

Submitted By: Laurie M. Lauzon Clabo, PhD  
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**

**Wayne State University will host the Iraq Young Leaders Exchange Program (IYLEP) for Undergraduates**, a summer exchange sponsored and funded by the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad and implemented by World Learning. Managed by OIP on behalf of the university, this is the fifth time WSU has been named an IYLEP host. The 25 students arrive July 11, participating in academic programs and living in the residence halls until July 24.

International recruitment is underway with in-person visits to high schools and fairs in Ottawa, Windsor, Montreal and São Paulo, Brazil.

Staff have hosted several information sessions for students highlighting funded fellowship opportunities, as well as a Fulbright Award information program aimed at faculty.

##### **Transfer Student Success Center**

The TSSC, in collaboration with the Department of Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, was awarded the Modern Language Association (MLA) Pathways Initiative grant, allowing the university to create scalable global studies and world language pathways for transfer students.

The pathways will offer a clear degree plan for those interested in global studies or world language programs. Offering guaranteed admissions, transfer credits, and transfer advising, pathways streamline the transfer process. Optional tracks incorporating global and language degree enhancements such as certificates, minors, and co-curricular activities, will be developed.

The MLA provides grants of up to \$10,000 for 12 months to support faculty members or local teams in developing strategies to enhance undergraduate student recruitment, retention and career readiness.

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## **Student Financial Aid**

Virtual and in-person FAFSA completion events will be offered through June to help students struggling with the revamped federal form.

Working through the Scholarship Universe platform, OSFA has published scholarships for the 2024-25 academic year and has started reviewing and selecting students for non-need-based scholarships.

### **Student Success Initiatives**

In advance of the opening of fall registration, the team hosted "Registering with a Twist!" in late March, offering a guided painting event with academic advisors to help students make plans for the next several semesters.

The second annual Bravo Brunch in mid-April will celebrate graduates, honor students who hit academic achievements and reflect on the past year. Two new awards will be announced: the All In Award, which recognizes a first-year student who approached college with an open mind and desire to succeed, learn and grow while maintaining good academic standing and engaging in impactful campus involvement; and the Navigator Award, celebrating upperclassmen who have been "all-in" and who have helped other students/WSU community along the way.

## **Career Services**

The office hosted in-person and virtual All-Majors Career Fairs in March, where students could register on Handshake to meet 90+ employers and career counselors, learn how to network on LinkedIn, craft a social media profile and get a new professional head shot.

Career Services and Warrior 360 collaborated on an etiquette dinner to teach students the basics of formal business dining. The event was led by the marketing manager of Yeo & Yeo and included food and an opportunity to network with employers.

## **Undergraduate Admissions**

Spring Open House in March brought 424 students and their guests (1,031 total attendees) to campus for an enhanced visit program designed for high school juniors, seniors and transfer students to learn more academic programs, student support resources, student life and participate in campus tours.

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Admitted Student Day in February drew a record number of attendees to campus, including 352 students and their guests, (922 total attendees). Admitted Student Days provide admitted students and guests an opportunity to learn more about their academic program, participate in school/college/department activities including mock lectures, lab tours and student panels. Students can tour the campus and residence halls, and enjoy lunch at the Towers cafeteria.

Staff participated in the Educators Rising Conference hosted by the WSU College of Education and MEA, designed for middle and high school students interested in pursuing a career in education, as well at Warrior Days at Cesar Chavez High School, where they met more than 200 students. Staff shared information on the admissions process, academic and student success, and supportive services at WSU.

### **University Advising Center**

The UAC Pre-med and Health Science Center hosted its second annual pre-med night "Leap Into Your Future," welcoming over 200 fall 2024 admitted students plus high school seniors and guests. Participants attended a variety of informative breakout sessions, panel discussions and met medical students who completed their undergraduate degree at Wayne.

### **College of Liberal Arts and Sciences:**

As evidenced below, CLAS was, as usual, busy in all areas of the humanities, social sciences, life and physical sciences.

The Wayne State University [Audiology Clinic has partnered with MusiCares, a charitable arm of the Recording Academy, to provide free hearing screenings and care to local musicians](#) who may or may not have health insurance.

CLAS students continue to excel in and outside of the classroom through internships and experiential learning opportunities. Here are a few of their stories:

- [Public health student serves Detroiters, peers through internship experience](#)
- [Anthropology course offers deep dive into Detroit's Black tech ecosystem](#)
- [Unique English course gives Wayne State students glimpse of content and publishing careers](#)
- [Wayne Med-Direct student using school, work to give back to Detroit](#)

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- Philosophy Professor [Eric Hiddleston recently took his class to see David Chalmers speak](#) on Artificial intelligence.

