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Newsletter

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8-2016

## Connections, 08/2016

College of Health and Human Services

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August 2016

[WMU, KVCC sign new degree completion plan for nursing students](#)

Administrators, alumni, faculty and staff met at the College of Health and Human Services Aug. 23 to witness the formal signing of a new bachelor's degree completion plan for nursing students at both institutions. The agreement formalizes the relationship between nursing programs, one of many long-standing relationships between the institutions.



[Dr. Nickola "Nicki" Wolf Nelson retires after 35 years at WMU](#)

At a gathering on Tuesday, Aug. 9, faculty and staff from the College of Health and Human Services and across the University came together to celebrate the retirement of **Dr. Nicki Nelson**, who retired after a distinguished career and 35 years at WMU.



[Faculty take new roles in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Ph.D. program](#)

**Dr. Kieran Fogarty**, founding faculty member of the program, has been named the new director of the program. **Dr. Linda Shuster** also joins the Ph.D. program faculty starting this fall.



[Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences programs reaccredited for eight years](#)

Earlier this month, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association informed the college that the graduate programs in speech-language pathology and audiology at Western Michigan University have been reaccredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) for eight years, the maximum possible length of accreditation by the association.



[HDRaM highlighted in BCBSM Foundation annual report](#)

Community health organizations often find themselves analyzing the same data over and over, leading to duplication of effort and inefficiency. WMU's Health Data Research, Analysis and Mapping Center aims to change this by bringing collaboration and transparency to these organizations.



[Southwest Michigan Children's Trauma Assessment Center offers fall workshops](#)

The Southwest Michigan Children's Trauma Assessment Center at WMU's Unified Clinics is offering two workshops for parents of children who have experienced trauma. These workshops offer a group experience, where participants will better understand what trauma is, how it impacts the brain and development, how it impacts behavior, and how to respond to and advocate for their children's needs.  
CHHS in Social Media



MSW students from the Intercultural Social Work class recently traveled to Chicago with instructors **Marian Tripplett** and **Dr. Dee Sherwood**. Among their many stops, students attended a prayer service at a local mosque and met with the director of the Muslim Community Center. Students also visited diverse communities to engage in intercultural dialogue and learning.

[WMU School of Social Work](#) via [Facebook](#)

In other news

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

- [WMU officials formally launch new cutting-edge Valley Dining Center](#)
- [Governor recognizes WMU renovation for reducing energy waste](#)
- [WMU's President Dunn announces 2017 retirement date](#)

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The College of Health and Human Services has a Facebook page! Please take a moment to "like" our page to stay informed on what's going on throughout the college..



## WMU, KVCC sign new degree completion plan for nursing students

Administrators, alumni, faculty and staff of Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo Valley Community College met at WMU's College of Health and Human Services Aug. 23 to witness the formal signing of a new bachelor's degree completion plan for nursing students at both institutions.

The agreement formalizes the relationship between the associate degree in nursing program at KVCC and the bachelor's in nursing program at WMU, one of many long-standing relationships between the two institutions. KVCC is WMU's largest source of transfer students, with some 500 student transferring from the college to the University each year.



*Standing, L-R: Dr. Terrence Curran, Dr. Mary Lagerwey, WMU Provost Timothy Greene.*

Under the new four-year plan, dual-enrolled nursing students will take summer classes at WMU while earning their associate degree from Kalamazoo Valley Community College. After graduating from KVCC and attaining their registered nurse--R.N.--certification, students finish

their Bachelor of Science in Nursing at WMU in just one year. The four-year timespan for completion is much shorter than the traditional path for nurses.

"This agreement signifies in a real way that it's all about students and their aspirations," said WMU President **John M. Dunn** at the signing ceremony. "It's about trying to find pathways to allow students to be successful."

"It's a milestone in the relationship between these two institutions," said **Dr. Dennis Bertch**, executive vice president for instructional and student success services at KVCC. "We're working together to produce highly educated nurses to positively impact health outcomes in our communities."

For many years, area nurses have attended KVCC, attained their R.N. certification, and joined the workforce for a number of years before going back to school for their BSN.

In today's competitive health care market, most providers are looking for nurses who already hold bachelor's degrees. Registered nurses are often encouraged to go back to school for their bachelor's degree within only a few years of joining the workforce.

"We know that there is a shortage of prepared nurses across the state of Michigan," said **Dr. Earlie M. Washington**, dean of the WMU College of Health and Human Services. "WMU and KVCC are working diligently to address that shortage. This plan will help produce more well-prepared nurses to meet the health care needs of West Michigan and beyond."

Western Michigan University already has a similar RN-BSN agreement in place with Southwestern Michigan College, with courses offered online, as well as at its regional locations in Benton Harbor and Battle Creek.

## Dr. Nickola "Nicki" Wolf Nelson retires after 35 years at WMU

At a gathering on Tuesday, Aug. 9, faculty and staff from the College of Health and Human Services and across the University came together to celebrate the retirement of **Dr. Nicki Nelson**, who retired after a distinguished career and 35 years at WMU.

