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## June 2017 news items

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# June 2017 archived news items

## Save the date for Fall Convocation

CONTACT: JEANNE BARON  
JUNE 27, 2017 | WMU NEWS



Last year's campuswide award recipients.

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—**Friday, Oct. 6**, has been set as the date for Western Michigan University's Fall Convocation.

An annual tradition, the convocation features an awards presentation and the State of the University Address, as well as talks and workshops for WMU faculty and staff.

This year, all activities are taking place on the second floor of the Bernhard Center. Some of the University's highest-performing employees will be feted starting at 11 a.m. during the presentation of WMU's annual campuswide awards.

The 2017 event will honor the recipients of three Distinguished Faculty Scholar Awards, three Distinguished Teaching Awards, two Distinguished Service Awards, one Emerging Scholar Award and four Make a Difference Awards.

New WMU President **Edward B. Montgomery** will give his first State of the University Address immediately after the awards presentation. Following the address, a reception will be held for Montgomery, who is scheduled to be inaugurated Friday, Sept. 15, as WMU's ninth president.

Convocation day starts with a morning program that includes Teaching and Learning Bash presentations by the recipients of the 2016 Distinguished Teaching Award and recipients of prior Instructional Development grants as well as poster presentations by the 2016-17 Academic Leadership Academy cohort and BroncosFIRST. Additionally, there will be demonstrations on new technology and assessment ideas in the classroom.

**To register for a morning program** event, visit [wapps.wmich.edu/workshops](http://wapps.wmich.edu/workshops). Direct questions about the convocation to Susan Daniels at [susan.daniels@wmich.edu](mailto:susan.daniels@wmich.edu) or (269) 387-2383.

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

## Grants to WMU soar past \$3.7 million mark in April, May

CONTACT: MARK SCHWERIN  
JUNE 30, 2017 | WMU NEWS

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Grants to Western Michigan University passed the **\$3.7 million** mark during April and May, bringing the year-to-date total for externally funded awards to more than **\$23.2 million**, WMU trustees learned at their **June 29** meeting.

Grants for research again led the way, climbing to more than \$1.8 million. Three new grants from the National Science Foundation topped the list of research grants, with the largest grant totaling \$621,851 and going to **Dr. Laura R. Van Zoest**, WMU professor of mathematics. That grant will fund MOSTs—Mathematical Opportunities in Student Thinking—a project that will create tasks specifically designed to generate opportunities for teachers to build on students' thinking and then use classroom observation and analysis of classroom video of implementations of those tasks to develop tools to support teachers in leading productive, whole class discussion around student mathematical thinking that occurs during their mathematics lessons.

A second NSF grant, for \$499,999, was awarded to **Dr. Fahad Saeed**, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, and will be used to develop a big data computational framework to enable scalable parallel computing solutions for proteogenomics, an emerging field of biological research at the intersection of proteomics and genomics.

The third NSF grant, \$160,000 for the fiscal year totaling \$800,000 over the lifetime of the grant, went to **Dr. Wendy Scott Beane**, assistant professor of biological sciences, to investigate the

mechanisms by which neural regeneration is regulated in planarians. Grants for instruction came in at just under \$1 million and were led by a \$247,800 continuing grant from Bronson Orthopedic and Sports Medicine to **Dr. Michael Miller**, professor of human performance and health education, to support work by graduate student athletic trainers.

Grants for public service rose to \$841,243 led by a \$242,000 award to **Dr. Robert Bensley**, professor of human performance and health education. The grant will be used to provide Women, Infants and Children clients with access to [wichealth.org](http://wichealth.org) as a resource for meeting secondary contract education. Grants for scholarships and fellowships reached \$71,076.

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