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A Message From the Dean

Dear CEHD Friends,

Greetings from the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) at Western Michigan University (WMU) and welcome to the 2017 summer issue of Professional Reflections, the official magazine of our college. This edition features students, faculty and staff, alumni, and happenings in the college that exemplify the mission of CEHD to develop exceptional education and human development professionals who positively impact our global society and advance knowledge through teaching, scholarship, creative works, and service.

The “Students” section shares stories about our students: a Fulbright scholar finding his home on Western’s campus; a Bronco studying abroad through the Gilman International Scholarship; a student being named a Presidential Leadership Program Honoree for giving back to the community, and a brother and sister pair starting a business while pursuing their degrees at WMU. The “Faculty & Staff” section highlights the awards received by our faculty and staff in this academic year. Such awards include the humanitarian award, the emerging and distinguished scholars’ awards, the distinguished grant award, and the high-five awards. The “Alumni” section features the accomplishments of a number of alumni such as receiving an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters for being the leading voice for Hispanic-serving institutions and being promoted to the deanship of a community college. Finally, the “In the College” section highlights the CEHD U.S. News & World Report rankings, welcomes new faculty and staff, and announces a new master’s program in organizational change leadership.

As alumna Amy Koning, Dean of the School of Workforce Development at Grand Rapids Community College, indicated while talking about her time at WMU, “you aren’t there for the degree, you are there to make a difference”. Indeed, our students, faculty and staff, alumni, and programs are making a distinct difference every day. The stories contained in this edition are only a sample of the extraordinary impact our network of CEHD professionals make at the local, regional, national, and global levels.

I hope you will enjoy reading these stories and that you will be as inspired as I am by the positive impact that CEHD professionals make every day.

Best Wishes,

Ming Li, Ed.D.
Four CEHD top senior students were recognized at the 37th annual Presidential Scholars Convocation on March 28, 2017. The Presidential Scholar designation is the highest academic honor that WMU can bestow on its undergraduates.

Hristina Petrovska
Dietetics

Maegan Ackerman
Exercise Science
ALLYSON DYKSTRA, SHANNON STOKELMAN, and ASHLEY WALTERS participated in Michigan State University’s Interior Design Student Organization’s Interior Design Charrette. Stokelman’s team took first in the competition, while Dkystra and Walter’s team took second.

NICHOLAS CHERUP was named as one of four “All-University Creative Scholars” by WMU’s Graduate College at the master’s level for the 2016-17 academic year. Cherup is an exercise physiology student.

JORDAN EBANAYA presented her research project on infant mortality disparities across the state at the Urban Democracy Feast in March, 2017. Ebanaya gained over 40% of the votes at the fundraiser, receiving over $450 toward her research. Ebanaya is a family and consumer sciences student.

MACKENZIE MCCLAIN and ROSEMARIE SOMA are two of just twenty 2017 Medallion Scholarship recipients at WMU. McClain will be majoring in elementary education while Soma will be majoring in fashion merchandising and design. Each Medallion Scholarship is valued at $60,000 across four years. It is the highest merit-based scholarship offered at the University, and is among the largest merit-based scholarship programs in American higher education.

KARA WOODSHANK received the Graduate Teaching Effectiveness Award from the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences on Thursday, April 13, 2017.

KEVIN SCHNEIDER received the 2016-2017 Society of Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE) America Major of the Year Award. Schneider, a physical education major, also received the SHAPE Michigan Student Honor Award.

ANDREW PHILLIP KELLER BENTLEY and QI ZHANG were recipients of the Eleventh Annual Research and Creative Activities Poster and Performance Day Award given by the WMU Graduate College. Keller Bentley is a science education major and Zhang is an evaluation, measurement and research major.

KATHERINE WILLIAMSON Special Education

ARENNA CLAYTON Secondary Education
BRIGHT FUTURE
WMU FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR CESAR BRIONES EXCELS IN PROGRAM
Born in Kiev, Ukraine while both of his parents were pursuing PhDs in Psychology, Nicaragua native Cesar Briones (counseling psychology) was bound from the beginning to have a love of international education.

