



THE HERBERT H. &
GRACE A. DOW COLLEGE OF
**HEALTH
PROFESSIONS**
CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Dear Alumni and Friends,

What an exciting year it has been! Our students continue to be at the heart of everything we do, and we could not be prouder of their enthusiasm, dedication, and accomplishments. From the classroom and clinical settings to research and community service, our students are learning, leading, and making a difference as they prepare for meaningful careers in the health professions.

We are also excited about the momentum behind our research and scholarly activities in the College. Research funding has grown, along with the number of publications and professional presentations by our faculty and students. These accomplishments reflect a vibrant culture of discovery and collaboration. We look forward to seeing where this work takes us next.

Our commitment to community engagement is just as strong. Through partnerships, service, outreach, and hands-on experiences, our students and faculty are putting their knowledge into action and helping improve the health and well-being of the communities we serve.

Most of all, thank you to our alumni. Your encouragement, mentorship, generosity, and continued connection make a real difference. You are an important part of our success, and we are grateful to have you with us as we prepare the next generation of health professionals.

We have much to celebrate, and even more to look forward to!

Jennifer M. Simpson

Dean, The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow College of Health Professions

Central Michigan University

CHP The Numbers

Enrolled:

**2,000
students**

Graduated:

**641
students**

Carls Center:

**5,759 patient
encounters**

**Simulation
Center**

**1,466
sessions**

**Scholarships:
Over
\$100,000
awarded**

**Donor
Support:
\$359,598**

**Grants:
\$1,628,199**

**Information pertains to the fiscal year July 2025- June 2026*



Research

The College of Health Professions launched a new interdisciplinary journal, Health Research and Education Innovation (HREI). It is published quarterly, with the second issue publishing in fall 2026.

To read the journal, [click here](#).

In 2025-2026, CHP had 85 external peer-reviewed publications, 7 of which co-authored with students.

The 2026 Annual Gary and Barbara (Anderson) Russell Research Symposium showcased 52 posters and 3 presentations - that's a new record!

