Transfer of hospital property approved by state board

Now it's official. The transfer of 120 acres of property, all but 10 acres of it along Oakland Drive, to the University is complete. The property was approved May 19 by the State Administrative Board for $1 per year for use by the Kalamazoo Psychiatric Hospital. The transfer was authorized by the state Legislature in December 1996.

The University will experience an immediate savings of $150,000 per year in lease agreement no longer necessary for the building housing the School of Nursing. It also will enable WMU to build a $10 million welcome center and student services building at the southeast corner of Stadium Drive and Oliver Street.

"This is a truly significant moment in the history of our University," President Haenicke said. "It provides us with the opportunity to grow and develop in ways not previously possible. No one can predict the full significance of this property acquisition."

Keith A. Pretty, vice president for external affairs and general counsel, expressed the University's appreciation to several state officials and members of their staffs.

Committee seeks input on NCAA certification report

As part of an NCAA certification process, WMU officials will conduct a public hearing from 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, June 3, in the Faculty Lounge of the Bernhard Center.

"The purpose of the hearing is to gather ideas and input from the WMU campus community as well as the larger community about athletics at WMU and the draft report of our steering committee," said Jan W. Lydon, planning and institutional research.

Lydon is chairperson of a 13-member steering committee that is conducting WMU's institutional self-study, a part of certification by the National Collegiate Athletic Association. A copy of the steering committee's draft report is available for review at the circulation desk in Waldo Library.

The committee includes Kathy B. Bearce, intercollegiate athletes, and

Did you know?

- WMUK-FM, the University's public radio station, received several awards in the 1997 Associated Press Michigan Broadcast Contest.
- The station earned a top award for having the best newscast.
- It also received honorable mentions for general excellence, best hard news, best use of natural sound and its sports feature story.

The committee seeks input on the NCAA certification report.

WMU first in state to implement tuition grant program

In recognition of the service of Michigan National Guard members to the state and nation, Gov. John Engler and President Haenicke May 13 unveiled a precedent-setting tuition grant program for members of the guard to attend WMU.

The WMU tuition grant program is the first by a public university in Michigan. It is designed to provide all eligible members of the Michigan Air and Army National Guard with up to $150,000 per year in lease assistance. Kalamazoo Michigan guardsmen who are eligible to receive the federal Montgomery GI Bill can participate in the WMU tuition grant program.

Joining Haenicke and Engler, who is commander-in-chief of the Michigan National Guard, was Maj. Gen. E. Gordon Stump, Michigan adjutant general.

Engler commended the University and thanked Haenicke for his leadership in the development of this initiative. "This program is another example of the world-class educational opportunities available at Western Michigan University," he said. "WMU's commitment to the men and women of the Michigan National Guard represents a significant investment in the security of our state and nation."

Engler noted that the national guard is playing an increasing role in humanitarian and peace-keeping missions around the world. At home, the guard is involved in missions of domestic security as well as response to natural disasters.

"Guard members' access to higher education greatly increases their skills, abilities and insights as they fulfill both their mission as soldiers and airmen as well as their role as citizens of Michigan and the United States," Engler said. "We are grateful to WMU for its willingness to participate in this exciting program."

During the ceremony, Haenicke recognized the dual role of the National Guard. "It is vital to the defense of our nation and the protection of the citizens of Michigan and women of the Michigan Army and Air National Guard.

"Education is a vital component in the development of 21st century guard members," he said. "The participation of our guard members in this tuition grant program will have a dramatic impact on their ability to access higher education and on our ability to attract high caliber citizens to our ranks."

Haenicke also acknowledged the support of the National Guard Association of Michigan, a private group made up of current and former army and air guard members. The association played a significant role in the establishment of the program.

Qualified Michigan National Guard members can enroll in any degree program at WMU beginning with the summer session, which starts June 24. Full-time students are eligible for WMU grants up to $800 per fall and winter semester and $400 per spring and summer session. Part-time students receive prorated amounts.

This program will be available to all guardsmen in Michigan, including its five regional centers. Required fees, books and other expenses will continue to be the responsibility of the enrolled guard student.

Several hundred students are expected to participate in the first year of the program. For more information, persons may contact the Michigan Air National Guard through its recruiting offices, its retention officer or its personnel office (517) 483-5512 or the Michigan Army National Guard through its unit recruiters or its state education officer (517) 483-5519.

(Continued on page four)
Sky Broncos climb to the top in national competition

The performance, operation and impact of charter school students is a topic of great interest to state and national audiences. In Michigan, the focus on charter schools has increased as the number of charter schools has grown and as the public education system has undergone significant changes.

The Michigan Department of Education has been conducting evaluations of charter schools since the late 1990s. The department's evaluations have focused on a variety of topics, including student performance, program effectiveness, and the financial health of charter schools.

In recent years, the department has been working with researchers from Western Michigan University (WMU) to conduct evaluations of charter schools. The WMU researchers have been studying a variety of topics, including student achievement, teacher effectiveness, and the impact of charter schools on the surrounding community.

