Farmworkers aided by $2 million grant

The University has been awarded more than $2 million over the next five years to support first-year, first-generation undergraduate students who are migrant or seasonal farmworkers, or the children of such workers.

The U.S. Department of Education and its Office of Migrant Education awarded the grant to fund their long-standing College Assistance Migrant Program. The University is one of only 10 institutions in the country and the only one in Michigan to receive grant money for CAMP’s new funding cycle.

WMU’s CAMP project, which is housed in multicultural affairs, will receive $416,293 for the 2017-18 academic year and $2,107,988 overall. It focuses on science, technology, engineering and mathematics—STEM—education. Diana Hernández, multicultural affairs and principal investigator for WMU-CAMP, reports that the program will enroll an average of 40 eligible students during each year of the 2017 through 2022 grant period.

Montgomery installation draws enthusiastic crowd

Installation events Sept. 15 and 16 for Edward Montgomery as WMU’s ninth president drew big crowds and were capped off by a 37-28 victory over the University of Idaho during the CommUniverCity football game played at home in front of 25,732 fans.

The CommUniverCity weekend timing for Montgomery’s installation was meant to emphasize the ties between the University and the Kalamazoo-area community.

Public events kicked off Friday morning in Miller Auditorium with formal installation of the new president. Participating were academic delegates from colleges and universities around the nation who

Teaching, service award recipients to be feted at convocation

Editor’s note: Four campuswide award programs will be celebrated during the Fall Convocation Friday, Oct. 6. This issue recognizes winners of two of those programs. The remaining winners will be recognized in the Oct. 5 issue.

Distinguished Teaching Award

This honor is bestowed on faculty members who are exceptional educators and mentors, and demonstrate outstanding dedication in their work.

• Ariel Anderson, teaching, learning and educational studies, was cited by many nominators for being a memorable and influential part of their education—personally as well as academically. They praised Anderson for her passion for teaching, compassion and ability to make students feel welcome. They also commended her for developing relationships that are true student-teacher alliances that help students master content and prepare them for the professional world.

• Luann Bierlein Palmer, educational leadership, research and technology, was nomi-
Around campus and beyond

Speaker to address management

Organizational behavior will be the topic of the Mercantile Bank of Michigan Breakfast Speaker Series at 8 a.m. Friday, Sept. 29, in 2150 Schneider Hall. Doug Lepisto, management, will give a presentation titled “Leading Institutions in Unsettled Times.” The free event begins with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Reservations are required and may be made at wmich.edu/business/mercantile-rsvp or by calling (269) 387-5964.

Multiple early fall career fairs slated

Three of WMU’s high-profile career fairs are coming up. They are open to all but aimed at the University’s students and recent alumni. Full details are available on the Ziang Career Center’s events page at wmich.edu/business/career. Visit the Career and Student Employment Services pages page at wmich.edu/career for non-business event information.

The events, along with their times and dates, are: ISM—Integrated Supply Management—Career Night, 5 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 26; Marketing, Food/Sales Marketing Career Night, 5 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 10; and Business Career Day, noon to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 11.

Hispanic Heritage Month observed

A series of public events organized by multicultural affairs is continuing in observance of Hispanic Heritage Month. They include a free reception in honor of the 45th anniversary of WMUK’s “Alma Latina” radio show from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 5, in the station’s Takeda Performance Studio. Visit wmich.edu/multicultural for the full event schedule.

Workshop focuses on healthy sleep

A Healthy Sleep Lunch and Learn workshop has been slated for WMU employees from 12:10 to 12:50 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 28, in 157 Bernhard Center. The program is free, but registration is required at wmich.edu/wellness/programs.

Sustainability programs highlighted

The Fall Sustainability Celebration will be held Thursday, Sept. 28, in the Office for Sustainability building to recognize WMU’s commitment to sustainability and showcase related campus programs and projects. The celebration will feature a bazaar and open house at 2 p.m. and Sustainability Slam from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Visit wmich.edu/sustainability/events/celebration-0 for details.

