Four state universities announce program to increase minorities in science, math

Michigan’s four flagship universities joined together Jan. 23 at the University of Michigan Detroit Center to announce their new partnership in the Michigan-Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation program, a federal initiative designed to attract and retain underrepresented minorities to science, technology, engineering and math—known as STEM programs.

The five-year, $5 million program is funded by the National Science Foundation, with a 100-percent-total match from the four alliance partners: the University of Michigan and Michigan State, Wayne State and Western Michigan universities. The alliance formed to help meet state and national needs for a trained STEM workforce.

During the kickoff event in Detroit, U-M President Mary Sue Coleman, WMU President Judith I. Bailey, and other leaders of the alliance and the NSF launched the partnership and viewed an exhibit of student projects showing the work of STEM students from all four partner schools.

The four schools hope to increase the number of underrepresented minorities earning baccalaureate degrees in science, technology, engineering and math areas by 50 percent in five years, and by 100 percent in 10 years. The alliance’s goals dovetail with Gov. Jennifer Granholm’s plan to double the number of Michigan residents who earn college degrees over the next decade. Her goal reflects statewide needs outlined in the 2004 report compiled by Lt. Gov. John Cherry’s Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth.

“Too few people study and work in the sciences, technology, engineering and mathematics. Our country and our state are in desperate need of these skills,” said Coleman, who served as chair of the Cherry Commission and will continue to chair the state’s Board of Regents as a member of the U-M Board of Regents.

Maloney says the college’s pursuit of research dollars will focus on four areas that he and other college staff members with extensive industry expertise have identified as areas in which research could be helpful in a post-9/11 environment.

The college will focus on:

• on-board communications between the cockpit and the flight attendants;
• the use of in-flight video monitors and wireless communications;
• cockpit defense and control strategies; and
• development of universal standards for air-to-air communications.

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Nominations sought for student employee, supervisor honors

Nominations for Student Employee of the Year and Supervisor of the Year are now being accepted by Career and Student Employment Services. The annual awards will be announced during WMU’s 20th annual Student Employment Appreciation Week, which will be celebrated on campus Feb. 13 to 17. Winners will be announced Thursday, Feb. 16, during a reception from 3 to 5 p.m. in the West Ballroom of the Bernhard Center.

Those who supervise student workers may nominate their employees, and students who work for supervisors may nominate their supervisors. Anyone who has won in the past is not eligible to win again. The Student Employee of the Year may be either a graduate or undergraduate student. Recipients are selected based on reliability, professionalism, quality of work and initiative as well as the uniqueness of their contributions to WMU. Supervisor of the Year nominees are evaluated based on their professionalism and contributions to student learning and development.

To nominate someone for either position, go online to www.broncojobs.wmich.edu and select the link for the appropriate award. For more information about Student Employee Appreciation Week, call Brenda Case-Parris at 387-2732 or George Eskro at 387-2733.

Board of Trustees approves 14 retirements, five resignations

Trustees approved the retirements of three faculty members and 11 staff members at their Dec. 9 meeting as well as the resignations of three faculty members and one administrator, who will be returning to the faculty.

All of the retiring faculty members are doing so with emeriti status. Their names, departments, years of continuous service and effective dates of retirement are: M. Arthur Garmon, teaching, learning and leadership, 10-1/2 years, effective Jan. 5, 2007; Thomas L. Gossman, finance and commercial law, 36 years, effective Dec. 19, 2006; and Benjamin C. Wilson, Africana Studies, 30-1/2 years, effective May 1, 2006.

The staff members retiring are: Wesley Apotheke, physical plant-maintenance services, 36 years, effective Oct. 31, 2005; Eileen J. Boven, physical plant-building, custodial and support services, 26-1/2 years, effective April 30, 2006; Hugh O. Carpenter, physical plant-maintenance services, 24 years, effective March 31, 2006; Janet L. Clubb, physical plant-building, custodial and support services, 12 years, effective Dec. 31, 2005; M. Theodore Edgerly, power plant, 10 years, effective Nov. 30, 2005; Stephen M. Ferguson, physics, 31-1/2 years, effective March 31, 2006; Bonnie L. Hanson, residence life, 26-1/2 years, effective Feb. 28, 2006; Norma J. Hayes, College of Arts and Sciences advising, 19-1/2 years, effective Feb. 28, 2006; Joyce E. Papesh, university budgets and financial planning, 41-1/2 years, effective Jan. 28, 2006; Maralita S. Thomas, College of Arts and Sciences, 19-1/2 years, effective Jan. 31, 2006; and Donald A. Weaver, physical plant-landscape services, 20-1/2 years, effective March 31, 2006.

