

NOVEMBER 2015

Transfer student scholarships foster student success

Oakland University is now offering transfer scholarships from Phi Theta Kappa, a national honor society for two-year college students. So far this year, 274 students with the award are enrolled this fall at OU.

Dawn Aubry, interim assistant vice president for student affairs and director of admissions, said the Phi Theta Kappa Award can be earned by any incoming student transferring from a community college to Oakland.

Prospective scholarship recipients must have a minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA and 24 or more transferable credits at the time of admission. The award totals \$2,000, or \$1,000 per year for two years.

Oakland junior Elizabeth Powell, who transferred from Macomb Community College, was one of the recipients of the award this fall.

Powell, a Biochemistry major, said she began working when

she was a teenager to save up for college. She was only making enough to go to Macomb Community College part-time. There were some semesters when she couldn't afford to take classes, she said.

"Having received the OU Phi Theta Kappa Transfer Scholarship is one of the greatest blessings that I could have asked for," said Powell. "It has given me the chance to keep moving towards my educational goals and dreams and that is worth more than I can ever say."

Powell loves the new experience of studying at Oakland, and said "I feel that I have only begun to scratch the surface of what OU has to offer me."

Aubry said Oakland used to offer the honor society's scholarship, but put resources towards other awards in the early 2000s.

"I recognized that OU was missing an opportunity with honors community college

students by not offering the awards," said Aubry. "I wrote a proposal with Cindy Hermsen to bring back the award and offer automatic awards for both fall and winter semester. We were given approval this past year and plan on continuing the award for years to come."

The award is automatic for qualifying students who apply by the deadlines of Aug. 1 for the fall semester and Dec. 1 for the winter semester.

Oakland University offers many scholarships throughout the year. Other scholarships for transfer students include the Distinguished Transfer Award – \$3,000 over two years for students with a GPA of 3.6 or better and at least 24 transferable credits – and the Talented Transfer Award, which offers \$2,000 over two years to transferring students with a GPA of 3.0-3.59 and 24 or more transferable credits.

To learn more about the Phi Theta Kappa Award, call (800) OAK-UNIV, email transfer@oakland.edu, or visit oakland.edu/futurestudents.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

"Fight the Night" Program raises awareness and funds to help fight homelessness

On November 14-15, Oakland University students slept outdoors to raise awareness for the plight of the area's homeless and raise money for the Baldwin Center in Pontiac.

Eighteen people endured the cold Saturday night and nearly 60 people came out in support of #FightTheNight. The event was put on by Charles Rinehart's Wellness, Health Promotion, and Injury Prevention WHP 380 class along with the WHP Student Society.

Educational blog names OU educator among top Clinical Laboratory Science Profs

If you don't know J. Lynne Williams, Ph.D. – program director and professor for the Biomedical Diagnostic and Therapeutic Sciences program at Oakland University – you might want to.

Williams, whose program is taught in the School of Health Sciences, was recently named by educational blog MedicalTechnologySchools.com as one of the "20 Professors of Clinical Laboratory Science You Should Know."

To designate professors to the list, blog editors look at whether the professor is actively teaching; his or her professional publications; participation in the Clinical Science community; involvement in professional and educational organizations

outside their school and more.

Editors of the blog said Williams was chosen because through her dedication, the Biomedical Diagnostic and Therapeutic Sciences program has become fully developed and nationally recognized for its excellence.

Williams is active in the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS), the Michigan Society of Clinical Laboratory Science (MSCLS), and the Michigan Association of Laboratory Science Educators. She is also co-editor of the textbook "Clinical Laboratory Hematology," regularly publishes in professional journals and magazines, and has won the Joseph Kleiner Award for Outstanding Scientific Article in the Journal of Clinical Laboratory Science twice. Visit oakland.edu/shs/biomedical-diagnostic-and-therapeutic-sciences to learn more about Williams and Oakland's School of Health Sciences.

Oakland University named a 2016 STEM Jobs Approved College

Oakland University has been designated a 2016 STEM Jobs Approved College by Victory Media, the leader in connecting young professionals with education and career opportunities. This is the second time OU has received this recognition.

The 2016 STEM Jobs Approved Colleges survey rates universities, colleges, community colleges and trade schools on their ability and

responsiveness to connecting programs and students with high-demand, high-growth STEM occupations. The new Top 5 Industry Awards recognize those institutions providing the best training and preparation for graduates to enter STEM fields profiled in *STEM Jobs* magazine.

