

# BUSINESS & FINANCE NOTES

MAY 2023 ISSUE: 3



Welcome to the latest edition of our exciting newsletter. This edition will continue to provide resources and tidbits of information about our division and the University. Enjoy!



## Did You Know?

### The Paper Pilot Plant Runs a Top-Secret Lab.

The Paper Pilot Plant works with companies worldwide on projects ranging from cosmetic packaging to pet food bags. It helps clients with recyclability certification, compostability certification, functional grease, and water-resistant coatings, and a variety of product-development initiatives. Most projects the plant works on are highly classified and companies appreciate the reliability of the staff to keep their information confidential. Genera Inc. permitted us to share the project they worked on with the WMU plant in April. Genera works with different non-wood fibers for use in products such as recyclable and compostable take-out containers, using a molded fiber process. Genera brought miscanthus fiber to study the effect of incorporating miscanthus into several standard grades of paperboard and beverage-carrier board. The trials were to determine what effects the miscanthus would have on the product and the machine. Several rolls of paper were run with varying amounts of miscanthus. They were coated and converted into cups and cartons for field testing and marketing purposes. See our Links of Interest for more.

### Higher Education Environments have Furniture Safety Standards.

Bronco Furniture has an eProcurement webpage for tables, desks, chairs, and storage. The items are commercial-grade quality, meet safety and sustainability requirements, and come with 5 to 10-year warranties. When you shop on other retail sites, you may be getting a lower cost; however, typically these products come with no warranty, no guarantee, and little information on what the products are made from or with. You may not know whether the products from other retailers meet standards and codes or whether they are even safe. When you purchase with Bronco Furniture, you can shop confidently with your procurement card on the webpage or with a design professional. See Links of Interest for more.

# And Did You Know?

## WMU Landscape is a Year-Round Process to Keep Campus Beautiful.



Spring at WMU has brought the landscape employees out from behind the curtain. Many of the plants have been growing in our greenhouse space with the help of Chris Jackson and WMU students. The careful planning of color and texture has been under way since the fall to create appealing designs for each space. Sustainability is practiced by splitting plant life and relocating it to enhance and diversify the landscape. Plant clippings will be saved, then used to create artwork for the planters during the winter months. Landscape employees exhibit their talent and unique eye for beauty in their artistic use of both living things and items others may only see as waste. Artwork is created with the repurposed clippings in a space that would have sat empty. The landscape staff takes pride in cultivating a beautiful campus that creates fond memories for our students and visitors all year.



## WMU Public Safety is 1 of 3 Accredited Departments in Kalamazoo County.

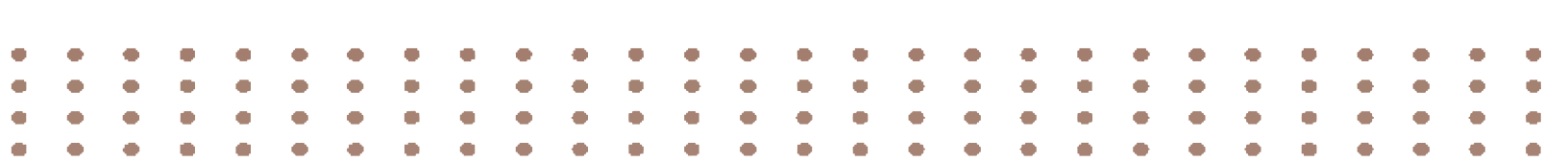
Of the 588 separate law-enforcement agencies in Michigan, only 58 have earned accreditation from the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police (MACP). WMU chose this process to advance professional development and ensure that daily operations' methods, policies, and procedures follow best practice trends of court decisions and statutory changes. It took over a year for the team to assemble the various documentation and other forms of proof to satisfy the 108 standards to apply for and achieve accreditation. Officers continue to follow these standards daily by modeling the behavior that earned the certification and the ability to display the accreditation logo. Officers Charles Johnson and Sara Helmer work with Lieutenant Mike Smith to maintain records for the Reaccreditation Process that will be conducted onsite in 2024 by the MACP. Documentation from our last accreditation year and the next two consecutive years can be reviewed during the process. See Links of Interest for more.



## Renaming Business and Finance

As William Shakespeare stated, “What is in a name?” This very question is what caused us to explore whether or not we should maintain the current divisional name. I want to thank our colleagues who joined the renaming committee: George Jarvis, Gloria Johnson, Anna Kniffin, Lisa Knutson, Karalee Kokeny, Jackie Michels, and Betsy Sell. They were creative and inclusive in their survey efforts. I also want to thank those who participated in the survey. We all know that our division provides a wide range of services to our students, faculty and staff. Does Business and Finance capture all that we do? So, what did we learn? In the initial survey, new naming options were proposed to narrow the options; 21% of us responded. This led to the second survey where we were asked to respond to four name choices, where 42% responded. The most popular choice, University Operations, received 19%. The second choice was the current name at 10%, followed by Business, Finance, and Facilities at 9% and 4% for University Support Services. Only one in five of us supported the proposed new name. Upon receiving the results, I met with the committee members to find out more about the feedback received as people shared their thoughts in one-on-one situations. There were some common themes. Within the division, we understand what we do and are proud of it. And, campus seems to understand how to find us so that we can help them. Another common theme was it is more important how we act than what we call ourselves. What are our divisional values and how do we treat each other? Based on survey response rates and the feedback received, the name seems to have secondary importance as we remain committed to engaging with each other and improving the work experience for members of Business and Finance. Our efforts will focus on continuing our progression as a division. Who knows? Maybe in a future year we will want to revisit “What is in a name?” but for now we remain Business and Finance.

