



- HOME
- NEWS
- TRAVEL
- SPORTS
- FORUMS
- H. S. SPORTS
- LIVING
- ENTERTAINMENT
- JOBS
- AUTOS
- REAL ESTATE
- CLASSIFIEDS

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### BLOGS

#### Kalamazoo Gazette 24/7

- Police chase vehicle on I-94, into Kalamazoo 10:30 p.m. ET
- Crane operator rescued 11:51 a.m. ET
- Fuel prices 10:09 a.m. ET

### TOP STATEWIDE NEWS



Grand Valley State University junior Abbey Brodrick holds a candle during a vigil, held for victims of the Virginia Tech shooting, in Allendale, Mich.

- Complete VT coverage
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#### Kalamazoo Talk

- No it is not and has... by GotOutOfMI 04/17/2007 10:18 p.m. ET
- You can economically... by GotOutOfMI 04/17/2007 9:24 p.m. ET
- ok you are out of... by beachbunns 04/18/2007 6:13 a.m. ET
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## Salary, benefits top \$100K for many state professors

Thursday, April 12, 2007

By Sarah Kellogg  
Gazette News Service

WASHINGTON -- In an attempt to stay competitive nationally, Michigan's colleges and universities increased professors' salaries by an average of 3.5 percent this year, lower than the national average but above wage increases for many Michigan workers.

Full professors at Western Michigan University maintained their ranking as fifth among Michigan universities with an average salary of \$91,600 for the 2006-07 academic year, according to an annual survey by the American Association of University Professors. Western ranked fourth in its total compensation package of \$136,800 for full professors, up 2.3 percent from 2005-06. Total compensation includes university contributions for retirement, health care and disability.

Michigan's top-paid professors could be found at the University of Michigan's Ann Arbor campus, where professors earned an average of \$130,400 for 2006-07, according to the AAUP survey.

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"We compete for faculty with top universities in the world, both public and private. It's important that we pay sufficient salaries to recruit and retain the most talented faculty who are leaders in their field," said U-M spokeswoman Kelly Cunningham.

But U-M dropped to No. 2 when tallying up its total compensation package, including benefits. The Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing awarded full professors a package of \$177,000, on average, compared to U-M's \$157,600.

Twelve of Michigan's 15 public universities paid \$90,000 or more in salary and benefits to their full professors in the 2006-07 academic year, according to the survey. Along with Cooley, Kalamazoo College was among seven other private colleges to reach that threshold.

K-College had the second highest compensation of the state's private colleges responding to the survey, at \$99,900. Its average salary for full professors was salary \$76,200. University of Detroit-Mercy paid its full professors the most among the private colleges responding, with salaries averaging \$87,400 and total compensation at \$110,500.

The AAUP annual report is based on compensation data collected from more than 1,400 institutions. The average faculty salary rose 3.8 percent nationally for the 2006-07 year. A number of Michigan schools did not return surveys. The AAUP is a nonprofit group that lobbies on behalf of academic faculty.

While Michigan's top public university salaries pay much more than their private college counterparts, they fall far below salaries at the country's top private schools.

New York's Rockefeller University, a highly specialized science and technology school, paid its full professors a salary of \$186,400, with a total compensation package valued at \$248,100. Total compensation for top professors was \$218,500 at Harvard University and \$198,900 at Princeton University.

Dave Waymire, a spokesman for the Presidents Council/State Universities of Michigan, said Michigan cannot afford to slip behind other states in paying professors.

"We need to recruit, retain and grow talent if this state is going to emerge from its current economic slump," he said. "If we want our students to have the best professors, so we can have the best talent in the world, then we'll have to pay accordingly."

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