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Connections, 02/2018

College of Health and Human Services

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College of Health
and Human Services



Connections

A newsletter from the College of Health and Human Services

February 2018

[Unified Clinics offer specialty care to thousands each year](#)

A collective of 10 outpatient clinics at WMU trains students, provides specialty care to thousands of patients, and serves as an incubator for investigating therapeutic techniques.

Outpatient clinical services include occupational therapy, speech-language therapy, hearing services and more.



[Social work faculty receives Global Engagement Award](#)

Dr. Jennifer Harrison, assistant professor in the School of Social Work, has been received a 2018 WMU Global Engagement Award. The award recognizes contributions to the global engagement of the University; to our understanding of global affairs; and to stakeholders locally or abroad.



[2018 IPE Expo explores Dementia in Aging](#)

The **2018 Interprofessional Education Expo** is intended to highlight interprofessional collaboration and teamwork at CHHS. The day includes Grand Rounds with a group of CHHS faculty. All CHHS students are invited to present research posters in the atrium.



[Save the date for discussions about families of incarcerated persons](#)

Join us Wednesday, April 4 and Thursday, April 5 for a pair of events hosted by the College of Health and Human Services and the University-Community Empowerment Center focused on the ways families deal with the incarceration of family members.

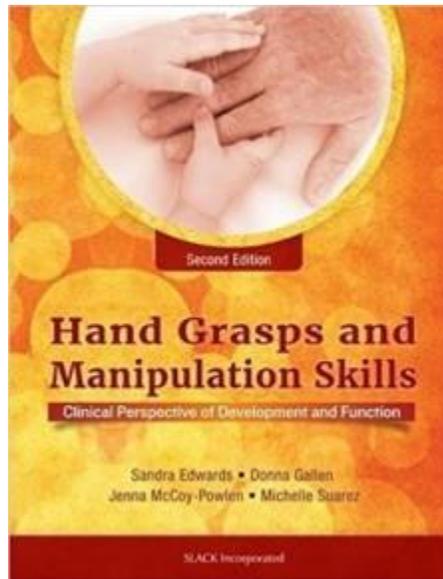
[Health Careers Connection Program update](#)

AHEC and CHHS are gearing up for the **2018 Health Careers Connection Program**. There was great response to our application announcement in December, and we have received dozens of applications. We will admit 20 students to the program this year.

[Center for Disability Services awarded accreditation](#)

Western Michigan University's Center for Disability Services received the highest level of accreditation from a national organization that promotes quality, value and optimal outcomes of services for people with disabilities during an accreditation visit in December 2017.

HHS on Social Media



Developmental and Functional Hand Grasps is a popular text for occupational therapists and OT students. **Dr. Michelle Suarez** joined Professor Emerita **Sandra Edwards** and WMU OT alumni, **Donna Gallen** and **Jenna McCoy-Powlen** in the revision, which is scheduled for a March release.

From the [Department of Occupational Therapy](#) via [facebook](#)

In other news

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

- [WMU medical school granted full accreditation](#)
- ['Chicago' at Miller Auditorium for a single performance](#)

- [Kohrman Hall being renovated to house product design facilities](#)

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.



WMU's Unified Clinics offer specialty care to thousands each year

contact: Paula M. Davis

February 16, 2018 | WMU News

Read more stories about Unified Clinics' patients and practitioners in the [WMU Magazine](#).

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Second-year graduate student **Erin Caspers** remembers the first time she knew her developing skill in occupational therapy helped improve life for a patient.

It involved a young man who had suffered brain injuries successfully using a spoon with his weakened hand in a public setting.

That kind of moment is everything to people who make it their life's work to help others, and it happened during Caspers' first semester in WMU's occupational therapy teaching clinic.

By working with real patients with real problems, the student practitioners in WMU's array of health clinics learn early on in their education the power of their future professions.

Through these outpatient clinical services, which include occupational therapy, speech-language therapy, hearing services and behavioral health counseling, students engage in patient care multiple times before graduation.

Casper's patient, **Trevor Rhoda**, began the semester with a modified spoon designed to be virtually spill-proof, but his goal was to go from swivel spoon to regular utensil.



In addition to occupational therapy, brain injury survivor Trevor Rhoda also receives speech therapy through the Unified Clinics. Rhoda is pictured here with Jenna Buscemi, a speech-language pathology student clinician.

