



Monthly Report, October 2024

Programs



Wiki Education staff at WikiConference North America 2024.

Wiki Education programs team members LiAnna Davis, Brianda Felix, Will Kent, Colleen McCoy, and Ian Ramjohn traveled to Indianapolis, Indiana, for [WikiConference North America 2024](#). We enjoyed talking with many other Wikimedians, sharing our learnings, and learning from others. In particular, we also were well-represented on the schedule:

- Brianda was joined by two instructors for a panel, "Being bold in practice: Tales from faculty teaching with Wikipedia"
- All five of us presented on "How Wiki Education pursues knowledge equity"
- Will presented on "Addressing content gaps at scale"
- Ian and LiAnna led a session on "How to be a Dashboard superuser"
- LiAnna was joined by board members Bob Cummings and Carwil Bjork-James, as well as experts Andrew Lih, Maryana Pinchuk, and Ximena Gallardo, for "Generative AI and Wikipedia: A discussion"

LiAnna, Brianda, and Colleen also took advantage of being in Indiana to make a side trip to Bloomington, where they did an on-campus presentation with instructor Julio Postigo at IU Bloomington. Staff and faculty were engaged on how to teach with Wikipedia, including hearing directly from Julio, who has taught with Wikipedia through our program for many years.

Wikipedia Student Program

Fall 2024 in numbers:

- 325 courses were live on the Dashboard.
- 5,690 students were enrolled in a Wikipedia assignment.
- Students added 852,000 words and 8,230 references to Wikipedia. They contributed to 1,970 articles and created 109 new entries.



Performance at a glance: With 325 courses participating, we are falling just short of our goal of 350.

October is the month in the **fall** term when students really begin to become active on Wikipedia. While some students are still choosing topics and gathering their research, others began to make edits to the live article space as represented by the almost 1 million words they added by the end of the month!

With all of this growing student activity, Wikipedia Experts Ian Ramjohn and Brianda Felix were busy engaging with faculty and students as they begin their Wikipedia journeys. While the Fall term was really taking off, Senior Program Manager Helaine Blumenthal, Equity Outreach Coordinator Andrés Vera, and Communications and Outreach Coordinator Colleen McCoy were busy gearing up for the spring 2025 term! We began accepting courses for the next term and are deep into our next recruitment cycle.

In addition to our regular program activities, Helaine presented at the 2024 Open Education Conference along with Debby Kurdi of Victor Valley College, Gretchen Snegas of the University of Washington, and Caroline Smith of George Washington University. During this virtual roundtable, the panelists discussed their experiences teaching with Wikipedia and why they think it's a pedagogically valuable endeavor. Wiki Education will be attending a number of conferences in November and the coming year.

Scholars & Scientists Program

Courses in progress:

- **Global Approaches to Climate Finance-3:** This course wrapped up with 12 new articles, just under 150 articles edited, and 23,000 words added. Take a look at the article for [Climate finance in Democratic Republic of the Congo](#) and [Climate Finance in Kenya](#) for some excellent examples of what we wanted from these courses.
- **Climate Finance-4** - We're looking forward to working with these 11 editors in this new Climate Finance course. We're eager to see improvements to Climate Finance-related articles.
- **Latinx Wiki Scholars:** Over 600 edits, this course improved 88 articles, and created two from scratch. These 23 editors added just under 8,000 words, improving articles about Latinx community members and related pages. Stop by the pages for [Raúl R. Salinas](#) and [Letras Latinas](#) to see some of the outstanding work they accomplished.
- **Rare as one (RAO) Wiki Scientists-2:** Our second RAO Wiki Scholars course has come to a close. To see the changes they made on Wikipedia, take a look at the [Guanidinoacetate methyltransferase deficiency](#) article and [RUNX1 Familial Platelet](#)

Disorder article. All of the pageviews for this course combined are already at half a million.

