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Connections, 04/2017

College of Health and Human Services

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College of Health and Human Services



April 2017

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[CHHS is 'Biggest Loser' in Michigan Battle of Buildings](#)

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[WMU to hold Foster Care Awareness Walk May 20](#)

To celebrate May's designation as Foster Care Awareness Month, the Western Michigan University Seita Scholars Program is organizing a foster care awareness walk/run Saturday, May 20, on WMU's Kanley Track.

HHS on Social Media



Check out this photo of SSW professor Yvonne Unrau and MSW student Becky Mullins - taken at President Dunn's retirement celebration.

From the [Facebook](#)

In other news

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

- [WMU names economist, Washington labor expert as ninth president](#)
- [WMU recognizes 2016-17 Presidential Scholars](#)
- [Insomnia prevention device takes first place at annual Pitch Competition](#)

Professor receives Society for Public Health Education Technology Award

Dr. Robert Bensley, professor of community and public health education in the [School of Interdisciplinary Health Programs](#) has received the 2017 Society for Public Health Education Technology Award, which was [presented at the annual SOPHE conference](#) last month in Denver.

This award recognizes individuals or groups who have distinguished themselves by applying innovative, non-commercial technology in health education. This year's award selection committee felt Bensley's work in innovative technology-based solutions for the purpose of delivering health education and health behavior change strategies was particularly worthy of receiving the association's Technology Award.

Dr. Bensley is relatively new to the College of Health and Human Services, though not to WMU. He has taught in the Department of Human Performance and Health Education since 1993.

The community health education program moved to the School of Interdisciplinary Health Programs for the fall 2016 semester as a result of University-wide program assessment. The move is sure to benefit all involved as community health faculty are now more closely aligned with like-minded professional programs in the College of Health and Human Services.



Bob Bensley

Occupational therapy students win prestigious awards

Erin Caspers and Vanessa Pinto, both graduate students in the Department of Occupational Therapy, have recently received fellowships for the 2017-18 academic year.

Erin Caspers will receive a \$5,000 Dr. Margaret Berry Fellowship after placing third nationwide in the [National Alpha Lambda Delta Graduate Fellowship](#) competition.



Caspers

The National Council offers 26 graduate fellowships each year, ranging in value from \$3,000 to \$7,500. These fellowships are available to Alpha Lambda Delta members with a 3.5 or higher cumulative GPA. Other factors considered include employment, campus activities and letters of recommendation.

Caspers, currently in the 4+1 accelerated OT program, graduated with her bachelor's degree this April and will earn her master's degree in June 2018. This summer, Erin will be volunteering at Adam's Camp, an adaptive sports camp in Colorado for children with disabilities, before beginning her full-time graduate studies in July.

Vanessa Pinto will receive the WMU Thurgood Marshall Fellowship for 2017. This is a highly competitive fellowship and a limited number are awarded annually.

Recipients of the [Thurgood Marshall Fellowship](#) are selected because they exemplify the values and accomplishments of Marshall, the first African-American justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, who also successfully argued *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*. In addition to nullifying the legal basis for racial segregation, that case also shows that the Constitution necessarily must evolve to accommodate a deeper understanding of human values. In Marshall's view, the noblest citizens are those who labor toward this refinement.



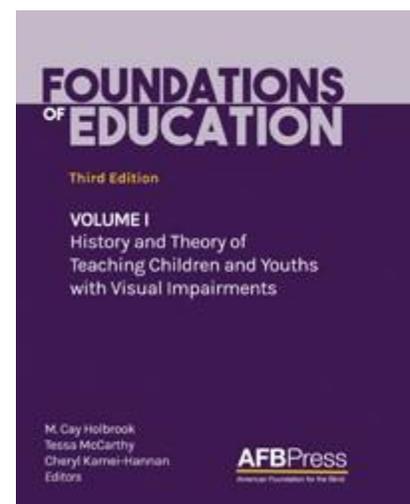
Pinto

Vanessa will be engaged in research within the OT department over the summer, including assisting with data analysis of views toward Hispanics among CHHS students. She will also be preparing for her level II fieldwork placement beginning in summer II.

BLVS faculty contribute to core text for their field

The third edition of *Foundations of Education* that was just released by the [American Foundation for the Blind](#) includes two chapters that were co-authored by **Dawn Anderson** and **Rob Wall Emerson** from the [Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies](#).

The third edition of *Foundations of Education* is presented in two volumes. Volume I is "History and Theory of Teaching Children and Youths with Visual Impairments" and Volume II is "Instructional Strategies for Teaching Children and Youths with Visual Impairments."



Anderson and Emerson co-authored a chapter in Volume I entitled, "Applying General Education Theory to Visual Impairment." Emerson also co-authored another chapter, "Reading and Interpreting Research."

This text is the core foundational text for teachers of children with visual impairments just as the Foundations of Orientation and Mobility and the Foundations of Rehabilitation Teaching are the core foundational texts in those fields. Having Drs. Anderson and Wall Emerson represented in the third edition of Foundations of Education means that WMU Blindness and Low Vision Studies faculty are now authors on chapters in all foundation texts related to services for people with visual impairments.

College-wide scholarships awarded for 2017-18

19 CHHS students were awarded [college-wide scholarships](#) for the 2017-18 academic year. Throughout the fall semester, more than 200 students applied for the limited number of scholarships.

With so many deserving applicants, the selection committee faced tough decisions. "We received many applications from well-qualified students," said **Nancy Cretsinger**, director of academic and student services for the college. "Unfortunately, we are simply unable to grant scholarships to all those who applied."

[College wide-scholarships](#) for the 2018-19 academic year will be announced during the fall semester and applications will be due in January 2018.

Congratulations to the 2017-18 scholarship recipients.

