Minority health careers, new teacher support are goals

WMU launches partnerships with city schools

Grant will increase number of minorities entering health careers

Minority students from the Kalamazoo Public Schools will be heading for health care careers in record numbers as the next century begins, thanks to a partnership involving WMU and other local educators and community leaders. A $349,983 grant made through the Association of American Medical Colleges will come to the community to fund a five-year initiative to coordinate resources and efforts aimed at increasing the number of minority students headed for a wide range of health care professions. The award was announced last month in Washington, D.C., by AAMC and by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Mich., and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation of Princeton, N.J., which are partners in the national project.

The award will fund the Kalamazoo Health Partnership Initiative, which will involve WMU, Michigan State University, for MSU's Department of Medical Studies, the Kalamazoo Public Schools and community organizations from across the city.

Beginning this fall with KPS seventh graders, the partners in the effort will focus on informing students about health care opportunities and guiding interested students into health careers through counseling, mentoring, job shadowing, enhanced academic and laboratory experiences, special health occupations course work and internships. The partners will bring their resources to the task of improving basic academic achievement levels, increasing minority enrollment in health professions education and improving retention of those students once they enroll in higher education.

"This partnership with the institutions primarily responsible for educating future minority applicants is critical to the success of this effort," says Bernardine Lacey, director of WMU's School of Nursing who will direct the community-wide effort. "We have a wonderful resource here to offer to students in the public schools and the public schools are a wonderful resource for us. This will result in a closer relationship between the public school system and the universities."

"The initiative's focus on fostering academic achievement and the desire to excel dovetails perfectly with the mission of KPS and with the recent moves in the district to increase student achievement," according to Kay Royster, KPS superintendent who has been deeply involved in development of the project.

Tom M. Johnson, who recently retired as assistant dean and chief executive officer of MSU/UKCMS, was involved in putting together the Kalamazoo initiative before he stepped down. He says the project fits in nicely with a number of other efforts involving both MSU and its Kalamazoo campus. His successor, Robert P. Carter, agrees.

"We are proud to be a part of a project that complements the existing efforts of both MSU/UKCMS and MSU College of Human Medicine to attract minority students into medicine," Carter says, "and we welcome another opportunity to collaborate with WMU. Such collaborations have been consistently rewarding and productive."

Other education and community organizations that will be actively involved include Kalamazoo Valley Community College, the NAACP, the Hispanic American Mentors, computers to aid beginning teachers

A pilot project combining modern laptop computing technology and old-fashioned personal mentoring will help Kalamazoo Public Schools' beginning teachers successfully launch their careers, KPS and WMU officials announced Aug. 24 at Arcadia Elementary School.

The pilot project, which is touring the school on opening day with Kay Royster, KPS superintendent, President Elson S. Floyd announced that a small group of first- and second-year KPS teachers would be the first to benefit from the new education initiative, which is designed to help beginning teachers make the transition from student to teacher.

"We’re going to provide the technology and University faculty support that will help teachers make that very difficult transition," Floyd said. "We want to extend the partnerships we’ve already developed with schools to train new teachers. Working with our colleagues in the public schools, we want to continue to provide the kind of support that will enable those teachers to become the very best educators for our children."

The University will provide each new teacher in the pilot program with a College of Education faculty mentor as well as a laptop computer and access to the University’s computing resources. The teachers will have regular one-on-one meetings with their mentors and will be able to communicate with their mentors and other new teachers via e-mail and on-line discussion groups. They also will be able to use their University computing account to access the World Wide Web for research and additional support.

"Teacher education is a lifelong process," said Dean Frank Repley of the College of Education. "Our goal and the effort we’ve put into developing school/University partnerships is designed to improve student learning at every level."

The University’s faculty and preserve programs also will benefit greatly from the program because of constant interaction with new teachers who are facing the challenge of applying their University education when they take the helm in a classroom.

"We have as much to learn as to teach," (Continued on page four)

BOT's reception for the Fords set for Sept. 18

The Board of Trustees will hold a University-wide reception Friday, Sept. 18, to give faculty and staff members an opportunity to welcome President and Mrs. Elson S. Floyd to the campus.

