



GET IT DONE GET READY FOR WINTER SEMESTER

Script Writing, Web Page Coding and Racial and Ethnic Relations are just a few of the many hundreds of courses available for the Winter 2019 semester at Kalamazoo Valley.

Help registering for classes is just one of the many services that will be available at the Get it Done – Get Ready for the Winter Semester event held at Kalamazoo Valley Community College’s Texas Township Campus Nov. 28 from 4 – 7 p.m. in the Student Commons.

This annual event serves as a one-stop option for students, parents and community members who have questions or are interested in attending Kalamazoo Valley. Representatives from the Financial Aid Office, Office for Enrollment Management, the Admissions, Registration and Records Office, Student Activities and Organizations and Student Success Services will be on hand to assist those in attendance.

Additionally, a number of instructors and academic deans will be available to answer questions about specific programs and degrees offered at the college.

“Kalamazoo Valley offers a wide variety of programs in a number of different career pathways,” Executive Vice President for

Instructional and Student Success Services Dr. Dennis A. Bertch said. “Several of these programs will be on display at our Nov. 28 event. I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about the services and programs that are available.”

Additionally, Bertch added, students can learn more about the Kalamazoo Valley Accelerated Associate Program (KVAAP). This new initiative covers the cost of tuition, fees and books for qualifying students and is meant to help ensure that students can attend school full time and complete their associate degree. In addition to financial assistance, students benefit from advising and educational pathway guidance.

Program Director Louis Thomas will have applications and information available for students interested in participating in KVAAP.

With more than 100 questions, filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) can be an overwhelming process for parents and students. Fill it out incorrectly and you may jeopardize receiving need-based grants, some merit-based grants, and possible loans that can assist in paying for college.

The Financial Aid Office will help anyone in the community who needs assistance with their college financial aid paperwork or would like to learn more about the financial aid process. Computers will be available in order to access the online FAFSA application. Attendees should bring all necessary paperwork to complete the FAFSA, including 2016 tax return information.

“We’re here to help,” said Director of Financial Aid Alisha Cederberg. “I encourage anyone who has questions about financial aid to stop by – there’s a lot of money out there to help with the costs of attending college – and the process can be complicated.”

Attendees at the Nov. 28 event can complete a number of the other necessary steps to becoming a Kalamazoo Valley student, including talking to an advisor or counselor, enrolling for the winter semester and touring the Texas Township Campus.

Placement testing will be available but can take up to three hours to complete. People without test scores are encouraged to visit the college prior to the Get it Done event to take the test so they can complete the other necessary steps to become a student on Nov. 28.

Texas Township Testing Center, Room 2210
Monday – Thursday | 8:30 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Friday | 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Saturday | 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Arcadia Commons Testing Center, Room 211 in Anna Whitten Hall
Monday – Thursday | 8:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Friday | 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

If available, participants should bring any educational documents, including high school and college transcripts and placement test scores to ensure for proper course placement.

“There’s still time to become part of the Kalamazoo Valley community,” said Director of Enrollment Management EJ Bast. “We’re trying to remove as many barriers as possible for students to enroll in classes which begin on Jan. 7.”

For more information about this special event and how to apply to the college and register for classes visit www.kvcc.edu/getitdone. The event is free and open to the community.

GRANT WILL INCREASE ACCESS TO LOCALLY GROWN PRODUCE AND FUND OUTREACH



Ryan Hamilton, Kalamazoo Valley's Food Innovation Center

Kalamazoo Valley Community College has been awarded a \$271,058 U.S. Department of Agriculture grant to support local food chains through its ValleyHUB food hub at the Food Innovation Center. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing \$102.7 million to increase opportunities for farmers, ranchers and other growers across the country through five grant programs. The funding supports a variety of locally-led projects intended to expand markets for local food promotion and specialty crops.

