



For Immediate Release
March 7, 2017

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Will Emerson appointed Director of Student Success Initiatives at Michigan Association of State Universities

Dr. Will Emerson has been appointed as Director of Student Success Initiatives at the Michigan Association of State Universities (MASU). In this new position, Emerson will help bolster the statewide student success capacity-building agenda among Michigan's 15 public universities, which collectively enroll nearly 300,000 students. The position will enhance the association's ability to work with the state universities in collaboration with Michigan's K-12 schools, community colleges, independent colleges, and many other stakeholders to improve outcomes related to student success. These include increasing student retention and degree completion rates, especially among populations with large achievement gaps, and strengthening the state universities' capacity to generate postsecondary degrees needed to meet the talent needs and educational attainment goals that are vital to powering Michigan's future economy. The position is being funded in part by a grant from the Kresge Foundation.

Emerson brings with him 14 years of experience in higher education, spanning academic and student affairs, and community outreach at institutions in Ohio and Michigan. In recent years, he has been serving as the Veteran Affairs Coordinator at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, where he founded the Veterans Office. He brings with him an extensive portfolio of experience in services and programs designed to bolster the success of diverse at-risk student populations, and in fostering multi-institution, cross-sector partnerships. In 2016, Emerson received the Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Impact on the Metropolitan Community and University from the University of Michigan-Dearborn. He has served as a faculty member at three institutions, teaching courses in philosophy, history, science and technology, and ethnic studies, and has also taught freshmen development and retention courses. He has also served as an Education Advisor to the 17th Judicial District Veterans Court.

Emerson has earned a Ph.D. and M.A. in American Culture Studies, and a Certificate in Women's Studies from Bowling Green State University; a B.A. in Anthropology/History from the University of Michigan-Dearborn; and an A.A. in English/Antropology from Schoolcraft College. He is also a U.S. Army veteran, and is a recipient of an Army Achievement Medal and National Defense Service Medal.

"We are delighted to have Dr. Emerson join the Association," said MASU CEO Daniel Hurley. "His passion for advancing student success and reputation as a collaborator will go a long way in helping advance a statewide agenda aimed at boosting student retention and degree completion at the state's public universities."

He will begin serving in his role at the Association on March 13.

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The Michigan Association of State Universities serves as the coordinating board for Michigan's 15 public universities. The Association provides advocacy, fosters policy, and facilitates statewide educational initiatives to maximize the collective value these institutions provide in serving the public interest and the state of Michigan.