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College of Health and Human Services

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4-2016

## Connections, 04/2016

College of Health and Human Services

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# **W** College of **Health and Human Services**

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY



## **Dean Earlie Washington delivers keynote at AHEC breakfast**

With guests from education and business communities throughout West Michigan, Dean **Earlie M. Washington** gave a keynote address at a breakfast event for the Western Regional Area Health Education Center. The event marked the launch of the new Health Sciences Summer Program at the College of Health and Human Services.



## **Interprofessional Education Expo takes over CHHS**

Southwest Michigan Children's Trauma Assessment Center hosted grand rounds and CHHS students offered poster presentations at the 2016 Interprofessional Education Expo in April.



## **Researching the connection between hearing and balance**

Audiology assistant professor **Robin Criter** is examining the connections between balance and hearing, specifically



researching whether hearing loss is an indicator for loss of balance.

### **MSW Student Organization offers support to Flint residents**

The MSW Student Organization is collecting water, filters and cash to support the most vulnerable Flint residents as they struggle with ongoing water issues. To date, the group has distributed more than 30,000 bottles of water.



### **Outstanding CHHS students recognized at Dean's List Reception**

The College of Health and Human Services and Dean **Earlie M. Washington** held a ceremony, Friday, April 15, to honor 1271 outstanding CHHS students who made the Dean's List in 2015.



### **Holistic instructor earns statewide award**

Integrative Holistic Health and Wellness instructor **Richard Szwaja** was one of three educators in the state of Michigan to be honored with a Champion of Engagement Award from the Michigan Campus Compact organization.



### **Yoga for your cause: Children's trauma assessment center**

Join CTAC staff at the Down Dog Yoga Center in Kalamazoo on Saturday, May 14, from 1 to 2 p.m. for an hour of yoga. Admission is \$20 and all proceeds will be donated back to CTAC to support our programming. **Register today.**



### **Western Regional Area Health Education Center spring 2016 newsletter**

Read the latest news and updates from the Western Regional AHEC.

## CHHS in social media



Congratulations to student **Kimberly Carroll** on receiving the Student of the Year award from NASW Michigan!

[School of Social Work](#) - via [Facebook](#) - April 13, 2016

### In other news

Here are some other WMU news articles you might be interested in:

- [WMU to confer some 2,600 degrees during spring commencement](#)
- [Two WMU researchers answer invitation to visit White House](#)
- [Food insecurity, hunger prevention focus of community breakfast series](#)

### New Facebook page

The College of Health and Human Services has a Facebook page! Please take a moment to "like" our page to stay in the loop.



### More information

[Previous CHHS newsletters](#)

[Update Alumni information](#)

[Giving to CHHS](#)

Want to share your story?

### Connect with CHHS

**Phone:** (269) 387-7367

**Email:** [via\\_wmich.edu/hhs](mailto:via_wmich.edu/hhs)

# Dean Earlie Washington delivers keynote at AHEC breakfast



Attendees at the AHEC breakfast event

With guests from higher education and business communities throughout West Michigan, Dean **Earlie M. Washington** gave a keynote address at a breakfast event for the Western Regional Area Health Education Center. The event marked the launch of the new Health Sciences Summer Program at the College of Health and Human Services.

Dean Washington's message focused on addressing the lack of health care providers in medically underserved communities through higher education. "AHEC is a key part of the process," she said. "It provides support at every link of the educational pipeline. The goal isn't diversity just for diversity's sake; the goal is to look at these underserved communities, and work to ensure that those who are serving in them – and across the state – are reflective of the people who live in them."

Dean Washington underlined the important roles that the private and public sectors have to play in changing the reality of poor health in communities across our state. Academic institutions are necessarily responsible for preparing health care professionals skilled to address the needs of underserved communities. The private sector also bears a responsibility in providing jobs for these professionals after graduation.

Answering that call, WMU's College of Health and Human Services will work with AHEC to launch its **Health Sciences Summer Program**. Using AHEC's 19-county catchment area, the plan is to recruit and enroll 20 high school seniors, bring them to WMU's Kalamazoo campus over the summer with an opportunity to jumpstart their academic careers, earning 12 credit hours toward CHHS degrees.

The second year, the college will recruit 20 juniors in addition to 20 seniors.

Dean Washington shared her own story, growing up in Mississippi and attending a pre-college program like the one she's proposed. "It introduced us to higher education. The program was geared to show us how to give back to the communities and systems that supported us."

One major challenge associated with the initiative is funding.