The faculty members resigning are: Georgina B. Hill, English, effective Dec. 10, 2005; Paula W. Jamison, occupational therapy, effective April 22, 2006; Karen H. McGurn, English, has been selected as an Outstanding Academic Title winner. McGurn was cited for his “pioneering work on the theory of phase coherent multiple scattering effects from rough surfaces and thin films,” as well as for his research in nanotechnology. Each year, the APS recognizes no more than one-half of one percent of its membership with election to the status of fellow. The organization’s fellowship program was created to recognize members who have advanced the discipline through original research and publications or who have made significant innovative contributions in the application of physics to science and technology. McGurn has been a WMU faculty member since 1986.

Minnick book namedALA Outstanding Academic Title

“Dialect and Dichotomy” by Lisa Minnick, English, has been selected as an Outstanding Academic Title by the American Library Association’s Choice magazine.

Fewer than 700 academic works make the list out of more than 23,000 published annually and nearly 7,000 reviewed by the editorial staff of Choice each year. “Dialect and Dichotomy” is among 682 books and electronic resources selected for the 2006 list, which was published in November.

In “Dialect and Dichotomy,” Minnick offers a new view of dialect writing and its relationship to literary, linguistic, political and cultural trends, with particular emphasis placed on African American voices in literature.

Minnick joined the WMU faculty in 2004.
Obituaries

Martin Cohen, emeritus in libraries, died Dec. 11 in Kalamazoo on his 90th birthday.
Cohen began his teaching career at WMU in 1957, and in 1977. In 1976, he was the recipient of the University’s Teaching Excellence Award.
Cohen was a graduate of Harvard and Simmons College and earned a master’s degree from Boston Teachers College. Prior to joining the WMU faculty, he taught in the Boston Public Schools, and worked at public libraries in Kalamazoo as well as in New Jersey and Illinois.

Darryl F. Janowicz, industrial engineering, died September 18 in Kalamazoo. He was 62.
Janowicz, a specialist in computer-aided design and manufacturing, taught at WMU from 1978 to 1983, when he was disabled with a closed-head injury.
The Chicago native earned both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the Illinois Institute of Technology, where he also taught prior to joining the WMU faculty.

Darlene Lard, a retired staff member in mathematics and statistics, died Jan. 17. She was 70.
The Vicksburg, Mich., native worked at the University for 29 years, retiring as head secretary in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics in 1997.
Prior to her WMU career, Lard served in the U.S. Army, stationed in Germany.

Oyelaran, a specialist in industrial engineering, died September 18 in Kalamazoo. He was 48.
Oyelaran was born in Nigeria, and educated in the United States.

Service

The following employees are recognized for 40, 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, and 10 years of service during January.

40 Years—Thomas W. Clark, physical plant-landscape services; Regina E. Buckner, University Libraries; and Robert Wait, sociology.
35 Years—Charles A. Boos, information technology.
30 Years—Kirk D. Arnold, physical plant-building custodial and support services; John Gregory, Fitzgerald, University Libraries; Ruth J. Grevenstuk, physical plant-building custodial and support services; Patrick L. Northrop, University Libraries; and Judy A. Rocek, physical plant-building custodial and support services.
20 Years—Denise L. Barnett, Valley #1 Dining Service; Padipkumar N. Bhart, Sincendez University Health Center; Frances A. Buell, physical plant-landscape services; Robert D. Champion, physical plant-landscape services; John Dubro, physical plant-landscape services; Sabine I. Hayes, Brenda Center Dining Service; Todd K. Moosman, human resources; and Jacqueline Ruttinger, School of Art.
15 Years—Rebecca Blodgett, physical plant-landscape services; Lorraine A. Caron, WMUK Radio; Kimberly Kay Cho, Honnecle Institute for Global Education; James M. Davis, physical plant-building custodial and support services; Mildred DeVries, physical plant-building custodial and support services; Mario A. Gellbrath, information technology; Kathleen Hamilton, admissions and orientation; Lynda L. Hunt, Development Office; Cali Lewis, physical plant-building custodial and support services.

Trusted okay series of campuswide academic appointments

Acting at their Dec. 9 meeting, University trustees approved the appointments of two associate deans, two diversity recruitment specialists and two program directors.
The board appointed Osama Abudayyeh as associate dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Science, effective July 1, 2004; Tony Dennis as associate director for diversity recruitment in the Graduate College, effective Nov. 29, 2005; Keith A. Hearit as associate dean of the Lee Honors College, effective Jan. 2, 2006; Natalie Morton as associate director of diversity recruitment for the Graduate College, effective Nov. 28, 2005; Steven Kohler as director of the Environmental Studies Program, effective July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2007; and Olasoype Oyelaran as visiting professor and interim director of the College of Arts and Sciences’ International Studies, effective Dec. 5, 2005, through July 29, 2007.

Abudayyeh

Dennis

Hearit

Morton


For Sale—2002 Jeep Wrangler Sport. 6 cylinder, 4.0 liter, cruise, four-wheel drive, 38,000 miles, premium sound system, alloy wheels, AM/FM radio, CD. $13,500 or best offer. Call 313-8724.