He earned an undergraduate degree in psychology and a master’s degree in clinical health and psychology in Nicaragua and then began pursuing options to study abroad. A Fulbright Scholarship connected him to Western Michigan University (WMU), and he couldn’t be happier to have ended up here. The Fulbright Program is funded by the State Department and sponsors exchanges with over 155 countries worldwide.

Briones has found WMU to be a student-friendly environment and has never felt lost here, even though it’s a large campus. One of his favorite things about WMU is the diversity on campus. “It’s been really amazing to get to know all these people doing really amazing work here from all these different cultures,” he shares.

Being at WMU has changed his life in every aspect: academically, professionally and personally. For Briones, “the best quality of WMU’s counseling psychology program is that wherever you come from, you will truly feel at home.” He loves the detailed focus on multicultural issues in the program, notably the connection between mental health and social justice and how elements such as race, gender, class, and sexual orientation are intertwined. His favorite class was Multicultural Counseling, not only because Dr. Joseph Morris is a leading scholar in topics regarding race, but also because it provided a space to address issues of race and inequalities and their consequences on mental health.

Briones highly recommends this program as he feels it prepares you for the changing world of psychology and provides you with the ability to advocate for those that are oppressed and have access to the best and most current psychological assessment tools. His advice to future students: “Enjoy this wonderful program and professors. They are here for you.”

Inspired by his own experiences studying and traveling abroad, James Fulbright, a senator from Arkansas, introduced legislation to use surplus war materials funds to create an international exchange program in 1945. President Harry Truman signed the Fulbright Program into law in 1946. The goal of the international scholarship program is “to increase mutual understanding and support friendly and peaceful relations between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.” Today, the State Department manages the program which is funded by annual appropriations made by congress.

wmich.edu/international/fulbright
BRONCO ABROAD

EXERCISE SCIENCE STUDENT STUDIES ABROAD ON NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

EnRico Montalvo, a senior with double majors in Spanish and exercise science, received a Gilman Scholarship to study in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Montalvo is among 926 undergraduate awardees out of more than 2,800 U.S. applicants to receive a Gilman Scholarship for the spring 2017 semester.

The Gilman program offers study abroad grants for undergraduate students who demonstrate high financial need. The congressionally-funded program supports study abroad by defraying such costs as tuition, room and board, books, local transportation, insurance, and international airfare.

The program has been successful in supporting students who have been historically underrepresented in education abroad, including first-generation college students, ethnic minority students, and students who have disabilities, are from U.S. states with low study abroad participation, and are studying in science, technology, engineering and mathematics—STEM—fields.

Montalvo, a Kalamazoo native, has selected programs of study that reflect significant personal interests he has factored into his career plans.

“Exercise and sports are a big part of my life, so exercise science was the right fit for me. Also, I have always had an interest in foreign languages, but my family’s Mexican background drove me toward Spanish,” he says. “After graduation, I plan on applying to physical therapy school. It’s a great way to connect with people and assist them in their time of need.”

While studying abroad, Montalvo says he plans to polish his Spanish skills and continue to improve his networking abilities. He also wants to share his experience with others, so he will be keeping in touch with a Spanish class at Loy Norrix High School in Kalamazoo.

“Hopefully,” he says, “this will inspire younger students to study abroad and chase their passions.”

Montalvo reports that he has always wanted to visit South America and live in a big city for a while. He adds that he can do both through WMU’s Buenos Aires program, while also experiencing a city that has a strong mixture of both European and Latin American influences. He says participating in the program may never have been possible without the Gilman Scholarship.

“When I began my academic career, I never thought I could study abroad due to financial reasons. Receiving the Gilman is a realization that it is possible to accomplish goals which may seem unobtainable at first glance,” Montalvo says. “The entire process of applying for and receiving the scholarship taught me that with hard work, you can overcome most obstacles in life.”
FOR MORE INFORMATION

about how the Gilman International Scholarship can be a bridge to the world or to learn about WMU’s study abroad programs and services, visit wmich.edu/studyabroad frequently or call (269) 387-5890.
Alexis Lenderman is a committed student regularly engaging in anything that gives her the opportunity to bring about equality for all people. Alexis is constantly thinking of ways to change the world around her, and she is quick to act on many of them.

