For the College of Health and Human Services, 2021 was a year of change and excitement. Of course, students remain at the forefront of all that we do.

Like most universities, COVID-19 was a major disruption for WMU in 2021. While we are not through the pandemic, we have, as a community, managed to find a way forward for our students. We were thrilled to welcome them safely back to campus for hands-on, in-person instruction in the fall, while also continuing virtual learning opportunities to meet the needs of all of our students.

We have also faced challenges when it comes to undergraduate enrollment, as the number of high school graduates in this state continues to decline. (This downward trend will continue for the foreseeable future, by the way.)

But even in the face of those challenges, students, faculty and staff in the College of Health and Human Services continued to impact one another, the University and the greater WMU community. You will see in this report that our researchers continue to work toward more inclusive, representative and equitable health and human services in our communities. Our innovators continue to develop products and methods to improve health and community outcomes for all. Our students, educators, researchers and practitioners continue to help thousands of individuals in our state and region who are struggling to overcome social, mental health and health care challenges.

We are also putting more effort than ever into helping our students find their career pathway to success. We are streamlining our offerings and as always preparing our students for careers that are high in demand, high in meaning, high in satisfaction and unsurpassed in impact.

Though 2021 presented many challenges, I could not be more proud of how the college rose to meet them. I thank the students, staff and faculty of the college for all their hard work in 2021, and I look forward to a strong and healthy 2022 for the whole WMU and CHHS community.

FROM THE DEAN’S DESK

Dean Cisler congratulates graduate Megan Johnson at the physician assistant class of 2021 white coat ceremony in August.
WHO WE ARE (ALL DATA FALL 2021)

ENROLLMENT
2304
Total CHHS students

WORKFORCE
318
Total CHHS employees

Student count by level
- Graduate: 1378
- Undergraduate: 926

Student count by gender and level
- Graduate:
  - Female: 762
  - Male: 164
- Undergraduate:
  - Female: 1212
  - Male: 166

Student race/ethnicity by student level
- Graduate:
  - 77.6%
  - 6.2%
  - 4.8%
  - 7.8%
  - 3.6%
  - 10.3%
  - 11.0%
  - 3.6%
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- Undergraduate:
  - 69.4%
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Resiliency Center for Families and Children enhances programs

The WMU Resiliency Center for Families and Children was established in late 2020 and provides a myriad of resiliency assessments, interventions and evidence-based interprofessional care for children and families at the WMU–CHHS Unified Clinics. The center addresses the multifaceted needs of those experiencing trauma, toxic stress, chronic disability, neurodevelopmental disorders or addictions.

In addition to the core services offered by the Children’s Trauma Assessment Center, the Resiliency Center offers trauma-related services like adult trauma assessment and treatment, child trauma treatment, trauma-informed pharmacological consultations and trauma-related behavioral health services, to name only a few. These new services reached hundreds of individuals in the community.

Susan Rood is the primary case coordinator for the center. She guides individual cases between various clinics and services to ensure seamless transitions for clients. “In more traditional settings, clients often get lost in the gaps between services,” says Rood. “I’m able to help our clinicians anticipate those gaps and make sure nobody gets lost.”

In 2022, Drs. Yvette Hyter and Michelle Suarez will assume co-director roles in the center. Both have many years of experience leading clinical operations at the United Clinics on behalf of the college.

Drs. Ron Cisler and James Henry, who have led strategic and operational activities at the Resiliency Center since its founding, will remain active in the clinics and continue to work with Center and college leadership to grow and develop future service offerings.

Unified Clinics and Center for Disability Services Update

Though the COVID-19 pandemic challenged operations at the Unified Clinics and Center for Disability Services, in 2021, both organizations were open and serving the public — including individuals in the Kalamazoo area, across the state and throughout the region. Student clinical education resumed safely and thousands of individuals received unique and valuable services.

In November, Elizabeth Hertel, director of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, along with Sean McCann, Michigan state senator, visited the Unified Clinics to follow-up on the state’s $3 million appropriation to the clinics and Resiliency Center (2018-21).

Dr. Carol Sundberg, director of the Unified Clinics and Center for Disability Services, will retire at the end of 2021. In January 2022, Joseph Kuchenbuch will become the interim director of the Unified Clinics, and Dr. Andrea Perez will be interim director of CDS.

