Transfer program wins national award

A program that has more than doubled the number of minority students who transfer each year from Kalamazoo Valley Community College to WMU has won a national award for innovation in academic advising.

Project Focus, a partnership between KVCC and WMU, has been named the recipient of the Outstanding Institutional Advising Award as part of the National Academic Advising Association National Award Program for Academic Advising. The award will be presented to representatives of both institutions in October at the NACADA national conference in Nashville, Tenn.

The NACADA award program, established in 1983 in conjunction with American College Testing, is designed to honor institutions making significant contributions in the field of academic advising and to disseminate information about those contributions to other professionals in the field. NACADA advising awards are based on the innovative quality of a nominated program, creativity, currency, institutional commitment, impact and transferability to other institutions.

Project Focus is a six-year-old program, funded by the Michigan Department of Education’s Office of Minority Equity, that has served 375 students. The project’s original goal was to increase the number of minority transfers from KVCC to WMU by 50 percent. During the five years before Project Focus began in 1989, an average of 18 minority students transferred each year from KVCC to WMU. Since Project Focus was implemented, that number has risen to a five-year average of 41 students per year — an increase of 128 percent.

“One of the best outcomes of this grant is the partnership between KVCC and WMU,” says Stanley E. Henderson, enrollment management and admissions, who is the Project Focus director. “This isn’t a WMU program that happens to be on the community college campus. It is a WMU/KVCC partnership, in which each of us takes a significant role in making the program work. I think our students have been the real beneficiaries of this working relationship.”

The project uses academic monitoring and intervention, mentoring, career and personal counseling, special courses and workshops as well as referral to a host of services available through both KVCC and WMU to address the needs of at-risk students. Frequent interactions between Project Focus students and WMU faculty and student affairs personnel are designed to familiarize Project Focus students with

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The appointments of two department chairpersons were among the personnel items approved June 23 by the Board of Trustees.

Debra S. Berkey was named chairperson of the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, effective July 1, 1995. Joseph R. Morris was selected as interim chairperson of the Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology, effective July 1, 1995, through June 30, 1996.

Berkey, a WMU faculty member since 1985, has been serving as interim chairperson since July 1994.

Morris has been on the WMU faculty since 1984. He will replace Alan J. Hovestadt, whose return to the faculty, effective Aug. 14, 1995, also was approved by the board.

The board approved the return to the faculty of two other department chairpersons at its meeting: Pnina Ari-Gur, construction engineering, materials engineering and industrial design; and Jeanne M. Jacobson, education and professional development. Both were effective July 1, 1995.

In other personnel action, the Board of Trustees approved the retirements of six faculty members and two staff members.

The previously approved retirement with emeritus status of L. Michael Moskovis as professor of business information systems, effective April 22, 1995, was changed to reflect his administrative duties at the University as well. His retirement as vice president emeritus for institutional advancement and professor emeritus of business information systems, effective the same date, was approved by the board. Moskovis first joined the faculty in 1962 and then served the University in various administrative posts, including vice president for institutional advancement from 1990 to 1992, before returning to the faculty two years ago.

The board also granted the honorary title of director emeritus of University archives and regional history collections to Wayne C. Mann. His retirement is effective Dec. 31, 1995. Mann has been a staff member at WMU for 32 years.

The other faculty members granted retirement with emeriti status, along with their years of service and effective dates, are: Triantafilos D. Argyropoulos, art, 31 years, effective Aug. 13, 1995; Beatrix H. Beech, University libraries, 28 years, effective Jan. 1, 1996; David P. Karsten, theatre, 28 years, effective Dec. 31, 1995; Cecil L. McIntire, biological sciences, 19 years, effective Jan. 2, 1996; and Vern H. Stillwell, theatre, 31 years, effective April 20, 1996. The other staff member retiring is: Gloria E. Lee, Black Americana Studies Program, 20 years, effective June 30, 1995.

