

**OUWB Rallies to Support Fight Against Breast Cancer**

Raising awareness for medical conditions brings out the best in the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine faculty members and its student. When the reason for participating includes honoring one of the team, the motivation runs even deeper.

For the second consecutive year, members from Team GRAB for the Cure laced up their tennis shoes to walk in honor of Assistant Dean for Medical Student Admissions and Financial Services Christina Grabowski, a breast cancer survivor.

To celebrate her good health and to generate awareness for the cause, the team assembled at Chene Park in Detroit for the Susan G. Komen

Race for the Cure to walk or run, one to five miles.

“I was truly overwhelmed when my colleagues organized the GRAB for the Cure team during my cancer treatment last year,” said Grabowski. “It was such an incredible honor. I am absolutely certain that the care, support and encouragement that I received from my OUWB family gave me strength to get through a difficult with laughs and good memories along the way.”

The morning commitment did not deter the group’s determination to reach the finish line, after all, this was an easy obstacle to overcome compared to Grabowski’s two-year challenge with cancer.

“Christina is an inspiration to all of us at the OUWB. She is truly one of those people who, if dealt lemons, she makes lemonade and whole a lot more like lemon pound cake,” described Janail Silver, director of Records and Registration.



Two years ago, when Grabowski’s life story included a dose of lemons, she refused to get sour about it. She remained dedicated to her job, often coming into the office following her treatments.

“Her experience helped a lot of people to realize that life is too short,” said Silver. “I am proud to be a part of this effort and to donate my time for a friend.”

Up to 75 percent of the funds raised from the Detroit event will benefit the local community to support breast health education, breast cancer screening and treatment projects. Twenty-five percent of the funds will support the Komen for the Cure Award and Research Grant Programs, which contribute to groundbreaking breast cancer research, meritorious awards and educational and scientific conferences around the world.

**Retreat gives high schoolers a glimpse at college life; builds leadership skills**

Oakland University recently hosted the Learning and Achievement Coalition-Oakland (LAC-O) Student Leadership Residential Retreat. It was a follow up program to the high school leadership conference held earlier this year where 300 students from 55 area high schools attended.

This retreat was aimed at providing students the opportunity to develop leadership skills and learn new ways they can create a more inclusive school environment. Following the retreat, student participants are expected to implement the new skills they have learned at their current high schools and begin the process

of improving the climate there.

Coordinated through Oakland's Department of Pre-College Programs, students engaged in leadership training, learned about the admissions process, toured the campus and stayed overnight in a campus residence hall. Students were from high schools in the following school districts: Berkley, Clarenceville, Clawson, Ferndale, Holly, Lamphere, Madison Heights, Oak Park, Royal Oak and Walled Lake.

Learn more about Oakland University's Pre-College Programs at [www.oakland.edu/precollege](http://www.oakland.edu/precollege).



## **State higher education budget sees increase for first time in 4 years**

For the first time since 2008, the Louisiana legislative session ended without budget cuts to Louisiana's public colleges. The budget for higher education will increase \$109 million for fiscal year 2015, according to the Legislative Fiscal Office.

Over the past five years, Louisiana's higher education budget has been cut by about 35 percent, according to an Illinois State University Grapevine study. The study reports Louisiana has had the most higher education budget cuts of all 50 states, about 10 percent more than the second highest state, Arizona.

According to the Legislative Fiscal Office, about \$88 million of the increase is money the public colleges expect to receive from raised tuition. Although that will partially be covered by the state's funds for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students, or TOPS, most of the \$88 million will come from students' fee bills.

University of Louisiana System President Sandra Woodley called the 2014 legislative session the "most successful legislative session our universities have seen in many years."

"If we are able to sustain and build on this effort in future years, we will look back to this day as the starting point of a revitalization of Louisiana in which there is alignment between our work in higher education and our collective ambition to achieve a nationally competitive economy," Woodley said in a news release.

*The Daily Reveille*  
June 17, 2014

## **PA: Tuition to increase 3 percent at state-owned universities**

The Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) Board of Governors approved a 3 percent, or \$198, tuition increase this week for the 2014-15 school year. The tuition increase is in response to flat appropriations levels from the state legislature.

*The Inquirer*  
July 8, 2014

## **Middle-Class Calif. Students Will Get Hundreds of Dollars in Tuition Grants**

Students from middle-class families in the University of California and California State University systems will find out within the next several weeks whether they will have hundreds of dollars chopped off their tuition bills with grants in the coming academic year.

The grants, which will total up to \$1,450 each for University of California students and up to \$650 each for Cal State students, are aimed at lightening the burden of college costs on families that don't qualify for aid available to those with the lowest incomes.

Roughly 156,000 students are slated to receive the grants, which are administered by the California Student Aid Commission. The amount of the grants may triple during the next three years and eventually cover 10 to 40 percent of tuition.

