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Office of Vice President for Research

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DISCOVERY

OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

Electronic versions available at wmich.edu/research/news.html

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OVPV R VISION AND MISSION

VISION: TO BE A LEADER AND CATALYST FOR SCHOLARSHIP EXCELLENCE

MISSION: THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH ADVANCES THE OVERALL SCHOLARSHIP AGENDA OF THE UNIVERSITY; SUPPORTS THE SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVES OF WMU FACULTY, STUDENTS AND STAFF; AND ASSURES COMPLIANCE WITH ALL APPROPRIATE FEDERAL AND STATE REGULATIONS.

WWW.WMICH.EDU/RESEARCH

DISCOVERY EXPERTS DATABASE: PHASE 3 MAY 5 – JUNE 30

WMU *Discovery Experts* database was launched in February. Business leaders, industry partners, and WMU scholars have access to over 900 Western Michigan University experts to explore collaboration on the broad range of Discovery that we do. There have been over 700 visits to the site since its launch.

Discovery Experts offers you the ability to showcase your Discovery activities to the world. This tool gives you the ability to build your discovery by finding collaborators and grant possibilities within and without the University including research and commercialization projects. We are linked with the other major research universities in Michigan through a State of Michigan web portal.

The first two phases of the *Discovery Experts* rollout have been completed. We are now about to enter the third phase.

Phase 3 will run from May 5 – June 30, when faculty and staff will be able to enhance their system profile by providing additional information regarding their teaching, service, and other activities not previously captured during Phases 1 and 2. Here's how you can add to your profile. On or after May 5, start here:

staging.experts.scival.com/wmich

- Once there, go to your profile: enter your last name in the search bar to access your profile
- Click on “**edit your profile**” (located at the top right under the search bar)
- Click the option to “**update your profile with your own information**”
- You'll land on a login page which prompts you to enter your Bronco Net ID and password
- Select content area to which you'd like to add additional information and enter the details

Have fun as you decide what you want others to know about your scholarship and discovery activities.

We hope you are as excited as we are to offer you this tool to publicize your areas of expertise and to store electronically your portfolios of work. Businesses and industry can access experts across the State through the portal: michigancrn.org. We encourage you to take an active role in the creation of your expert profile.

~Dan Litynski, VP for Research

OVPV R MIGRATION TO NEW CONTENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Like many other units and departments on campus, our office is working to migrate our current website into the new Content Management System.

In the migration and redesign of the website,

we've worked to make it easier to navigate as a resource for our scholars, students, and staff.

We hope to be operational in the CMS early summer.

DOEQ GRANTS TOTALING \$757,214 HELP WITH CAMPUS STORMWATER MANAGEMENT EFFORTS

Stormwater management and related efforts on campus received a big boost this month, when the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality announced that WMU has been awarded two grants totaling \$757,214.

Facilities Management applied for the funding from the state's Stormwater, Asset Management and Wastewater Program, which aims to accelerate the statewide use of asset management planning practices as well as to improve water quality.

The program only has \$97 million available for the 2014 fiscal year, but the environmental quality department received 673 applications seeking \$541 million. WMU's early submission of its applications put it in a lottery to receive a portion of the funds available.

Peter J. Strazdas, associate vice president for Facilities Management, says the University will use its \$516,061 and \$241,153 grants to create campuswide stormwater and wastewater asset management plans. These projects will involve inventory data collection, condition assessment, risk assessment, metering, computer modeling and mapping.

"These projects will support a cost-effective approach and guide our stewardship role with the University's stormwater and wastewater districts. They also are in alignment with the sustainability priorities established in the University's Strategic Plan," Strazdas says.

"We'll be enhancing our infrastructure stewardship responsibilities and supporting improved water quality for the next generation in Kalamazoo. Clean and safe drinking water is becoming a big issue in our society. The actions we take today through our plans will have a significant and lasting effect for our children and grandchildren."

Daniel J. List, geographic information systems manager in the Facilities Management Engineering Division, will be the point person for the plans. Work on them may start as early as this coming summer but must be completed by June 2017.

List says the bulk of the work over the next three years will involve surveys and inspections, not physical construction.

