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Cultivating Partnerships Talking Points

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WMU Partnerships

Partnerships are at the core of literally everything we do. It's a way to leverage our impact, extend our resources.

Our partnerships range from ensuring that our incoming students are health and well prepared to making sure those studying with us know how to reach across social, geographic and cultural divides to become effective citizens.

Examples:

• With K-12 schools
  - With local schools to maximize the impact of Kalamazoo Promise
  - With area math and science centers to offer research opportunities for gifted high school students

• With community colleges
  - KCC engineering agreement/others in the works
  - Lake Michigan College--our campus within their campus to ensure students can stay in the Southwest area and earn a bachelor's degree
  - Goal to secure such relationships with all Michigan community colleges

• With other colleges-research and student outreach partnerships
  - Blind pedestrian roundabout and traffic research--we're (Richard Long) the lead institution on a $4.8 million NIH project with Boston College, Maryland School for the Blind, North Carolina State University and Vanderbilt University
  - Crop blight research--WMU's Kathleen Baker (geog) is lead on $1.2 million Dept. of Ag project involving use of sophisticated weather forecasting methods to reduce crop disease. Partners are University of Georgia, South Dakota State University, the University of Idaho and Michigan State University.
  - Research Experience for Undergraduates--longtime partnerships with HBCUs to undergrads to our campus in summer.
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 launched in 2006 is funded by the National Science Foundation, with a 100-percent combined match from the four alliance partners: University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Wayne State University and Western Michigan University. The alliance formed to help meet state and national needs for a trained STEM workforce. Goal is to increase the number of under-represented minorities earning baccalaureate degrees in science, technology, engineering and math areas by 50 percent in five years, and by 100 percent in 10 years.

- **Partnerships with communities**
  (our SmartZone partnerships)
  - WMU econ. development work with Kalamazoo--BTR, BRCC, etc.
  - Work in aviation and economic development with Battle Creek

  (health care outreach)
  - Partner with MSU in University Medical and Health Sciences Center
  - WMU clinics
  - Autism studies and service

  (work force development)
  - Partnerships with manufacturing sectors in Battle Creek, Muskegon and Lansing to tailor manufacturing engineering degrees to local needs

- **Partnerships with businesses**
  - Longtime commitment to having our engineering college serve as a resource for Michigan manufacturers to solve real world problems/senior design projects
  - Center for Advanced Vehicle Design and Simulation
  - New recycling work with Starbucks, and other fast-food entities to ensure their food containers are recyclable and dramatically reduce what goes in landfills.
  - Carbon sequestration work--industry/university/government partnership

- **International partnerships**
  - Dominican Republic
  - Nigeria-aviation
  - Malta-Criminal Justice
  - Study abroad expansions