- The [2024 Election-3](#): Work on this election course has wrapped. These nine editors edited more than 20 articles, resulting in almost half a million views on Wikipedia. For some examples of excellent work, look at [Initiative No. 2124 \(I-2124\)](#), a ballot measure from Washington State as well as [Russian interference in the 2024 United States elections](#).
- [Wikidata Fall Salon 2024](#): We are running another Wikidata Salon to encourage participants to spend some substantial time on a Wikidata project. We are eager to see their impact. There are 25 participants in our course, making this one of the largest ones we have run to date.
- The [2024 Election-4](#): We're pleased with the direction of this particular election course. Look at the article about [Health care reform in the US](#) as well as the article about [the Congressional Black Caucus](#).
- The [2024 Election-5](#): Another election course is producing some good results. Look no further than [Artificial Intelligence in Elections](#) to see the amazing work this course is producing.
- [Election-6](#): In another election course we are working with seven returning editors to create a space to further develop important election-related articles. Check out the [Chris Rabb](#) page to see some excellent work, as well as the [Patricia Lindh](#) page.
- [OPAL Fellows Wikidata](#): Rounding our work with the Idaho OPAL Fellows program, we are running a Wikidata course. These seven OPAL fellows added to their already-robust knowledge of Wikipedia by learning how Wikidata works.

Communications

Blog posts:

- ["Scholar, writer joins efforts to democratize knowledge on Wikipedia"](#) (October 29)
- ["History is only as equitable as its sources and writers"](#) (October 23)
- ["The small things that run the world"](#) (October 18)
- ["Connecting the past and present: Political scientist brings expertise to Wikipedia during election year"](#) (October 11)
- ["Welcome, Danielle!"](#) (October 4)

External Media:

- [Connecting the past and present: Political scientist brings expertise to Wikipedia during election year](#). Colleen McCoy. *Midwest Political Science Association* (October 24, 2024)
- [Teaching with Wikipedia: How Heather Sharkey Uses Wikipedia Assignments to Transform Student Learning](#). Erin Bartnett. *University of Pennsylvania Center for Excellence in Teaching, Learning and Innovation*. (October 24, 2024)

Spring 2025 recruitment for the Wikipedia Student Program kicked off this month; Colleen was busy supporting the Student Program team with their work. To engage current instructors in outreach efforts, Colleen refreshed the Instructor Outreach Toolkit and its related requests for use, and targeted current instructors to write contributions to the Wiki Education blog. Chief Programs Officer LiAnna Davis and Colleen also wrapped up the new [healthcare instructor recruitment video](#) with video production company Planet Nutshell.

At the beginning of the month, Colleen attended her first WikiCon North America in Indianapolis with several other Wiki Education staff, presenting on the new student training module "Improving

Representation on Wikipedia" and the monthly Speaker Series during the team's group presentation. On October 24, Colleen and Chief Technology Office Sage Ross hosted the Speaker Series program "[Open Source Tech: Building the Wiki Education Dashboard](#)".

Advancement

Kathleen Crowley, Director of Donor Relations, formally submitted a second grant proposal to the Samuel H. Kress Foundation for \$25,000 to support a Wiki Scholars course to improve the coverage of premodern European art and architecture on Wikipedia. We received \$15K in earned income from Equis to run one Wiki Scholars course to increase the coverage of the poets and poetry featured in the Library of America's Anthology of Latino Poetry. We also received a \$100K grant from the Guru Krupa Foundation, a \$25K increase for our Communicating Science initiative in the Wikipedia Student Program. Kathleen submitted a \$50K grant proposal to the Henry Luce Foundation to generate biographies on Wikipedia of women in STEM that will be revisited in November for consideration for funding in 2025. Kathleen drafted and submitted the full proposal for \$400K for general operating support to the WITH Foundation. We received a notification from the Broadcom Foundation that their Board reviewed our request for \$200K for increased coverage of diverse role models in STEM and gave us preliminary approval for the grant in 2025. Kathleen drafted and mailed end-of-year solicitation letters to major donors and our individual donors without email addresses. She completed the onboarding training of Danielle Vazquez, our Senior Institutional Giving Officer. We have begun to meet once per week as a fundraising team of four between us, Frank Schulenburg, Executive Director, and LiAnna Davis, Chief Programs Officer. Kathleen capped off the month with attending the STEM Ecosystems Convening in Chicago at the behest of Paula Golden, president of the Broadcom Foundation, who was the top sponsor of the event. Kathleen was able to meet with Paula at the event, as well as Maria Wronski, their Chief Financial Officer. Wiki Education's project with Broadcom Foundation was featured in a video created by the Broadcom Foundation in front of hundreds of attendees. Kathleen identified other STEM-related leads, including the Booz Allen Foundation, Amazon, and the Education Development Center at the DoD.

