

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Oakland University Board of Trustees

October 16, 2026



AGENDA

- 1. President's Report – President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz**
- 2. Academic Affairs Update – Amy Thompson, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost**

ENROLLMENT CHALLENGE

- Fall 2026 enrollment declined 4.5%
- Largest declines among new first-year and transfer students
- Michigan's shrinking high-school population, tuition-free community college, and growing anti-college sentiment are reshaping the market
- Oakland is responding with a coordinated, multi-year strategy

STRENGTHENING OAKLAND'S ENROLLMENT POSITION

1

Strengthen “Why OU”

Develop a distinctive brand that gives students a clear reason to choose OU

2

Lean Into Transfer

Make OU the destination for community college students

3

Target Strategically

Use data to focus recruitment and financial aid where they can have the greatest impact

4

Diversify Beyond High School Graduates

Grow graduate, adult, online, and international enrollment

5

Deliver What Michigan Needs

Align programs with workforce demand and student interests

FOUNDATION: RETENTION Help more of the students we enroll stay on track and graduate

WELCOMING DR. TRUNG NGUYEN



- **Joined Oakland in July as VP for Student Affairs and Engagement**
- **More than 20 years of higher-education leadership, most recently at SUNY Buffalo**
- **Deep experience advancing student engagement, career readiness, access and persistence, and belonging**

A STRONG START TO THE SEMESTER



- Student Move-In
- New Student Welcome
- White Coat Ceremonies
- Grizz Fest
- And more

BUSINESS PROGRAMS EARN NATIONAL RECOGNITION



- **Online MBA – No. 45 nationally, Princeton Review**
- **Named among the Best On-Campus MBA Programs**
- **Preparing students to lead in a rapidly changing economy**

NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE



- 13th consecutive Best Chapter Award for OU's Nu Omega chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society
- Reflects a strong culture of undergraduate research, leadership, and community engagement

EXPANDING NURSING STUDENT SUCCESS

- **\$2.2M Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) award for Project INSPIRE over four years**
- **Goal: Increase student progression, graduation, and retention in nursing practice, especially for students from disadvantaged backgrounds**
- **Leadership and Project Team: Interim Dean Julie Kruse; OU faculty members Teresa Chahine and Dali Majeed**

“GOLDEN PATHWAYS TO MOVING MICHIGAN MALES FORWARD”



- 300+ high school students and chaperones participated in the MiLEAP–OU event
- MiLEAP partnership focused on college and career pathways for young men
- Trustee Stefen Welch served as luncheon keynote speaker

OAKLAND'S RESEARCH IMPACT



Over one third of CAS
faculty publications
appear in the top 25%
of journals

*Preliminary 2026 data; nine CAS
subject areas measured*

FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNIZED INTERNATIONALLY



- **James Naus, Professor and Chair, Department of History**
- **Elected a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society**
- **Major recognition for original contributions to historical scholarship**

PRESIDENT'S COLLOQUIUM

- **Oakland tradition since 1995**
- **Showcases exceptional faculty scholarship and creative activity**
- **Open to faculty of any rank and discipline**
- **Proposals reviewed by the University Research Committee (URC)**
- **Evaluated on the presenter's ability to convey the “excellence, importance, and excitement” of the work**
- **Selected presenter receives an honorarium and award**

PRESIDENT'S COLLOQUIUM



- **Joanne Lipson Freed, Associate Professor & Chair, Dept. of English, Creative Writing, and Film**
- **“Not True but Believable: What Fiction Can Teach Us about Generative AI”**
- **Brings together literature, storytelling, and generative AI**

RESEARCH WITH GLOBAL IMPACT



- OU researchers helped create the first detailed genetic blueprint of the Caribbean long-spined sea urchin
- OU students worked alongside faculty and national research partners
- Could help scientists understand disease, restore the species, and protect coral reefs

LEADERSHIP IN CIVIL DISCOURSE

- Our public purpose includes not only solving real-world problems through research but also strengthening civic life and democracy
- Two-day summit on civil discourse and free expression on college campuses, organized by Dave Dulio and CCE
- Brought together leading scholars and experts from across the country
- Attended by university presidents, board members, cabinet members, and civic and community leaders

DENNIS MUCHMORE PUBLIC POLICY SERIES: FREEDOM OF SPEECH AT AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY



- **Greg Lukianoff** – President and CEO, Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression
- **Nadine Strossen** – Former President, American Civil Liberties Union; Professor Emerita, New York Law School

THE FIRST AMENDMENT AND FREE EXPRESSION ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES

- **Howard Gillman** — Chancellor, University of California, Irvine
- **Mary Anne Franks** — Eugene L. and Barbara A. Bernard Professor, George Washington University Law School
- **Sarah Ludington** — Clinical Professor of Law and Director, First Amendment Clinic, Duke University Law School
- **Eugene Volokh** — Thomas M. Siebel Senior Fellow, the Hoover Institution, Stanford University

CAMPUS POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN MODERN AMERICA

- **Kenneth Andrews** — Tileston Professor of Arts and Sciences, Washington University
- **Ellyn Maese** — Senior Research Consultant, Gallup
- **Sean Westwood** — Director, Polarization Research Lab, Dartmouth College

