



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

# WESTERN NEWS

Volume 25, Number 21

www.wmich.edu/wmu/news

July 29, 1999

## *First schools could open in 2000*

### University ready for charter school ideas that will link campus to public schools

Starting Aug. 1, WMU's College of Education will begin accepting applications for new and innovative ideas for public school academies, more commonly known as charter schools.

Applications will be available in the college dean's office along with information that will identify the type of school that will be considered and the University's conditions for chartering.

The University is looking for charter school proposals that offer something new that isn't currently being offered in existing public schools and will work together with public schools to provide that service.

"The whole idea is not to erode support for public schools," said President Floyd of the initiative. "Through partnerships, cooperation and collaboration we would like to redefine and shape the character of charter schools in this state."

Dean Frank Rapley, College of Education, says a recent study of the state's charter schools by the WMU Evaluation Center, identified four categories of charter schools: converted public schools, converted private schools, smaller "mom and pop" schools, and franchise or management company schools.

"We're none of those," Rapley says. "We're trying to authorize a different category of charter schools than currently exists in the state."

"The kind of schools we want to charter will form a partnership with public schools and try to provide an innovation or a service that currently is not provided and give additional choices to students in the public schools."

For example, schools could experiment with a longer school year or different hours of operation, Rapley says. They

also could integrate the school with health services or day care before and after school.

The University went ahead with plans to begin chartering schools after the WMU Board of Trustees passed a resolution Dec. 11 exercising the University's right to become an authorizing body for public school academies. Trustees will later approve charter proposals recommended by the President.

The University's approach to chartering was detailed in a position statement drafted last year by College of Education faculty working with area public school superintendents.

Basic tenets in the statement stipulate that chartering initiatives must result in improved learning and achievement for all students and supplement and complement public school efforts.

Rapley says the first charter will probably be granted later this year, allowing the school to begin operating next year.

## *Public sessions set for feedback on planning*

The next in a series of public feedback sessions regarding the master planning process at the University will take place Tuesday and Thursday, Aug. 10 and 12, at the Fetzer Center.

The Aug. 10 session, intended primarily for the University community, will begin at 1 p.m. in the Putney Auditorium, Room 1010, Fetzer. The Aug. 12 session, primarily for the public, will begin at 7 p.m., in Room 2020, Fetzer.

Richard Rigerink of JJR Inc. in Ann Arbor, WMU's master planning consultant, will conduct the sessions. He and other members of the consulting team will present two concepts for the continued physical development of each of WMU's major campus segments.

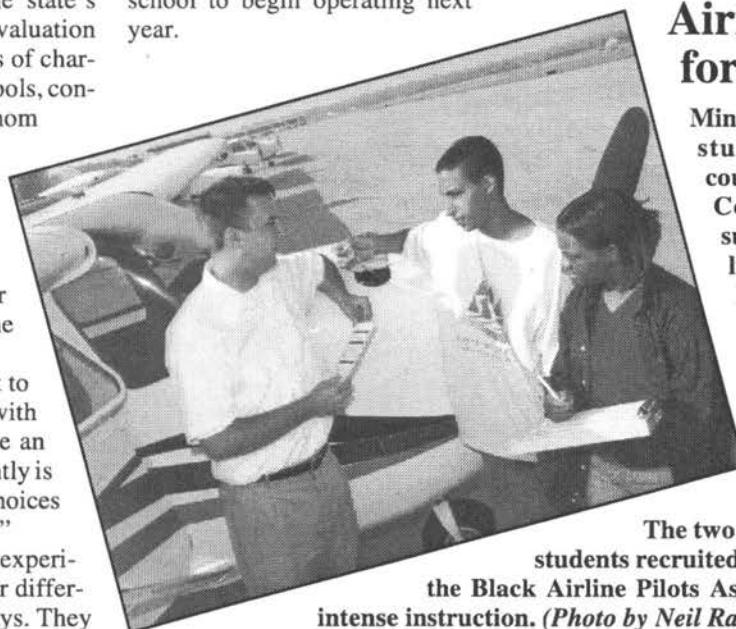
The segments are East Campus, located east of Stadium Drive and north of Oliver Street; South Campus, located south of Oliver Street between Stadium Drive and

*(Continued on page four)*

## Airing their hopes for flight careers

Minority and women high school students from around the country spent July 12-23 at the College of Aviation's first summer camp to get a taste of life as an aviator. From left, Kevin O'Reilly, a flight instructor in the college, pointed out parts of the airplane to Yves Pardieu of Phoenix and Isha Jordan of Detroit before the two went up for one of two flights they took.