Danielle completed her formal onboarding in October, including a Scholars & Scientists course on the 2024 election. In addition, she wrote and submitted a Project Summary to the Director of the Advancing Informal STEM Learning program at the National Science Foundation (NSF), which outlined Wiki Education's proposed 2026 conference to reflect on the 10 years since the Year of Science. Such a conference would generate knowledge around successes thus far in diversifying Wikipedia's STEM content and best practices while identifying where we need to do more work. The conference would also provide an opportunity to kickstart additional partnerships so that stakeholders can begin making progress on closing the content gaps identified. (If the NSF's response to the Project Summary is encouraging, we will be able to submit a proposal for \$75K - \$250K.) Finally, Danielle began preparing to conduct outreach to S&S partners, e.g., Salesforce research, reviewing collateral, conducting internal meetings, etc.

Technology

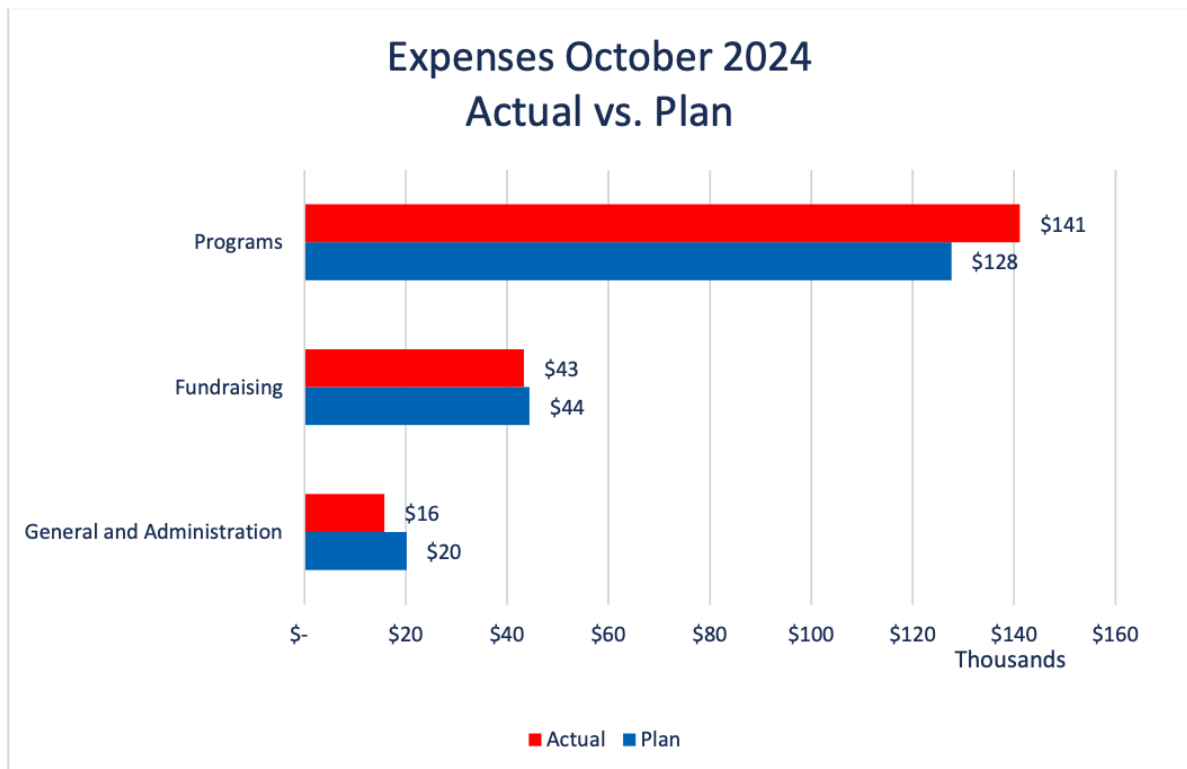
The Dashboard codebase was busy this month, with a bevy of bug fixes and improvements to the Dashboard's automated test suite, coming in from new contributors who were preparing for the Outreachy application deadline. (Outreachy intern selections are expected to be announced in November, with two potential projects for the Dashboard.) We also added improvements to the 'Tags' system that Wiki Education staff use to keep track of sets of courses behind-the-scenes, along with several small updates to the instructor user experience to make it easier to get

started, and easier to share success stories — thanks especially to repeat contributor Abishekcs. Chief Technology Officer Sage Ross implemented a number of resource updates ahead of the Spring 2025 term.

