

servingstate



DELIVERING OUTSTANDING SPARTAN EXPERIENCES



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY WINTER 2024

A publication of the Division of Student Life
& Engagement at Michigan State University

BUILDING COMMUNITY (AND BUILDINGS)

A MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR THE DIVISION OF STUDENT LIFE & ENGAGEMENT



“IT IS WITH GREAT PRIDE AND ENTHUSIASM THAT I SHARE WITH YOU THE INCREDIBLE STRIDES MADE BY STUDENT LIFE & ENGAGEMENT IN FOSTERING A SENSE OF COMMUNITY BOTH ON AND OFF OUR BELOVED CAMPUS.”

As we embark on another vibrant edition of *Serving State*, I am honored to share these stories with each of you. It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I share with you the incredible strides made by Student Life & Engagement in fostering a sense of community both on and off our beloved campus.

In this issue, we shine a spotlight on the various initiatives and programs that epitomize our commitment to supporting our Spartans. From groundbreaking construction projects to innovative programming, our aim remains steadfast: to provide a safe and inclusive environment while holistically enriching and advancing the life of every Spartan.

One of the highlights of this edition is featuring the work of the Student Veterans Resource Center. This invaluable resource serves as a testament to our unwavering dedication to those who have served our country and their families. Through its comprehensive support services, we aim to ensure that the brave military members and their families receive the assistance they rightfully deserve.

Additionally, we delve into the heartwarming stories of collaboration and inclusivity that have come to define our campus community. From the recent collaborative efforts to create a care package initiative during winter break to the inspiring strides made in fostering inclusivity through the Inclusive Campus Initiative summits, each article serves as a testament to the power of unity and empathy.

Moreover, we celebrate the achievements of our students and organizations, such as the national recognition bestowed upon Impact 89FM Radio and the remarkable success of the Student Organic Farm Gala. These accomplishments not only showcase the talent and dedication of our Spartan family but also underscore the boundless opportunities for growth and development available to each and every student.

As we continue to chart new territories and push the boundaries of excellence, I am filled with an overwhelming sense of gratitude for the unwavering support and dedication of our team members and

students. Together, we will continue to build upon our legacy of inclusivity, innovation and community, ensuring Michigan State University remains a beacon of inspiration and opportunity for generations to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vennie Gore".

Vennie Gore
Senior Vice President for the Division of Student Life & Engagement

Dine with Us at the State Room

servingstate 

THE DIVISION OF STUDENT LIFE & ENGAGEMENT

Auxiliary Sports Group

Culinary Services

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging

Residence Education and Housing Services

Student Development and Leadership

SVP Student Life & Engagement

sle.msu.edu

Serving State is an online publication for guests and partners of the Division of Student Life & Engagement at Michigan State University. Our goal is to share divisional news and initiatives with Team MSU. Serving State is produced by Division of Student Life & Engagement Creative Services, 550 S. Harrison Road, Michigan State University, 517-353-1694.

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Lunch Buffet

Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

- Campus dining plans accepted or pay \$14 plus tax for the all-you-care-to-eat buffet (tax does not apply for students)
- Lunch reservations: 517-432-5049



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Questions? Call 517-432-5049



We collectively acknowledge that Michigan State University occupies the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary Lands of the Anishinaabeg — Three Fires Confederacy of Ojibwe, Odawa and Potawatomi peoples. In particular, the university resides on land ceded in the 1819 Treaty of Saginaw. We recognize, support and advocate for the sovereignty of Michigan's twelve federally-recognized Indian nations, for historic Indigenous communities in Michigan, for Indigenous individuals and communities who live here now, and for those who were forcibly removed from their homelands. By offering this Land Acknowledgement, we affirm Indigenous sovereignty and will work to hold Michigan State University more accountable to the needs of American Indian and Indigenous peoples.

Cover photo: Yakeley Hall

Photos courtesy of: Moody Nolan Architecture, SLE Creative Services, Culinary Services, SmithGroup, Dave Trumpie of Trumpie Photography, University Communications, Women's Student Services

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STUDENT VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER SERVES 1,800 MILITARY DEPENDENTS

Student Veterans Resource Center (SVRC) is a vital institution on campus, dedicated to providing essential resources and support to individuals with a background in the armed forces. The center plays a pivotal role in fostering a sense of community among student veterans and their families, recognizing and celebrating the unique experiences and challenges that pair with being a veteran or actively involved in the armed services.

Established in January 2015, the SVRC has continually evolved and expanded its services to better serve the military-connected student body. In the summer of 2021, the center underwent renovations, transforming into an even more welcoming environment for service members, veterans and their families.

