper-class students. Initial data shows promising results: Wayne Law's first-time bar passage rate increased dramatically for February 2024 exam, surpassing the statewide average by 19%.

The Michigan Justice Fund awarded Wayne Law a \$6,000 grant to support its second annual expungement fair, scheduled for February. This event will be held in collaboration with the Michigan Attorney General's Office, Miller Johnson Law Firm, the School of Social Work and other partners. Last year, the fair served nearly 200 individuals. In addition to offering vital services to community members, the fair provides an opportunity for both law and undergraduate students to learn about expungement law in Michigan, understand the expungement process and volunteer to assist community members under the supervision of licensed attorneys. The grant will also fund a current law student to co-direct the expungement fair.

## Liberal Arts & Sciences

The Department of Psychology celebrates 100 years this semester and kicked off the festivities with a celebratory gala on Sept. 27 that brought together alumni, faculty, staff and students to honor the department's rich history and achievements. The department also co-hosted the 2024 James and Janice Prochaska Annual Lecture on Sept. 12, featuring keynote speaker Judith Prochaska, Ph.D., MPH, from Stanford University. Adding to the excitement, the department's undergraduate program was recently ranked among the top 100 worldwide in *U.S. News & World Report's* latest rankings, highlighting its continued excellence in education and research.

Professor **Jorge Chinae**, director of the Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies, was recognized as a Game Changer during Hispanic Heritage Month by Ilitch Sports + Entertainment and Comerica Bank for his impact on the community and commitment to advancing equity and inclusion. Chinae, a distinguished service professor of history, has dedicated his career to studying immigration, race relations, labor systems and plantation agriculture in the colonial Caribbean.



## Medicine

In recognition of their work with the School of Medicine's Equity & Justice Lab, third-year medical students **Haniyeh Zamani** and **Michal Ruprecht** received a travel grant from the Michigan Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics to attend the academy's 74th conference. This is the second consecutive year the two received the award. Zamani presented "From Race-Based to Race-Conscious Medicine: Advancing Equity in Graduate Medical Education." Ruprecht presented a case report on the management of an infant with failure to thrive and multiple congenital anomalies in the context of socioeconomic challenges and family stressors.

## Nursing

Carole Johnson, administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service, and Elizabeth Hertel, director of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, visited campus as part of the national Enhancing Maternal Health Initiative tour. The College of Nursing was selected as the Michigan host because, in the last year alone, it has been awarded more than \$7 million from HRSA for projects focused on enhancing the nursing workforce and advancing health equity in Detroit and other medically underserved communities. These interdisciplinary projects are led by nursing faculty, including **Nicole Wheeler**, Assistant Professor, College of Nursing, and **Cynthera McNeill**, Clinical Associate Professor, College of Nursing.

A team of nursing faculty led by **Cynthera McNeill**, Clinical Associate Professor, College of Nursing, was awarded \$600,000 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Minority Health to implement the Building Relationships to Impact Disparities and Generate Equity project. The project aims to reduce barriers to colorectal cancer screening and drug overdose prevention in metro Detroit within African American and Middle Eastern North African communities. The grant is eligible for continuation for four years with a total award of over \$2 million.

## Social Work

The School of Social Work has received a new \$1M grant from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), expanding its commitment to fill the gap in Michigan's mental health workforce while supporting students for communal good. The program offers \$30,000 stipends to bachelor's-level social workers who enter full-time advanced standing MSW programs and commit to at least two years of full-time employment in Michigan's public sector



behavioral health. These funds will enable 30 Wayne State students to cover nearly the entire cost of their master's of social work degree.

### **Graduate School**

The Graduate School recently launched the Accelerated Master's Pathway, an opportunity for undergraduate students to gain graduate-level course credits in select programs, save money on tuition and decrease their time to a graduate degree. The pilot phase of AMP currently features six graduate programs, with more expected in the future.

The Success for Underrepresented Students in Graduate Education (SURGE) program welcomed its largest cohort this fall. Launched in 2021, SURGE now serves 35 undergraduate and graduate students from all disciplines and backgrounds. In addition to receiving mentorship from graduate students, undergraduates participate in professional development opportunities and in-person events to foster a strong community and promote a sense of belonging.