2017-18 Scholarship Recipients

College of Health and Human Services Scholarship

- Erin Caspers
- Brianna Bolinger
- Arriel Daniel
- Makenzie Farmer
- Khadjah Johnson
- Erin Marchione
- Joel Michalak

T4B - Jennifer O'Leary

E. Arthur and Lorna Pierre Scholarship

Rachael Bonin
Troia Lloyd

D'acia Simuel
Jessica Ross

Elissa Gatlin Endowed Scholarship - Frank McGinnis

Jeffrey and Barbara Vortman Scholarship - Heather Sawdy

Leonard Gernant and Frances A. Gernant Gerontology Scholarship

- Keside Akujobi
- Meghan Boven
- Caceti Dobrowolski
- Macy Goldfarb
- Abigail Harpe

WMU facility earns 'Biggest Loser' title in Michigan Battle of Buildings

contact: Cheryl Roland
April 21, 2017 | WMU News

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Western Michigan University's College of Health and Human Services building has brought home the education category's "Biggest Loser" title in the 2016 Michigan Battle of the Buildings energy savings event.

Results of the annual competition were announced **April 19** in Grand Rapids at the 2017 Energy Summit. WMU's entry rose to the top out of 64 million square feet of Michigan real estate that competed. The University demonstrated the greatest percentage-based reduction in energy-use intensity during the 2016 competition, with a 17.4 percent decrease in energy use in the 242,000-square-foot facility it entered.



WMU demonstrated the greatest percentage-based reduction in energy-use intensity during the 2016 competition, with a 17.4 percent decrease in energy use in the 242,000-square-foot facility it entered.

This is the third year that WMU has competed in the annual competition sponsored by the West Michigan Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council, Consumers Energy and DTE Energy. The Michigan Battle of the Buildings is an awards and recognition program for energy-use reduction open to all commercial buildings throughout the state. This year's competition included 457 buildings in 10 categories.

Competitors' combined total in energy savings amounted to 22,141 metric tons of CO₂, which represents a total of \$2.4 million in utility cost avoidance and is equivalent to cutting the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced by driving 53 million miles.

WMU's health and human services facility was completed in 2005, earned LEED-EB gold certification in 2009 and was retro-commissioned with energy updates in 2015. But it was behavioral changes from building occupants that may well have tipped the energy-saving scales, says **Christopher Caprara**, WMU energy administration specialist who traveled to Grand Rapids for the award ceremony along with **Peter Strazdas**, associate vice president for facilities management.

"As health care industry workers, the students, faculty and staff of the building 'get it,'" says Caprara, whose team set up educational workshops and informational signage for the facility. "They understand the impact of their indoor environment on climate change. Implementing behavior change for this building was easier than it is for most."

Also instrumental in WMU's quest for the Biggest Loser title were a building automation system, direct digital controls and a dedicated maintenance staff—which made the building eligible to be part of Consumers Energy's Smart Building Program.

For more WMU news, arts and events, visit wmich.edu/news.

Western Regional Area Health Education Center and CHHS Immersion Days

On March 9 and 10, Western Michigan University's College of Health and Human Services, host site for the Western Regional Area Health Education Center, welcomed 70 high school students from the Calhoun Area Career Center's health programs for the CHHS Immersion Days. The program is coordinated and funded by the WR AHEC with support from the college.

CHHS Immersion Days allow students to visit the College of Health and Human Services to learn more about health care careers and their respective academic requirements. Faculty and health professionals talked with students about nursing, occupational therapy, social work, public health and mental health. Activities included simulation lab tours, various uses of catheters, group discussions on mental health, human trafficking, teen suicide, public health services and the use of adaptive equipment in occupational therapy.



Students visiting the CHHS nursing lab

This is the second year Krista Winchel, a 21st Century Health Careers instructor at the Calhoun Area Career Center, has brought in students for this career enrichment program. Teachers have expressed that the program offers additional exposure into healthcare careers that students may not receive in their regular academic environments.

Learn more about the Western Regional Area Health Education Center [on the AHEC website](#).

WMU to hold Foster Care Awareness Walk

contact: Cheryl Roland

April 26, 2017 | WMU News

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—To celebrate May's designation as Foster Care Awareness Month, the Western Michigan University Seita Scholars Program is organizing a foster care awareness walk/run **Saturday, May 20**, on WMU's Kanley Track.

This is the second year for the annual 5K event, which is scheduled for **9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** The walk/run is an effort to spread awareness about foster care and fundraise for WMU's Seita Scholars Program, which is the largest and most comprehensive college program in the nation for young people who have aged out of foster care.



May is Foster Care Awareness Month

May is National Foster Care month, providing an opportunity for people all across the nation to focus their attention on the needs of youth in foster care. According to research by the Casey Family Programs, only around 2 to 4 percent of youth from the foster care system earned a college degree as of 2010. The Seita Scholars Program is part of a larger initiative to change the college-going paradigm of youth in the foster care system.

Registration

Participants in the WMU event are asked to register online at <https://goo.gl/jC25gT> or by calling (269) 387-8341 prior to **April 30th**. Late registration on **May 20** begins at **9 a.m.**, and the walk will begin at **9:30 a.m.** Registration is \$25 for adults and \$15 for children 12 and under. The fee includes a T-shirt, music, food and more. Once registered, a pledge form will be emailed to participants to guide them as they seek donors to sponsor their lap(s) around the track as they raise funds for the Seita Scholars Program.

Agencies seeking to bring awareness to services or programs they provide may purchase a ticket for \$50 and a table will be provided to set up for information sharing. Those who can't attend the walk and would like to sponsor a student can do so for \$25.

For sponsorship levels and information, contact Rachel Johnson at (269) 387-834.

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