

## JULY 2017 UPDATES

### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Michigan Competitive Scholarship The State of Michigan recently announced award amounts for the Michigan Competitive Scholarship, which have increased to \$1,000 for the academic year. Over 1,800 WMU students may qualify for this award and our office is working to award these students in accordance with rules set by the State of Michigan. Students can check their eligibility through the State of Michigan's website [www.michigan.gov/missg](http://www.michigan.gov/missg)

Tuition Incentive Program Eligibility for the Tuition Incentive Program (TIP) grant awards, another state program, has also been determined by the state, and our office will be looking to award these students soon. Once qualifying students reach Junior status they may be able to receive a TIP award. In the past, students were asked to provide the university with a letter of eligibility from the State of Michigan, but the process is now completely online. Again, students can check their status at [www.michigan.gov/missg](http://www.michigan.gov/missg). To qualify for this program, students must have completed an application with the State of Michigan before Aug. 31 of the year they graduated from high school.

Improving the scholarship process WMU is working hard to improve the scholarship application process for students and awarding processes for university staff who administer them. We are in the process of implementing a new scholarship management system, beginning with scholarships administered by our office for the 2018-19 school year. Be on the lookout for more information soon!

### **2018-19 FAFSA - DRT**

The Department of Education announced the availability for letting FAFSA filers import their tax information directly from the IRS to the FAFSA via Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) will again be available effective with the 2018-19 FAFSA, which can be completed as early as Oct. 1, 2017. The 2018-19 IRS DRT will be reengineered to increase security.

### **BRONCO EXPRESS**

Fall tuition invoices have been emailed and mailed and our call volume at Bronco Express has increased significantly. In preparation for this call increase, we increased our staff and we strongly encourage our callers to use our call back feature during heavy call volumes. The call back feature is offered every 3 minutes as the caller is waiting to speak with a Bronco Express Representative. Callers are also encouraged to visit the GOWMU portal and the [Bronco Express](#) website to locate additional information concerning financial aid, billing, payments, authorized user/proxy set up, etc. We understand that calls can be misdirected to your respective areas and we appreciate your patience as we strive to provide our students and families with quality customer service.

### **FINANCIAL LITERACY AND EDUCATIONAL PLANNING NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

Alexia Alexander is the new Assistant Director of Financial Literacy and Educational Planning. She will begin her new role in August and we look forward to her continuing to build upon the vision that has ignited on this campus. Alexia returned to her alma mater with a wealth of knowledge and experience that we are looking to further development within financial education. Alexia has been back at WMU for 2 years and has been with the office as a financial aid counselor.

### **RETIREMENT CELEBRATION**

Congratulations to David Ladd, Associate Director of Financial Systems in financial aid who is retiring at the end of August. David has been an integral part of the financial aid office with over 21 years of service. A retirement celebration will be held with more details to come soon!