Professor starts endowment to strengthen department's multiculturalism

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—A Western Michigan University faculty member has established an endowment that will continue his legacy of instilling multiculturalism into the fabric of the Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology.

**Dr. Joseph Morris**, professor of counselor education and counseling psychology, has bequeathed a gift that creates the **Joseph R. Morris Endowed Professorship in Race and Psychology**. This endowed professorship will enable his department to recruit and retain faculty who have made exceptional contributions to the study of race in counseling psychology or race and psychology.

It will help to ensure that, in perpetuity, multiculturalism will continue to be a cornerstone of the department and its curriculum as well as WMU’s College of Education and Human Development, student body and faculty.

**MORRIS**

Morris came to WMU’s Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology in 1984 as the first African American tenure track faculty member in the department. Over the past 34 years of his WMU career, he has left a legacy of instilling multiculturalism into the fabric of the department through his leadership as well as his scholarship.
Morris chaired the department for 10 years and during that time, focused on hiring diverse faculty and recruiting diverse students. In addition, he previously established the Joseph R. Morris Award for Outstanding Contributions to Multicultural Counseling and Psychology. The award assists with the many expenses associated with doctoral studies. It goes to historically underrepresented doctoral students with research and leadership interests centered on issues of race and psychology.

Morris also is actively engaged in community outreach projects that benefit students in the Kalamazoo Public Schools.

Learn more about WMU's Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology.

For more WMU news, arts and events, visit WMU News online.

Perryman-Clark named associate dean of Lee Honors College

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—A champion for understanding cultural diversity in the teaching of writing and a key leader in the creation of Western Michigan University's new general education program, WMU Essential Studies, has been appointed associate dean of the Lee Honors College.

Dr. Staci Perryman-Clark, WMU associate professor of English, will begin her new role at the University Wednesday, Aug. 1. Perryman-Clark has been serving as director of First-Year Writing in the Department of English since 2010 and also serving as associate director of the Office of Faculty Development since 2016.

She replaces Jane Baas, professor of dance, who has been associate dean of the Lee Honors College since 2014 and will retire from WMU Monday, June 30.
As a scholar, Perryman-Clark focuses her activities on creating culturally relevant pedagogies and curricular designs to support all students’ expository writing practices. She is a nationally recognized expert on Afrocentric pedagogies in relation to language rights for writing students.

Her writings that discuss Afrocentric and language rights pedagogies have appeared in rhetoric and composition journals such as Composition Studies, Pedagogy, College English, Teaching English in the Two-Year College and The Journal of Teaching Writing, as well as rhetoric and composition’s flagship journal, College Composition and Communication.

In addition, she has authored or co-authored articles that have appeared in Composition Forum, Writing Program Administration, and Computers and Composition that explore themes including teaching with technology philosophy statements, opportunities for designing special-topics graduate courses on black women intellectuals, and exploring the intersections between race and gender in writing program administration.

Her article co-written with Collin Craig, "Troubling the Boundaries: (De)Constructing WPA Identities at the Intersections of Race and Gender," has been used as a framework for the Council of Writing Program Administrators Mentor Project.

Perryman-Clark also has collaborated on edited book collections, and she is the author of the 2013 text, "Afrocentric Teacher-Research: Rethinking Appropriateness and Inclusion." The book is a qualitative, empirically based teacher-research study that examines the ways in which both African-American students and all students perform expository writing tasks using an Ebonics-based first-year writing curriculum.

Along with being a prolific writer, Perryman-Clark has served in multiple leadership positions for the Conference on College Composition and Communication and has received national honors from that flagship organization as well as Michigan State University and the Ford Foundation.
She also has been recognized by the WMU College of Arts and Sciences, receiving a Faculty Award for Research and Creative Activities in 2015 and Faculty Achievement Award in Diversity and Inclusion in 2018.