“Every state has agricultural priorities that contribute to the well-being of farm families, consumers and the economic health of

rural America,” said Under Secretary Greg Ibach. “These programs target resources to the state, local and regional level where the people who understand the issues best can find solutions that help everyone.” The resources are administered by USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) and include \$13.45 million directed to 44 projects through the Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP). These projects support the development and expansion of local and regional food businesses to increase domestic consumption of, and access to, locally and regionally produced agricultural products, and develop new market opportunities for farm and ranch operations serving local markets.

ValleyHUB was one of two LFPP funding recipients in the state of Michigan and one of 44 projects nationwide to receive funds. The grant will support the development and expansion of local and regional food businesses to increase domestic access and consumption of locally and regionally produced agricultural products. It will also enable the development of new market opportunities for farm and ranch operations serving local markets through the Local Food Promotion Program.

ValleyHUB is a farm, food hub and education center in the Food Innovation Center located at 224 E. Crosstown Parkway, on the college’s

Bronson Healthy Living Campus. At the center’s farm, staff and students test new and innovative methods for year-round growing. In the food hub, fresh produce from local farms is lightly processed and distributed to local customers. The training center offers programs in food safety, produce handling and production methods to help growers and food handlers innovate and succeed. “Our goal is to get more healthy fresh foods onto more plates in Southwest Michigan,” said Rachel Bair, director of Kalamazoo Valley’s Food Innovation Center.

Bair explained that local food demand within institutions is robust in Southwest Michigan, but supply chain barriers exist for small and mid-size diversified farms. “ValleyHUB is an ideal facility to overcome these barriers and several current and ongoing local efforts support these shifts toward local purchasing. However, investments remain necessary in product development, grower safety training and equipment to increase processing capacity,” Bair said.

The grant, \$271,058 over the next three years, will fund a full-time food hub education and outreach coordinator, a large industrial vegetable dicer and continuation of food safety training and certification efforts. “It will allow us to significantly scale up ValleyHUB and increase flexibility to better serve institutional customers like Kalamazoo

Public Schools, Western Michigan University, Bronson Hospital and our own culinary operations,” Bair said. “We anticipate this new focus will create interest in new trainings, internships, and job opportunities for our students and graduates who go to work with these partners.”

ValleyHUB is a partner in the Michigan Food Hub Network, a statewide coalition organized by the Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems. MSU also received Local Food Promotion Program funding this year to support the Michigan Food Hub Network.

Bair said interviews for a food hub education and outreach coordinator are underway. This new Food Innovation Center staff member will work to develop and execute a customer engagement plan to increase sales of locally-sourced fresh and fresh-cut produce to institutions.

“I’m proud of the Food Innovation Center staff for writing an award-winning grant application and I’m enthused about the way programming will continue to expand and influence healthier eating throughout the Southwest Michigan region,” said Kalamazoo Valley Community College President L. Marshall Washington, Ph.D.

COOKBOOK COLLABORATION FOR MOBILE KITCHEN

Cortney Afton, registered dietitian and nutrition care coordinator for Kalamazoo Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (KCMHSAS), is certain that she's having a positive impact on the lives of her consumers. "Every day when I leave my job, I truly feel like I've helped someone," she said. "There are so many wonderful resources in Kalamazoo and this Mobile Kitchen initiative is one of them."

She's referring to a collaboration between KCMHSAS and Kalamazoo Valley Community College that resulted in the development of a cookbook that she considers "an incredible opportunity to educate consumers on the value of food as medicine."

The cookbook, funded by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, includes 26 recipes covering breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks and sweet treats. The cookbook also includes nutritional analysis for each recipe (by Darci Schimp, RDN), full color photos (by Anna Crahan), and equipment lists which complement Afton's sessions with KCMHSAS consumers. Chefs Matt Askelson, Cory Barrett and Stephanie Hughes, from Kalamazoo Valley's culinary arts program, contributed recipes which are SNAP eligible, average \$1.22 per serving and use ingredients available in every area neighborhood market.

