



## WMU School of Medicine hires new associate dean, professor

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on November 12, 2013 at 5:30 PM, updated November 12, 2013 at 5:33 PM

**KALAMAZOO, MI** – Hiring continues at the new **Western Michigan University School of Medicine**.

The new medical school, which is scheduled to admit its first students in August 2014, announced it has hired Dr. Cheryl Dickson as its new associate dean for health equity and community affairs. Dickson also will serve as an associate professor in the department of pediatric and adolescent medicine.

WMed also is adding to its roster of professors, hiring Vicki McKinney as an associate professor in the department of medical education.

McKinney, a National Science Foundation grant recipient with more than 20 years teaching experience, brings the number of new hires for the medical school to 24, according to a spokeswoman for WMed. That includes everyone from the founding dean and dean of admissions to faculty in the pathology, medical education and biomedical science departments.

"And we are hiring more," said Laura Eller, director of communications. "We're still interviewing."

On the clinical side of the program, which transitioned from the Michigan State University Kalamazoo Center for Medical Studies in 2012, faculty number 70, including nine new hires since 2012, Eller said.

The medical school is a collaboration between WMU and Kalamazoo's two teaching hospitals, Borgess Health and Bronson Healthcare. The school, which was granted preliminary accreditation from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education in 2012, is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. In March 2011, WMU received a gift of \$100 million for the medical school from anonymous donors.



Cheryl Dickson



The medical school includes the WMU School of Medicine Clinics, a 60,000-square-foot modern clinical building, and a seven-story 350,000 square foot building in downtown Kalamazoo donated by MPI Research. Located on the W.E. Upjohn Campus, that building is undergoing a \$68 million renovation and expansion project that is scheduled to be completed in June 2014.

Dickson received her medical degree from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey Medical School and her Master's in Public Health, Health Policy and

Dickson formerly served as the director of ambulatory and emergency health services for Children's Hospital of New Jersey. According to her bio, she also served as a chair of pediatrics, establishing a pediatric inpatient hospital service, and was director for the ambulatory primary care practice.

Dickson also developed a cultural competency curriculum for medical students and co-facilitated cultural competency training for continuing education for practicing physicians for license requirements in New Jersey and California. Her work with the health department included facilitating an asthma coalition and immunization task force. While on staff at Bristol-Myers Squibb Children's Hospital at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, as principal investigator, she formulated partnerships between community organizations and the hospital to focus on improving child health status indicators, such as obesity, asthma and developmental delays.

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