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College of Health and Human Services

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Researchers innovate with impact

Research leads to groundbreaking language and literacy skill assessment test

This fall, the Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co., Inc. in Baltimore has published the Test of Integrated Language & Literacy Skills™ (TILLS™), a groundbreaking assessment that tests listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in students ages 6–18. The test was developed by Ph.D. in interdisciplinary health sciences program Director **Dr. Nickola Nelson** and her colleagues.



Outstanding alumna's Parkinson's research to be featured on national television

In June this year, Ph.D. in interdisciplinary health sciences alumna **Dr. Stephanie Combs-Miller** was invited by reporter **Lesley Stahl** of "60 Minutes" fame to be interviewed for a story on Parkinson disease to be aired this coming fall on "CBS Sunday Morning."



OT center is up and innovating

Established in 2014, the [Sammons Center for Innovation and Research in Occupation Based Technology](#) at Western Michigan University provides a platform for visionaries to promote progress in occupation through technology. Two projects have received Sammons funding so far.



- Grant recipient's innovation selected for OT curriculum
- Grant funds collaboration to develop Web-based app

WMU, Wayne State team up to improve health of state's foster youths

Western Michigan University and Wayne State University are partnering in an interdisciplinary project to determine whether Michigan's foster youth are receiving adequate preventive, dental and prenatal health care. The project will be led by WSU assistant professor and WMU interdisciplinary health sciences program alumna **Dr. Angelique Day**, pictured right, in collaboration with epidemiologist and director of WMU's [Health Data Research, Analysis and Mapping Center](#) **Dr. Amy Curtis**, associate professor of statistics **Rajib Paul**, associate professor of geography **Kathleen Baker**, and graduate students from both universities.



Community service and collaborations enhance education

PA students and faculty experience active spring

The students and faculty in the Department of Physician Assistant volunteered for Girls on the Run and attended the AAPA conference.



Multi-partner project promotes health care careers

As part of Innovation Central's week-long Academy of Health, Science and Technology summer program, 27 high school students visited WMU for a day of activities focused on health care careers. The visit included a tour of campus and a presentation about health care academic programs and related admissions.



Admin leaders take new roles

Dr. Ann Tyler has been named to serve as associate dean of the College of Health and Human Services, effective July 1, 2015.



Dr. Mary D. Lagerwey has been appointed to serve as director of the WMU Bronson School of Nursing, effective July 1, 2015.



Farewell and best wishes to recent retirees

- **Mary Baukus**, Clinical Specialist, Bronson School of Nursing, 12 years of service, effective July 1
- **Debra Goostrey**, Building Services Coordinator, Office of the Dean, 12 years of service, effective June 20
- **Judy King**, Office Coordinator, Office of the Dean, 15 years of service, effective August 1
- **Richard Long**, Professor, Blindness and Low Vision Studies, 16 years of service, effective August 17