The two were among 17 high school students recruited from around the nation by the Black Airline Pilots Association for two weeks of intense instruction. (Photo by Neil Rankin)



## Alliance aims to provide better disability services to area residents

An effort to better serve people with disabilities took a step forward in June when WMU Trustees authorized the administration to form an alliance between the University's Center for Disability Services and two local community organizations.

The proposed alliance would be called The Alliance for Community Supports and would help the Center for Disability Services and community agencies MRC Industries Inc. and Residential Opportunities Inc. better meet the demands of today's rapidly changing health care environment, says Carol Sundberg, CDS director.

"Joining the strengths of multiple

agencies would help minimize the drawbacks of managed care and capitalize on the potential for improved services, while maintaining local community values," Sundberg says.

The alliance would offer services to people with disabilities under contractual relationships with state, local and private funding sources and provide a comprehensive network of individualized, high quality and efficient support to help people with a variety of needs live successfully in the community.

It also would provide collaborative opportunities for member organizations to improve services, create new services and enhance access to managed care contracts

while maintaining each organization's mission and values.

Formerly the Center for Developmentally Disabled Adults, the Center for Disability Services is part of the College of Health and Human Services and offers community-based and clinic-based services to 130 adults with disabilities.

By forming an alliance, its clients and those at other alliance organizations would benefit by having alliance members pool their expertise and offer increased service options and greater flexibility in how services are arranged. The alliance also would focus on reducing costs by sharing resources and eliminating duplication of services.

## BOT learns of more than \$5 million in April and May grants

More than 50 grants for research were among 78 grants totaling nearly \$5.2 million awarded to the University in April and May, according to a report presented to the Board of Trustees at its June meeting.

Grants received by WMU for the two months totaled \$5,186,245, bringing the total of grants received since the July 1 start of the fiscal year to \$77,328,249.

Two new grants totaling nearly \$950,000 from the National Science Foundation were among the largest grants received. Arlen R. Gullickson, the Evaluation Center, was awarded \$439,866 to study the productivity, impact and effectiveness of the NSF's Advanced Technological Education cen-

ters and projects. The 10 centers and 120 projects nationwide provide training for technicians in advanced technological fields. This is the first year of a 32-month, \$1.28 million grant.

A second NSF grant for \$507,490 was awarded to Kathleen Kline and Theresa J. Grant, both mathematics and statistics, to provide more than 250 teachers and administrators with support in implementing the NSF's "Investigations in Number, Data, and Space" elementary mathematics curriculum.

The largest grant received during April and May was \$614,592 awarded to the University's College of Aviation from Emirates Airlines to continue pilot training for Emirates cadets at the International Pilot Training Centre, located at the college's Battle Creek facility.

A number of federal grants from agencies including the NSF and the U.S. Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, and Energy will boost research projects and academic activities at the University. Among the federal grants reported were:

- A \$371,771 award from U.S. Department of Education to Martha Warfield, Division of Minority Affairs, to fund the 33rd year of Upward Bound at WMU. The pre-college program provides academic, social and cultural support to high school students from disadvantaged families to help them prepare for success in college.

- A \$325,983 grant from the U.S. Department of Education to William R. Wiener, chairperson of blind rehabilitation, and Elizabeth Whitten, chairperson of educational studies, to continue provid-

ing training for graduate students on how to meet the education, orientation and mobility needs of visually impaired children.

- A \$202,249 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to Kathi Fuller, Rural Health Education Project in the College of Health and Human Services, to support the ninth year of a program that provides interdisciplinary training to students interest in pursuing health care careers.

