

Wright State University

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The Guardian Student Newspaper

Student Activities

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12-14-2020

## The Guardian, Week of December 14, 2020

Wright State Student Body

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Weekly Horoscopes  
Star Signer  
December 14, 2020

When do you think it is okay to start listening to holiday music? Whenever you decide, this is the song you will get stuck in your head this holiday season based on your zodiac sign.

## **ARIES**

Deck the Halls

## **TAURUS**

White Christmas

## **GEMINI**

12 Days of Christmas

## **CANCER**

Hanukkah O Hanukkah

## **LEO**

Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer

## **VIRGO**

Frosty the Snowman

## **LIBRA**

Silver Bells

## **SCORPIO**

Do You Hear What I hear

**The Wright State**  
**GUARDIAN**  
**MEDIA GROUP**

**SAGITTARIUS**

All I want for Christmas is you

**CAPRICORN**

That's Christmas to me

**AQUARIUS**

You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch

**PISCES**

Santa Clause is coming to town.

# The Wright State GUARDIAN

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Faculty Cuts Create Tense Atmosphere at Faculty Senate Meeting

Nicolas BenVenuto

December 14, 2020

On Dec. 7 the Wright State University (WSU) Faculty Senate met and discussed coronavirus updates for winter break, proposed faculty cuts and a reimagined university setting.

## **Coronavirus news**

Taking the floor first, WSU President Sue Edwards spoke to the Faculty Senate about the latest coronavirus news and ensured the Senate that communication over winter break will continue.

“We are in close communication with the Ohio Gov., and will continue to keep students and staff updated of the latest coronavirus news via email throughout winter break,” said Edwards.

## **Faculty reductions**

Edwards also discussed the proposed faculty cuts announced in a communications email on Nov. 12.

“This has not happened overnight. Our enrollment has continued to decline, and I have certainly spoken to the faculty senate about this in my time here. At this time, we simply have too many faculty members for the number of students we have enrolled,” said Edwards.

These reductions in workforce didn’t come as an easy decision for the university’s administration.

“This is certainly not where we want to be, where any of us want to be, but this is where we are,” said Edwards.

Edwards declined to answer any questions on the topic of faculty reductions, as at this time those questions are premature.

Immediately following statements made by Edwards, AAUP-WSU President and Faculty Senator Dr. Noeleen McIlvenna raised numerous complaints about the university’s administration, in what she calls their continued efforts to attack tenure and an overall lack of direction by administrators.

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“What happens to academic freedom in this reimagined university?” said Dr. McIlvenna to Interim Provost Dr. Douglas Leaman. “The enrollment projection model that all of this information is based on, doesn’t even have a covariate. How do you defend these statistics?”

## **Faculty/student ratio**

Associate professor and Faculty Senator Amelia Hubbard raised a concern regarding WSU’s projected faculty to student ratio, stating that currently the university is sitting at the national average.

“The President says that we have too many faculty members for the amount of students that we have,” said Hubbard. “Can you tell us a range of how many millions need to be saved? What is the appropriate student to faculty ratio that the administration believes we need to reach? The national center for education statistics states 18:1 is the national average for students to faculty, and the Wright State website states 2020 enrollment as 12,234 students with 684 full-time faculty. This is right at that 18:1 ratio.”

Interim Provost Dr. Douglas Leaman responded to Senator Hubbard’s question.

“We are looking at what is needed to serve our student population. There is not a magical number there, and this not something that I am pushing from the top down. This is something that’s going to come out of the discussions as to what’s needed within the units,” said Provost Leaman

## **Next meeting**

The next scheduled Faculty Senate meeting will take place on Monday, Jan. 25, 2021 at 2:30 p.m. in room E156 of the Student Union Endeavor room.

Breaking: Student Accused of WSU Sexual Assaults in Jail

Makenzie Hoeflerlin

December 14, 2020

A 28-year-old male and WSU student, Zachary Turner, is facing two separate charges of abduction and felonious assault, according to the Fairborn Municipal Court records.

Turner was arrested Friday, according to Greene County Jail booking records.

## **Two Sexual Assault Cases**

On Oct. 20, a woman reported to WSU police that she was kidnapped, had a knife held to her neck, was handcuffed for four hours, and sexually assaulted in Turner's campus apartment, according to the Dayton Daily News.

