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Three WMU Professors Awarded U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Grant

Research project awarded U.S. Department of Health and Human Services grant to conduct a three-year research study related to alcohol screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment (SBIRT).



[Read the entire article »](#)

TRiO Receives \$1.1 Million Grant

TRiO Future Educator Success Program, first of only two Student Support Services (SSS) Teacher Preparation programs in Michigan, to be awarded U.S. Department of Education SSS Teacher Preparation Grant.



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Alumni Ranked in Most Influential People in Healthcare List

Two alumni from the College of Education and Human Development have recently been ranked as one of the Modern Healthcare Magazine's 100 Most Influential People in Healthcare for 2015.



[Read the entire article »](#)

Graduate Named America's Best Adapted Physical Education Teacher of 2015

Graduate from the WMU Special (Adapted) Physical Education Graduate Program in 2007 was named America's best Adapted Physical Education Teacher of the Year at the 2015 SHAPE America National Convention.



[Read the entire article »](#)

TLES Alumni Selected to America Achieves Michigan Educator Voice Fellowship

Alumni have been selected for the 2015-16 America Achieves Michigan Educator Voice Fellowship.



[Read the entire article »](#)

Student is Third in a Row from FCS to Win National Scholarship

Textile and apparel studies student Dena Alobiedat has won the Wil Conard Regent's University Fashion Marketing scholarship for 2015.



[Read the entire article »](#)

Three WMU professors Awarded U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Grant

August 26, 2015

Western Michigan University assistant professor from the specialty program in alcohol and drug abuse in the College of Health in Human Services, Dr. Tiffany Lee, and co-investigators Dr. Stephen E. Craig, associate professor in the Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology in the College of Education and Human Development and Denise Bowen, M.A., PA-C, assistant professor from the physician assistant program in the College of Health and Human Services have been awarded a \$526,192 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to conduct a three-year research study related to alcohol screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment (SBIRT).



Their research project entitled, SBIRT Training with Students and Community Organizations in the Health Professions in West Michigan, has a mission to drastically increase the competency of health care providers regarding substance use screening, intervention, and referral to treatment. Over 100 students in the Physician Assistant (PA), Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC), and Counseling Psychology (CP) programs at WMU will be provided SBIRT-related didactic and experiential learning activities throughout their two years of studies.



These students will learn how to identify and use empirically based screening tools (e.g., AUDIT and MAST), as well as understand the importance of Motivational Interviewing (MI) and be capable of using methods of MI, such as the Readiness Ruler. The investigators will collect data regarding the competency level and use of SBIRT during the students' clinical experiences and then again one year after graduation. In addition to the training of graduate students, workshops will be given to hundreds of health care professionals within the community of west Michigan. In an effort to reach professionals around the United States, a 4-hour online SBIRT training will be delivered to 300 medical and mental health professionals within the first year of funding. Systemic transformation will begin with the training activities by increasing the knowledge and skills of hundreds of current and future practitioners, but it will also continue for years to come as a result of the permanent incorporation of the SBIRT Training into the curricula for the PA, CMHC, and CP programs at WMU.



TRiO Receives \$1.1 Million Grant

Aug. 7, 2015

The College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) is pleased to announce the award of a \$1.1 million U.S. Department of Education Student Support Services (SSS) Teacher Preparation Grant for a second five-year cycle. The grant competition included over 1000 applicants, with only 10 SSS Teacher Preparation grants awarded nationwide. The TRiO Future Educator Success Program is the first of only two SSS Teacher Preparation programs in Michigan.



"Our grant proposal received 106/106 points from three independent reviewers and received 11/11 prior experience points, which combined, was a perfect score of 117/117. We would like to thank Laura Ciccantell, CEHD Advising Director, and Kim Ballard, WMU Writing Center Director, and the entire grant writing team for their work. These renewed grant funds will allow us to continue to strive for our current retention rate of 93% " says Marcy L. Peake, Program Manager of TRiO FESP.

For more information about TRiO FESP, please visit their [website](#).