The board also accepted five resignations: William Bosshardt Jr., economics, effective Aug. 7, 1995; Patricia F. First, chairperson of educational leadership, effective June 30, 1995; John A. Kundel, student financial aid and scholarships, effective June 1, 1995; Eugene W. Thompson, educational leadership, effective April 30, 1995; and Ronald J. Wilson, consumer resources and technology, effective Aug. 18, 1995.

In addition, the trustees approved a leave of absence for David G. Dickason, geography, from July 1, 1995, to June 30, 1996.

July board meeting canceled

Because of a light agenda, the July 21 meeting of the Board of Trustees has been canceled.

Ordinarily, the board tables the tuition recommendation at its June meeting and acts on it at its July meeting. The lowest increase in tuition and required fees among the state's 15 public universities was approved by the WMU trustees last month so that resident undergraduate students would qualify for the new state income tax credit.

The board’s next regularly scheduled meeting is Friday, Sept. 15.

July 21 is last day to drop

The last day to withdraw from one or more classes for the summer session is Friday, July 21. All “drops” must be processed in the academic records office on the third floor of the Seibert Administration Building. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
VanDenBerg named associate registrar

Douglas J. VanDenBerg has been named WMU's associate registrar. He replaces Ronald J. Pelc, who has retired.

VanDenBerg came to WMU from Davenport College's Kalamazoo campus, where he had served as registrar since 1988. From 1985 to 1988, he was an instructor at Davenport, teaching courses in computer literacy and software applications and providing administrative support.

At WMU, VanDenBerg's primary responsibilities will be overseeing the daily operations in the Office of the Registrar and providing technical support for the Integrated Student Information System. That data base includes the records of all past, present and future students and has been used at WMU since 1985.

VanDenBerg earned a bachelor's degree in music from Hope College in 1978 and a master's degree in music from the University of Michigan in 1980. Since 1992, he has served as organist and pianist at Second Reformed Church in Kalamazoo.

He is a member of the Michigan and American Associations of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, the Rotary Club of Kalamazoo and the Plaza Arts Circle. In 1994, he was named "Executive of the Year" by the Kalamazoo chapter of Professional Secretaries International.

Human resources

Is there a staff member you think should receive special recognition for a job well done? There's still time to nominate him or her for a first quarter Staff Service Excellence Award.

This marks the start of the second year of the Staff Service Excellence Award Program. In the first year, 45 staff members were recognized with quarterly awards and five persons with annual awards for their work "above and beyond the call of duty."

Nomination forms for the first quarter, which covers April, May and June 1995, have been mailed to all staff members. Nominations are due Monday, July 17.

Lacey elected to board

Bernardine M. Lacey, nursing, has been elected to the Board of Governors of the National League of Nursing. She will serve as chairperson-elect and then as chairperson of the Council of Constituent Leagues during 1995-97 and 1997-99, respectively.

Fox holds national office

Susan A. Fox, communication, is serving as secretary of the Commission on Communication and Aging of the Speech Communication Association. Her research on communication and aging has been published in the Journal of Aging Studies, Research in Language and Social Interaction and the Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development.

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 can apply for any of these positions (bargaining or non-bargaining) by submitting a job opportunity transfer application during the posting period, or may contact an employment services staff member for assistance in identifying themselves as candidates for these openings.

Winners will receive certificates and $50 gift vouchers.

For additional forms, persons may contact the Department of Human Resources at 7-3620.

Exchange

WANTED — Responsible, administrative staff member is looking for housing opportunity for 1995-96 year. Can contribute to maintenance as well as financially. Call 372-6714.

FOR SALE — Yamaha Riva XC180, 6,300 actual miles, well maintained. $600. Call 375-6295

Paavola selected for post in WMU News Services

Julie D. Paavola has been named assistant director of News Services at WMU.

Paavola has worked since 1993 as a producer/announcer at WMUK-FM, the university's public radio station. Between 1989 and 1993, she was a member of the news staff at WKZO-AM in Kalamazoo and at WGGL-FM and WAAH-FM, both in Houghton.

Her duties in WMU's News Services will include producing radio programs for distribution to stations around the state, writing news and feature stories for internal and external media and assisting in media relations.