Just three days later, another woman reached out to university police, also saying she had been sexually assaulted in Turner's apartment on Oct. 9, according to the court records.

Wright State police issued a warrant for Turner's arrest, and on Friday he was arrested and put in custody around 6:30 p.m.

Turner is a psychology major at WSU, living in the Village Apartments on WSU's campus before the arrest.

Wright State Police have trespassed Turner from campus, according to WSU Director of Communications Seth Bauguess.

## **A student's perspective**

"I've been living in The Village for four years now," a Village resident wishing to remain anonymous said. "I first met Mr. Turner last year when he approached me while I was out front of building 2050. He asked me about a game I was playing, and proceeded to inquire about selling me prescription pills and how he was low on cash at the time. Being that this was the first time we had ever spoken I was alarmed and told him I didn't need any of that in my life and proceeded to walk back into the building."

"From the first moment he approached me, I knew there was something off about him. I had never been approached by a stranger in the way he approached me. This goes to show that

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sometimes you have no idea who the people living in your apartment complex really are. It's scary."

*This source has been kept anonymous to assure their safety.*

## **WSU's response and safety tips**

Wright State was contacted for a comment regarding the following incidents. *The Wright State Guardian* was directed to a previous email sent by Wright State containing an informational safety bulletin.

The informational safety bulletin reminded all students of university policy regarding sexual activities and gave safety tips such as trusting your instincts and using caution on dating websites.

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Raiders Bounce Back with Huge Win Over Miami

William Baptist

December 14, 2020

After suffering a tough loss against Marshall on Dec. 3, Wright State University (WSU) had a quick turnaround on Dec. 5 and beat Miami 71-47.

“I don’t handle losing well and I dislike losing much more than I like winning. I don’t like to be around people that don’t dislike it,” said Head Coach Scott Nagy in a postgame press conference.

## Defense

The Raiders dominated Miami inside all game, and led in points in the paint by a wide margin of 40-22.

Wright State’s defense looked completely different from the game against Marshall. They forced 8 turnovers in the first 10 minutes of the game and held the RedHawks to 27% from the field for the entire game.

“Defensively we were really good. This is really what I’ve foreseen for our team...Two of our top players, Tanner and Loudon, didn’t really have very good games and we were still able to win because we guarded so well,” said Nagy in a postgame press conference.

## Offense

Trey Calvin led the way on offense finishing the game with 16 points, 5 rebounds and 3 assists, and shooting 4 for 8 from beyond the arc.

Tim Finke had a huge all-around game with 13 points, 11 rebounds, 6 assists and 2 steals.

“It felt good to get out there, more so focusing on the defensive end and crashing the boards too. I think that’s something where I can really help the team out and give us a little spark of energy on that side of the ball,” said Finke in a postgame press conference.

Grant Basile had a big game off the bench with 14 points, 6 rebounds and 3 blocks in only 17 minutes of action.



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The reigning Horizon League Player of the Year, Loudon Love, was held in check with 11 points and 7 rebounds.

The Raiders will have their first road test against Bowling Green on Dec. 13 before they enter conference play on the road against Detroit Mercy on Dec. 19.

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Board of Trustees: Student Wellness, Coronavirus and Spring Break  
Kaitlyn Chrosniak  
December 15, 2020

On Dec. 10, the Wright State University (WSU) Board of Trustees met virtually for the final time this semester, discussing Student Advocacy and Wellness, coronavirus testing and tentative spring semester plans.

## **Student wellness**

The Student Advocacy and Wellness Center relocated to 051 Student Union this semester, where resources such as the food pantry and case management are provided.

“This semester, so far, we’ve had 354 cases. Last year for the entire 12 months, we had 562 management cases,” said Associate Director of Student Advocacy Destiny Biesemeyer.

Biesemeyer went on to address the success of Student Advocacy and Wellness’ donation projects and the services they provide before going into how the office is able to sustain itself financially.

“Since 2016, we’ve brought in over \$900,000 in grants to the university. Sustained dialogue is something that we’re hoping to get off the ground here shortly as well. This will help contribute to our inclusive excellence mission, and bring in a lot of peers to create this space of inquisitive, respectful dialogue,” said Biesemeyer.

