

June 2016

## Dr. Dan Morgan co-author in special issue of Teacher Education and Special Education

Dr. Dan Morgan is co-author of an article titled "The Search for Role Clarity: Challenges and Implications for Special Education Teacher Preparation," in the May 2016 issue of the journal of the Teacher Education Division of The Council for Exceptional Children.



[Read the entire article »](#)

## Two WMU researchers answer invitation to visit White House

Two Western Michigan University researchers visited the White House for an event that spotlighted a grant program funding work they are doing to develop new ways to increase the degree completion of first-generation, underrepresented and low-income student populations.



[Read the entire article »](#)

## HPHE professor named President of the Faculty Senate

Dr. Suzan Ayers, professor of physical education teacher education in the Department of Human Performance and Health Education, was elected the Faculty Senate President this May.



[Read the entire article »](#)

## Professor of counseling psychology presents paper in Brazil

Eric M. Sauer, professor of counseling psychology, and colleagues recently presented a paper at the 2nd Annual World Conference, in Buzios, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



[Read the entire article »](#)

## Little Dresses for Africa

Fashion Merchandising and Design students, who are members of MODA, created cotton dresses for Little Dresses for Africa, a nonprofit organization which provides relief to vulnerable children throughout the Continent of Africa and beyond.



[Read the entire article »](#)

## College of Education & Human Development Alumni Ambassador Program

The College of Education and Human Development invites alumni to participate in our new CEHD Alumni Ambassadors program. We encourage you to motivate and inspire potential and current students by sharing your experiences while a student at WMU, and as a professional in your field of study.



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## Other News

- [WMU researcher spends fellowship period on education research registry](#)
- [Rehabilitation Counseling program students and faculty meet with Senator Stabenow](#)

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# SPLS Chair co-author in special issue of Teacher Education and Special Education

May 12, 2016

Dr. Dan Morgan, Chair of Special Education, is co-author of an article titled "The Search for Role Clarity: Challenges and Implications for Special Education Teacher Preparation," in the May 2016 issue of the journal of the [Teacher Education Division of The Council for Exceptional Children](#). The special issue's theme, The Nexus of Special Education Policy, Practice and Scholarship: Higher Education Special Educators Look to the Future, addressed the complex set of challenges and opportunities that must be addressed as the field of special education moves to the future.



# Two WMU researchers answer invitation to visit White House

BY CHERYL ROLAND

APRIL 18, 2016 | WMU NEWS

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Two Western Michigan University researchers visited the White House **April 4** for an event that spotlighted a grant program funding work they are doing to develop new ways to increase the degree completion of first-generation, underrepresented and low-income student populations.

**Dr. Andrea Beach** and **Monica Liggins-Abrams** were in Washington for the annual meeting of research principals for efforts nationwide that are being funded by the U.S. Department of Education's First in the World Program. WMU's was the only research effort in Michigan funded in that program's initial round of support announced in 2014.

Through the First in the World Program, WMU received \$3.2 million to spend four years developing a culture of degree completion and success. The WMU effort uses mentoring relationships for first-year students to transform WMU's culture and structures to be more supportive of student persistence and lead to degree completion.

Beach, who co-directs WMU's grant project with Liggins-Abrams and Physics Professor **Dr. Charles Henderson**, says attendees at this week's conference were able to see some of their work spotlighted at the White House event and hear from such administration leaders as **Roberto Rodriguez**, deputy assistant to the president for education, and U.S. Department of Education Under Secretary **Ted Mitchell**.

WMU **President John M. Dunn** attended a similar White House event in 2014, when a College Opportunity Day of Action signaled the launch of the First in the World grant projects around the country. That event was attended as well by President Barack Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama and Vice President Joseph Biden.

**For more news, arts and events**, visit [wmich.edu/news](http://wmich.edu/news).



# HPHE professor named President of the Faculty Senate

Dr. Suzan Ayers, professor of physical education teacher education in the Department of Human Performance and Health Education, was elected the Faculty Senate President this May. Dr. Ayers, who has worked for HPHE since 2004, has served as her department representative to the Senate since 2006 and in a variety of other leadership roles across campus, including Chair of the WMU 21st Century Student Initiative, and the Development Coordinator of the Graduate Student Teaching Credential Program. Outside of the university, Dr. Ayers was named a Distinguished Alumni in Physical Education at Winthrop University, a Research Fellow by AAHPERD (now SHAPE America) and has been widely published in peer-reviewed journals throughout her career.



# Professor of counseling psychology presents paper in Brazil

April 20, 2016

Eric M. Sauer, professor of counseling psychology, and colleagues recently presented a paper at the 2nd Annual World Conference, in Buzios, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The paper, "Examining changes in client attachment patterns in psychotherapy: A growth modeling study," described a recent clinical attachment study. In this study, Sauer and colleagues examined the impact of client attachment over the course of therapy. Unexpectedly, clients with any higher levels of attachment anxiety improved more rapidly than their less anxious peers. They also found that, as early as the 6th session of therapy, higher levels of client attachment avoidance interfered with the process of counseling. That is, there was evidence to suggest that they were experiencing their therapists as pressing them to be more engaged than they would like, and possibly even experiencing their therapist as being too distant.

Citation: Sauer, E. M., Rice, K.G., Roberts, K. E., Richardson, C. E. M. (2016, March). Examining changes in client attachment patterns in psychotherapy: A growth modeling study. Paper presented at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual World Conference on Personality, Buzios, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



# Little Dresses for Africa

April 15, 2016

On Saturday, April 2, Fashion Merchandising and Design students applied their clothing design skills to a good cause. Twenty students, who are members of MODA, the major's RSO, spent the day creating cotton dresses for children in African countries. Fabric for the dresses was donated by several generous FCS faculty. The dresses will be donated to Little Dresses for Africa, a nonprofit organization which provides relief to vulnerable children throughout the Continent of Africa and beyond.

Pictured: Fashion Merchandising and Design majors Tori Ford and Takudzwa Chiduma, coordinators of the Little Dresses for Africa project.



# CEHD Alumni Ambassador Program



## WHAT IS THE CEHD ALUMNI AMBASSADOR PROGRAM?

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The College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) invites alumni to participate in our new CEHD Alumni Ambassadors program. We recognize that our alumni are one of our most valuable assets. Your experiences, achievements, and success stories highlight the positive impact a college education and a degree from our college can make on a student's life. We are hoping that you can **motivate and inspire** potential and current students by sharing your experiences while a student at WMU and as a professional in your field of study.

## WHAT ACTIVITIES CAN I PARTICIPATE IN?

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All alumni from the College of Education and Human Development are eligible to participate in our Ambassador program. The program is designed so that you can participate in many different ways and individualize your involvement.

Some of the activities include:

- Writing emails to newly admitted students
- Making phone calls to newly admitted students
- Attending on-campus recruitment events to mingle with prospective students
- Attending professional development workshops (example: ECCU and human development forums)
- Presenting at a CEHD professional development workshop (example: ECCU and human development forum)



- For alumni working in a Michigan K-12 school, serving as a liaison to distribute college materials to colleagues and connecting with newly admitted students if you work in a high school
- Mentoring a current undergraduate student as part of the Students Excelling in Education and Development (SEED) mentor program

## HOW DO I SIGN UP?

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Signing up for the program is easy. Express your interest in participating by clicking on the link below and completing a short questionnaire.

After submitting the questionnaire, you will be contacted by our CEHD Recruitment and Outreach Manager to further discuss the program and your potential participation.