



NEW PROGRAM ADDRESSES STUDENT FOOD INSECURITY



PTK students preparing for Valley Food Share distribution

Valley Food Share, a new initiative designed to meet the immediate food needs of Kalamazoo Valley Community College students, kicked off early this month.

Through the program, currently enrolled students can pick up a bag of food (or share), which includes fresh seasonal produce grown locally and sourced through the college's Food Innovation Center on

the Bronson Healthy Living Campus, as well as nonperishable items acquired through a partnership with community partners, Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes. Local suppliers donating to Valley Food Share include Crisp Country Acres in Holland, MOO-ville Creamery in Nashville and Joe's Farm in Schoolcraft.

"A significant number of Kalamazoo Valley students experience food insecurity every day," said President L. Marshall Washington, Ph.D. "This issue deeply impacts students' educational efforts and outcomes. For some students, food insecurity can lead to choosing between buying groceries and paying for classes. Valley Food Share organizers hope to eliminate having to make that choice."

A limited number of shares are available on a first come, first served basis every Tuesday for currently enrolled Kalamazoo Valley students. Distribution sites alternate between the Texas Township and Arcadia Commons Campuses. Students must

show a valid student identification card to participate. Recipe cards with healthy, go-to meal ideas, based on the ingredients in each share, are also included.

"At Kalamazoo Valley, we believe in the transformative power of education to improve the health and well-being of our community," Washington said. "These food shares and recipe cards help our students prepare nutritious, well-balanced meals. I'm pleased to see the Valley Food Share program come to fruition."

Among the items included in shares this month were: milk, eggs, carrots, potatoes, ground chicken, garbanzo beans, spaghetti sauce, peas, corn and walnuts. Students received simple, healthy recipes for Apple-Walnut Oatmeal, Kidney Bean Chili over Roasted Potatoes and Chicken and Veggies Spaghetti. Fifty students received shares the first week of the program.

Studies show that approximately 25 percent of community college students

struggle with food insecurity. Food insecurity is defined as the lack of reliable access to sufficient quantities of affordable and nutritious food.

Monetary and food donations to the Valley Food Share are always accepted. For a complete list of items needed and where to donate, please email foodshare@kvcc.edu.



KVCC FOUNDATION PRESENTS BILL JOHNSTON OF THE GREENLEAF COMPANIES

Bill Johnston, chairman of the Greenleaf Companies, is the keynote speaker at the May 7 Opportunities for Education fundraising dinner, which is a primary source of funding for the KVCC Foundation's student scholarships.

for investments by joining a national brokerage firm. Six years later, as a Vice President of that firm, Johnston left to establish the first of three Greenleaf Companies, Greenleaf Asset Management, Inc. Succeeding in his quest for a bank

Catalyst Development Company, L.L.C., is the real estate development and management arm of the Greenleaf Companies and has approximately 1.8 million square feet of property under development and management.

As the past chairman of Southwest Michigan First, Economic Development Corporation, Johnston is a passionate supporter of the Kalamazoo region and Western Michigan University.

Bill earned his B.A. '70 and M.A. '74 from Western Michigan University and resides with his wife Ronda in the Kalamazoo area.

This year marks the 15th annual OFE Dinner. According to Steve Doherty, executive director of the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Foundation, the need for financial aid among students continues to rise steadily. In 2016-17, Kalamazoo Valley Community College processed more than 14,000 requests for financial aid. Of those requests, 41 percent received some form of financial aid. The number of financial aid applications continues to increase each year and the Foundation's scholarship fund is one way the college works to meet student needs.

The dinner runs from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Radisson Plaza Hotel and Suites in downtown Kalamazoo. The pre-event reception begins at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner and the program which concludes at 8:30 p.m.



Bill Johnston

Tickets are \$160 for individuals and \$75 each for students. Sponsor tables that seat eight are available for \$1,650. To order tickets, go to www.kvcc.edu/foundation. For more information about the event and the KVCC Foundation, contact Executive Director Steve Doherty, 269.488.4442 or email: sdoherty@kvcc.edu.