— DR. JOHN DUNN, WMU PRESIDENT

In April, Alexis Lenderman (BS ’18, food service administration), who has devoted countless hours to community engagement, was named a 2017 Newman Civic Fellow, and in May she was named a Leadership and the American Presidency scholarship winner.

Lenderman is one of 273 students who were selected as fellows from higher education institutions in 39 states and Washington, D.C., that are members of Campus Compact. Presidents and chancellors of the compact’s member institutions nominate one community-committed student from their schools for the one-year Newman fellowship.

Lenderman is one of only five 2017 fellows to also receive a scholarship from the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute’s fall 2017 Leadership and the American Presidency program.

A former foster-care youth, Lenderman received a scholarship from WMU’s Seita Scholars Program, which goes to students at the University who have experienced foster care in their teen years. She subsequently has worked closely with the program to bring awareness and help to other foster-care youth.

“As a first-generation college student who aged out of the foster care system, I have seen the power of advocacy on behalf of marginalized populations firsthand,” Lenderman wrote in a personal statement associated with the fellowship. “I spent years feeling as if I did not have a voice, so I am determined to use my voice to address social issues affecting those that have also felt unheard.”

Understanding that social change does not happen alone, she has initiated several campus projects and activities. In addition, she routinely takes advantage of opportunities to support positive social change, such as attending Black Lives Matter teach-ins, advocacy summits and Model United Nations conferences.

“I am also passionate about worldwide change. I have studied abroad five different times, and I serve as a [WMU] Study Abroad alumni ambassador to make others aware of the opportunity,” Lenderman wrote. “Through this experience, I realized that finances can present a barrier to students receiving the best education they can. As a result, I created a business called The Scholarship Expert, where I assist students in accessing needed funds.”

Campus Compact is a national coalition of more than 1,000 colleges and universities. The organization advances the public purposes of its members by deepening their ability to improve community life and to educate students for civic and social responsibility. Its Newman Civic Fellowship provides a variety of learning and networking opportunities to students as well as pathways to exclusive scholarship and postgraduate opportunities.

The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation Leadership and the American Presidency program provides an accredited course grounded in real history where students critically examine the leadership journeys of presidents in relation to their own lives. Students hear from leaders in the fields of business, government and the nonprofit sectors, learning lessons on leadership while simultaneously applying all of their skills in the real world in an internship setting and in authentic course assignments.
When brother and sister Aaron and Alicia Clemens (both family studies, ‘17) lost their father, it was hard to see into the future. They got through their loss by trying to do things that would make him proud. Their father, Gary Clemens, was an avid fishermen and created his own spice blend to complement his favorite food.

Through trial and error, Aaron and Alicia, along with their mother Lori, were able to perfectly recreate Gary’s seasoning salt blend and share it with the world by starting a business.

At first, they were selling their seasoning door to door and had very little idea how to successfully run a business. They happened to knock on the door of a WMU business professor who suggested they
My senior year has really been the turning point where I realized I am glad that I am here at WMU. I am meant to be here for a reason, and I am excited to see what life holds after graduation.

— AARON CLEMENS

check out Starting Gate, a student business accelerator that gives students rich and valuable resources to develop their startup companies. Participating in the program helped the Clemens twins to fully launch Season for a Reason and make their family business a true reality.

In 2016, they began selling at the Kalamazoo People’s Food Co-op, the 100 Mile Market, and the Kalamazoo Farmers Market. Recently, two Harding’s locations in Kalamazoo began to carry the product as well as the Natural Health Center. Season for a Reason now sells multiple different flavor blends at different spice levels such as Gary’s classic zesty blend of salt, cajun, paprika, and oregano. The family recipes are all natural gluten free and do not include sugar. Rather, the business uses a heat component to give the flavor an extra kick.

It was very important to the Clemens family that a portion of their profits be donated back to the Kalamazoo community and local organizations. To do so, they are taking inventory on how many blends they sell, and when the company hits the 500 mark, Season for a Reason will make a donation to FridayGroceries Food Pantry, an outreach program of Valley Family Church in Kalamazoo that distributes groceries to families in need throughout the community.
Five CEHD staff members were recognized for going above and beyond their work duties. This award was given bi-monthly during the 2016-17 academic year.