"We have to raise money to fund scholarships for these students to make this possible," said Dean Washington. "And then we'll look for support and funds for scholarships to cover some of their costs as they continue with their matriculation."

Because the success of AHEC lies in multiple relationships in the community, the dean called on breakfast attendees to become more involved with the organization. "If you haven't partnered with AHEC to see how you can help make a difference in underserved communities in this region," she said, "I hope you will."

Dean Washington closed by praising the Western Regional Center for the work it's done since its inception. "And I look forward to the good work that they'll do in the future."

## Interprofessional Education Expo takes over CHHS



Students offer poster presentations at the IPE Expo

The **2016 Interprofessional Education Expo** highlighted interprofessional collaboration and teamwork at CHHS. Through the various events, nearly 200 attendees from CHHS, WMU Homer Stryker School of Medicine and across WMU's campus were able to learn with, from, and about other health care professions.

**Dr. Ann Tyler** welcomed attendees to the inaugural event, and expressed confidence that the event would become a mainstay on the academic calendar. She detailed the increasing

importance of interprofessional education and collaborative practice experiences in education programs for health care professionals.

The event highlighted the ways CHHS is currently incorporating interprofessional education, and also exposed a broader audience of current students to the importance of collaboration in practice.

Grand Rounds were led by **Dr. Mark Sloan, Krista Goebel, Katherine Rigley-Rowell, and Brandon Morkut** from the [Southwest Michigan Children's Trauma Assessment Center](#) team. Their presentation featured a complex case of childhood trauma that highlighted each discipline's unique contribution to the transdisciplinary lens the team implements in all its work.

"Childhood trauma is becoming forefront on community agendas," said Tyler. "Here in Kalamazoo, community organizations have identified the impact of trauma as **the** major focal issue."



Faculty and students attend grand rounds

Following grand rounds, 15 students from various programs in the college presented research posters in the atrium of the College of Health and Human Services building. Graduate and undergraduate students offered posters that addressed evidence-based practice, reported on basic or applied research, or critically reviewed a body of literature. Poster authors had an opportunity to discuss their projects with students and faculty representing all disciplines in the college.

The planning committee deemed the event a success and is already planning to allow more time for Grand Rounds next year, allowing presenters to give an even more complete picture of interprofessional work in their areas.

## Researching the connection between hearing and balance



Robin Criter demonstrates the Video Head Impulse Test (vHIT) on a student.

Audiology assistant professor **Robin Criter** is examining the connections between balance and hearing, specifically researching whether hearing loss is an indicator for loss of balance.

It is a question that steered her toward audiology earlier in her education, and once that she has pursued through her own doctoral dissertation.

"My goal was to see if I could develop a protocol that would determine, within one minute, if a hearing patient was at risk for falls," she said. But doing so involves interprofessional knowledge that goes beyond the inner ear. It also requires some knowledge about eyes and the ways the brain processes somatosensory stimuli.

In 2015, Dr. Criter was granted a Support for Faculty Scholars award from the [Office of the Vice President of Research](#). The one-year award of \$2000 funded a study of the screening protocol Criter developed as part of her dissertation. The study was to evaluate the protocol and determine if there is a relationship between fall risk and hearing ability based on these measures.

**Hannah Hodges**, a doctoral student currently studying with Dr. Criter, is also focused on balance, researching how it is impacted by caffeine. She was recently awarded a Graduate Student Research Grant (\$1000) through the WMU Graduate College to support this work.

"I want our students to graduate with an appreciation for the balance side of audiology," said Criter. "So that even if they are working in a setting where the focus is on hearing and fitting



hearing aids, they are thinking about how this may affect the patient's balance, the patient's fall history, and ultimately the whole patient experience and quality of life."

Criter was recently accepted in the ASHA Pathways Program for research mentoring, where she will be paired with a well-established investigator with similar interests. ASHA is funding a trip out to the national headquarters in the D.C. area for a two-day workshop and the mentoring partnership will continue through the year after that. She plans to use this experience to refine a research proposal further investigating how well older adults can hear and whether or not they lose their balance, adding to the evidence that hearing is not solely about communication and that hearing has implications for our social, emotional, and physical well-being.

Dr. Criter has been invited to chair a feature session on the topic of "Hearing, Balance, and Falls" at the World Congress of Audiology XXXIII meeting in Vancouver this September.

## Flint Water Task Force

Western Michigan Helping Flint!



Collection of water and filters from the group's first trip to Flint.

