



June 2009

Presidents from the URC Testify before the Senate



Presidents from the three Michigan research universities testified before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education that their contributions in scientific research, health care and technology are powerful

catalysts for stimulating Michigan's lagging economy.

"When President Coleman, President Simon or I talk to the parents of high-school students who hope to attend one of our universities, most often the first question we hear is not about the curriculum. It's Can we afford it," said President Jay Noren at the May 15 hearing at the University of Michigan.

President Noren highlighted Wayne State University's commitment to providing financial assistance to students. For example, in fiscal year 2008-2009 the university made 15,737 undergraduate scholarship offers, a figure equal to nearly 80 percent of our undergraduate population. The average scholarship award came to \$9,026, he said.

To view a copy of the remarks before the subcommittee by the three presidents and for additional information on the University Research Corridor, [click here](#).

\$1.7 Billion Shortfall for 2010 Budget

Projections for the state's FY 2009-10 budget, which begins on Oct. 1, have been downgraded by \$1.7 billion. With the uncertainty of a national economic recovery and the domestic auto industry, state revenues for the next fiscal year are projected to be down from the January Revenue Estimating Conference. With this news, the Granholm administration began looking for an additional 8 percent cut to the next budget year. The Governor and the Legislature have until September 30 to reach an agreement on the FY 2009-10 budget.

2008-09 Executive Order Reductions

On May 5 Governor Jennifer Granholm released Executive Order 2009-22, which cuts the FY 2008-09 state budget by nearly \$350 million. Facing a \$1.5 billion deficit in the current fiscal

The national alumni association hosted advocacy related events throughout May.

- Conducted three legislative advocacy training sessions for alumni, faculty and staff April 23 at Scott Hall for the School of Medicine.
- Hosted a legislative advocacy training for The Society of Active Retirees (SOAR) at the Wayne State University Oakland Center May 14.
- Provided names and addresses of 6,000 new graduates to state elected officials in Lansing to enable legislators to send notes of congratulations to new graduates in their districts. Also, legislators received the names and addresses of WSU students from their districts who presented research projects in Lansing as part of the state of Michigan's Graduate Education Week.

year, the Governor was forced to take action to balance the current budget. Given that an executive order cannot cut the entire \$1.5 billion deficit, federal stimulus dollars will be used to fill the remaining budget deficient.

Included in the executive order is a shutdown of nearly all state government operations for six days before Oct. 1. This shutdown is a result of mandatory furlough days that state workers must take before the end of the fiscal year. The state has not made an announcement of when the six furlough days will take place.

In addition, the executive order calls for layoffs of nearly 300 state workers, which includes 100 state police troopers. The largest reduction was to the Department of Human Services with a \$120.9 million cut.

Although Wayne State University did not receive a cut to its funding appropriation, the university's Morris Hood Diabetes Center was cut. Additional details on what these means for the center will be forthcoming. To view a copy of the executive order, [click here](#).



Representative Kim Meltzer to Chair Warrior Caucus

[Rep. Kim Meltzer](#) (CLAS '97; R-Clinton Township) was appointed chair of the caucus during an alumni association meeting at the state capitol on May 6. The mission of the caucus is to provide a means for legislative alumni to meet one another, enjoy fellowship, exchange views and learn from the talents of WSU faculty and administrators.

Legislators met to hear a presentation on the swine flu by Dr. Suzanne White, chair of emergency medicine at the School of Medicine, and Mary White, director of the University Campus Health Center. Representative Meltzer said she is honored to serve as chair for the coming year and plans to host meetings throughout the year.

Granholm Administration Looking to Restructure State Government

Lt. Governor John D. Cherry, Jr. recently announced that a workgroup under his leadership charged with streamlining government has identified seven core functions of state government. The workgroup will continue working with the public, legislature and the administration to create additional recommendations, which are anticipated to be announced at the Governor's Feb. 2010 State of the State Address.

The group also is seeking input from legislators, state employees and the public on what services a streamlined government should provide. "At a time when government cannot afford to be all things to all people, we are refocusing our efforts on state government's core functions and how best to provide necessary services and protect the fundamental rights of Michigan citizens," Cherry said.

In her 2009 State of the State address, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm asked Cherry to lead a comprehensive effort to create a state government that provides better service at less cost to taxpayers. The governor requested a plan to reduce 18 state departments down to eight.

Cherry leads a workgroup that includes staff from the executive

office and various state departments supplemented by academic resources from the University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Wayne State University.

The workgroup identified the following core functions:

- Public safety
- Education (early childhood through adult);
- Public systems (transportation, recreation, water/waste, utilities and information technology);
- Well-being (people should be free from hunger and have access to medical care and safe shelter);
- Sustainability (protect land, air, ecosystems and water);
- Economic opportunity and prosperity
- Efficiency and effectiveness.