- A \$135,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to Nora Berrah, physics, to establish a state-of-the-art facility for high resolution extreme ultraviolet and soft x-ray spectroscopy at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California. Berrah is leading a national team of researchers conducting studies on atomic and molecular structures at the Advanced Light Source facility at Berkeley National Laboratory.

Three grants from the National Science Foundation, totaling \$138,650, will support the University's mission of being a premier student-centered research institution by increasing research opportunities for undergraduate students. Susan R. Stapleton, chemistry and biological sciences, and Stephen Malcolm, biological sciences, received \$51,400; Osama Abudayyeh, construction engineering, materials engineering and industrial design, was awarded \$77,250; and Anil Sawhney and Carl Wendell, construction engineering, materials engineering and industrial design, received \$10,000 to implement programs giving undergraduates meaningful scientific research experiences.

## WESTERN NEWS

**Editor:** Cheryl P. Roland; **Contributors:** Jeanne M. Baron, Marie E. Lee, Michael J. Matthews and Mark E. Schwerin.

**Western News** (USPS 362-210) is published by the Office of University Relations, Walwood Hall, Western Michigan University, 1201 Oliver St., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5165, every other week when classes are in session. Periodicals postage paid at Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5165.

**Postmaster:** Send address changes to Western News, Office of Marketing, Public Relations and Communications, Western Michigan University, 1201 Oliver St., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5165.

**Western News** is distributed without charge to faculty and staff members, retirees and friends of the University, and is available at several campus locations. Many of the articles also are available online at [www.wmich.edu/wmu/news](http://www.wmich.edu/wmu/news).

**Deadline:** Items to be considered for publication should be submitted to the Office of University Relations by 5 p.m. Friday the week preceding the publication date. Summer 1999 publication dates are: July 1, July 15, July 29 and Aug. 12. Items may be submitted by mail, fax (387-8422) or e-mail ([cheryl.roland@wmich.edu](mailto:cheryl.roland@wmich.edu)).

**Offices** that receive too many copies — or too few copies — are asked to call 387-8400. WMU is an equal opportunity/employer/affirmative action institution.



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

## Anonymous gift establishes four need-based student scholarships

An anonymous donor has established four need-based scholarships at the University, each worth up to \$32,000 over four years, with a gift of more than \$100,000 to the WMU Foundation.

The gift is part of current and deferred cash gifts to the Foundation, totaling \$726,864 for April and May, that were reported to the Board of Trustees in June. The year-to-date total for such gifts through May is \$9,221,191, an increase of \$2,814,671 over the total for the same period last year.

"We're very grateful for this wonderful expression of generosity on the part of a good friend of the University, who wishes to remain anonymous," says Bud Bender, associate vice president for development and secretary of the WMU Foundation.

One scholarship will be awarded each year for the next four years, beginning this fall.

Other cash gifts to the foundation in April and May include:

- \$15,000 from George F. Ball of Newport Beach, Calif., to the Mike Gary Athletic Fund for men's hockey.
- \$12,000 from the Chicago Food Brokers Association for a food marketing scholarship in the Department of Marketing.
- \$25,000 from DaimlerChrysler Corp. for an integrated supply management scholarship in the Department of Management.

• \$20,000 from the Georgia-Pacific Foundation Inc., of which \$10,000 is for the Paper Technology Foundation 2000 Campaign for equipment and another \$10,000 is for an endowed scholarship in the name of the George-Pacific Corp.

- \$10,000 from the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co. for a food marketing scholarship.
- \$30,555 from the estate of the late Donald B. (Tim) Shaw of Kalamazoo for a tutorial scholarship in special education.

In other action, the board authorized changes in the language of some endowments of the WMU Foundation and the Paper Technology Foundation to ensure

the endowments achieve donors' goals for growth. The changes pertain to endowments that call for the reinvestment of income or earnings.

### Y2K update

Campus systems that have been examined or upgraded to be certified Y2K compliant include:

- Twelve campus electric metering stations,
- Two lighting control systems, and
- All electronic test equipment.



## New travel instruction bachelor's degree program will be the first of its kind in nation

A new bachelor's degree program approved in June by the Board of Trustees will be the first in the nation to train students to help people with disabilities learn to travel safely.