[NPR's Morning Edition](#) interviewed a group of Wayne State Global Studies students ahead of February's primary election. The students spoke about their views on the various issues around the 2024 election.

CLAS Professor [Saeed Khan was named the new director of the Center for the Study of Citizenship](#). Khan, an associate professor in the Department of Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, previously served as the center's associate director.

The WSU Humanities Commons continues to host community events supporting inclusive discussions and diverse viewpoints. Most recently, professors [Brad Roth and Howard Lupovitch hosted a talk focused on disagreeing about anti-Zionism as antisemitism](#) to a packed house. In March, Professor Anne Duggan celebrates Women's History Month with her talk "Not Your Typical Disney Princess: French Amazonian Warrior Tales."

CLAS faculty from a range of disciplines have garnered local and national accolades for their outstanding work. From groundbreaking research discoveries to innovative teaching methods, their dedication to scholarship is making headlines:

- Wayne State Psychology [Professor Cort Rudolph was named the new editor of the journal \*Industrial and Organizational Psychology\*](#). Rudolph specializes in conducting quantitative research, focusing on longitudinal methodologies and meta-analysis. His research focuses on topics ranging from aging workers and lifespan development, to occupational health, employee wellbeing, environmental sustainability, and leadership.
- The Association of [Psychological Science has named Psychology Professor Hannah Schacter as a Rising Star](#). This designation recognizes early career researchers whose innovative work has already advanced the field and signals great potential for their continued contributions.

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- A unique [new program dreamed up by a Detroit teen, and helmed by Wayne State Psychology Professor Tiffany Abrego](#), offers free mental health services for young people. In addition to the support, the Mentally Fit Program also seeks to inspire them to help others by pursuing mental health careers.
- Wayne State's Neuroscience Program [co-hosted Brain Day at the Michigan Science Center](#) on March 9. The community event was in honor of Brain Health Awareness Week and featured a hands-on exhibit that tested visitors with brain-teasing games and let them see a real human brain.

The Grosscup Museum of Anthropology wrapped up its popular "Exiled To Motown – The Japanese American Community in Detroit" exhibition. The next exhibit, ["The Art of the Drink: From Metro Detroit to KwaZulu-Natal"](#) will open on March 25.

For the second year, Wayne State Chemistry hosted the [Wayne/Monroe County Science Olympiad Tournament on campus](#). The event welcomed hundreds of local middle and high school students to campus for STEM-based competitions. In addition to the tournament, Wayne State CLAS awarded scholarships to high school gold medal winners through a drawing. To qualify for the scholarships, students must enroll full-time at WSU in the fall.

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

Following a nationwide search, the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts announced the appointment of Jeffrey S. Sposato, Ph.D., as chair of the Wayne State University Department of Music. Sposato is currently a professor of musicology and interim associate dean for faculty affairs in the College of Fine and Applied Arts at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He is set to begin July 1.

Theatre students in the Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance presented their annual industry acting showcase in New York City on March 13<sup>th</sup>. The showcase was followed by an alumni networking reception and opportunity to meet Theatre and Dance students directly following the performances.

The Department of Communication was an Education Partner for the 62nd Ann Arbor Film Festival. The festival took place from March 26<sup>th</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>. Students and faculty played a visible role in festival activities and programming. The New Voices Screening displayed the work of multiple Film and Media Arts students. WSU graduate Shanae Pruitt was included in the Dope Women in Media exhibition for her VR project titled The Haunting of Michigan Central Station. In addition, faculty members Juanita Anderson, Julia Yezbick, and Paul Echeverria were participants in multiple festival

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programs. The Wayne State University partnered screening, titled *An Animal Is Not a Metaphor*, took place on Saturday, March 30th at the State Theater.

Juanita Anderson, head of media arts and studies in Wayne State's Department of Communication, is among 10 grantees who will receive \$150,000 each over three years, as well as technical support to scale and deepen their work in Detroit. Announced on Feb. 29 by the Gilbert Family Foundation and United States Artists, Anderson's Indija Productions and the other nine grantees are the organizations' first cohort through the launch of their Seed and Bloom: Detroit initiative, designed to help Detroit-based, BIPOC artists grow their artistic practices into sustainable businesses embedded in Detroit neighborhoods.

Professor Katheryn Maguire, along with Academic Services Officer Jessica Greenwald and Assistant Professor Anita Mixon have a chapter in the newly released book, *"The Journey into College and Career: Cultivating Resilience Among Challenges"* (Kendall Hunt). The book supports today's students by fortifying them with protective factors such as support, coping, and self-efficacy, helping to empower them with skills to thrive amongst the challenges of the college environment. The chapter, entitled "Coping 101: How to Thrive in College (and Beyond)", introduces students to stress theory as well as the coping process to provide students with information, strategies, and resources to build resilience through successful adaptation to stress. In this way, the book and their chapter fits well within Wayne State University's "College to Career" strategic initiative as it offers faculty, advisors, and students a valuable tool to support career readiness and well-being.