Camille White, Kalamazoo Valley's

community culinary and nutrition support specialist, noted that the recipes have wide appeal. "A lot of the recipes are for one or two servings which is nice since many consumers are living alone and they are reluctant to cook meals that will result in eating leftovers for days." White was also responsible for assembling the Mobile Kitchen unit for Afton to use when cooking in the field. This unit includes a variety of cooking equipment (induction burner, toaster, microwave, cutting boards, pots, pans, measuring cups, etc.), so the recipes can be demonstrated in any client setting.

Kalamazoo Valley's Community Culinary and Nutrition Program Coordinator, Lizzie Luchsinger, reiterated that "this important project provides the flexibility to meet consumers "where they are" and work towards our goal for improved health outcomes through increasing healthy, at-home cooking."

The three primary goals for the endeavor are:

- Improving health outcomes, quality and length of life for adults with serious mental illness (SMI)
- Promoting active participation from adults with SMI, their families, significant others and caretakers to engage in facilitating treatment compliance, realizing benefits from healthy food selection/preparation while incorporating the principle of

"Food as Medicine" into the integrated plan of services

- Developing sustainable methods for providing cooking demonstrations and hands-on classes to educate participants about the impact of food on behavioral and physical health as well as teaching practical skills for making lifestyle changes

Before introducing the recipes to her consumers, Afton and Kalamazoo Valley culinary instructor chef Cory Barrett prepared some of the meals in the culinary test kitchen. "These recipes are meant to be easy and fast," Barrett said. "The cookbook is great because it's simple. None of the cooking is really technical."

Afton said she hopes her consumers will enjoy trying new dishes. "The involvement I've had with Kalamazoo Valley has been nothing short of magic. This collaboration has given me an invaluable gift that will help to build the knowledge and skills that my consumers and I work on together every day."

Recipes include breakfast sweet potatoes, breakfast burritos, tuna salad with garbanzo beans, sweet potato and sausage soup, zucchini burger and spiced walnuts. For a copy of this recipe visit: <https://www.facebook.com/KVCCMedicalCulinary/menu/>.

Sweet Potato & Sausage Soup

Chicken or Turkey Sausage, ground	1 pound
Yellow Onion (diced)	1 large
Sweet Potatoes (peeled & diced)	2
Kale, chopped	1/2 bunch
White Beans, drained and rinsed	14 oz
Water	5 cups
Salt	to taste
Pepper	to taste

1. Peel and dice onion.
2. Wash, peel and dice sweet potato.
3. Wash kale. Remove stems and chop.
4. Drain and rinse white beans.
5. Brown sausage in large sauce pan.
6. Add onions and sauté until fragrant.
7. Add water, sweet potato, kale and white beans to pan. Season with salt and pepper.
8. Bring to a simmer and cook for 20 minutes or until sweet potatoes are tender.



KALAMAZOO VALLEY'S WIND TURBINE TECHNICIAN ACADEMY: GENERATING DIVERSITY

Kalamazoo Valley's Wind Turbine Technician Academy (WTTA) provides students with a fast track to high demand jobs in an exciting field. With the push in this country to generate 20 percent of our energy with wind by 2030, the demand for highly trained technicians will only increase as one wind turbine technician is needed for every ten turbines. Wind turbine technicians install, inspect, troubleshoot and repair wind turbine components.

Kalamazoo Valley's WTTA program is the nation's leading training program for wind turbine technicians. Focused on specific, hands-on competencies, the unique training model moves students from the classroom to the learning labs and into the field quickly. The non-credit, full-time program allows graduates to be job-ready in less than six months. Students attend class Monday through Friday, eight hours each day for 24 weeks. They also take turns as the on-call technician to accompany a wind instructor to turbines if a problem occurs on a weekend.