Numerous speaker series already underway this fall

Many annual speaker-related series are now in full swing for the fall semester. They are announced in the campuswide Calendar of Events at wmich.edu/news/events, usually with links to the series websites. Some offers have a strong academic or technical focus, such as the Biological Sciences Seminar and Geosciences Seminar series. Others, such as the Real Talk Diversity Series, are a combination of talks, discussion sessions and workshops on topics of interest to a broad spectrum of employees and students.

Several series select a theme around which speakers are brought in for the semester or year.

For instance, the Sichel Lecture Series is tackling the “Political Economy of Inequality: U.S. and Global Dimensions,” the University Center for the Humanities is looking at “The Promise of Education,” and the Lyceum Lecture Series is exploring the intersection of the LGBTQ+ identities and other dimensions of diversity.

In addition, the Lee Honors College offers three different speaker series while the English Department hosts noted authors for its Frostic Reading Series.

To stay abreast of WMU’s eclectic mix of events and obtain timely information about registration requirements and costs, check the campuswide calendar on a regular basis.

Faculty trio receives grant funding

Shannon L. McMorrow and Vivian G. Valdimarsson, interdisciplinary health programs, and Dee A. Sherwood, social work, received nearly $14,700 in grant funding to develop curricula aimed at improving cultural competency for health professions students who work with Native American clients. The funding allowed a summer’s worth of work that is now concluding.

It involved developing curricula for the Master of Public Health and Master of Social Work offered through WMU-Grand Rapids. The project is being funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Association for Preventing, Teaching and Research. McMorrow is principle investigator.

Sherwood says the project is engaging graduate students in learning how to communicate with Native Americans in a culturally appropriate manner about health matters, particularly when addressing diabetes and tobacco use.

Instructor develops ‘go-to’ handbook

David B. Szabó, educational leadership, research and technology, is the creator, developer and chief editor of “The Palgrave Handbook of Organizational Change Thinkers.” Szabó edited the work with William Pasmote, Mary Barnes and Asha N. Gipson.

The book brings to life the experiences of seminal scholars so readers can begin to understand the process of organizational change and analyze what remains to be done for organizations today. It is called the go-to source for learning about the research and practice of organizational change from those who invented, built and advanced the field.

Counselor honored for research

Beverly Vandiver, counselor education and counseling psychology, was awarded the 2017 Distinguished Career Contribution to Research award from Division 45, Society for the Psychological Study of Culture, Ethnicity and Race of the American Psychological Association. The award honors a senior person in the field in psychology who has made significant contributions in research related to ethnic minority populations. Vandiver was presented with the award at the APA Convention Aug. 3-6.

The primary focus of Vandiver’s research is on cultural issues, with a specific emphasis on skill development, black racial identity, gender issues and special issues of black populations. She is one of the most prominent scholars in the country on important issues of culturally appropriate scale development and validation, race and gender identity development, and multicultural theory.

McMorrow

Sherwood

Szabó

Vandiver

Please note that the reference text above contains an error about a faculty member’s name. In the reference text, Beverly Vandiver was incorrectly mentioned as Arlene Vandiver. The correct name is Beverly Vandiver.
The University has earned several additional national accolades. WMU is one of 80 U.S. institutions named an annual Higher Education Excellence in Diversity—HEED—honoree by INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine. WMU has been honored by the publication each year since 2013.

In a wide-ranging address after his inauguration, Montgomery pledged a presidency focused on a quest for excellence, close ties with the community and a focus on the success of students.

Visit wmich.edu/inauguration for links to a live stream of the Miller ceremony and text of Montgomery’s inaugural address. Text and audio of the address also are available on the website of WMU’s public radio station, WMUK, at wmuk.org.

Celia Yonkers, a retired teacher in the School of Music, died Aug. 29. She was 91. Yonkers joined the staff in 1969 and retired in 1988 after nearly 19 years of service.

Continued from Page 1

Montgomery inauguration

represented some 30 higher education institutions from 14 states and the District of Columbia.

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Obituary—wmich.edu/news/obituaries/
On Campus with Pradip Bhatt

Teaching, service award recipients to be feted at convocation

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Farmerworkers aided by $2 million grant

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Illness is one of life’s many stressors, so primary care physician Pradip Bhatt devotes a lot of time to talking to his predominantly 18- to 22-year-old patients. A Sindecuse Health Center staff member since 1986, Bhatt helps his young clientele feel less nervous about being in a doctor’s office without a parent, often for the first time.