Students in winter semester's Fashion Marketing course developed marketing strategies for Kate Spade and Givenchy as their mid-term project. They submitted their work to a global marketing competition - against some of the top fashion schools in the world. Three students were selected as finalists. Students and faculty were invited to the corporate headquarters in NYC for the awards ceremony on April 15<sup>th</sup>. View the WSU presence in the link below:

<https://www.windowswear.com/mentorship/>

### **Irvin D. Reid Honors College**

The Irvin D. Honors College took part in the WSU Spring Open House event on March 2 with an informational session about the benefits of Honors, admission criteria, and opportunities. Honors advisors also staffed an informational table at the resource fair.

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Honors hosted "Donuts with the Dean," a casual, interactive meeting with Honors students and the dean on March 6. This series is held once a semester, and joining Dean Past was Margaret Ogg from the Office of Study Abroad and Global Programs. The conversation with students focused on study abroad opportunities, resources and the value of these immersive experiences.

The popular Honors College series "Lunches with Leaders" wrapped up for the Winter 2024 semester with an event on March 19 with special guest WSU President Kimberly Espy. 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. The event was well attended, and President Espy shared her professional journey and answered questions from WSU Honors students.

"Honors Essentials," an informational and social forum for new transfer and earn-in Honors students was held on March 20 (virtually) and March 26 (in-person) to help guide students through the process of earning university and departmental Honors.

The final Honors College Showcase event of the year was held on Thursday, March 21 in the SCB Ballroom and Hilberry Rooms. This event invites admitted FTIACS who met the criteria for Honors membership and their parents and guests to come to campus and hear more about the Honors experience. The guest students and parents were presented with a welcome and Honors overview from the Honors dean, followed by a panel of current Honors students who reflected on their WSU Honors experience, and then were invited to a selected Resource Fair where they could interact with various schools/colleges, programs, and student services. Other Showcases were offered on January 17 (in-person) and February 20 (virtual).

The Wayne Med-Direct Academic Day took place on Saturday, March 23 virtually (Zoom). The top 25 Wayne Med-Direct applicants (and their guests) were invited to attend to hear more about the WMD program and opportunities, and the students were interviewed by representatives of the WSU School of Medicine, Honors College, CLAS, and Admissions. Finalists and semifinalists for the WMD program were then selected.

A panel presentation on Fellowships was held on March 27 led by Dr. Kevin Deegan-Krause. The discussion featured other campus representatives and resources to support students interested in applying for a variety of national and international fellowships.

Honors hosted an informational session designed by Honors alumnus Dr. Cedric Mutebi ('18) on study abroad experiences for students of color. It included a panel of Honors students who have traveled across the globe who shared their experiences and offered their advice on traveling and resources to attending students.

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## **Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences**

During Wayne State's annual Graduate Research Symposium on Feb. 28, one-third of the 12 award winners were from WSU Applebaum. Three graduate students from **Pharmaceutical Sciences** placed first, second and third in the afternoon poster presentation session, and a **Physical Therapy** postdoc placed third in platform talks. **Occupational Therapy** researchers also presented projects.

On March 9, two WSU Applebaum programs participated in Detroit's annual Brain Day, hosted by the Michigan Science Center in honor of Brain Health Awareness Week. Representing the **Physical Therapy** program, Nora Fritz's Neuroimaging and Neurorehabilitation Lab team hosted a booth, and Christine Rabinak's Translational Neuropsychopharmacology Lab team represented **Pharmacy Practice**. Faculty and students guided families through hands-on learning activities during this popular community event.

**Medical Laboratory Science** faculty member MaryAnne Stewart is collaborating with a COE colleague to present the workshop "Addressing Faculty Burnout and Nurturing Professional Growth" in partnership with the Office of Faculty Affairs and Development. An in-person session took place on March 19 and a virtual session is scheduled to occur on April 2.

Through a United Health Care Michigan Health Equity Challenge award-winning project, **Physical Therapy** faculty member Preethy Samuel is serving as the research consultant to Lori's Hands to ensure that student education in the metro Detroit area through volunteering and internships is delivered in a fair and equally accessible manner. Meanwhile, **Physical Therapy** faculty member Joseph Roche presented a poster at Harvard Medical School's International Regenerative Rehabilitation Symposium on March 7.

**Nurse Anesthesia** faculty member Joseph Kiesznowski is the 2024 recipient of the Michigan Association of Nurse Anesthesia Students Guiding Light Award for his significant contributions to the social, educational and professional development of nurse anesthesia students.

