

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: **Oakland University Board Of Trustees**

Feb. 13, 2026



PRESIDENT'S REPORT AGENDA

- 1. Strategic Updates and Key Achievements – President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz**
- 2. The OU Pledge – Wayne Thibodeau, Senior Director of the OU Career and Life Design Center**

CAMPUS SAFETY AND OPERATIONAL UPDATES

- Highest priority: Community health and safety
- High Temperature Hot Water System



**FALL 2025
COMMENCEMENT**

Bachelor: 887
Master: 200
Doctoral: 62
Certificates: 49
Total: 1198

MAKING STRIDES: From Vision to Impact

**Our People
Student Success
Discovery
Stewards of Place
Sustainable University**





Glenn McIntosh “Passion, Purpose, and Perseverance” Leadership Award

Recognizes an OU faculty or
staff member who:

- Advances student success
- Strengthens our campus community
- And embodies Glenn’s
compassionate, principled leadership

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT SURVEY



- **Our People: Culture of Learning & Growth Initiative**
- **Townhall presentations**
- **Strengths**
 - Job Satisfaction & Support
 - Faculty & Staff Well-Being
 - Inclusion, Belonging, & Community
 - Mission & Pride

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

• Opportunities

- Confidence in Senior Leadership
- Leadership Development
- Perception of Culture
- Participation, Teamwork, & Engagement
- Compensation
- Performance Management & Onboarding
- Faculty Experience

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

- **Next Steps:**

- University Culture Committee – Chaired by Joi Cunningham, Michelle Hammond, & Sarah Butash
- Includes faculty and staff

OAKLAND
UNIVERSITY

OKANAGAN CHARTER

- Our People: Healthy Campus Initiative
- Global movement of health-promoting universities
- One of the first 50 universities in the country to adopt charter





STUDENT SUCCESS

- FTIAC Retention Plan (2025-2028)
- Student Success Champion Awards



SPIRIT OF PLACE PUBLIC ARTS COMPETITION

- **Stewards of Place: Cultural Ambassadors Initiative**
- **Signature elements of OU experience**
- **Committee co-chairs: Andrea Eis & Mike Westfall**
- **Committee members: Faculty, staff, & partners**
 - **Detroit Institute of Arts**
 - **Cranbrook Art Museum**

CHANGEMAKER CHALLENGE GRANTS

- **Criteria:** Community impact; OU impact (faculty, students, and/or staff); Community partner involvement; Feasibility; Sustainability
- **27 proposals** – from Chemistry to Art and Art History and from Engineering to Education
- **Committee:** Dave Dulio (chair), faculty, & staff
- **Selected three winners**

CHANGEMAKER CHALLENGE GRANTS

Elevating Local Community-Based Independent Living with Internet of Robotic Things for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

- PI: W. Geoffrey Louie, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, SECS

CHANGEMAKER CHALLENGE GRANTS

Protecting Communities from
Synthetic Opioids: Development of the
eNarc Portable Detection Platform

• PI: Zhe Wang, Ph.D., Associate
Professor, Chemistry Department, CAS

CHANGEMAKER CHALLENGE GRANTS

Strengthening Mental Health Access for Youth Experiencing Housing Instability: A Lighthouse, Pontiac, and Oakland University Community Partnership Model

- PI: Bill Solomonson, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Organizational Leadership, SEHS

SUSTAINABLE UNIVERSITY

- **Sunset Terrace: First Rochester campus building powered 100% by renewable energy**
- **Impact equals removing 20 gasoline-powered cars or planting over 1,200 tree seedlings that grow for 10 years**
- **Projected to save ~\$16,000/year in energy costs and pay for itself over time**

OAKLAND STUDENTS: **Leading, Learning, Creating**

**Jaliyah
Eaton**

Marcus Johnson

**Triasure
Golden**

**Ndeye Marieme
Sarr Samb**

KEEPER OF THE DREAM

Mercy Jeffries

Qamar Naji

Jayson Miller



- **Keynote Speaker: Bakari Sellers – attorney, author, and civil rights advocate**
- **Co-Chairs: Trustee Stefen Welch and Kaniqua Welch**



STUDENT AWARDS AND HONORS

- **American Model United Nations International Conference: OU most decorated team from Michigan**
- **SAS Hackathon 2025: Third consecutive year an OU team honored**
- **Region 3 American College Theatre Festival: OU theatre majors earned numerous awards, finalist recognitions, and honors**