### **Honors**

The Honors College, in partnership with the WSU Alumni Association, presented the annual Arthur L. Johnson Urban Perspectives event on Sept. 18. This year's invited speaker was Xavier Cortada, Miami's pioneer eco-artist, who uses art's elasticity to work across disciplines to engage communities in problem-solving. Cortada's work aims to generate awareness and action around climate change, sea-level rise and biodiversity loss. Over the past three decades, the Cuban-American artist has created more than 150 public artworks, installations, collaborative murals and socially engaged projects. Cortada led the discussion on "Creativity, Courage, and Justice: Championing Innovative Climate Solutions Through Art," and was joined on stage by CFPCA Dean **Hasan Elahi** and Honors College Associate Dean **Elena Past** for a Q&A session.

### **University Libraries**

As part of the Power of Diverse Voices Speaker Series, the Libraries will bring critically acclaimed scholar and the author of *Algorithms of Oppression* Safiya Noble to Wayne State on March 20 for a campuswide keynote on how search engines reinforce racism, working toward an ethic of social justice in information and how librarians can respond to the knowledge crisis. Power of Diverse Voices is an annual series where high-profile speakers discuss race, culture and identity, economic and health disparities, and other challenging topics geared to stimulate knowledge and action across the campus community. Past speakers have included journalist Michele Norris and Black Lives Matter co-founder Patrisse Cullors.



In response to student feedback, the Kresge Library will introduce extended study hours starting Sunday, Oct. 13. Kresge's first and second floors will be open from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. on Sundays and 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Monday through Thursday, with no extended hours on Fridays and Saturdays. While not officially designated as a silent study space, Kresge will maintain its characteristically quiet atmosphere. Once the gate between Kresge and Purdy closes, entry and exit will be limited to the Kresge side, with OneCard access required.

### **Faculty Affairs and Academic Personnel**

The Office of Faculty Affairs and Development recently welcomed the 6th cohort of the Academic Leadership Academy, hosted faculty tours of Detroit facilitated by the City Institute, and were joined by more than 140 faculty members at the Fall Opening Lunch. The office also partnered with the UPTF to welcome part-time faculty back to campus at learning sessions.

### **Partnerships, Workforce and International Initiatives**

Wayne State and Concordia University Wisconsin & Ann Arbor (CUWAA) signed a transfer agreement to ensure a seamless transfer for CUWAA students affected by the upcoming closure of the Ann Arbor campus in May 2025. The agreement allows Wayne State exclusive opportunities to work directly with CUWAA students to facilitate seamless transfer and degree completion. To further assist affected students, Wayne State has scheduled multiple information sessions on the Ann Arbor campus.

Our partnership with Detroit Public Schools Community District (DPSCD) for dual enrollment has expanded to include 10 high schools and more than 90 students. Students have the option to pursue dual enrollment pathways focused on business, health, diversity or college preparation. We also offer a variety of weekend classes to accommodate the schedules of DPSCD students; these pathways are expected to expand outside of DPSCD next semester.

### **Student Success, Support, and Engagement**

The Office of Student Success, Support, and Engagement is announced the inaugural First-Gen Fest, which will be held Nov. 8 in alignment with the National First-Generation College Celebration. This event will honor the achievements and journeys of Wayne State's first-generation students, faculty and staff, featuring programs designed to foster a sense of pride in the first-generation identity and spotlight resources for academic and professional advancement.



## **Department of Athletics**

Athletics announced a partnership in which Ilitch Sports and Entertainment (IS+E) will serve as the exclusive sports marketing agency for the Warriors. Through the multi-year partnership, IS+E will manage the sale of sponsorships on behalf of Wayne State and conduct strategic planning for partner activations.

Nearly 900 volunteers from the Detroit area came to the Wayne State Fieldhouse on Sept. 11 to pack 245,000 meals for those at risk of hunger. Many Warrior athletic teams participated in this community service event, including men's and women's swimming and diving, plus men's and women's basketball, and members of the baseball, volleyball and football squads. The Detroit Meal Pack was one of 21 large community service projects organized by the nonprofit 9/11 Day. Nationally, 30,000 people were expected to participate at similar events and provide more than 8.5 million meals for people in need.

The Athletics Hall of Fame's 2024 class includes cross country and track conference champion Fred Delcomyn (1958-1961), two-time fencing national runner-up Ziad Elsisy (2013-2018), All-American defensive back Jeremy Jones (2007-2011), 16-time swimming All-American Ellyson Maleski (2012-2016), tennis conference Player of the Year Andreea Mitrache (2013-2018), and All-American hurdler Karrington Seals (2014-2018). The ceremony will take place on Oct. 25, and the class will be introduced at the next day's Homecoming game.