Tom Sutton serves as Kalamazoo Valley's director of wind energy and technical services. He studied aircraft engineering and earned an automotive engineering technologies degree from Western Michigan University. He worked for Harold Zeigler Lincoln/Mercury as a senior master technician, and later worked with Ford Field Engineering. He taught at WMU as an adjunct engineering faculty member before coming to Kalamazoo Valley 12 years ago.

In addition to his roles as an administrator and trainer for the WTTA, Sutton is a senior trainer for Wisconsin-based ENSA North

America, the nation's premier work-at-heights training organization. He travels internationally to train other wind energy trainers. He is also on the steering committee for the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) and is active with the Workforce Development Committee and chair of the Operations and Maintenance subcommittee. Internationally, Sutton is a member of the International Technical Committee where he works to develop the international training standards for worker safety.

A wide variety of students have enrolled in the WTTA since it first opened in November 2009. Students in the current class include Josh Trudgeon, who is funding his studies with a Kalamazoo Promise scholarship, an Army veteran Zachary Trinkle who is utilizing the GI Bill to pay for tuition, and Niles native Kaitlyn McDonald is the only woman in the current class. She loves the hands-on work and is mechanically inclined.

Trudgeon said it was easy to use the Kalamazoo Promise to cover his tuition. "Going through high school, the process is ingrained in us on how to apply," he said. "I think the hardest part was I had to email the Promise Program Manager at Kalamazoo Valley, Monteze Morales, and schedule a meeting to talk about what I wanted to do and how to get it done right. From there it was all good. They made it really easy."

Trudgeon attended Michigan Tech for a year before working in carpentry and as an electrician. He has loved the training so far. He enjoys electrical work and decided that it would be even more exciting atop a wind turbine. "Every day is a new challenge," he

said. "It keeps me engaged and excited."

Trinkle, from Buffalo, New York, is using the benefits of his GI Bill to help pay the \$14,000 tuition fee. The process for Trinkle was also very simple, but he still recommends that veterans have all their documentation in order and that they be organized to save time and help prevent mishaps. Trinkle says he chose Valley's academy over others because it has been around longer than others and has more available certifications.

Trinkle is impressed with the academy so far. "I like it a lot. It's very fast paced. It can seem overwhelming, but they give you plenty of time to catch up. And you're never really alone. If someone is struggling, then more than likely there is someone who is in the same boat. You can move at your own pace, but still have a certain number of days to get things done." In addition to his military experience, Trinkle has attended college before. "I've learned more here in the past three months than I learned in four and a half years of college," he said. "The course does a good job of building off of itself."

Women are also making great strides within the industry. The program encourages hands-on, mechanically inclined women such as McDonald to join them as wind technologies advance. McDonald is due to graduate in December, but has already had two job interviews with companies within the industry and is currently waiting to set up a third interview.

When asked if she was intimidated to enter a field where men are dominate she said, "Yes and no. I grew up with an older brother

so I was always around the guys. I've always worked in tire shops and took three years of automotive classes in high school so being around the guys is natural for me. But, it does get intimidating because you get those guys who say 'oh you're a girl, you can't do the same as me.'" One of her biggest concerns is being hired based on her skill, not gender. "I don't want to be chosen because I'm a woman in a man's industry. I want to be chosen because I have the skills to do the job they need me to do and I have the work ethic they want," she said.

Program Coordinator Delia Baker said the academy is ideal for students who are mechanically inclined or have a background in electrical technology. We look for experience that can be verified by a reference," Baker said. "We need to know that people are good with their hands. The training is fast-paced so students need to be self-directed." Most students quickly become comfortable working at heights, which is a must since the wind turbines are more than 300 feet tall. A passion for travel also makes the job enticing for many, including Trudgeon. "I'm excited to travel and fix wind turbines and to work with renewable energy - giving energy to people from something that's free," he said.

The Wind Turbine Technician Academy runs for six months with the next academy starting January 3, 2019. Classes are small with only 12 students and are held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information, contact careeracademics@kvcc.edu or visit <https://www.kvcc.edu/academics/wind>.