The event is set for 2 to 4 p.m. on the verandas of Miller Auditorium and on the adjacent Fountain Plaza.

The rain location for the event is inside the auditorium in the Grand Tier lobby area.

CommUniCity crowds expected to hit 35,000

Michigan Gov. John Engler is just one of the record 35,000 people expected to be on hand tonight as the University and community gather to launch the 1998 Bronco football season.

Engler, who will be in town to attend a local Chamber of Commerce event, is expected to drop by Hyames Field prior to the 7:30 p.m. game and greet those attending the Corporate Village tailgate party. Private parties will be held in 53 tents set up across that field from 5 to 7 p.m., and a record crowd of 10,000 is expected there. Entertainment will be provided by the U.S. Navy’s “Top 40 Band.” Students will be attending an “ultimate student tailgate” scheduled for them at Kenly Track.

The game, which was nearly sold out at Western News press time, will feature the Broncos against Northern Illinois University. The contest will mark the first time the new Bill Brown Alumni Football Center is in use for a game. The $8.2 million facility was completed earlier this summer and includes coaches’ offices that double as suites on game days as well as locker rooms, weight rooms and an auditorium.

Once the stadium’s 30,000 tickets are gone, seating will be available on the lawn overlooking the stadium. For current ticket information, persons should call 7-3092.
Working together to tell our story

I've been warmly welcomed across the campus and community and for that I am grateful. Now I want to turn the tables and welcome all of you back to what promises to be an academic year full of excitement — the kind of excitement that comes from the orientation gathering for a common goal.

Once in each month, I plan to use this forum to keep you informed about the administration's efforts on behalf of the University as we work with individuals across the state and region and whose message will be clear and consistent. We work together to ensure that WMU is making an impact on the lives of our citizens — and that impact is increasing in size and scope. The investment this state makes in WMU is repaid many times over and our goal is to ensure the citizens of Michigan and their representatives are aware of all the work we do.

By talking about what we do well and seizing every opportunity to spread that message, we are making the connection of this institution can only grow. We all will be able to take pride in both the growing stature of WMU and the fact that we work at a place that really does make a tangible difference in the quality of life around us.

But we won't stop there. In addition to expanding the areas we work with in making an impact, I want to focus our attention on uncovering even more avenues for us to take as we bring the resources to bear on the issues that concern the communities we serve.

Each one of you has the opportunity through this effort. It may be simply letting me know you have something happening in your corner of the campus that we need to highlight when we talk to outside audiences. For some, it will mean making yourself available to help us tell the story of how your department's programs or research are making an impact.

Underlying all of these efforts will be my commitment to enhancing relationships that exist both here on the campus and in the communities which we serve. I want all of us to communicate well with one another and with those whose work overlaps with our community in which we live and work. We have a great story to share. Let's make sure that we get as many people and in as many places as possible an understanding of what we do and the opportunities that exist for those who are interested in or who are already a part of it.

The first of six national speakers to give talks this fall is Rodney D. Fort, professor of economics at Lane Community College in Eugene, Ore.

Fort will discuss "Power Play: The Business of Professional Sports" is set for 3 p.m. in 3508 Knauss Hall and are free and open to the public.

Fort will discuss the economic impact of professional sports "the experience that fans have when they attend a game," or the fan experience of what Fort describes as the "totality of what they do when they attend a game." Fort is also the author of "Power Play: The Rest of the Business of Professional Sports" with John J. Siegfried, professor of economics at Western Michigan University.

Other speakers in this year's series and the topics they will address:

- "Stadium Mania and Economic Reality" with Andrew Zimbalist, the Robert A. and Helen K. Kravis Professor of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Wednesday, March 24.
- "The Thoughts of a Commissioner" with Ken Kern '75, 5549.
- "The Department of Economics and the College of Arts and Sciences co-sponsor the series with the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research in Kalamazoo."

Kern is the former commissioner of professional sports and a former special assistant to the secretary of commerce.

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Wood and Haenicke Halls top list of campus construction projects making a visual impact

Wood and Haenicke Halls — last seen by students and faculty in the spring as parts of a mammoth hard-hat zone — have emerged from behind construction fencing to take their place as integral sections of a new West campus gateway.