"This grant will generate a life-cycle financial plan to support the maintenance and replacement needs that have been placed on our aging infrastructure," he says. "This will support a systemwide condition assessment on both storm and sanitary sewer systems to serve as the baseline for modeling these future maintenance and replacement costs."

List notes that WMU operates separate sanitary and storm sewer systems. The sanitary sewer system handles all wastewater while the storm sewer system collects rainwater, or stormwater as it's commonly called.

Wastewater goes into the city of Kalamazoo's system and is ultimately treated at the city's Water Reclamation Plant.

Most of the main campus' stormwater is conveyed to treatment sites on campus and allowed to filter into the ground rather than enter the surrounding Arcadia Creek Watershed. The University's Parkview Campus has a storm sewer system that is 100 percent contained on site and does not contribute any runoff to off-site water bodies.

"Sewer infrastructure failure can result in environmental damages, ranging from flooding and erosion to discharges of wastewater, potentially damaging the lakes, streams and drinking water we rely on," List says.

WMU's two new grants are just the latest success stories in a program begun about 10 years ago to greatly enhance the University's storm sewer system and take on other projects that improve and protect the local region's overall water quality.

"Our concerted use of best management practices and proactive efforts to seek grant assistance have made a substantial difference," Strazdas says. "The majority of campus is stormwater neutral now, and WMU has become a recognized leader in stormwater management as well as campus sustainability."

Source: University News

ACCOLADES FOR EVALUATION CENTER AND STAFF

On April 17, the Michigan Association for Evaluation awarded the Evaluation Center with the Michigan Association for Evaluation **John A. Seeley Friend of Evaluation** award.

Additionally, Dr. Chris Coryn, director of the interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in evaluation, received in early April the American Education Research Association (AERA) Research on Evaluation Special Interest Group (SIG) Research on Evaluation Distinguished Scholar Award.

\$500,000 GRANT TO HELP WITH AUTISM SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY

Those suffering from autism and their families are getting some much needed help thanks to a \$500,000 grant to Western Michigan University psychologists from the Michigan Department of Community Health.

The grant has been awarded to **Drs. Stephanie Peterson and R. Wayne Fuqua**, chair and professor, respectively, in the WMU Department of Psychology, who are implementing the grant project as co-investigators. The grant will fund a sweeping array of initiatives that will use high-tech methods to help train mental health practitioners, parents and others working with autism spectrum disorder, ultimately leading to wider certification of other professionals trained in treating autism.

"The need is really huge," Peterson says. "We're taking a bite out of the elephant."

The grant initiative comes after the state reviewed existing autism services and passed legislation requiring insurance companies to cover treatment. Peterson and Fuqua looked closely at the gaps that were identified by the state and wove their grant proposal around those needs.

Projects to be funded under the grant

- **A tele-consultation initiative**, in which WMU will work with service providers and possibly teachers to increase their behavioral assessment and intervention skills when working with the autistic population. To maximize efficiency and cut down on travel, a specialized camera and audio system will provide interaction between facilitators and participants to coach them through their assessment and treatment. Dr. Peterson and WMU graduate students will then provide live feedback to participants, who can also go back and watch sessions again to review the input from experts. Five sites will be equipped with camera systems to give providers the necessary tools to effectively carry out both assessment and treatment.
- **A podcasting project**, in which autism experts from across the country will explore important issues in behavior analysis related to autism assessment and treatment. The instructional resources will function like a Physicians' Desk Reference for autism spectrum disorder and help practitioners identify, implement and troubleshoot best practices in the assessment and treatment of behavioral problems that are common to children and adolescents on the autism spectrum. Among the topics that will be included are social skills, language assessment and development, self-stimulatory and self-injurious behavior, and toilet training and sleep problems. Podcasts geared toward parents and family are also a possibility.