Perryman-Clark earned a bachelor's degree in creative writing and literature from the University of Michigan, a master's degree in English from Eastern Michigan University and a doctoral degree in rhetoric and writing from Michigan State University.

LEE HONORS COLLEGE

The Lee Honors College is among the oldest honors programs in the nation and has a student profile rivaling that of the most elite private colleges in the United States. Members come from all seven of WMU's degree-granting colleges and at some 1,700 undergraduate students, they represent about 9 percent of the University's undergraduate student body.

The college enhances WMU's dynamic academic climate by providing small seminar classes and special mentors and advisors. It also offers added opportunities to travel and conduct research alongside established faculty members as well as to study independently or abroad.

Learn more about the Lee Honors College.

For more WMU news, arts and events, visit WMU News online.

Three diversity and inclusion VP candidates to visit campus

CONTACT: JEANNE BARON
JUNE 14, 2018 | WMU NEWS

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Three final candidates for the position of Western Michigan University's vice president for diversity and inclusion will be on the campus Wednesday through Friday, June 20-22.

Each candidate will spend two days touring the campus and community, and meeting with a variety of University leaders, students and community members. In addition, all of the candidates will make a public presentation and address audience questions. Their public presentations will be live-streamed and available for later review.

The three final candidates and the dates they will be on the campus are:

- **Dr. Candy S. McCorkle**, director of diversity and inclusion at Alma College, Wednesday and Thursday, June 20-21. Her public presentation is set for 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. **Wednesday, June 20**, in the Fetzer Center's Putney Auditorium.
• **Dr. Carmen Suarez**, special assistant to the president for diversity, equity and inclusion at Portland State University, Wednesday and Thursday, June 20-21. Her public presentation is set for **4 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, June 20**, in the Fetzer Center's Putney Auditorium.

• **Dr. Donna M. Talbot**, professor and chair of the Department of Educational Leadership, Research and Technology at WMU, Thursday and Friday, June 21-22. Her public presentation is set for **10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday, June 21**, in the Fetzer Center's Putney Auditorium.

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CANDY S. MCCORKLE

McCorkle has been director of diversity and inclusion at Alma since 2016. In that role, she develops and implements programming to promote diversity and inclusion on campus, facilitates diversity education for faculty, staff and students, collaborates with the administration on creating policies and practices that foster inclusiveness, and collaborates with inner-city high schools in Detroit to assist students in gaining access to higher education. She also manages her college's King Chavez Parks Mentor Program Grant, coordinates the Campbell Scholars program, and serves as an advocate for students who report experiencing disenfranchised or discrimination on campus.

Previously, McCorkle worked at Jackson College as an adjunct administrator then as assistant dean of the honors college; at Central Michigan University as director of the Global Campus Counseling Program in the Department of Counseling and Special Education; and Spring Arbor University as director of the Masters of Arts in counseling. She has been an assistant professor of counseling and special education at CMU and an associate professor of psychology at SAU, as well as a substance abuse prevention consultant in Battle Creek and substance abuse therapist in Jackson.

McCorkle earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Wright State University, a master's degree in clinical psychology from Eastern Michigan University and a doctoral degree in counselor education and supervision from WMU. She is a limited license psychologist in Michigan.

CARMEN SUAREZ

Suarez has been a special assistant to the president for diversity, equity and inclusion at PSU since 2015. In that role, she is responsible for facilitating the achievement of the institutional strategic plan diversity goals; providing guidance and support for retaining a diverse faculty, staff and student body; and developing strategies to inculcate an inclusive university purpose, culture and climate. She also works to continue PSU's attendant cultural competence emphasis and oversees compliance officers associated with Title IX, Americans with Disabilities Act, affirmative action and equal employment opportunity laws and principles.