The primary objectives of the SVRC revolve around aiding students in their transition to university life, supporting their academic achievements and facilitating their career development. These focal points form the foundation of the center's mission, ensuring student veterans receive support in every aspect of their academic journey.

What is perhaps less well known is that SVRC provides support for

more than student veterans, as the name would suggest. The center also supports active military service members as well as their dependents.

"We have a lot of students who have families still serving," added Forystek. "When COVID-19 sent everyone home, I had three students – all dependents – return to the same base in Japan."

Collectively, the SVRC staff—one full time employee and three student workers – support just over 2,100 military-connected students, according to a survey of Big Ten university military-connected offices. One of the key elements is providing in-state tuition rates for a range of military-affiliated individuals.

Patrick Forystek, director of the SVRC, shared, "We offer in-state tuition to anyone who is active, reserve, guard, honorably discharged or a dependent of any of those groups, which explains our numbers without a single active-duty base in the state."

This in-state tuition policy serves as a significant incentive for these students to pursue their education at MSU and reflects the gratitude MSU displays for their service and sacrifice.

In fact, MSU has the largest population of self-identified military dependents among all the Big Ten

universities, with approximately 1,800 such students.

"These numbers are organic and growing," added Forystek. "We have not actively recruited these students."

Dependent student Sydney Kadlub has made the SVRC an essential part of their MSU experience. "I'm so glad I discovered it! The SVRC does a great job in supporting military-connected students, myself included, by providing valuable information about available opportunities. So far this semester, the SVRC has hosted a back-to-school picnic, football tailgate, military connected yoga and a Veterans Day brunch. At a school this big, it's nice to have a dedicated space to connect with other dependents and veterans. The SVRC has an awesome lounge area and comfortable study rooms – it's where I spend most of my time!"

The SVRC stands as a vital resource on campus, and it is with immense pride that MSU works to continue to support the largest number of military-affiliated students in all of the Big Ten universities.

To learn more about the SVRC, visit veterans.msu.edu. 🇺🇸

FIRST VETERAN'S DAY EVENT SINCE 2019 HELPS TO BUILD COMMUNITY, HONOR SPARTAN VETERANS

The Michigan State University Student Veterans Resource Center (SVRC) hosted a fantastic Veterans Day Brunch Nov. 8, 2023. Near capacity with a great number of veterans and MSU community members in attendance, the event was hosted for the first time since before the pandemic began.

“The brunch went really well! We were shaking off some rust having not done this since 2019, but I would definitely consider it a success,” said Patrick Forystek, SVRC director.

About 100 attendees enjoyed the event at the Kellogg Center, intended to recognize the service of veterans connected to Michigan State University. This includes students, employees and their family members. Increased visibility of and for military-affiliated Spartans is important, and the SVRC is a helpful resource for veterans.

The MSU Student Veterans of America (SVA) chapter is important too. Andrew Branam-Drock, president of MSU SVA, was in attendance.

“The event was great. It was nice to meet several staff/faculty members who are also veterans and to see the support from such a wide range of areas across the university,” he said.

The SVA has two goals, according to Branam-Drock: to build a sense of community and to support veterans in graduating from the university.


“Many of us started from scratch when we came here. It’s nice to have a built-in group to allow student veterans not to feel alone,” he added. “Representation matters, and we want to have these organizations around to support veterans year-round, not only at specific times of year.”

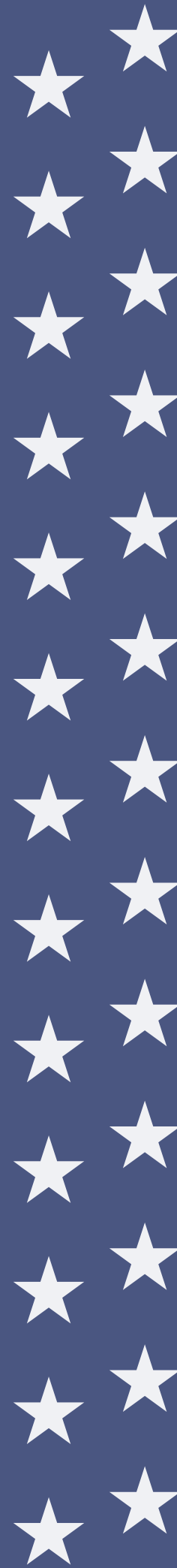
Helping to build continuous community and support were precisely some of the goals for the event. In celebrating Veterans Day, it also serves as a poignant reminder of the courage, dedication and resilience of those who have served in the armed forces — a message that resonated across the room and was heard throughout remarks.