EVENT INVITES STUDENTS TO EXPLORE CAREERS, EARLY COLLEGE

A pill-sorting robot, ballet dancers, a CPR mannequin and farm animals will be among the hundreds of interactive exhibits under one roof as part of an experiential career investigation event Nov. 13 - 14 for area eighth graders.

MiCareerQuest Southwest, sponsored by Kalamazoo Regional Educational Services Agency (KRESA), invites students from Kalamazoo and Calhoun County school districts to talk with experts in a variety of fields while learning to operate and work with the actual tools, equipment and technology. Five thousand students are expected to attend the two-day event held at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center in Kalamazoo.

More than 70 local businesses and post-secondary partners – including Kalamazoo Valley Community College – will fill the 50,000 square feet of exhibit space to showcase careers in four different career pathways:

- Arts & Communication
- Business, Technology & Human Services
- Engineering & Manufacturing
- Health & Natural Sciences

According to a 2015 Skills Gap report by Deloitte, nearly 37.5 million baby boomers will retire over the next decade and only 21 million workers will enter the workforce to replace them. MiCareerQuest Southwest addresses this impending workforce shortage by encouraging youth to consider careers in industries they might not have previously considered.

Kalamazoo Valley will be front and center with information and interactive displays in a variety of in-demand fields, according to Patricia Henning, dean of health careers and director of nursing at Kalamazoo Valley

Community College. Programs represented include EMT/paramedic, dental hygiene, respiratory care as well as some of the college's Career Academies.

"MiCareerQuest continues to be a great opportunity for all of these young students to learn more about the career programs and training available at Kalamazoo Valley Community College," said Henning.

The college's dental hygiene program department, for example, will have a dental simulator (a head with teeth and cheeks), dental operator stool, and dental light at the event, according to Dental Hygiene Program Director Kimberly Grubka.

"The students will have the opportunity to sit at the simulator with gloves and safety glasses on and use a mouth mirror and probe to look inside the simulator's mouth," Grubka said.

The dental hygiene program prepares students to become registered dental hygiene practitioners. Students must complete one year of prerequisite courses prior to applying to the dental hygiene program. Graduates of this program are granted an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree and are eligible to take the National Board Exam in Dental Hygiene and the Regional or State Licensing Exams.

The college's Career Academies, which include Wind Turbine, CNC Operator and Mechatronic Technician, will also have a presence at the event. PVC wind turbines, a desktop CNC mill and robotic arm will all be available for students to manipulate, according to Ben Ash, instructional manager for mechatronics at the college.

"There are a lot of really great, high paying

career opportunities in the trades," Ash said. "We want to open kids' eyes and expose them to these opportunities."

Career Academies, Ash explained, are skill-focused, employer-driven training programs that prepare students for in-demand jobs in growing and diversified industries.

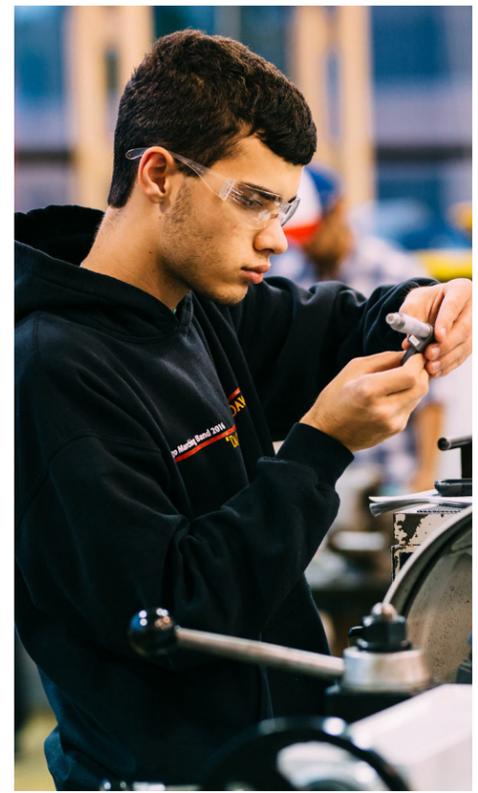
In addition to the industrial trade academies, Kalamazoo Valley offers a Police Officer Training, Corrections Officer Training, Phlebotomy Technician and Patient Care academies.