Not Pictured:
Marijo Elwell, Field Placements

CAROL REID
a recently retired academic advisor, was honored by WMU with the Semiannual Make a Difference Award. The Make a Difference Award Program is a campuswide peer-to-peer initiative that recognizes University staff members for their outstanding accomplishments and daily investment of energy and creativity.

M’MYIA HUGHES
TRiO FESP

CAROL MORRIS-MIER
Admissions and Advising
$82,350,142

During the 2016-17 academic year, CEHD faculty and staff submitted 42 external grant proposals totaling over $82 million.

**SUSAN PIAZZA**

associate professor of literacy studies, presented at the Literacy Research Association’s 66th Annual Conference in Nashville, TN on November 30, 2016 along with international colleagues from Germany, Canada, China, and others from around the U.S.

**DINI METRO-ROLAND**

from the Department of Teaching, Learning and Educational Studies is the director of the Humanities for Everybody program at WMU. The program was awarded a $100,000 Humanities Access grant by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

**DAE SEOK**

was recently awarded the Diversity Matters Seed Grant from Texas A&M University, for which he will serve as Co-Principal Investigator. Seok is a professor of organizational change leadership.

**DEBRA BERKEY**

was selected to receive the Distinguished Advisor Award from the Phi Epsilon Kappa Fraternity, a national academic honors fraternity for Human Performance and Health Education students.

**JENNIFER FOSTER**

doctor of counselor education and counseling psychology, traveled to Bangalore, India to provide child sexual abuse prevention trainings with parents, teachers, counselors-in-training, faculty members, and ministry leaders. The workshops focused on increasing participants’ knowledge about child sexual abuse and learning specific strategies to protect children. Foster’s pilot program trained 400 adults in diverse prevention strategies.

**ROBIN MILLAR**

was named the 2017 Western Michigan University Golden Bronco Advisor of the Year by the Office of Student Activities and Leadership Programs. Millar is a faculty member in the family sciences program.

**CAROL REID** and **KATRINA GOODALL**

were awarded the College of Education and Human Development Staff Semi-Annual Recognition Award during the Fall and Spring semesters of 2016-17. Reid is an advisor in the Office of Admissions and Advising and Goodall is from the Office of Field Placements.
Associate professor of counselor education, Dr. Phillip Johnson, recently was presented with the 2016 Humanitarian Award by the Metropolitan Kalamazoo Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). This award is a direct reflection of the contributions Dr. Johnson has made to improve the lives of people of color in the areas of politics, education, religion, civil rights and community service.

Throughout his career, Dr. Johnson has focused much of his efforts towards decreasing the impact of our racialized society on African Americans, specifically African American males. Dr. Johnson has presented his work at many conferences and written in various journals nationally. He is a member of the University-Community Empowerment Center at Western Michigan University and the Metropolitan Kalamazoo Branch NAACP, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., and Galilee Baptist Church.

The National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded a $100,000 grant to Western Michigan University’s Humanities for Everybody—H4E—program. H4E provides a series of free, rigorous humanities courses to members of the greater Kalamazoo community that are taught by experienced WMU faculty members. It is a collaboration between the University Center for the Humanities at WMU and the housing-related charity Open Doors Kalamazoo.

“Unlike most bridge-year programs, where universities send students out into communities before their freshman year, we propose to bring the University to the community itself,” says Dr. Dini Metro-Roland, H4E director and a WMU associate professor of teaching, learning and educational studies. Metro-Roland says the NEH grant will not only provide essential seed money for scholarships for Promise-ineligible students, but also help offset H4E’s costs for operation and orientation activities, and the hiring of a coordinator and recruiter.
Increasing diversity among faculty, students and staff has always been one of my administrative priorities and commitments. I believe we need to expand our horizons and work hard to fight for diversity both in our community and internationally.”