The event featured a speech by University Advising Senior Specialist and student Marine Corps veteran Charlie Liu. Delivering a powerful and precise seven minutes (he counted) of remarks, Liu offered a series of incredibly touching and vulnerable anecdotes about his experience joining the military. In addition, Liu discussed how he took core principles of his military service and continues to use them to serve those around him.

Dr. Genyne Royal, assistant vice president for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging — the umbrella department for which the SVRC falls under — offered closing remarks, highlighting the importance of veterans to the diversity of MSU’s community and speaking to the important contributions to MSU made by members such as Liu.

The contributions and connections to MSU are lengthy.

“MSU has a long history of supporting military veterans, and much of our growth as an institution can be attributed to the creation of the GI Bill in 1944,” said Forystek. “While our campus has changed dramatically since 1944, an event like this gives us a chance to recognize how our student veterans and our military-connected employees have affected the trajectory of MSU.” 





Fostering Inclusivity:

A Glimpse into the Inclusive Campus Initiative Summits

Michigan State University (MSU) and the Division of Student Life & Engagement's commitment to creating a diverse and inclusive campus environment has taken center stage through the Inclusive Campus Initiative (ICI). The initiative was created in March 2021 to address students' need and desire for the development of a safe and inclusive environment on the MSU campus. Recently, SLE organized two significant summits that brought together students, faculty, staff and campus partners to focus on diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging (DEIB).

The 3rd Annual ICI Campus Partner Summit was held June 26, 2023, and was attended by 153 participants. The 2nd Annual ICI Student Summit was held Sept. 10, 2023, and drew 91 attendees. Project Manager of the ICI Meaghan Kozar emphasizes that these summits served as critical forums for fostering communication and offering insight into the ongoing DEIB efforts at MSU.

"The overarching goal is to bring communities together. To offer a space to connect, collaborate and build partnerships as well as create the opportunity for professional development," says Kozar. The dialogues facilitated by these summits around inclusivity are not only about identifying issues, but also about

implementing solutions.

These summits, by bringing together stakeholders from various corners of the campus, facilitate a collective approach to address DEIB challenges. Kozar highlights that ICI's mission is to create a space in which people can teach and learn from each other, transcending departmental boundaries.

INCLUSIVE CAMPUS ECOSYSTEM: A CLOSER LOOK AT THE CAMPUS PARTNER SUMMIT

The 3rd Annual Campus Partner Summit focused on the theme of Building Our Inclusive Campus Ecosystem. This theme is one of the Inclusive ICI's three strategic intents, along with community rebuilding and support and advocacy for historically marginalized students. The summit was borne out of a recognition of the critical role campus partners play in helping shape and sustain a culture and climate of inclusion at MSU. Each summit aims to provide campus partners a platform to engage and strategize around important DEIB topics.

Members throughout the MSU community have experienced the benefits of the summits. "The ICI Campus Partner Summit was not only well-planned and orchestrated, but participants also received substantive information to encourage and inform

our work. I am so pleased to have attended this great event," says Vanessa Holmes, Ph.D., multicultural development manager at the Office for Institutional Diversity & Inclusion.

Campus partners were able to share presentations on their initiatives, challenges and successes in the DEIB space. These presentations covered a variety of topics, including accessibility, LGBTQIAS2+ perspectives on DEIB, and the importance of centering DEI in Relationship Violence and Sexual Misconduct (RVSM) prevention. A panel discussion on the Untold Stories of MSU Student Success through a DEIB lens was also conducted. Other segments focusing on sharing DEIB updates from across the MSU community, the importance of global DEIB and reflections from alumni added to the holistic approach to DEIB.

The summit encouraged attendees to network and engage with one another through three strategy breakout sessions in smaller groups. These sessions were aimed at inviting participants to offer feedback, ask questions and offer recommendations related to supporting historically marginalized communities, including creation of a community trauma response team, campus resource sharing, and increasing awareness of campuswide DEIB effort using MSU's digital spaces.



BUILDING A FOUNDATION: A CLOSER LOOK AT THE STUDENT SUMMIT

The 2nd Annual ICI Student Summit and Cultural Unity Buffet was held at the Erikson Hall Kiva. The summit centered around the theme of Building a Foundation through inclusive leadership, community rebuilding and resource provision for students and aimed to empower students with the knowledge and skills to actively contribute to an inclusive campus environment. The event was aimed at fostering understanding, sharing experiences and building a more inclusive community. Activities to bring out the diverse perspectives in the room and facilitate connection-building and dialogue were conducted with the attendees.

