



THE PULSE

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PHOTO ABOVE: GRCC nursing student, Mispar Lewis

“Having my last two semesters [of nursing school] paid for would, quite frankly, be life-changing for my family.”

~ Grand Rapids Community College
nursing student

A Moment of JOY with Jaime



Friends & Supporters,

The University of Michigan Health-West Foundation exists as an activator of and incubator for change to support our nonprofit health system with breakthrough technologies, world-class expertise and access to our compassionate care.

Recently, that's meant funding projects beyond the walls of just our buildings. We've developed some incredible partnerships with local organizations to expand pathways into healthcare as a profession, stimulate economic development and create opportunities for choice when seeking healthcare.

Foundation supporters can rest assured that what is donated to the Foundation stays local, directly supporting the West Michigan healthcare landscape.

Everyone deserves the same opportunity for positive health outcomes... from our future and current team members to patients and neighbors. We're committed to excellence and access for all.

So, keep thumbing through the rest of this newsletter... You don't want to miss the exciting things happening at University of Michigan Health-West!

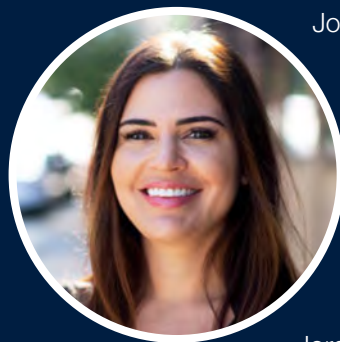
Gratefully,

Jaime Counterterman
Foundation Director



Scan to support the work of the Foundation.

NEW The UM Health-West Foundation Board of Directors welcomes Jordan Custer



Jordan is an advisor, attorney, entrepreneur and investor. In addition to board of director service, she founded and operates a legal consulting company that provides general counsel and executive legal services to corporate clients within industries such as life sciences, artificial intelligence and professional services. Previously, Jordan founded and then sold a law firm that litigated asset/mortgage-backed securities disputes on behalf of institutional investors in state and federal courts as well as arbitration across the United States.

Jordan is a West Michigan native who attended Hope College for undergraduate studies and resides in East Grand Rapids with her husband, two daughters, and two dogs. She is an avid equestrian and when not working, enjoys travelling.

A New Era of Advanced Cardiovascular Care in West Michigan

We have entered a new era of advanced cardiovascular care in West Michigan. In October 2022, some of the nation's top heart surgeons gathered to perform the first open-heart surgery at University of Michigan Health-West.

For the first time, patients in the Grand Rapids market have an additional local option for open-heart surgery. This is a major advancement for the Cardiovascular Network of West Michigan and exciting step forward for UM Health-West.

In just a few months, we've hired our first open-heart surgeon, Alphonse DeLucia, MD, and performed over three dozen surgeries... directly impacting the lives of those patients.

And that's all because of the generosity of Foundation donors like you who contributed to the new state-of-the-art operating room that makes these surgeries possible.

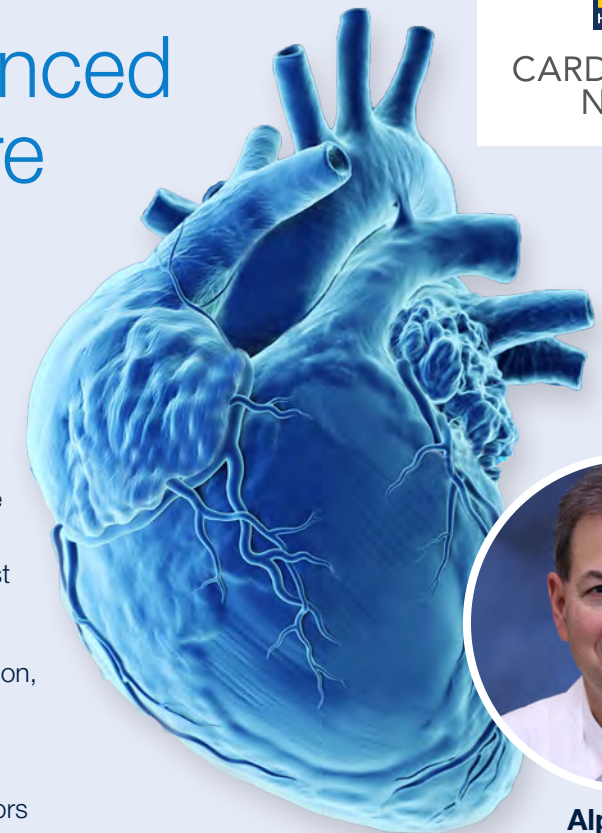
“Our success in launching open-heart surgery is the result of collaboration – and I count Foundation donors among the key partners in the accomplishment. We are one team in the fight against heart disease. And we are making a difference in the lives of patients today, and for generations to come.”

~ Dr. Peter Hahn, UM Health-West CEO

The Foundation is incredibly grateful for the donors who have chosen to walk alongside UM Health-West as we transform cardiovascular care in West Michigan.



