

October 2026

Academic Affairs

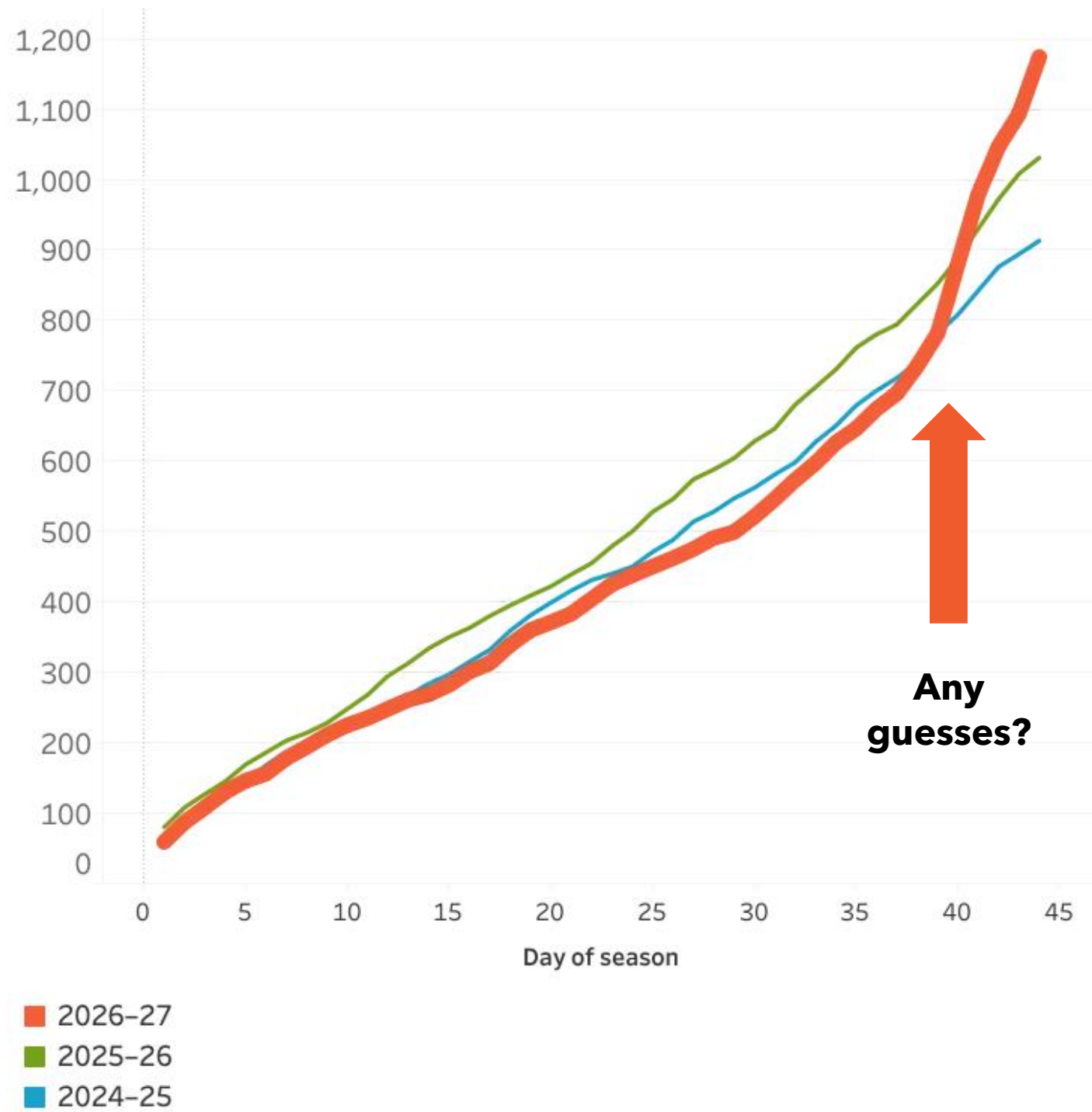
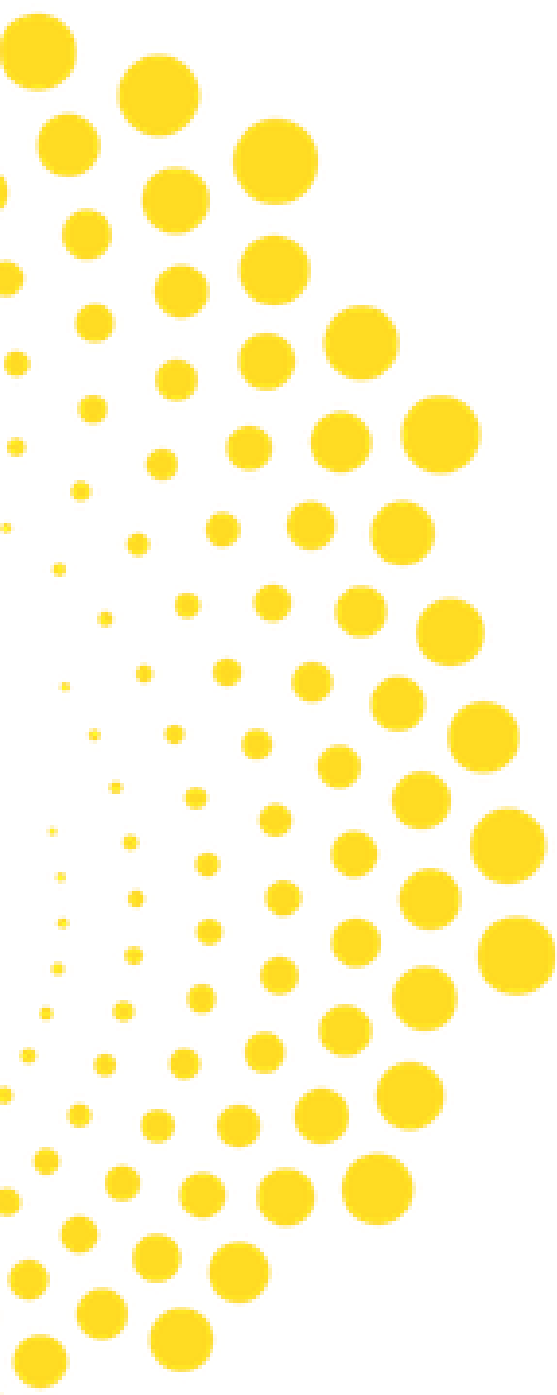