Institutions submitting completed STEM Jobs Approved surveys were scored on publicly available data and responses to proprietary questions around four key indicators that demonstrate the extent to which a school works to 1) Provide opportunities for students to explore STEM subjects; 2) Promote partnerships that foster STEM literacy and connect classrooms to careers; 3) Ensure coursework and activities have a focus on careers; and 4) Promote STEM programs that actively attract and engage under-represented student populations.

The assessment and rights to the STEM Jobs Approved Colleges designation are available to these qualifying schools for free. Oakland University will be featured in *STEM Jobs* magazine and online as part of the entire 2016 list of STEM Jobs Approved Colleges.

For more information about Oakland's commitment to STEM fields of study and careers, visit oakland.edu. For additional information about **STEM Jobs** visit www.stemjobs.com.

STATE AND NATIONAL HEADLINES

University Of Texas System Announces Plans To Expand In Houston

University of Texas Chancellor William McRaven announced the plans at a recent board meeting. He says the development will expand UT's presence to the state's largest and most diverse city.

"This effort will be decades in the making but will help drive our system to the very top tier in the nation, while at the same time allowing us to build partnerships with industry and the other great academic institutions in the area," McRaven said.

He said the property won't serve as another satellite school for UT, but after that, the possibilities are wide open. The campus will be located about four miles from the Texas Medical Center, and that idea has been well-received.

The Texas Medical Center's chief strategy officer Bill McKeon said UT's presence in Houston will make it easier to collaborate on research.

"In the case of the Medical Center, it's really becoming the epicenter for the life sciences and innovation, and this will just further advance that cause," McKeon said.

Chancellor McRaven said he plans to convene a task force early next year to begin making plans for development.

Houston Public Media
November 5, 2015

Oregon cuts spending on higher education deeper than every state but one

Oregon slashed per-student spending on higher education more than all but one other state between 2000 and 2014, according to a new national study.

Oregon's 51 percent decline, to \$4,134 per student, resulted from a combination of funding cuts by the Legislature and a recession-era enrollment increase that topped every other state, the Urban Institute study shows. State education officials note that the Legislature partially restored funding cuts after the period covered by the study. But they say they aren't surprised by the research's ranking of Oregon, which tied with Pennsylvania and was surpassed only by Michigan.

The Oregonian
November 6, 2015

Higher education emerging as legislative priority

Higher education reform is emerging as a key priority among Southern Nevada leaders as they begin drafting a policy agenda for the upcoming legislative term in Carson City.

With a session this year that yielded sweeping changes to Nevada's ailing public school system, local lawmakers now seem to be joining Gov. Brian Sandoval in shifting their attention to improving colleges and universities.

A spokeswoman for the governor said he was pleased to hear the

group was assembling a "vision of building premier and high-impact universities and a community college system that will produce a world-class workforce.

Las Vegas Review-Journal
November 12, 2015

Feds encourage dual-enrollment through experimental access to Pell Grants

When low-income students take credit-bearing college courses while still in high school, research has shown they are more likely to graduate from high school, enroll in college and then stick with it.

So-called dual enrollment programs have become increasingly popular, with 1.4 million high school students taking a college course during a recent year. About 2,000 colleges and universities offer dual enrollment, according to the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment.

Inside Higher Ed
November 2, 2015

Higher education board asks for almost twice as much money for next year

Louisiana's higher education leaders have said colleges and universities will need almost twice as much money next year in order to meet the workforce demands of the state.

The Board of Regents approved



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State and National Headlines *CONTINUED*

a higher education operating budget request for the governor and Louisiana Legislature of \$1.4 billion for the 2016-2017 school year, significantly more than the \$769 million the state's public colleges and universities are receiving in the current fiscal cycle.

The large budget request reflects what it would actually cost to fund the workforce training and degree programs needed to fill a variety of jobs expected to materialize in Louisiana, according to higher education officials.

The Times-Picayune
October 28, 2015

GA: Three state universities to pilot program giving Georgians retroactive degrees

Three schools in the University System of Georgia are partnering with Parchment to pilot a reverse-transfer program called "Credit When It's Due" that will help students receive degrees they may not know they have earned, at no cost to them. East Georgia State College, Georgia Southern University and Georgia Regents University are the pilot institutions, and the program will expand to all 30 system schools by early spring 2016. The program, funded through a grant by the Lumina Foundation, expects up to 8,000 bachelor-degree seeking students per year may qualify for a retroactive associate degree.

The Atlanta Journal
October 30, 2015