**FACULTY
EXCELLENCE**

\$562,500 NIH GRANT



Gerard Madlambayan, Shailesh Lal, & Fabia Battistuzzi

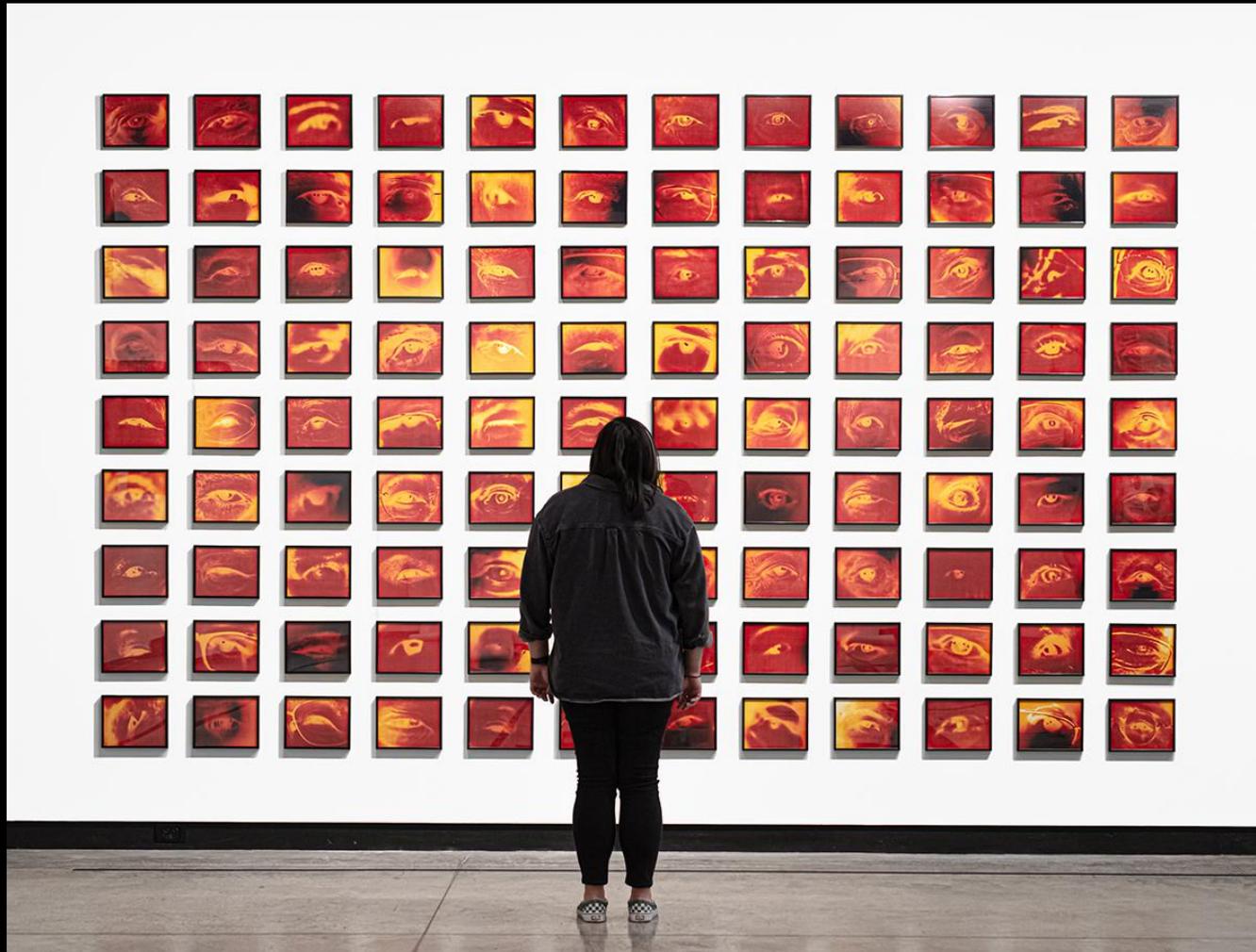
- **Discovered several corn genes resemble human genes**
- **Advances understanding of how some diseases, including cancer, develop**
- **Supports student research and professional development**

A large bronze statue of a muscular man, likely representing a deity or a powerful figure, is the central focus. He is seated and holding a globe with rays of light emanating from it. The statue is set against a stone wall with inscriptions. The text "NOW AND WHERE THE LORD IS" is visible on the wall. The title "FAITH IN DETROIT" GRANT is overlaid in large yellow letters.