Joe has been director of behavioral health services at the Unified Clinics and Andrea has been a program coordinator at CDS. Both Joe and Andrea will rely on years of valuable experience in their new leadership roles.
College weighing options for alignment and organization

While universities across the country resumed normal operations in 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted and accelerated changes that were already coming with the next generation of college students. WMU and the College of Health and Human Services are not immune to those changes.

“Our enrollment has been declining and the number of high school graduates in Michigan is shrinking,” says Dean Ron Cisler. “When you add increased competition from other institutions and the changing demands of Gen Z students, it is clear that the college needs to examine what is working well and what should change to better serve our students.”

Dean Cisler consulted with chairs, directors and various CHHS faculty and staff to propose a framework for organizing the college. In the proposal, departments and schools would be aligned in three “divisions” to capitalize on the synergies between our programs.

Dr. Carla Chase, who was named interim associate dean of the college in December, is focused on college alignment and organization, among other things. During her first week in her new role, Dr. Chase met with groups of staff and faculty throughout the college to discuss ongoing issues and gather ideas about how to move the college forward.

“This is something that faculty and staff are passionate about,” says Dr. Chase. “We are discussing what we see on the horizon and continuing the conversations we’ve been having about how we can manage change as a college.”

“Under the best of circumstances, change can be immensely difficult,” says Dean Cisler. “After everything that happened last year, we’re all shorthanded and doing more with less, there’s a lot of stress on campus. We’re really nowhere near the best of circumstances.”

In addition to grouping programs with certain commonalities, the dean’s proposal also includes more robust student services and student success operations, career counseling for students and other shared services.

Dean Cisler is certain that focusing on CHHS students will yield positive results. “I know we can come together to make the college stronger and to find a sustainable way forward for our programs and for our students,” he says.

Updates from the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The CHHS Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion has been very busy working on a number of initiatives in the college and across campus, including working to center DEI initiatives in the University’s new strategic plan.

The college’s DEI committee is made up of subcommittees working on initiatives like data reporting, implicit bias training and developing a code of ethics. Work is progressing in all of those areas (and others) as laid out in last year’s CHHS Statement on Race and Antiracism.

In March 2022, along with the WMU Center for Humanities, the college’s DEI office will sponsor the Burian Lecture and host the CHHS Diversity and Inclusion Conference.

Dr. Deirdre Cooper-Owens will deliver both the Burian Lecture and the keynote session in the conference. One of the foremost experts in U.S. history, Dr. Cooper-Owens has worked steadily to make our history more accessible and inspiring for all. She is the author of Medical Bondage: Race, Gender, and the Origins of American Gynecology.

More information about these events and other DEI-related activities can be found on the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion website at wmich.edu/hhs/diversity.
Department of Physical Therapy earns accreditation, graduates first cohort

On Dec. 2, the WMU Department of Physical Therapy received notification that its Doctor of Physical Therapy program has been granted initial accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education. This notification comes four-and-a-half years after the program was initiated at Western Michigan University, and just three weeks before the first cohort of Doctor of Physical Therapy students will graduate.

“Accreditation is a long and arduous process,” says Dr. Stacie Fruth, founding chair of WMU’s Department of Physical Therapy. “For us, it started nearly five years ago and we are absolutely thrilled to reach this important milestone.”

With the first cohort of students just about to graduate, obtaining accreditation status is exceedingly important. Graduating from an accredited program is necessary for individuals to obtain a license to practice as a physical therapist.

“These students came here with the understanding and the belief that we would be accredited by the time they graduated,” says Fruth. “We were sure of the timeline all along, and we were confident that we would get here, but there’s still a sense of relief that we were able to deliver on our promise.”

Many of the students who graduated in December already had jobs lined up and nearly a third of them had already passed their national licensing exam, which is required to practice.

The department hosted a pinning and hooding ceremony and reception in December to celebrate it’s first graduating cohort.

Western researchers develop a special boot to save limbs and lives

Diabetes is a national concern, affecting more than one in 10 Americans. The disease can put patients at risk for dangerous foot ulcers and lower limb amputations. But innovative research at WMU could be a game-changer, accelerating healing and saving limbs and lives.

Dr. Daryl Lawson, associate professor of physical therapy, has co-invented SenLore: a boot that offloads pressure on diabetic foot ulcers and delivers a combo of heat and electrical stimulation to increase blood flow and speed up the healing process. So far, the results are remarkable; initial research shows increased blood perfusion at the foot in people with diabetes more than 186%.

“The purpose was to combine both of those elements to treat people at home or at an assisted nursing facility and be able to monitor people to make sure they never get to the point of amputation,” says Lawson.