Flint is in desperate need of help. As they are fading out of the news, help is also fading. Help us get clean water to Flint. One pallet of water has about 1,920 bottles of water and costs about \$164. We as a group of MSW (Masters of Social Work) students were compelled to assist Flint during this crisis. Help us, help Flint. You can assist through make donations of cases of water, or monetary donations so that we can purchase water for the citizens of Flint.

### Donations

Cases of water can be dropped off at the School of Social Work in the College of Health and Human Services (room 4413). **Make checks out to MSWSO.** Checks can be mailed to:

WMU School of Social Work  
Attn: MSWSO

1903 West Michigan Ave.  
Kalamazoo MI 49008-5354

Given space limitations, monetary donations are preferred but water donations are welcome. If you have any questions please contact [wmuflintwathertaskforce@gmail.com](mailto:wmuflintwathertaskforce@gmail.com).

## What we've done

We have partnered with Vernon Chapel church in Flint to distribute water directly to the people who need it most - people who don't live near Flint's water distribution centers and people who don't have cars and who just can't afford to travel to distribution centers.

To date, we have delivered more than 30,000 bottles of water to the most underserved people in the city of Flint.





## Outstanding CHHS students recognized at Dean's List Reception



Dean Earlie Washington addresses students and families at the Dean's List reception

The College of Health and Human Services and Dean **Earlie M. Washington** held a ceremony, Friday, April 15, to honor the outstanding CHHS students who made the [Dean's List](#) in 2015.

The annual event allows the dean an opportunity to congratulate students and their families for academic perseverance, hard work and success.

"Your success means a lot to the college, the University, human services and health care professions," said Dean Washington. "And more importantly, it will mean a lot to the multitude of individuals and families whose lives you will touch in positive ways as a professional."

More than 150 students, along with friends and family, attended the award ceremony and dessert reception at the WMU Fetzer Center.



Social work students receive their certificates.

To parents, the dean said, "You can be very proud of these students. Competition for admission to our academic programs is fierce, and expectations are extremely high. To meet and exceed those expectations is an accomplishment of its own."

**Dr. Jennifer Harrison**, recipient of the [2015 Faculty Teaching Excellence Award](#), gave a 15 minute TED-style talk about individuality and success.

To be eligible for the dean's list, students must have earned at least a 3.5 grade-point average on a scale of 4.0 in at least 12 credit-hours of graded class work.

## Integrative Holistic Health and Wellness instructor earns statewide award

Integrative Holistic Health and Wellness instructor **Richard Szwaja** was one of four educators in the state of Michigan to be honored with a Champion of Engagement Award from the Michigan Campus Compact organization. The award was presented April 7 at MiCC's Awards Gala, held at Michigan State University's Kellogg Center in East Lansing.



Szwaja and Shelley Long, network coordinator for Michigan Campus Connect.

The Champion of Engagement Award recognizes individuals who make significant contributions to the sustainability and institutionalization of community engagement, with particular attention given to those who are able to bridge the activities of student affairs and academic affairs. A Champion of Engagement generally will have been working within a system over time, cultivating participation of students and peers, and affecting cultural change.

Szwaja has been a part-time instructor for the College of Health and Human Services for several years, often teaching HOL 1000, a widely popular gen ed class for the college. In addition, he also teaches in the Lee Honors College and has taught Seita Scholar courses.

"Building partnerships between students and our broader community offers many benefits to students and community alike," said Szwaja. " Student learning becomes more meaningful and relevant, and the partnerships help to foster a shared understanding of the strengths, challenges and opportunities within our community. It is a blessing to work at WMU with many people who champion student-community engagement, and I am honored to have been selected for this award."

In the fall of 2014, Szwaja received the [Excellence in Service-Learning Award](#) from the Office of Service Learning for his excellent work in service learning on campus.

"Richard is highly engaged and incredibly active as an instructor. We love his dedication to WMU and to his students and are very proud that he's received this recognition," said **Gay Walker**, program coordinator for the Integrative Holistic Health and Wellness program.

Other recipients of the 2016 Champion of Engagement Award were Ethan Lowenstein from Eastern Michigan University and Brian Ivory and Dale Weighill from Mott Community College.

[Michigan Campus Compact](#) is a coalition of college and university presidents who are committed to fulfilling the public purpose of higher education. MiCC promotes the education and commitment of Michigan college students to be civically engaged citizens, through creating and expanding academic, co-curricular and campus-wide opportunities for community service, service-learning and civic engagement.