ROUNDTABLE WITH THE MICHIGAN CIVILITY COALITION

- **Tonya Schuitmaker and Rebekah Warren** —
Michiganders for Civic Resilience
- **Nolan Finley and Stephen Henderson** — The
Great Lakes Civility Project
- **Cami Pendell** — Mackinac Center for Public Policy

PRACTICING CIVIL DISCOURSE

Simon Cullen — Faculty
Research Fellow; UNC
Chapel Hill; Co-Founder and
CEO, Disagree Wisely

THE PRESIDENTS' PANEL



- **Jeff Docking** — Adrian College
- **Domenico Grasso** — University of Michigan
- **Kevin M. Guskiewicz** — Michigan State University
- **Ora Hirsch Pescovitz** — Oakland University

STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY

- **Tuesday, October 27 | 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. |
Oakland Center Founders Ballrooms**
- **Refreshments to follow**
- **RSVP: www.oakland.edu/sotu-2026/**

CONGRATULATIONS, AMY THOMPSON



- 2026 Distinguished Alumni Award from Central Michigan University
- CMU's highest honor for notable alumni
- Recognizes professional excellence, personal accomplishment, community service, and meaningful contributions to CMU

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS ANNUAL REPORT



Amy Thompson
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and
Provost

October 16, 2026





FOUR PRIORITIES

- ❖ **Student Success as our North Star**
- ❖ **Faculty Success**
- ❖ **Momentum Toward Carnegie R1**
- ❖ **Modernization of the Academic Enterprise**