- **Continuation of the annual Michigan Autism Conference**, bringing autism experts from across the country to Kalamazoo, who, along with WMU autism experts, will provide families, practitioners and researchers with information related to assessment and treatment of autism. The first conference, which was held in October 2013, was highly successful and featured the likes of autism expert and author Dr. Jon Bailey, professor of psychology at Florida State University; and autism researcher Dr. Peter Gerhardt, director of education for the McCarton School, a year-round school dedicated to the belief that children diagnosed with autism can live full and productive lives; as well as remarks by Michigan Lt. Gov. Brian Calley.

- **Online and on-site training** of supervisors for practitioners wishing to become board certified behavior analysts for autism spectrum disorder. Since the state only recently mandated insurance funding for autism treatment, Michigan has a shortage of board certified behavior analysts, whose training requires a supervised training module. By training more supervisors, it is hoped more practitioners will obtain their certification.

Forming partnerships with organizations providing services to those with autism and their families. WMU is exploring a partnership with the Autism Alliance of Michigan and assisting with plans to create a parent navigation system that would put families in touch with autism services in their communities.

Implementing all phases of the grant project will require the commitment of a team of WMU faculty with the help of a small army of graduate students. It is anticipated that some 25 to 30 people from WMU alone will be involved, not counting those at community partner agencies and national figures who will lend their expertise.

"We think what we're doing is very compatible with the overall state mission of improving services for those with autism spectrum disorder and their families," Fuqua says. "Services have been pretty spotty until now. This is an important part of a larger state plan to ramp up services in the state of Michigan. We're pleased to be a part of it."

Source: University News

LHC REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR W.K.KELLOGG FOUNDATION GRANT

The Lee Honors College has issued a request for proposals, with a May 16 deadline.

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation awarded a Racial Healing planning grant in 2012 to Western Michigan University. The planning grant goals include the following: (1) deepen the commitment to diversity, inclusion and racial healing within the WMU campus community; (2) address health disparities and equity in the communities of west Michigan; and (3), expand WMU's role as a community leader in support of academic readiness and success from early childhood through college graduation, particularly among those from racially diverse, underserved communities in west Michigan.

Activities associated with goal (1) have already been funded and are underway. The LHC seeks proposals to conduct planning activities addressing goals (2) and (3).

The WKKF Racial Healing grant awarded to WMU is intended to support planning and pilot activities that will build capacity for sustained, future activities, especially those related to goals (2) and (3) above.

The Racial Healing planning grant period ends April 30, 2015. It is anticipated that a consortium of WMU faculty and staff will apply to WKKF for an implementation grant, based on the outcomes of the planning period activities.

Proposal deadline: May 16, 2014

Awards announced: June 6, 2014

Source: wmich.edu/honors

LIST OF AWARDS ON RESEARCH WEBSITE

Updated regularly on our website is a full listing of grant awards. Included in the listing is the principal investigator and any co-principal investigators, department, and the grant project title along with the funding provided.

The list is separated out by month, and is updated by-monthly or quarterly as the report is generated by Grants and Contracts. To locate the grant awards list, go to wmich.edu/research/awards/external-funding-awards.html.

FACILITIES & ADMINISTRATIVE COST RATES (F&A)

The work of WMU faculty, staff, and students on externally-funded projects includes direct and indirect costs. Direct project costs are usually straightforward and easily attributed to a specific project. Indirect costs, termed Facilities and Administrative Costs (F&A), are also real costs that are essential for a project's implementation, but would take much time by faculty and staff to attribute and track in relation to specific projects.

F&A costs include such expenses as utilities, custodial services, security, payroll, purchasing, fiscal management and tracking, and department administration. To relieve the burden on researchers, F&A costs are agreed upon through formal negotiations every four years with our cognizant agency, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. They are based upon data presented by the University via a cost analysis and are expressed as a percentage of total direct costs minus exclusions.

Having such a rate helps the university reduce the costs of having to determine how much of these resources each individual project uses or consumes. WMU recently concluded this process and new rates for research- and instruction-related projects funded externally for both the University and WMed have been established as follows:

- July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2015 = 50% of modified direct costs
- July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2017 = 51% of modified direct costs

Project budgets are required to include full recovery of F&A costs at the appropriate negotiated rate. More information about specific rates and F&A policies are available on the OVPR website (www.wmich.edu/research/policies/proposalsubmit).

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