On March 18, STEM Immersion 2024 brought a group of Southfield Christian High School juniors and seniors to the Applebaum Building for tours, hands-on activities and presentations on career options before heading to the School of Medicine for the second half of their experience. The goal of this annual event, run by an alumna of the SOM, is to expose high school students to a wide range of STEM opportunities to prepare them for college success. The event spanned the college and was coordinated in part by the **Office of Student Affairs**, which is also poised to host an Open House on April 11, when prospective students, families and community members are invited to tour Applebaum Building classrooms and labs while learning about our wide range of academic programs.



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## School of Social Work

### Awards:

- Academic Services Officer II Geoffrey Jones was selected by the Academic Staff Professional Development Committee (ASPDC) as is a recipient of the Outstanding Contributor Award for the 2023-2024 academic year. This award is presented in recognition of significant accomplishments during the previous academic year and emerging leadership among junior academic staff.

### Center for Behavioral Health and Justice:

- The CBHJ operates 25 projects across six different initiatives with community partners in 40 counties across Michigan.
- The Wayne County Public Vending Machines project was [launched](#) in late January. This three-year partnership with Wayne County Executive Warren Evans and Wayne County Director of Health, Human and Veteran Services Dr. Abdul El-Sayed, 100 public health vending machines (containing the lifesaving opioid reversal medication Narcan™) will be installed throughout the county. In the first year, CBHJ researchers will support the data-driven placement of the machines and develop evaluation plans to measure impacts of the program on overdose deaths in the county.
- The CBHJ published a [landscape report](#) which lays the groundwork for future and ongoing transformative work across the state. In partnership with the Public Welfare Foundation and the Michigan Justice Fund, the report: provides a landscape of Michigan's criminal/legal and youth justice systems using recent publicly available data; looks at changes in jail bookings across Michigan following policy changes from the Michigan Jail Reform Council; details a case study evaluation of the implementation of the Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument™ (YASI) in one county; and reviews efforts made toward integrating criminal/legal data.
- The CBHJ has been featured in several news outlets, including [Crain's Detroit Business](#), the [Detroit Free Press](#), and [CBS News](#).

### Events:

- Led by the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), every March we recognize the over 700,000 social workers in the U.S. and three million worldwide who positively impact our daily lives. The SSW supported the March 2024 theme

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“Empowering Social Workers” by engaging our alumni, students, faculty, staff and community via a social media video campaign display why our students chose to become social workers and attend WSU. We also saw a robust response to our 26 special Social Work Month events held in March.

- The Center for Social Work Research hosted the Annual Social Work Research Symposium on March 29, 2024. The event brought together the Warrior and Detroit communities to discuss research projects led by Social Work faculty, staff and students on topics ranging from peer recovery programs at WSU to the impact of innovative technologies for those with disabilities.
- The School of Social Work launched the three-part series [Promoting Social Justice and Equity for Sexual and Gender Diverse Communities](#) in fall 2023. The series is designed to help social workers, students, faculty, staff, and community members develop a critically conscious awareness regarding the lived experiences of transgender and gender diverse individuals. The series will conclude on April 4, 2024 from 3:30 – 5:00 pm on Zoom with [Legislative Milestones: Understanding LGBTQ+ inclusive policies, exploring anti-discrimination laws, and empowering LGBTQ+ communities](#). We encourage all to join us for this free series of open, respectful, and enlightening conversations.

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## **College of Education**

### **GRANTS**

The 2024 Centering Black Children in Education Conference (CBCE), which was created by Rema Reynolds Vassar, professor of educational leadership and policy studies in the College of Education, kicked off its Sankofa Speaker Series. The speaker for February was Dr. Bettina Love, the William F. Russel Professor at Teacher College, Columbia University, and acclaimed author of *Punished for Dreaming: How School Reform Harms*

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Black Children and How We Heal. Dr. Ivory Toldson, national director of Education Innovation and Research for the NAACP, professor of counseling psychology at Howard University, and editor-in-chief of The Journal of Negro Education delivered the keynote in March. The speaker series continues in April with Erica B. Edwards, assistant professor of educational leadership and policy studies, at Wayne State University's College of Education and former middle school teacher, youth organizer, and non-profit program coordinator. Additional speakers include Dr. Ashley Woodson, Dr. Lori Patton Davis, and Dr. Tyrone Howard.

Registration is open for this year's conference, which will be held virtually August 7-13, 2024. Keynote speaker will be Dr. Gholdy Muhammad. A full agenda and registration information can be found at <https://cbceconference.info/2024-annual-conference>. Centering Black Children in Education is sponsored by the Michigan Department of Education.

The National Network of Education Research-Practice Partnerships awarded a grant to the College of Education to support a Summer Youth Research Institute for Black and Brown youth, which will expand youth leadership in Detroit PEER's Research Practice Partnership. The project is led by Erica B. Edwards, assistant professor of educational leadership and policy studies, and Imani Foster, Communication and FACT Team Leader at 482Forward.