## **Coronavirus testing**

In November, WSU began to roll out a pilot program to test asymptomatic students in order to comply with state health official’s request for colleges to perform random testing in the spring semester. The program consisted of randomly testing over 300 students considered “at-risk” on campus.

“We only had about a 15% no show rate...” said WSU Provost Dr. Douglas Leaman. “So this was very encouraging, and we don’t have unexpected or unidentified hotspots within our population at this point.”

The plan for moving forward with asymptomatic testing next semester is still in the works.

## **Spring semester and beyond**

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Leaman also addressed various concerns regarding the plans for the spring semester during the public session.

“All commencement ceremonies will be virtual now, in terms of the spring academic calendar, and many other schools are either altering the semester start date or are opting to cancel their spring break as a way to try and minimize COVID spread on campus. We currently have no plans to do either,” said Leaman.

Leaman went on to address how spring break is vital for WSU students’ mental health before addressing the tentative plans for the summer semester.

“So looking forward to summer again, summer schedules have already been planned and we asked the schedulers to carry forward the delivery similar to what we’ve done this fall and what plan to spring,” said Leaman.

Currently, the plan is to keep the majority of courses online with a selection being offered hybrid or face-to-face when possible.

The next public session for the Board of Trustees is scheduled to take place virtually on Feb. 19 at 9:00 a.m.

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Women's Basketball Team Secures First Win of Season

William Baptist

December 15, 2020

The Wright State University (WSU) women's basketball team got their first victory of the season on the road against Detroit Mercy 75-55.

## Season history

The Raiders had a tough schedule to open the season, after coming up short against Bradley 61-66, then falling to Michigan 59-82.

Their first victory came at the perfect time because it was the first game of their conference schedule, so the Raiders started off with a win in the Horizon League.

## The game

WSU was led by junior guard K.K. White off the bench, who led the team with 18 points, and chipped in 4 rebounds, 2 assists and 4 blocks.

The Raiders dominated the first half with a score of 42-22, led by their smothering defense.

WSU held Detroit Mercy to 30.6% from the field for the entire game and forced 13 turnovers.

Points in the paint was a big story throughout the game, with the Raiders securing 34 to Detroit Mercy's 24.

The bench was huge in this game with 39 points and due to the blowout victory, every single player got in the game.

Rebounding was a major difference led by Tyler Frierson, who pitched in 12 points, 11 rebounds and 3 assists.

The Raiders outrebounded them 58-30, and had a total of 18 offensive rebounds.

The rebounds led to WSU getting 19 second chance points, while Detroit Mercy only had 12 second chance points.

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Alexis Stover, who was second on the team in rebounds, had a solid all-around game with 8 points, 7 rebounds and 2 assists.

Angel Baker, who was on the Horizon League All-First Team last season, had 7 points, 4 rebounds and 6 assists.

For the remainder of the season, WSU will face Horizon League opponents.

Due to the conference schedules forcing teams to play the same opponent on back-to-back days, the Raiders will face Detroit Mercy again on Dec. 13.

## Book Suggestions Based On TV Shows You Like

Ariel Parker

December 16, 2020

Many books have turned into TV shows over the years, but sometimes the plot of two separate pieces of media can remind you of the other, even if they are not the same. Below is a list of books that are similar to a TV show, and if you like the one you will likely enjoy the other.

### **If you like the TV show “Dark”, try “If, Then” by Kate Hope Day**

This German sci-fi show follows the lives of several people in a small town after two boys go missing. We have more questions than answers as we jump back-and-forth between timelines, and learn more about the interesting characters and their dark pasts.

Similarly, time gets a little wonky in Day’s debut novel, where we follow several characters in a small Oregonian town as their lives become entangled when it is predicted a volcano is set to erupt soon. The settings in both the show and the book are just as much as the main character, and you will quickly feel immersed in the two worlds.

### **If you like the TV show “Grand Army,” try “I’m Not Dying with You Tonight” by Kimberly Jones and Gilly Segal**

At the core of both of these stories are teenagers that are trying to live their lives while outside forces push them to go through very emotional, high-tension events. The Netflix show follows a large cast of characters from all different backgrounds who go to a public school in New York City, and when a bomb goes off close to the premises, several little bombs erupt in their own lives.

