

**Award winning Model UN team returns from conference with exceptional honors**

Oakland University offers students the opportunity to participate in Model United Nations, an organization that examines the United Nations system and contemporary issues in international politics.

Members of the Model UN enhance their skills in public speaking, study and debate the details of formidable political challenges, and learn to effectively work as a team to pursue solutions.

“They learn to debate, negotiate and think creatively about how to address complex issues in a fast-moving and intense environment,” said Peter Trumbore, associate professor of political science and coordinator of the International Relations Program.

The team learns to discuss and address issues relating to public health, environmental sustainability, international law and global security.

For nearly five years, Oakland University students have partici-

pated in Model UN by either taking the course (Political Science 362 Model UN) or by becoming a member of the Model UN student organization. Since its inception, instructors have obtained a better understanding of how to prepare students for Model UN annual conferences, including the Lake Erie Model United Nations conference in Cleveland and the North American Model United Nations conference in Toronto.

“We have had a great deal of success at the Lake Erie conference over the years, winning best team awards twice in the last several years,” said Trumbore. “That success has helped us gain confidence for when we go to Toronto, which is a much larger conference with more students and more universities represented.”

The OU team brought home five awards at the 2014 North American Model UN Conference in Toronto. The event took place Feb. 20-23 and hosted more than 300 students from 29 different institu-

tions throughout the United States.

Seventeen OU students represented the UN Security Council, Disarmament and International Security Committee, World Health Organization, International Criminal Court, UN Environment Programme and the UN Summit on Illicit Substance Trafficking in the Americas.

“One big change for our team this year is that we had two students serve on the International Criminal Court,” said Trumbore. “We were very happy to learn that both Alyssa Clark and Pam Gonzalez were chosen, and their success is a testament to how hard they worked to prepare and how effectively they played their roles during the conference itself.”

Students interested in participating on OU’s Model UN team should contact Peter Trumbore at [ptrumbor@oakland.edu](mailto:ptrumbor@oakland.edu) or Professor Paul Kubicek at [ku-bicek@oakland.edu](mailto:ku-bicek@oakland.edu) for more information.

With five individual awards won, this conference was the team’s best showing to date. The following students were awarded:

- ♦ Jane Dixon, Macomb – Best Position Paper, UN Environment Programme, representing Australia
- ♦ Alyssa Clark, Chesterfield Twp. – Best Delegate, Prosecutor, International Criminal Court
- ♦ Pam Gonzalez, Waterford – Outstanding Witness, Prosecution, International Criminal Court
- ♦ Marissa Coloske, Brighton – Most Outstanding Delegate, Summit on Illicit Substance Trafficking, representing Chad
- ♦ Robert Larsen, Ferndale – Honorable Mention, UN Security Council, representing Guatemala

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## **Higher education gets a nearly \$15 million boost**

The joint budget committee approved a \$14.7 million, 6.2 percent increase in state support for colleges and universities this morning, including \$400,000 for a second year of law school in Boise.

The total 2015 higher education budget tips the scales at \$498.6 million. That includes \$251.2 million in state general fund support and \$247.4 million in tuition and student fees.

The legislative appropriation doesn't include another \$800 million or so in grants, contracts, gifts or revenue from team sports and other auxiliary events.

The State Board of Education decides how much general fund support goes to each of the four state-funded colleges and universities. However, the 2015 budget appropriates \$400,000 specifically for the University of Idaho to launch the second-year curriculum at its Boise law school.

Budget-writers also included \$2.76 million for all four institutions to hire staff in bottleneck programs and implement other changes to help implement the state board's goal of having 60 percent of all Idahoans age 25-34 have a post-secondary degree or certificate by 2020.

The \$251 million in state support is the largest higher education budget since fiscal 2010, but it's

still well below the \$285 million approved in fiscal 2009.

*Imtribune.com*  
March 6, 2014

## **CT: Governor calls for \$134 million to upgrade CSCU**

Connecticut Gov. Dannel Malloy (D) outlined a plan last week to invest \$134 million in the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) as part of the Transform CSCU 2020 initiative. The plan calls for using the new funding to build high-tech classrooms, streamline administrative processes, bolster student retention rates, keep tuition affordable and meet state economic needs. Officials also plan to add funding to the Go Back to Get Ahead Program, which allows state residents who have been out of college for at least 18 months to take up to three courses at no charge as they work toward completing a college degree.

*The Courant*  
February 6, 2014

## **Markell pushes for higher education in weekly address**

In just a few years, over half of Delaware's job will require education beyond high school.