“I really liked the activities that had to do with meeting new people, because I made some new friends,” says an anonymous first-year student who attended the summit. “I liked the Culinary Services and DEIB presentations because they gave us more information and a new insight into things.”

One of the key highlights of the summit was a session on the university’s Anti-Discrimination Policy (ADP). This segment aimed to raise awareness of the policy’s importance, the ten protected identities and the significance of such policies. Students engaged in discussions and provided valuable feedback, including on the effectiveness of mandatory reporting. A DEIB-focused transferable skills activity encouraged students to think about their future career and analyze how inclusion matters in a professional setting after college.

The day concluded with a cultural unity buffet, offering a delightful array of cuisines and an open-mic discussion on inclusive practices. Students had the opportunity to share their views on assorted topics, including promoting inclusion in student organizations, their vision for MSU’s future, and challenges faced by marginalized communities and possible solutions for these challenges at MSU. This open forum encouraged active participation, sharing of personal stories and a respectful exchange of ideas.

“I enjoyed everything about the event. I loved how we got to engage and be interactive but also listen to important matters on campus. The balance was great,” shares a junior at MSU who wished to remain anonymous.

LEARNING AND LOOKING AHEAD

Kozar highlights the key learnings the office of Inclusion and Diversity have gained through these summits, saying, “The summits help increase DEIB communications, bring the community together and provide a space to learn more about what is happening at MSU related to DEIB.”

Associate Director of Communications for DEIB and Student Development and Leadership Francisco Velazquez highlights he enjoyed how the summits allow him to meet with and observe people from across the university doing work to ensure an inclusive campus. “I appreciate having the opportunity to watch the event continue to grow and allow us to learn more about what the issues are, sure, but also what topics and changes we need to address in

the future as they relate specifically to MSU,” says Velazquez, who pointed out how difficult it can be to have these conversations with everyone’s hectic schedules.

The summits put everyone under one roof for the day and facilitate an exchange of perspectives and ideas. “I appreciate the chance to connect but also to teach and learn – the ability to think about how an inclusive campus really does affect various cogs in the larger machine”

Velazquez believes the summits serve as a symbolic commitment to the inclusivity campus partners say they want to have at MSU. He explains it is important for partners to see others across campus having the same discussions and doing the same work in their respective departments and smaller groups. He believes the opportunity to do so acts as a reminder they are not alone in their pursuit of DEIB goals and commitments.

“This is and should be a campus-wide effort,” he says, “So it’s good to chat with others in their respective ends of the campus so we can strategize. There’s certainly still room to improve on all ends, but the ICI Summits are helping to push that dialogue in the right direction.”

March 4, ICI and campus partners began a Free Speech Education year-long and beyond campaign to create educational opportunities around these complicated topics. This campaign focuses on creating opportunities for the community to come together to learn, understand and find support in navigating free speech at MSU and beyond and will be the focus of the 2024 summits. ⑥



RECENT COLLABORATION LEADS TO LARGER CARE PACKAGE EFFORT DURING WINTER BREAK

UNITS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND BELONGING ONCE AGAIN TEAMED UP TO OFFER CARE PACKAGES, FOLLOWING AN EFFORT IN NOVEMBER 2023 TO PROVIDE SUPPLIES TO STUDENTS WHO STAYED ON CAMPUS FOR THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY BREAK.

From that effort, it became apparent there was a larger need than what was initially anticipated. Heading into the formal end of fall semester, with winter break just week away, Women*’s Student Services (W*SS) began collaborating with the Student Parent Resource Center (SPRC), Neighborhood Student Success Center (NSCC) and Residence Hall Association (RHA) to offer even more care packages for which students could register and pick up Friday, Dec. 15, in the Student Services Building. In total, 176 winter break care packages were distributed to students.

To help support the effort, RHA joined the three student-facing units to provide additional funding toward supplies, with the driving factor being helping meet students’ basic needs while the university closed for the winter break. Packages included food items and a resource guide that informed students on where/how to find additional items while the university was closed. Several hundred care packages were offered in this second round, more than doubling the

amount of care packages given away in November.

In November, the response was quick and wide, showing the depth of need. Within the first day of registration, 48 students registered for 50 initial care packages. W*SS Program Coordinator Sharron Reed-Davis and W*SS Community Engagement Intern Maren Nicolaysen led the initial effort to pool the offices’ collaborative resources so that close to 90 students were able to receive care packages. Meanwhile, the Student Parent Resource Center was also giving away care packages, working with a local food bank and organic farm.

This program is necessary because it gives students more accessible meal options while the university is closed. Students who cannot go home for the break, especially international and out-of-state students who live in the residence halls, can easily face food insecurity,” said Reed-Davis.