For additional information on the workgroup or public hearings, please [click here](#).

Is Your Legislator Hosting A Coffee Hour?

Public officials often host informal meetings with their constituents to gauge what is happening in their districts. The alumni association encourages alumni and friends of the university to attend these "coffee hours" as this is an excellent opportunity to meet one-on-one with legislators and advocate on behalf of Wayne State. If you plan to attend one of these, please contact Joye Clark at joye.clark@wayne.edu

[Senator Glenn Anderson](#) (D-Westland) Second Monday of the month, Westland and Redford; fourth Monday of the month, Livonia and Garden City.

[Representative Joan Bauer](#) (D-Lansing) Saturday June 25, Lansing.

[Senator Patty Birkholz](#) (R-Saugatuck) Second Monday of every even numbered month (June, August, October, December), Hastings; Third Thursday of every even numbered month, Charlotte; Fourth Monday of every even numbered month, Fillmore Township; Fourth Monday of every even numbered month, Allegan; Fourth Thursday of every even numbered month, Delta Township.

[Representative Tim Bledsoe](#) (D-Grosse Pointe) Monday, June 22, Grosse Pointe Farms; Saturday, June 27, Detroit; Monday, June 29, Harper Woods; Monday, June 29, Grosse Pointe Farms.

[Representative Marc Corriveau](#) (D-Northville) First Monday of each month in Northville, Wayne and Plymouth.

[Representative Marie Donigan](#) (D-Royal Oak) Fridays, June 19 and July 17, Royal Oak; Fridays, June 5, July 3 and August 7, Madison Heights.

[Representative John Espinoza](#) (D-Croswell) Monday, June 22, Sandusky.

[Representative Vincent Gregory](#) (D-Southfield) Mondays, June 15, July 20 and August 17, Southfield.

[Representative Jennifer Haase](#) (D-Richmond) Friday, June 5, New Baltimore.

[Representative Richard Hammel](#) (D-Flushing) Fridays, June 19, August 21 and Oct. 16, Clio; Friday, July 17, Flint and Mount

Morris.

[Senator Bill Hardiman](#) (R-Kentwood) Mondays, July 13 and August 3, Grand Rapids; Monday, June 8, Lowell.

[Senator Tupac Hunter](#) (D-Detroit) First Friday of the month, Detroit-Plymouth Road; Second Friday of the month, Detroit-Cherry Hill; Third Friday of the month, Detroit-North Telegraph.

[Senator Mark Jansen](#) (R-Grand Rapids) Monday, June 15, Belmont; Monday, July 13, Caledonia; Tuesday, August 18, Grand Rapids.

[Representative Eileen Kowall](#) (R-White Lake) First Monday of every month, White Lake; First Monday of every month, Clarkston.

[Senator Wayne Kuipers](#) (R-Holland) Second Monday of the month, Grandville.

[Representative Gabe Leland](#) (D-Detroit) First Monday of every month, Detroit-Warren Avenue; First Monday of every month, Detroit-Plymouth Road; First Friday of every month, Detroit-Grand River at Southfield Freeway; First Friday of every month, Redford Township.

[Representative Ellen Cogen Lipton](#) (D-Huntington Woods) Monday, June 8, Berkley; Monday, June 22, Hazel Park.

[Representative Tom McMillin](#) (R-Rochester Hills) Monday, June 29, Oakland; Monday, July 20, Rochester.

[Representative Sarah Roberts](#) (D-St. Clair Shores) Monday, June 8, St. Clair Shores.

[Senator Martha Scott](#) (D-Detroit) First Monday of the month, Detroit-Ravendale Community Center; Second Monday of the month, Hamtramck; Third Monday of the month, Grosse Pointe Woods; Fourth Monday of the month, Highland Park.

[Representative Kate Segal](#) (D-Battle Creek) Fridays, June 12 and July 10, Monday, August 10, Athens; Fridays, June 26 and July 24, Homer.

[Representative Jon Switalski](#) (D-Warren) Mondays, June 8 and June 22, Warren.

[Senator Mickey Switalski](#) (D-Roseville) Monday, June 29, Roseville; Monday, July 27, Clinton Township.

[Representative John Walsh](#) (R-Livonia) Third Friday of the month, Livonia.

[Representative Rebekah Warren](#) (D-Ann Arbor) Monday, June 22, Ann Arbor.

[Representative Jimmy Womack](#) (D-Detroit) Mondays, June 15, July 20, August 17, Detroit.

To unsubscribe from future mailings, please [click here](#)

Advocacy Now is published by the Wayne State University Alumni Association. Questions or comments can be directed to the editor, Joye Clark, at ag9789@wayne.edu