As part of their visit to MiCareerQuest Southwest, students can also learn more about the Early College program. The program allows students to earn an associate degree or certificate by completing a fifth year of high school with little or no expense. Students delay high school graduation for one year while they take college courses at Kalamazoo Valley. Tuition and fees are paid by the local school district up to the state allowed amount. Early College expands on dual enrollment, and builds upon classes already offered through Education for Employment (EFE) and Education for the Arts (EFA).

Dr. Deborah Coates, Kalamazoo Valley's dean of instruction - Early College, will be on hand to talk with students who are interested in participating.

Early College, Coates explained, is designed to help students get a head start on whatever they decide to do after graduating from high school, whether that's going into the workforce or continuing on with their education.

"Education is evolving and this is part of it. Early College prepares students for the world



Student exploring at MiCareerQuest

and makes sure they have as many options as possible," Coates said. "Early College is a great opportunity – academically and economically – for students in the area."

Nearly 450 area students are enrolled in Kalamazoo Valley's Early College program. There are currently more than 100 Early College programs in Michigan.

Kalamazoo Valley's Early College program offers transfer Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees to many Michigan colleges and universities as well as Associate of Applied Science degrees and a number of certificate programs.

The Kalamazoo County Expo Center is located at 2900 Lake Street in Kalamazoo.

For more information, visit www.micareerquestsw.org and www.kvcc.edu.

KALAMAZOO VALLEY'S VISITING WRITER SERIES



Thisbe Nissen
Tuesday,
November 13, 2018



Jay Baron Nicorvo
Tuesday,
November 13, 2018



Aimee
Nezhukumatathil
Tuesday,
February 12, 2019



Bonnie Jo Campbell
Tuesday,
March 19, 2019
Wednesday,
March 20, 2019

An impressive list of authors are included in this year's Visiting Writer Series. All Visiting Writer events are open to the public and take place in the Student Commons Theater, Room 4240, at the college's Texas Township Campus. Craft talks begin at 10 a.m. and readings are held at 2:15 p.m.

On Tuesday, Nov. 13, authors Thisbe Nissen and Jay Baron Nicorvo will visit campus. Nissen is an associate professor in the Department of English at Western Michigan University. Her husband, Nicorvo, is also an author and has taught at Eckerd College, Emerson College, and Western Michigan University.

Nissen has written two novels, "The Good People of New York" (Knopf, 2001) and "Osprey Island" (Knopf, 2004), and a story collection, "Out of the Girls' Room and into the Night" (University of Iowa Press, 1999,

Winner of the John Simmons Short Fiction Award). She is also co-author with Erin Ergenbright of "The Ex-Boyfriend Cookbook," a collection of stories, recipes and art collages. Her fiction has been published in "The Iowa Review," "The American Scholar," "Story," "Seventeen," "The Virginia Quarterly Review," "Story Quarterly," "Glimmer Train," "NANO Fiction" and "Quick Fiction" and anthologized in "The Iowa Award: The Best Stories 1991-2000" and "Best American Mystery Stories 2008."

Nicorvo is the author of a novel, "The Standard Grand" (St. Martin's Press), picked for IndieBound's Indie Next List, Library Journal's Spring 2017 Debut Novels Great First Acts, and named a best book of the year by The Brooklyn Rail. He's published a poetry collection, "Deadbeat" (Four Way Books), and his nonfiction, twice named "Notable" in Best American Essays, can be found in "Salon, The

Baffler," "The Iowa Review" and "The Believer."

