

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY



CICEP

INNOVATION AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY UNIVERSITIES
AWARDS PROGRAM

CASE
STUDY
2014

Learning with Impact

Of course the core mission of WSU is the education of its students, an education which begins in the traditional classroom, but goes far beyond. WSU's location in the heart of Detroit provides many opportunities for students to apply classroom learning to real-life challenges. Street Medicine Detroit and the Program for Entrepreneurship and Business Law are two programs that underscore the difference Wayne State students are making in Detroit.

STREET MEDICINE DETROIT

Established in 2011 by WSU medical student Jonathan Wong, [Street Medicine Detroit's](#) mission is to ensure access to quality medical care for Detroit's unreached and service resistant homeless population. Street Medicine Detroit (SMD) is based on Dr. Jim Withers' Street Medicine movement that brought medical care to the homeless living on the streets in Pittsburgh in the early 1990s. Detroit is estimated to have approximately 20,000 homeless individuals living in the city. SMD is a collaborative effort between Wayne State University students, health-care professionals, and more than a dozen community organizations in Detroit. Medical student volunteers take part in weekly "Street Runs" by teaming up with a dozen community organizations in Detroit to provide medical services to individuals in shelters, at soup kitchens, or on the streets of Detroit.



Photo courtesy of The South End.

Street Medicine Detroit

In addition to creating a valuable educational and community service opportunity for students, the goals of SMD are to:

- Improve access to quality health care for Detroit's homeless population by engaging potential patients with primary and preventative care, linking patients to local resources, and providing follow-up. The ultimate goal is to connect patients with a primary medical home.
- Address the unique problems of the homeless through a psychosocial and interdisciplinary model of care that looks at each person holistically and focuses on the individual's own goals and needs.
- Promote health literacy, healthier lifestyles, and general well-being.
- Break down stigmas and confront stereotypes by creating a space of positive dialogue and an environment of dignity and respect between the homeless population and the medical world.

Since the program's inception, SMD has conducted approximately 97 street runs, including 373 total patient encounters, 60 of which were follow-ups.

PROGRAM FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND BUSINESS LAW

The [Program for Entrepreneurship and Business Law](#) (PEBL) coordinates Wayne Law's broad array of business law courses, clinics, internships, and extracurricular/co-curricular and community engagement activities. PEBL aims to educate law students while providing a valuable resource to underserved communities and revitalizing the Detroit region's economy. Two of PEBL's notable programs are the Business & Community Law Clinic and the Patent Procurement Law Clinic.

Business & Community Law Clinic

The Business & Community Law Clinic provides free legal assistance with transactional business matters. Its clientele consists of small businesses and low-income entrepreneurs, who desire to start their own business. The Clinic's services include:

- Business entity formation
- Trademark and copyright registration
- Contract drafting and review
- Preparation for tax-exemption status with the Internal Revenue Service
- Review and drafting of commercial real estate documents

The Clinic began serving metropolitan Detroit communities in 2007. It has provided [legal assistance to dozens of for-profit clients](#), including record labels, a day spa, restaurants, technology companies, a bath and body care manufacturer, and a financial literacy company. It has also provided [legal assistance to myriad start-up nonprofit clients](#), including an organization formed to mentor at-risk students, an organization that provides free clothes and other material necessities to low-income people, an organization formed to provide services to children of domestic abuse survivors and public interest environmental law firm.



WSU Business & Community law Clinic

During the 2012-2013 academic year, the Business & Community Law Clinic engaged 45 small businesses, nonprofit organizations, and low-income entrepreneurs to be clients with the Clinic. Students enrolled in the Clinic served as the primary legal counsel for these cases under the supervision of PEBL Director Eric Williams. The Clinic provided over \$70,000 worth of free legal services to these 45 clients.

Patent Procurement Law Clinic

The Patent Procurement Law Clinic is a part of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's (USPTO) Clinic Certification Pilot Program. The Clinic is one of about 24 participating clinics in the country—and the only such clinic in Michigan. Similar to the Business & Community Law Clinic, the Patent Procurement Law Clinic limits its services to low-income inventors, who cannot afford assistance from the private bar. [It first opened its doors to the community in July 2012.](#)

Students in the Clinic engage in all aspects of client work, from interviewing the client, performing the necessary patent searches, and drafting and filing the patent application itself.

During the 2012-2013 academic year, the Patent Procurement Law Clinic engaged 21 clients and provided over \$200,000 worth of free legal assistance. This saved low-income entrepreneurs an average of \$10,000, making them better poised to contribute to the economic revival of Detroit. One of the patent applications filed during that academic year resulted in a successful patent issued by the USPTO on May 27, 2014.

Both Street Medicine Detroit and the Program for Entrepreneurship and Business Law demonstrate WSU's record of developing human capital and connecting theory and practice in learning experiences. These programs also reveal the University's commitment to the social and economic health and wellbeing of the community. By leveraging the talent of its students and applying their skills to solve problems and create opportunities for others, Wayne State University is a catalyst for growth in Detroit and beyond.