The SenLore team is working with a product development company and a sensor development company to produce the first-generation boot. A product like this, says Lawson, could be transformative — especially for seniors.

“It can be a challenge for seniors to learn and function using a prosthetic. Simple things like taking care of grandchildren may be the thing they love to do in their life, and if they can’t do that, it’s devastating. If you can prevent an amputation and heal the wound, they can return to normal functional activity. And that’s pretty gratifying.”
Celebrating 100 years of OT at WMU

The WMU Department of Occupational Therapy will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2022. Occupational therapy was the first non-teacher preparation program at the Western State Normal School, as it was then known.

On July 22 and 23, the department plans to host its official 100th Anniversary Celebration in the College of Health and Human Services building. Activities will include continuing education programs on Friday followed by the 100th Anniversary Gala on Saturday.

Many experiences are being planned for the Gala — from student poster presentations to campus tours and an OT Historical Artifacts exhibit hosted by Fred Sammons. The event will conclude with a reception on Saturday evening.

More information is available on the occupational therapy website at wmich.edu/ot/100.

Leadership change in OT Department

On December 1, after four-and-a-half years as chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy, Dr. Carla Chase has stepped down from this role and was named Interim Associate Dean of the College of Health and Human Services.

Dr. Nancy Hock was selected by faculty to become the new chair of the department. A passionate educator, Dr. Hock has been at WMU for more than 10 years as coordinator of the OT Program in Grand Rapids.

“There are so many great things happening in this department right now and I’m very excited about this new role,” says Dr. Hock. “Our programs are strong, our staff and faculty are dedicated, and we are all focused on our wonderful students, it’s impossible not to be excited.”

OT department launches two new programs

First, after a years-long process, the department launched its Doctor of Occupational Therapy program in the summer of 2020. This new program, now into its second cohort, replaced the long-standing and highly-regarded OT master’s degree.

In fall 2021, the OT Department was awarded candidacy for its new Occupational Therapy Assistant program. In spring 2022, WMU will welcome its first cohort of new Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy students. This exciting new undergraduate program prepares students to sit for the national exam to be Occupational Therapy Assistants.

“OTAs are well-paid and according to the U.S. Department of Labor the profession has a bright outlook and is expected to grow rapidly,” says Dr. Steven Eberth, coordinator of the new program. “Our new bachelor’s degree will help students succeed and fill this need in the field.”

Many community colleges offer associate degrees that prepare students to sit for the exam, but WMU’s program offers benefits community colleges cannot.

“Our OTA students complete a baccalaureate project before graduation,” says Dr. Eberth. “That allows them to do a ‘deep dive’ into a subject area, giving them insight and expertise in practical areas of the occupational therapy field. It’s something employers will notice when they’re hiring their next OTA.”

Our WMU OT undergrad students will be able to engage in mentoring relationships with our OTD students to build working partnerships through clinic fieldwork experiences that mirror real-world situations with OTs and OT Assistants.
WMU secures $1.92 million for interprofessional workforce development

Adolescent behavioral health needs are at an all-time high. WMU is meeting the challenge by preparing practitioners to meet those needs and represent our diverse communities. Drs. Bridget Weller, Carla Adkison-Johnson and Jennifer Harrison, received an award of $1.92 million to support the development of a culturally and linguistically responsive behavioral health workforce.

The effort represents collaboration between CHHS and the College of Education and Human Development, and is the third HRSA grant awarded to the University to support behavioral health workforce development.

This four-year award will support the Interprofessional Peer Education and Evidence for Recovery (I-PEER) program, established to provide workforce training in best practices to better serve rural and medically underserved communities in southwestern Michigan.

A diverse group of I-PEER students will attend innovative, team-based training activities covering topics such as culturally and linguistically responsive care, financial wellness, suicide prevention, assessment and treatment for substance use disorders and Goal Scaling Solutions, an outcome-measurement digital application.

In addition to supporting students, I-PEER will continue to expand community partnerships in West Michigan to assure the diverse lived experience of adolescents and young adults remains front and center.

Social work alum recognized by WMU

The School of Social Work was very pleased to be able to celebrate with Diana Sieger, one of WMU’s 2021 Distinguished Alumni.

Ms. Sieger has been a leader in macro practice social work before, during, and after her MSW from Western Michigan University in 1978, and is the current Executive Director of the Grand Rapids Community Foundation.

