President to fund ‘transformational’ ideas

President Judith I. Bailey is looking for a few good ideas—and she’s willing to provide funding to put them into practice.

Guidelines for the President’s 2005 Innovation Fund were announced last week. Faculty and staff members have until 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 16, to submit proposals for consideration in a competitive process designed to provide cash awards to turn good ideas into reality.

The initiative was first announced by Bailey in her Sept. 27 State of the University address, when she said she would use unrestricted gifts to establish a pool of $2 million for a series of one-time awards over the next two years. Bailey said her intent is to fund the implementation of innovative ideas that will “challenge us to achieve the highest standard of quality.”

Ideas submitted for funding should be designed to improve the quality of instruction, research, student life, administrative operations, excellence in service or any other aspect of WMU’s core mission.

One-time monetary awards that could range from $100,000 to $1 million will be made in a peer-reviewed competitive process that the president vows will be “wide open.”

“We’re looking for ideas that will be truly transformational,” Bailey says. “This will be an opportunity to go after the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, to be innovative and to make a difference.”

Noted diversity expert featured speaker for MLK celebration

A series of free, public events honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will be taking place Jan. 8-20 sponsored by WMU’s MLK Committee and the Northside Ministerial Alliance. The theme for this year’s joint MLK Celebration, now in its fourth year, is “Recovering a Lost Dream: Community, Faith and Vision.”

WMU will hold a Campus Community Day on Sunday, Jan. 15, that will bring high school students to campus to learn more about the University and include a campuswide multicultural celebration at 4 p.m. in Miller Auditorium.

The featured speaker for the multicultural celebration will be Frank H. Wu, dean of the Wayne State University Law School. Wu, a diversity expert and former civil attorney, also will present an on-campus talk on Saturday, Jan. 14.

Care packages brighten day for Broncos called up for active duty

The floor in front of Dori LaChance’s desk in the Registrar’s Office is neatly lined with snack foods, toothpaste, puzzles and dozens of other items commonly found on convenience store shelves.

But the commodities aren’t for sale. They’re destined for WMU community members who have been deployed to the Middle East and hurricane-ravaged U.S. Gulf Coast.

LaChance began collecting items like those in 2002. As WMU’s Veterans Administration clerk, she was familiar with the many students, faculty and staff who were being called up for active duty.

“It was an emotional thing because I knew them,” she says. “The people over there fighting in the war aren’t somebody else. They’re us. They’re people we see every day.”

LaChance says about 30 people have been sent packages since the project began, and now she and her growing cadre of campus volunteers are stockpiling for a new round of care package shipments for Christmas.

News of the effort has spread by word of mouth and three months ago, the Registrar’s Office began picking up the shipping costs.

But the commodities aren’t for sale. They’re for an NFL short film series and for his book, “Football Physics.”

Dec. 1 issue is year’s last News

The next issue of Western News will be distributed on Dec. 1 and is the last issue for the fall semester. Because of the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, the deadline for the Dec. 1 issue has been pushed back to 5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 28. The News will resume regular publication Jan. 12 with the start of the spring semester.
Second Sichel series lecture set
Sociologist Leah VanWey will speak on "The Power of Home: Remittances to Families and Communities" at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 16, in 3508 Knauss as part of the 2005-06 Werner Sichel Lecture Series, which focuses on "Immigrants and Their International Money Flows."
VanWey of Indiana University has studied international and internal migration in Thailand, Mexico and Brazil and mobility and intergenerational wealth transfers in the United States.

Activist to talk about education
A social and civil rights activist will give her view on the nation's education system at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 16, in the south side of the Bernhard Center's East Ballroom. Grace Boggs, a former Detroit school teacher, will address "The Schools Crisis: Danger and Opportunity."
Boggs founded Detroit's Boggs Center to Nurture Community Leadership and helped found its Asian Political Alliance. She will argue that it is an opportunity and a challenge to create more activist and participatory forms of education.

Upjohn economist to examine Michigan's past, prospects
Randall W. Eberts, W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research executive director, will discuss "Michigan's Economy: Trends, Legacies and Prospects" at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 18, in 2150 Schneider. The talk is part of the Keystone Community Bank Breakfast Speaker Series.
Eberts joined the Upjohn Institute in 1993. Previously, he was an assistant vice president and economist at the Federal Reserve Bank in Cleveland, an economics professor at the University of Oregon, and a senior staff economist on the President's Council of Economic Advisors. RSVP by calling 7-5050.

Design projects showcased
The 37th Conference on Senior Design Projects will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 29, at the engineer- ing building on the Parkview Campus. A total of 35 projects will showcase the work of 113 engineering students. For more information about the free and open event, call 6-3244.