During winter break, international students and those living off campus may not necessarily have the means or desire to leave East Lansing. Lacking

appropriate resources or not having a safe, supportive home to retreat to are just some reasons students may stay in town. With the university closed, the dining and residence halls close as well, so these care packages went a long way to help students sustain themselves through the break.

Seeing the student response, the teams soon looked beyond November to winter break to produce another round of care packages. The two initiatives are now one, managing to provide care packages for even more students this winter holiday break.

“We are always able to do more together. The more organizations, individuals and offices we collaborate with, the more students we can serve,” said Reed-Davis. “Each of the offices involved in this project have resources that are both specific to the students they support as well as intersectional resources that overall build our reach.”

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the collaborating offices and volunteers who are made such an impactful contribution last holiday season. 🙏

Photo above: Sharron Reed-Davis, Student Services Assistant with Women’s Student Services*

A glowing red "ON AIR" sign with a white border, set against a black background.

IMPACT 89FM

at Michigan State
University

RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARDS



Impact 89FM | WDBM-FM, Michigan State University's student-run radio station and media organization, is very excited to announce that the entire organization as well as individual staff members were recognized for their work with national awards in the College Broadcasters, Inc. National Student Production Awards as well as the College Media Association Pinnacle Awards.

The awards were presented in ceremonies at the College Broadcasters, Inc. National Student Electronic Media Convention in Orlando Saturday, Oct. 21, 2023, and the College Media Association MediaFest in Atlanta Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2023.

CBI National Student Production Awards:
Best Student Media Web Site — First Place: Staff

CMA Pinnacle Awards: Broadcast Station Website of the Year — First Place: Staff

CMA Pinnacle Awards: Best Social Media Engagement — First Place: Staff

CMA Pinnacle Awards: Radio Station of the Year — Honorable Mention: Staff

CMA Pinnacle Awards: Best Audio/Talk Entertainment Program — First Place: Chelsie Boodoo, Daniel Puentes

CMA Pinnacle Awards: Best Podcast — Second Place: Tessa Kresch

CMA Pinnacle Awards: Best Sports Game Story — Third Place: A.J. Evans

CMA Pinnacle Awards: Best Audio/Promo Public Service Announcement — Honorable Mention: Staff

Work was broadcast in the Lansing area on 88.9 FM and published online through Impact 89FM's website at impact89fm.org and social media channels.

Impact celebrated the 35th anniversary of its first broadcast Feb. 24 by launching a new podcast, "Behind the Mics," which can be streamed at behindthemics.com.

ABOUT IMPACT 89FM | WDBM-FM

Impact 89FM is one of the largest student organizations on the campus of Michigan State University, with over 150 students in paid or volunteer staff roles. It operates as a 24-hour broadcast and online media organization, with funding coming from the students of Michigan State University. MSU Student Radio traces its heritage back to the 1950s with the first AM carrier current stations which broadcast in the residence halls. On Feb. 24, 1989, Impact 89FM started broadcasting on 88.9 FM in the Lansing market under the call letters WDBM. A web stream and online presence were added Oct. 5, 1999.

Leaders at the radio station pride themselves not only on the quality of the broadcast and online programming, but also the opportunities offered to the staff of the station. Every student who expresses an interest, is willing to devote the necessary time, and follows the station guidelines has the opportunity to be part of the organization. 🎧



STUDENT ORGANIC FARM GALA SUPPORTS STUDENT FARMERS AND DEVELOPMENT OF FUTURE INITIATIVES

On Sunday, Oct. 8, 2023, nearly 130 guests gathered at the MSU Student Organic Farm (SOF) for a fabulous gala event. In addition to enjoying a seven-course, farm-to-table meal consisting of MSU farm-raised meats and other delicacies, the evening included strolling appetizers, farm tours, and an afterglow reception.

Julianna Adams, who has worked at the farm for just over two years, loved seeing the transformation of their produce into beautiful and delicious dishes. “The creativity and thought that went into crafting each of the dishes was amazing, and I got to try our produce in ways that I never have before.”

As a student who recently transitioned from undergraduate work to the Food Science Graduate Program, she appreciated the immersive experience of a farm-to-table dinner that allowed attendees to connect more closely with where the food is grown and the work that goes into production.

The internship team working on the event menu developed a broad theme, which was then paired with seasonal availability of produce, culinary trends and the

ability to preserve items until the event. Furthermore, the group had to consider the practicality of executing the dishes in the middle of a farm field.