Thanks to the members of Students In Action (SIA) student organization and Dr. Donna Weinreich, for speaking with Diana as she was honored as a WMU Distinguished Alum.

In addition, we’re pleased to announce that the Diana Sieger Social Work Scholarship is available for social work students.
“Life-changing” gift: student receives hearing aids thanks to collaborative effort

Rattling silverware, clanking cups and the splashing of water on plates isn’t exactly music to the ears, but it’s a sink-side symphony Abondance Kibadi hasn’t always been able to fully appreciate. The WMU student is experiencing it all now at his Dining Services job after receiving some new hardware: high-tech hearing aids.

His hearing loss has been present since he was a child, but the efforts of the Unified Clinics, Sindecuse Health Center, the Student Academy of Audiology and hearing solutions company Phonak have given him new hope for success.

Abondance worked with Dr. Alyssa Eminhizer, undergraduate program coordinator for the Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences and clinical faculty specialist-audiologist. She found hearing aids he could borrow from the clinic while working to get him a pair of his own.

“People think hearing aids are too expensive and not going to be an option,” Eminhizer says. “But we have additional funding resources, or we can pull from resources in the community we can connect people with. So there are options and we’re willing to work with anyone who needs help.”

The hearing aids Kibadi eventually received cost about $4,000. Eminhizer worked with the manufacturer, Phonak, to get the price down to $2,300. Kibadi’s family paid $300 and Western’s Student Academy of Audiology (SAA), which Eminhizer is the faculty advisor for, stepped up to cover the remaining $2,000.

“It was really neat to see all of these pieces coming together to help,” Eminhizer says.

“I’m able to hear and understand conversations more clearly,” says Abondance. “And they also help me to hear myself. It’s really changed my life.”

Dr. D’Jaris Coles-White awarded Presidential Innovation Professorship

Dr. D’Jaris Coles-White, an innovative speech-language pathology researcher and practitioner, joined WMU in 2021 as a Presidential Innovation Professor.

Her research focuses on multicultural issues in speech disorders and development of social language skills in children with autism spectrum disorders.

“Dr. Coles-White is a groundbreaking leader in the field of speech-language pathology, a respected scholar and a dedicated instructor,” says WMU President Edward Montgomery. “I’m pleased that Western is providing her with the Presidential Innovation Professorship as a platform to advance her work and advance our knowledge of how to better identify and treat childhood language disorders.”

The professorship acknowledges Coles-White’s experience has great potential to advance teaching, creative scholarship and research at Western and beyond.

“Everyone in a classroom needs to be comfortable, valued, respected, authentic and good listeners,” says Dr. Coles-White. “Creating that kind of culture in the classroom breaks down ‘hidden barriers’ in a classroom that can be toxic and perpetuate institutional notions about higher education.”
Two PA grads receive white coats at private ceremony

Antonio Gianelli, 2018 inductee into the CHHS Outstanding Alumni Academy, currently practices at Great Lakes Center of Rheumatology in Lansing, Michigan. Two WMU physician assistant grads, Courtney Lin and Allison Trevino, started working there after graduation in 2020.

While making plans to attend an annual rheumatology conference on Mackinac Island, Gianelli saw an opportunity to gift these two PAs with an experience that was canceled for 2020 grads due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“It came to me, ‘Let’s do it, let’s make the experience happen, at least for these two students, now my colleagues,’” says Gianelli. “The event was already planned and most of our staff already planned to attend. It was perfect.”

After dinner one night at the Michigan Rheumatism Society meeting on Mackinac Island, with attendees dressed up for the Grand Hotel dining room and dinner music in the background, Gianelli administered the oath and presented the pair with their own white coats, freshly embroidered with their names.

“When COVID-19 hit and canceled in-person events, including our white coat ceremony, I was devastated,” says Lin. “I am fortunate to be in an office that recognizes the importance of every [PA’s] dream to officially put on the white coat. It will be an experience I will never forget.”

“They made my dreams a reality,” says Trevino. “In that moment, the hardships and sacrifices...were suddenly validated.”

PA students collect donations, win quiz bowl

In October, physician assistant faculty and students attended the Michigan Academy of Physician Assistants conference in Traverse City, Michigan. The annual conference features lectures from leaders in the field, workshops, receptions, and social and networking gatherings.

One of the highlights of the event is the energetic and competitive Student Quiz Bowl, featuring students from all six PA programs in the state of Michigan. WMU students won the quiz bowl for the second year in a row.