WHERE'S WALDO?—The answer is: in first place after winning this year's Soap Box Derby. (Photo by Cheryl Roland)

Waldo Library proves point by 'going downhill' the fastest
Dwight B. Waldo Library is not your father's college library—but boy does it have resources. That's the message library staff are sharing these days, and they're ready to test their moxie against any comers. In fact, they took on WMU's student engineers and a raft of fraternities last month in the Soapbox Derby, a 30-year homecoming weekend tradition.
What's more, they won. "We figured we'd be no match for engineering students with knowledge of plastics manipulation and testing the derby was viewed as a fun event to bring staff, faculty, administration and students together quickly. But it has taken on a life of its own since the library's Plexiglas racer placed second in its 2003 debut and came in third last year.
Dean of Libraries Joseph Reish transported the car to the American Library Association annual conference in Chicago this year to show it off and illustrate how the car was helping to break down stereotypes of "stuffy librarians and dusty old books."
The 2005 race entry sports a Hawaiian design in keeping with the homecoming theme "Around the World in Seven Days." Librarians say they hope their win draws attention on campus to the library's most recent addition—a Hawaiian kiosk that serves Maoi Wowi coffee and smoothies. After the race, the car returned to its place of honor in the rotunda of Waldo Library—a testament to the fact that the library is about more than books.

Cobern named AAAS Fellow
William Cobern, Mallinson Institute for Science Education director, has been named an American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellow. Cobern, elected in the education section, was cited "for distinguished contributions to science education through research on culture, philosophy and science education and for the application of these to the concept of science literacy."
Cobern holds a joint appointment as a professor of biological sciences and science education and has been a principal researcher in a number of science education initiatives funded by the National Science Foundation and the Michigan Department of Education.
He joined the WMU faculty as associate professor of science education and coordinator of the elementary school master's program. He also has served as associate dean of the College of Education. Prior to coming to the University, he held faculty positions in science education at Arizona State University, Austin College in Texas and Judson Baptist College in Oregon.
AAAS is the world's largest general scientific society and publisher of the journal, Science. It was founded in 1848 and includes some 262 affiliated societies and academies of science, serving 10 million individuals. Its publication Science has the largest paid circulation of any peer-reviewed general science journal in the world, with an estimated total readership of one million.

Copeland receives Latvian honor
Dace Copeland, Extended University Programs, has been awarded the Cross of Recognition by the president of Latvia. The prestigious award is given to individuals who demonstrate outstanding patriotism and achievements for the good of Latvian society and culture.
Copeland has been a WMU staff member for more than 20 years and is a longtime leader in the Kalamazoo Latvian community. She was elected president of the American Latvian Association in 2002.
The following employees are recognized for 30, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during November.

30 years—Nancy K. Sluss, Physical Plant-landscape services. (Inadvertently left off the September list: Darryl A. Salisbury, Hae- nicide College of Arts and Sciences.)

20 years—Paul R. Schneidensbach, information technology.

15 years—Donald Scott Pafl, Physical Plant-landscape services.

10 years—Teresa L. Cleveland, Academic-Technical Services; Michele L. Cole, College of Education; Te- resa M. Crowhurst, Bernhard Center Dining Service; Melvin Theodore Edgerly, Power Plant; Mary Ann Ford, Extended University Programs; Kerrie Jo Harvey, arts and sciences advising; Nancy King, Physical Plant-building custodial and support services; Doug- las Lloyd, Campus Facility Development; Sharon McKenzie, Physical Plant-building custodial and support services; John Phil- lips, Physical Plant-building custodial and support services; M. Montgomery Porter III, intercollegiate athletics; Dale Allen Shepp- ard, Physical Plant-utilities; and Mary Jo Starks, Physical Plant-building custodial and support services.

Five years—Mark L. Belmat, Physical Plant-building custodial and support ser- vices; Marianne Davis, Physical Plant-building custodial and support services; Marianne DeAngelis, Valley #2 Dining Service; Kathy A. Denny, Bernhard Center Dining Service; Douglas Engebretsen, College of Education; Dan G. Moley, Physical Plant-building custodial and support services; Betty Merrifield, Davis Dining Services; Cathleen Smith, Col- lege of Engineering and Applied Sciences; Mary Ann Stark, Bromson School of Nurs- ing; Ruth Wagenau, Physical Plant-build- ing custodial and support services; Earlie M. Washington, School of Social Work; and Jeffrey A. Winkle, Physical Plant-building custodial and support services.

Ethics center marks 20 years

An informal reception and nine-member panel discussion Tuesday, Nov. 15, in 208 Bernhard will mark the 20th anniversary of the Center for the Study of Ethics in Society. The reception begins at 3 p.m. and the panel discussion at 3:30 p.m.

The panelists will include Shirley Bach, center associate director; Sandra Borden and Michael Pritchard, center co-directors; and Dieter Haenicke, WMU president emer- itus. They will discuss the center’s past, present and future and reflect on the purpose of an interdisciplinary ethics center.

International Week features top state department official

A top official from the U.S. Department of State will kick off WMU’s observance of International Education Week, which runs Monday through Saturday, Nov. 14-19. Richard T. Miller, deputy assistant secretary of state for economic and global issues, will give a free talk on “The United States in the United Nations” from 3:30-5 p.m. Monday in 3301 Friedmann.

Miller is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service and previously was executive officer in the United Nations and served in several positions related to the United Nations as well as economic, development and trade issues.

The United Nations; foreign movies, music and dance; overseas learning experiences; world geography; and African culture will all be showcased during International Education Week. The events are being organized by the Haenicke Institute for Global Education in conjunction with the national observance of International Education Week. All events are open to the public. Most are free and take place on the main WMU campus.