A native of Houghton, Paavola earned a bachelor's degree in English from WMU in 1989 with high honors. She replaces Michael L. Smith, who is now the West Michigan educational representative for the Chicago-based DeVry Institute of Technology.

WMU is an EO/AA employer.
Writing program grows to include students as well as teachers

WMU’s role in a national writing improvement effort has been expanded this summer to include middle school students as well as teachers, with workshops for both groups now meeting daily on campus.

The University was selected last year as a host site for the National Writing Project, a critically acclaimed professional development program for teachers that features an intensive four-week training session. The WMU site, known as “The Third Coast Writing Project,” trained its first group of Michigan teachers last summer and many have gone on to lead writing workshops for teachers in communities across the state.

Two Kalamazoo area teachers trained in last summer’s session have taken the project a step further by developing a three-week writing camp for area students who will enter the sixth, seventh or eighth grade this fall. Anna Marovich, a teacher at Kalamazoo’s Kazoo School, and Valerie Roberts, a teacher at Paw Paw High School, began plans for developing a writing camp while working together last summer in the first teachers’ institute.

Their idea was incorporated into the Third Coast project and some funding for their work was built into this year’s budget. Additional funding for the camp comes from student tuition and scholarship funds from an Upjohn Community Arts Grant through the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo and from the Binda Foundation of Battle Creek.

The students are meeting daily through July 14 from 9 a.m. to noon and are traveling to area sites for inspiration for their various writing tasks. Students will interview senior citizens in a retirement community and interview animal caretakers at Battle Creek’s Binder Park Zoo to gather information for their writing projects, Roberts says.

Students will write every day, exploring writing as an art form. They will learn to interview people and to put the interview information into the writers’ own words.

“These kids are coming here because they love to write,” Roberts says of the 14 camp participants who come from across Kalamazoo County. “They already are young writers and they are eager to write more.”

The students will produce a “magazine,” which will feature two polished written pieces by each student as well as art work to illustrate the writing. On Friday, July 14, they will take part in a final celebration of their work with parents and some of their interview subjects.

While the students are honing their writing skills, 18 teachers from seven Michigan counties will be meeting from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day through July 18 to take part in the second teachers’ institute at WMU. According to Ellen H. Brinkley, English, director of the Third Coast project, the instruction focuses on the concept of teachers training teachers. Once teachers are trained in the summer institute, Brinkley helps schedule workshops in area school districts that contract with the writing project for professional development programs. In those workshops, Third Coast participants share their teaching strategies with other interested teachers.

“That’s a bigger professional role for many teachers to take on,” Brinkley notes, but says it’s what makes the national effort work so well. “It’s a project that values the professionalism of the classroom teacher. When teachers teach other teachers, they are sharing ideas that have worked for them in the classroom.”

There also is a continuity program for participants in the teachers’ institute. Teachers get together periodically to discuss how they’ve applied new techniques in the classrooms and to try out their ideas for workshop teaching. The 1994 teacher participants will gather for an August retreat to reflect on the program and its benefits. Two of the 1994 participants also are taking part in this year’s institute to provide coaching and help with teaching demonstrations.

WMU is part of a network of more than 150 sites across the country for the national project, which is based at the University of California at Berkeley.

Project Focus

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the larger campus and to ease their eventual transition to WMU. Participants are mainly Kalamazoo area residents, but over the course of the program, many also have come from other parts of Southwest Michigan and from the Detroit area.

The makeup of the pool of students served has evolved over the years, according to Maxine R. Gilling, the project’s coordinator who is based on the KVCC campus.

“The students that we served when the project started tended to be older, more focused students who needed information and an opportunity to develop a networking system,” Gilling says. “Now, after marketing the project to high school guidance counselors and to graduating seniors, we are seeing younger students who need more academic monitoring and who benefit from more intrusive assistance. We provide them with a chance to continue their education with support from both institutions.”

“The money spent by the state of Michigan on this program represents one of the best investments taxpayers could have made,” Henderson says. “Project Focus is one grant-funded program that works. The money has gone to help students achieve and the numbers transferring are the proof.”