
FEDERAL AFFAIRS

Budget/Appropriations

- *FY2024* – On March 23, 2024, President Joe Biden signed into law the \$1.2 trillion legislation that completes the funding of federal agencies through the fiscal year, which ends September 30. The House passed the package on Friday, and the Senate passed it early Saturday morning. The DHHS budget included \$1 million in support of WSU's school of public health.
- *FY2025* – The Congressionally Directed Spending application portals have opened. We are optimistic that the CDS requests will be processed for the FY25 funding year. We worked closely with the respective teams on campus to finalize these requests and have socialized them with targeted members of the delegation. Our submissions included funding requests for Rare Earths from U.S. Extractions (REUSE), Freer House and Wayne County/Wayne State University Small Business Economic Development.

Senator Peters Staff Visit

VP Lindsey hosted Sarah Shapiro, health and education LA for Sen. Peters, for a campus on March 28, 2024. She met with Provost Clabo to discuss the school of public health; she was joined by her colleague Bryan McMurrin, regional director for Wayne County, and met with William Coburn and Ryan Cunningham for a brief tour of Freer House and to discuss possibilities for a partnership with the Smithsonian Institute; and she met with Dean Denis Taliaferro Baszile, College of Education, to discuss education programs and initiatives. We are still working on a date for Sen. Peters to visit campus.

STATE AFFAIRS

Legislative & Budget Updates

The Governor Whitmer presented her sixth budget on February 7, 2024. A brief overview of the Governor's budget can be found below. In addition to the Governor presenting her budget, the Legislature has begun its work on its budget proposals. DGCA anticipates that the Legislature will begin approving budgets by mid-to-late April.

Operations Funding and Tuition Restraint

The Governor's proposed budget recommended a small ongoing **increase for university operations of 2.5 percent**, the smallest increase since former Governor Rick Snyder recommended a 2.5 percent increase in 2018. If the Governor's recommendation was to be adopted, Wayne State will see an operations increase of **\$5,598,800** and total operations funding to **\$229,975,400**.

Tuition Restraint: The Governor's recommendation includes tuition restraint figures for the next two fiscal years. For the 2024-25 academic year—the greater of 5.0% or \$781 and 2025-26 academic year—greater of 5.0% or \$820. According to the Governor's team, the intent language as it relates to tuition restraint will apply for the succeeding fiscal year to better aid in institutional planning.

Of Note: The Governor's executive recommendation included additional School Aid Fund revenues into the Higher Education budget. This proposed budget swaps out \$93.8 million of General Fund dollars for School Aid Fund dollars.

Campus Investments

Unlike last year's proposal, the Governor does not include any funding for Infrastructure, Equipment, Maintenance, and Safety (ITEMS) grants nor does it include any funding for Capital Outlay projects.

Financial Aid and Scholarships Michigan Achievement Scholarship (MAS)

The Governor's recommendation provides an additional investment of **\$30 million** into the Michigan Achievement Scholarship Fund (MAS), bringing total funding to **\$330 million**. It is worth noting that the Governor proposed an additional **\$50 million** in her proposed budget last year.

The recommended budget also made other investments and changes to existing aid programs:

- \$20 million increase for the Tuition Incentive Program (TIP)
- A full shift away from Temporary Assistance to Needy Families funds for TIP, Michigan Competitive Scholarship, and the Michigan Tuition Grant. Those are now funded with \$127.8 million in General Fund dollars.
- \$508,000 increase to Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver
- Phaseout and elimination of the Michigan Competitive Scholarship in four years.
- Phaseout and elimination of Michigan Tuition Grant in five years.

Finally, the Governor's recommendation includes \$40 million in School Aid Funds for the FAFSA completion challenge. Currently, the funds would be distributed to school districts to improve FAFSA completion rates.

Community College Support

The Governor's recommendation also limits operations increases to 2.5 percent for Community Colleges but also makes other significant investments. Those other investments include:

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- Continued funding of an expanded Michigan Reconnect at \$62 million
 - Creation of the Community College Guarantee within the Michigan Achievement Scholarship.
 - This will cover last dollar tuition costs for all Michigan high school graduates while they work toward an associate degree or skilled certificate at a Michigan community college or tribal college. Additionally, the Community College Guarantee will provide \$1,000 to students with higher financial need on top of tuition and fees, to offset costs like food, housing, transportation, and childcare.

Boilerplate Provisions

The Executive Recommendation makes minor changes to budget administration in the proposed budget. The two changes of note are:

- The State Budget Director would now be able to unilaterally transfer any state funds among any of the state financial aid programs.
- The penalty of losing institutional access to MAS by exceeding tuition restraint appears to have been loosened, allowing (but not requiring) the State Budget Director to deem an institution ineligible if they violate tuition restraint two years in a row.

Legislation Update

WSU DGCA continues 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.