The National Education Association awarded a grant to the Michigan Education Association to continue a partnership with Wayne State University's College of Education. The central goals of Preparing Equity Warriors: Creating Pipelines to Organize for Change are to enhance the cultural competency of P-12 school educators and increase the racial/ethnic diversity of the school teaching force. Activities at Wayne State will focus on the Summer Residency and the School-Year Mentoring of high school students interested in a career in education.

## **EVENTS**

The college will host a symposium, "State Takeovers, Literacy Lawsuits, and Tomorrow: The Community Struggle for Black Educational Lives in Four Acts," on Tuesday, April 13, from 1 to 3 p.m. Detroit families have endured a quarter century of educational dispossession and malpractice catalyzed by state intervention. Beginning with the first state takeover 25 years ago, community activists have fought against the

dismantling of their schools and for the restoration of their children's educational birthright. Individuals who have been involved in this multigenerational struggle to resist state-enabled predation of the educational well-being of Detroit's Black schoolchildren

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will share their vision of what school can be for Detroit schoolchildren when Black educational lives matter. The panelists include lifelong Detroit education activist Mother Helen Moore, Michigan State Board of Education President and NAACP Michigan Education Chair Dr. Pamela Pugh, veteran parent activist and lead defender of Oakman Elementary School Aliya Moore, and Detroit Literacy lawsuit plaintiff, social entrepreneur focused on education activism, and recent DPSCD student Jamarria Hall. This event is made possible in part by funding from the Frederick C. Neff Endowed Memorial Lectureship in Philosophy and Education, which supports lectures that examine the moral nature of the educational system and the role of philosophy in solving educational problems.

On Monday, April 1, the College of Education will host "Teaching Hard Histories," a program that includes a reception, private screening of the film "Origin," and a panel discussion. "Origin" is based on the book *Caste: The Origins of our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson. Panelists include Ellen Smith Gilchrist, Dr. Jeffrey Robinson, and Dr. Denise Lewis; Dean Denise Taliaferro Baszile will serve as moderator. The program will take place from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Emagine Royal Oak. This event is made possible in part by funding from the Frederick C. Neff Endowed Memorial Lectureship in Philosophy and Education. The Neff Lectureship supports College of Education lectures that examine the moral nature of the educational system and the role of philosophy in solving educational problems.

The College of Education welcomed more than 500 students to Wayne State's main campus for the inaugural Michigan Educators Rising Conference on Wednesday, Mar. 13, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. After the welcome — which included encouraging remarks from Governor Gretchen Whitmer and Dean Denise Taliaferro Baszile — participants attended breakout sessions led by teacher education experts, met with academic advisors, toured Wayne State's campus, enjoyed breakfast and lunch, and received giveaways. They also participated in competitions in several categories, including bulletin boards, teacher-created resources, lesson planning and public speaking. Educators Rising is a national initiative for middle and high school students interested in education careers. Participants build content knowledge and develop important teaching skills — including instruction, responsive planning, reflective practice and data analysis — through interaction with and instruction from experts and leaders in the education profession. The MEA facilitates Michigan's Educators Rising program.

## **FACULTY NEWS**

Holly Feen-Calligan, associate professor of art therapy, was selected to receive one of the university's inaugural 2024 Community Engagement Awards, which recognizes

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community-based research, creative activities, teaching, and service collaborations that positively impact both the community and scholarship. The award, consisting of \$5,000

and a plaque, will be presented at the Academic Recognition Ceremony on Thursday, Apr. 25, at 4 p.m. in the McGregor Memorial Conference Center.

Sarah Winchell Lenhoff, associate professor of educational leadership and policy studies, received a 2024-25 Career Development Chair Award. The award will be presented at the Academic Recognition Ceremony on Thursday, Apr. 25, at 4 p.m. in the McGregor Memorial Conference Center.

Francesca Pernice, associate professor of educational psychology and director of the counseling psychology program, has studied, promoted, and helped develop clubhouses — a community-based recovery program that helps individuals with serious mental illness regain independence and dignity — worldwide for more than 20 years. She was quoted in a LAist story about the proposed Fountain House clubhouse coming to Los Angeles area. <https://laist.com/news/health/fountain-house-clubhouse-community-hollywood-serious-mental-illness>

Tamara Hew-Butler, associate professor of exercise and sport science, was quoted in an article in The Economic Times about the purported benefits of hydrogen water. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/science/does-hydrogen-water-live-up-to-the-hype/articleshow/108362138.cms>

Under the guidance of Aja D. Reynolds, assistant professor of urban education and critical race studies, a cohort of Black girls are creating a mobile Detroit abolitionist museum exhibit. <https://today.wayne.edu/news/2024/02/29/reclaiming-space-writing-their-own-history-61737>