CARDIOVASCULAR NETWORK



Alphonse DeLucia, MD
Cardiac Surgeon

The Artis Pheno, funded by the Foundation, provides state-of-the-art versatility for cardiovascular procedures.



Cover Story

Partnering to Create a Pipeline of Local Nursing

TALENT



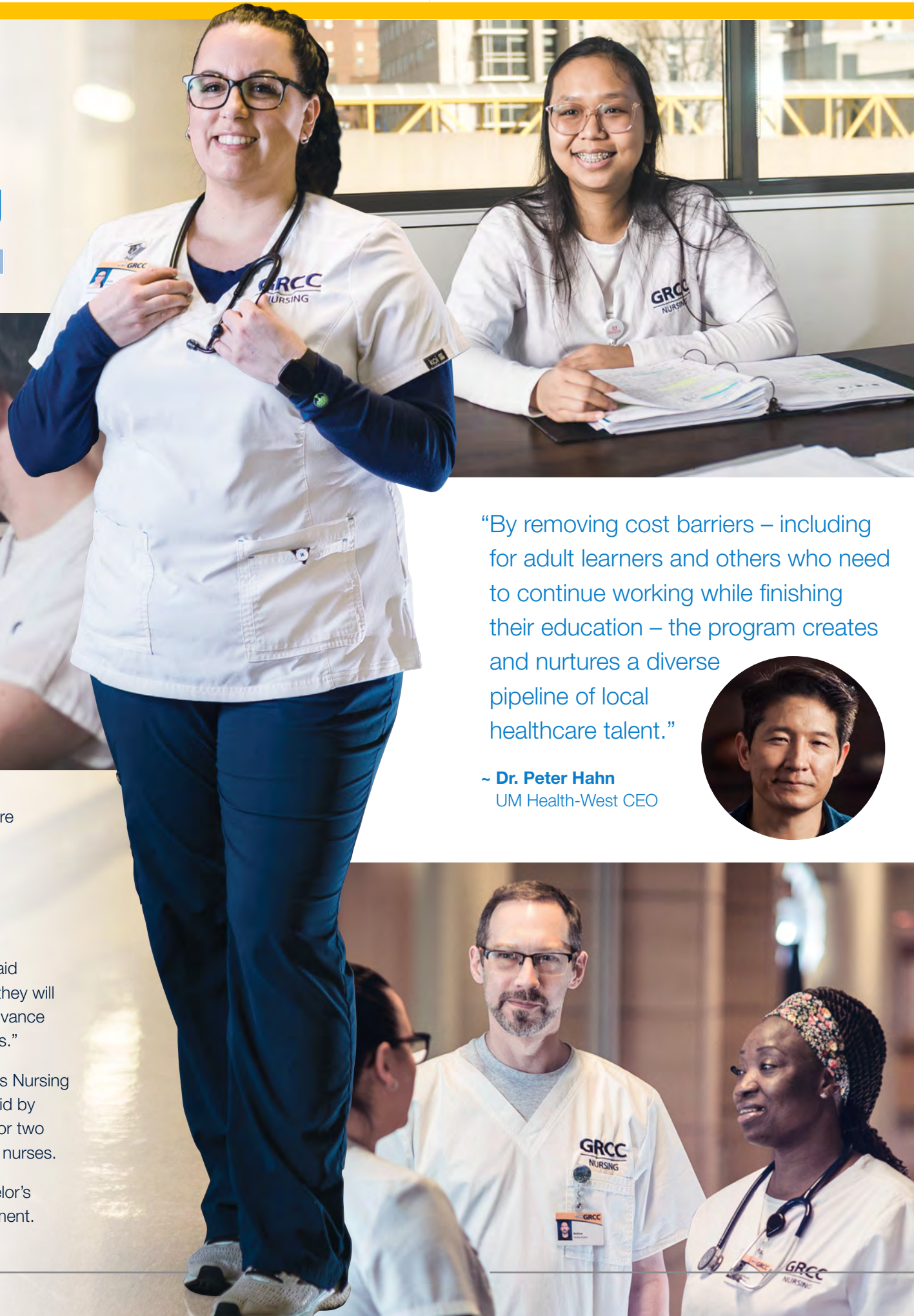
University of Michigan Health-West and Grand Rapids Community College are teaming up to fill the organization’s critical need for nurses while supporting student tuition and paid on-the-job professional experience.

Made possible by a grant from the Foundation, the program launched in December 2022 with 12 nursing students.

“GRCC has a great program, and they put out some outstanding nurses,” said Steve Polega, Chief Nursing Officer. “Once they have that two-year degree, they will have a chance to put their skills to work, explore their career passion and advance towards their BSN – which opens a whole new level of opportunity for nurses.”

Here’s how it works. Students who have completed one semester of GRCC’s Nursing Program can apply and have up to three semesters of their GRCC tuition paid by UM Health-West. In return, they will commit to working at UM Health-West for two years upon completion of the program and becoming licensed as registered nurses.

During their employment, they will have the opportunity to complete a bachelor’s degree in nursing (BSN) through existing partnerships and tuition reimbursement.



