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College of Health and Human Services

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Connections 04/2019

College of Health and Human Services

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Connections

A monthly newsletter from the College of Health and Human Services



2019 Faculty and Staff Award recipients

The college celebrated the recipients of the 2019 Faculty and Staff Awards at an all-hands meeting on April 19.

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2019 College of Health and Human Services Impact Report

At the all-hands meeting on April 19, the college released its **2019 Impact Report**. The report is available online. See how we're impacting our communities and our professions.

[View Impact Report »](#)

“When we keep choosing between right and wrong, we spend our energy sorting life rather than living it.”

Mark Nepo

Nursing students attend national policy summit

WMU BSON students **Taylor Birgy** and **Karen Diem** attended the American Academy of Colleges of Nursing Annual Student Policy Summit in Washington DC. They joined other nursing students from across the country and visited with the staff of Michigan senators Debbie Stabenow and Gary Peters.



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Poverty simulation for health profession students

The Western Regional Area Health Education Center in cooperation with CHHS organized a three-hour poverty simulation at the WMU-Grand Rapids Beltline Location. About 80 students from OT, public health and social work programs, took part in the interprofessional education experience.



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Nursing graduate featured by University

A recent [post-graduation survey](#) shows that WMU's graduates are finding success after Western Michigan University. Nursing graduate, **Kendall Owens**, was featured in a recent article about 2019 grads.



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Marian Tripplett receives community engagement award from EUP

Marian Tripplett, faculty specialist I in the WMU School of Social Work, has been named the recipient of the 2019 EUP Community Engagement Award. Marian received the award based on her work as the social work program coordinator at the WMU-Southwest location in Benton Harbor.



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In other WMU news for you:

- [Campus volunteers needed for Kalamazoo Marathon](#)
- [Big changes unfold at WMU Pilot Plants](#)
- [Arcadia Flats approved as name of new student housing under construction](#)

CHHS in social media:

I already feel better. Come visit with @westnichtherapydogs in our atrium.



From the [College of Health and Human Services](#) via [Instagram](#)

2019 CHHS Faculty and Staff Award recipients

The college announced the [2019 CHHS Faculty and Staff Award](#) recipients at an all-hands meeting on Friday, April 19. These individuals exemplify the best that our college has to offer – dedication to our students and colleagues, attention to the craft of education, and participation in our communities.

- **Outstanding Customer Service Award**
Janay Christian, Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies
- **Professional Instructor Teaching Excellence Award**
Samuel Abraham, Bronson School of Nursing
- **Faculty Teaching Excellence Award**
Sally Sutkowi, Bronson School of Nursing
- **Scholarship Excellence Award**
Yvette Hyter, Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences
- **Interprofessional Collaboration Award**
IPEER - Interprofessional Peer Education and Evidence for Recovery project
 - Ann Chapleau - Department of Occupational Therapy
 - Rosie Corliss - Recovery Institute of Southwest Michigan
 - Jennifer Harrison - School of Social Work

Following are photos from the event:



Outstanding Customer Service
Dean Cisler with Janay Christian



Professional Instructor Teaching Excellence
Mary Lagerwey, Sal Sutkowi and Dean Cisler



Faculty Teaching Excellence
Mary Lagerwey, Sam Abraham and Dean Cisler



Scholarship Excellence
Laura DeThorne, Yvette Hyter and Dean Cisler



Interprofessional Collaboration

Associate Dean Ann Tyler, Ann Chapleau, Rosie Corliss
and Dean Cisler (not pictured: Jennifer Harrison)

Nursing students attend national policy summit



Diem, Dr. Lagerwey and Birgy at the office of Senator Debbie Stabenow

WMU Bronson School of Nursing students **Taylor Birgy** (BSN student) and **Karen Diem** (MSN student) attended the American Academy of Colleges of Nursing Annual Student Policy Summit in Washington, DC. They joined nursing students from throughout the country to learn about national health policies that relate to nursing and to visit the staff of their state representatives or senators.

Birgy, Diem and **Dr. Mary Lagerwey**, director of the WMU Bronson School of Nursing, along with other nursing students, deans and directors from Michigan met with the staff of Michigan senators Debie Stabenow and Gary Peters.

During the half-hour meeting, the students were able to express their opinions about congressional support of the AACN, and what that means to nursing students. Diem spoke about the importance of policies that support high quality direct nursing care, and Birgy shared the importance of the [Empower Success](#) program and how it impacted her.

"The students represented us very well," says Dr. Lagerwey, director of the Bronson School of Nursing. "Thank you to those who nominated these students and to all who are supporting them throughout their education. We can be very proud of them."

While spending time with other students from across the country, they discussed advocacy and leadership. They learned how federal policies are relevant to their own nursing practice, education and research. They also were able to join other AACN members for an inspiring keynote address delivered by Lauren Underwood, a 32-year congressional representative from Illinois, who is also an nurse. Underwood explained the value of nursing involvement in political arenas at all levels and ways in which nurses can advocate for health care and their patients.