"By the end of the semester, he did not need the special spoon anymore," says Caspers, a Bay City, Michigan, native who was inspired to pursue a degree in occupational therapy after observing the care and comfort an OT provided her terminally ill grandfather.

"If you do not have the injury, that doesn't seem like a big deal. But it's a social norm to be able to eat with a normal spoon, and it is a big deal."

Rhoda's mother shot footage of her determined son eating with a regular spoon at a wedding and shared the video with his student therapists at his next therapy session.

"I was super proud," Caspers says. "That was a great moment."

Few of them are recorded, but there are thousands of moments like this one because of the care provided in WMU's Unified Clinics.

(Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXYymOPHxGg>)

Four-year-old Karys Huinink heard her parents' voices clearly for the first time at the Van Riper Hearing Clinic in the video shown here. The hearing center is one of the 10 outpatient clinics that comprise WMU's Unified Clinics.

Under the auspices of the College of Health and Human Services and, in the past five years alone, the clinics served more than **5,000 clients annually**.

Students, under the tutelage and supervision of clinical professionals, provide the treatment and other therapeutic services professionals using the latest knowledge in their disciplines.

"They get to go into the classroom, learn, and then go to the clinic and implement and apply and practice," says **Dr. Earlie Washington**, dean of the College of Health and Human Services.

"We are very fortunate at Western that we could build this scope of practice, with 10 different clinics all meeting real, current community needs, but that are nevertheless part of the teaching programs of our college."

"I've been looking at colleges similar to ours for a very long time, and I can say there are few colleges who are specialized health care providers and provide the scope we do at Western Michigan University."

For occupational therapy students, such as Caspers, their first clinical experiences come primarily through the Unified Clinics, followed by field placements not operated by WMU.

Caspers admits that those first experiences with actual patients were intimidating.

"But there's a lot of preparing for it. The OT department does a really good job of preparing students," she says. "They also try to push students out of their comfort zones because that's how you learn how to do things."

Now in her final semester in the program, Caspers is working at a skilled nursing facility in Bay City and later this spring will spend three months in an outpatient medical practice. She expects to graduate in June.

To learn more about the Unified Clinics, visit wmich.edu/unifiedclinics.

Read more stories about Unified Clinics' patients and practitioners in the [WMU Magazine](#).

For more WMU news, arts and events, visit wmich.edu/news.

Social work faculty receives Global Engagement Award

Dr. Jennifer Harrison, assistant professor in the [School of Social Work](#), has received a [2018 Global Engagement Award](#). The award, given annually by the Haenicke Institute for Global Education to recognize contributions to the global engagement of the university and to its students, faculty and staff; to our knowledge and understanding of global affairs; and/or to communities and stakeholders locally or abroad.

The award was presented at [spring convocation in February](#).

Since coming to the College of Health and Human Services in 2011, Dr. Harrison has displayed her passion for global engagement. She has served as the field director for the School of Social Work, teaching courses in field education, individual and family practice and policy. She has led numerous interdisciplinary study abroad courses in Guatemala.

In fact, Dr. Harrison found out about the award while preparing for her inaugural study abroad course trip to India.

"The college has been very supportive of global engagement efforts, including a strong interprofessional study abroad program, international research and presentations, and Spanish language efforts, not to mention my own professional growth," says Harrison. "I am so



Dr. Jennifer Harrison



Dr. Harrison's students in India

grateful to be a faculty member in the School of Social Work and the College of Health and Human Services, to have the opportunity to teach internationally as well as in Southwest Michigan, and to be identified alongside many talented colleagues for this award."

Dr. Harrison's research interests include Evidence-Based Practice development and implementation, co-occurring mental health and substance abuse, assessments of student learning, and the incorporation of peers into treatment services. She is also working on the **Interprofessional Peer Education and Evidence for Recovery (I-PEER)** project, an interdisciplinary, grant-funded project with the [Department of Occupational Therapy](#) that has recently been [awarded a \\$1.8 million grant](#).

Interprofessional Education Expo at CHHS



Interprofessional education and collaborative practice experiences are becoming an important piece of educational programs for health care professionals. Accrediting bodies are beginning to include interprofessionalism in their standards for accreditation. But maybe most importantly, health care workers today need some level of interprofessional education or practice experience to be effective in their professional roles on health care teams.