— DR. MING LI, DEAN

Dr. Ming Li, dean of the College of Education and Human Development, is among 39 national higher education leaders honored by INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, the oldest and largest diversity and inclusion publication in higher education. Li and his fellow recipients were honored with the magazine’s 2017 Giving Back Award. The annual award program honors college and university administrators who go above and beyond their everyday leadership duties and “give back” to their campuses and communities.

Li is featured, along with 38 other recipients, in the April 2017 Leadership Support and Giving Back issue of INSIGHT Into Diversity.

Li, who has served as CEHD dean at WMU since 2013, was specifically honored because he has focused his career as Dean on diversifying the K-12 teacher workforce by making teacher preparation programs more accessible to underrepresented students.

Li is the only honoree this year from a Michigan public university. The only other Michigan award winner is Linda Logan, vice president and dean of students at Olivet College. Other honorees from around the nation include leaders from the universities of Boston, Cincinnati, Georgia and Louisville as well as Penn State and Southern Illinois universities.

WMU President John M. Dunn was a recipient of the 2016 Giving Back Award and was featured in the April 2016 issue of INSIGHT into Diversity magazine.
GRANT AWARDS

CEHD HONORS THE 2016 EMERGING AND DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR AWARD RECIPIENTS

The College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) is honoring Dr. Maria Selena Protacio, assistant professor of literacy studies in the Department of Special Education and Literacy Studies, and Dr. Gary Miron, professor of evaluation, measurement and research in the Department of Education Leadership, Research and Technology, for their influential scholarship.

Dr. Maria Selena Protacio, the 2016 CEHD Emerging Scholar Award recipient, has been employed at Western Michigan University (WMU) since 2012 and was promoted to associate professor in 2017. She has given 29 presentations and published six peer reviewed articles, three book chapters, and one encyclopedia entry.

Protacio’s research interests include literacy engagement, the education of English learners, the preparation of mainstream teachers to education diverse learners, and immigrant parent involvement. She received an Honorable Mention for the Student Outstanding Research Award of the Literacy Research Association (LRA) in 2013 and was also an LRA Scholars of color Transitioning into Academic Research institutions (STAR) Fellow.

The Emerging Scholar Award recognizes one individual with outstanding scholarly accomplishments and the potential for continued excellence. The recipient must be a full-time, board-appointed faculty member in CEHD at WMU. At time of nomination, faculty member must not be tenured.

Dr. Gary Miron, the 2016 CEHD Distinguished Scholar Award recipient, has been employed at WMU for 19 years. He first worked at the Evaluation Center and for the past 13 years has been a professor. He has brought in 47 grants and contracts worth just under $5 million dollars. He has published 9 books or monographs, close to 50 peer-reviewed articles, chapter or policy papers, and more than 100 non-peer reviewed technical reports and policy papers. Miron has been included in the Education Week and the American Enterprise Institute list of top 200 most influential education scholars in the United States, with his highest ranking at 33 in 2013. He also received a rank of 8 in the sub-field of school governance and education policy in 2014.

Miron is recognized as a national and international expert in the fields of evaluation theory and methods, education policy, and school reform. He is a fellow with the National Education Policy Center and has served on the editorial board for Education Evaluation and Policy Analysis. His current research has focused on charter schools, virtual schools, and school reform both in the United States and abroad. Some of his most cited works are technical reports from evaluations of state education reform. Miron has been invited to testify before Congress and legislative committees in Michigan and Kentucky based on his research.

The Distinguished Scholar Award recognizes one individual with a body of outstanding scholarly accomplishments that has had an impact on the field. The recipient must be a full-time, board-appointed, tenured faculty member with a minimum of seven years of service in CEHD at WMU.

“I am honored to receive the CEHD Emerging Scholar award, and this serves as even more motivation to continue my line of research so that I can contribute to the literacy and English as a Second Language (ESL) research fields.”

— DR. SELENA PROTACIO
Dr. Jianping Shen, professor of education leadership, research, and technology, has been selected as a Distinguished Grant Awardee by the Office of the Vice President of Research’s Research Recognition Committee. This award recognizes principal investigators or co-principal investigators who, in external funding as a PI or co-PI, received $5 million or more over a five-year span. The award was presented to Dr. Shen at the 2017 Spring Convocation which took place February 17.