Campus Dashboard

- Total Headcount: - 3.7%
 - Undergraduate: -3.3%
 - Graduate: -5.1%
- Total Student Credit Hours: -2.8%
 - Undergraduate: -2.7%
 - Graduate: -3.0%
- New Beginners: -6.4%
- New Transfers: +6.2%
- Beginning Graduates: +22.8%
- International Undergraduates: -10.9%
- International Graduates: -22.9%
- FTIAC Retention Rate: 81.8%
 - 2nd highest on record
- Six-Year Graduation Rate: 57.1%
 - 4th highest on record
- **Four-Year Graduation Rate: 41.9%**
 - **Up 6.5 pp from last year**
 - **Highest rate on record**



Campus Dashboard – Fall 2027 Applications



Our future direction...WMU Pillars

DISTINCTIVE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

We deliver innovative, high-quality academic programs that are future-focused, grounded in real-world impact and relevance, and enriched by experience-driven learning.

EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EXPERIENCE AND SUPPORT

We provide a distinctive student experience in which students engage in meaningful learning beyond the classroom, build strong relationships, receive the support they need to succeed, and feel valued and connected to the University community.

STUDENT- CENTERED RESEARCH AND CREATIVE SCHOLARSHIP ENTERPRISE

We advance knowledge and solve problems through research and creative activity in partnership with students and communities.

GUIDED BY OUR CORE VALUES

Community-
Engaged

Discovery-
Driven

Equity-
Centered

Learner-
Focused

Sustainability-
Guided

OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

We steward our resources responsibly and continually improve our systems and processes to support our mission and drive impact.



Distinctive Academic Programs

Preparing for Academic Program Review

A steering committee will help develop the review process

7 Faculty representatives:

- Virginia David, CEHD
- Stephen Covell, CAS
- Norman Hawker, HCoB
- Kyle Triplett, CFA
- Janet Hahn, CHHS
- Ikhlas Abdel-Qader, CEAS
- Jeremy Hierholzer, Aviation

Additional members and seats

- Academic college dean: Steve Butt, CEAS
- Presidential faculty fellow: Amy Naugle
- Institutional Effectiveness: Cathe Murphy
- Two chairs/directors:
 - Jim Penner, HCoB
 - TBD
- Two academic advisors:
 - Jill Hamilton, CHHS
 - Lindsey Millet, CAS

Faculty nominations: 3 by Faculty Senate and 3 by WMU-AAUP



Distinctive Academic Programs

Gilmore theatre upgrades create hands-on learning



More than 40 students helped overhaul audio and visual technology in the Shaw, Williams and York Arena theatres.

