President funds seven innovation initiatives

The results of a campus-wide search for ideas that are “truly transformational” were unveiled by President Judith I. Bailey Feb. 15, when she announced the selection of seven proposals to receive one-time monetary awards through her President’s Innovation Fund.

The initiatives were selected from among 80 proposals submitted from literally every corner of the WMU campus. “I am delighted not only with the caliber of the proposals submitted, but with the kind of energy and creativity the competition has sparked campuswide,” Bailey said. “We had 80 teams submit ideas for consideration, and their ideas showed great energy and creativity, as well as a commitment to the University’s goals and mission. Many of the proposals focus on our engagement with the communities we serve. Others use technology in ways that will serve our students and our state and nation.”

The announcement marked the completion of a competitive process designed to provide cash awards to turn good ideas into reality. Bailey established the President’s Innovation Fund last fall, which is a competition for a group of seven innovation initiatives that serve our state and nation. The competition was designed to provide cash awards to turn good ideas into reality. Bailey established the President’s Innovation Fund last fall, which is a competition for a group of seven innovation initiatives that serve our state and nation.

The innovations will be implemented by seven faculty and staff teams, each of which will receive a $200,000 award. The projects will be executed over a two-year period, with the potential for additional funding. The projects will focus on a variety of areas, including technology, education, and research.

Innovation projects receiving funding

The innovation awards, the names of the project directors and the project descriptions are:

- $239,448 to Kevin Abbott, Office of Information Technology, for an effort aimed at using digital media in the performing arts.
- $245,000 to Khalid Abdel-Gader, electrical and computer engineering, to establish the WMU-Kalamazoo Promise Partnership: Promoting Engineering Careers to Female, Minority and Disadvantaged Middle School Students.
- $383,000 to Subra Muralidharan, chemistry, to establish a Center for Nanoenabled Instrumentation and Nanofabrication.
- $402,232 to Mac W. Perkovic, chemistry, for a project, dubbed Bronco Biodiesel, which will focus on recycling waste oil to produce an alternative fuel source.
- $212,304 to James Schultz, WMU-Grand Rapids, to develop a Center for Career Services and Human Resources Development at WMU’s Grand Rapids campus.
- $116,898 to Allen Webb, English, to integrate virtual reality technology into teaching and learning on campus.
- $289,448 to Kevin Abbott, Office of Information Technology, to establish a Center for Career Services and Human Resources Development at WMU’s Grand Rapids campus.
- $245,000 to Ikhlas Abdel-Qader, electrical and computer engineering, to establish the WMU-Kalamazoo Promise Partnership: Promoting Engineering Careers to Female, Minority and Disadvantaged Middle School Students.
- $289,448 to Kevin Abbott, Office of Information Technology, to establish a Center for Nanoenabled Instrumentation and Nanofabrication.

Planning well under way for University’s 2006-07 budget

The University’s budget planning for 2006-07 has moved into high gear. Campus officials are reacting to the governor’s budget recommendations revealed Feb. 9, and are planning testimony for a State Senate hearing scheduled this week on campus as well as planning to discuss the budget at upcoming WMU Board of Trustees meetings.

The state appropriation process began on a sour note for the University, when the governor’s 2007 budget was unveiled, revealing a puzzling and disappointing recommendation for WMU’s funding for next year. The governor’s budget called for a 1.5 percent increase to Michigan’s state universities, with appropriation increases to individual universities ranging from a high of 3.86 percent to Lake Superior State University to a low of 1.55 percent to WMU. The governor’s budget proposes a 2 percent increase for each of Michigan’s other three research universities. The recommendations were based on a funding formula applied to 12 universities that used such criteria as financial aid, graduation rates, affordability and the number of graduates with math, science or education degrees.

Senior Vice President Greg Rosine, advancement and legislative affairs, questioned the application of the formula to only one of the state’s four research universities—WMU—and noted the scant...
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Western News

Bailey voices support for rigor in high school curriculum

During testimony before a state Senate Education Committee hearing in Kalamazoo this week, President Judith I. Bailey voiced support for making the high school curriculum more rigorous. Bailey voiced her support for pursuing their personal and professional goals by attending WMU.

The opening of OLLE marks the closure of EUP's Conferences and Seminars unit and its Office of Kalamazoo and Statewide Programs. Many of the programs and services those units provided will now be offered through OLLE.

The new office primarily will focus on providing:

- High quality certificate program offerings, credit and non-credit workshops, professional seminars, and Continuing Education Units approved by the State of Michigan and WMU;
- Conference development, planning and management services; and
- Academic advising to a selected group of adult learners who return to WMU to complete their baccalaureate degree.

To assist students in locating courses during the transition to OLLE, workshops slated for this summer will still be listed under the Kalamazoo and statewide programs office in the University's summer schedule of Branch Campus Course Offerings.

Questions about OLLE should be directed to Darrell Johnson, EUP, at 387-4200.