**Dr. Earlie Washington**, dean of the college, hosted the event and spoke briefly about Dr. Nelson's contributions.



"I want to thank Nicki for the research and scholarship standards that she has defined and exceeded in the [Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology](#) and in the [Ph.D. Program in](#)

[Interdisciplinary Health Sciences](#)," said Dean Washington. "She has been an unimaginable asset to the College of Health and Human Services and has meant the world to her colleagues and, of course, to the many students she's had over the years."

As a parting gift, Dean Washington gave Nicki an official declaration, naming Dr. Nelson's former office in her honor. A plaque will soon be installed outside room 2574 in the Ph.D. suite that the room has been named in honor of Dr. Nickola "Nicki" W. Nelson.

Dr. Nickola "Nicki" Nelson had been a member of the faculty at Western Michigan University since 1981 and director of the Ph.D. program in interdisciplinary health sciences since 2004. She was named the Charles Van Riper Professor in the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology for 2005 to 2008. Dr. Nelson also received the CHHS Faculty Research Excellence Award in 2013.



## Faculty take new roles in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Ph.D. program

With the retirement of Nicki Nelson, two positions opened up in the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Ph.D. program faculty. **Dr. Kieran Fogarty**, founding faculty member of the program, has been named the new director of the program. In addition, **Dr. Linda Shuster**, most recently the interim chair of the Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Services, joins the Ph.D. program faculty starting this fall.

Kieran Fogarty began his career at WMU in 2002. Prior to coming to WMU, he was an epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He looks forward to expanding the national reputation of the Ph.D. program.

"We just accepted our largest cohort ever for fall 2016, which is really exciting. We hope to continue to partner with other departments across the college and university," said Dr. Fogarty. "And we look forward to more collaboration with outside agencies to provide our doc students with educational opportunities while opening new pathways for financial support to the program and to the college."

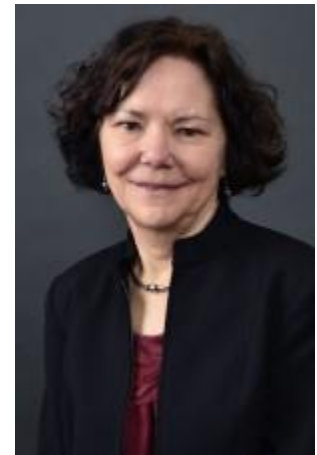


*Dr. Kieran Fogarty*

Before coming to WMU last September, Linda Shuster was a professor at Grand Valley State University and West Virginia University. She earned her B.A. and M.A. at the University of Michigan before earning her Ph.D. at The Ohio State University.

"I have always wanted to work with Ph.D. students," said Dr. Shuster. "And I am excited to have the opportunity to mentor students who come from other disciplines, as well as from my own."

Congratulations to Dr. Fogarty and Dr. Shuster!



*Dr. Linda Shuster*

## Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences programs reaccredited for eight years

Earlier this month, the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) informed the college that the master's program in speech-language pathology and the doctoral program in audiology at Western Michigan University have been reaccredited for eight years, the maximum possible length of accreditation by the council.



The announcement marks the end of a months-long process, during which faculty and administrators submitted curricula, course descriptions and self-evaluations before a site visit from the accrediting body last March. After the site visit and the department's response to the site visitors' written report, both programs were determined to be in full compliance with all of the accreditation standards.

"It's a very long process and a lot of work goes into it by the chair and faculty of the department," said **Dr. Ann Tyler**, associate dean of the College of Health and Human Services and current interim chair of the department. "Dr. Shuster did an excellent job ushering the department through the reaccreditation process while there were several other changes in motion at the same time."

In addition to reaccreditation, the department recently [approved a name change](#) from the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology to the Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences. The change is effective with the fall 2016 semester and reflects trends in the academic area of study and the professional areas associated with it.

"One of the last things I was able to announce as interim chair was this reaccreditation," said **Dr. Linda Shuster**, who [recently taken a position](#) in the Ph.D. of Interdisciplinary Sciences program. "It's a great accomplishment for the department and reflects so nicely on the faculty here."

This most recent reaccreditation is effective Oct. 1 and will stand until Sept. 29, 2024.

## **The Southwest Michigan Children's Trauma Assessment Center offers fall workshops**

The **Southwest Michigan Children's Trauma Assessment Center** at Western Michigan University's Unified Clinics is offering two workshops for parents of children who have experienced trauma.

These workshops offer a group experience, where participants will be provided information to better understand: what is trauma; how trauma impacts the brain and development; how trauma impacts their children's behaviors; and how to respond to and advocate for their children's needs.

- One workshop is specifically geared for foster/adoptive/kinship care providers (\$30 fee).
- The other has been adapted specifically for biological caregivers who are still providing care or are working toward reunification with their children (no fee, covered by SAMHSA grant).

Both groups will meet Mondays, October 3 to November 28, from 6 to 8 p.m. on the third floor of the [University Medical and Health Sciences Center](#) at 1000 Oakland Drive, Kalamazoo.

Participation is limited to 10 families per group. To register or for more information, contact [Denise Wheatley](#) at (269) 387-7046.