“FAITH IN DETROIT” GRANT

- **OU Center for Public Humanities partnering with Christ Church Cranbrook on \$5 million Lilly Endowment grant**
- **“Faith in Detroit: Building Resilience and Hope Through the Christian Practice of Storytelling”**
- **OU portion led by Kathleen Pfeiffer, professor of English and Creative Writing / CPH associate director**
- **3-day nonfiction writing workshop**

MEMORIALIZIZING THE HIBAKUSHA EXPERIENCE



- Curated by Claude Baillargeon, Professor of Art History
- Highlights human legacy of Hiroshima & Nagasaki through photos, artifacts, publications, and art

The OU Pledge

Wayne Thibodeau
Senior Director
Oakland University Career and Life Design Center

**YOUR
STORY.
YOUR
POWER.**

THE OU PLEDGE



THE OU PLEDGE

Launched on February 5, 2025

OU's Commitment to provide undergraduate students with opportunities for meaningful, hands-on learning.



An Institutional Career Learning Pledge

**THE CAREER ECOSYSTEM
ERA IN HIGHER EDUCATION
PODCAST**



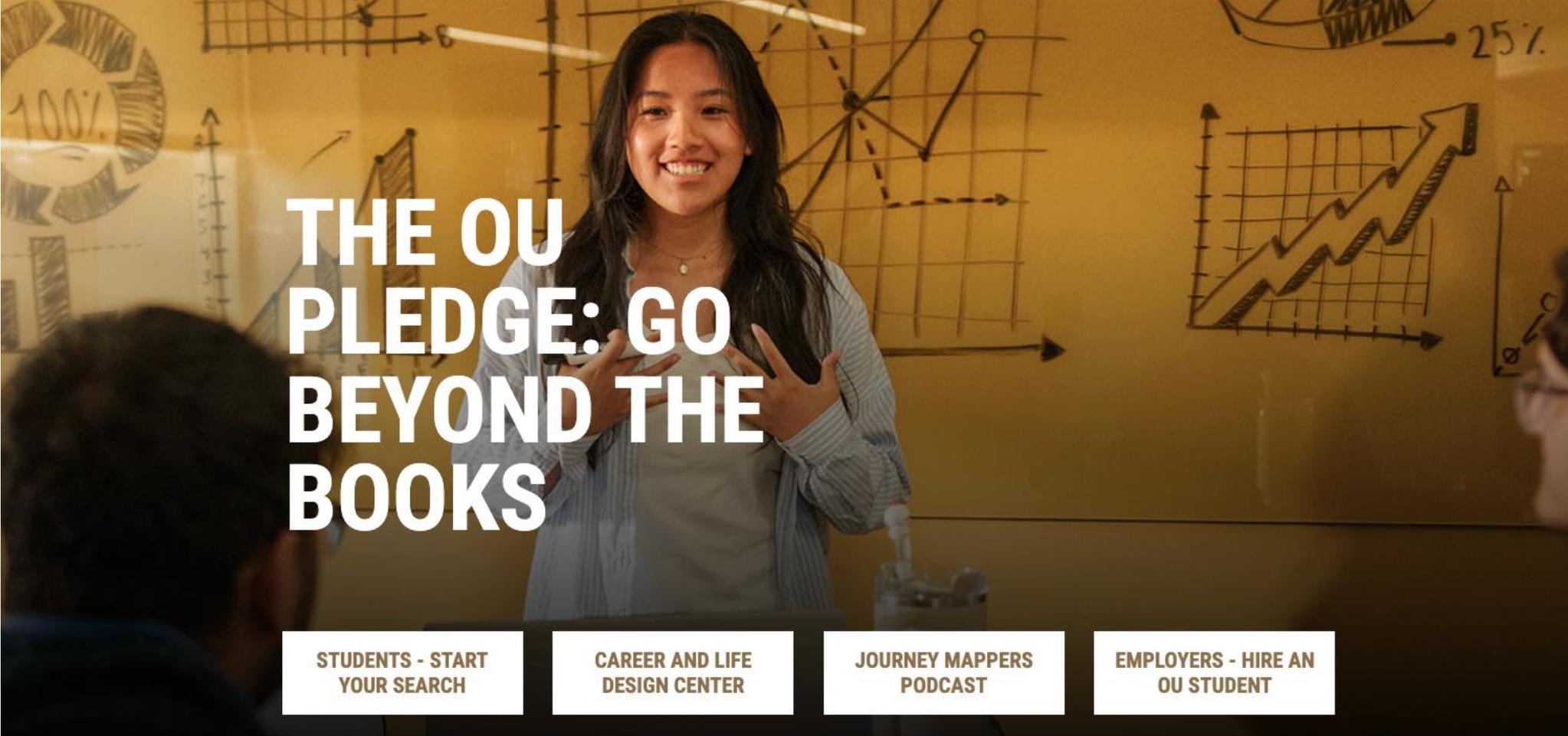
Listen here: www.careerleadershipcollective.com/podcast



