

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY™

From the office of the
President



Colleagues,

As Provost James Lentini reported in his State of Academic Affairs Address this week, the percentage of underrepresented minority students (URM) who are on track to graduate after their first year here at OU is at an all-time high (55%). Additionally, the gap in first-year on-track rates between white and URM students has been cut in half to 16 percentage points.

During his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech in 1964, the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., said,

"I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality, and freedom for their spirits."

Skillful, caring, inclusive and mission-driven engagement is a critical component for helping all students succeed, and work being done by the [Center for Multicultural Initiatives](#) (CMI) for the benefit of URM students is without question helping to advance Dr. King's vision of developing young minds. I am proud to share three highlights below that focus on these successful programs.

Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D.
President

Collectively Oakland Retains Everyone (CORE)

The CORE residential academic program pairs freshmen participants with resources that focus on their specific needs, such as advising, tutoring, mentoring, career and major exploration, workshops and counseling.

Contributing to the program are expert faculty, academic advisers, peer leaders and others who encourage students to focus on academics and personal enrichment programs and activities rather than to fall prey to common pitfalls of first-year university life.



Oakland University Trustee Academic Success (OUTAS)



As proof

of its effectiveness, the average grade point average for OUTAS participants is 3.3 and the most recent six-year graduate rate is 78 percent. Both are higher than that of the overall student body here at Oakland.

Since 1994, the nationally recognized OUTAS student retention program has set a high bar for academic excellence and leadership development through a variety of resources, including annually renewable scholarships and academic support services.

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Peer Mentor Program

As a component of the OUTAS program, the [Peer Mentor Program](#) offers a systematic process by which experienced and successful student leaders here at OU meet weekly with new students to help them get accustomed to college life and develop their academic and leadership skills.



Peer mentors live in residence halls and apartments on campus and are available at any time to offer guidance through a variety of programs and events.

Is there a point of pride you feel is worth sharing with the campus community?

If so, please [submit your idea](#) for consideration.

If you are interested in exploring past editions of this newsletter, we invite you to visit the [Points of Pride archive page](#).

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