“By removing cost barriers – including for adult learners and others who need to continue working while finishing their education – the program creates and nurtures a diverse pipeline of local healthcare talent.”

~ Dr. Peter Hahn
UM Health-West CEO



“ Our inaugural cohort of students is excited about this unique opportunity.

“Pursuing a career in nursing has always been a dream of mine. As a first-generation college student, it always seemed out of reach. My mother is an immigrant from China, and there is no one in her family who pursued higher education. My parents have not been able to help me financially with school, so I have worked and saved since I was 14 years old. I wanted to contribute more to the community, and the best hands-on way of doing so was nursing. Health promotion, disease prevention, emphasizing care and compassion to others.”

“I am excited about the prospect of working for University of Michigan Health-West because I know the high-quality care this hospital system provides. When I was 17, I had open heart surgery at U of M in Ann Arbor and would be honored to provide the same quality care that I received when I was young. Additionally, college is expensive. I have two young boys, and I do not qualify for financial assistance. Having my last two semesters paid for would, quite frankly, be life-changing for my family.”

“I would truly benefit from this scholarship because it would help alleviate some of my financial burdens as I complete nursing school, by allowing me to reduce my work hours so that I can focus on studying and be more available for my children. Secondly, it allows me to do my dream job (helping people in their most vulnerable state) at the most respected hospital in Michigan where employees treat each other like family and patients are treated like people, not numbers.”

PHOTOS: Grand Rapids Community College nursing students: Katie Carlson (center); Alexandra Evans, Leah Mangan and Joseph Skorka (left); Sa San (top right); Matthew Burg and Anne Marcelle Komk (bottom right).



Breck (in red) and his family deliver Heart for Hope care packages to UM Health-West.

Breck's Heart for

HOPE

UM Health-West's Pediatric Cardiovascular Outpatient Center loved a recent visit from one of our littlest victors! Breck was diagnosed with a congenital heart defect before he was born and has been a patient of our Pediatric Cardiology program since he was just four weeks old. Now at the age of six, he's undergone five open heart surgeries and started a nonprofit to support research of congenital heart defects and deliver joy to West Michigan families with heart warriors in the hospital. We were the lucky recipient of Breck's Heart for Hope care packages that support our fellow families with fetal cardiology patients and babies who are in need of surgical intervention. A big thank you to Breck and his family!

Pediatric Cardiologist Dr. Ron Grifka, Megan Rogers from Child Life Services and Jason Tapio, pediatric nurse, are grateful for the care and comfort Breck's Heart for Hope donations will bring to our fetal cardiology patients and their families.



SAVE THE DATES

VITALITY Gala | April 22 | DeVos Place

Join us at our annual VITALITY Gala as 1,000+ community members gather to celebrate a new era of heart and vascular care in West Michigan. At UM Health-West, our renowned team of specialists practice at the forefront of diagnosis, treatment and prevention. Their expertise gives you the confidence of being at the center of the most comprehensive, advanced care available, including our highly anticipated open-heart surgery program which launched in Fall 2022. *Excellence beats here – with YOUR support.*

To learn more, visit uofmhealthwest.org/gala

Presented by  **BUIST ELECTRIC**
Raising The Standard

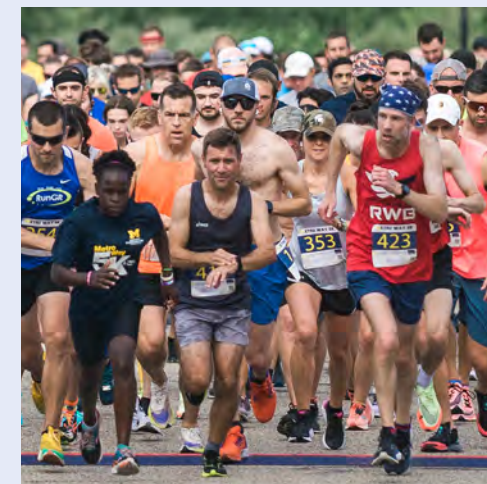


Metro Way 5K | July 20 | UM Health-West

This family-friendly event exemplifies our enduring commitment to a healthy West Michigan. Celebrate with 600+ runners and walkers as we honor our organization's legacy of making a lasting difference in the health of our communities. Your participation contributes to our community health and wellness programs.

To learn more, visit uofmhealthwest.org/5K

Presented by  **LMCU**TM



Bid & Benefit | September 13 | Goei Center

Good health begins with a great primary care physician. Join the Foundation's impACT Board of Directors for Bid & Benefit as we celebrate how UM Health-West is advancing health in West Michigan and learn how you can access compassionate, innovative primary care where you need it, when you need it. Bid & Benefit will feature both a silent and live auction with all proceeds benefiting the critical work of the Foundation.

To learn more, visit uofmhealthwest.org/bidbenefit



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616.252.5000 | UofMHealthWest.org/foundation



VITALITY
GALA 2023

Presented By  **BUIST ELECTRIC**
Raising The Standard

Saturday, April 22, 2023
DeVos Place



Learn more and buy tickets at UofMHealthWest.org/gala