One of the key findings of the WMU research has been that charter schools are more effective than traditional public schools in terms of student achievement. The research has also found that charter schools are more responsive to the needs of students, and that they provide a more supportive learning environment.

The WMU research has been well-received, and the findings have been used to inform policy decisions at the state level. The Michigan Legislature has been working to improve the quality of charter schools, and the WMU research has been a key part of that effort.

The WMU research has also been used to inform the work of other organizations, including the Michigan Department of Education, the National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance, and the National Association of Charter School Authorizers.

In addition to the research on charter schools, the WMU researchers have also been working on a variety of other projects. These projects include work on the impact of education on health outcomes, the development of new instructional methods, and the evaluation of new technologies.

The WMU researchers have been recognized for their work, and have received numerous awards for their contributions to the field of education research. The researchers have been invited to speak at conferences, and have been published in leading journals.

In conclusion, the WMU researchers have been making significant contributions to the field of education research. Their work has helped to inform policy decisions, and has contributed to our understanding of the impact of education on students and communities.
A former superintendent of the Washington, D.C., public school system will discuss the leadership qualities needed to run today’s schools in a Thursday, May 28, speech on campus.

Flora N. McKenzie, now head of an educational consulting firm in Washington, will describe her views on “Reinventing Leadership in a Free Public Talk set for 10 a.m. in the Oakland Recital Hall’s Campus Cinema. McKenzie will delve into the diverse and troubling picture of American education to explore the similarities between top educators and leading business executives. She will examine how to manage and leadership habits in a world of rapidly changing public expectations.

The keynote speaker is sponsored by the MASA/WMU Center for Leadership in Education. The session is part of the MASA/WMU Center’s 2000-01 leadership training series.

For more information, contact Dr. Lawrence Rantz at the MASA/WMU Center for Leadership in Education, 97/98-447, 5/19-5/26/98.

Program helps injured employees return to work sooner

A two-year-old program offered through the VanWalbeck Benefits Center at WMU has helped injured employees return to the job after injury.

“VanWalbeck’s program has been very effective in promoting returns to work, especially for employees who have sustained injuries that are work-related,” said Dr. Neil Rankin, director of the program.

VanWalbeck is the employee benefit consultant for WMU employees injured on the job. The program provides a range of services to help injured employees return to work.

Benefits include:
- Counseling services to help employees adjust to work loss
- Job placement services to help employees find new jobs
- Return to work programs to help employees return to their previous jobs
- Rehabilitation services to help employees recover from injuries

The program is available to all WMU employees injured on the job. For more information, contact Ashley VanWalbeck at 97/98-431, 5/19-5/26/98.

Obituary

Enidale S. Tom, emeritus in teacher education, died May 2 in Lawson. She was 90.

Tom taught home economics at WMU from 1947 to 1970. She was a member of the American Home Economics Association and the Michigan Education Association.

Community advances to new level

The Kalamazoo campus of the University of Michigan recently opened the doors to its newly constructed East-West Connector, a $10 million facility that will serve as a hub for student life on campus.

The connector includes a student center, a dining hall, a fitness center, a lecture hall, and a variety of other student services.

For more information, contact the Department of Student Life at 97/98-430, 5/19-5/26/98.
Bosco elected chairperson of networking consortium

James J. Bosco, College of Education, has been elected to a one-year term as chairperson of the Consortium for School Networking.

The consortium is a national nonprofit organization formed to advocate for the use of telecommunications in K-12 classrooms. Members include nearly 400 school systems and some 1,500 across the nation that also place for this kind of critical review."

During the 33rd International Congress on Medieval Studies at WMU Thursday, May 21, the 1998 Otto Grundler Prize was awarded to Dr. Lacey, a WMU faculty member since this past spring and 19 years as director of the Medieval Institute and the annual congress. The prize is intended to recognize a book or monograph on a medieval subject judged by the selection committee to be an outstanding contribution to the field, and is also serves as an important recruiting tool when attracting new faculty and students. Nursing professionals who wish to attend graduate school in nursing must graduate from an accredited program.

The WMU School of Nursing offers bachelor's degrees in 1996, while the first class of graduates from the first class of graduates from the program is part of Florence's Palazzo Medici.

The book, which Grundler Prize judges "call a definitive study," contains more than 300 photographs and includes a major international prize for medieval studies offered by WMU.

The prize, the largest in the field of medieval studies, is named for the former director of WMU's Medieval Institute, who received his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His work has been cited by scholars as "a definitive study," contains more than 300 photographs and includes a major international prize for medieval studies offered by WMU.

Lacey says the accreditation will not only enhance the school's standing among the academic community of medievalists. It was among the first two different books in two very different fields were shared to receive the prize this year is a function of the level of the competition and of the committee's commitment to select a book that could have wide appeal and still satisfy the criteria.

"That two different books in two very different fields were shared to receive the prize this year is a function of the level of the competition and of the committee's commitment to select a book that could have wide appeal and still satisfy the criteria," Lacey explains. "We literally set up an evidence room of documents and materials to substantiate our claim that we met each of the criteria."