Dr. Shen received his doctoral degree from the University of Washington in Seattle. After his post-doctoral appointment at the University of Washington, he came to WMU in 1996. He is currently the John E. Sandberg Professor of Education and the Gwen Frostic Endowed Chair.
for Research and Innovation in the Department of Education Leadership, Research and Technology. He also directs the Merze Tate Center for Grants and Innovation and the Center for Educational Leadership and Policy.

Shen has taught courses in leadership, theory, policy analysis, research methods, and dissertation seminar, among others. Thirty-two doctoral students have completed their dissertations under his direction and he has also served as a committee member for 39 completed dissertation studies.

His research has focused on leadership theory, data-informed decision making, teacher retention and attrition, alternative certification, and systemic change, using both quantitative and qualitative methodologies. He has published extensively in English, including six books, more than 80 articles, and about 20 book chapters. His research appears in prestigious journals such as the American Educational Research Journal, Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, and the American Journal of Education.

Shen has directed or co-directed externally funded projects totaling more than $13 million from the U.S. Department of Education, the Wallace Foundation, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the Spencer Foundation, among others.

Other Distinguished Grant Award winners at WMU include Dr. James Henry, Dr. Robert Bensley, and Dr. Stephanie Peterson.
ALUMNI

2016-17 CEHD ALUMNI AWARDS

The recipients of the 2016-17 Golden Apple and Keystone Awards exemplify CEHD’s mission to develop exceptional education and human development professionals who positively impact our global society.

ROBERT EZELLE
Golden Apple

BOBBY HOPEWELL
Keystone Meritorious
RANDALL SELTZ
(BA ‘09, secondary education) was awarded the Roald F. and Della J. Campbell fellowship at the University of Utah.

STEPHANIE BURRAGE
(BA ‘00, secondary education) recently debuted her new book, “Jewels for Every Woman: A Guide to Queendom Living.” The jewels found in the book will teach women to rise above the obstacles of life using faith, compassion, love, and confidence to guide their daily path.

CARLA POSTELL
(EdD ‘11, educational leadership) is one of eleven educators chosen for the Gerstacker Fellowship through Saginaw Valley State University. The year-long program provides concentrated leadership training and a capstone international trip to Japan.

CHARMANE ECHOLS
(BS ‘77, elementary education; MA ‘82, reading; EdS ‘85, educational leadership) recently wrote a book titled “In My Own Shoes: The Adventures of Kimberlite.” The book was recently selected by the Arts & Humanities Jury of the Delta Kappa Gamma (DKG) Society International to be published in the DKG Gallery of Fine Arts.

VIC FORTEZZA
(BS ‘71, physical education) has written a novel titled “Five Cents.” The novel takes place in a town named Kazoo in the early 1970’s and revolves around a returning Vietnam Veteran. The novel is a love story that focuses on the changes Americans were undergoing during that time, and joy brought on by the senses.

TRACY FOSTER and VALERIE KRZEWSKI
(Foster: BA ‘96, elementary education; Krzewski: BA ‘13, secondary education) were awarded the Educator Innovation Award by the Department of Teaching, Learning and Educational Studies at their inaugural awards celebration.

DENNIS ARCHER SR.
(BS ‘65, special education) will be honored along with fellow WMU alumnus, Ronald E. Hall and William F. Pickard. Two campus residence halls and a Heritage Hall conference room will be named after the alumni, who met at WMU in the 1960s.

RICK NOBLE
(BS ‘75, agriculture) recently received the Abraham Lincoln Honor Award on September 13, 2016; the most prestigious award offered by the United States Department of Agriculture.
ANTONIO FLORES

WMU AWARDS CEHD ALUMNUS WITH HONORARY DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS DEGREE
CEHD alumnus Dr. Antonio Flores, president and chief executive officer of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Western Michigan University during commencement on April 29, 2017.

Dr. Flores is HACU’s third president. The association he leads is the leading voice for Hispanic-serving institutions and has nearly tripled its membership during his tenure. It now represents more than 400 institutions of higher education, collectively serving more than 2 million Hispanic students across 35 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Prior to taking the leadership position at HACU, Dr. Flores served as director of programs and services for the Michigan Higher Education Assistance Authority and the Michigan Higher Education Loan Authority. His responsibilities included policy analysis, legislative affairs, technical assistance and outreach services for all Michigan colleges and universities.

