

From the Office of the  
President

## Points of Pride

Colleagues,

In a briefing with reporters, President Ronald Reagan once quipped that he must be doing something right because he had rocks being thrown at him by people on either side of a political issue.

So what must it say about Oakland University that folks from far and wide are expressing only great respect and appreciation for the academic community we have created?

Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D.  
President

### IN GREAT COMPANY

What a pleasure it was to help welcome the class of 2021 to the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine during its White Coat Ceremony on Friday, August 11. Family and friends of our incoming students were simply overjoyed to take part in this new beginning.

It is an impressive group of 122 aspiring doctors that have joined us. They were selected from a pool of more than 6,600 candidates from across the country and Canada. Their average undergraduate GPA is 3.76 and their average MCAT score ranks in the 79th percentile of all test takers.

Many of our applicants hail from the nation's most prestigious institutions, such as Johns Hopkins University, Vanderbilt University, Stanford University, the University of Florida, the University of Southern California, the University of Michigan, Northwestern University and the University of California system campuses in Berkeley, Los Angeles and Irvine.

Even more encouraging is the fact that nearly one in 10 of this year's entering class completed their undergraduate work right here at Oakland University. I think that says a great deal about the educational foundation we are providing our undergraduates.



### MOTIVATION BY ANY MEASURE



In evaluating the success of any program or initiative, both quantitative and qualitative assessments can provide valuable insight. This is certainly true with regards to our diversity, equity and inclusion programs here at OU.

Campus Pride – a national, nonprofit organization that advocates for safer, more LGBTQ-friendly learning environments at colleges and universities – recently gave OU **4.5 out of 5 stars** on its [Campus Pride Index](#), which evaluates

campus environment influences including university policy; campus community member support measures; quality of academic, campus and student residence life; campus safety; and provision of counseling and health services. The 4.5-star rating places the University among the most inclusive campuses in the state and the nation.

Where this quantitative review is inspiring, a qualitative reflection from a senior here at OU is truly heartening. Regarding the work of our Gender and Sexuality Center, Campus Pride quotes this anonymous individual as saying:

“Knowing there are people like you in the world who work on college campuses, striving every day to raise awareness for the LGBTIQ+ community and for women, and to support a plethora of students nonetheless, is so inspiring. I always felt like I could come talk to you for a minute even on your most busy days.”

*Is there a point of pride you feel is worth sharing with the campus community?  
If so, please [submit your idea](#) for consideration.*

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