

# OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

OAKLAND  
UNIVERSITY

JULY 2015

## Oakland University's Center for Autism opens new Applied Behavior clinic

A three-tiered resource through the Oakland University Center for Autism opened its doors on Monday, July 6, to both the on- and off-campus communities. The Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Autism Clinic is a nonprofit, center-based clinic on Oakland's campus that will be dedicated to treatment and research related to autism spectrum disorders (ASD), but will also benefit the greater community and those studying ASD.

The clinic, which is partially funded by a grant from the Michigan Department of Community Mental Health (MDCMH), will improve the quality of life for local children with autism and their families, says Jessica Korneder, Ph.D., assistant professor of human development and child studies for the School of Education and Human Services. It will also provide valuable training to OU students seeking careers in autism research.

"This resource can be for families, but also for those wanting to get involved," says Dr. Korneder. "There is a growing collaboration throughout the university on

ways to support children and adults with autism."

School of Education Interim Dean C. Robert Maxfield agrees. "The launch of the ABA clinic is a tribute to the combined power of the faculty in our Center for Autism and the strong support for autism programs provided by the State of Michigan," he says.

The clinic will accept students on scholarship for families working out insurance challenges, as well as insurance reimbursement. Through partnerships, the clinic will provide early intervention behavior analysis services to children ages 2-6 diagnosed with ASD or at risk for an autism diagnosis.



Treatment services will focus on communication, play, social and speech skills in one-on-one and small group instruction, and will focus on each child's individual

objectives. It will also offer training for students seeking certification as Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA) and Registered Behavior Technicians (RBT), and provide research opportunities into the most effective treatments of ASD.

"Undergraduate students are developing technical, clinical and professional skills for graduate work or entry level positions in the field of autism," explains Dr. Korneder. "For graduate students, they are acquiring clinical and professional skills for their career and will help change the lives of children and families affected by autism."

Dr. Korneder says the clinic will conduct research on best-practice training methods for behavior technicians, evaluate parent training methods, look at ways to reduce repetitive challenging behaviors and increase play skills in students diagnosed with autism or those at risk.

For more information about the Oakland University Center for Autism and the new ABA clinic, visit the website or contact Jessica Korneder at (248) 370-3080 or [korneder@oakland.edu](mailto:korneder@oakland.edu).

# NEWS YOU CAN USE

## Pontiac 7th-graders learn about math and life at Oakland University

Oakland University is hosting the Pontiac/OU AVID Summer Institute on campus where seventh grade students from the Pontiac School District will spend most of the week living on campus, learning math skills in algebra they will need this fall, enhancing their writing skills and sampling the college experience.

AVID programming uses proven, project-based practices that help students prepare for success in high school, college and a career. It especially focuses on traditionally underrepresented students.

In addition to the academic schedule, participating students will have the chance to learn about Oakland University and college life through campus tours, campus workshops, tasting the campus cuisine in the Vandenberg dining facility and using the campus recreational facilities.

“This new outreach program builds upon our commitment to Pontiac,” says Patricia A. Dolly, Senior Advisor, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. “President Hynd has been very supportive of the program and our Pre-College team has helped facilitate a rigorous schedule. We want to strengthen our participating students’ academic skills, but also inspire them to start thinking about the future and the opportunities that are available to them after high school.”

“Seeing this AVID program

develop from the planning stages a year ago, to having students on campus this week is very rewarding,” added Tiffany Elliott-Fowler, assistant director of Pre-College Programs at Oakland University. “We plan to make this week memorable and use best practices from this year as building blocks for next year and beyond.”



*One of the goals this week is to get students ready for algebra in the fall*

## 23rd annual IGVC hosted at Oakland University

Engineers from around the world visited Oakland University in Rochester, Mich. to compete in the 23rd annual Intelligent Ground Vehicle Competition.

Started in 1993, groups that participate in IGVC are judged for the navigation and design of their unmanned vehicle.

This year, 26 teams competed, including students from as local as Lawrence Technological Institute in Southfield to as far away as colleges from Australia, Japan and Wales.