The 2018 Interprofessional Education Expo is intended to highlight interprofessional collaboration and teamwork at CHHS. It will offer participants an opportunity to learn with, from, and about other health care professions. Activities include grand rounds and student research posters. This will be an enjoyable and informative day for any and all CHHS students who attend.

2018 EXPO

The 2018 Interprofessional Education Expo will be held **noon to 4 p.m., April 13** at the College of Health and Human Services. The theme for 2018 is **Dementia in Aging**.

- **Noon - Grand Rounds - CHHS room 4010**

Maureen Mickus, Gerontologist/Dept of Occupational Therapy
Cassidy Ardelean, Program Coordinator, Michigan Great Lakes Chapter of
the Alzheimer's Association
Micahaela Hanzaker, Occupational Therapist, Centracare (Kalamazoo)
Suma Devanga, Speech Language Pathology
Robin Criter, Audiology

- **2 p.m. - Student research poster presentations in the atrium.**
Graduate and undergraduate students will present posters in the CHHS atrium. The presentations address evidence-based practice, report on basic or applied research, or critically review a body of literature.

Community discussions about families of incarcerated persons

Join us Thursday, April 5 for a pair of events hosted by the College of Health and Human Services and the [University-Community Empowerment Center](#). The discussions will be focused on the ways families deal with the incarceration of family members. Both events will feature Lansing native and licensed clinical psychologist, Dr. Dana Cunningham.

In addition to her work as a licensed clinical psychologist, Dr. Cunningham also recently published a book titled *A Day I'll Never Forget*, which shares the story of a youngster whose father was suddenly incarcerated.

- **Thursday, April 5 - 11 a.m. | Academic Forum**
College of Health and Human Services, Room 4010
- **Thursday, April 5 - 6 p.m. | Community Panel Discussion**
[Juvenile Justice Center](#), 1424 Gull Road, Kalamazoo, MI



Dr. Dana Cunningham

The morning event at CHHS is open to the public, but will be tailored more specifically for students and faculty. The evening event will be open to the public and will include a panel discussion with a number of individuals from the university and community.

More information about the events, including exact times and locations, will be available on the [UCEC website](#) and on the [CHHS events page](#).



Health Careers Connection Program update

AHEC and the College of Health and Human Services at Western Michigan University are gearing up for the [2018 Health Careers Connection Program](#).

The three week, intensive summer bridge program offers six college credits, experiential field trips, mentoring and leadership development. Students are recruited from the 19-county AHEC catchment area and generally meet one or more of the following criteria:

- they come from a population underrepresented in health care professions
- they reside in a medically underserved area
- their community is economically disadvantaged
- they will be a first-generation college student

There was great response to the application announcement at the end of last year, and dozens of area students submitted applications. The 2018 cohort will include up to 20 students, compared to 12 students in 2017. Final decisions will be announced in a few weeks.



2017 HCCP Cohort

The program is designed to jump-start training in a health care or human service program, leading to early graduation and return to medically underserved areas to practice in their field of expertise. The Health Careers Connection Program is designed to increase the size and diversity of the health care and human service workforce in medically underserved, healthcare provider shortage areas, creating better patient outcomes.

Center for Disability Services awarded accreditation

Western Michigan University's Center for Disability Services received the highest level of accreditation from a national organization that promotes quality, value and optimal outcomes of services for people with disabilities during an accreditation visit in December 2017.

The center has been accredited for the maximum period of three years for its community integration, service coordination, supported living and adult day service programs by CARF International.

This accreditation decision reflects the center's substantial conformance to the CARF standards. An organization receiving a three-year accreditation has put itself through a rigorous peer review process. It has demonstrated to a team of surveyors during an on-site visit its commitment to offering programs and services that are measurable, accountable and of the highest quality.



The Center for Disability Services has been providing services to adults with disabilities in Kalamazoo County for more than 37 years, in addition to providing valuable learning experiences for students and interns at the University.

CARF International

CARF International is an independent, nonprofit accrediting body that was founded in 1966 as the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities. It establishes consumer-focused standards to help organizations measure and improve the quality of their programs and services.

For more information about the accreditation process, visit the CARF website at carf.org.