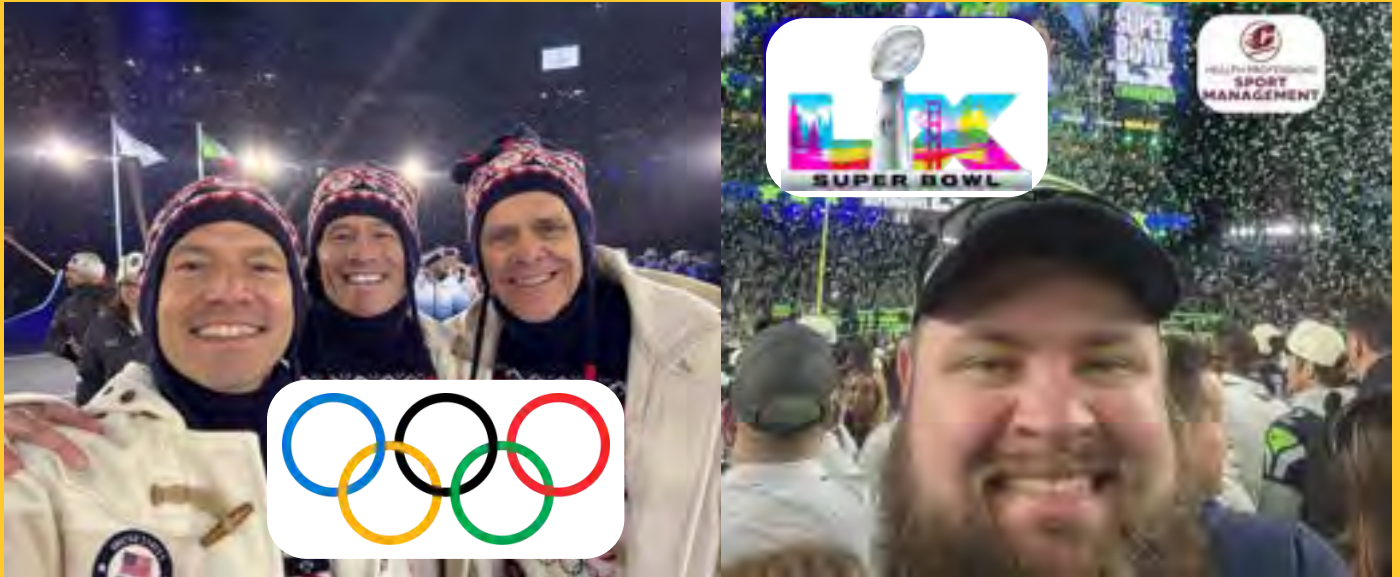
School Updates



Health Sciences

Public health student organization, Eta Sigma Gamma (ESG), received a Chapter Excellence Award, the highest honor among the over 85 chapters can receive from the National Eta Sigma Gamma.

As of December 2025, in collaboration with the Carls Center for Clinical Care and Education, the Exercise & Health Sciences Division began to deliver the addition of DEXA (Dual-Energy X-ray Absorptiometry) scanning to its range of health services, offering valuable insights for overall health and well-being.



Physical Education & Sport

Alumni representation for Physical Education and Sport at several marquee events including the MiLB World Series, NFL Super Bowl, and Olympic Movement



Physician Assistant

The PA program celebrated its 30th year and 57 new students. Representative Jerry Neyer presented a Special Tribute from the State of Michigan.



Communication Sciences & Disorders

Summer Special Clinic (SSC) celebrated its 80th year.

Dr. Nicole Ferguson received an inaugural CMU Go Grant in 2025 for her project "CMU Audiology & Michigan Lions Bear Lake Camp Partnership" and shared her work at the 2026 CMU GoGrant Symposium in February.



Physical Therapy

A new chairperson was appointed! Dr. Weiqing "Way" Ge joined the department during the summer as Dr. Deborah Silkwood-Sherer retires from her chair and faculty position.

Several student groups were involved in activities like meeting state representatives to learn about legislation with the American Physical Therapy Association. Others traveled to the 2026 Combined Sections Meeting in Anaheim, California, where they presented research.



Nursing

The nursing program has taken off this past year! It was even featured with Dean Simpson and Dr. Kechibyere “Kechi” Iheduru-Anderson in the Fall 2026 issue of the university’s alumni magazine, *Centralight*. To read more about the program, [click here](#).



Nutrition & Dietetics

50th anniversary of the program
Leslie Hildebrandt retired after 30 years of service

Development & Advancement

The college raised an astounding \$359,598 during this last academic year. We cannot thank our donors enough for the support.

New Scholarships & Endowments:

- Charlie Bachman Scholarship for Passionate Nurses
- Ferguson Family Scholarship for Audiology
- Gary and Barbara (Anderson) Russell Mobile Clinic Fund
- Towsley Foundation grant for Mobile Health Central



Community Engagement

The 2026 Annual Gary and Barbara (Anderson) Russell Research Symposium included a silent auction! The proceeds will go to the Research Fund for future projects. Following its success in 2026, the silent auction is expected to return next year in support of future CHP research initiatives.

Mobile Health Central participated in 25 events including health screenings, community health fairs, and 16 healthcare service events.



2025-2026 Awards

Dr. Erica Zambarano, Dr. Chris Hamlyn, and Audrey Shaw recently received teaching excellence awards.

Save the Date

*We are excited to share several events planned for the coming academic year.
Dates and event details are tentative and subject to change.*

- Research Symposium sponsored by Gary and Barbara (Anderson) Russell | Wednesday, April 7, 2027
- Great Lakes Health Administration Case Competition | Spring 2027

Support the College of Health Professions today!

We'd love to hear from you!

Have a career milestone, promotion, award, publication, retirement, or personal update you'd like featured in a future newsletter?

Email: CHP@cmich.edu



College of Health Professions Alumni Newsletter

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