Sarah Winchell Lenhoff, associate professor of educational leadership and policy studies and director of the Detroit Partnership for Education Equity and Research (PEER), discussed her research on Wisconsin Public Radio yesterday. Legislators there have proposed a bill to retain students with 30 unexcused absences. (Her interview begins around the 22:45 mark.) <https://www.wpr.org/shows/central-time/another-retirement-boom-wisconsin-truancy-bill-prioritizing-friendships>

Anita Bates, assistant professor and program coordinator for visual arts education, showcases paintings inspired by her childhood in Detroit in her latest exhibit and uses her passion for art to help young Black Detroiters embrace their creativity. <https://today.wayne.edu/news/2024/02/01/celebrated-painter-wsu-professor-anita->

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bates-reflects-on-her-latest-exhibit-her-passion-for-teaching-and-the-impact-of-art-on-young-black-detroiters-61510

Tamara Hew-Butler, associate professor of exercise and sport science, was quoted in a Health Reporter article about what Stanley cups tell us about Gen Z's water bottle obsession. <https://health-reporter.news/what-stanley-cups-tell-us-about-gen-zs-water-bottle-obsession/>

Sarah Winchell Lenhoff, associate professor of educational leadership and policy studies and director of the Detroit Partnership for Education Equity and Research (PEER), was featured on a KSCW (Wichita, KS) show about chronic absenteeism. <https://mms.tveyes.com/Transcript.asp?StationID=13120&DateTime=2%2F15%2F2024+1%3A19%3A22+PM&u=1096279&e=true&t=False&aln=61255979>

Francesca Pernice, associate professor of educational psychology, recently discussed the history, benefits, and effectiveness of the Fountain House clubhouse model — a community-based recovery program for people with serious mental illnesses she has been at the forefront of researching — on a segment of “Public Health in Action” highlighting mental health innovations that work. <https://education.wayne.edu/news/associate-professor-francesca-pernice-discusses-history-benefits-and-effectiveness-of-fountain-house-clubhouse-model-on-public-health-in-action-61539>

Sarah Winchell 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 about Indiana lawmakers' efforts to address absenteeism on Indiana Public Radio's website. <https://indianapublicradio.org/news/2024/02/indiana-lawmakers-want-early-intervention-for-student-truancy-shift-away-from-courts>

Tamara Hew-Butler, associate professor of exercise and sport science, discussed overhydration and its effects on WGN-Radio 720 (Chicago, IL). <https://mms.tveyes.com/Transcript.asp?StationID=6475&DateTime=1%2F30%2F2024%205%3A42%3A12%20PM&u=495406&e=true&t=False&aln=73948392>

Jennifer Lewis, professor of mathematics education, was quoted in an article — which was published in both Chalkbeat and Bridge magazine — about the way teachers are approaching lessons about the war between Israel and Hamas. · <https://www.chalkbeat.org/detroit/2024/01/24/how-michigan-schools-are-teaching-students-about-israel-hamas-war/> · <https://www.bridgemi.com/talent-education/how-michigan-schools-are-teaching-israel-hamas-war-very-delicately>

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Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Associate Professor Tamara Hew-Butler runs the exercise physiology lab in the Wayne State University College of Education, where researchers help individuals — including athletes from the Wayne State Warriors and Detroit Pistons — enhance their athletic performance and prevent injury. The lab is also a training ground for students like Mark Grove II, a management major in the Wayne State University Mike Ilitch School of Business, who benefit from Hew-Butler's mentorship and guidance.  
<https://education.wayne.edu/news/aspiring-physician-finds-mentorship-and-connections-to-future-career-as-a-student-researcher-in-college-of-educations-exercise-physiology-lab-61653>

## **STUDENT NEWS**

Desiree Y. Harrison, a doctoral student in the educational studies program in the Division of Teacher Education, was a presenter at the Michigan Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators 2024 Conversations Among Colleagues, which took place at the University of Michigan-Dearborn this past weekend. Her presentation was entitled, "Disrupting Behaviors: Exploring Preservice Teacher Agency Development in Teaching Mathematics." She also presented her research during the Graduate Research Symposium hosted by the Wayne State University Graduate School last month.

Doctoral candidate Franziska Loetzner won first place in the Platform Talks category at the Wayne State University Graduate School's Graduate Research Symposium for her presentation, "Exploring Health-related Physical Fitness in Elite-level Special Olympics Unified Sports." Franziska is pursuing a PhD in kinesiology.