The two buildings are among the more visually significant pieces of campus construction that has been going on over the summer months. The Bill Brown Alumni Football Center (see CommUniverCity story on page one) is the other major building project completed over the summer months, Smith says, include a refurbishment of Miller Auditorium that will enhance the acoustics of the auditorium's acoustic curtains. A non-slip finish on the aisles and runways, new cushioned seats, and stairway enclosures in the balcony and Grand Tier levels will complete the job. Other changes to the campus over the summer months, Smith says, include those that will add to campus safety and security. Once completed, the new halls will have wheelchair accessibility.

Acoustically, the auditorium has been enhanced with the addition of a special acoustical flooring, new lighting, and replacement of the operating system for the auditorium's acoustic curtains. A non-slip finish on the side aisles and runways, new cushioned seats, and stairway enclosures in the balcony and Grand Tier levels will complete the job.

Wood and Haenicke Halls top list of campus construction projects making a visual impact that is taught in the Dorothy J. McGinnis Reading Center.

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Four September 3, 1998 Western News

Retired faculty member honors late brother, WWII hero with new aviation scholarship

An endowed scholarship honoring a World War II hero with strong Michigan ties has been created to support WMU aviation students.

Lloyd J. Schmaltz, emeritus in geology, along with his wife, Marilyn, and other family members created the scholarship to honor Lloyd’s brother, Henry, who died in 1958 while a member of the U.S. Air Force.

“Throughout his life, Henry was devoted to aviation, education and service,” Schmaltz says. “He would be proud to know that aviation professionals were helped to complete their studies in his name.”

Beginning this fall, the Major Henry Schmaltz USAF, Endowed Scholarship for Aviation Sciences will be available to full-time juniors and seniors studying aviation flight science or aircraft maintenance engineering technology.

Students may use the scholarship for tuition, fees and book expenses. Income from the $10,000 endowment will provide one scholarship to be awarded each year with preference given to students who have served or intend to serve in the military. Additional contributions to the endowment fund may be made through the WMU Foundation.

Henry Schmaltz enlisted in the Army in 1941 and later transferred to what was then the Army Air Corps. He flew 31 missions from the Netherlands. The operation was initiated after a great North Sea storm and high tides flooded a large portion of the country. Schmaltz and his men flew numerous rescue missions, some to help with food and clothing to those affected by the disaster.

New teachers (Continued from page one)

Rapley said of the opportunities provided by the partnership.

He added that teacher education should be viewed as three separate and distinct phases. The first is preservice training. The second period includes the first two years in the classroom, when new teachers need the support of seasoned educators to make the transition. After their first two years, teachers spend the next 25 years in continuing professional development.

In the current proposal, the University has restructured its preservice training programs to develop School/University Partnership Teacher Education Centers at five Michigan school districts. Six to 10 teaching interns are placed in each school site. There they work closely with mentor teachers. The interns are visited regularly by a University faculty member. Each cluster site also relies on schools to help interns progress as they develop their teaching skills.

“Initiative will help us extend kind of support into the first few years of teaching,” Rapley said. “It is a natural progression and one we hope to offer on a wider basis in the future.”

Rapley said the pilot program is the first step in launching the College of Education’s current proposal to establish a graduate certificate program for beginning teachers in a partnership with Region 7 of the Michigan Association of School Administrators, which covers Southwest Michigan.

The graduate program will focus on providing new teachers with support during their first year in the classroom as well as inservice training that will allow them to complete 18 hours of post-degree training required to continue their teacher certification.

With 11 cluster sites located in Kalamazoo, Battle Creek, Coldwater, Jackson and other locations, the College of Education seeks to give new teachers the opportunity and help them advance in their teaching careers.

Health professions (Continued from page one)

can Council and the Black Nurses Association of Kalamazoo. Members of the Kalamazoo African-American community and church and school organization across the city also will join the effort.

The Kalamazoo effort will join similar efforts around the nation that have been funded through “Project 3000 by 2000,” which was begun by the Association of American Medical Colleges in 1991. The effort is a response to the nationwide shortage of students headed for health care professions and its goal is to double the numbers of minorities in the medical school pipeline.