The new bachelor of arts degree in travel instruction in the Department of Blind Rehabilitation will be offered beginning this fall. It will prepare professionals to teach people with disabilities how to travel independently, a need that has become

even more evident in recent years with the passage of the Americans With Disabilities Act.

Being able to travel independently lets people take part in a wide range of activities and educational programs, gain employment and become contributing members of a community. Since the Americans with Disabilities Act was passed, people with disabilities have been granted the right to equal access to transportation, resulting in a need for instructors who can teach orientation, independent travel and the use of public transportation.

Recognizing that need, the U.S. Department of Education awarded the University a four-year, \$350,000 grant to develop an undergraduate program in travel instruction. The Federal Transit Act also set aside \$300,000 to develop standards for the preparation of independent travel specialists and to develop a program leading to instructor certification. William Wiener, chairperson of blind rehabilitation, has been working on both efforts.

Program graduates will teach people with disabilities how to establish and maintain their orientation and travel safely in indoor areas, residential neighborhoods, rural areas, businesses and urban centers. The 122-credit-hour program includes a 24-credit-hour major in travel instruction that will prepare instructors in independent travel.

The program will prepare 10 students each year to work with people with varying disabilities and meet their independent travel needs. Graduates will be eligible for jobs at centers for independent living, adult service agencies, school systems and transit systems.

## Jobs

The following list of vacancies is currently being posted through the Job Opportunity Program by employment services in the Department of Human Resources. Interested benefits-eligible employees should submit a job opportunity transfer application during the posting period, and may contact an employment services staff member for assistance in securing these positions.

## Exchange

**FOR RENT**—Two-bedroom, 1 1/2-bath apartment for sublease through 12/31/99. 1,100 sq. ft., washer/dryer, appliances, patio. No pets. \$715 per month. Call 388-5518.

**FOR SALE**—'97 Buick Century, power windows and locks, keyless entry, AM/FM cassette, cloth interior, 51,000 miles, all highway. \$13,700 OBO. Call Bryan, 388-5314.

**HOUSING NEEDED**—Near campus or on a bus route, for Department of Geography visiting scholar, Aug. 16-Sept. 11. Call the department, 7-3410.

S-01 and S-02 clerical positions are not required to be posted. For persons interested in faculty positions, there are openings in selected fields. A letter of application should be submitted to the appropriate dean or chairperson.

(R) **Secretary III**, S-06, University Counseling/Testing, 98/99-668, 7/27-8/2/99

(N) **Coordinator Lab** (FTE .75, 30 hours per week), X-04, Science Studies, 99/00-723, 7/27-8/2/99

(N) **Admissions System Specialist**, X-04, Admissions & Orientation, 99/00-740, 7/27-8/2/99

(N) **Secretary II** (FTE .84, 40 hours per week academic year; 20 hours per week spring & summer), S-05, Foreign Languages and Literature, 99/00-743, 7/27-8/2/99

(R) **Financial Clerk II**, S-04, WMU Bookstore, 99/00-744, 7/27-8/2/99

(R) **Clerk IV**, S-05, Customer Account Services, 99/00-745, 7/27-8/2/99

N = New

R = Replacement

WMU is an EO/AA employer.



## Veteran WMU charter school researcher picked to evaluate charters in Pennsylvania

A WMU researcher who has helped evaluate more than 10 percent of the nation's charter schools has been selected to examine Pennsylvania's young charter school system.

Gary Miron, principal research associate in the Evaluation Center, has been awarded \$174,958 by the Pennsylvania Department of Education to be the project director of a 17-month study of the 31 charter schools that were operating in that state during the 1998-99 school year. Evaluation work at the schools began in late May.

Pennsylvania will likely have 48 charter public schools enrolling more than 12,000 students in operation this fall. The Pennsylvania schools are chartered by local school districts in a structure set by state legislation passed in 1997. That same legislation mandated a thorough evaluation of the schools after five years to determine how well the schools' operation match the intent of the law. The WMU contract, awarded just two years into the period, is designed to provide a model for future researchers to use in evaluating the schools as well as provide critical early data to school administrators.