Web developer Matthew Fordham worked this month on implementing a new set "Classification" features for the Impact Visualizer, which will let us see breakdowns of topics based on Wikidata information — such as how many biographies were edited, and how they stack up by gender and nationality. These features will be deployed in November.

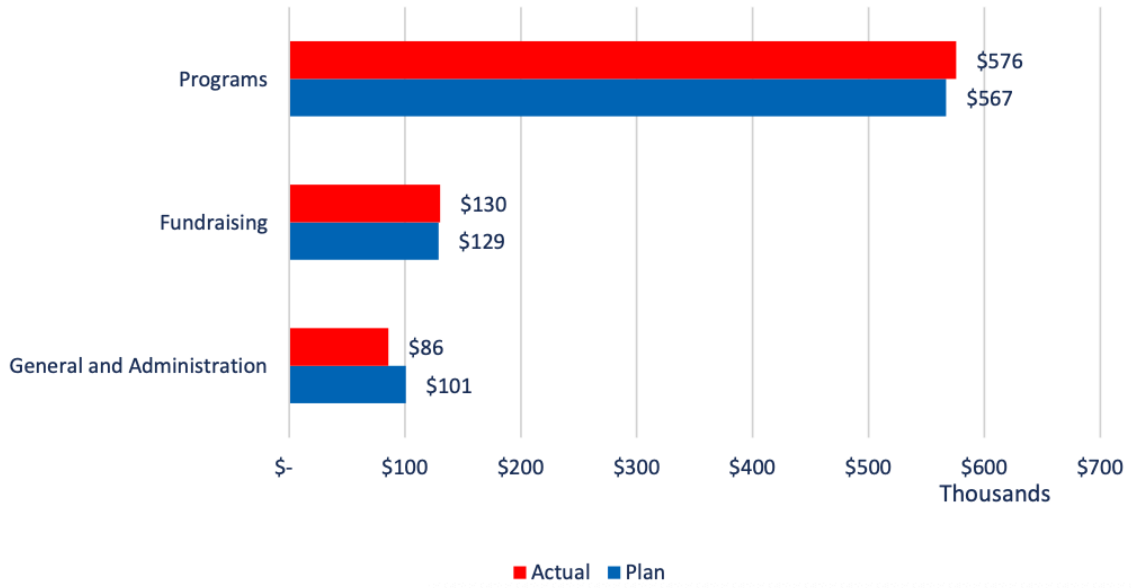
Finance & Administration

The total expenditure for the month of October was \$200K, +\$8K over the budget of \$192K. Fundraising was under (\$1K) by combining overspending Payroll + Outside Contractors +\$5K while underspending (\$6K) in Travel. General & Administrative were under (\$4K) due to underspending (\$6K) in payroll, (\$1K) in travel while overspending +\$3K in professional services. Programs were over +\$13K due to overspending +\$12K on payroll, +\$3K in communications, +\$1K on travel, +\$2K on accrued software while underspending (\$3K) in professional services and (\$2K) in indirect expenses.



The Year-to-date expenditures were \$792K, (\$5K) under the budget of \$797K. Fundraising was over by +\$1K, underspending (\$5K) on payroll, (\$6K) on travel, (\$1K) in indirect while over +\$9K in marketing and +\$4K on professional services. General & Administrative were under (\$15K) due to underspending (\$22K) on payroll, (\$10K) on travel, (\$1K) in professional services while overspending +\$16K on direct and indirect administrative expenses and +\$2K on office equipment. Programs were over +\$9K comprised of underspending (\$14K) professional services, (\$6K) in software accrual, (\$1K) in communications, (\$6K) in indirect expenses, while overspending +\$9K in travel and +\$27K in payroll.

Year to Date Expenses October 2024 Actual vs. Plan



* * *