



Western Michigan University  
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College of Health and Human Services  
Newsletter

College of Health and Human Services

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12-2018

## Connections 12/2018

College of Health and Human Services

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College of Health  
and Human Services



DECEMBER 2018



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### **PA students participated at fall conference**

Every year, the Michigan Academy of Physician Assistants annual Fall CME Conference appeals to practitioners and students alike. WMU **physician assistant students** regularly participate in events like the annual community service project and quiz bowl.



### **Alumnus named Social Worker of the Year**

**Thomas McNally** was named 2018 Social Worker of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers. He received the award at the 2018 Legislative Education & Advocacy Day Conference in Lansing.



### **SIHP faculty present research at conference**

The WMU **School of Interdisciplinary Health Programs** sent several faculty members to present their research at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Expo in San Diego last November.



### **Make your nomination for 2018-19 faculty and staff awards**

Each year, the college gives out a number of awards to staff and faculty who regularly demonstrate excellence in their work. Students, alumni and community members may nominate in most categories. More info and criteria can be found [on our website](#).



## **HHS on Social Media**



**Our growing, festive DPT program team! 3 more to come in 2019! Front row (L to R):** Cozette Anderson, Rachel Dey, Dr. Stacie Fruth, Dr. Yvonne Jackson, Dr. Daren Webb - **Back row:** Dr. Don Hoover, Sarah Anderson, Dr. Alex Santos, Dr. Daryl Lawson.  
From the [Department of Physical Therapy](#) via [Facebook](#)

## **In other news**

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

- [WMU to break ground on economic-development engine](#)

- [Bronco football headed to Famous Idaho Potato Bowl](#)
- [WMU to confer more than 1,600 degrees during fall commencement](#)

## 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.



## Holiday message from Dean Cisler



Dean Ron Cisler

2018 has been a year of change, growth and advancement for our students and our college. Here are just a few of the highlights you may have seen in 2018.

- We had **2994 students** this fall - including 2054 undergraduate students, 875 graduate students and 65 doctoral students.
- The college produced **857 graduates** in 2018 - including 478 bachelor's degrees, 364 master's degrees and graduate certificates and 15 doctoral degrees.
- The state of Michigan awarded a [\\$1.5 million appropriation](#) to WMU's Unified Clinics. The funds will be used to upgrade equipment, improve services and offer financial assistance to make services more available to those in the community who need them most.
- This summer, the college [hosted the second cohort](#) of the Health Careers Connection Program. This year's cohort of 18 students was 50% larger than last year and includes students majoring in audiology, nursing, OT, PT, social work and speech-language pathology.



- In July, the college [officially opened the redesigned second floor](#) of the Ernest Wilbur Building. The space boasts 13,000 square feet and will largely house the new DPT program as well as offer lab and classroom space for all programs of the college.
- In the spring, we made our [Anatomage Table](#) available as a resource for all students, with open hours and trained operators to help students use the device to prepare for their anatomy classes.
- The Bronson School of Nursing is currently working with the Office of Information Technology to develop [virtual reality simulations](#) for use in the classroom.

These stories, and many more, have made 2018 an exciting year at the College of Health and Human Services; and I know there's more to come. I look forward to sharing our promising future with all of our students, alumni and friends in the year to come.

I hope that you and your families have a wonderful holiday season.



Dr. Ron Cisler, Dean

## PA students participated at fall conference



WMU PA students and faculty pose in front of their winning display of donated items with the directors of REACH and Traverse Place

Every year, the Michigan Academy of Physician Assistants annual Fall CME Conference includes information and activities for practitioners and students alike. The fall 2018 conference was held last October in Traverse City.

Western Michigan University PA faculty and students attended the conference. WMU students regularly participate in events like the annual community service project and quiz bowl.

## Community service project

Each year, the conference hosts a student competition to benefit charity organizations. This year's recipients were REACH (Runaway Emergency Action Center Hotline) and Traverse Place. Both organizations provide shelter, counseling and family reunification services, as well as assistance with employment and educational opportunities for children and young adults ages 10-21.