“The ‘farm’ course created by MSU Culinary Services (CS) Executive Sous Chef Dustin Ignash was beautiful, unique, and packed with flavor and fun elements. We all enjoyed that the event went beyond a multicourse plated meal; it was bookended with new elements,” shared Rob Trufant, executive chef for Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center. Trufant led the menu planning for the event, developing the overall theme and overseeing setup and production details.

The gala began with strolling appetizers prepared right in front of guests. These dishes combined a street food and small plate vibe. After a sit-down meal, the evening ended with a Late-Nite Bites tent, featuring tabletop fire pits, sweets, tacos and a dip station. Those attending the event had an opportunity to explore different areas of the farm, mingle with various groups of people, including students, and experience a wide range of ingredients grown in the soil they were standing on.



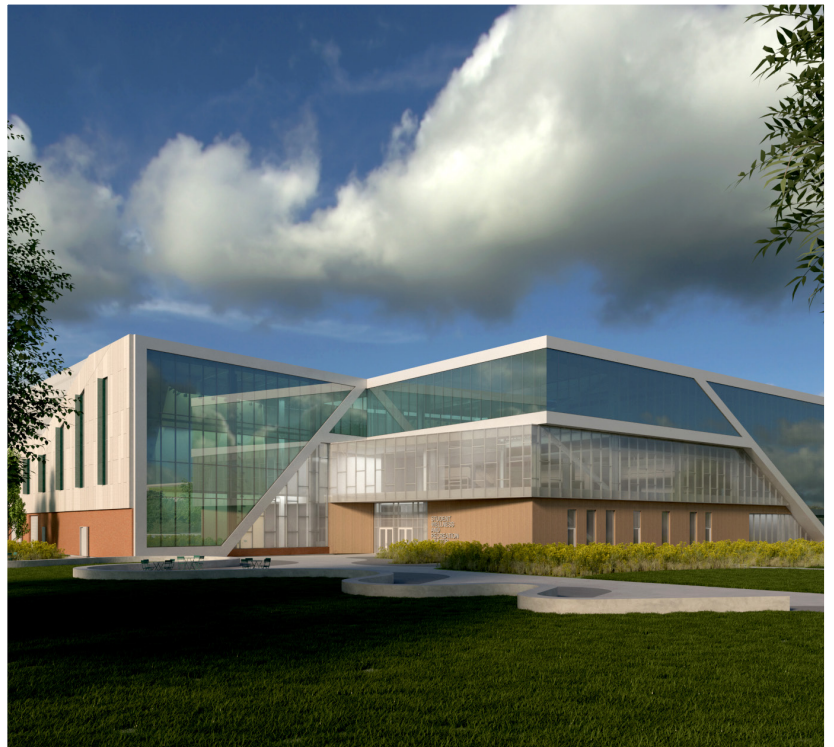
Beyond celebrating Spartan students, food and farming, the gala helps prepare future farmers in food production and creates an authentic learning lab for students from all disciplines. Money raised from the event will support future projects and initiatives that keep students as the central focus.

The gala also served as an opportunity to celebrate the recent addition of the SOF to the Division of Student Life & Engagement and welcome the new Farm Manager Darby Anderson.

“The food was out of this world delicious,” said Darby. “Thanks to all the chefs involved! I think one of the highlights of the evening was the strolling cocktail hour around the farm featuring farm produce in both the appetizers and drinks.” 🍷



Photos: top, Dave Warner, Lindsey Brinkley and Justin Patterson; right, appetizer of Paratha, Sweet Potato Smash, Roasted Cauliflower, Pickled Cherries, Crispy Chilies, Tomato Chutney and Cilantro Yogurt
Page 12: Dining set up



Photos: Renderings of the exterior and interior of the Student Recreation and Wellness Center



The Student Recreation and Wellness Center

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY IS A FOUNDATION FOR A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE AND FOR STUDENT SUCCESS AT MSU. ON SHAW LANE BETWEEN BIRCH AND HARRISON ROADS, THE LITERAL FOUNDATION FOR THE STUDENT RECREATION AND WELLNESS CENTER HAS BEEN POURED AND AWAITS THE BEGINNING OF STRUCTURAL STEEL. THE FRAME WILL THEN START TO TAKE SHAPE FOR WHAT WILL BE A STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITY AND A GATEWAY BUILDING TO MSU'S CAMPUS AND THE LATEST STEP IN A COMMITMENT TO IMPROVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENT HEALTH AND WELL-BEING.