Kalamazoo Valley Community College
6767 West O Avenue, PO Box 4070
Kalamazoo, MI 49003-4070

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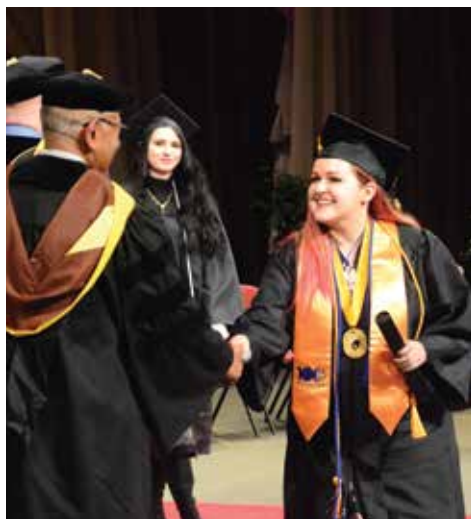
As Chairman, Johnston focuses on culture, vision, mission and high-level strategies for Greenleaf Trust; Greenleaf Hospitality Group, Inc.; and Catalyst Development Company, L.L.C. Bill serves as trustee of Western Michigan University as well as the Genevieve and Donald S. Gilmore Foundation. He also serves on the board of directors of Southwest Michigan First Economic Development Corporation, Bronson Healthcare Group, HUMANE_X, Special-Lite Corporation and the Western Michigan University Foundation. Johnston earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Western Michigan University.

Johnston spent 15 years in education as a teacher, coach and high school principal before pursuing his passion

charter from the State of Michigan, Johnston founded Greenleaf Trust in 1998 and merged the asset management company and bank together a year later. Greenleaf Trust manages in excess of \$12.0 billion and has offices in Birmingham, Traverse City, Petoskey, Grand Rapids and its headquarters in Kalamazoo. He is also founder and chairman of Greenleaf Trust Delaware and Greenleaf Financial Holding Company.

Greenleaf Hospitality Group formed in 2000 with the purchase of the Radisson Plaza Hotel and Suites property in Downtown Kalamazoo and now includes Stadium Management Group, Wings Event Center, Wings West, and the K-Wings professional hockey team.

COLLEGE AND COMMUNITY CELEBRATE GRADUATES



Graduation at Miller Auditorium December 2018

Completing college and earning an associate degree or certificate is sweet success for those scheduled to participate in commencement and graduation-related activities this spring at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. The commencement ceremony is scheduled for 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 28 in Miller Auditorium on the campus of Western Michigan University.

Brittany Gallagher is one of those

graduates. In 2016, 33 year-old Gallagher returned to college so that she could become a dental hygienist. The busy mother of four has successfully completed the program and is prepared to take licensure exams to become a licensed dental hygienist. "I knew that it would be difficult to juggle my family, four kids, work a full-time class schedule and homework," Gallagher said. "What I didn't realize was that I would get so much support from the faculty at Kalamazoo Valley which would allow me to succeed beyond my own goals. With the encouragement and support of everyone at Valley, I made it!"

"Brittany is a dedicated student who set her mind to achieving her goal," said Dental Hygiene Program Director Kim Grubka. "We are proud of all of our graduates and all the hard work they have done to accomplish their goals. It is rewarding when the students keep in touch with us as they enter the workforce."

Gallagher has been chosen as the student speaker and is one of hundreds

of students eligible to participate in the 83rd commencement which is open to the public. For those who cannot attend, the ceremony will be broadcast live through Public Media Network on channel 191 with Charter Communications and channel 99 with AT & T U-verse. It will also be streamed at www.publicmedianet.org/live-ed-191.

"Commencement is just one way we celebrate our graduates' achievements," said Interim Vice President for Instructional and Student Services, Dr. Paige Eagan. "A number of special programs and events have been scheduled to help the entire college community recognize our students."

From a "You Did It" luncheon for transferring students to special culinary, brewing and health care related events plus graduate art shows and an early college celebration are on the schedule for April (see complete list to the right). Many of these events are open to the public, but some require advanced registration. For more information contact 269.488.4821.

KALAMAZOO VALLEY ALUMNA CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS IN FOSTER CARE

Ronicka Hamilton, a 2000 alumna of Kalamazoo Valley Community College is opening doors and providing opportunities for Western Michigan University (WMU) students who have lived some or all of their teenage years in foster care. Hamilton is Director of the WMU Seita Scholars Program named to honor Dr. John Seita, who is a three-time alumnus of WMU.