L to R: WMU second year PA students Josiah Weber, Nicole Tighe, Lorelle VanBeek and Colin Knue

Students from the six PA programs from institutions across the state of Michigan competed to collect the most and widest range of supplies for these two organizations. The items they collected included cleaning supplies, gift cards, kitchen items, school supplies and personal care products. When the collections were displayed and judged at this year's conference, WMU's students were declared the winners.

## Quiz bowl

WMU students also participated in the Michigan PA Foundation Student Quiz Bowl on Friday night during the conference. Quiz bowl teams from each of the six PA programs competed in the "Jeopardy" style event. Teams consist of four first- or second-year students.

While WMU didn't make it to the quiz bowl finals this year, they displayed excellent teamwork/sportsmanship and greatly enjoyed the experience.

## Alumnus named Social Worker of the Year



McNally

**Thomas E. McNally**, WMU alumnus and social worker at Healthy Highs Unlimited, LLC, was named 2018 Social Worker of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers. He received the award at the 2018 Legislative Education & Advocacy Day Conference in Lansing.

The Social Worker of the Year Award is presented to an individual who has made a demonstrable difference in such areas as: advocacy for clients, social policy, social work practice, program development, administration, and research.

In 2013, McNally received the Outstanding Youth Advocate Award from the NASW. He has also previously received the State of Michigan School Social Worker of the Year award.

## SIHP faculty present research at conference



SIHP faculty members: Michele McGrady, Cassie Jeng, Amy Jessop and Shannon McMorrow

The WMU [School of Interdisciplinary Health Programs](#) sent several faculty members to present their research at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Expo in San Diego last November.

Drs. **Cassie Jeng**, **Amy Jessop**, **Michele McGrady** and **Shannon McMorrow** presented research at the conference, themed "Creating the Healthiest Nation: Health Equity Now." Between them, they presented two posters and three presentations, including work co-authored by SIHP colleague, **Dr. Vivian Valdmanis** and **Dr. Dee Sherwood** from WMU's School of Social Work.

Their research presentations covered diverse and interdisciplinary public health topics ranging from screening for hepatitis C in Baby Boomers, middle-aged women's health, Native American health and mental health for minority communities.

The [annual meeting and expo](#) is the APHA's largest and most influential annual gathering of public health professionals. Nearly 13,000 attendees attended the five-day event in San Diego to present, learn and find inspiration.

## Awards

The College of Health and Human Services recognizes faculty and staff with six annual awards. Faculty, staff, students and alumni are invited to nominate individuals throughout the year. These awards will be given at a college-wide, all-hands meeting near the end of the spring semester. More information and nomination forms for the awards are available below.

### ABOUT THE AWARDS

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#### **Outstanding Customer Service Award**

The Outstanding Customer Service Award seeks to institutionalize CHHS staff service goals as standard behavior and raise consciousness on the "front-line" level of customer service.

#### **Faculty Teaching Excellence Award**

The Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award recognizes teaching excellence of full-time CHHS faculty. The recipient is asked to speak at the Dean's List reception the spring after receiving the award.

#### **Professional Instructor Teaching Excellence Award**

CHHS values and acknowledges the significant contributions of part-time instructors to the learning environment.

#### **Interprofessional Collaboration Award**

Award initiated to celebrate faculty members whose collaborative teaching, practice or



scholarship contributions have advanced the inter-professional collaborative process and enhanced the reputation of the college.

### **Research Excellence Award**

This award focuses specifically on work in which individuals acquire data, formulate specific research questions, conduct analyses of the data to answer those questions and discuss their findings and the implications of the work for professional practice or theory building.

### **Scholarship Excellence Award**

The contributions of this award recipient may include exemplary service to a profession by advancing certification or accreditation, implementing program evaluation activities, or by publishing journal articles, books or web-based materials that advance the field.



CHHS faculty and staff, December 2017

## WMU to break ground on economic-development engine

CONTACT: TONY PROUDFOOT  
DECEMBER 11, 2018 | WMU NEWS

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—The region's newest job and business development initiative is slated to help kick off 2019. Western Michigan University will begin development of the Business Technology and Research Park 2—BTR 2—in the next few months thanks to a \$2.1 million

grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration, a division of the U.S. Department of Commerce. The grant will help pay for site development in the form of roads and utilities.