Poet, essay and nonfiction writer Aimee Nezhukumatathil visits on Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019. During the 2016-17 academic year, Nezhukumatathil was the John and Renee Grisham Writer-in-Residence at The University of Mississippi. She is now professor of English and teaches environmental literature and poetry writing in the MFA program at the University of Mississippi.

Kalamazoo native Bonnie Jo Campbell is the last speaker in this year's series. She'll visit Kalamazoo Valley on Tuesday, Mar. 19 and Wednesday, Mar. 20 and students across campus will read Campbell's book "Once Upon a River."

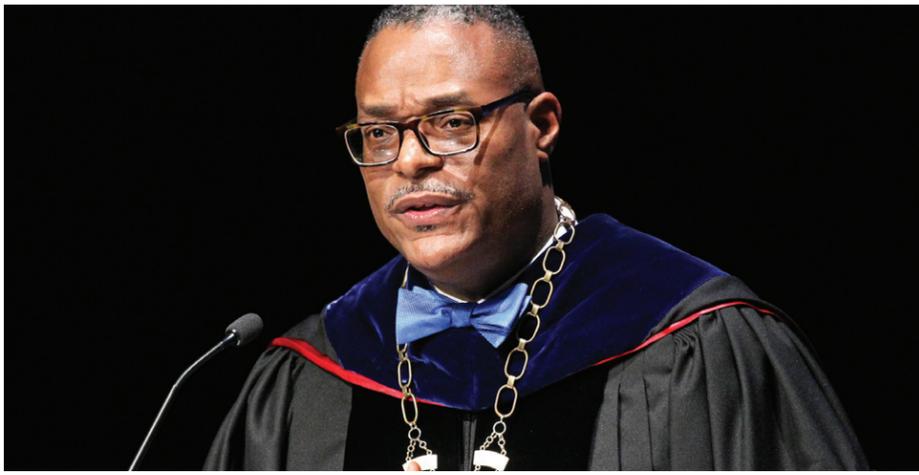
Campbell is the author of the National Bestselling novel "Once Upon a River" (Norton, 2011), a river odyssey with an

unforgettable 16-year-old heroine, which the "New York Times" book review calls "an excellent American parable about the consequences of our favorite ideal, freedom." Campbell's critically-acclaimed short fiction collection "American Salvage" (Wayne State University Press, 2009) was finalist for the National Book Award and the National Book Critic's Circle Award. The collection consists of 14 lush and rowdy stories of folks who are struggling to make sense of the twenty-first century.

Kalamazoo Valley's "About Writing" series is organized by instructor Dr. Julie Stotz-Ghosh and offers students and the public the opportunity to talk with professional writers and listen to their work. For more information, contact Stotz-Ghosh at jstotzghosh@kvcc.edu.

All programs are free and open to the public.

INAUGURATION ACTIVITIES ATTRACT HUNDREDS



L. Marshall Washington, Ph.D., speaking at the investiture ceremony

On Friday, Oct. 19, L. Marshall Washington, Ph.D. was officially welcomed as the third president of Kalamazoo Valley Community College during a special ceremony in the Dale B. Lake Auditorium on the Texas Township Campus. More than 400 faculty, staff, students and community members were witness to the important event.

Board Chair Jeffrey W. Patton was assisted by Vice Chair Lucinda M. Stinson with the installation and presentation of the Chain of Office. Official greetings from students, faculty, KVCC Foundation and Board of Trustees were a part of the ceremony. Dorothy Huston, Ph.D., founder and CEO of

Technology Management Training Group, Inc., provided the keynote address.

President Washington's inaugural address included a call to excellence across the college including emphasis on student success and completion through:

- Teaching and Learning Excellence
- Operational Excellence
- Organizational Excellence

On Saturday, Oct. 20, several hundred community members visited with President Washington and his family at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum during a special welcoming event.