Hamilton, a first generation college student, attended Kalamazoo Public School's Loy Norrix High School. She credits her mother and Aunt Tina as two of her biggest champions. "My mother was a teen-mom when she had me. She always wanted me to do the things she wished she had been able to do and encouraged and inspired me every day. She was and still is my #1 fan," she said. "My Aunt Tina, who is only two years older than me, had attended Kalamazoo Valley and then transferred to a four-year university - they both influenced and inspired me, and still do."

Inspiring students is a big part of what Hamilton does every day. To date, 147 students have graduated from the WMU program, which celebrated its 10-year anniversary in 2018. "Our students have gone on to do great things - nurses, a medical doctor, social workers and more," she said.

Hamilton knows firsthand about the challenges associated with completing a college education. "My educational journey was not a four-year journey and it wasn't always an easy one. I started at Kalamazoo Valley immediately following high school, then stopped out for several years. I had an amazing network of support who always saw in me what I

couldn't yet - they encouraged me and offered assistance."

Many of those who offered support were at Kalamazoo Valley including recent retirees Sadie Miles and Ken Bouma. "Sadie was there for me when I needed encouragement as I struggled with my decision to stop out. She was there for me with open arms when I decided to return. I maintained contact with her over the years, and after I earned my master's degree she sponsored me as I became a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc."

Academic counselor Bouma played a big part in Hamilton's success at the college. "He was always, always patient with me and he helped me understand many things about navigating college and the skills necessary to do so. Later, we crossed paths again and now he serves as career mentor for the Seita Scholars Program."

Hamilton, who began as an elementary education major earned an associate degree on May 5, 2000, graduating to pursue a bachelor's degree in social work at WMU. "I proudly display my associate degree certificate on my bookcase in my WMU office for all of my students to see," she said. "Attending Kalamazoo Valley helped increase my ability to ask for help and seek assistance from professors, in particular. I gained confidence because I learned that the faculty cared for me and my success. The scope of services at Valley is broad. I took advantage of many of the services the college offers including tutoring, the testing center and other supports like transfer programs to WMU." She added, "I saved money on tuition and in the long term, in



Ronicka Hamilton (center)

student loans. And finally, attending and graduating from Kalamazoo Valley gave me the confidence to attend a four-year university and successfully graduate."

Hamilton has advice for first generation college students and their families. "It's important for families and students to know about the many challenges for new to college students, which include gaining knowledge about the differences between high school and college and having the experience of balancing work, college and young adulthood. "Easing into college was important for me. Attending Kalamazoo Valley was essential to my growth and development. I was able to finish and transferred all of the skills and confidence I gained to WMU."

For more information about the Seita Scholars Program visit <https://wmich.edu/fostering-success/seita>.

UPCOMING GRADUATION CELEBRATIONS

FRIDAY, APRIL 12
Business Club: Bridge To Success
Program and Dinner
5:15-8 p.m.
Texas Township Campus
Library Lower Level

TUESDAY, APRIL 16
Transfer Resource and
Multicultural Services
"You Did It" Luncheon
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Texas Township Campus
Student Commons

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17
Transfer Resources and
Multicultural Services
"You Did It" Luncheon
11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Arcadia Commons Campus
Anna Whitten Hall

THURSDAY, APRIL 25
Culinary and Sustainable Brewing
Graduation Celebration
5:45 p.m.
Bronson Healthy Living Campus
Marilyn J. Schlack Culinary and
Allied Health Building

FRIDAY, APRIL 26
Center for New Media Grad Bash
Noon - 4 p.m.
Arcadia Commons Campus
Center for New Media

SATURDAY, APRIL 27
Nursing Graduates Pinning Ceremony
1 p.m.
Texas Township Campus
Dale B. Lake Auditorium
(Reception following in Room 4370)

SUNDAY, APRIL 28
83rd Kalamazoo Valley Community
College Commencement
2 p.m.
Western Michigan University
Miller Auditorium

FRIDAY, MAY 3
Student Art Show and Art Hop
5:30 p.m.
Arcadia Commons Campus
Center For New Media

THURSDAY, MAY 9
Early/Middle College
Completion Celebration
7 p.m.
Texas Township Campus
Dale B. Lake Auditorium
(Reception following in Room 4370)

FRIDAY, JUNE 7
Art and New Media Graduate Show
5:30 p.m.
Arcadia Commons Campus
Center for New Media

THIRD ANNUAL KALAMAZOO FOODWAYS SYMPOSIUM



Liana Aghajanian

Kalamazoo's Third Annual Foodways Symposium will focus on Middle Eastern culture, cooking and food. The event takes place April 5 – 6 at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum and the Bronson Healthy Living Campus of Kalamazoo Valley Community College. "The Foodways Symposium inspires and empowers the Greater Kalamazoo community to honor our agricultural history and heritage cuisines, celebrate good food and work together to build a just and healthy future for all," said Hristina Petrovska, food systems coordinator for Kalamazoo Valley's Food Innovation Center.