Alumni Ranked in Most Influential People in Healthcare List

Sept. 16, 2015

Two alumni from the College of Education and Human Development have recently been ranked as one of the Modern Healthcare Magazine's 100 Most Influential People in Healthcare for 2015.

Lloyd Dean (MA '78, Educational Leadership) and Anthony Tersigni (Ed.D. '92, Educational Leadership) are ranked in the top 25 among very good company. Other notable's on the list include U.S. Supreme Court Justice, John Roberts, Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Mathews Burwell, House Speaker John Boehner, and President Barak Obama.



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**MOST INFLUENTIAL
PEOPLE IN
HEALTHCARE**

Anthony Tersigni

Educational leadership alumnus, Anthony Tersigni, is president and CEO of Ascension, a faith-based healthcare organization dedicated to transformation through innovation across the continuum of care, with approximately 150,000 associates serving in 1,900 sites of care – including 129 hospitals and more than 30 senior care facilities – in 24 states and the District of Columbia. Dr. Tersigni, who is ranked No. 4 on the list, became CEO of Ascension Health, now a subsidiary of St. Louis-based Ascension, in 2004. In 2012, Dr. Tersigni became the first CEO of the newly created parent organization, Ascension. As the largest non-profit health system in the U.S. and the world's largest Catholic health system, Ascension is committed to delivering compassionate, personalized care to all persons with special attention to those who are struggling the most. Dr. Tersigni has been named one of Modern Healthcare's 100 Most Influential People in Healthcare since 2005 and serves in leadership positions on several boards, including the Healthcare Leadership Council in Washington, D.C.

Lloyd Dean

Ranked as No. 13 on the list is Lloyd Dean, President and CEO of San Francisco-based Dignity Health. He's friendly with the President of the United States—and with the President of the San Francisco Giants. He is responsible for a complete fiscal turnaround of his company, sits on the board of Wells Fargo—and he's a Bronco. Although he says he has no interest in it—there were rumors of Dean becoming one of Obama's second term Cabinet members. Dean jumped eight spots on the list this year, ranking No. 21 in 2014.

Graduate Named America's Best Adapted Physical Education Teacher of 2015

Sept. 23, 2015

Mr. Greg Lukshaitis, a graduate from the WMU Special (Adapted) Physical Education Graduate Program in 2007, was named America's best Adapted Physical Education Teacher of the Year 2015 at the 2015 SHAPE America National Convention. He received this award because he has conducted a balanced and sequential curriculum for students with disabilities, has utilized various teaching innovative learning experiences to meet the needs of all students, and has served as a positive role model epitomizing personal health-related fitness and enjoyment of physical activities for students with special needs at Beaverton School District, Oregon, over past eight years. His news, [Everyday Hero: PE teacher Greg Lukshaitis](#), is shown on [Channel 2 News](#).



TLES alumni selected to American Achieves Michigan Educator Voice Fellowship

Jennifer Bond (BS '98, Elementary Education), Matthew McCullough (BS '02, Secondary Education; MA '09, Educational Leadership), Michelle Oppenheim (BS '03, Secondary Education), Donna Rummel (BS '98, Secondary Education), Sara Schymick (BS '05, Elementary Education), and Jonathon Wennstrom (BS '95, Elementary Education), alumni from the Department of Teaching, Learning and Educational Studies (TLES) have been selected for the 2015-16 American Achieves Michigan Educator Voice Fellowship.

According to the Michigan Educator Voice Fellowship website, “The Michigan Educator Voice Fellowship, as a branch of the national America Achieves Teacher & Principal Fellowship, empowers outstanding teachers and principals to elevate their voices in public conversations about teaching and learning, to assume leadership roles in their schools and communities, and to influence education policies at the local, state, and national levels, including the implementation of college- and career-ready standards.”

TLES alumni Michigan Educator Voice Fellow biographies:

Jennifer Bond (BS '98, Elementary Education) has been an educator since 1999. The majority of those years have been spent teaching at Glengary Elementary in Walled Lake, Michigan. Bond has embraced weekly BYOD Days, Passion Time, and the Maker Movement into their educational routine, as well as running after school programs to foster creativity. Her classroom was featured in *Look I'm Learning*, a documentary that highlighted the impact of digital learning. She hopes to impact the hearts and minds of the educational system through the Michigan Educator Voice Fellowship.