– by Jan Van Der Kley





# MEET YOUR COLLEAGUES!

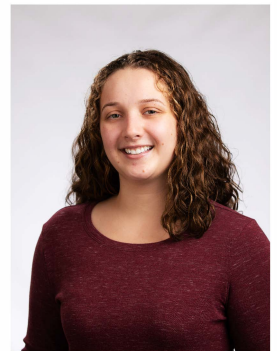
## Human Resources Representatives



**Amy Moran**

Originally from Ohio, Amy earned two bachelor's from Bowling Green State University. She will become a WMU graduate in December when she completes her master's in organizational change leadership. Amy began her career in the health sector before joining WMU in the Registrar's Office in July 2007. A year later she moved to the HR department and was promoted through the ranks to HR representative. Amy has a passion for HR that she applies to the departments and employees she supports. She appreciates the diversity of our work group and the variety it brings to her each day. In her free time, Amy runs half marathons and enjoys the outdoors with her family during the summer.

Isys has been with Western for 2 years, first as an HR assistant senior before becoming an HR rep in February. Before joining WMU, she worked in various industries, from manufacturing to recruiting and staffing. Isys earned an associate's from Kalamazoo Valley Community College, a bachelor's in HR management from Davenport University, and is currently pursuing a master's in organizational change leadership at WMU. She is grateful to work with a large group of people and be part of a support system for individual employees and business needs. Traveling is her go-to recreational activity and she likes to challenge herself to meet new people and learn new things.



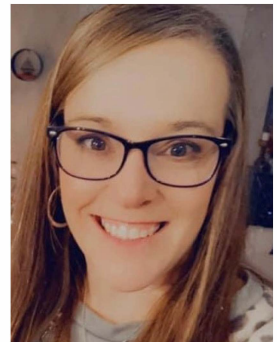
**Isys McCormack**



**Katina Mayes**

Before becoming a Bronco in February Katina was a deputy director for the Fair Housing Center of Southwest Michigan. She also worked as an HR specialist at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and as an adjunct professor for Spring Arbor University. She holds a bachelor's in business administration - pre-law from Michigan State University, a master's in organizational management from Spring Arbor University, and plans to pursue a doctorate in education at WMU. Katina enjoys the complexities, challenges, and unique nature of the HR Department. It makes her day to provide others with excellent service while building relationships. Katina likes to wind down with some good chocolate, the sounds of jazz, a walk outdoors, and time with family.

Trisha has been with WMU for 3 years in the HR Department and is currently pursuing her master's. She earned a bachelor's from Grand Valley State University. With 25 years of experience in human resources primarily in manufacturing, Trisha enjoys fast-paced work and opportunities to improve processes. She loves to work with people especially when she can assist them with what they need to be successful. Outside of the University, Trisha enjoys a variety of outdoor activities with her family members. They love to camp, hike, bike, kayak, garden, and are active in sports.



**Trisha Priest**

If you are interested in participating in this segment, please reach out to Karmella Todd. Otherwise, don't be surprised if she knocks on your door asking for participation.



# The Origins of Summer Vacations and Think WMU Summer Camps

With another class of seniors joining the ranks of WMU graduates and summer vacation looming, are you making big plans? Charting wild adventures to explore the country or the world? Summer breaks were not always the booming business they are today. In the 1840s, school was year-round. It wasn't until the cities became congested with people and the streets were lined with brick that the wealthy started escaping the summer heat by heading to the countryside. When trains were financially accessible to a majority of the population, so many children missed school leaving classes empty in summer that learning had to be postponed. Legislators started discussing summer breaks, then a standardized school year, and so here we are! Staying in town and looking for some ideas for kids? WMU has options from athletics to virtual reality, for grades 3 to 12 (most are 6-9). Go to [Links of Interest](#) for more.

## Just a Thought

Do you recall the first "Just a thought?" You are in luck. It is posted on the [OBF website](#) for your leisurely review. Here is a refresher: it was about fun and silly words. Over the summer while the majority of the students are away, I'd like you to think of the fun and silly words you enjoy. [Email them to me](#). Then if I can work them naturally into the context of the July or September newsletter and you find them, I will award small prizes. The rules: They have to be English because, unfortunately, it's the only language I speak. They have to be WMU-appropriate, and I have to be able to determine that each is a real word with a definition. Dr. Suess words are not allowed. The prize will not be a Lamborghini (fun word sorry I stole it), but something fun and Brown and Gold. Good luck. -Karmella

## Upcoming Events

July 28 - Bernhard Center Closes

July 31 - Student Center Open  
- Limited services 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (M-F)

August 21 - Student Center  
- Full Service

August 29 - Student Center  
Grand Opening and Bronco Bash

September 28 - Building Dedication

*\*More to come in the July newsletter\**

## Links of Interest

[generainc.com/](http://generainc.com/)  
[wmich.edu/pilotplants](http://wmich.edu/pilotplants)  
[wmich.edu/facilities/design/furniture](http://wmich.edu/facilities/design/furniture)  
[wmich.edu/facilities/landscape](http://wmich.edu/facilities/landscape)  
[wmich.edu/biology/facilities/finch-greenhouse](http://wmich.edu/biology/facilities/finch-greenhouse)  
[wmudps.wmich.edu/](http://wmudps.wmich.edu/)  
[michiganpolicechiefs.org](http://michiganpolicechiefs.org)  
[wmich.edu/precollege/summer](http://wmich.edu/precollege/summer)

If you are interested in submitting information for the next Business and Finance Updates, please contact Karmella at [Karmella.Todd@wmich.edu](mailto:Karmella.Todd@wmich.edu).