WMU gets $3.2 million education grant

WMU will receive more than $3.2 million from the U.S. Department of Education to use the unique opportunities afforded by the existence of the Kalamazoo Promise to build an institutional culture focused on increased access and degree completion for underrepresented, underprepared or low-income students.

The new contract includes: a nearly 10 percent jump in international students, which is expected to be one of the largest increases this year at any Michigan public university.

A significant increase in Asian students that helped push up minority student enrollment by more than 5 percent, making the student body nearly 21 percent minority.

An overall 2.6 percent decrease in the number of students classified as freshmen, but a continued upward trend in the average high school GPA and composite ACT score of incoming freshmen.

Continued growth for online education (up 16.4 percent) and the Lee Honors College (up 4 percent) as well as in the number of out-of-state students (up 6 percent) and doctoral students (up 3 percent).

Enrollment down slightly; gains seen in key areas

The fall student body is substantially more diverse and international, and it includes more transfer, honors and doctoral students.

Overall, 23,914 students were counted during the fall census, and as officials had forecast, small entering classes from earlier this decade resulted in an enrollment decrease of 1.6 percent.

The tally does not include students enrolled in two private entities affiliated with the University: the WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine and the WMU Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

The largest enrollment increase was a 16.4 percent increase in the number of students classified as freshmen, which helped push up minority student enrollment by more than 5 percent, making the student body nearly 21 percent minority.

For WMU, the four-year project will focus on building a campuswide culture that includes more transfer, honors and doctoral students.

Two to receive Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award

WMU will present its 2014-15 Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award to E. Rozanne Elder and John Jellies.

The honor is the highest annual award WMU bestows on faculty members and goes to individuals whose work constitutes a significant body of achievement that is widely recognized within the national and international academic communities.

Elder and Jellies will be recognized during this year’s academic convocation at 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 10, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. The event also will feature WMU President John M. Dunn’s State of the University address and presentation of four other prestigious campuswide awards.
COMING OUT WEEK ACTIVITIES

The Office of LBGT Student Services has planned its activities for National Coming Out Week, Monday through Friday, Oct. 6-12. They begin with an interactive program by Robyn Ochs from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 8, in the Trimpe Building's Multicultural Center. Ochs will explore subjects such as different experiences of identity and the complexity of attraction. Visit wmich.edu/diversity/inclusion/lgbt for more information about the activities planned.

GRADUATE-LEVEL INFORMATION FAIR

Areas students and residents may explore include options for advanced studies during the 2014 Graduate and Professional School Fair on Oct. 9, in the Bernhard Center Ballroom. The fair is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is recommended. Attendees can learn about some of WMU’s 100 graduate programs as well as graduate opportunities available at more than 60 graduate, law and medical schools in Michigan and throughout the United States.

ANNUAL STUDY ABROAD EVENT

The Study Abroad Fair will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 8, in the Bernhard Center East Ballroom. The free event is open to the public but geared toward students. The event will showcase the more than 90 programs WMU offers in some 40 countries.

CHINESE MILITARY is focus of talk

A talk titled “The Dragon’s Tale: Modernizing the Chinese Military and What It Means to the United States” will be presented by Xiaobing Li from the University of Central Oklahoma from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 9, in 2208 Brown Hall. Visit the Light Center at wmich.edu/chinesestudiescenter for details.

JAZZ ORCHESTRA PRESENTING FREE CONCERT

The University Jazz Orchestra will present an evening of jazz big band music at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 9, in the Dalton Recital Hall. The free concert will feature music from composers Clare Fischer, Joe Henderson, Thad Jones and Charles Mingus. WMU's award-winning jazz orchestra is directed by Scott Cowan.

ENTREPRENEUR SCHEDULED TO SPEAK

Cynthia Kay, founder of Cynthia Kay and Co., a leading West Michigan video and communications firm, will be the next Entrepreneurship Forum speaker. Kay will speak at 8 a.m. Friday, Oct. 17, in 2150 Schneider Hall. The event is free and open to the public and begins with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Reservations are required and can be made at wmich.edu/business/e-rsvp or (269) 387-6059.

UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN-prize drawings announced

Faculty and staff members who give any amount toward the 2014 campus United Way campaign’s goal to raise $282,335 will be eligible for weekly prize drawings to be held each Friday afternoon beginning Oct. 10 and ending with a grand prize drawing Nov. 14. Pledge cards are returned to the president’s office, mail stop 5202, by 5 p.m. the Thursday the following week the drawing is being held. Eligi-
University continues earning additional accolades for British military friendly designation

WMU has received the Military Friendly Schools designation for its commitment to retaining and recruiting military students. The designation is awarded to U.S. colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion: "WMU will be featured along with 82 other recipients in the magazine's November 2014 issue.

A report detailing the second successful year implementing strategic plan

A report detailing the second successful year implementing WMU's 2012-15 Strategic Plan has been published online. The University has moved from the third to the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace diversity and inclusion.

A military friendly designation is awarded to the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace diversity and inclusion.

A military friendly designation is awarded to the University in recognition of its commitment to diversity and inclusion. WMU has been honored with this national award by INSIGHT Into Diversity, the nation's oldest and largest publication that focuses on diversity in higher education.

The HEED award, announced Sept. 16, recognizes U.S. colleges and universities "that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion. "WMU will be featured along with 82 other recipients in the magazine's November 2014 issue.

In Michigan, WMU and three other public schools were honored: Central Michigan, Grand Valley State and Michigan Technological University. The HEED award recognizes U.S. colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion.

In the area of electric vehicles, WMU placed fourth on the list of the most "EV friendly" colleges released in September.

With this fall's shift to the 2014-15 academic year, the University has moved into the third and final year of the current strategic plan. Brylinsky says major efforts this year will be to communicate successes more broadly to both internal and external communities and to conduct analyses in preparation for revising the plan for 2015-20.

The Gold Standard is a strategic planning document that serves as a guide for decision-making, a lens to make clear WMU's direction and a key to measuring WMU's successes.

Year-end reports reflect the impact associated with work done each year to ensure that the University is learner-centered, discovery driven and globally engaged—the plan's three main tenets.

They also detail some of the specific strategies the University embraced to achieve the plan's five major goals, which are to ensure student success of students; promote innovative learning, discovery and service; advance WMU as a major research university; ensure a diverse, inclusive and healthy community; and advance social, economic and environmental sustainability practices.

Carolyn J. Harris, Spanish, died Sept. 20 after being found unresponsive at YMCAspoil. She was 65. Harris had been a faculty member since 1985.

Online memoriam of WMU colleagues are posted at wmich.edu/slaplain. Memorial grams in Harris's name may be made to the Gerald Sievers Memorial Fund, which is used to support educational scholarships in the Department of Spanish.

Gerald L. Sievers, emeritus in statistics, died Sept. 25. He was 74. Sievers joined the faculty in 1967 and retired in April after 46 years of service. Visit langelands.com to make a memorial guestbook entry. Memorial gifts may be made to the Gerald Sievers Memorial Fund for the Department of Statistics, payable to the WMU Foundation.

Military stories sought for reading

WMU student military veterans from any country are invited to submit a short narrative by Friday, Oct. 17, about their military service for consideration to be included in a Veterans Day event at noon Tuesday, Nov. 11, in the Lee Honors College. For more information or to submit a narrative, contact wmu-international@wmich.edu.
Two to receive Distinguished Faculty Scholar Awards

Many also noted that she is well known for her own rigorous scholarship and the support she gives to students and colleagues on and off campus.

• Jellies, who has been a faculty member since 1995, is a professor of biological sciences. He uses experimental approaches with model systems to answer questions related to brain function, or more specifically, how the nervous system controls behavior. Jellies’ career-long work has generated nearly $4 million in grant dollars from national funding agencies. His nominators noted that he is a world-renowned researcher with remarkable ingenuity who has made cutting-edge discoveries.

They also praised him as an inspired teacher, advisor and mentor for his students, as well as someone who has provided exemplary service to WMU, his discipline and academia.

That service has included leading the WMU Faculty Senate and the Michigan Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience, in addition to being a grant reviewer for the National Science Foundation and an editorial board member or manuscript reviewer for several leading journals.

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University accolades

by Transport Evolved, a news site based in Great Britain. It centers its rankings on data from ChargePoint, a nationwide network that tracks the availability of EV charging stations.

The top five schools and the number of charging stations they support are the University of California-Davis, 38; Towson University, 36; Santa Clara University, 25; WMU, 22; and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 21.