February Events

- Career Studio Takeover - 2/16
- Meet and Greet with Yeo & Yeo - 2/17
- Exploration Week: Artificial Intelligence, Computer Science, Cybersecurity, Data Science, Information Technology - 2/18
- Meet and Greet with Fifth Third Bank - 2/19
- Internship Week Celebration - 2/20
- SAVE THE DATE: Exploration Fair: Opportunities in Health and Natural Sciences - 3/13





THE OU PLEDGE: GO BEYOND THE BOOKS

**STUDENTS - START
YOUR SEARCH**

**CAREER AND LIFE
DESIGN CENTER**

**JOURNEY MAPPERS
PODCAST**

**EMPLOYERS - HIRE AN
OU STUDENT**



Winter Career Fair 2026

Event Recap

- 97 Employers
(73% seeking interns)
- 719 Students

Top Industries Represented:

- Automotive
- Engineering & Construction
- Financial Services
- Government
- Healthcare



Collaborations for Exploration and Hands-On Learning

- Career Treks
- Industry Lunch and Learns
 - BioJourney Program (EGLE, Direct RX, Corewell, Detroit Zoo)



Rankings from The Wall Street Journal America's Best Colleges 2026

#2 IN MICHIGAN

Oakland ranks second among the state's public universities for enhancing students' social mobility and is ranked nationally among the top 16% of all universities.

#4 IN MICHIGAN

Oakland ranks fourth for best value for investment among our peer institutions in Michigan.

#4 IN MICHIGAN

Oakland ranks fourth for best salaries for graduates among the state's public universities.

Value of an OU Degree

Paying dividends for a lifetime

Oakland's graduates earn more annually on average than graduates at peer state universities and colleges, and significantly more than non-college employees.

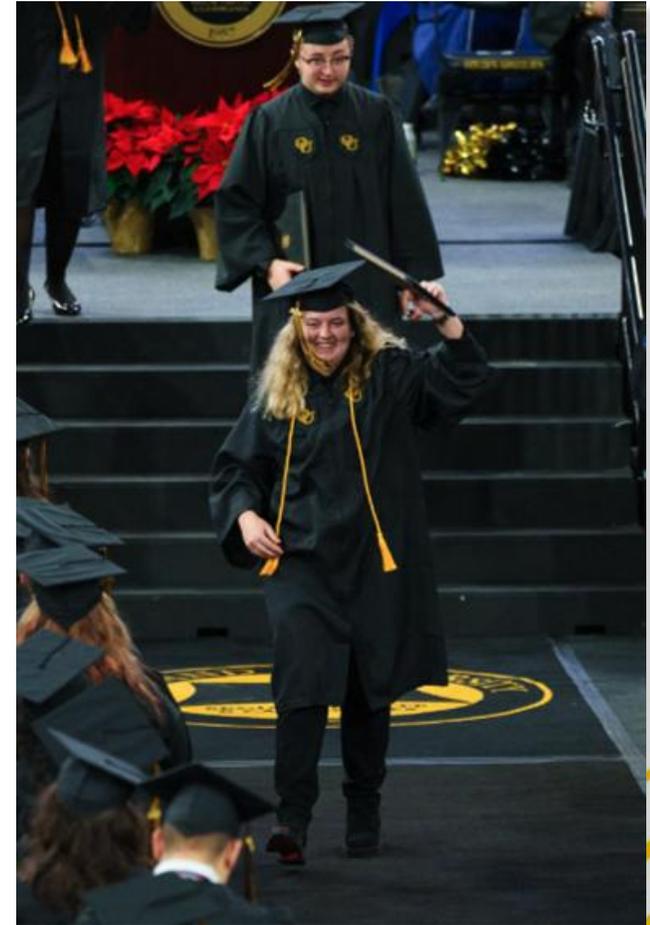
Earnings of Recent Graduates from OU and Comparison Groups

Category	OU Alumni	Peer College Alumni	Michigan College Alumni	Did Not Attend College
Median Earnings	\$58,612	\$53,543	\$42,718	\$39,701
OU Advantage		9%	27%	32%

Source: Oakland University Economic Impact in Michigan, Anderson Economic Group GGC, May 2025

Future Goals

- **Expand marketing/branding efforts**
 - Telling the OU story
- **Help students connect their learning to meaningful career pathways**
- **Internship Career Treks**
 - Expand exploration and career pathways
- **Co-leading a Career Learning Outcomes Working Group**
- **How can BOT Members help?**



OAKLAND UNIVERSITY™

ROCHESTER • MICHIGAN



Honoring Trustee Joe Jones

- Proud OU alum
- Appointed Sept. 2020
- Served as chair and vice-chair
- New role: Vice President of West Michigan Engagement for Ferris State University



Resolution Honoring Trustee Jones



DR. PESCOVITZ

MR. JONES

MR. GALLEY

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