



*From the Office of the  
President*



Colleagues,

The University and the City of Pontiac are venturing into the new year with strong and growing momentum behind our community revitalization initiatives.

More than 400 individuals and 75 community organizations are collaborating in nearly 50 distinct programs that fall under six revitalization focus areas: education; civic engagement; business, workforce development and entrepreneurship; health care and wellness; arts and culture; and neighborhoods and nonprofits.



We could not possibly highlight all of our accomplishments in these areas over the last four years, but I believe the examples below are representative of the full scope of our work. If they inspire you to help create meaningful and beneficial change in the community, I encourage you to visit the [Pontiac Initiative website](#) to learn more and to contact Glenn McIntosh or the Office of Student Affairs and Diversity to get involved.

Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D. President

## EDUCATION

Two classes of Pontiac High School students, nearly 40 individuals in total, have graduated from the Patient Care Technician Program offered through the [OU School of Nursing Continuing Education](#). As a result of their hard work and successful learning, these students were prepared to enter the workforce prior to their high school graduation ceremonies.



Similarly, Pontiac seventh-graders have participated in the Pre-Algebra Math Program coordinated by Tiffany Elliott-Fowler, assistant director of Pre-College Programs here at OU. During summer camp participation on campus, students work on strengthening pre-algebra skills as just one way to get a head start toward college preparedness. They are also immersed in a University atmosphere to help inspire their dreams of enrolling in college.

## HEALTH CARE AND WELLNESS



With support from more than 40 community organizations, the Healthy Pontiac, We Can! initiative has helped Pontiac residents gain access to healthy food, become more active and live tobacco free since 2011.

Dr. Jennifer Lucarelli, associate professor and chair of interdisciplinary health sciences, serves as the coalition chairperson and secured a 4-year, \$2.4 million Center for Disease Control and Prevention REACH grant that has made more than a dozen one-time and ongoing [health enhancement projects](#) possible.

The Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine has demonstrated tremendous [commitment to the community](#), having in recent years contributed to nearly a dozen community activities tied to the Pontiac Initiative.

In partnership with numerous community organizations, the school has helped provide healthy meals to the community, distributed first aid kits, offered heart health

education, supported health clinic services and worked to stimulate student interest in careers in medicine.

## ARTS AND CULTURE

Mark Stone, associate professor of music at Oakland University, and Dwayne Anthony, community relations specialist and arts commissioner for the City of Pontiac are founders of "Soul Food," an eclectic performance



series that strives to promote peace and unity among people of diverse cultural, religious and spiritual traditions through the collaborative nature of music.

The first concert in the series took place nearly a year ago and another followed in November. A [third concert](#), hosted by Religious Studies, is planned for Saturday, January 27, and promises to advance the goal of having local communities members broaden understanding and appreciation of others by way of performing and listening to a wide-range of inspirational music.



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