Poverty simulation for health professional students

The [Western Regional Area Health Education Center](#) in cooperation with CHHS organized a three-hour poverty simulation at Western Michigan University's Grand Rapids-Beltline location. Faculty recruited approximately 80 students from occupational therapy, public health and social work, creating an interprofessional education experience for health professional students.



Students assumed the roles of low-income family members who needed to manage a month of living in poverty, while accomplishing daily tasks to keep their households functioning and together.

Volunteers from WMU, Cherry Health, Mercantile and Chase Banks, and the Department of Health and Human Services in Kalamazoo assumed the roles of vendors representing law

enforcement, banking, utility company, homeless shelter, social service agency, childcare agency, employer, and health center.

The simulation was designed to expose health professional students to the difficulties faced by low-income families trying to survive from month to month. The objective was to sensitize future healthcare professionals to the realities faced by some of their future patients and clients.

At the end of the simulation, faculty, students and vendors participated in a debriefing period which allowed participants to share their observations, experiences and thoughts surrounding the simulation. Students commented on feeling frustrated and confused as they did not know where to go for help. They shared feelings of irritability as they waited in long lines for services. They expressed lack of understanding of the required paperwork to receive healthcare services.

Our next simulation is scheduled for the end of October at CHHS. We are looking for interested faculty to recruit their students to serve as family members and community agencies to serve as vendors. If you are interested, please contact Lisa Brennan at (616) 771-9497.

Students find springboard to success at WMU

CONTACT: ERIN FLYNN
APRIL 19, 2019 | WMU NEWS

[READ THE FULL POST-GRADUATION ACTIVITY REPORT](#)

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Fame. Fortune. Family. People go to college looking for a path to success. Chances are, based on a survey of recent graduates, students will find what they're looking for at Western Michigan University.



Read [Logan Brown's](#) and several other graduating student's stories [here](#).

"We pride ourselves on being a school of opportunity," says **Logan Brown**, who will work as a flight instructor after graduation as he pursues his dream of becoming a commercial airline pilot. "I believe my experiences are a testament to the fact that if you seek out opportunities, work to improve yourself, and work to improve this University, you can accomplish more in your four years here than you ever imagined was possible."

According to the most recent [Post-Graduation Activity Survey and Report](#), compiled by WMU Career and Student Employment Services, 91% of 2017-18 graduates who responded were actively engaged within months of earning a WMU degree. Nearly three-fourths of them were working full time, while others secured part-time work, chose to continue their education or joined the military.

"While it's important to look at the high engagement rate, what I think is even more important are the success stories behind the number," says **Dr. Ewa Urban**, associate director of assessment for Career and Student Employment Services. "It's the passion, interest and ability behind what those students end up doing that's the most impactful part of this survey."

According to the survey, Broncos are making an impact at such large companies and organizations as General Motors, Delta Airlines, American Red Cross and Kellogg Corporation; and 76% of the graduates secured jobs in Michigan.

The survey also focuses on student experiences and professional relationships they developed during their time at WMU that helped put them on the path to success. Nearly every person who responded to the survey—98%—said they had at least one professor who made them excited about learning, and 90% said their education and experiences at WMU prepared them for their profession.

Urban recently started compiling success stories from graduating students and featuring them in [Bronco Spotlights](#). She encourages all graduates to contribute.

"You don't have to be a celebrity. You don't have to be a vice president of some company or an entrepreneur who's made tons of money. Just tell us about your success and what you feel was important to you in your college experience," she says.

Several students [graduating April 27](#) have already secured interesting and impactful jobs in their fields of study. Click on their names under the pictures below to read more about their exciting future plans.



[Bailey Papes](#)



[Charlie Kautz](#)



[Donte Tuggle](#)



Erika Hejl



Sydney Taylor



Li Cheng



Deniz Toker



Kendall Owens



Caitlin Wiley

Marian Tripplett receives EUP Community Engagement Award



Marian Tripplett

Marian Tripplett, faculty specialist I in the WMU [School of Social Work](#), has been named the recipient of the 2019 [Extended University Programs Community Engagement Award](#). Marian received the award based on her work as the social work program coordinator at the WMU-Southwest location in Benton Harbor.

The EUP Community Engagement Award is presented annually to WMU instructors who strive to enrich scholarship, research, and creative activity; enhance curriculum, teaching and learning;

prepare educated, engaged citizens; strengthen democratic values and civic responsibility; address critical societal issues; and contribute to the public good.

Marian helped guide the Rural Library Engagement Coalition, a multi-year project with Niles District Library, helping to revision the library as a site where social work students could make a difference by directly engaging the community

According to one colleague, "Marian has been a tireless partner and extremely effective advocate in Benton Harbor and surrounding areas for many years. Her efforts to engage with the community are far from new, and in many ways we are just lucky to have the opportunity to leverage her engagement skills on behalf of our shared university."

And according to one of her students, "the collaboration between the Niles District Library and Professor Tripplett will forever be seen as a positive impact to the community of Niles and the starting point of their new grant project, Social Workers in Small and Rural Libraries."

Congratulations to Marian for having a clear impact on her colleagues, students and community.