In the YA novel by Jones and Segal, we follow what happens after a race riot breaks out during a high school football game and a black girl and a white girl have to stick together to make it out alive. Both novels deal with issues that affect today’s teens and touch on the important issues of race, class and privilege. Jones also made headlines this summer when a video of her detailing why the Black Lives Matter protests were so necessary and justified blew up on social media.

### **If you like the TV show “Russian Doll,” try “Neverworld Wake” by Marisha Pessl**

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The Netflix series follows a woman who keeps dying on her birthday before waking up to relive the day and its terrible circumstances over and over.

Similarly, Pessl's novel is about a group of teens who used to be friends, and after a fatal accident that leaves them in a world between life and death, they have to relive the same 11 hours until they unanimously decide which among them will live again. Both the show and the book will push you to the edge of your seat as you wait to see what will happen next.

## **If you like “Gravity Falls,” try “The Hollow Places” by T. Kingfisher**

“Gravity Falls” is a children’s cartoon show that follows a summer in two sibling’s lives working at their wacky Grunkle Stan’s Mystery Shack and if you like the wacky characters and memorable setting, Kingfisher’s novel will fit the bill.

The novel follows a recently divorced woman who, while looking after her uncle’s taxidermy museum, finds a hole in the wall that leads to an alternate dimension. It is easy to see how it is similar to the shenanigans that also go on in “Gravity Falls.”

Due to its adult themes and language, Kingfisher’s horror novel is not something recommended for children, but if you have grown up searching for something similar in setting and tone, then it will be perfect for fans of the Disney show.

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From The Frontlines: Contact Tracers

Maxwell Patton

December 16, 2020

Many students at Wright State University (WSU) are serving as contact tracers during the coronavirus pandemic, working with local health departments to contact infected individuals while gaining important life skills.

Gaining this experience was one reason that shift supervisor Nick Johnson applied to be a contact tracer.

“I wanted to do a job that was meaningful for me in that I could impact the community, but also one that would help me later on in my career,” said Johnson.

Students in the contact tracing program work with county health departments in the Miami Valley to contact those infected with the coronavirus. Contact tracers Allison Osborne-Nurse and Aditi Gadhvi work with Miami and Warren County, respectively.

## **Supplying and gathering information**

The tracers, while mapping out who these cases have come in contact with, guide them as they fight the disease.

“We have to collect demographic information, family history, and general information about how they think they might’ve gotten COVID, if they’ve traveled anywhere and who they’ve been in contact with, which is the big question,” said Osborne-Nurse.

Contact tracers determine who has been in contact with the infected person since they started showing symptoms, and collect identifying information about any contacts they have had. Those individuals are then informed of what they should be doing next.

“Either we contact them and let them know that they’ve been in contact [with the infected person] and ask them to quarantine at home or now, because of the large influx of new cases, a lot of the time, we give the person who is positive for COVID the tools to do their own contact tracing, to let their own people know that they’ve been exposed and to stay home,” said Johnson.

## **A typical day**



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Shifts for contact tracers and supervisors all occur remotely. A normal day for Johnson usually involves looking over changes in procedure from the health departments along with assignments for the day. Johnson also determines whether any special outbreaks need to be attended to, a process known in the medical field as triaging.

“We go through and find where you can make the most impact with the people that you do have, and then assign the tracers based off of that,” said Johnson. “Throughout the shift, we’re also providing a source of support because wacky, weird and crazy things do happen.”

## **Keeping track of calls**

The contact tracers have to document every call, completed case and contact on a spreadsheet. Near the ends of their shifts, they will contact those who were left voicemails.

“If again I don’t reach them, there’s again another place for that data,” said Gadhvi. “I’ll enter that data and that way, they are being sent the isolation/quarantine letter that they needed.”

These letters are sent through emails to individuals who have been contacted. If the tracers are not able to reach them, the health department sends the letters through the mail.

Contact tracers such as Gadhvi and Osborne-Nurse typically make between 11 and 15 phone calls to contacts every shift.

As winter approaches and cases have been on the rise, the tracers have consistently stayed busy as more Ohioans test positive for the coronavirus

“There are so many cases every day,” said Gadhvi. “The sheet is always full. I’m like ‘okay, I have accomplished so much today’ and when I open it tomorrow, it’s the same thing tomorrow.”