In addition to flexing their brains, WMU students also put their heart on display. For the ninth time in 10 years, the WMU program won a MAPA Collection Drive trophy for collecting and displaying donations to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northern Michigan.
Support through scholarships
The WMU Bronson School of Nursing support students through a number of different scholarship funds, supported by our alumni and community partners. In 2021, the school awarded 30 scholarships totaling more than $182,000.

“These scholarships represent a significant investment in our students,” says Dr. Lisa Singleterry, interim director of the Bronson School of Nursing. “But it’s an investment where we immediately see the return. We know that we’re helping our students cross the finish line at graduation.”

More info at wmich.edu/nursing/scholarships.

BSON active in the community
Students and faculty in the WMU Bronson School of Nursing are well-known for the work they do in the community. Whether through normal clinical education placements at hospitals and clinics or volunteering with local organizations, nursing students and instructors take many opportunities to participate in health-related activities throughout the year.

COVID-19 presented a number of opportunities for nursing students and faculty. “We had faculty and students volunteering all year long, performing testing and administering vaccines,” says Dawn Smith, faculty specialist II in the Bronson School of Nursing. “In all, we had in more than 500 student hours related to COVID-19 testing and vaccines.”

Part of the undergraduate BSN nursing curriculum pairs students with nurse leaders to work on continuous quality improvement programs with clinical partners in Kalamazoo. “This quality improvement project has deliverables related to nursing in the hospital or community,” says Dr. Lisa Singleterry. “Between the spring and fall semesters, that works out to over 1500 hours that our students spent working to improve health systems in Kalamazoo.”

In addition to these undergraduate projects, MSN students also partner with nurse leaders across the state of Michigan, using the IOWA model to explore a health care problem. In spring 2021, two MSN students presented their projects to local organizations. Sarah Durham-Maycroft presented, “Measuring Quantitative Blood Loss,” and Molly Hermann focused her project on “Racial Disparities in Labor.”

In another act of volunteerism, in fall 2021, WMU nursing students organized a flu vaccine clinic in collaboration with the YWCA and Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services.

Two BSON students, Mirissa Becerra and Clare Lycan, worked together to determine the YWCA’s needs and then organized the clinic. KCHCS provided two nursing staff, vaccines and other supplies to make the clinic a reality.

As a result of this collaboration, flu shots were available for some of our community’s most vulnerable individuals and the caring workers who serve them on a daily basis.

50 year celebration!
Alumni from the Bronson Methodist Hospital School of Nursing celebrated their 50 year reunion with a tour of our labs in June. Congratulations on 50 years of nursing excellence!
Student looks to fill critical gap in O&M specialists in South Africa

Vision impairment is the most prevalent disability in South Africa, where Tracey Joubert works at the College of Orientation and Mobility. A report by the World Health Organization finds a majority of impairment there goes unaddressed. Another survey estimates that 97% of South Africans who are blind or visually impaired are unemployed.

“In South Africa, we still have to grow the consciousness and understanding that people with disabilities are fully capable and can be integrated in society,” says Joubert, a student in WMU’s orientation and mobility for children program.

Dr. Dawn Anderson, assistant professor of blindness and low vision studies, first helped identify gaps in programming as a Fulbright Scholar in South Africa. Because of her expertise and WMU’s stellar reputation in the field, Joubert’s employer agreed to send Joubert to WMU.

“There’s a huge need for specialists. The biggest goal (in completing the WMU program) is to take the skills back to South Africa, specifically for working with children with visual impairments,” says Anderson. “The connections between our programs strengthen with her work here.”

Joubert is in the final semester of her program, finishing an internship at the Foundation for Blind Children in Arizona. When she graduates, she will be the first instructor at her college with certification from the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals.

“It is our hope that other African countries seeking improved services for individuals who are blind and visually impaired will engage with the (College of Orientation and Mobility) in South Africa and Western Michigan University to expand and enhance O&M across Africa,” says Anderson.

Joubert looks forward to beginning to lay that foundation, grateful for the support and inspiration she’s found through Western’s faculty and programs.

“One of the biggest things I’ve taken from the department is the amount of passion all the instructors have for the field,” says Joubert. “I’d like to instill that mindset back home, that there are no limitations for people with visual impairments. And the more we, as instructors, can expose them to that, the more they can experience and learn for themselves; and that empowerment is a huge thing.”

Ph.D. program hosts COVID-related Grand Rounds events

The global COVID pandemic and the ensuing vaccine development process leading to the national roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines has raised questions for health care providers and the public. The Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Ph.D. program hosted two virtual Grand Rounds events focused on issues surrounding COVID-19.