For Sale—2002 Pontiac Bonneville. Excellent condition. Only 40,000 miles. Many extras. $9,500. Call 276-3362 or 694-2348, or send e-mail to glenn.hall@wmich.edu.
Increase minorities in science and math

Commission's Economic Benefits Work Group, and is principal investigator on MI-LSAMP. “We must find students with interest and talent in these fields, encourage them, and make sure there is a pathway for them to follow. We have to remove the barriers that exist for women and minorities, because we cannot afford to waste their potential. The alliance partnership, with the assistance of the National Science Foundation, will apply the assets of these four leading institutions to nurture this talent.”

At WMU, the project will be led by Raja Aravamuthan, paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging. One of the major LSAMP initiatives on the WMU campus will be a summer pre-first-year program in science aimed at incoming freshmen from underrepresented minorities. Pre-first-year programs in other STEM areas will be offered at the other alliance schools.

“Science, technology, engineering and mathematics degrees are the credentials that will ensure promising futures for our young people and prosperity for our state,” Bailey said. “I’m absolutely delighted that Michigan’s four flagship universities will be working together to ensure promising futures for our young people and prosperity for our state. I’m absolutely delighted that Michigan’s four flagship universities will be working together to ensure promising futures for our young people and prosperity for our state.”

Aviation college

Maloney does not want to give more specifics about some of these challenging areas, but he says his colleagues in and out of the industry regard them as critical.

The proposed collaborators for research include a firm with extensive non-aviation homeland security credentials, a second firm with experience in airline security training and one commercial airline that has a track record in the innovative use of technology for security purposes. Maloney also hopes to bring the faculty and staff of the Michigan aviation community colleges into the mix—especially in the areas of criminal justice and law enforcement training.

“F or the research questions we’re posing, there are no easy answers. I know that from my experience as an aviation executive,” he says. “But we believe we will be able to bring a meaningful dialogue to the industry concerns, and our proposed solutions will be backed by solid research.”

Developing these research strategies and solutions is both a personal and professional passion for Maloney, who came to WMU from United in 2003—nearly two years after he played a central role in the airline’s emergency response to the events of Sept. 11, 2001.

Two United planes, their crews and passengers were among those lost that day, and Maloney was part of the United team that had to get 2,400 other flights down at the nearest available airfields. He has spoken about that experience in public forums and shared the pain of losing close friends and colleagues, who were among those who died.

Blood Challenge in full swing; donations accepted till Feb. 9

WMU and arch rival Central Michigan University have begun their semi-annual Blood Challenge, a competition to see which school can generate more pints of blood for the American Red Cross. The goal for both schools is 900 pints of usable blood.

Donors are encouraged to make an online appointment to give blood at one of the following times and dates by visiting www.givelife.org. Enter WMU under “Enter your Zip Code or Sponsor Code.” Donors without appointments also are welcome, but appointments are recommended.

• 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.—Friday, Jan. 27, Miller Auditorium Grand Tier lobby.
• 1 to 7 p.m.—Monday, Jan. 30, Draper Hall lounge; Tuesday, Jan. 31, Eicher Hall lounge; Wednesday, Feb. 1, Bigelow Hall lounge; Thursday, Feb. 2, French Hall lounge; and Friday, Feb. 3, Henry Hall lounge.
• 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.—Friday, Feb. 3, Burnham Hall lounge; Tuesday, Feb. 7, College of Health and Human Services first-floor lounge; Wednesday, Feb. 8, Bernard Center Ballroom; and Thursday, Feb. 9, 2350 Schneider Hall.

Questions about those individual blood drives or the Blood Challenge should be e-mailed to broncos@usa.redcross.org.

On Campus with Maggie Coughlin

Margaret “Maggie” Coughlin came to WMU in 2000 as a data clerk in human resources and now, as office assistant, has become an integral part of the Department of Economics. “It’s wonderful here,” Coughlin says. “I’m a people person so I enjoy working with all of the members of my department and the students. We have quite a blend of extraordinary people, and we’re all for the students.”

Among Coughlin’s main duties is serving as the department’s receptionist. She also provides a variety of information and services, including processing exams, correspondence, reports and forms; registering students for economics classes; and maintaining student academic files.

“We help the students and faculty move along and accomplish their goals,” she says about her and her office mate. “Whatever needs to happen, we do it.”

One of the special touches she’s brought to the department is a sense of history. Coughlin has dug through the University archives and decorated various rooms with photo collages representing WMU decades. “I’m still looking for a photo of Robert Bowers, one of our department’s former chairmen,” she says. “If anyone has a photo, I’d love to get it.”

Coughlin, who hails from Niles, had a long career in human resources before landing her current job with the economics department. She first came to Kalamazoo to manage patient accounts at the Kalamazoo Psychiatric Hospital; then lived in other cities while working with VisionQuest, a youth intervention program, and managing human resources and safety issues for 27 Wendy’s stores.

During her spare time, the Vicksburg resident has written eight children’s books. She also enjoys spending time with her two Chihuahua-mix dogs as well as knitting, crocheting and doing embroidery needlework based on her own designs.

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Increase minorities in science and math

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