



University Outreach and Engagement

Organizational Chart | June 2026

Kwesi Brookins
Vice Provost
University Outreach and Engagement

Elyse L. Aurbach
Assistant Provost
University Outreach and Engagement

Office for Public Engagement and Scholarship
Burton A. Bargerstock, Executive Director

Miles A. McNall, Director for Community-Engaged Research

Diane Doberneck, Director for Faculty and Professional Development

Jessica V. Barnes-Najor, Director for Community Partnerships

C. Kurt Dewhurst, Director for Arts and Cultural Partnerships

Marsha McDowell, Director, Michigan Traditional Arts Program

- Conducts institutional research
 - Recognizes exemplary community-engaged work
 - Supports MSU leadership in advancing the advocacy and scholarship of engagement
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- Supports and consults on the design, implementation, and assessment of collaborative research
 - Consults on broader impacts
 - Community Evaluation Programs
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- Coordinates and provides educational opportunities that build capacity for community-engaged scholarship
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- Fosters and facilitates networks of community partners
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- Fosters and supports collaborative arts and cultural partnerships
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- Advances cross-cultural understanding through the documentation, preservation, support, and presentation of traditional arts, folklife, and everyday culture in Michigan

Center for Community and Economic Development
John Melcher, Interim Director

- Creates, applies, and disseminates valued knowledge in community and economic development
- Supports responsive engagement and collaborative learning in community and economic development

Center for Community Engaged Learning
(Jointly reporting to Student Life and Engagement)
Renee Miller Zientek, Executive Director

- Supports faculty, instructors, and community partners in their community-engaged learning efforts
- Facilitates academic community engagement opportunities
- Provides beyond-the-classroom community engagement and student volunteer programs

College Access Initiatives
Susan L. Sheth, Interim Director

- Provides opportunities for low-income students to receive a college education at a post-secondary institution

Communication and Information Technology
Burton A. Bargerstock, Director

- Provides the public with access to university expertise and resources
- Develops publications, websites and information systems, public/media relations, and event coordination on engagement initiatives
- Coordinates MSU Science Festival

Engaged Research and Evaluation Center
Jamie Heng-Chieh Wu, Director

- Conducts research and evaluation focusing on early childhood, out-of-school time, and preschool education

Gifted and Talented Education
Susan L. Sheth, Director

- Offers differentiated educational programs for students in middle school and high school

Julian Samora Research Institute
Manuel Chavez, Interim Director

- Researches, evaluates, and supports the social, economic, educational, and political condition of Latino communities

MSU Detroit Center
Jena Baker-Calloway, Director

- Acts as a hub for MSU programs, activities, opportunities, and research partnerships in Detroit

Native American Institute
Kevin Leonard, Director

- Supports scholarship, programming, and research with practical applications in American Indian and Indigenous contexts
- Collaborates with tribes, American Indian communities, and Native organizations