The Museum will host keynote speaker Liana Aghajanian in the Mary Jane Stryker Theater at 5:30 and 7 p.m. on Friday. A journalist specializing in storytelling and international reporting, Aghajanian has

focused much of her work on marginalized communities, immigration, displacement and identity. Recently, she has been documenting the Armenian experience in America through food. Her project, "Dining in Diaspora," traces the intersection of cuisine and agriculture with genocide, immigration, identity, and more. In addition to Aghajanian's talk, Chef Nidal Awad from Shwarma King on Drake Road will provide samples of some of the restaurant's best sellers.

Visitors to the Museum should also check out the exhibit, "What We Carried: Fragments and Memories from Iraq and Syria," on display until April 15. Photographer Jim Lommasson's project showcases the significant personal items that Iraqi and Syrian refugees brought with them when they immigrated to the United States. These refugees share their stories, telling what it means to have to leave one's homeland forever. These small objects, images and memories represent what they left behind. This traveling exhibition is a collaboration between Lommasson and the Arab American National Museum. The exhibition is funded by the Oregon Regional Arts Council, the Oregon Arts Commission, Ruth Ann Brown and the Arab American National Museum.

The Symposium continues at 9 a.m. on Saturday with workshops, conversations and hands-on cooking demonstrations for all ages at the Marilyn J. Schlack Culinary and Allied Health Building.

Participants will become immersed in the food and culture of the Middle East. There will be opportunities to learn to make baklava from scratch using recipes from the 16th century, explore different variations of flat breads, enjoy Turkish coffee, visit with vendors and more. Traditional Syrian lunch will be available for purchase at the Havirmill Café from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The Foodways Symposium is a collaboration between the Museum and the Bronson Healthy Living Campus. The program and activities provide historical, cultural and practical insights into food and food systems in Southwest Michigan. It serves as a convening point for students, practitioners and the community to come together to build a strong, vibrant local food system. The first Kalamazoo Foodways Symposium was held in April 2017. It included cooking demonstrations, children's activities, and a keynote address by food writer and community activist Toni Tipton-Martin, author of *The Jemima Code*. Last spring's Second Annual Foodways Symposium focused on Native American culture, cooking and food sovereignty and justice.

All Foodways Symposium activities are free, family-friendly and open to the public. Pre-registration is required through the website www.kalamazoomuseum.org/kalamazoofoodways.

KALAMAZOO VALLEY'S 2019 MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

Kalamazoo Valley's 2019 Merit Scholarships have been awarded to nearly 50 high school seniors from seven local counties. The Merit Scholarships are for top performing Michigan high school scholars and funds are to be used during their first two years at Kalamazoo Valley. Eligible applicants

must have a minimum GPA of 3.5, a minimum ACT composite score of 21 or a minimum new SAT composite score of 1060. Scholarship recipients are awarded a \$3,000 scholarship for their freshman year and can receive an additional award of \$3,000 for their sophomore year, if certain criteria are met.

Jenna Case - Athens
Paige Burgess - Coloma
Alexander Mason - Comstock
Branden Willis - Comstock
Zoey Allen - Gobles
Ross Thorpe - Gobles
Brandon Buchanan - Gull Lake
Sophia Christensen - Gull Lake
Liam Halpin - Gull Lake
Molly Blasen - Hackett Catholic
Austin Phan - Hackett Catholic
Ashley Loew - Hamilton
Logan Loofboro - Kalamazoo Central
Alec Corwin - Kalamazoo Christian
Elise VanSparrentak - Kalamazoo Christian
Megan Meeuwse - Kalamazoo Christian
Morgan Munson - Lawrence
Dylan Kalas - Lawton
Jordyn Gibbs - Lawton
Regan Peat - Lawton
Clayton Geerlings - Martin
Holly Remund - Mattawan
Troy Fillenworth - Mattawan
Lauren Rose - Plainwell