“Within three months of working here, I fell in love with this age group. What really made me love this is the need to be personal, to make sure students are at ease,” he says. “You’re not just a doctor. When an 18-year-old walks into a health center and he’s sick, he’s not looking for an M.D., he’s looking for mom or dad or brother or sister.”

Ironically, Bhatt never intended to go into college health care. After earning his medical degree, the India native moved to Chicago with his wife in 1975 to do his medical residency. He planned to stay on in the U.S. long enough to build a little nest egg, then return to India and work with the poor. Bhatt landed a job in Kalamazoo in 1979, had a child and went into private practice for a while. But that type of doctoring wasn’t his cup of tea, so he jumped at the Sindecuse position when it opened up in 1986.

“One hundred percent of my job is delivering efficient, high-quality patient care to the University community,” he says, adding that he only occasionally sees patients with chronic illnesses such as asthma, diabetes and high blood pressure. “Most patients come in because of the flu, sports injuries or other fairly simple, short-term problems. But that’s where the challenge is. You’re dealing with an essentially healthy clientele, so you need to really keep your eyes open for something you do not want to miss.”

Bhatt notes that he and his Sindecuse colleagues are also educators, because “prevention is better than cure.” He ferrets out information about a patient’s health, then often spends additional time explaining how antibiotics work, what prolongs colds, or what constitutes safe sex. In addition, Bhatt regularly helps students who feel stressed, anxious or depressed. He says freshmen frequently tell him they were able to “play” in high school, but the responsibilities of college life propel their stress level from 0 to 10.

Bhatt and his wife live in Oshtemo Township and love to travel as well as spend time with their three grandchildren and son and daughter-in-law, both of whom live in the area and are doctors. Bhatt belongs to the India Association of Kalamazoo and in prior years was one of its administrative leaders. He no longer plays that role, but his love of people—and talking—means he remains in demand as an encyclopedic local functionary.

∂ Gwen Tarbox, English, was lauded for her efforts at developing a high school Advanced Placement English class, and promoted hospice care as well as been a hospice volunteer.
∂ Robert Felkel, Spanish, who received the Distinguished Teaching Award in 1989, was praised for his dedicated service to WMU, Kalamazoo and Michigan. In terms of the University, Felkel was lauded for his work with the Faculty Senate and leading such groups as the Medieval Institute board, College Promotion Committee and numerous search committees. Off campus, he has developed and presented workshops for secondary school students, assisted with developing a high school AP English class, and promoted hospice care as well as been a hospice volunteer.
∂ Yumi Takahashi-Ede, Haenicke Institute for Global Education, is a study abroad specialist. Takahashi-Ede was praised for the high-quality handling of her staff duties as well as developing a program using predictive analytics to anticipate incoming first-year students who are likely to encounter academic difficulties. Nominators also cited her for initiating a pilot study on the effectiveness of regular advising on grade-point average; expanding the study abroad program; and working with hospice interdisciplinary staff members, providing psychosocial end-of-life care to patients and families, and providing bereavement care for families.

Farm workers aided by $2 million grant

“Migrant and seasonal farmworkers are essential to the agricultural industry in the United States and in Michigan, yet they continue to be one of the most impoverished and underserved populations in this country,” Hernández says. “Our unique, holistic service plan for the CAMP program provides participants with the comprehensive academic, financial, school-transition and other support services they need to successfully complete their first year of college and continue their college education.”

The WMU-CAMP program addresses a federally identified priority that calls for increasing the number of students who are prepared to enter STEM fields. To that end, multicultural affairs and the engineering college have teamed up to give new WMU-CAMP participants increased access to STEM coursework and activities.

“The collaboration between Diana and her team and the engineering college is a win-win situation for participating students, the seasonal farmworker community and WMU,” says Jorge Rodriguez, engineering design, manufacturing and management systems and CAMP co-principal investigator. “STEM education is a priority in the global environment and it’s something that will have a positive impact in our region.”