Matthew McCullough (BS '02, Elementary Education; MA '09 Educational Leadership) is currently an Assistant Principal at Onsted Community Schools and has previously held positions as an administrator, teacher, academy leader and curriculum lead in Kalamazoo and Ann Arbor. McCullough has been honored as an Exemplary Nominee for the ASCD National Outstanding Young Educator of the Year and the Michigan Education Association Excellence in Education Teacher of the Year. As a Michigan Educator Voice Fellow, McCullough hopes to increase awareness of the amazing things Michigan educators do each day on behalf of their students.

Michelle Oppenheim (BS '03, Secondary Education) has been teaching English at Waverly High School for eleven years. Oppenheim has enjoyed serving as her high school's Teachers Learning Together (TLT) Manager for the past five years. Through the Fellowship, Oppenheim is looking forward to shining a light on the good work going on in public schools and plans to turn to the experts, or as she calls them, "teachers in the trenches" for ideas to make them better.

Donna Rummel (BS '98, Secondary Education) is the Project Manager for the Michigan Educator Voice Fellowship. Upon graduation from WMU, she taught high school English at Black River Public School in Holland, Michigan and at South Haven High School in South Haven, Michigan. She was also an Instructional Specialist at South Haven Public Schools and focused on initiatives such as Project Based Learning, Response to Intervention, and a district wide transition to the Common Core State Standards. As the English Educational Skills Specialist and Adjunct English Instructor at Lake Michigan College she worked with first-generation, disabled, and low income students, helping them complete their associate's degrees and transfer to four-year universities. Prior to this, she coordinated the Ingham County Youth Commission in Lansing, MI where she served on the Mayor's Race and Diversity conference committee and as the co-chair of the Community Coalition for Youth Media and Community Awareness. Donna earned her Master of Educational Leadership degree from Siena Heights University.

Sara Schymick (BS '05, Elementary Education) has been an educator for nine years at various grade levels and has served on and chaired numerous school committees. Her first six years were spent at Clintondale Community Schools where she taught grades K-1 and 5-5. For the past three years, Schymick has been teaching science. Schymick was recently selected as the 2014-15 Michigan Association for Middle School Educators (MAMSE) Educator of the Year.

Through the fellowship, Schymick plans to share the amazing and dedicated work of various public school educators.

Jonathon Wennstrom (BS '95, Secondary Education) is currently an elementary principal at Rosedale Elementary in Livonia Public Schools. He has been an educator for twenty years and is a former high school wrestling coach. Wennstrom is excited to be a member of the Michigan Educator Voice Fellowship and plans to advocate for and celebrate the work of public school teachers and administrators.

Other alumni from the College of Education and Human Development to participate in this fellowship include: Carolyn Bolduc (MA '14, Educational Leadership), Joshua Bridges (BS '05, Career and Technical Education; MA '13, Educational Technology), Erin Mastin (Graduate Certification in Educational Technology), and Shelley Peets (MA '01, Educational Leadership).

To learn more about the Michigan Educator Voice Fellowship please visit their website at miedvoice.org.

Student is third in a row from WMU to win national scholarship

by Deanne Puca
August 24, 2015 | WMU News

Alobiedat

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Textile and apparel studies student **Dena Alobiedat** has won the Wil Conard Regent's University Fashion Marketing scholarship for 2015. This is a nationally competitive scholarship given each year by the International Textile and Apparel Association.

Alobiedat, a senior from Kalamazoo, will use her award to study abroad at Regent's University School of Fashion and Design in London in spring 2016. She will be recognized as the recipient of the Regents Study Abroad in London Award at the ITAA Annual conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in November.

This award marks the third consecutive year a WMU student has won this national honor, and the ITAA awards only one per year. Previous recipients were Emily Olson in 2014 and Malu Figueiredo Palma in 2013.