“The levels (of the unmanned vehicles) always improve over the years as technologies advance — computers, sensors, actuators, software,” said KaC Cheok, co-chairman and co-founder of

IGVC, OU engineering professor and Oakland Robotics Association adviser.

“This year’s IGVC was the most competitive that I’ve been a part of,” said Brian Neumyer, ORA president.

“Many teams made drastic improvements to their programming and robots which allowed them to perform very well. For me it was also the most satisfying. This year I was able to see my mostly new team come together and manufacture a world-class robot. Seeing the veterans work with the newcomers to figure out problems is just as satisfying as the robot that gets created.”

To put on IGVC, OU partners with the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) and the U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) to host the event.

Sponsors of the event include Continental, NDIA -Michigan (National Defense Industrial Association of Michigan), FEV, Magna Electronics, Valeo, BAE Systems, American Elements, Math Works and General Dynamics Land Systems.

“The IGVC emphasizes on student education, development and hands-on experience in integration engineering systems and technologies,” Cheok said. “This robotics and team experience is very relevant to the automation, automated active safety and autonomous cars of the future.”

# STATE AND NATIONAL HEADLINES

## **Legislature boosts public college, university funding by 22 percent -- largest increase in two decades**

Portland State University plans to reduce a controversial tuition increase and help more students complete degrees using strong higher-education funding authorized by the Legislature statewide this week.

Lawmakers boosted funding Monday for all seven Oregon public universities to \$700 million for the 2015-15 biennium. Under the package signed by Gov. Kate Brown, Oregon's 17 community colleges will get the full \$550 million they had requested. The universities came close, having asked for \$755 million.

The new post-secondary budget is the largest single biennial reinvestment in Oregon's public colleges and universities in at least two decades, according to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission. The increase is about 22 percent, almost double the growth in Oregon's overall state budget.

*The Oregonian*  
July 8, 2015

## **Gov. Nixon announces increased scholarships for qualifying low and middle income students**

Missouri's top politician announced Wednesday more

money is slated to go into student's pockets. Governor Jay Nixon spoke to students and faculty Wednesday, announcing increased scholarships for qualifying low and middle income students as part of the Access Missouri financial aid program.

The program, which aids 50,000 students each year, currently awards qualifying two-year students \$660 dollars and four-year students \$1,500. Governor Nixon said, "This year we are increasing the maximum award for Access Missouri scholarships."

This means an increase of nearly 30 percent for two-year students, to \$850 from \$660, and nearly 23 percent for four-year students, - to \$1,850 from \$1,500.

The governor says this translates to savings and ultimately, to a more thriving Show Me State economy.

Nixon said, "That's hundreds of dollars in the pockets of students here at UMKC. The less debt students take on the more they can spend on making their own down payment on a house or even starting their own business."

*fox4kc.com*  
July 15, 2015

## **Interest from international graduate students remains high for 10th consecutive year**

### *Dive Brief:*

- The Council of Graduate Schools' annual international graduate admissions survey found a continued increase in overall applications by international students interested in attending US institutions, led by 12% growth from India.

- The survey, based on responses from 377 schools, including 80% of the institutions awarding the most degrees to international graduate students, found a continuing decline in Chinese applicants, though they still make up 39% of the total applicant pool.

- India now makes up 28% of the applicant pool and 84% of these students applied for master's and certificate programs for the 2015-2016 school year.

### *Dive Insight:*

The CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey: Preliminary Applications has been conducted every year since 2004, tracking the number of international graduate student applications by country of origin and field of study. This year's study was the first to disaggregate data based on program type, giving new information about whether international students are coming for master's programs, Ph.Ds, or certificates. While Indian students most often apply for



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**State and National Headlines *CONTINUED***

master's and certificate programs, the survey found international students overall apply for US doctoral programs to a far greater extent than their domestic peers — 37% to 17%, respectively.

*Education Dive*  
June 30, 2015

**Colleges offer courses in innovation, entrepreneurship**

Schools such as Stanford University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology are taking the lead in creating classes and programs to foster innovation and entrepreneurship in students. The move is part of a trend toward offering more flexibility to students, especially those who want to explore how to bring their ideas to market, educators say.

*SmartBrief*  
July 15, 2015