For more information about Miller’s visit, call 7-5885. A complete list of activities taking place on campus during the week is available online at www.wmich.edu/ieweek.
On Campus with David Kotecki

David Kotecki, environmental safety and emergency management, is happy hunting down mold, poor air quality and excessively noisy equipment. The gregarious industrial hygienist enjoys keeping WMU employees safe.

"The biggest gem in the job is helping individuals and helping them help themselves," Kotecki says. "Keeping people healthy and safe is a great feeling."

Kotecki came to WMU in 1989 and was promoted to his current post a year later. Previously, he spent nearly 25 years in industry as a metallurgist for a foundry, a juice and spreads processing manager for a food company and a chemical division production/process manager for a pharmaceutical company.

Now as an industrial hygienist, he deals with workplace health issues, including physical and chemical hazards, makes sure WMU complies with state and federal Occupational Health and Safety Administration regulations, and provides advice and technical support to the University community. He says his biggest job challenge is deciphering changes to OSHA rules so he can explain them in training programs for employees.

"We have a lot of opportunities for issues to arise, but everybody does a great job preventing them," Kotecki adds. "WMU people are very concerned about health and safety, and that makes my job a lot easier. It’s also satisfying because everyone in my office gets along, cooperates with each other and represents the University very well."

Kotecki, who has four children and eight grandchildren, earned a bachelor’s degree in biology from WMU and later picked up a bachelor’s degree in occupational health and safety from another institution. When not hunting down hazards on campus, he operates a vegetable truck farm in Almena near Paw Paw, goes fishing, and raises a specific strain of Labrador Retrievers as pets and for pheasant and upland bird hunting.

Innovation Fund

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an opportunity for faculty and staff members to advance WMU, to challenge the status quo and to shape the institution for the years ahead."

Any WMU employee, either individually or as part of a unit or a series of collaborating units, is eligible to submit one or more proposals for funding. With the advice of a nine-person review panel, the president will grant monetary awards to the best projects, based on a merit-review process that will use weighted criteria. The innovative qualities exhibited by proposals will account for 50 percent of the panel’s consideration, with 10 percent each assigned to proposal qualities in the areas of mission focus, impact, feasibility, measurable outcomes and expertise.

The review panel will be led by Dean Nicholas Andreadis, Extended University Programs. In addition to Andreadis, the panel will consist of three faculty members, three staff members and two administrators. The first award decisions will be announced Feb. 15, and funds for the awards will be released on March 1.

“I am convinced that passion and innovation and the desire to elevate our University to the highest level of excellence can be found throughout this University,” Bailey said in an Oct. 31 message to the WMU community. “I am looking forward as much to the opportunity to feature the best projects as I am to the very real advancements this effort will produce."

More information about the awards and a link to a complete set of guidelines is available online at www.wmich.edu/president/

Care packages

“Anyone can donate, and we’ll accept just about anything,” she adds. “We try to include a mix of things in each box. Cash is ok, too. We can use it for shipping and to buy fill-in items.”

LaChance says the packages are opened in a central area, with generic items shared among everyone in the addressee’s unit, and she rarely knows the status of the units—some move frequently and can only keep what they can carry.

So, she recommends that people donate items that are light-weight and aren’t too big or expensive, as they may have to be left behind should the unit move. Staples she likes to have on hand include personal hygiene items, nonperishable foods, and games and other entertainment items. Toys that can be given out to Iraqi children are also big winners, as is WMU memorabilia.

“It’s just an action from our hearts and I wouldn’t give it up for the world,” LaChance says. “We’re always going to have people over there. This is our way of giving the University community a chance to participate. If I have to do it myself, so be it.”

To submit addresses of those serving in the military, make a care package donation or be added to the contributors’ e-mail list, contact LaChance by calling 7-4300 or sending e-mail to dori.lachance@wmich.edu.

MLK speaker

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Wu was named dean in 2004. He was on the law faculty of Howard University from 1995 to 2004 and has been an adjunct professor at Columbia University, a visiting professor at the University of Michigan and a teaching fellow at Stanford University. He has been active in numerous professional and civil rights groups, wrote “Yellow: Race in America Beyond Black and White,” and co-wrote “Race, Rights and Reparation: Law and the Japanese American Internment.”

Among the other activities taking place during this year’s MLK celebration are a kick off celebration Sunday, Jan. 8, in Kalamazoo; a Citywide Community Day of Service Monday, Jan. 16, that will include a children’s fair; and a variety of sponsored activities and programs Tuesday through Friday, Jan. 17-20. More information will be posted online at www.wmich.edu/mlkday as it becomes available.

Literature racks available for use

The campus community is invited to use the Bernhard Center’s literature rack on the Bronco Mall level near the ATM to distribute official University materials that are 8-1/2 x 11 inches or smaller and are not time sensitive.

Examples of suitable materials include departmental recruitment brochures, student organization descriptions and Sincere health fliers. Bernhard Center staff will restock the rack if users provide extra copies of their materials.

For more information about this free service, contact Sue Green at 7-4888 or sue.green@wmich.edu.