Student Support Moved to Earlier in the Semester

Earlier signals

Midterm grades

Predictive analytics

Anytime Alerts

Coordinated response

Unified advising

Success coaching

Gateway course redesign



Student Success: Supported Through Early Interventions

12 of 24

critical gateway courses matched
or exceeded Fall 2024 success
rates

+7 pts

MTH 0661 and SOC 1000
success-rate gains

>50%

GrizzFIRE completers returned to
good academic standing

**Students who completed GrizzFIRE registered for fall at
nearly twice the rate of comparable students**

Midterm Grade Reporting

51%

faculty participation in
Winter 2026

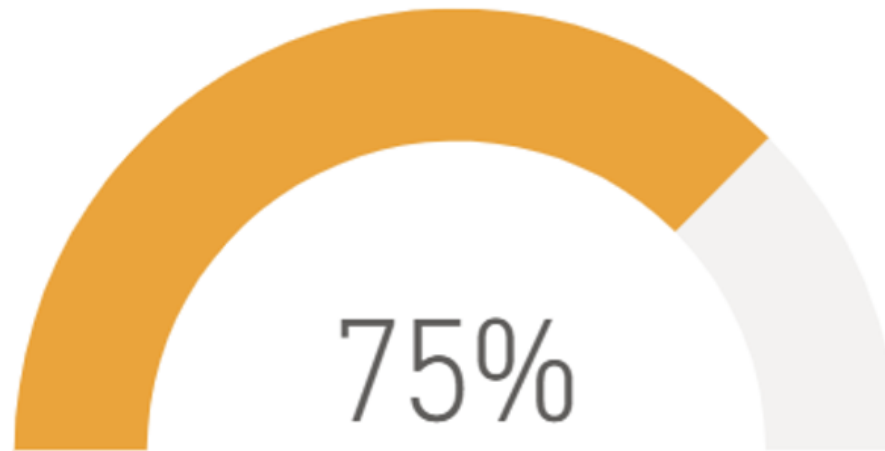
60%

faculty participation
goal for Fall 2026

First Time in A College (FTIAC) Retention

Retention Rate Key Performance Indicators

Fall 2025 FTIAC Retention Rate



Last Year Final: **76%**

Fall 2026
Cohort

FTIAC Goal

76%

Improving Student Outcomes: Fewer Academic Dismissals

**67 fewer dismissals, dropping from 211
in 2024–25 to 144 in 2025–26**

Faculty Success: Investments through Teaching and Scholarship

114

participants in the
Incoming Faculty
Mentoring Program

\$50,000

invested in Faculty
Innovation in Teaching
Grants

**Mentoring connected 50 incoming faculty with 47
faculty mentors and four Faculty Mentoring
Fellows**



Jo Reger, Ph.D.
Provost Fellow for Mentoring

The Path to Carnegie R1 Designation

RESEARCH INVESTMENT

\$50M+

Annual research and
development expenditures

Expand external funding

Support faculty research

Strengthen clinical partnerships

DOCTORAL COMPLETION

70+

Research doctorates
awarded annually

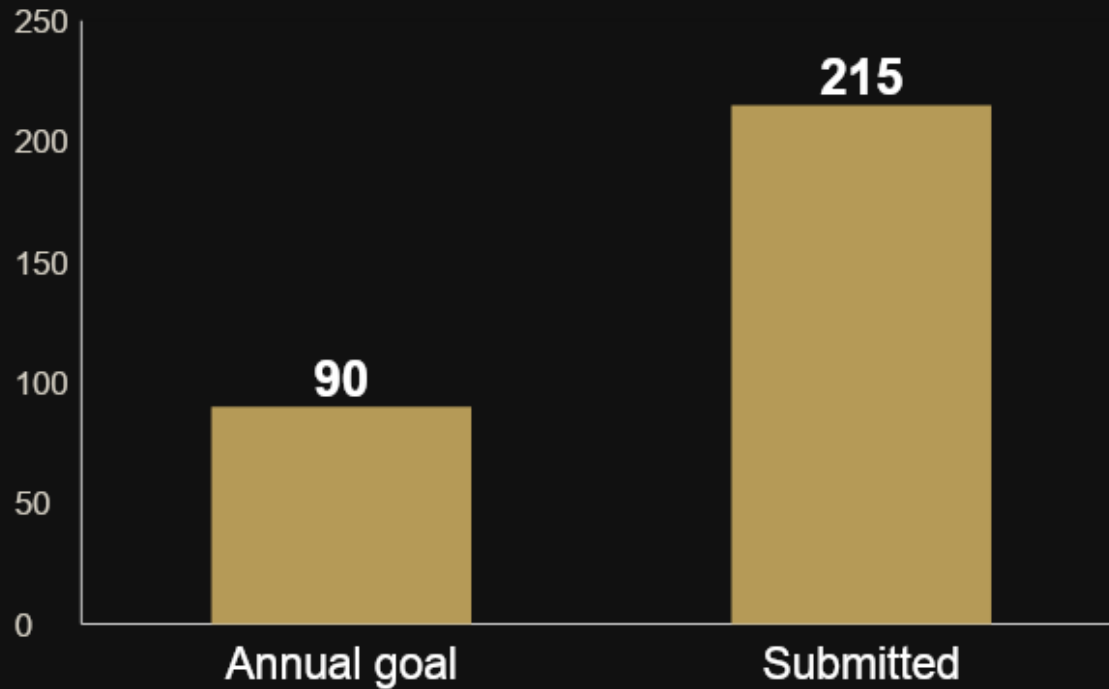
Support doctoral students

Strengthen research mentoring

Sustain timely degree completion

Both benchmarks must be met. Future Carnegie releases will use three-year averages.

Momentum Toward Carnegie R1 Designation



\$9.8M for research



Research and Clinical Translation Leadership

National Search Launched

Vice President for Research and Clinical Translation

A newly evolved executive role

Joint leadership with Corewell Health East

Integrated research strategy and shared investment

Supports the path to R1 and a Nationally Recognized Academic Medical Center



Research scope

Basic and clinical research

Translation and applied research

Population health and
interdisciplinary work

New Support for Research

New Faculty Research Incentive Plan

Catalyze OU

Provost Fellows for Research:
Chabi Govind, Brendan Kredell and Gerard Madlambayan



Modernization of the Academic Enterprise

120

Undergraduate program credit
minimum reduced

60

Graduate program credit
minimum reduced

10

Gateway Course Redesign
Planning

4

New Major Programs

10

New Certificate Programs

17

Sunsetted Programs

A MICHIGAN FIRST

**First public university in
Michigan with an approved
reduced-credit bachelor's
degree**

B.S. in Engineering Technology

Advanced manufacturing
Automation
Engineering operations

Higher Learning Commission approval pending



Recent Academic Program Additions

- Physician Assistant Program (2026)
- Strategic Communication (2026)
- Applied Early Childhood Practice and Policy Ed.D. (2026)
- Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology (2025)

Implementing Gray DI & Courshedog



GRAY DITM

Program evaluation

Evaluate academic programs
Assess market demand
Inform resource decisions



Academic operations

Coordinate course scheduling
Streamline curriculum workflows
Support student progression

Strengthening academic planning and student success

Global and Digital Learning Leadership

George T. Sipos, Ph.D.

**Associate Vice President for
Global and Digital Learning**

25 years

in international higher education and digital learning

International enrollment and online programs
Global partnerships and continuing education
Industry, donor, and grant connections



Dan Arnold, Ph.D.
Provost Fellow for Artificial Intelligence



Progress in Artificial Intelligence

10

faculty-led AI Mini-Grants

AI Strategic Plan

Coordinated framework for responsible use across teaching, learning, scholarship, and operations

AI@OU resource hub

Centralized guidance, instructional resources, and emerging practices for faculty

Faculty development

Expanded support for responsible, student-centered teaching with AI



Steve Stanton, Ph.D.

Provost Fellow in Sustainability

Sustainability and Responsible Stewardship

555

**hazardous waste
collections**

Responsible research operations

400+ laboratory spaces
5,000+ tracked chemicals
582 safety training participants

Faculty and curriculum

Expanded sustainability resources for teaching and research

Environmental learning

Growth in Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology
Environmental chemistry integrated into gateway-course redesign

A Stronger Foundation for 2026–2027

Scale Proven Student Support

Invest in and Modernize Academic Programs using Data

Invest in Faculty and Research

Improve our pathway to Excellence though Efficiency, Effectiveness and Engagement



THANK YOU

Every student we support and every discovery
we make brings new possibilities
to our university and our community.

**Together, we build the future of Oakland
University.**