"President Washington is already making an impact on our students and families," Patton said. "The future of Kalamazoo Valley is bright." Dr. Washington succeeded long-time college president, Dr. Marilyn Schlack who retired in June 2018.



Meet and Greet at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum



L. Marshall Washington, Ph.D., and family

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

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HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTS NEW MEMBERS



PHI THETA KAPPA
HONOR SOCIETY

Kalamazoo Valley Community College's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the international honor society for two-year colleges, inducted new members earlier this semester during a ceremony in the Dale B. Lake Auditorium on the Texas Township Campus.

More than 150 students, parents, faculty members and others from the community attended the induction which included remarks by new college president, L. Marshall Washington, Ph.D.

Keynote speaker and PTK alumna, Anne McLeod, led the installation of new chapter officers, including President Ariel Bradford, Vice President Brittany Gallagher, Communications Officer Virginia Wooley and Chapter Officer Myranda Dilley. The installation was followed by remarks and a ceremony to welcome the new members.

Phi Theta Kappa has recognized academic excellence at two-year colleges since 1918 and has inducted more than 1.2 million members at more than 1,200 colleges throughout its history. Kalamazoo Valley's Alpha Rho Nu chapter is advised by faculty members Jason Bishop and Alison Nord as well as Pathway Advisor Kevin Schneider. "The goal of Alpha Rho Nu is to advocate scholarship, fellowship, leadership and service," Bishop said.

Phi Theta Kappa, Bishop continued, provides opportunity for the development of leadership and service, for an intellectual climate for exchange of ideas and ideals, for lively fellowship for scholars, and for stimulation of interest in continuing academic excellence.

The college's chapter accomplishes this by focusing on ways to benefit both the college and local communities. PTK members meet at least once each month and hold regular service events to benefit both the college and the community.

"This is the kind of organization that inspires students to be the best they can be, and the opportunities go beyond just the scholarships that are available to members," Bishop said. "It is a fast-track to excellence."

As part of one project, members will be working closely with the college's Transfer Resource Services department to create awareness of the services offered to students interested in transferring to a four-year college or university after goal completion at Kalamazoo Valley.

"Some students transfer to other schools, and very few realize that we can help walk them through that process," Nord said.

Other service projects planned for this year involve researching the role of social media and how it is reshaping the news.

Membership is open to students who have completed at least 12 credit hours with a 3.5 or higher cumulative grade point average. New members receive a Gold Key pin, special recognition on their diploma, and access to millions of dollars in scholarships. For more information on meetings or for more information about the chapter, visit facebook.com/AlphaRhoNu or email Ariel Bradford at abradford7964@mail.kvcc.edu.



Getting You Connected to Kalamazoo Valley!

NOVEMBER 16, 2018 | 12-3:00 PM

Anna Whitten Hall, Rm 128 | Downtown Kalamazoo
Arcadia Commons Campus

KV Focus is a publication of Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Questions about the publication may be directed to the college marketing department at 269.488.4821.

Editor: Linda Depta
Managing Editor: Dawn Kemp
Designer: Robyn Hughes
Photographers: Anna Crahan
Robyn Hughes
John Lacko
Jacqueline Luttrell
Thomas Wrench

Contributors: Linda Depta
Erin Dominianni
Dawn Kemp
Carolina Lumetta
Mathew Whetstone

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Texas Township Campus
6767 West O Avenue
PO Box 4070
Kalamazoo, MI 49003-4070
269.488.4400

Arcadia Commons Campus
202 North Rose Street
PO Box 4070
Kalamazoo, MI 49003-4070
269.373.7800

Groves Campus
7107 Elm Valley Drive
PO Box 4070
Kalamazoo, MI 49003-4070
269.353.1253

Bronson Healthy Living Campus
PO Box 4070
Kalamazoo, MI 49003-4070
269.548.3200