*Chronicle of Higher Education*  
June 24, 2014

## **Florida universities get \$200 million in performance funding**

After years of financial struggles,

Florida public universities are in the unusual position of having to figure out how best to spend what amounts to a \$200 million bonus check.

Many schools will receive tens of millions of dollars under the state's new performance-funding system, which will reward excellence or improvement annually in key areas such as graduation rates and financial efficiency.

The University of Central Florida would receive \$30.8 million next school year

The University of Florida, considered the state's top public university, would receive the largest amount: \$39.8 million.

Three institutions — Florida Atlantic University, University of West Florida and New College — did not rate high enough to qualify for an award, based on schools' performance in 2012-13. In fact, the three could lose a total of \$11.9 million if they do not make improvements in certain areas by the end of the 2014-15 academic year.

*Orlando Sentinel*  
July 15, 2014

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# State and National Headlines

## **Federal Reserve Bank of NY: College still worth the investment**

### *Dive Brief:*

- \* In spite of the rising price tag of a college degree and the falling earnings of graduates, the benefits of holding an associate's or bachelor's degree still outweigh the costs, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.
- \* The bank analyzed data back to the 1970s and found that the return on investment for a college degree climbed "impressively" from 1980 to 2000, and for more than a decade it has held steady at 15%.
- \* Over the last four decades, grads with bachelor's degrees earned 56% more than high school graduates, and associate's degree grads have earned 21% more.

### *Dive Insight:*

The data analysis is impressive in this report. Written by Jason Abel and Richard Deitz from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York's Research and Statistics Group, the analysis also shows that the average wages of college grads have been falling for a decade, accelerating downward after the Great Recession, but the wages of non-graduates have also been falling.

Return on investment in college varies according to the field. Students who majored in engineering, math, computers and other technical fields, or fields in growing areas of the economy, such as health care, tended to earn a high return on their investment in college. Graduates with degrees in leisure and hospitality, agriculture, architecture, or the lib-

eral arts fared worse — especially those who found themselves chronically unemployed.

### *Education Dive* June 25, 2014

## **NV: Regents vote to increase tuition 4 percent annually for four years**

The Nevada Board of Regents voted this week to increase undergraduate tuition by 4 percent annually for four years starting in fall 2015, with the exception of Nevada State College, which will increase tuition 2.5 percent in the first year and 3.5 percent for the following three years. The money will be directed to faculty and staff positions, financial aid and resource centers.

### *Las Vegas Review-Journal* June 6, 2014

## **Colleges seek to strengthen appeal to international students**

International students are an integral part of any college campus. Not only do these individuals provide diversity and a different perspective to the classroom, but they are able to contribute to the prestige of a university - all while building up a résumé that should help them land a job anywhere in the world. While master's degree programs are experiencing an uptick in international applications, many undergraduate and doctorate providers are trying to boost global enrollment numbers.

### *States Aim to Attract Students*

Because these students are in such high demand, many colleges are attempting to find new ways to attract international applicants. A recent study from The Nelson A.

Rockefeller Institute of Government at The State University of New York discussed just what public colleges are doing to bring these students to the U.S. According to the report, titled "States Go Global: State Government Engagement in Higher Education Internationalization," the efforts of student, faculty and staff generally drive international enrollment. This frequently includes American students studying abroad and making connections with foreign individuals, as well as other grassroots initiatives from people on campus.

### *U.S. News and World Report* June 5, 2014

## **Cuomo announces first 12 companies for tax-free zones**

The first beneficiaries of Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo's tax-free zones for businesses that locate near colleges will be upstate and in Brooklyn, the governor announced.

Eight of the 12 companies will be affiliated with the University at Buffalo, two with the SUNY Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn and one each with the Rochester Institute of Technology and Cornell University.

On Long Island, only Stony Brook University has won state approval for a tax-free zone under Cuomo's START-UP NY program. The university has received more than 125 inquiries from companies since securing the designation in March, SBU spokeswoman Lauren Sheprow said.

### *Newsday* June 6, 2014



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### State and National Headlines *CONTINUED*

#### **Oil boom sends gusher of cash to Texas universities**

Before hydraulic fracturing. Before the super majors. Before the first oil boom. Before Texas was even a state, sparsely populated land on its western frontier was set aside to fund public education.

As the oil shale boom sweeps West Texas more than 170 years later, the University of Texas and Texas A&M are reaping a windfall from what was once cattle grazing land. Over the past five years, the two university systems have seen their endowments grow by around 70 percent as oil revenue floods in at the rate of almost \$1 billion a year.

At a time most state universities are fighting just to maintain programs,

UT and A&M are spending hundreds of millions a year on new construction projects while maintaining tuition costs routinely cited as among the most affordable in the nation.

“It’s a huge game changer and is something that no other university system has to this extent,” said James Huffines, a Dallas bank executive and University of Texas booster, who sat on the UT Board of Regents until 2010. “Just look around the campuses at all the new construction. A lot of it is supported by oil money, and those royalty payments should keep growing.”

*The Dallas Morning News*  
June 2, 2014