

Shirley STANCATO

Democrat for Wayne State University
Board of Governors

My name is Shirley Stancato, and I'm running to retain my seat on the Wayne State University Board of Governors. If elected, I will continue raising Wayne State's reputation as a leading research university that supports both the city of Detroit and the state of Michigan. My priorities include continuing to improve Wayne State's graduation rate; supporting Wayne State students, especially those who come from low-income homes; and helping to keep Wayne State affordable to students who otherwise might believe that higher education is financially out-of-reach.

Wayne State University's Graduation Rate

Wayne State's graduation rate is improving at the fastest pace in the nation, currently ranking among the highest of all urban universities. This is in addition to record-setting improvement in the graduation rate among African-American students. But there is more work to be done. Wayne State is a critical economic, education and innovation pipeline that builds on the city's assets and enhances the region's growth.



Supporting Students

As a first-generation Wayne State alumna, I will ensure that Wayne State remains known for welcoming first-generation students with open arms and providing the resources to keep them enrolled. Wayne State's ability to make students feel like they belong on Day One is what makes the university emblematic of hope and opportunity.

Keeping Higher Education Affordable

Supporting Wayne State's efforts to remain an affordable premier institution of higher learning is vital. The current economic recession in Michigan, brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, will put additional strain on Wayne State's financial resources. I am committed to keeping Wayne State's tuition affordable. That commitment extends to helping the university, which has the lowest tuition rate of Michigan's three major research universities, remain Michigan's premier urban institution of higher learning.



"I enthusiastically endorse Shirley Stancato and Eva Garza-Dewaelsche for Wayne State University Board of Governors. These two women have proven track records of strong leadership and the progressive values to guide the direction of Wayne State University."
- Governor Gretchen Whitmer

"I have known and worked with Shirley for more than 25 years. She understands that very little is accomplished by flying solo; that only when people join forces for the good that powerful, long- lasting change happens. Shirley has an extraordinary ability to find the common thread of agreement woven throughout even the most disparate voices and personalities. She's exactly what Wayne State University needs right now."
- The Honorable Dennis Archer



For almost 20 years, Stancato was president and chief executive officer of New Detroit Inc., metro Detroit's leadership coalition devoted solely to race relations. In this role, she implemented a variety of initiatives designed to eliminate racial disparities in southeast Michigan. Prior to joining New Detroit, Stancato enjoyed a long career at what is now Chase Bank, where she became Senior Vice President. As a banking executive, Stancato led retail banking initiatives, including consumer and mortgage lending, as well as community partnerships throughout southeast Michigan.

In addition, as leader of the bank's foundation, she was responsible for its corporate-giving program, providing support for community initiatives throughout its footprint in Michigan. Stancato serves on several boards including Fifth Third Bank of Eastern Michigan, Coleman A. Young Foundation, Warrior Women Against Poverty, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the Detroit Zoological Commission and is a member of International Women's Forum Michigan. Stancato received both a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and a Master of Arts in Industrial Relations from Wayne State University. In 2017, she received an honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Michigan.

Endorsements Include:

			Former WSU Board of Governor Members Michael Einheuser Eugene Driker Denise J. Lewis Paul Massaron Annetta Miller Gary Pollard Kim Trent			