Gadhvi finished her semester in November and now works 20 hours a week doing contact tracing.

COVID Vaccine: Questions and Concerns

Jamie Naylor

December 16, 2020

The US Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) issued the emergency use authorization of the Pfizer coronavirus vaccine, raising questions and concerns for the public.

### **Breakdown of the Pfizer vaccine**

Since beginning development 11 months ago, this vaccine has come under question for its safety and effectiveness, it especially came under fire in the 2020 election cycle.

In regards to the Pfizer vaccine, the CDC and FDA both advocate for its safety and effectiveness, with the CDC claiming that it is 95% effective against preventing Covid-19. The FDA assures the public that the Pfizer vaccine is safe and has few side effects.

According to the CDC, the Pfizer vaccine is an mRNA vaccine that requires two doses about two weeks apart. Those in trials have experienced flu-like symptoms, which is the body's immune system initiating protection against possible coronavirus pathogens.

Despite getting a vaccine, the public will still have to follow covid safety measures and wear masks, especially during the period between the first and second doses.

### **Distribution**

Distribution of the vaccine is proving to be a logistical nightmare. Each state has plans in place to distribute the vaccine, register providers for the vaccine and who is first in line to get the vaccine.

According to Gov. Mike DeWine's plan, Ohio has already ordered 98,475 doses of the Pfizer vaccine to be delivered on or around Dec. 15. Providers for the vaccine will include hospitals, medical institutions, and drug stores like Walgreens.

According to the FDA, the vaccine will be made available to the public at no cost, however, providers can charge their own fees. Most fees will be covered by insurance. The first to get these vaccines will be health care professionals and those in medical institutions.

### **Concerns**

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Despite the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine, there are still concerns. Pfizer is still continuing research and trials to see the vaccine's effect on those under 18, pregnant persons, and how it will impact minority communities.

According to the FDA, Pfizer will continue to conduct clinical trials with these groups in mind to ensure the safest vaccine for these groups.

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Dayton's Not Dead: Connect E-Sports  
Kaitlyn Chrosniak  
December 17, 2020

In Nov. 2020, Connect E-Sports opened its first physical location in Downtown Dayton after offering virtual gaming services to the public for two years prior.

## **The world of E-Sports**

"There are different ways to define esports, but it basically means playing video games in tournaments. (And hopefully winning them and making this a source of income.)," said TechJury journalist Teddy Mitova earlier this year.

The world of E-Sports is growing in popularity from both the gamer and viewer perspective.

"Between 2018 and 2019, there was a 12.3% increase year over year. In 2019, there were 245 million casual viewers and 198 million enthusiasts, making the total audience 443 million," said a representative from the Influencer Marketing Hub earlier this year.

Connect E-Sports owners Bob and Mary Baldino have worked to provide their customers with a great experience virtually for over two years before recently opening their storefront location for in-person gaming.

"We started our business in 2018, but it takes several years for a physical location to open. Over the past two years, we have worked on finding a space, creating an operations plan, and construction to have our storefront in Downtown Dayton," said co-owner Mary Baldino.

## **Connect E-Sports in-person**

Although coronavirus has limited their in-person operations to Friday's and Saturday's through the end of the year, owners Mary and Bob Baldino are still working to offer all of their in person services when they are open.

"We have 20 gaming PC's and 8 Xbox's that anyone can walk in and play the titles we have available by the hour. We also offer organized leagues and tournaments that can be played completely online, an ability to rent out a streaming booth to have access to new streaming equipment that also can connect you to new fans/gamers, and we organize esports events for organizations," said Baldino.



## **Virtual services**

Connect E-Sports offers an app called At Home in which people can register for upcoming tournaments and compete from home.

“Once registration is complete, Connect E-Sports will organize a bracketing system, and communicate the private lobby information to players. Designated team captains record wins and losses with Connect E-Sports, and winners are determined. Prizes for leagues or tournaments can range from cash prizes to hours for your Connect E-Sports account,” said Baldino. “A few online events we have coming up is a NYE online tournament (full details still to come), as well as two full leagues to start in January for Rocket League and Counter-Strike.”