Andrea DeVries - Plymouth Christian
Brynn Henry - Portage Central
Grace Hovda - Portage Central
Bradley McNamara - Portage Central
Luke Singer - Portage Central
Megan Vande Gissen - Portage Central
Grace Cummings - Portage Northern
Andrew Gelbaugh - Portage Northern
Ethan Griwatsch - Portage Northern
Kelsey Feddema - Schoolcraft
Stephanie Rosas - South Haven
Jules Stuckum - South Haven
Caleb Stauffer - Stauffer Homeschool
Zachery Chapman - Sturgis
Baleigh Knapp - Sturgis
Fatima Abuhaltam - Three Rivers
Nathan Adams - Three Rivers
Destiny Allstead - Three Rivers
Daniel Foura - Three Rivers
Shelby Krawczak - Three Rivers
Grace Wile - Vicksburg
Jay Snyder - Vicksburg
Madeline Matice - Wayland Union



Cooking Classes and Demonstrations Saturday, April 6

HANDS-ON

Savory Baklava Creations
Chef: Channon Mondoux
9 – 11 a.m. | CAH Bakery 235

History of Flat Breads
Chef: Cory Barrett
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | CAH Bakery 235

16th Century Baklava Recreation
Chef: Channon Mondoux
1 – 3 p.m. | CAH Bakery 235

Vegan Cheese
Chef: Lauren Johnson
9 – 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. | CAH Kitchen 232

The Flavors of Armenia: Eetch and Manti
Chef: Margueritte Mooradian
1 – 3 p.m. | CAH Kitchen 232

Farmers Market "Chopped"
Chefs: Mariel Borgman and Gaby Gerken
9 – 11 a.m. | Start at Kalamazoo Winter Farmers Market Building, and continue in CAH Community Kitchen 113

Dolma: Stuffed Grape Leaves
Chef: Hether Frayer
12 – 1:30 p.m. and 2 – 3:30 p.m.
CAH Community Kitchen 113

DEMONSTRATIONS

Turshi: Chaldean Pickled Vegetables
Chef: Hether Frayer
9 – 10 a.m. | CAH Culinary Theater 107

Shawarma King on Drake's
Hummus and Baba Ganoush
Chef: Nidal Awad
11 a.m. – 12 p.m. | CAH Culinary Theater 107

Culinary Exploration of Syria: Seniat Lahmeh
Chef: Ali Dibeh
2 – 3 p.m. | CAH Culinary Theater 107

PRESENTATIONS

We Speak for Lebanon: A Collection of Essays on the Underdevelopment of Lebanese Agriculture
Presenter: Malak Ghazal
10 – 10:50 a.m. | CAH Room 223

Just the Basic Facts: Arab Americans, Islam & Food
Presenters: David Serio and Petra Alsoofy of the Arab American National Museum
11 – 11:50 a.m. | CAH Room 207

Dining in Diaspora: Tracing the Legacy of Armenian Food in America
Presenter: Liana Aghajanian
12 – 12:50 p.m. | CAH Room 223

Award-Winning Documentary Film, Wild Relatives
1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. | CAH Room 207

Black Farm Ownership: Discussion
Facilitator: Becca Sunday
1 p.m. – 1:50 p.m. | CAH Room 223

Coming Together for Food System and Community Resilience
Facilitators: Mariel Borgman and Lee Arbogast
2 – 2:50 p.m. | CAH Room 223



BLACK AND BLUE: NEW TRAINING HOPES TO BRIDGE COMMUNITIES OF COLOR AND POLICE



Kalamazoo Valley's 87th Academy

Since the second grade, Nicholas Tuleja has wanted to be a police officer. As an eight-year-old, the Holland native wrote a paper about his affinity for helping people and doing the right thing. As he grew up, that desire to simply help people evolved into something much deeper.

"When I decided I wanted to pursue a career in law enforcement it was because I wanted to help bridge the gap and really make an impact on the community I serve on a much more personal level," Tuleja said. "Policing is so much more than simply enforcing laws. You get the privilege to interact with people and positively impact their lives on a daily basis. Everyone you come into contact with has a different story, different upbringing and experiences that may differ from your own."