Lynde-Recchia writes new book

Molly Lynde-Recchia, foreign languages, has written a book in Old French about the struggle of a young New York music critic of the Sui Dynasty: His Life, Times and Legacy.

Victor C. Xiong presents talk at Harvard

Victor C. Xiong, history, was invited by the Fairbank Center and Harvard University’s Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations to give a Feb. 13, talk on the “Life and Reign of Emperor Yang (569-618) of the Sui Dynasty.”

The talk was based on his most recent book, “Emperor Yang of the Sui Dynasty: His Life, Times and Legacy.”
Obituaries

Herbert S. Scott, emeritus in English, died Sunday, Feb. 12, at the Sitemap Center in St. Louis. He was 75.

Scott, who retired in 2004, served as a professor of English from 1968 to 1998, when he was named the Gwen Frostic Professor of Creative Writing. He received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs.

The founding editor of the WMU literary press New Issues Poetry & Prose, Scott wrote such acclaimed books of poetry as “Disguises,” “Groceries” and “Durations.” His most recent book, “Sleeping Woman,” was published by Carnegie Mellon University Press. A musical presentation inspired by poems in “Sleeping Woman” was staged in the Dalton Center Recital Hall earlier this year.

Prior to joining the WMU faculty, Scott was an instructor at Southeast Missouri State College from 1966 to 1968. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Fresno State College in 1949 and a master’s degree from the University of California in 1955.

A local memorial service is to be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, March 25, in Kanley Chapel with a reception following at 5 p.m. in the Lee Honors College.

Donations in Scott’s memory may be made to the WMU Foundation or the School of Art and Design Challenge Grant in care of the Southern Illinois University Foundation.

Herbert D. Warren, emeritus in chemistry, died Friday, Feb. 10, in Kalamazoo. He was 73.

Warren came to WMU in 1963 and retired in 1996. He taught and conducted research in analytical chemistry and the history of chemistry, and was a long-standing member of the American Chemical Society and the History of Science Society.

Before entering academia, Warren spent 1956 to 1958 working as a chemist at the General Electric Co. in Hanford, Wash., and 1954 to 1956 serving as an officer in the Navy. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Rice University in 1954, a master’s degree from the University of Idaho in 1959 and a doctoral degree from Oregon State University in 1966.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice Care of Southwest Michigan.

Zielow, who retired in 1986, served as acting dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in 1977-78 and later as dean for sciences in the college from 1969 to 1977.

Zielow came to WMU in 1965 as a professor of physics and coordinator of institutes. In the latter position, he kept faculty members of all departments informed of the opportunities available through external agencies for the funding of educational programs. For many years, he also was a consultant/evaluator for the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

Zielow was a faculty member, department head and Graduate School dean at New Mexico Highlands University from 1956 to 1965 and a senior research physicist with the Pure Oil Research and Development Laboratories from 1951 to 1956.

During World War II, Zielow was an Air Force pilot. He earned a bachelor’s degree from DePaul University in 1948 and two degrees from the Illinois Institute of Technology, a master’s degree in 1949 and a doctoral degree in 1955.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice Care of Southwest Michigan.

Jobs

The following vacancies are currently being posted through the Job Opportunity Program by the Human Resource Services Department. Interested benefits-eligible employees should submit a job opportunity transfer application during the posting period and may contact a human resource staff member for assistance in securing these positions.

Employees may call the Applicant Information Service at 387-4669 to hear the weekly Job Opportunity Program postings.

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.

Service

The following employees are recognized for 25, 20, 15 and 10 years of service during February.

25 Years—Lewis D. Hamilton, Development Office.

20 Years—Douglas T. Alick, information technology; Carol J. Black, Student Financial Aid and Scholarships; and Russell P. Northej, physical plant–power plant.

15 Years—Linda D. Baird, Development Office; Jeffery M. Carr, physical plant–maintenance services; Dolra S. Evans, Development Office; Rita K. Keller, Student Activities and Leadership Programs; Jan M. Prange, physical plant–landscape services; and Alice Wheatley, Davis Dining Services.

10 Years—Scott Austin, College of Aviation; Betsy Drummer, Haworth College of Business; D. Buckram, physical plant–maintenance services; Christopher D. Jackson, biological sciences; Elaine A. Jayne, University Libraries; Darrell D. Junkins, physical plant–landscape services; Lauralee Purchase, Seeing Eye Network; Robert D. Moon, physical plant–building custodial and support services; and Patricia A. Thomas, physical plant–building custodial and support services.

5 Years—William A. Emmert, physical plant–general services; Denise Hanley, employee health; Jon P. Heddleston, professional services; and Patricia A. Thomas, support services.

Ongoing—H. Lillian Spielberg, physical plant–building custodial and support services.

