

October 2017

## Flagstar Bank and Oakland University Partner

Flagstar Bank and the Southeastern Michigan Economic Data Center (SEMEDC), a unit of Oakland University's business school, have teamed up to expand SEMEDC's analysis of key economic trends and bring its insights to a broader audience.

As the presenting sponsor of the SEMEDC, Flagstar will share the center's data through its own customer relationships, social, and other media. Flagstar's sponsorship includes support for research by the university's undergraduate students.

"Flagstar serves a large and growing base of commercial customers," said Drew Ottaway, Michigan Market president and managing director of lending for Flagstar. "We're excited to bring these customers easy access to powerful economic data that they – and the entire business community – can use to drive growth in our local economy."

The economic data center was started by OU Economics

Professor Jonathan Silberman, Ph.D., who has developed indices to measure key trends specific to Southeastern Michigan.

### OU Retains Gold Status Ranking Among Veteran- Friendly Schools in Michigan



*The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency recognized Oakland for providing outstanding services to veterans and their dependents.*

For the second straight year, Oakland University was awarded the highest possible ranking for veteran-friendliness by the Michigan Veteran Affairs Agency. The organization recently published its 2017-2018 list of Veteran friendly schools, which recognizes institutions of higher learning

for dedication to student veterans and dependents utilizing their G.I. Bill and other educational benefits.

"The continued growth of MVAA's Veteran-Friendly School Program demonstrates the dedication our state's academic institutions have to the success of our student veteran population," said MVAA Director James Robert Redford in a release.

"Michigan is fortunate to have top quality educational institutions that maintain high standards of support and services for our growing population of veterans and their families. The program makes it easy for students to identify which schools are invested in their success, and we greatly appreciate the commitment of this year's participants.

Based on a variety of factors, the 70 schools on this year's list were grouped into bronze, silver and gold levels of recognition. Oakland was one of 41 schools to earn a gold-level designation and one of 28 schools that fulfilled all seven evaluation criteria.

# NEWS YOU CAN USE

## **Honor College Celebrates Another Record-Breaking Freshman Class**

For the fifth straight year, Oakland University's Honors College has a record number of freshmen joining its ranks.

Approximately 450 students comprise this year's class, a more than 10 percent increase over last year. Students come from all areas of study, including pre-medicine, healthcare and nursing (30 percent); engineering and computer science (30 percent); other sciences (15 percent); business (10 percent); and arts and social sciences (15 percent).

## **OU Wins Fourth Straight Best Chapter Award from National Political Science Honor Society**

For the fourth consecutive year – and sixth of the last seven years – the national political science honor society Pi Sigma Alpha (PSA) has recognized its Oakland University chapter, Nu Omega, with a Best Chapter Award.

The award is given to chapters that are exceptionally active in their universities and communities, and exhibit high levels of energy and creativity in furthering the goals of PSA. Oakland was one of only four schools with enrollments between 15,000 and 25,000 students selected to receive a Best Chapter Award.

## **Focused on Student Success, OU's Tutoring Center Earns National Certification**

Oakland University's Tutoring Center was recently recognized as a Certified Supplemental Instruction (SI) by the International Center for Supplemental Instruction at the University of Missouri – Kansas City.

This distinction, which is held by less than 20 universities nationwide, is awarded to universities that meet four core requirements:

- The program coordinator is trained by a certified SI trainer from the International Center for SI
- The program requires and provides intensive training and support for SI Leaders
- The program includes intensive focus on SI Leaders planning sessions
- The program requires that SI Leaders attend class sessions, that the program demonstrates robust student attendance at SI sessions and that the end of semester data indicates that the SI students earn a higher grade in the course than non-SI students do.

## **OUCARES Partnership Earns National Award for Autism Training**

The Oakland University Center for Autism Outreach Services (OUCARES) partners at Oakland County and Oakland County Parks and Recreation, have been recognized with an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo).

The national awards program honors innovative, effective county government programs that enhance services for residents.

NACo selected the group as Best in Category for their collaboration on a unique training program where OUCARES staff members teach the park staff how to better recognize, understand and interact with individuals on the Autism spectrum.

After the training, the park staff has a chance to utilize their new skills each year when they host an OUCARES Autism Camp at Independence Oaks County Park.

Nationally, awards are given in 18 different categories that reflect the vast comprehensive services that counties provide. Each nominee is judged on its own merits and not against other applications.

# STATE AND NATIONAL HEADLINES

## **More Degrees, More Money: Higher Education Leaders Aim to Boost Economy**

Wyoming's higher education leaders are looking at ways to increase the number of Wyoming residents with college degrees or postsecondary certificates.

The task is grounded in research from the Georgetown University Center of Education and the Workforce that looks at how a state's level of educational attainment is related to its economy.

"The more educated the population, typically, the more robust the economy," University of Wyoming President Laurie Nichols said. "So, there's a direct link between educational attainment of a population and economic development and economic vitality, and they're very closely related to one another."

Wyoming's level of educational attainment – the percentage of its residents 25-64 with a postsecondary certificate, associate degree or higher – is roughly equal to the national average of 45.8 percent, according to the Lumina Foundation.

*Laramie Boomerang*

## **New Business Initiative Aims at Economic Growth Through Higher Education**

Their target is the Virginia General Assembly, which will convene in early January with the top job of acting on a two-year budget proposed by the departing governor while working with the spending priorities of a new governor whom voters will choose in November.

Growth4VA, an initiative launched on Monday by the Virginia Business Higher Education Council and pushed by McGuireWoods Consulting, has four goals: produce talent for the work force, foster innovation and entrepreneurs, improve people's lives through education, and expand affordable access to her education at every level.

"Today is about collaboration, collaboration between higher education and the business community," said Jean Giddens, dean of the School of Nursing at Virginia Commonwealth University, where the initiative held its kickoff ceremony.

The initiative also is about state funding for higher education, both new and redirected at economic priorities, after a long decline since the beginning of the millennium that has been mirrored by a rise in tuition and student debt the state

has been working to reverse.

*Richmond Times – Dispatch*

## **Public Research Universities Increase Low-Income Graduates by Nearly 25 Percent**

College completion data released today by the University Innovation Alliance (UIA) shows that the number of low-income graduates has increased by 24.7 percent among participating universities over the past three years, making significant progress toward the Alliance's goal of graduating an additional 68,000 undergraduates by 2025.

Since launch the UIA in 2014, the group has also increased the total number of undergraduate degrees by 9.2 percent (from 79,170 to 86,436). This increased degree productivity sets the UIA firmly on the path to exceeding its public attainment goals, with an additional 94,000 graduates predicted by 2025.

The UIA is a collaboration of public research institutions committed to identifying and replicating promising innovations with the goal of increasing the number of socioeconomic diversity of college graduates at member institutions.

*University Innovation Alliance*



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State and National Headlines *CONTINUED*

**Bipartisan Bill Aims to Provide Support for Homeless College Students**

A bipartisan group of lawmakers in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate on Tuesday introduced legislation that aims to remove barriers to access to higher education for homeless students and those in foster care.

The Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth Act is sponsored by Sen. Patty Murray, Democrat of Washington; Sen. Rob Portman, Republican of Ohio; Rep. Katherine Clark, Democrat of Massachusetts; and Rep. Don Young, Republican of Alaska. It would amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to streamline the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, known as the Fafsa, provide housing options for students in between terms, and improve outreach to homeless students

“The skyrocketing costs of college impact all students, but for homeless and foster students, the challenges they face far too often put higher education out of reach,” Ms. Murray said in a news release announcing the legislation.

*The Chronicle of Higher Education*