Now as a 25-year-old cadet in Kalamazoo Valley's Police Officer Training Academy, Tuleja is learning how to best interact with those whose experiences are different than his own, thanks to a unique new training program added to the academy's 16-week curriculum. The training, called Expanding our Horizons: A Cultural Awareness Experience, was developed by retired Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety Captain Stacey Randolph, in an effort to strengthen the relationships between law enforcement and communities of color.

Kalamazoo Valley is the only police academy in the state to offer this type of training.

During the day-long exercise, Tuleja and the 18 other cadets who make up the 87th academy, were divided up into three Racial Healing Circles with members of the local community. The cadets included two black men, one Native American man, three white women and 14 white men. The 50 diverse community

members - including professionals and those who had their own run-ins with law enforcement - ranged in age from 19 to 77. The circles focused on listening and being open to others' perspectives and experiences based on talking points initiated by practitioners from Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation (TRHT) Kalamazoo, a comprehensive, national and community-based process that focuses on advancing racial equity and racial healing in the United States.

"The world is seriously divided," Director of Kalamazoo Valley's Law Enforcement Training Center Victor Ledbetter said. "This training created a safe space where people of color, community members and cadets could be together and have open dialogue. The experience was so powerful. People's eyes were really opened to the need to treat people with dignity, respect and empathy."

Tuleja agreed, saying the experience had a profound effect on him.

"I increased my knowledge and understanding of how diverse the communities we live in truly are," he said. "I better understand why members of the community react and sometimes view law enforcement in a different light. A simple hello and a handshake between two people of different backgrounds and upbringings is sometimes all it takes to bridge the gap and start a dialogue that can positively impact both individuals."

Following the healing circles, everyone participated in lessons - in facilitation partnership with Bronson Community Health, Equity and Inclusion staff - that examined historical events, laws and policies in the United States, from an equity perspective.

"I am so glad we were able to relearn different parts of the history of our country," said Tara Ramsey, a 23-year-

old cadet from Parchment. "I learned so many things that I wasn't taught in school. There was so much I never even thought about, and am so grateful for the eye opening experience and for the community members who shared their stories. I believe this type of training should be in all police academies so other young officers in training can gain the knowledge and insight we learned."

At the end of the day, the cadets had the opportunity to do community service at Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes where they packed bags of food for area families in need. It was impressed upon them that they also will become referral sources for the communities they end up serving, not just making arrests.

According to Ledbetter, the Expanding our Horizons: A Cultural Awareness Experience training will be offered in all future police academies offered by the college. It is one of several changes to the academy's curriculum Ledbetter has made since taking over the program last year.

"As a black man with more than 25 years of experience working in law enforcement, I am in a unique position because I see issues from both sides - as a black man and as an officer," Ledbetter said. "I want to leave my footprint on the academy and ensure that Kalamazoo Valley cadets have a well-rounded understanding of humanity when they

are working in the field. When done properly, there is a nobility and honor in protecting and serving as a police officer."

To address contemporary societal issues police officers now encounter, Ledbetter has also added training that addresses:

- Human Trafficking
- Autism Awareness
- Conflict De-escalation
- Spanish for Police Officers
- LGBTQA Awareness
- PTSD Suicide Awareness
- Implicit Bias

There is currently a state-wide shortage of certified and qualified police officers. The college's next Police Officer Training Academy begins August 5, with applications being accepted April 15 - June 21. Information sessions will be held at the Law Enforcement Training Center on Kalamazoo Valley's Groves Campus April 10 at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Ledbetter will provide an overview of the 16-week training program and review information for pre-service graduates, cost and fee structure, academy rules and regulations as well as Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) curriculum and physical fitness tips.

For more information, contact Director of Kalamazoo Valley Law Enforcement Training Center Victor Ledbetter at vledbetter@kvcc.edu.

FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 7:30 P.M.

TICKETS ARE \$20 AND CAN BE PURCHASED AT THE TEXAS TOWNSHIP CAMPUS BOOKSTORE OR BY CONTACTING DAVE POSTHER [DPOSTHER@KVCC.EDU](mailto:dposther@kvcc.edu) OR 269.488.4476

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Editor: Linda Depta

Managing Editor: Dawn Kemp

Designer: Robyn Hughes

Photographers: Robyn Hughes
Hristina Petrovska
Sam Zomer

Contributors: Linda Depta

Erin Dominianni

Dawn Kemp

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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