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- **Senate Bill 329** (Irwin) Creates a “bill of rights” for policyholders, requiring insurance companies to exercise “good faith and fair dealing” in the 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 555** (Anthony) Modifies Michigan Promise Zone authority membership.
 - **Senate Bill 568** (Polehanki) Adds certain requirements for the 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 one-third of federal broadband expansion monies 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.
 - **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 years 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 period of limitation 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.

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- **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 the 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.
 - **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 in this state 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.

Legislators and Other Elected Official Engagement

Since the last Board of Governor's meeting, the Division of Government and Community Affairs and its team has continued 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:

- State Senator Sarah Anthony
- State Senator Sylvia Santana
- State Senator Sam Singh
- State Senator Erika Geiss
- State Senator Joe Bellino
- State Senator Kevin Hertel
- State Senator Stephanie Chang
- State Senator Mary Cavanagh
- State Senator Sue Shink
- Speaker Joe Tate
- Speaker Pro Temp Laurie Pohutsky
- State Representative Angela Witwer
- State Representative Christine Morse
- State Representative Sam Steckloff
- State Representative Reggie Miller
- State Representative Carrie Rheingans
- State Representative Carol Glanville
- State Representative Natalie Price
- State Representative Jerry Neyer
- State Representative Christine Morse
- State Representative John Fitzgerald
- State Representative Julie Rogers
- State Representative Donavan McKinney
- State Representative Helena Scott
- State Representative Tyrone Carter
- State Representative Stephanie Young
- State Representative Will Snyder
- State Representative Mike McFall
- State Representative Tom Kuhn
- State Representative Jennifer Conlin
- State Representative Phil Green
- State Representative Graham Filler
- State Representative Julie Brixie
- State Representative Kathy Schmaltz
- MiLEAP Director, Michelle Richard
- DHHS Director, Elizabeth Hertel
- MEDC CTO, Kerry Ebersol
- Governor's Chief Infrastructure Officer, Zach Kolodin
- State Budget Director, Jennifer Flood
- House Budget Director, Joe Fedewa
- Senate Budget Director, Andy Solon

Student Legislative Engagement

The Division of Government and Community Affairs partners with students, faculty and staff who have an interest in participating in the legislative process. Members of Science Policy Network-Detroit, a student group at WSU that aims to break down barriers between policy makers and researchers, has continued to work with our office to increase efforts in Lansing and Washington, D.C. DGCA also worked with the College of Pharmacy on its advocacy day in Lansing during the Fall semester. DGCA has also engaged provided guest lectures to students interested in advocacy and public policy. DGCA is working with Sci-Pol Detroit for an upcoming Lansing Advocacy Day, and recently held a Women in Healthcare event in Lansing on March 5.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

The Division of Government and Community Affairs (DGCA) continues its work of initiating new and supporting existing WSU external community engagement. Stacie Clayton, Community Affairs Director, provides leadership and internal support and guidance to the university's various colleges, schools and divisions on special events, programs, and other matters as needed.

Community and Government Engagement

- **Male Mentoring Event:** Partnered with Athletics, Career Services and MISB for WSU Football Team juniors and seniors Male Mentoring Event with former NFL player and successful businessman Robert Porcher and other male WSU alumni working in corporate, government and non-profit sectors.
- **State of the County Address:** Represented WSU at Wayne County Executive Warren Evans' State of the County Address where CEO Evans talked about the County and WSU's partnership to distribute Narcan to save lives and other work to improve the health of Wayne County residents and increase economic opportunities for small businesses and entrepreneurs
- **"Sisters-In-Law" Program:** Created and executed, in partnership with Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies; Juneteenth Planning Committee; Organization of Black Alumni and Black Law Student Association are hosting the panel discussion, Sisters in Law – Leading the Way. This Women's History Month event featured an inspiring panel discussion with four WSU alumnae who have unique professional paths/careers. Governor Marilyn Kelly gave opening remarks.
- Attended Comcast Community Partners Luncheon
- Hosted the quarterly meeting of the President's Community Advisory Group
- Served on the planning committee for the 35th Anniversary of the Department of African American Studies
- Served on the Community-Engaged Research Summit planning committee. This year, the CEnR Summit focused on the impact of income and employment on health outcomes and health equity.
- Facilitated two Detroit City Council Members and one Wayne County Commissioner to participate in the WSU Student Senate's Detroit Rising Panel Discussion

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- Facilitated President Espy and Council President Mary Sheffield to give opening remarks at the Take Back the Night Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention event
 - Coordinated Mayor Duggan and Wayne County Executive Warren Evans to speak at President Espy's Investiture
 - Continuing to work with Career Services to place WSU students with Wayne County and City of Detroit governments for internship positions

Sponsorships

- Detroit Urban League Distinguished Warriors Dinner (WSU alumna Eva Garza Dewaelsche was an honoree)
- Michigan Chronicle's Pancakes and Politics 2024 Season
- Alkebu-lan Village's 46th Anniversary Gala
- Amigos de SER Metro Annual Luncheon