In 1996, the Health Professions Partnership Initiative was added to the project to encourage science-rich academic medi- cal institutions to join forces with traditionally minority institutions in their communities to address the root causes of minorities’ lack of representation in the health care workforce and to enrich the academic preparation of all students.

“Preparing a health professions workforce that reflects the diversity of the community it serves is in the public interest,” says Lacey. “It is important that health care services be provided by professionals who relate well to the populations they are serving.”

Despite that need and the best efforts of both universities to attract minority applicants, she says, the number of minorities in many of the professional health programs remains much too small, with many categories of minority enrollment still at less than 5 percent.

“It is vital that students be exposed to a variety of health care career opportunities,” Lacey says. “Most students are fa- miliar with physicians but are less likely to know careers available as a specialist in speech pathology, occupational therapy or hospital administration or as a ph- ysician assistant. Students also are in need of solid counseling to ensure that they are prepared through coursework to enter these professions.”

Handling the day-to-day tasks of coordi- nating activities among the school and university will be Helen Truss, a regis- tered nurse and a clinical supervisor in WMU’s School of Nursing. Truss has worked in the community for a number of years, holding positions at Nazareth Col- lege, Bronson Methodist Hospital and the Family Health Center.

Calendar

The master calendar maintained by the Office of Marketing, Public Relations and Communications for use 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 directly to the calendar at www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/events. 

Thursday, September 3

(thru Sept. 4) Exhibition, “Outdoor Encounter Workshop: Paintings and Photographs from South Manitou Island.” South Gallery, East Hall, weekdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; reception, Friday, Sept. 4, 5-7 p.m. (thru Sept. 11) Exhibition, photojournalism by Martin Burch and Rich Wozniak, Rotunda Gallery, East Hall, weekdays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; reception, Friday, Sept. 11, 5-7 p.m. (thru Sept. 27) Exhibition, “Images of India: People of Cuckat,” photographs by Kalamazoo artist Biju Bhuyan, Sangren Hall.

*Football, WMU vs. Northern Illinois University (CommUniverCity Night), Waldo Stadium, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, September 4

*Men’s soccer vs. Wisconsin-Milwaukee (Collegiate Soccer-Faculty)“ volley ball tournament featuring Auburn, IUPUI, Kansas, WMU and Wisconsin-Green Bay, University Arena; Saturday 2:30 and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2:30 and 7:30 p.m.

Women’s soccer vs. University of Detroit, WMU Soccer Complex, 4 p.m.

Saturday, September 5

Men’s cross country Bronco Alumni Meet

Monday, September 7

Labor Day holiday.

Men’s soccer vs. Canisius College, WMU Soccer Complex, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, September 8

(thru Sept. 15) Exhibition, “Dyings” by Sculptors, group show, Rotunda and South Galleries, East Hall, weekdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; reception, Friday, Sept. 11, 5-7 p.m. (thru Sept. 13) Kalamazoo Film Society showing, “Character,” 1997 Dutch film by Lelio Huisman, Otter Gallery, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 9

Economics lecture, “Power Play: The Use and Abuse of Power in Pro Team Sports,” Rodney J. Fort, professor of economics, Washington State University, 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 10

Leslie K. Delp, “Problem Solving and Learning: A Goal for Education” by Dean Frank Rapley, College of Education, Phi Delta Kappa meeting, 2000 Schneider Hall, 7 p.m.

*Admission charged

WMU makes ninth appearance as national university on U.S. News’ best college list

For the ninth consecutive year, the University has been listed as one of the nation’s top 228 national universities by U.S. News & World Report magazine.

*The Aug. 31 issue of the magazine included the publication of its 1998 list of America’s top national universities. The magazine has been rating America’s 1,000 best colleges, and universities for more than a decade and a half. The list was established by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

*The magazine defines “national universities,” as those that offer a full range of majors as well as doctoral degrees that place a strong emphasis on research. The only other Michigan universities on the “national universities” list are the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, and Michigan Technological University and Western Michigan University.

To compile its rankings, the magazine weighs such factors as academic reputation, retention, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources and alumni giving.

Health professions (Continued from page one)

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