His early career also included teaching in public and private institutions ranging from community colleges to comprehensive research institutions.

Dr. Flores has previously been honored by WMU with a Distinguished Alumni Award. Other honors he’s received include a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Educational Policy Institute and the Hispanic Business Magazine Lifetime Achievement Award. He also has been the subject of a Univision broadcast capsule, “Orgullo Hispano,” which features notable Hispanics and Hispanic-Americans.

Dr. Flores earned bachelor’s degrees in business administration and elementary education from Universidad de Guadalajara and Centro Normal Regional University, respectively. He earned a master’s degree in counseling and personnel from the College of Education and Human Development at WMU and a doctoral degree from the University of Michigan.

How the decision was made:

A campuswide committee made the degree recommendation to WMU President John M. Dunn and the WMU board. The committee, led by Kathryn L. Hillenbrand, a master faculty specialist in the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology, praised Flores’ scholarly, professional and humanitarian leadership and noted that those qualities “comprise an exceptional model of the ideals and aspirations for students, faculty, staff and alumni of Western Michigan University.”
ALUMNA NAMED DEAN

TWO-TIME ALUMNA NAMED DEAN OF SCHOOL OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AT GRAND RAPIDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Two-time graduate of the Western Michigan University College of Education and Human Development, Amy Koning (PhD ’16, Educational Leadership; MA ’03, Educational Leadership), was recently named dean of the School of Workforce Development at Grand Rapids Community College (GRCC).

The School of Workforce Development works with industry leaders to ensure graduates enter the workforce prepared for employment. GRCC offers 91 workforce programs spanning from applied technology, to culinary arts, to nursing, to workforce training. Koning sees the connection between industry and the community college as being extremely important. She says that, “in workforce development, I really firmly believe we have a role to play as a community college to help our industry partners develop talent that they need, which is ever-changing.” With so many programs with changing needs under her authority, it’s clear that those appointing Koning to the position feel she is up to the challenge.

The appointment marks the next step in a long career for Koning at GRCC where she has worked in various capacities since 1996. Most recently, she served as the associate dean of operations for the School of Workforce Development. Prior to that, she was an adjunct business professor for 14 years. Koning started at GRCC doing staff development and technical training.

Koning shares that her Ed Leadership degrees from WMU prepared her in several ways for her role as dean. The leadership classes she took helped shape her career and the class discussions around school business management, superintendency, and school/community relations really helped her frame her mindset as an education leader. The most important preparation came from the personal interactions she had with classmates and instructors. “The diverse thinking pool within each class helped to acknowledge the importance of listening, looking for innovative solutions, and learning from others,” Koning says.

Koning stays connected to the GRCC campus by making time for weekly “walk abouts” on campus and making sure students know her door is always open.

We asked Koning what advice she has for current students studying in the field of Educational Leadership. She recommends staying focused on the reason behind the coursework in order to become a great leader in education: “Take what a textbook, project, dissertation, instructor, classmates, etc. can teach you and put it into action. You aren’t there for the degree, you are there to make a difference in the educational system.”

Koning has definitely made a difference at Grand Rapids Community College and the Broncos wish her great success in her new role as dean.
IN THE COLLEGE

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

CEHD IS RANKED THREE TIMES NATIONALLY IN THE ANNUAL RANKINGS

37

REHABILITATION COUNSELING

92

ONLINE GRADUATE EDUCATION PROGRAMS
THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT WELCOMES NEW FACULTY AND STAFF

ADMISSIONS AND ADVISING
Stacie Ballard, Academic Advisor
Amanda Lozier, Academic Advisor
Jennifer Nitzel, Administrative Assistant
Chris Robinson, Director of Admissions and Advising

COUNSELOR EDUCATION AND COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY
Kelley Holladay, Faculty Specialist II
Cynthia Seedorff, Administrative Assistant

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP, RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY
Dae Seok Chai, Assistant Professor
David Szabla, Faculty Specialist II

