

2023 Developments

WSU Marketing & Communications

It was a historic year at Wayne State University, as the institution welcomed a new president, continued its commitment to making a college education affordable and saw continued gains in enrollment. Click the headlines to be directed to the full stories.

Kimberly Andrews Espy, Ph.D., elected the 13th president of Wayne State University

In June, the Wayne State University Board of Governors unanimously elected Kimberly Andrews Espy, Ph.D., to serve as the institution's 13th president. Dr. Espy previously served as provost at the University of Texas at San Antonio. With more than 25 years of experience in higher education, she has consistently championed social and economic opportunity by promoting affordable access to a top-quality R1 university education. Dr. Espy, who succeeded previous president M. Roy Wilson, is the first woman to serve in the position in Wayne State history.

Wayne State continues its commitment to affordability

Remaining steadfast in its commitment to making a college education affordable and accessible, Wayne State made great strides this year in providing students with options to pursue a degree without financial burden. In January, it expanded its Warrior Way Back program, which enables students with an outstanding balance of up to \$4,000 to re-enroll and “learn” away their past-due balances and earn a college degree. In March, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer came helped launch the Wayne State Guarantee, which will provide free tuition to incoming Michigan students with family incomes of \$70,000 or less.

School of Medicine Class of 2023 celebrates historic Match Day

All 266 members of the School of Medicine's Class of 2023 who participated in March's Match Day for Main Residency Match Programs secured placements into residencies they began following June's graduation. The Match Day event in Detroit is one of hundreds nationwide that follow the protocol of the National Residency Match Program, a private nonprofit corporation established in 1952 to provide a uniform date of appointment to graduate medical education positions in the United States.

Wayne State welcomes one of its largest incoming undergraduate classes

In August, Wayne State welcomed one of the largest incoming undergraduate classes in its 155-year history. The fall semester saw enrollment of 4,450 new undergraduate students — a 16% increase in first-year students and a 9% increase in incoming transfer students compared to the previous year. More than 20% of the incoming class self-identify as Black, and more than 10% identify as Hispanic, each an increase of 40% in the respective number enrolled relative to last year. University-wide, the number of enrolled students who identify as Black increased more than 5% and the number of enrolled students who identify as Hispanic increased by more than 11% compared to the previous academic year.

President Espy announces College to Career initiative

In her first major address, on Nov. 8, Wayne State University President Kimberly Andrews Espy, Ph.D., announced plans for a university-wide, multi-year initiative called [College to Career](#), which will broaden the institution's approach to student success and enhance its impact on the broader community. College to Career's purpose is to ensure students graduate career ready and prepared to thrive by providing them with career-readiness experiences throughout their education. Those experiences include: interdisciplinary project-based learning and field work; internships, micro-externships, and co-ops; global experiences/education abroad; community service learning; team-based and solutions-oriented projects; research in the field and in lab settings; alumni and professional mentoring; and entrepreneurship and other business development opportunities.