WMU Business Technology and Research Park

The new complex is expected to attract and incubate new businesses as well as establish University, regional business and community partnerships, says **Bob Miller**, associate vice president for community outreach. It also will support research, economic development and new student opportunities.

"The Western Michigan University Business Technology and Research Park has been, and will continue to be, a partnership among the municipalities," Miller says. "The city of Kalamazoo, and now Oshtemo Township, Southwest Michigan First, and the University are working together to add to the tax base, increase jobs, and offer opportunities for students and faculty."

The new venture continues the success of WMU's Business Technology and Research Park 1, a 256-acre complex with similar goals. BTR 1 is home to approximately 40 companies that provide more than 850 jobs. The park and its businesses have added close to \$10 million in tax revenue for the city of Kalamazoo. Since its inception, BTR 1 also has provided hundreds of internships for WMU students and counts 100 alumni among its employees.

The development of BTR 2 emerges as the property in BTR 1 is full with current and committed businesses. It will be located across the street from BTR 1 on a 55-acre parcel west of Drake Road and east of U.S. 131. Initial site work will go out for bid in early 2019, with work expected to begin at some point in the first quarter.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

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The groundbreaking for BTR 2 follows more than three years of community engagement and partnership. Oshtemo Township has played a critical role in advancing BTR 2 by sharing the cost of the site design that led to the grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration, or EDA.

"Oshtemo Township is excited to partner with Western Michigan University on the next phase of the Business Technology and Research Park, as it represents new opportunities for innovation and economic development in the township and the Kalamazoo region," says **Julie Johnston**, the township's planning director.

Southwest Michigan First has been key to the success of BTR since its inception.

"One of the things I am most proud of is our partnership with Western Michigan University through the BTR Park," says **Ron Kitchens**, president of Southwest Michigan First and a WMU trustee.

"It is one of the most successful university-based parks in the nation, and I have no doubt that phase 2 will be equally successful in both filling the park with jobs and creating incredible partnerships between the companies and the University."

The Road Commission of Kalamazoo County also has helped with the planning and has been a partner in the development. The main road providing access to tenant properties in BTR 2 will be transferred to the road commission upon completion.

Conception of BTR 2 kicked off in 2015 and garnered extensive community input in 2016 and 2017. That input led to the design that was submitted to the EDA approximately a year ago. With the EDA grant secured, the project can now proceed.

## PLANNING PROCESS AND CONSIDERATIONS

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Planning for the park included a community advisory committee, discussions with the nearby neighborhoods and public comment solicited through social media as well as through a dedicated website. Input from these sessions led to design features that integrate the goals of the park with the natural features of the land.

As part of pursuing the development:

- A bee colony on the site was relocated to ensure it would not be disturbed.
- A rare orchid on the property will be preserved in a buffer zone.
- The property was assessed to ensure nesting bats would not be disturbed.
- Diseased apple trees will be eliminated on-site, and great care will be taken to ensure the illness does not spread.
- The portion of the Asylum Lake Preserve that is near the property will be unaffected by the development due to a buffer zone that will include public access to such features as a boardwalk, observation platform, walking path and benches.



- A buffer zone will be established to protect mature trees with trunks over six inches in diameter and create an oak savannah.
- Native and low-mow turf seedlings will cover much of the green space.

The design and development will be conducted in a manner that would allow it to be designated Sustainable Sites Certified, also known as SITES. SITES is a comprehensive rating system for developing sustainable land. It focuses on designing with sustainable soils, landscapes and water management strategies. Learn more about SITES at [sustainableites.org](http://sustainableites.org).

## Bronco football headed to Famous Idaho Potato Bowl

CONTACT: KRISTIN KEIRNS

DECEMBER 2, 2018 | WMU NEWS

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—For the second time in the University's history, the Western Michigan University football team has been invited to play in the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl.

Representing the Mid-American Conference, the Broncos will face Football Bowl Subdivision independent opponent Brigham Young University at **4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 21**, Eastern Time, at Albertsons Stadium in Boise, Idaho. The game will be televised on ESPN.