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES
Mary Simpson, Assistant Professor

OFFICE OF THE DEAN
Valerie Horwath, Manager of Recruitment and Outreach

SPECIAL EDUCATION AND LITERACY STUDIES
Emily Curiel, Assistant Professor
Sharon Kingston, Administrative Assistant

TEACHING, LEARNING AND EDUCATIONAL STUDIES
Moi Mooi Lew, Faculty Specialist I

The 2018 national rankings by U.S. News and World Report were released on March 14, 2017 and showed that the College of Education and Human Development was ranked three separate times for graduate programs. The highest among the three is Rehabilitation Counseling (No. 37) which is jointly administered with the College of Health and Human Services. Online graduate education programs were also ranked (No. 92) among the top 100 online graduate education programs in the nation. CEHD was also ranked as one of the best graduate schools in education (No. 120), moving up six spots from 2017.
A totally redesigned graduate program in organizational change leadership is being offered on Western Michigan University’s main campus, as well as its regional locations in Grand Rapids and Metro Detroit.

The Master of Arts in organizational change leadership grew out of what had been the Master of Arts in organizational learning and performance. The new program has been redesigned and renamed to emphasize that cross-cultural understanding and the ability to lead effective change are among the most critical and sought-after competencies for a wide range of today’s organizations.

The new 33-hour M.A. in organizational change leadership is a competency-grounded program that builds capacities to effectively lead and develop individuals, groups and organizations in an age of globalization. All courses are designed for full-time working professionals and are a hybrid of one or two face-to-face class meetings per month with the remaining coursework completed online.

Organizational change leadership is housed in the Department of Educational Leadership, Research and Technology. Dr. Dae Seok Chai, an assistant professor in the department, teaches and advises students in the program, and Dr. David B. Szabla, a faculty specialist II in the department, serves as program director. WMU’s Extended University Programs division has brought the program to its WMU-MetroDetroit location in Auburn Hills as well as its WMU-Grand Rapids Beltline location.

Chai notes that the organizational change leadership program is being offered in two formats. The traditional format is being offered in Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo. It allows students to design their own coursework plan and complete the program at their own pace over a two- to four-year period. The accelerated format is being offered in Auburn Hills. It places students in a lock-step cohort that meets face-to-face on Saturdays and provides the opportunity to complete the program in five semesters.

Organizational change leadership students learn to design, develop and implement sustainable change using methods for making the change process run smoother, smarter, faster and more efficiently. Importantly, WMU’s program equips them to be a research-based practitioner—one who applies theory and research to organizational challenges using rigorous data collection and analysis protocols.

“Our students are directors, managers, trainers, consultants and other individuals working in a variety of functional areas, organization types and industry sectors. In addition to people who are responsible for internal change initiatives or helping employees adapt to organizational change, they include people who want to sharpen their existing skills or are transitioning to new roles,” Szabla says.

“We focus on developing marketable change leadership skills that can be immediately applied to the workplace. As a result, our program is becoming the top laboratory for exploring the practice of leading organizational change in the state of Michigan.”

— DR. DAVID SZABLA
2017 CEHD AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

11 CEHD FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS WERE HONORED ON APRIL 21, 2017 FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

**ESPRIT DE CORPS AWARD**
Dr. Jim Muchmore

**STAFF EXCELLENCE AWARD**
Derek Andree

**MULTICULTURAL ADVOCATE AWARD FOR GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT**
Dr. Yuanlong Liu

**MULTICULTURAL ADVOCATE AWARD FOR PROMOTION OF DIVERSITY**
Melissa Holman
TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD PART-TIME
David Melotti

MARY L. DAWSON TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD
Dr. Sue Poppink

RISING STAR AWARD DOCTORAL
Xingyuan Gao

RISING STAR AWARD MASTERS
Gerica Lee

RISING STAR AWARD UNDERGRADUATE
Katherine Williamson

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AWARD
Dr. Patricia Reeves

TRAILBLAZER AWARD
Dr. Beverly Vandiver
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Education and Health Across China: From Kindergarten to College study abroad students in China led by HPHE Professor and Chair, Dr. Yuanlong Liu.