Previously, Suarez worked at the University of Idaho, first as director of human rights access and inclusion and then as chief diversity officer and associate vice provost for student affairs. She served for several years at Southern Illinois University Carbondale in such roles as director of the Office of Diversity and Equity, interim assistant vice chancellor for enrollment management, and assistant dean of career services in the School of Law. Her background also includes work
with the Hispanic community, such as Hispanic community liaison at John A. Logan College, where she also served a stint as affirmative action officer; director of the Office of Hispanic Educational Development at the Illinois Institute of Technology; and an administrator with Illinois Migrant Council.

Suarez earned three degrees from SIU Carbondale: a bachelor's degree in history, master's degree in medieval history and a doctoral degree.

DONNA M. TALBOT

Talbot has been serving as chair of the Department of Educational Leadership, Research and Technology since 2012. In that role, she oversees a graduate intensive department that offers a variety of degree programs at the master's, specialist and doctoral levels. Her numerous diversity and inclusion activities have included facilitating the development of the first WMU doctoral program delivered internationally, co-facilitating the training and kick-off for the WMU Everyone Counts Diversity Learning Communities, and teaching graduate-level courses on specific diversity topics.

In 1992, Talbot came to WMU as a faculty member in the Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology. She has been with her current department since 2007. Her background includes positions as assistant director of counseling services and coordinator of multicultural affairs in the Dickinson College Counseling Center and as an HIV counselor at the Whitman-Walker Clinic in Washington, D.C. She served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Ghana, West Africa, from July 1981 to December 1982 and has been an independent consultant in Kalamazoo since 1985, providing programming on topics such as communication, multiculturalism, enhancing and embracing diversity, recognizing and reducing oppression, and leadership development.

Talbot earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from Amherst College, master's degree in special education from Lesley College, specialist degree in counselor education from the University of Florida and doctoral degree in college student personnel administration from the University of Maryland at College Park. She is a nationally certified counselor as well as a certified professional counselor in Michigan.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The successful candidate for vice president for diversity and inclusion will lead WMU's institutional efforts related to implementing a comprehensive strategic plan for advancing diversity, inclusion and equity. The position reports to WMU's president and is part of the senior leadership team.

To learn more about the position and candidates, visit the Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion Search site. Feedback will be collected on that site through an online survey that will go live Friday, June 15.
WMU becomes part of national student mental health effort

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—As part of its Success at WMU initiative that will launch with the fall 2018 incoming class of new students, Western Michigan University has completed its initial membership steps to become a JED Campus, putting a campuswide focus on student well-being and mental health.

WMU is now one of nearly 200 campuses across the country enrolled in the four-year-old national initiative that serves more than 2 million college students. The JED Campus program is designed to increase student resilience and decrease the two leading causes of death among young adults--accidents, including those caused by prescription drug overdoses or alcohol poisoning, and suicide.

To begin assessing the match between WMU’s level of services and the mental health needs of its students, the University took part in a "Healthy Minds Study" during the spring semester as well as a baseline assessment of services. Through the online survey administered in April, some 4,000 WMU students were asked to share their attitudes, behaviors and awareness of mental health issues.

Becoming a JED Campus was the focus of a single submission in a call for transformational ideas issued last fall by WMU President Edward Montgomery. Several of the more than 60 ideas submitted for funding, including the JED Campus proposal, ultimately became part of one major campus initiative called Success at WMU. Preparations have been underway since January to welcome all new students to campus in the fall with a solid program in place to ensure academic success. The program includes a peer mentor for every incoming student to provide new students with a strong and early connection to the University.

"We are thrilled to become a JED Campus because our students' success is our No. 1 priority. Grit and resiliency play a key role in performance. This program enhances our ability to improve student emotional and mental health," Montgomery says.

Dr. Gary H. Bischof, dean of WMU's Lee Honors College, is the University's point person on the JED Campus portion of the Success at WMU initiative. Bischof and Dr. Suzie Nagel-Bennett, dean of students, are co-chairing WMU's 19-member JED Campus team, composed of representatives from across campus. Bischof says WMU's entry into the JED effort makes it one of 15 Michigan colleges and universities that will operate in the JED program as a Michigan cohort, and the institutions involved will gather periodically to share resources and effective
practices. WMU’s four-year commitment to the program, he says, will revolve around student awareness of the help that is available to them.