The Student Recreation and Wellness Center is the result of years of advocacy on the part of students and staff. The current Recreational Sports and Fitness Services (Rec Sports) facilities on campus are outdated and lack the space and amenities to accommodate a growing student population. IM Circle is one of MSU's oldest standing buildings and first opened in 1916, then known as the Women's Gymnasium. IM West, which the new building is slated to replace, first opened in 1958. Even the newest Rec Sports facility on campus, IM East, was constructed almost 40 years ago in 1988.

To upgrade these facilities, a Recreational Fee was instituted with student support and approval from the Board of Trustees to fund enhancements to buildings, fields and equipment while increasing access of Rec Sports programming to all fee-paying students. Student Success is at the forefront of a multi-phase plan to improve Rec Sports facilities

and offerings on campus. Studies, including some conducted by graduate students at MSU, have demonstrated a link between physical well-being and success in the classroom. This aligns with MSU's 2030 Strategic plan and stated commitment to "meet the physical and mental health needs of our students, faculty and staff."

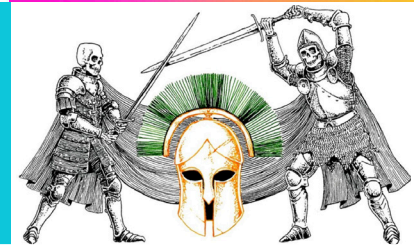
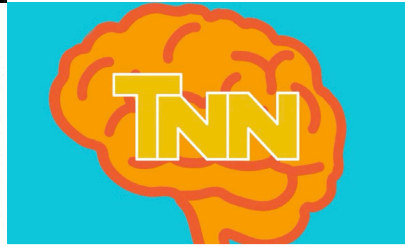
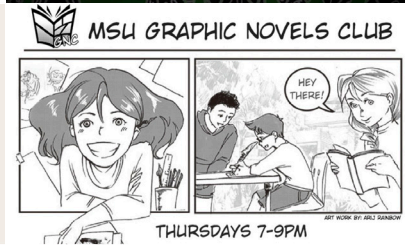
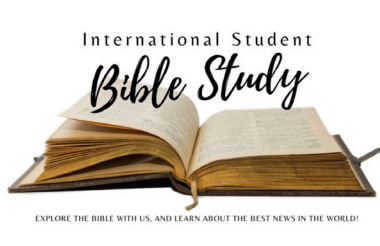
Outside of the construction of a new facility, October 2022 also saw the opening of the new turf complex, Spartan Greens, on Service Road as part of the first phase of enhancements funded by the student fee. Rec Sports programming has also expanded significantly with the offering of over 70 group exercise classes per week this spring semester. Roughly 5,500 students use MSU's three recreational sports and fitness facilities on a typical day.

The 293,000 square-foot Student Recreation and Wellness Center aims to address capacity concerns and provide students with access to state-of-the-art fitness and recreation equipment.

Highlights from the new facility will include an "Outdoor Adventure Center" with the first indoor climbing wall on campus as well as state of the art multi-sport simulators. The building will also house several gymnasiums and multi-activity courts, a turf arena, indoor running track, strength and fitness studios, two university classrooms and a 50-meter recreational pool.

As the building framework continues to take shape on site, students, Rec Sports staff and design partners are working toward establishing a framework of their own for the look and feel of the building, creating a visual environment that ties the new facility to the traditions and natural elements of the rest of MSU's campus.

Substantial completion of construction is on track to be completed in February 2026. View a video walkthrough of a rendering of the Student Recreation and Wellness Center at vimeo.com/880134458?share=copy ©



Empowering Spartan Leaders: THE RSO FALL CONFERENCE

Michigan State University recently hosted the Registered Student Organization (RSO) Fall Conference, a dynamic event designed to empower RSO leaders and foster connections within the vibrant MSU community. Spearheaded by the Office of Spartan Experiences, the conference aimed to provide valuable training for RSO leaders, tailoring its content based on feedback from a previous end-of-year survey. The conference was held Sunday, Oct. 29, 2023, at Wells Hall, where 15 RSOs were represented. The primary mission of the conference was to equip RSO leaders with the tools and knowledge to navigate their roles effectively.

According to University Events Coordinator Lance Sharp, the goal was clear: “The RSO Office wanted to ensure our RSO leaders had a chance to learn how to operate their RSO, learn about the platform we utilize and have their questions answered.”

“The vision for the conference,” Sharp emphasizes, “was to help our RSOs learn more about their roles, the Involve@State platform and to meet those who work/support them in the RSO part of the Office of Spartan Experiences.” By offering RSO leaders insights into their roles, insight on the Involve@State platform and connecting them with the resources available, the conference contributed to creating a more informed and connected MSU community.