A grant from the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation gives **theatre students** experience with current professional equipment.



Exceptional student experience

Strengthening our GRCC relationship



Making Western more transfer-friendly

WMU leaders visited Grand Rapids Community College on Sept. 25 for an introductory conversation with its academic and advancement leaders.

**National Transfer Student Week:
Oct. 19–23**



Student-centered research

Broncos Lead interns put research to work



Second year of a city partnership

Graduate students in industrial organizational behavior management are applying behavior science to Kalamazoo's zero-waste efforts.

At public events, they researched and tested ways to encourage recycling.

Broncos Lead Internship Program



Broncos Rising

Chinese Faculty and Staff Fall Gathering



Welcoming colleagues and visiting scholars



With Cheng-Kidd Sun, Trustee Lynn Chen-Zhang and Charles Zhang

The September gathering connected colleagues across campus and opened conversation about WMU initiatives.



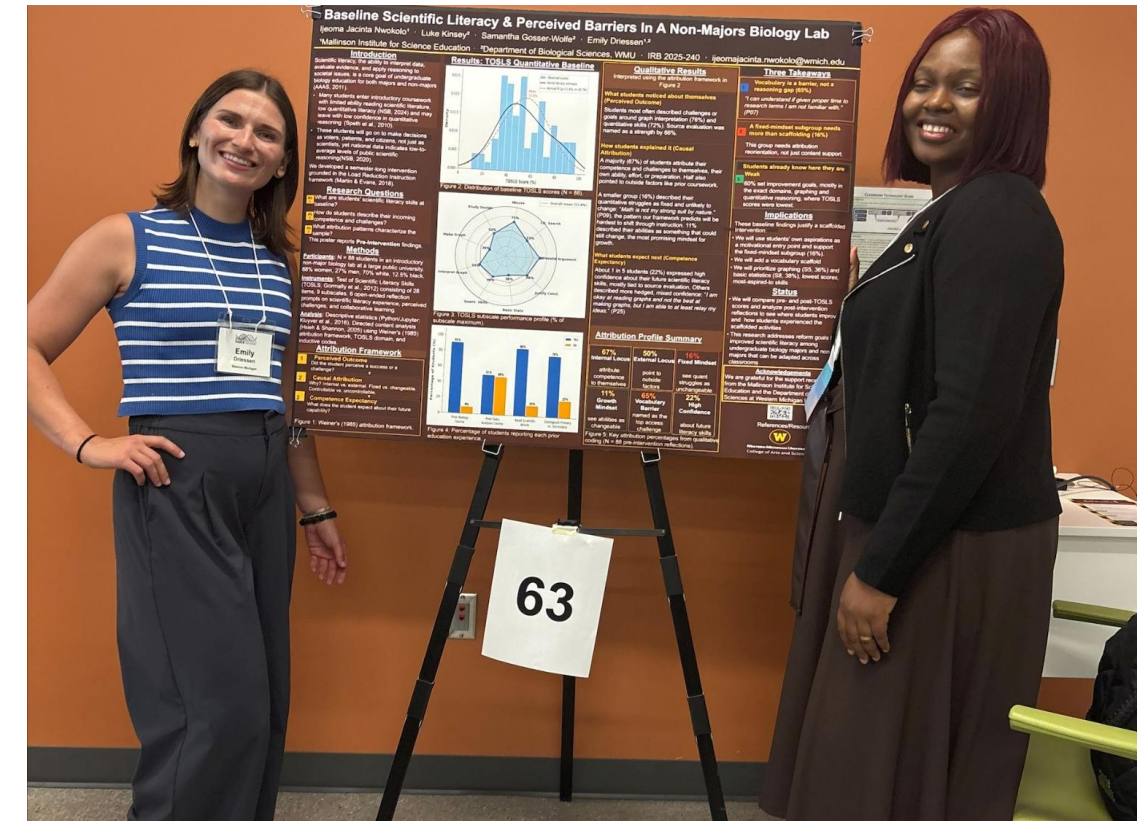
Broncos Rising

Faculty and student achievements



Dean Laura Dinehart

Appointed by Gov. Whitmer to the
Every Child Reads Champions Council



Ijeoma Nwokolo

Graduate Student Poster Award
Society for the Advancement of Biology
Education Research (SABER)