"Increased awareness and use of services and a more supportive campus climate are among our expected outcomes," Bischof says. "We want to help our students develop the behaviors most often associated with grit and resilience."

In addition to the survey just completed, the JED Campus program will include a second survey near the end of the relationship between WMU and the program. Additional benefits of being part of the program include:

- Assistance in building a multidisciplinary campuswide team to direct the work.
- A baseline assessment of campus systems, policies and programs.
- An on-campus visit by JED Campus program experts and ongoing technical assistance.
- Development of a strategic plan with objectives and detailed action steps.
- Membership in a JED Campus Learning Community offering access to webinars.
- Student access to an online resource called ULifeline for help in accessing services.
- A final year of focus on sustaining gains made over the course of the effort.

ABOUT JED

JED is a national nonprofit foundation that exists to protect emotional health and prevent suicide among the nation’s teens and young adults. JED partners with high schools and colleges to strengthen their mental health, substance abuse and suicide prevention programming and systems. The partnerships focus on equipping teens and young adults with the skills and support to grow into healthy, thriving adults and encouraging community awareness, understanding and action for young adult mental health.

For more WMU news, arts and events, visit WMU News online.

Area families needed to host international visitors

CONTACT: KOREY FORCE
JUNE 15, 2018 | WMU NEWS
Host families enjoy the benefits of meeting new people, exploring new cultures and introducing U.S. American culture to international students.

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Western Michigan University is seeking homestay opportunities for visiting international teachers and students arriving in August. A stipend of $450 a month will be paid to each hosting family for the duration of the guest's stay, which can range from four weeks to one year.

Host families will be assigned an international visitor and are required to provide them with a private bedroom and two meals daily—breakfast and dinner. The guest pays for all other personal expenses while in the United States.

BENEFITS OF HOSTING AN INTERNATIONAL VISITOR

- Exposure to a new language and culture.
- Opportunities to teach international visitors about American values and traditions.
- Ability to help international visitors learn English in a family setting.
- Chance to increase cultural awareness in the community.

A simple, online application process is utilized for host family selection. To apply, interested families may send an email to findyournest@gmail.com or call Barb Curley, host family coordinator with Lodge & Learn in Portage, at (269) 217-9094.

For more WMU news, arts and events, visit WMU News online.

Student group recognized by world's largest HR association

CONTACT: STACEY MARKIN
JUNE 22, 2018 | WMU NEWS
KALAMAZOO, Mich.—The Western Michigan University chapter of the Society for Excellence in Human Resources has been recognized by the Society for Human Resource Management for the eighth time in ten years.

The Society for Human Resource Management has awarded a 2017-18 Superior Merit Award to WMU’s SHRM student chapter for providing superior growth and development opportunities to its members.

THE MERIT PROGRAM

The SHRM student chapter merit award program, which began in 1972, was created to encourage student chapters to require ongoing excellence in the following areas: student chapter requirements, chapter operations, chapter programming and professional development of members, support of the human resource profession and SHRM engagement.

"Young professionals like those being honored at Western Michigan University play a vital role in SHRM's success," says Johnny C. Taylor Jr., president and chief executive officer of SHRM. "I'm especially honored to thank this year's award winners because they offer excellent evidence that SHRM's future is indeed in good hands."

SHRM student chapters have the opportunity to earn an award based on the number of activities they complete during the merit award cycle, the most recent of which lasted from April 1, 2017, to March 31, 2018.

"The Superior Merit Award recognizes the most active and highest achieving Society for Human Resource Management student chapters in the nation," says Dr. Kyle Brink, associate professor of management and faculty advisor for WMU’s Society for Excellence in Human Resources chapter. "This award is a testament to the leadership and hard work of Jessica Childs, president of the chapter, the entire executive board, and all members."

