

Present: Lauren Carney, Matt Cavalli, Mary Gustas, Dan Pontius, Juan Ortiz

Absent: Tricia Edgell, Katie Harmon, Russell Lauderdale, Jennifer Smith, Carla Sones, Eric Stewart

KVCC: Rachel Bair, Kate Miller, Craig Jbara, Tracy Labadie, Bill McElhone, Thomas Sutton

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1. Acceptance of Agenda
 - The agenda was accepted as written
 2. Discussion of term limits
 - Craig Jbara thanked Russell Lauderdale for his service on the CACT Advisory Board since his term has now ended.
 - Discussion of the ideal board member and request made for additional members
 - i. Dan Pontius suggested reaching out to Urban Alliance for board participation
 3. Grant Updates

Kate Miller

 - MiLEAP
 - i. Currently in the process of closing out program which includes completing employment status tracking, wrap-around services, and transitioning the grant-funded positions into other areas of the college
 - ii. Reiteration of the many positive testimonials have been received stating how this program has impacted the lives of our MiLEAP funded students
 - Workforce Grants
 - i. The GoingPro Talent Fund Competitive Training grant is ongoing
 - For the most part, this grant focuses on technical training programs but has recently allowed some soft skills training to be eligible for funding at \$1,500 per person
 - The application window is now open twice a year
 - ii. The Michigan New Jobs Training Program has a lot of funding available to businesses that are adding new jobs
 - Intent to Agree received from Profielnorm USA, based out of Plainwell
 - Actively working with Perrigo to determine if this program is a good fit for their company
 - Met with Cengage to discuss “We-owe-a” Funding for virtual classes which will help provide training to those with barriers to attend in-person classes



Rachel Bair

- We are currently in the second full semester of the Agricultural Food Research Initiative which funds the Sustainable Horticulture Program
 - i. All courses are full with positive feedback received from current students
 - ii. This program is expecting its first graduates at the end of the semester, earning them a 15-credit certificate of achievement
 - iii. This program has been awarded a one-year extension of this grant funding with the end date set to January 31, 2025 with 3 main parts of the funding
 - One part is dedicated to the Horticulture Lab Coordinator staff position, who will stay in that position until the grant funding is exhausted
 - a. Currently working to transition that position in to a full-time staff position within KVCC since it is a critical role in supporting the Horticulture program
 - Another part is dedicated to a 50% funding of student scholarships for this program
 - The last part is for curriculum development in collaboration with a partner such as the Kalamazoo Nature Center, Eco Services Division to focus on the green infrastructure course and, specifically, on the engineered wetlands that surround the Food Innovations Center; how to maintain functionality in consideration of the encroachment of invasive species
- The USDA Local Food Promotion grant funds the Valley FoodHub wherein the FIC purchases food from local farms to sell to local customers, with a special focus on school food services
 - i. This grant most recently funded the second annual Valley FoodHub meeting of partners which resulted in productive conversations focusing on collaboration projects for 2024
 - This meeting included participation from local producers of food as well as customers and program partners such as Michigan's Departments of Education and Agriculture, Michigan State University Extension, among others.
 - One of the afternoon breakout sessions from this meeting involved the Community Culinary and Nutrition team, who provided samples to school food providers which highlighted six different recipes which included Michigan produce in a way that still met school meal requirements
 - ii. Amy Buskirk, the new Education program Manager, is in the process of organizing and implementing more education opportunities for local farmers, which is in line with the original intent of the Food Innovation Center to provide more technical assistance and educational support for local growers



- On February 10th the FIC will host a balance sheet workshop for local farmers
- USDA Local Food Purchase program, which is the funding that allows the FIC to purchase food from local farms and provide food to our community through distribution partners such as Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes as well Sprout Urban Farms in Battle Creek
 - i. Currently preparing for the fourth quarter, 2023 report which will show that the FIC is on track with its expenditure of grants funds; having spent \$340,000 of the two million allocated for this programming
 - ii. Feedback regarding this program has been overwhelmingly positive, including one local farmer who credited it with keeping him open for business, demonstrating a meaningful investment the FIC has made for local food providers
 - iii. The statewide coordinators of the USDA Local Food Purchase program have tasked the FIC to serve the full Southwest region of Michigan which will include new partners in Benton Harbor as well as Van Buren and Cass County
 - Those deliveries could begin as soon as March, however there are still some logistics to figure out such as a delivery truck schedule and food storage
- Discussion of seeking future grant funding from the Michigan USDA

4. Department Updates

- Kate Miller
 - i. Community Culinary and Nutrition
 - Currently there is a full selection of community culinary and nutrition classes with almost full rosters
 - a. In partnership with the FIC team, in an attempt to lift up local produce, a local produce feature is being offered as a class with a low-cost fee to attend
 - Currently in the fourth year of delivering staff education for nutrition education and policy systems and environmental work
 - a. The contract for this was recently renewed with double of the funding it received last year
 - b. Lizzie Luchsinger is currently in the lead PSE role which accounts for the majority of the progress made in the first month of the contract
 - The Learning Kitchen continues to be popular with 130 spots available throughout the years' worth of programming
 - a. One change that is being made is more cultural sensitivity in creation of recipes for these communities as well as