Learn more about the game, watch parties and other information at [Bowl Central](#).



"We are extremely excited to be invited and accept an invitation to play in the 2018 Famous Idaho Potato Bowl," WMU head coach **Tim Lester** said. "We know it is a first-class event and are gratified for the opportunity and to play on the famous blue turf."

This will be WMU's fourth bowl game in the last five years, and it is the Broncos' ninth bowl trip in the institution's history. It is also WMU's second trip to Boise in the last five years. WMU faced Air Force in the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl in 2014.

This year, WMU's football team finished the regular season with a 7-5 overall and 5-3 MAC record. The Broncos closed the conference season with a 28-21 win over MAC champion Northern Illinois University on Nov. 20.

Playing as an independent, the BYU team finished its regular season with a 6-6 record. BYU also faced off against Northern Illinois, falling 7-6 to the Huskies in late October.

When the Broncos clash with BYU later this month, it will be the sixth all-time meeting between the two teams. The teams met five times between 1962 and 1970. The Broncos have two wins in the all-time series, including in the last meeting, a 34-17 victory in Kalamazoo in 1970.

**For more news, arts and events, visit [WMU News](#).**

## WMU to confer more than 1,600 degrees during fall commencement

CONTACT: JEANNE BARON

DECEMBER 7, 2018 | WMU NEWS



KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Western Michigan University will grant more than 1,600 degrees during three commencement ceremonies **Saturday, Dec. 15**, in Miller Auditorium.



WMU **President Edward Montgomery** will officiate during the ceremonies. Montgomery will distribute 1,651 diplomas on behalf of the University: 1,202 at the bachelor's level, 413 at the master's level and 36 at the doctoral level.

Among the students who are graduating will be 65 military veterans as well as international students from 32 countries.

## SCHEDULE

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All three commencement ceremonies will last about two hours and be geared toward students who are graduating from a particular set of degree-granting academic units.

- The **9 a.m.** ceremony is for graduates of the College of Aviation, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and College of Health and Human Services.
- The **noon** ceremony is for graduates of the College of Education and Human Development and Haworth College of Business.
- The **3 p.m.** ceremony is for graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Fine Arts, and Extended University Programs.

December's graduation exercises will feature music by the Western Brass Ensemble, conducted by **Dr. Stephen M. Wolfenbarger**. The national anthem and alma mater will be sung by the University's chapter of the Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia professional music fraternity, conducted by **Jonathan Holder**.

## INFORMATION FOR GUESTS

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Tickets are required for guests to attend commencement. Students participating in graduation exercises may reserve up to four guest tickets. All seats are general admission. Miller Auditorium prohibits noisemakers as well as backpacks of any kind and has other bag and purse restrictions.

Guests without tickets may view the commencement ceremonies live on a large screen in 2028 Brown Hall, which is near Miller. Those who need accessible seating or other accessibility services should call (269) 387-2320 to make arrangements.

More information about the [ticketing process](#) and electronic tickets

All of the fall ceremonies will be broadcast live on Channel 5.1 of EduCABLE, the University's cable television system, and throughout the Kalamazoo area on Public Media Network Channel 191, a local public access channel on the Charter Communications commercial cable television system.

A live webcast of the ceremonies also will be available online the day of graduation. A maximum of 1,000 connections will be accepted. Not all browsers are compatible with the commencement stream.

Instructions on viewing the [live webcast](#)

## PARKING, OTHER DETAILS

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Free parking will be available in all parking areas adjacent to Miller Auditorium. Commencement guests should plan to arrive at least 30 minutes before each ceremony. The address to use if locating Miller by GPS or online driving directions is 2200 Auditorium Drive, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49008.

WMU only conducts formal graduation exercises after the fall and spring semesters and the summer I session, although students also may graduate after the summer II session. A final list of fall 2018 graduates is expected to be distributed to hometown newspapers in February.

**For complete graduation information**, including directions to WMU, visit the [commencement website](#). **Direct questions** to the Registrar's Office at (269) 387-4300.