In February, Dr. Kata Chillag discussed the public health approach to ethics and ethical decision making, using the COVID pandemic as a backdrop for the conversation. Dr. Chillag was previously a senior policy analyst and associate director of the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues under President Barack Obama.

Captain Joshua Devine, is a U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Officer who serves as regional health administrator for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In December, Captain Devine led a session focused on health misinformation and building a healthy information environment.
CHHS faculty receive grant for interdisciplinary falls-prevention project

Drs. Cassie Lopez-Jeng (School of Interdisciplinary Health Programs) and Steven Eberth (OT) received a grant totaling $412,612 from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund through the Healthy Aging Initiative 2021.

Their project, "Cultivating Falls Prevention Culture by Intelligent Learning," will teach an evidence-based behavior change model to health care employees in nine county medical care facilities across Michigan.

The educational content will be delivered through a web-based learning platform that provides accessible personalized behavior change education. The project will engage employees in the collaborative process of shared organizational problem-solving and equip them to utilize the same approach with their older adult clients and families.

New and updated programs planned for 2022

The School of Interdisciplinary Health Programs continues to grow as the educational needs of our students and the disciplines we serve continue to evolve. In 2022, the school plans to offer a slate of new and updated programs at the undergraduate and graduate level, including several nine-credit graduate certificates that will assist students in meeting state and national credentialing bodies and increase their marketability in their career fields.

Bachelor’s Degree in Health Administration
In partnership with the Haworth College of Business, CHHS and the School of Interdisciplinary Health Programs is developing a Health Administration bachelor's degree. Combining aspects of our healthcare services and sciences program and HCOB's business administration degree, this new bachelor's degree will prepare students for careers on the business side of health care fields.

Revised and new certificates in addiction studies
We have revised the curriculum in the 18-hour Specialty Program in Alcohol and Drug Addiction graduate certificate. We also plan to offer new courses recently developed for the SPADA program in a new nine-credit SPADA certificate, as well.

Holistic Health and Contemplative Well-Being
The Integrative Holistic Health and Wellness program has revised its name and graduate certificates, making adjustments to keep pace with a rapidly evolving field of study. We plan to offer four new grad certificates in health and wellness coaching, holism and contemplative health care, resilience and well-being skills and mindfulness and centering skills.

Three new minors
In addition to the new bachelor's degree and revised graduate certificates, the School of Interdisciplinary Health Programs plans to offer three new minors to supplement the education of our health-focused undergraduate students. The new minors will be in long term care administration, public health and healthcare services and sciences.

Note: The School of Interdisciplinary Health Programs plans to make these new and updated programs available in fall 2022. As of December 2021, all changes are in development and pending final approval.
Research at the College of Health and Human Services supports WMU students and promotes exemplary health care. All of the below interdisciplinary projects (and many more in the college) include students in the research process or utilize the data gathered for educational purposes.

Dr. Jessica Gladden received a Support for Faculty Scholars Award to research how to make yoga and yoga-based therapy more accessible to black, brown and indigenous individuals.

Drs. Cassie Lopez-Jeng and Steven Eberth received over $412,600 from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund for their project that will teach an evidence-based behavior change model to healthcare employees in nine medical care facilities across Michigan.

Drs. Bridget E. Weller, Carla Adkison-Johnson and Jennifer Harrison received $1.92 million from the Health Resources and Services Administration to train current and future behavioral health providers in culturally and developmentally appropriate, integrated care in West Michigan.

Dr. Robert Bensley received more than $1.5 million per year to fund a parent-child feeding nutrition education online system (wichealth.org) adopted by 30 states and 15 tribal organizations and supported by the USDA’s WIC supplemental feeding program.

Drs. Ron Cisler and James Henry received an additional $750,000 from the State of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services for the Resiliency Center for Families and Children (total $2.25 million).

Dr. Bridget E. Weller, professor in the WMU School of Social Work, was named Director of the College of Health and Human Services Office of Research for 2021-22.
Total CHHS graduates in 2020

- 400 Bachelor's Degrees
- 308 Master's Degrees and Graduate Certificates
- 12 Doctoral Degrees

GRAD STATS

94% Employed or Continuing Education
97% At least one Experiential Activity at WMU
95% Have a Job Related to Their Degree

From the Western Michigan University Career and Student Employment Services Post-Graduation Activity Report 2019-20.

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