some different recipes for more diversity for our returning participants

- b. Introducing a new program for high school students called Team Battleship which is a more competitive program
 - i. Seeking community volunteers to assist with this program
 - ii. The participants will go through eight weeks of culinary training
- WMED sent students to the WMED2's training which is embedded in the second year of the medical curriculum
 - a. The section's case study will focus on Type 2 Diabetes wherein the participants will be expected to cook a meal that meets the needs of those with this condition
- ii. Health Careers Programming
 - The current Phlebotomy Academy has a full roster
 - The CNA program has a low roster count which could be due to mitigating factors such as an earlier start date than normal and the loss of MiLEAP funding
 - a. Discussion of new educational amendment allowing CNA's to dispense medication to patients
 - Actively working to make the Groves Campus a State Certified Testing Center with our first offering tentatively scheduled for March 2024
 - a. This will assist CNA students with transportation barriers, whose only "local" testing options are located in Grand Rapids, Lansing or Battle Creek.
 - Sterile Processing
 - a. In partnership with Bronson, the second cohort just completed with some positive testimonials.
 - i. Almost every student in this program has received employment
 - b. Currently seeking to abolish other barriers to this program such as the low amount clinical testing sites and the ability to scale up the program to meet demand
 - i. Ken Warnock has been an integral part of this, including helping with instructional support
 - c. The next cohort is expected to be launched in Fall 2024
- iii. Corporate Training
 - Currently working with the Gryphon Place and other community partners on some anti-violence training



- Working alongside LaJoyce Brooks and the Kalamazoo Technology Training Partnerships (KTTP) in Kalamazoo Promise for a DOL-approved, noncredit apprenticeship program that will launch in February
 - There is also a non-DOL apprenticeship in the works for Refresco
 - Alongside Western Michigan University and Grand Valley State University, Kate Miller has been asked to participate in a strategic initiative, designed as a live lab, to discuss how to do better as community in terms of grant writing and strategy.
 - In November, the Bureau of Services for Blind Persons hosted the KVCC Groves team for a tour of their facility with a lot positive feedback being received from the participants
- iv. Life Enrichment
- In collaboration with the City of Kalamazoo, the All Things Possible camp will run again this year
 - a. This camp gives incentive to students entering the 9th grade to visit different programs of KVCC and, if they complete the camp, the City of Kalamazoo will sponsor the student's drivers training and drivers license fees
 - i. A few of these areas include wind energy, horticulture, culinary, intro to babysitting, etc.
 - Another successful Life Enrichment class, A Look at Social Justice Through a Hip-Hop Lens, ran on January 27th with a good turnout
 - A new class for this department is the Women's Self Defense class that will be hosted in February
- Tom Sutton
 - i. WTTA28
 - These students graduated December 15th and all are fully employed
 - ii. WTTA29
 - There are three veterans within this current class, one of whom is still active
 - Recently, the WTTA team commissioned The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe wind turbine and are moving in to the next phase of this project which is operations and maintenance
 - In agreement with the tribe, the current class will be able to use it as a learning tool to monitor its progress and respond to any faults
 - Future classes will benefit from this arrangement as well
 - iii. Currently working on a project for Next Era Wind Energy, one of the nations largest providers of solar and batter energy storage.



- This program will roll out nationally to all first responder agencies that might have a project with battery storage in their community to provide education in all areas of this subject matter, including a train-the-trainer program that will run through the National Fire Academy
- iv. Josh O’Keefe and Tom Sutton will be traveling to Spain during the first week of June 2024 to deliver onsite, in the turbine, training for power converters and HIP systems for Nordef Europe
- v. DTE Energy, one of our educational affiliate partners, and one of the largest operators of Michigan wind farms, has partnered with us to solve a unique problem
 - Many of these wind machines operate for 20-25 years, outliving their parts support without a way to economically retrofit them for the last five to six years of their lives
 - The wind students will participate in a rebuilding project where some of the parts were able to be sourced while the remainder will be 3D printed at the Grove’s campus
 - The 3D printed parts will then go through a process called a “torture test” wherein the students will wire the part, program a PLC and test the component for a week straight, engaging and disengaging every 40 seconds while being monitored
 - This project will show the students other avenues within the wind industry that they could pursue outside of being a technician
- vi. Technical Training Services
 - A large local manufacturer has reached out for Fall Protection and Basic Rigging training for about 70-80 tradespersons
 - Discussion of what Tom’s area might be able to offer the decision makers who are part of the board. This included:
 - Safety and Compliance training
 - Course customization to meet technical training needs
 - OSHA/MiOSHA Consultation Services
 - In regards to the recent legislation requiring all of Michigan’s businesses to start receiving electricity through hundred percent renewable energy sources, the TTS team can connect you with others, or provide knowledge about what is available and how some of those projects might work.



- Rachel Bair
 - i. Community Life Enrichment programs are again being offered through the FIC and are available at the beginning of February
 - ii. The Kalamazoo Roots program is changing focus from providing community members with gardening materials and instead providing residents of core Kalamazoo neighborhoods with free seats in the FIC life enrichment classes
 - This might include offering special sections of some of the courses at the different neighborhood associations
 - The Edison Neighborhood Association has also received an endowment to place a few people in the FIC life enrichment classes as well
 - They will also be expanding their urban gardening work with the FIC in collaboration
 - iii. The City of Kalamazoo is interested in exploring a municipal composting system as well as exploring ways to support Kalamazoo residents in a way that is safe and cuts down on the smell or nuisance of residential composting
 - The FIC will convert its south hoop house into a composting demonstration space in the interest of expanding educational opportunities in this subject such as vermicomposting and smaller systems that are more for the home gardener
 - This project will also process a significant amount of the pre-consumer vegetable waste generated from the ValleyHub
5. Brief discussion of the changes made to the Police Academy
6. Discussion of the need for basic computer training for onboarding students within the vocational classes and academies, specifically noted for the most recent demographic of Phlebotomy students and older generations going back to work
7. Meeting adjourned

Next Meeting: April 05, 2024

Kalamazoo Valley Groves Campus (*In-Person / Zoom Hybrid*)
7107 Elm Valley Drive | Kalamazoo MI 49009

