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OU's Nicole Wells Stallworth named to 2015 Leadership Detroit class

Nicole Wells Stallworth, OU's assistant vice president for government and community relations, is part of an elite group of local executives who will spend the next nine months working to bring about positive change throughout Southeast Michigan. Stallworth was named to this year's **Leadership Detroit Class**, a leadership program led by the Detroit Regional Chamber that challenges emerging and existing leaders to address quality of life issues within the region.

This year's class will focus on a range of topics, including diversity, race and inclusion, arts and culture, healthcare and economic prosperity. When the group gathered for orientation in mid-September, discussion quickly turned to the importance of implementing an effective regional public transit system, Stallworth recalled.

"We discussed an effective regional public transit system as a win for everyone, from educational institutions, to big business, to small coffee shops, because it creates access to economic prosperity," Stallworth said.

Stallworth said she learned about Leadership Detroit from past participants who had spoken well of their time in the program. Leadership Detroit was founded in 1979 and has more than 1,800 alumni. This year's class features 70 professionals from a variety of fields, including business, organized labor, government, education, media, civic groups, health services and community organizations.

"I'm looking very much forward to immersing myself into the perspectives of other leaders within the region," Stallworth said. "Learning from other perspectives and experiences, I hope to inspire and work collaboratively with others to help find solutions to the issues affecting Michigan as a whole," she said.

"I am hoping that as a result of this experience, we might all have the ability to see things through a different lens, or to perhaps have the courage to just look through the lens, because sometimes, the answers are right there in front of us."



Nicole Wells-Stallworth