ABOUT THE SOCIETY FOR HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The Society for Human Resource Management is the world's largest human resource professional society, representing 285,000 members in more than 165 countries. For nearly seven decades, the organization has been the leading provider of resources serving the needs of human resource professionals and advancing the practice of human resource management. The Society for Human Resource Management has more than 575 affiliated chapters within the United States and subsidiary offices in China, India and United Arab Emirates.

For more WMU news, arts and events, visit WMU News online.
Student awarded Critical Language Scholarship to study in Japan

CONTACT: JEANNE BARON
JUNE 22, 2018 | WMU NEWS

Joshua White, second from left, and other language students pose with the mascot of Hikone, "Hikonyan," at Hikone Castle.

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—A Western Michigan University student from Paw Paw is in Hikone, Japan, studying Japanese thanks to a U.S. Department of State scholarship.

Joshua White, a graduate student in electrical engineering, received a full scholarship from the state department’s Critical Language Scholarship program to participate in an eight-week summer course at the University of Shiga Prefecture in Hikone.

The scholarship program is part of a federal effort to expand the number of Americans studying and mastering critical foreign languages. Those who receive these scholarships gain critical language and cultural skills that enable them to contribute to U.S. economic competitiveness and national security.

White is one of about 550 competitively selected American students at U.S. colleges and universities who received a CLS award in 2018. Recipients of the awards include students from more than 230 institutions of higher education, including public and private universities, liberal arts colleges, minority-serving institutions and community colleges.

WHITE

A graduate of Paw Paw High School, White is a student in WMU’s accelerated bachelor's/master's degree program in computer engineering. He graduated from the University in April with a Bachelor of Arts in Japanese, Bachelor of Science in applied mathematics and Bachelor of Science in Engineering in computer engineering. He expects to graduate with a
Master of Science in Engineering in electrical engineering and a Master of Science in applied and computational mathematics in April 2020.

White plans to continue on and obtain a doctoral degree in electrical and computer engineering, focusing on research in electro-neuropysiological interfacing. Eventually, he wants to move to Japan and work on developing advanced prosthetics that interface directly into the human nervous system to help improve the quality of life for amputees.

Joshua White displays his two Presidential Scholar certificates flanked by WMU's President Edward Montgomery, right, and Faculty Senate President Suzan F. Ayers, left.

During his undergraduate career, White was named WMU’s 2018 Presidential Scholar in Electrical and Computer Engineering as well as its 2018 Presidential Scholar in World Languages and Literatures. Being named a Presidential Scholar is the highest honor a senior can receive from the University.

In addition, White was a member of WMU’s Lee Honors College and earned the University's Yukiko Murakami Scholarship, which allowed him to study abroad from September 2015 to August 2016 at Keio University in Tokyo. While studying in Tokyo, he also volunteered to assist teaching English to students at Adachi Daijuu Middle School.

CRITICAL LANGUAGES SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship program allows U.S. undergraduate and graduate students to spend eight to 10 weeks abroad studying one of 14 critical languages: Arabic, Azerbaijani, Bangla, Chinese, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Punjabi, Russian, Swahili, Turkish, or Urdu.

The program includes intensive language instruction and structured cultural enrichment experiences designed to promote rapid language gains. CLS scholars are expected to continue their language study beyond the scholarship and apply their critical language skills in their future careers.

Critical languages are those that are less commonly taught in U.S. schools, but are essential for America's engagement with the world. The scholarship program plays an important role in preparing U.S. students for the 21st century's globalized workforce. Along with their contributions to the nation's economy and labor force, CLS scholars serve as citizen
ambassadors, representing the diversity of the United States abroad and building lasting relationships with people in their host countries.

**Learn more** about the [Critical Languages Scholarship](#) and [WMU's international programs and services](#).

**For more WMU news, arts and events**, visit [WMU News](#) online.