## **ALUMNI NEWS**

Alumnus Anthony Gaynier's article, "Perceived Preparedness of Internal Medicine Interns for Residency and the Value of Transition to Residency Courses," which was based on his dissertation, was recently published on Cureus.com. A clinical faculty learning skills specialist in the Wayne State University School of Medicine's Office for Teaching and Learning, Gaynier earned his doctorate in educational leadership and policy studies in 2023. <https://www.cureus.com/articles/209519-perceived-preparedness-of-internal-medicine-interns-for-residency-and-the-value-of-transition-to-residency-courses>

Vanessa Reynolds was recently named director of college admissions and success for the Michigan Hispanic Collaborative, an organization working to break the cycle of Hispanic poverty through education and early career program support. She will support and advance the collaborative's commitment to improving Hispanic student outcomes through College Access, College Success, and Early Career/Young professional pipelines; develop and maintain strategic partnerships; and drive the overall direction of the



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program. A three-time alumna, Reynolds began her career at Wayne State as a university counselor assistant II in 2003. She was promoted to university counselor III in 2019 and earned her doctorate in educational leadership and policy studies in 2023. During her tenure, Reynolds served in numerous leadership positions on campus and in the community, including co-chair of the Board of Advocates for Latino Student Advancement in Michigan Education, chair of the WSU Latinx Faculty and Staff Association, and a member of the Conference Planning Committee of the Michigan Association for College Admissions Counseling.

As senior vice president and director of corporate quality at Comerica Bank, alumna Alicia Stephens uses her knowledge of human-centered design to ensure people and processes operate at the highest levels of efficiency and effectiveness.

<https://education.wayne.edu/news/capital-gains-alumna-alicia-stephens-maximizes-employee-and-organizational-performance-by-banking-on-background-in-instructional-design-61726>

## **Ilitch School of Business**

### **College**

[Joey VanDevender](#), Graduate Programs and Enrollment Management, is currently [traveling in China](#) with [Huajing Maske](#), Assistant Vice President, International Partnerships, to meet with university leaders across the country to foster an exchange program between the Ilitch School of Business and Chinese universities.

[The Board of Governors approved new Ilitch School joint M.B.A.-M.S. in Accounting, and M.S. in Organizational Leadership](#)

The Ilitch School will host its 2<sup>rd</sup> annual gala and awards celebration on April 19 honoring [25 Under 25 student awardees and staff and faculty awardees](#). The entire Ilitch School is invited to this community celebration.

### **Faculty**

Associate Professor Gary Shields took a group of students to the United Kingdom over spring break as a part of the [Global Business Experiences course](#). Ilitch School students toured international companies including Twinings Tea and Vodafone, gaining first-hand insights into how these multinational businesses operate. These wonderful experiences are instrumental in helping our students grow into insightful, global business leaders.

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Entrepreneurship and innovation program director, [Kevin Ketels](#), organized venture capitalists from across Michigan who attended the Ilitch School's Future of Venture Capital in Detroit and Southeast Michigan panel discussion and keynote. This event brought together the venture capital community, founders, students and faculty.

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

- [Anand Jha's Research has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Banking & Finance](#)
- [Attila Yaprak and Sujay Dutta's Research has been accepted for publication at the Journal of Consumer Satisfaction, Dissatisfaction, and Complaining Behavior](#)
- [Matt Piszczek and Joe Yestrepesky publish in Journal of Applied Psychology](#)

## **Students**

[Ilitch School Student Brooklynn Jackson begins fashion line while studying at home during the pandemic](#): "...Jackson was tackling these challenges head on while attending classes online at the Ilitch School. The wealth of knowledge provided by her professors helped her to solidify her business practices."

[Ilitch School student and author Jonathan Roden talks navigating WSU as a justice impacted student](#)

[Ilitch School students Nenad Dimitrievikj and Richard Taylor receive Financial Executives Institute Award](#)

## **Alumni**

[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**

[Consulting Day for Nonprofit Organizations drew 125 nonprofits from the Detroit area to the Mike Ilitch School of Business](#)

[Business and Community Law Clinic uses multidisciplinary effort to support Detroit nonprofits, small businesses](#): "...students in both the School of Social Work and the Mike

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Ilitch School of Business were signing up to join the [Wayne State Law School's Business and Community Law Clinic's \(BCLC\)](#) crusade. Today, as a result, the six-credit law clinic not only continues to serve as a shining example of WSU's investment in social and economic change in Detroit, but in allowing law, social work and business students to work hand in hand, it also has become a testament to the strength of campus collaboration in community engagement."

## **Law School**

### ***Master of Studies in Law Program Named Best in Class in First Major Nationwide Ranking***

The first nationwide ranking of law school masters programs for non-lawyers has named Wayne Law's 100% online Master of Studies in Law (MSL) program a best in class program for 2024. The ranking, compiled by the Princeton Review, selected the thirty-three best programs out of the more than 100 that now exist at law schools nationwide. Launched three years ago, Wayne Law's MSL includes concentrations in Human Resources (HR) and Health Law and now enrolls more than 80 students. By design, the HR concentration is a Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) Academically Aligned program, making it a top choice for those with or seeking careers in HR. Additional concentrations in Compliance & Risk Management, Cybersecurity & Data Privacy, and Contract Management are planned the future.