Miron and his team will evaluate the schools' success in fostering improved pupil learning and increased learning opportunities; implementing innovative teaching methods; offering new professional opportunities for teachers; and increasing the range of school choice within public school systems. They also will examine school accountability.

"We'll be collecting school-based data from all 31 charter schools," says Miron of the project. "We'll be doing comparisons within the school and also with each

school's host district. And as our study progresses, we'll be providing feedback to the schools involved that will help them make improvements."

Miron was part of a team of WMU evaluators that recently conducted a year-long evaluation of 51 of Michigan's more than 100 charter schools. Working in tandem with a private consulting firm that evaluated the rest of Michigan's charter schools, Miron and his colleagues completed a study that was commissioned by the Michigan Department of Education. Both portions of the study were conducted using a framework developed by Jerry Horn, another principal researcher with WMU's Evaluation Center and a leader on the University's charter school evaluation team.

Miron also is part of an evaluation team that has been conducting evaluations of Connecticut's 16 charter schools since 1997. The purpose of that study, like the Pennsylvania study, is to help the schools during their formative years and provide feedback that will lead to success.

Combined, the Michigan and Connecticut charter schools comprise just over 10 percent of the nation's 1,205 charter schools. Michigan, which is now up to 138 charter schools, ranks third behind Arizona and California in the number of schools it has chartered.

Miron says that the challenge in evaluating charter schools is securing reliable information about those schools in what he calls a "polarized and politicized reform atmosphere."

"That's why we use a wide variety of sources and a number of tools as we gather information to ensure a complete and accurate picture of each school," he says.

## New window posters feature revamped Bronco logo

Looking for a way to dress up your work environment? The Division of Student Affairs has an easy answer—window posters.

The division has been making window posters available to the University community for the last few years, but now the design has been updated. Previously, the posters featured a brown block "W" on a gold background. The updated version incorporates elements of the new athletic logo, including the new Bronco, on a white background.

The window posters are available free of charge to decorate campus buildings and demonstrate WMU pride. To place an order, call the Division of Student Affairs at 7-2152. Most orders can be filled the same day you call. All you have to do is send a representative to pick up your order.

## Planning

(Continued from page one)

Oakland Drive; and West Campus, located west of Stadium Drive and including Goldsworth Valley.

"Each of the concepts will be sufficiently different to generate discussion and feedback, which is what they are intended to do," says Evie Asken, campus planning. "The goal of these sessions is to help WMU determine the future course of campus development."

Each concept will provide different solutions to issues that include relationships between possible new buildings, roadways, walkways, parking and open space as well as utility services to buildings. Participants will be able to discuss any combination of elements in those solutions.

Each of the three major campus segments has been divided into districts, based on physical features of the land, the current grouping of buildings and the similarity of building and space use. Each of the two concepts the consultants will present will illustrate possible development patterns for each district.

"These alternative concepts are intended to help us test, confirm, refine and expand campus-wide development patterns and concepts that have been generated during five earlier campus visits," Asken says.

Each campus visit by the consultants includes meetings with representatives of key campus groups and individuals in addition to the public sessions, Asken notes. The most recent public sessions took place in April. Recommendations are expected to be presented to the University administration during the 2000 winter semester.

## Calendar

*The master calendar maintained by the Office of University Relations in Western News is available through WMU's home page on the World Wide Web. Select WMU News and then look for Calendar of Events. You can also link directly to the calendar at <[www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/events](http://www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/events)>.*

### Wednesday, Aug. 4

1999 Kalamazoo Black Arts Film Festival and Western Film Society showing of Spike Lee's "Four Little Girls," preceded by a short film by New York University filmmaker Ayoka Chenzira and introduction by Gloria Gibson, associate professor of film, Indiana University; Campus Cinema, Oakland Recital Hall, 6 p.m.

### Tuesday, Aug. 10

Master planning session for University community members, Putney Auditorium, Room 1010, Fetzer Center, 1 p.m.

### Thursday, Aug. 12

Master planning session for the public, Room 2020, Fetzer Center, 7 p.m.