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Connections, 07/2017

College of Health and Human Services

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College of Health and Human Services



July 2017

[First Health Careers Connection cohort celebrated](#)

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[Retirement and role changes in the college](#)

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[Camp Shout Out scholarship for undergraduate and graduate students](#)

A scholarship is available to support the Camp Shout Out participation fee for Western Michigan University speech-language pathology students. The scholarship is available to graduate or undergraduate students accepted at the camp for 2018.



[Trustees OK agreement to buy property for senior day care program](#)

After using rented space for 17 years, a senior day care program offered through WMU now will have a permanent location thanks to a purchase agreement approved by the Board of Trustees.

HHS on Social Media



CHHS - Home of the most fashionable skeletons on campus

From the [College of Health and Human Services](#) on [Instagram](#)

In other news

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

- [Transformational Dunn Decade comes to a close](#)
- [Broncos reap millions in media exposure from championship season](#)
- [Save the date for Fall Convocation](#)

CHHS on Facebook and Instagram

The College of Health and Human Services is on [Facebook](#) AND [Instagram](#)! Please take a moment to "like" and "follow" us to stay informed on what's going on throughout the college.



First Health Careers Connection cohort celebrated

The first cohort in a new Health Careers Connection program at Western Michigan University [was celebrated Friday, June 30](#), at a luncheon held at the College of Health and Human Services. The event was held to thank the 12 students and their families who participated and to mark the program's final day of activities for 2017.

WMU President John M.

Dunn welcomed students, families, faculty and staff to the event and **Provost Timothy J. Greene** offered closing remarks to end the event. **Matt Lori**, WMU alumnus and deputy director of policy, planning and legislative services at the Michigan Dept. of Health and Human Services was the featured speaker.



President Dunn welcomed the group to the celebration

A highlight of the program was **Yuritzi Cruz**, who was chosen to speak on behalf of the students. She spoke of her gratitude for being included in the program; her appreciation for the faculty, staff and student employees who made the program possible; and the undeniable challenge of completing six credit hours of coursework in only three weeks.

The Health Careers Connection program was designed to improve the diversity, quality and availability of health care in areas of the state with a shortage of qualified practitioners. It is hoped that students will return to their home communities as health care providers after graduating from WMU.

Dean Earlie M. Washington began her college career in a similar program in Mississippi. The WMU program, announced last March, is recruiting outstanding students who plan to major in a health or human services discipline and come from underprivileged and medically underserved areas in Southwest Michigan.



Yuritzi Cruz, Nancy Cretsinger and Dean Washington

"We see reports about poor health in underserved communities and insufficient numbers of health care providers in southwest Michigan," said Washington. "This program fulfills a pressing need, while benefiting the college and University, as well as the students and our communities."

Those accepted into WMU's program receive full scholarships that cover tuition, and on-campus housing and meals while earning six hours of academic credit. They are selected from students residing in the 19-county catchment area of the Western Regional Area Health Education Center, which is housed in the College of Health and Human Services.

Nancy Cretsinger, the college's director of academic and student services, says the students in the first cohort are truly exceptional.

"We interviewed many remarkable individuals as part of the selection process for this first cohort," Cretsinger says. "The students in this group have achieved great things academically, and many of them have overcome great challenges to do so. Talking to these students is nothing short of inspirational."

For more information, visit wmich.edu/ahec/programs/connection.



Health Careers Connection 2017 cohort: (back) Emily Markovicz, Wil Henry, Nathaniel Mulder; (middle) Fatima Perez, Isabel Thorne, Emily Baker, Kaylee Nagel; (front) Yuritzi Cruz, Skylar Wingard, Alondra Ruiz, Emma Snook; (not pictured) Alexis Youngblood

Retirement and role changes in the college

Summer 2017 has been relatively active at the College of Health and Human Services where personnel are concerned. Several department heads retired or started stepping back toward retirement in July 2017.

School of Interdisciplinary Health Programs

Dr. Bob Wertkin has relinquished his director role as he steps toward retirement. He will return in the fall, on assignment to Dean Washington. After that, he will return to the faculty of the [School of Social Work](#).

As of July 1, the director of the [School of Interdisciplinary Health Programs](#) is **Dr. R. Mark Kelley**. Dr. Kelley has served in faculty and administrative capacities at several universities including the University of Tennessee at Martin, Western Illinois University, Oklahoma State University and the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse.



Wertkin and Kelley

Department of Occupational Therapy

Dr. Ben Atchison [officially retired](#) as chair of the [OT department](#) on June 30, after 34 years in higher education and 18 years at WMU. Dr. Atchison's career was celebrated at a gathering at the college in June. The [Ben and Marcia Atchison OT Endowment](#) was set up in his honor and has met the requirements to establish a full endowment.

Dr. Carla Chase has accepted the role of interim chair while a search for a permanent chair is underway.



Atchison and Chase

Department of Physician Assistant

Dr. Eric Vagnses has also retired after 17 years at WMU, during which he served as faculty, chair and program director in the [Department of Physician Assistant](#).

Associate Professor **Denise Bowen** steps up as interim chair of the department.



Vagnses and Bowen

Camp Shout Out scholarship for undergraduate and graduate students

A scholarship is available to support the [Camp Shout Out](#) participation fee for Western Michigan University speech-language pathology students. The scholarship is available to graduate or undergraduate students accepted at the camp for 2018.



Camp Shout Out is located on Big Blue Lake in [Holton, Michigan](#). It offers campers who are ages eight to 18 and who stutter a residential, interactive therapeutic experience in a traditional summer camp environment. Graduate students engage in a state-of-the-art learning experience and collaborate with professionals and experts in the field. Speech-language pathologists participate in a hands-on, unique continuing education training opportunity with a leadership team directed by Board Certified Specialists in Fluency.

The scholarship is supported by a gift given by **Jen Read**, in honor of her mother, **M. Margaret Read**, a WMU alumna and speech-language pathologist in the Boston, Mass. area for many years. One of Margaret's passions was supporting education related to fluency disorders.

"Camp Shout Out presents a wonderful opportunity for campers and for our students," said **Dr. Ann Tyler**, Associate Dean of the College of Health and Human Services and Interim Chair of the Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences. "This gift, in memory of Margaret, highlights her commitment to Dr. Van Riper's legacy of fluency education and clinical services."

The scholarship award is available to WMU speech, language and hearing sciences majors who apply to the SLP MA program and to currently enrolled SLP MA students. Students may receive this award one time only.

Camp Shout Out applications are typically accepted in February and March for the following summer. Visit the [Camp Shout Out website](#) for details.

Trustees OK agreement to buy property for senior day care program

contact: Paula Davis
June 30, 2017 | WMU News

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—After using rented space for 17 years, a senior day care program offered through Western Michigan University now will have a permanent location thanks to a purchase agreement approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its **June 29** meeting.

The board authorized purchase of the property at 110 W. Cork St. in Kalamazoo for \$230,000 from the Foundation for Behavioral Resources. The senior day care program to be housed in the Cork Street property is a service of the College of Health and Human Services through the Center for Disability Services–Aging Division. Located in rented space over the years, the day care program is currently offered in the gymnasium of a local church.

The longest-standing such program in Kalamazoo County, the senior day care center fills a crucial community need. Through the program, WMU faculty, staff and students have helped hundreds of people delay the need for nursing home placement.

The funds to the purchase and renovate the program's new home will be derived from Center for Disability Services reserve funds. University officials are in the process of completing due diligence on the property, including a structural survey and environmental assessment.