## **Division of Development and Alumni Affairs**

Development team members wrapped up the third year of the silent phase of the comprehensive fundraising campaign and are reengaging alumni and donors around the country. In preparation for a potential public launch in fall 2026, there is increased focus on traveling outside of Michigan to areas with larger concentrations of alumni and friends. The team hosted private donor meetings in Seattle on Sept. 16, followed by donor meetings and a well-attended alumni event in San Francisco the following day. The next week, they traveled to New York City for a series of donor meetings and an alumni event and engaged with alumni in Chicago on Oct. 17. Following today's meeting, thanks to Gov. Land, alumni and friends will be welcomed to an engagement event. Each event brings university greetings, discusses current initiatives, and provides information about the campaign.

## **Division of Enterprise Planning & Operational Excellence**

A university-wide team developed a new RFP for a new software platform aimed at replacing our existing Enterprise Service Management software and expanding its use for all divisions,



departments and colleges. The team agreed to implement a new solution from TeamDynamix, which highlights an unlimited user license model, consolidates multiple service management platforms and extends use to more non-IT groups without additional licensing costs. This initiative will streamline operations and improve service delivery and operational excellence across the university.

### **Division of Entrepreneurship and Economic Development**

TechTown Toast of the Town was held Sept. 25, an annual block party and awards ceremony celebrating entrepreneurship. We welcomed 800 attendees, including 30 Wayne State leaders and several students. President Espy highlighted Wayne State's innovation district, and Wayne State's College of Engineering, Government and Community Affairs, Mike Ilitch School of Business, and Office of the CFO were recognized as event sponsors.

The Michigan Mobility Fellows (MMF) program was created in partnership with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation Office of Future Mobility and Electrification, Michigan Central, Community Economic Development Association of Michigan, and Wayne State to attract and retain talent in Michigan. The inaugural cohort of MMF fellows completed orientation Oct. 2-4. Half will spend 15 months supporting mobility tech startups and founders based in Michigan Central's Newlab Detroit, and half will work with Michigan transit and economic development agencies to address mobility and transportation planning challenges.

### **Division of Finance and Business Affairs**

**Brad Dick** will join Wayne State as senior associate vice president for finance and business affairs and deputy chief business officer on November 11. Brad will fill the existing deputy position which will now lead a reorganized unit – Strategic Resource and Space Solutions – that includes business services, real estate and asset management, planning and space solutions, and parking and transportation services.

Brad comes to Wayne State after serving the City of Detroit for 18 years, most recently as chief operating officer. His portfolio included oversight of nine city departments with 4,000 employees focused on improving city services for Detroit residents.

Brad spearheaded many of Detroit's recent successes, including the NFL Draft, the creation of an urban agriculture program, COVID-era testing and vaccination sites, and the construction of the landmark Joe Louis Greenway. Brad also played a key role in improving Detroit's public spaces by creating a master plan to revitalize and invest in the city's parks and recreation





centers while implementing Mayor Duggan’s “Blight to Beauty” vision that removed graffiti and created more than 300 public murals.

### **Division of Health Affairs**

Discussions continue with key partners in the establishment of the new planned school of public health. The planning committees continue their work, and the development of course outlines for three concentrations for a master of public health and plans for two Ph.D. programs are underway.

### **Division of Research & Innovation**

**Aleta Savage** was named assistant vice president for Sponsored Program Administration in the Division of Research & Innovation. Savage has more than 20 years’ experience in research administration. She most recently served as assistant vice president of research operations at Loma Linda University, working closely with investigators, administration, executive leadership and general counsel to support the research mission and institutional goals. During her time there, she developed policies and procedures related to research administration and was responsible for budgeting, finances and operations. She directed pre- and post-award teams and information systems staff in support of research administration and led research faculty and support teams to reach the highest number and value of proposals submitted and funded extramurally.

The Arts & Humanities and Social Sciences Research Support Programs for 2024-25 was announced on Sept. 30. These competitive grants provide funding for research, creative projects and scholarships in social science, arts, design and/or humanities, and are intended to support and prepare faculty to pursue extramural funding. Awarded project budgets will be funded up to \$15,000 and will lay the foundation for extramural funding success.