For more information on Connect E-Sports, follow the Connect E-Sports Facebook page or go to: <https://connectesports.com/>

419 Alive: Simply Natural Aromatherapy  
Roxanne Roessner  
December 17, 2020

Simply Natural Aromatherapy is an alternative and holistic health service located in Coldwater, OH. The business focuses on services such as massage, aromatherapy, ionic foot detoxes, Reiki and iridology.

## **The history**

In September 2017, owner Amber Evers decided that they wanted to share alternative practices to help people in the community.

Evers was a nurse previously and they still keep their license active, though they do not practice. This knowledge, combined with dabbling in essential oils, lead Evers to branch out into different practices such as Reiki and Craniosacral Therapy.

Each member of Simply Natural Aromatherapy is self-employed and focuses on specific aspects of alternative therapy.

Sonia Ebbing focuses on massage therapy and Craniosacral Therapy while Michelle Kahlig specializes in iridology, Reiki and RBT.

## **Services provided**

The most popular services booked are the ionic foot detox and the massages.

According to Evers, most people choose these options because they are familiar. They believe that people are typically skeptical towards new things, but know that the services provided are worth looking into.

“I’ve been there on several occasions. I received a massage and I’ve also done the foot detox,” said local resident Lillian Brookhart.

The shop also has a wide variety of essential oils, roll-on’s, diffuser blends and bath salts for customers to purchase.

“It’s interesting to see the stock of essential oils that they keep. I like to diffuse some oils to make the house smell nice, but I don’t do it for any natural healing purposes,” said Brookhart.



## **The community's response**

Local resident Vickie Umstead enjoys their time at Simply Natural Aromatherapy and has found that alternative practices help them.

"The staff is genuine and when you walk into Amber's business, you get a sense of relief and calmness. It's hard to explain if you haven't physically been into Natural Aromatherapy. It's almost like they take whatever you're feeling, lift it off your shoulders and toss it out the window," said Umstead.

According to Evers, individuals are urged to book their appointments early due to their appointment schedule.

"Most people wait until they're in pain to book with us, but it's not guaranteed that we can fit you in right away. It's best to book early, before it becomes an emergency," said Evers.

## **Contact information**

Simply Natural Aromatherapy is open Monday through Saturday. Their hours are Monday by appointment only. Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Individuals can find Simply Natural Aromatherapy at [www.simplynaturalaroma.com](http://www.simplynaturalaroma.com), on their Facebook at Simply Natural Aromatherapy, and at their location, 217 West Main Street Coldwater, OH.



Dayton Earns Highest Score in LGBTQ Inclusion For Fourth Year

Noah Kindig

December 17, 2020

Dayton has earned the highest possible score for LGBTQ Inclusion according to the human rights index for the fourth year in a row.

The Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index ranked 506 cities across the United States, with Dayton being one of the record 94 cities this year to earn the highest score.

"The results of this year's Municipality Equality Index show definitive evidence that our local leaders across the nation are standing up for equality," said Alphonso David, President of Human Rights Campaign Foundation.

### **How did this start?**

Before the City of Dayton was getting perfect scores, they had to start somewhere.

"Before the City of Dayton was included in the program officially, we started using their scoresheet... to see how we would do," said Kery Gray, LGBTQ Liaison for the City of Dayton. "In 2014, we began using their scoresheet to identify the things that we should be doing... we figured that we would get a score in the high 70s."

However, the city quickly rose in the ranks, and earned its first perfect score in 2016.

"We looked at it in terms of best practices," Gray said. "We looked at what we were already doing, as well as what we needed to be better at... It was an effort to make sure our city did a little better."

### **What has changed?**

In recent years, Dayton has implemented a number of new policies in order to advocate for its LGBTQ citizens.

"In the past decade, the overall culture has become more accepting of LGBTQ folks and with that acceptance has come policy changes and interest in making Dayton more inclusive for LGBTQ people," said Emily Yantis-Houser, Associate Director of LGBTQ Affairs at Wright State.



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“One of our changes was the creation of the Liaison position in the mayor’s office and the police department,” Gray said. “We also encouraged the Commission to become more active in advocating for LGBTQ issues.”

However, the political climate has gotten worse for LGBTQ residents in the past few years on both the local and national level.