University community asked to pitch in for Recycle Mania competition

“Please recycle paper, newspaper, cardboard, aluminum, cans and jugs on a regular basis,” says Carolyn Noreak, physical plant. “If recycling bins are full, please contact recycling and waste reduction services.”

For more information about recycling on the WMU campus, visit www.WMICH.edu/recycle.
Innovation programs. The innovative idea had to advance the mission of WMU, have a significant impact on student education or University outcomes, produce measurable results, be feasible to implement and be led by individuals with expertise and experience.

Bailey says she relied on the review panel's recommendations as she made her final funding decisions.

"The panel did a wonderful job of analyzing the proposals to determine if they were truly innovative and would significantly enhance the University's core mission," she noted. "I looked at all of the proposals as well, and found myself not only in agreement with the panel's findings, but also left with a deep appreciation for the care and integrity that group brought to the process."

Budget planning. Continued from page 1

$1.7 million increase that will result does not begin to meet the University's rising expenses.

"We suffered in the affordability area because ours is the only graduate intensive university subjected to the formula, and matching our graduate costs and tuition against non-research universities put us at a disadvantage. It makes no sense," Rosine says. The governor's budget, he notes though, is just the first step in a long process.

That process will move on this week as President Judith I. Bailey testifies before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education, led by Sen. Mike Gochka. The hearing will take place at 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 24, in the Dalton Center's Multimedia Room. University of Michigan President Mary Sue Coleman, Grand Valley State University President Mark Murray and Ferris State University President David L. Eisler also will testify at the event.

Later this spring, the campus community will get a look at budget projections for next year as well as scenarios that address the stresses continuing to plague WMU's general fund budget. Trustees agreed last year to a budget that contained a $6.75 million shortfall—a move designed to spread a larger budget shortfall over a two-year period. Because of continued enrollment decline this year and the rising costs of contractual compensation increases and energy rates, last year's shortfall remains and has grown.

With the possibility of a state appropriation that does not even cover inflationary increases, the budget outlook for 2006-07 looks stark, Rosine says.

"That's a message we'll be sharing in Lansing throughout the coming months," he says. "But even boosting our increase to 2 percent for next year will not solve the issues we face. It will help, but we have a lot of work to do on campus to plug that budget hole."

On Campus with Jennifer Wendling

LAST BUT NOT LEAST (Photo by Jeanne Baron)

Jennifer Wendling is one of the last people graduate students meet in the final months before they graduate.

As coordinator of theses and dissertations in the Graduate College, Wendling is responsible for reviewing and clearing these culminating works, putting on formatting workshops to help students make sure these works meet WMU guidelines, and assisting students with scheduling and announcing their oral dissertation defenses.

"I understand where the students are emotionally and academically at this final stage in the educational process," she says. "I try to make it as smooth as possible by being accessible to them, answering their questions, encouraging them and lending a sympathetic ear when needed."

Wendling, who also manages the Graduate College Web site, revises and shepherds 25-35 dissertations and 30-40 theses through the system each graduation period.

"It's a lot of work to do in a short period of time, but I don't ever want a student not to graduate on my watch," she says. "It's really rewarding to see them through to the end. I want to make sure they go out on a high note, with scholarly theses and dissertations and a good feeling about WMU."

Wendling earned a bachelor's degree in English from WMU, and was hired full time as assistant to the vice president for research in 2000, then moved to the Graduate College as assistant to the dean. She was named to her current post in January 2005.

In her spare time, the Kalamazoo native enjoys yoga, walking, kayaking, writing and reading. Additionally, she tutors adults through the Kalamazoo Literacy Council and also will soon be volunteering as a reading tutor at a local elementary school.

Sindecuse Health Center offering physical therapy at West Hills Athletic Club

The University's Sports Medicine Clinic, located in the Sindecuse Health Center, recently began offering physical therapy services on the lower level of the West Hills Athletic Club.

Services at the West Hills location are available to any club member and include personal consultations, evaluation and treatment, performed by a licensed physical therapist from the Sports Medicine Clinic.

Services are limited to orthopedic care, involving pain or dysfunction related to the muscular and skeletal systems, primarily in the lower back, neck, shoulders, knees, ankles, elbows and hip areas.

No referral is needed for the initial evaluation; however, a written referral or prescription from a physician is required for treatment.

Physical therapy services are generally reimbursable through medical insurance programs, and the WMU Sports Medicine Clinic is a Blue Cross Blue Shield participant.

Prospective patients should contact their insurance companies with questions about their specific coverage.

For more information, contact William Arbogast in the WMU Sports Medicine Clinic at william.arbogast@wmich.edu or 387-1248.

Student Health Services has a new location.

Sindecuse Health Center, located in the lower level of the West Hills Athletic Club, offers comprehensive student health services. The new clinic will be open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Services include physical therapy, pharmacy, skin conditions, counseling, lab work and other health services.

For more information, contact William Arbogast in the WMU Sports Medicine Clinic at william.arbogast@wmich.edu or 387-1248.