Michigan State University boasts over 1000 Registered Student Organizations, creating a vibrant and diverse community for students. These organizations aim to achieve specific goals through educational, social, cultural, religious or philanthropic activities. RSOs at MSU actively contribute to students’ growth and education and to the broader community.

The event began with a small mixer to help RSOs meet each other and network. The conference then encompassed a series of presentations around using Involve@State, event management, understanding RSO finances, conflict management, licensing/MSU merchandising, starting a

new RS and social media/marketing. The comprehensive agenda allowed RSO leaders to choose sessions tailored to their needs and engage with the Office of Spartan Experiences and RSO Office staff for personalized assistance.

Being actively involved in student organizations plays a crucial role in a Spartan’s experience at MSU. Sharp highlighted that involvement allows students to discover their skills, explore new interests and connect with a diverse community. The RSO Fall Conference serves as a pivotal resource in helping RSO leaders navigate the intricate MSU landscape and contribute to the growth of fellow Spartans.

The students’ reactions were overwhelmingly positive, emphasizing the value of one-on-one assistance and training provided by the Office of Spartan Experiences. Their feedback also underscored the need for more such initiatives. RSO leaders expressed a desire for additional training sessions and interactions with the office.

“The students were happy to be able to ask questions to the staff and get one-on-one assistance and training from the RSO Office,” says Sharp. “We are working to create new training and resources and hoping to help our RSOs even more.”

The importance of student involvement was paramount, according to Sharp. “Being involved in student organizations plays a huge role in a Spartan’s experience at MSU. This is how our Spartans learn about skills they have, discover new interests they may not have known about to help them engage with a whole new world of people.”

The RSO Fall Conference’s success echoes MSU’s commitment to providing enriching experiences for its students. As RSO leaders continue to play a pivotal role in shaping campus life, events like these serve as catalysts for positive change and growth within the MSU community.

For more information or to get involved, reach out to the RSO office via email at involve@msu.edu. 📧

MSU'S MULTICULTURAL CENTER *to be a centerpiece for* CULTURAL EXCHANGE



"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the time to reach for the stars." — Harriet Tubman



Last year, in its ongoing efforts to support students from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds, the Division of Student Life & Engagement (SLE) began construction on what will be a new campus multicultural center. The Multicultural Center is dedicated to celebrating diversity, serving as a hub for cultural exchange and as a place for the MSU community to come together.

MSU and SLE take pride in their joint mission of celebrating diversity. The need for a dedicated space on campus that supports MSU's diverse Spartan population and provides resources for underrepresented communities has been a long-standing aspiration. The establishment of the Multicultural Center signifies a significant step toward a more flourishing MSU campus.

The center aims to create an inclusive environment where students from all backgrounds feel a sense of belonging. In addition to spaces for cultural events, group and club meetings, and educational programs, the Multicultural Center will also provide counseling services, academic support and leadership development programs tailored to the needs of underrepresented groups. Situated prominently on the northeast corner

of North Shaw and Farm lanes, the building stands as a symbol of MSU's dedication to providing an environment in which every student, no matter their background, feels valued and respected.

The Multicultural Center is anticipated to have many positive impacts on the campus community. It will serve as a space for cross-cultural interaction and mutual understanding. Students will be able to engage in open dialogue about their cultural experiences while fostering a sense of unity and shared identity.

As for addressing the unique challenges faced by underrepresented groups, the center will aid in bridging the gap in academic achievement, retention and overall student success. By offering mentorship opportunities and access to specialized services, the Multicultural Center will empower students to overcome obstacles and thrive in the world of academia. Furthermore, the Multicultural Center will be a physical monument to the long history of MSU student activism and advocacy, from which students can learn, that led to the free-standing building.

As students engage with the diverse array of cultural activities and events hosted at the center, they will develop

a greater appreciation for the richness of diversity. This, in turn, contributes to the creation of a more inclusive and accepting campus culture. The Office of Cultural and Academic Transitions – whose origins in supporting student success for marginalized students stretches back decades to the 1960s civil rights movement — is a natural fit to move into the Multicultural Center and will handle programmatic operations.

The Multicultural Center is not limited to the departments and units housed in the new building but will serve as a center point for community outreach, hosting events that will involve local residents and organizations. By collaborating with the university and the surrounding community, the Multicultural Center strives to strengthen the bonds between MSU, its diverse neighborhoods and the broader Spartan community.

The Multicultural Center marks a new era for MSU and is slated to open in late fall 2024. As it becomes a centerpiece for cultural exchange, education and community bonding, the space will undoubtedly play a vital role in shaping a more inclusive and vibrant future for generations of MSU students to come.

Learn more at mccenter.msu.edu. 