“Unfortunately, the overall political climate of the past 4 years has not been friendly to the LGBTQA community. I do believe that has impacted the local climate and I know that LGBTQA people continue to face discrimination in our community which I’m sure young people have experienced,” Yantis-Houser said. “The national climate for LGBTQA people, particularly transgender/non-binary people, has absolutely gotten worse with healthcare and military discrimination and the continued murder of more trans people every year.”

## **What’s next?**

Even with the political climate becoming worse, there are victories to look forward to.

“On the other hand, things have improved with the Supreme Court’s decision to federally protect sexual orientation and gender identity in employment under the Civil Rights Act,” Yantis-Houser said. “And things continue to improve locally with the public health initiatives... We keep working for that equity and inclusion.”

With Dayton and Wright State University leading the charge, the future does look bright.

“Although we continue to struggle, the support for LGBTQA students and community in the Dayton region is immense and continues to grow daily,” Yantis-Houser said. “It is important to provide support and care to one another as we face continuous struggles and discrimination, especially those of us who hold roles like mine and are here to support students and young people.”

Political Yard Signs: What Happens Now?

Roxanne Roessner

December 18, 2020

For the past year, residents around the Lake Campus have set up political signs and flags to show their political preferences. Locals are unsure of what others will do with their yards after Joe Biden goes into office on Jan. 20.

### **Student Opinion**

Wright State University (WSU) student Chanel Walls does not have any political signs, but they appreciate those who have them on display.

“I would assume that some people will keep them, but if they’re disposable I’m sure they will throw them out,” said Walls.

According to Walls, they have respect for a home in Coldwater that has their front lawn covered in Trump 2020 yard signs, flags and a cardboard cutout of Donald Trump.

### **Celina Resident**

Celina resident Jacob Buehler’s home has signs that do not support any candidate for the 2020 election. Their property has a mannequin Donald Trump in a money suit along with several flags expressing their dislike for President Trump.

Buehler was contacted by the Celina police to take down some of his flags that were considered offensive to others in the area.

“They were actually pretty reasonable. They said that they only cared because someone called in and threatened to do something if I didn’t take them down,” said Buehler.

Buehler still has the flags up.

### **Coldwater Resident**

Lillian Brookhart, a resident of Coldwater, believes that people will keep their political displays up even after Joe Biden takes office in Jan.

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“I wouldn’t be surprised if people left signs out as a show of protest from this election. It has been so controversial, in some opinions, but I guess that’s what yard signs are all about. They are meant to express your opinion and who you support,” said Brookhart.

A Coldwater water tower has a Trump 2020 banner along with a pro-life banner to show the owner’s views.

According to Brookhart, they would not be surprised if the banners stayed up in support of Trump, win or lose.

Declining Enrollment: Monetary Effects of Covid and Relief Funds

Nicolas BenVenuto

December 18, 2020

During both the Faculty Senate meeting on Dec. 7, and the Board of Trustees meeting on Dec. 10, concerns were raised on declining enrollment and the monetary side effects of the coronavirus.

## **Enrollment**

According to the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, enrollment rates at postsecondary establishments are down from last year in all institutional sectors. These sectors include community colleges, private nonprofit four-year colleges, public four-year colleges and private for-profit four-year colleges.

Public, four-year institutions across the nation have seen an overall decline of 1.9% in enrollment since the beginning of the coronavirus in March 2020.

The WSU website lists 2020 enrollment at 12,234 total students.

“We are still 5 weeks out so we are keeping a close eye on [enrollment], however we budgeted similarly to that of the Fall at around -22%,” said Director of University Fiscal Services Summer Todd during the Board of Trustees meeting on Dec. 10.

Heading into the spring semester, the university is still expecting lower than usual enrollment rates, but are nonetheless continuing efforts to raise these numbers.

“We are currently tracking being down 18% for enrollment heading into Spring. We budgeted for 9,455 students, so we still have some ground to make up, but if it’s anything like fall semester I’m hoping to see that we will be better than budget,” said Todd.

Professor and Faculty Senator Dawn Wooley brought awareness to the Nutter Center and the Boonshoft School of Medicine, as a possible means to get involved in the coronavirus vaccination process.

“Since we have a Medical School, and neighboring Montgomery County is in the purple with high numbers of COVID-19 cases, has there been any thought to putting in a bid for Wright State to be a center for vaccination, leveraging our expertise and using the Nutter Center? This

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could be an opportunity for positive public relations and a possible increase in enrollment,” said Wooley during the Dec. 7 Faculty Senate meeting.