In his weekly address, Governor Markell says that means colleges and universities have a more critical role than ever in growing our economy. The Governor highlighted a program at Delaware

Tech, which trains students to work in the aviation industry at its Sussex County Airport facility.

"Students are being trained for jobs in a crucial industry in our state. Aviation companies like Dassault Falcon prospered even during the recent recession, but good jobs are only available to those who are trained on the right machinery. Delaware Techs new program here gives students access to the latest technology," said Markell.

The governor said he also supports a partnership between the University of Delaware, Delaware State University, and Delaware Technical Community College to train students and invest in research in cyber security, which he says is key to the state's economic future.

"Hundreds of unfilled positions in this field exist in Delaware today, but the benefits of a thriving cyber sector go beyond those jobs. We need talented cyber professionals to secure our personal information, and our businesses intellectual property online. These programs are only the tip of the iceberg of what's possible," said Markell.

Markell says training people in growing industries will keep Delaware moving forward.

*WDEL.com*  
February 22, 2014

# State and National Headlines

## **ID: Budget committee increases state higher education funding**

Idaho's joint budget committee approved a state budget for public colleges and universities Thursday that would increase funding by 6.2 percent to \$251.2 million, a figure still well below 2009 levels. Under the committee's plan, state funding would be supplemented by \$247.4 million in student tuition and fees. The budget includes funding to hire more instructors in bottleneck programs and changes associated with the state's goal of having 60 percent of its residents between the ages of 25 to 34 with a post-secondary degree or certificate by 2020.

*The Lewiston Tribune*  
March 6, 2014

## **NY: Assembly approves DREAM Act**

This week the New York State Assembly passed the state DREAM Act, a measure that will allow undocumented students in the state to be eligible for state student grant aid programs. The bill also includes a provision to create a state-administered scholarship program for undocumented students. The measure will now be sent to the New York Senate, where the chamber's leaders are split on whether to allow a vote on the legislation.

*Democrat & Chronicle*  
February 25, 2014

## **MS: State bonds approved for public higher education**

The Mississippi House of Representatives and Senate have approved separate bills for capital projects at the state's public colleges and universities. While each bill approves approximately \$92 million to \$96 million in state bonds, state legislative leaders predict the two chambers will ultimately agree to borrow \$200 million. The bonding measures are expected to include a new medical facility at the University of Mississippi and renovations to state college campus libraries and technology centers.

*The Clarion-Ledger*  
February 26, 2014

## **Students, educators call on lawmakers to restore need-based college aid**

College students and professors gathered at the Ohio Statehouse to announce the formation of the Ohio Higher Education Coalition, an alliance of higher education advocacy groups. They called on Governor Kasich and Ohio legislators to restore cuts made to higher education funding in recent years.

*Examiner.com*  
March 7, 2014

## **NM: Foster care bill becomes law**

New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez (R) signed a bill this week

that will provide a college tuition waiver for state high school graduates who were in the state's foster care system or in the legal custody of an American Indian tribe. Eligible students include youth in the foster care system at the time they turned 18 and those adopted after turning 14. New Mexico will join at least 21 other states with similar policies for foster youth.

*The Associated Press*  
March 11, 2014

## **ME: Trustees expand tuition benefits for military personnel**

The University of Maine System announced last week that system campuses will extend in-state tuition to out-of-state veterans and all members of the U.S. military. Currently, veterans who receive G.I. Bill benefits are eligible for in-state tuition; the policy change would affect those who have exhausted or are not eligible for G.I. Bill benefits. The policy change will start as early as the Summer 2014 term.

*The Bangor Daily News*  
February 21, 2014

## **Obama takes action against predatory, poor-performing career colleges**

The Obama Administration announced new steps to address growing concerns about burdensome student loan debt by requiring career colleges to do a better job of preparing students for gainful employment—or risk



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March 2014  
**NEWSLETTER**

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**State and National Headlines** *CONTINUED*

losing access to taxpayer-  
funded federal student aid.

*University Business*  
March 17, 2014

**FL: Governor will sign  
Florida GI Bill**

The Florida Legislature passed the “Florida GI” bill Tuesday that would extend in-state tuition to honorably discharged veterans, regardless of their state residency status. This provision is expected to cost \$12 million.

The bill also includes college scholarships for members of the National Guard and funds to renovate armories and purchase land next to military installations. Gov. Rick Scott (R) has said he will sign the measure into law.

*The Miami Herald*  
March 11, 2014