On Oct. 8, the division hosted Lewis-Burke Associates to speak to Wayne State faculty and research staff at a seminar titled, “Exploring Alternative Funding Opportunities for Health and Biomedical Research Beyond NIH.” The webinar provided a comprehensive overview of alternative funding sources for health and biomedical researchers, from early career researchers to established investigators, and explored opportunities at both long-standing and newer agencies. On Oct. 23, Lewis & Burke helped bring Dr. Mark Silver, senior program officer in the Division of Research Programs at the National Endowment for the Humanities, to campus for a free workshop exploring NEH funding opportunities and application strategies.



Lewis-Burke Associates policy experts met with College of Engineering leadership and Dr. Obasi on Aug. 23 to discuss strategic planning and federal engagement opportunities. The Division of Research & Innovation is coordinating monthly virtual informational sessions alongside Lewis-Burke that will be open to all CoE faculty and researchers. The sessions will feature a different government agency each month and discuss emerging opportunities to increase engagement in Washington, D.C. Lewis-Burke Associates LLC also organized a leadership visit to the Ground Vehicle Systems Center at the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command in Maccomb County to explore potential partnerships, tour the facilities, and share respective capabilities.

**Dr. Joongkyu Park**, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacology, School of Medicine, was awarded a \$1.8M grant from the NIH's National Institute on Aging for the project, "Local protein synthesis in tau pathology neurodegeneration." The research aims to understand how tau pathology alters protein biogenesis in neuronal compartment and enrich the understanding of how tau pathology leads to early synaptic dysfunction in Alzheimer's disease. Ultimately, these studies will provide molecular insights into target molecules for intervention before the irreversible loss of synapses and neurons in Alzheimer's disease and related dementia.

**Dr. Michael Petriello**, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacology, School of Medicine, earned a \$2.8M grant from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences for the project, "PFAS increases susceptibility to infection-mediated PTB." Petriello's team will aim to identify critical pathways responsible for preterm birth and establish a causative link between pollutant exposures and adverse birth outcomes. The collaborators hypothesize that pollutant exposures can increase susceptibility to bacterial infection and increase preterm birth risk.

**Yongli Wager**, associate professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, College of Engineering, was awarded a \$1.1M grant from the Great Lakes Protection Fund. "Mobilizing a Great Lakes Microplastic Action Network" aims to create a Great Lakes-focused microplastic action network that will use proven reduction strategies and new analytic tools to identify environmental microplastics. The network will empower communities with the ability to identify local pollution sources for the first time, offering new opportunities for microplastic pollution mitigation at a local level. Pilot communities will be able to target source-specific strategies and take action to reduce microplastics in their local context.

**Alice Walker**, assistant professor, Department of Chemistry, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, earned a \$1.8M grant from NIH's National Institute of General Medical Sciences. Walker's



research aims to combine simulations, high-quality automated database generation and the development of machine learning models to understand the binding and behavior of carbohydrate-based heparanase inhibitors as possible anti-cancer drug targets, and the photophysical behavior and connection to structure for fluorescent nucleic acids. The project aims to discover new rational design principles and predict novel drug targets to reduce the time and cost of drug discovery.

### **University Relations Division**

Police Chief **Tony Holt** received the Detroit Rescue Mission's Community Pillar Award for his public safety service at Wayne State and throughout Detroit.

Wayne State Gov. **Danielle Atkinson** received the Women Officials Network Foundation 2024 WONder Woman Award for her role as founder and executive director of Mothering Justice.

As part of Hispanic Heritage Month, Wayne State was invited to become a partner member of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, the only national association representing existing and emerging Hispanic-serving institutions. This opportunity extends the impact of Wayne State being invited to join *Excelencia in Education's* President's Network for Latino Student Success.

A multi-year strategic partnership between Wayne State and Detroit City Football Club encompassing stadium and TV marketing, jersey logos, internships, scholarships, game day busing, and ticket discounts was announced on Oct. 2. This partnership aligns two mission-driven Detroit institutions and their current and future audiences.

While the new federal fiscal year began on Oct. 1, Congress and the president have not enacted any of the 12 appropriation bills necessary to fund the government. A continuing resolution was enacted on Sept. 26 to provide temporary funding for government operations through Dec. 20. The delay could negatively impact the prospects of our three FY25 congressionally directed spending requests (Freer House, TechTown/Wayne Co, and REUSE).

The Michigan Legislature passed a school supplemental on Sept. 25. While in session, our State Relations lead worked with legislative leaders and governor's office to move our Law School Complex Capital Outlay project toward construction authorization. It is anticipated that the legislature will approve construction authorization when it returns after the election.