

Board of Regents Update | May 18, 2018

Good Morning, Colleagues:

Yesterday the Board of Regents held its May 2018 meeting in Dearborn. It was nice to be able to convene at UM-Dearborn.

I am happy to announce that the Regents approved [promotions for 14](#) of our UM-Flint faculty; six were approved for promotion from associate professor to professor with tenure, seven from assistant professor to associate professor with tenure, and one from associate librarian to senior associate librarian. Congratulations to each of you, and thanks to you and our entire complement of faculty and staff for your hard work this year.

Thank you as well to Dr. Erica Britt, assistant professor of Sociolinguistics in the English Department, who represented UM-Flint faculty at the meeting. Dr. Britt's presentation to Regents, "Vehicle City Voices at UM-Flint," offered detailed insight into her creation of linguistic databases and recorded accounts of historically significant events in the city of Flint through years of interviews with residents. This important work not only provides a greater understanding of Flint's unique past, but can also provide increased understanding of the urban experience nationally.

Additionally, the Regents approved the name change of our [School of Health Professions and Studies](#) (SHPS) to the [College of Health Sciences](#) (CHS), effective July 1.

Having received unanimous support from CHS faculty, the name change from the SHPS to CHS better reflects both the public health and health profession disciplines within the unit and is also more consistent with the other units of health sciences offerings within the state universities in Michigan.

Over the past few years, SHPS has approved several new graduate and undergraduate programs with planning and implementation well underway. New programs include its Respiratory Therapy online bachelor completion program, Occupational Therapy doctoral program, Physician Assistant master program, and Master of Science in Health Care Management.

To support its expanded offerings, CHS is also redefining its structure and will add three new departments over the next three years: Occupational Therapy, Physician Assistant, and Clinical Sciences. These new departments will join the departments of Physical Therapy and Public Health and Health Sciences.

With implementation of the newly developing programs, CHS anticipates increasing undergraduate enrollment by 100 students and graduate enrollments by 240 students within the next five years. Additional programs, if developed, will expand these enrollment estimates.

Congratulations to Dean Donna Fry and the faculty and staff of CHS. This is a great change for our campus, and evidence of your hard work and dedication to our students and the healthcare and public health needs of our community.

And I had the opportunity to update the University of Michigan [Board of Regents](#) with other exciting news from our campus as well.

I told the board that our past few weeks on the University of Michigan-Flint were filled with celebration – celebration of our students, faculty, and staff.

We celebrated the academic excellence of our almost 700 students who walked in our [Spring Commencement ceremony](#), highlighted by our keynote speaker, Professor [Martha Jones](#). Additionally, we awarded our Medal of Excellence for Leadership and Service to Phil Hagerman, co-founder of Diplomat Pharmacy in Flint. Phil is certainly deserving of this, one of our highest honors, for commitment not only to campus (with initiatives like our [Hagerman Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation](#) and the [Hagerman Student Scholars](#)), but for supporting and enabling the change and opportunities that will help move Flint forward.

We honored 63 faculty and staff at our 33rd annual [Celebration of Service event](#), who together devoted more the 760 years of service to our campus.

I also informed the Regents about our 15th annual Scholarship Recognition Dinner, where we celebrated with over 100 students and some of the donors that have privately funded over 250 scholarships on our campus.

Speakers at the event included Dr. Ernestine Smith, Clarence Sevillian, and Meghan Lucero. Dr. Smith's Lavoy C. Smith Memorial Scholarship help Clarence attend UM-Flint. Clarence, in turn, established a scholarship that was awarded to Meghan.

It was a [pay-it-forward story](#) that illustrates the commitment of our alumni and friends to providing opportunities for students to pursue their dreams of a Michigan degree.

Our commitment to student opportunity was also on display when we announced this month the creation of a new master's level scholarship, the [Greater Flint Community Leadership Scholarship](#). This award will recognize, reward, and develop the next generation of leadership talent in Flint.

It funds two full years of tuition for a community leader who lives and works in Genesee County interested in additional training and an advanced degree. It's not tied to any specific discipline or degree, so it provides a great opportunity to advance our county's next generation of leaders.

Leaders like UM-Flint Nurse Anesthesia student Jason Flowers, who recently took home first place in our [Business Pitch Competition](#) for his minimally invasive, expandable endo-tracheal tube.

It's been a busy time on the UM-Flint campus and I'm very proud of the work being done by our students, faculty, and staff.

These are just a few highlights from yesterday's meeting. I invite you to view the full board agenda [here](#).

Thank you all, and Go Blue!

Sue

Susan E. Borrego, Ph.D.
Chancellor