### ***Wayne Law Launches Major New Bar Exam Initiative***

Responding to ongoing and rapid changes in professional licensing, Wayne Law has launched an ambitious new initiative to better prepare its students for the idiosyncrasies of the bar exam. Executed in collaboration with JD Advising—a leading bar exam preparation company, founded by a Wayne Law graduate—the initiative encompasses multiple elements, including access to a supplemental bar program for all 2024 exam takers and, for 2025 and beyond, a full-scale, comprehensive bar program as part of students' enrollment at Wayne Law. Both programs feature one-on-one tutoring and the unique ability to tailor interventions for students using extensive data. The initiative also includes a new mandatory course, "Bar Exam Strategies and Fundamentals," that introduces students to the new bar exam and provides instruction on test-taking strategies. As part of its goal to remain among the best values in American legal education, and in response to data showing that students unable to pay for bar

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programs fail at far higher rates than those who can, the law school is making this program free to all students.

### ***Pathbreaking Expungement Program Transforms Lives, Serves as Model to Close Justice Gap***

Building on its highly successful Expungement Fair, the law school has launched a pathbreaking program, Expungement Navigators, aimed at transforming the lives of those living with the burden of a criminal conviction. Leveraging the law school's new undergraduate programs, Expungement Navigators trains undergraduate students to assist community members in navigating the entire expungement process, which can take up to eight months. Twenty undergraduates participated in the first in-person training in January. The program already has secured one expungement: 2L student Cheyann Scutt helped Charles Johnson, a retiree, expunge a nearly 21-year-old conviction; Johnson described it as a "huge weight being lifted from his shoulders." Other community members continue to meet with undergraduate volunteers to complete the time-intensive application process and schedule hearings, after which a law student and a pro bono attorney will step in to provide legal representation. The law school hopes this pioneering approach—filtering cases from legally-trained undergraduate student, to law student, to volunteer lawyer—will serve as a model for closing the access to justice gap in other high-volume areas.

### **College of Engineering**

The U.S. Department of Energy and the State of Michigan announced a collective award of cash incentives and grants totaling \$75 million to build workforce development for Nel Hydrogen's new factory to be built in Plymouth, Michigan, that will enable the creation of more than 500 high-tech jobs. The electrolyzer production facility will make a significant contribution to energy transition that will stimulate a clean energy economy. Wayne State University's College of Engineering will play a major role in this new initiative by providing hands-on experiences to high school students and establishing robust workforce training in hydrogen and fuel cell technologies. Leela Mohana Reddy Arava, associate dean for research and graduate studies and professor of mechanical engineering, will lead the three-year, \$853,000 project.

Amiangshu Bosu, assistant professor of computer science, received a five-year, \$596,759 National Science Foundation CAREER award, the organization's most prestigious accolade for up-and-coming researchers. His project, titled "Transforming Peer Code

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Review Environments for Code Learning and High-Quality Feedback," aims to improve code reviews using empirical methods, machine learning and natural language techniques to produce tools to be used in code reviews, a mandatory software verification practice among most open source and commercial software development organizations. The new knowledge and tools will be used as an educational platform for students and new programmers, and will help to produce quicker outcomes, decrease the likelihood of rejections, and improve software quality.

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation announced an expansion of its Michigander Scholars program to include Wayne State University, enabling students interested in the electric vehicle, mobility or semiconductor industries to pursue scholarships, embark on a successful career path and grow the state of Michigan's talent pool. The program offers participating students a \$5,000 scholarship for internships with partner employers and up to \$10,000 for accepting a full-time position that ensures they will live and work in Michigan for a year after graduation. Wayne State is one of seven higher education institutions in this program, while employers include Nissan, GM, Ford, Mahle, BorgWarner and Magna. Active participants are eligible in their sophomore, junior and senior years of college, as well as graduate school.

Four Wayne State graduate students, including two from the Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, earned fellowships from NASA's Michigan Space Grant Consortium. MSGC's graduate fellowships provide \$5,000 of support for students who are conducting research and public service projects relevant to NASA's strategic interests. Alex Hoffman, a first-year doctoral student, is applying advanced 3D printing techniques to create safer and more effective lithium-sulfur batteries. Jihan Abou Halloun, a graduate student, is working on incorporating model predictive control tools in perovskite solar cells, which for NASA plays an important role in enhancing stability of these cells and thereby moving them toward becoming a viable option for solar cells in space.