WSU Interim Provost Dr. Douglas Leaman agreed with Senator Wooley.

“Wright State will be involved in the vaccination process. I don’t have specific details, but we are partnering with Greene County on this and we will be involved. We will most certainly be involved, and we need to be a focus in these efforts,” said Provost Leaman.

WSU President Sue Edwards was in agreement with both Senator Wooley and Provost Leaman.

“The Nutter Center has already been approved as a possible overflow location, but at this point they are choosing to go with a more central Montgomery county-based overflow. Nonetheless we are still on call because we have the structure put in place,” said President Edwards.

## **Relief funds**

In November, WSU received \$2,726,577 in Coronavirus Relief Funds granted by the Ohio Department of Higher Education for use in offsetting expenses incurred as a result of addressing the coronavirus.

A motion to approve use of these funds was voted on during the WSU Board of Trustees meeting on Dec. 10.

The motion to use these funds as such was unanimously approved, however specifics on when and how this money was not given.

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WSU Ranked Among Top Online Military-Friendly Colleges

Maxwell Patton

December 18, 2020

The website OnlineU recently ranked the Dayton, Ohio campus of Wright State University (WSU) as one of the top online military-friendly schools in the country due to its military culture and financial aid.

## **Background on the list**

The list, which was published on Nov. 10, shows the 100 best online schools in the U.S. for students who are currently part of the armed forces, though it also applies to others connected to it.

“Our best military-friendly ranking highlights schools that are dedicated to serving the unique needs of military service members, veterans, and their families,” said OnlineU representative Adria Vaughan.

WSU is located in spot number 50 out of those 100 schools, situated between Western Washington University at 51 and San Antonio’s University of the Incarnate Word at 49. The university occupying the top spot on the list is Georgia State University.

Universities could be considered for this list if they offered at least one online bachelor’s degree program and took part in the federal government’s Tuition Assistance Program, and over 450 institutions were included.

## **How the rankings were determined**

The ranking of those schools depended on four criteria: military culture, support, financial aid and flexibility.

A total of 15 data points, which were based on these criteria, were assessed for each university, and each category was given a specific weight after the data was entered into an algorithm. Military culture and financial aid were weighted the most during the scoring process.

Military culture, in terms of the ranking, involves how the universities go about giving their students who have served in the military a home where they can be comfortable and thriving in their program of choice.

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The financial aid category is based on the level of benefits, including tuition assistance, scholarships, and discounts, that military students and their families receive and whether or not the college is a member of the Yellow Ribbon program, which helps provide additional benefits.

WSU is a member of that program, according to Veterans and Military Center (VMC) director Seth Gordon.

“All of those things we’ve essentially had passed our audits from the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Ohio Department of Veterans Affairs regarding how we process the G.I. Bill,” said Gordon. “In many years, people will say if you want to know how to process the G.I. Bill right, look at Wright State.”

Gordon said this was almost entirely due to the efforts of VMC associate director Amanda Watkins.

“[She has] built a really strong process and structure to make sure that we process the G.I. Bill right, which is what most veterans want us to do,” said Gordon.

## **Where to go from here**

This data came from the bill’s Comparison Tool, which is provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as a resource to help students in the military make important decisions about their education. That tool is updated every year, gathering data from the Department of Veterans Affairs as well as the Department of Education in order to create its rankings and help students choose the right college.

There is room to improve with what the university offers their military students, according to Gordon, including matching the undergraduate tuition rate for active-duty students to the tuition assistance rate.

However, Gordon said that it is nice for the university to be recognized for the hard work that they have undertaken in order to support these students.

“That’s the cliché thing to say, but it’s true,” said Gordon. “Wright State really cares about military-connected students and veterans, and it very much demonstrates that.”

Liberal arts student Ivan Mallett, who serves in the Army National Guard as an intelligence analyst, is content with WSU being ranked on the list.

“It’s definitely awesome for our university and I think it is well deserved,” said Mallett.

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The VMC has helped him and other military students in their academic careers, and Mallett is grateful for that.

“Even with COVID, the Veteran and Military Center has been very responsive to the needs of military students and have maintained communication with us as well,” said Mallett.