A Kalamazoo Valley Community College Publication

KalamazooVALLEY[™] community college

LOOKING FOR A JOB

KALAMAZOO VALLEY TO HOST THREE JOB FAIRS

IN MARCH

Kalamazoo Valley Community College will host three upcoming job fairs for students and community job seekers.

Anyone interested in a career in law enforcement is invited to attend the Kalamazoo Valley Law Enforcement Training Center Career Fair on **Wednesday, March 4** from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the college's Groves Campus. Seventeen police agencies as well as the Michigan Department of Corrections will be on hand to meet with attendees and discuss job opportunities.

"There are over 100 agencies throughout the state that have posted job openings on the Michigan Commission of Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) web page," said Director of Kalamazoo Valley's Law Enforcement Training Center Victor Ledbetter. "Some agencies have multiple openings and many agencies haven't posted on there yet. There is no better time to get into law enforcement than now and this career fair is just the first step for your career in law enforcement."

More than 70 regional employers will be on site during the Kalamazoo Career Fair on **Wednesday, March 18**, at the college's Texas Township Campus. The event is from noon to 4 p.m. and is free and open to the public. Ample free parking is available.

Employers from financial institutions, healthcare, human services, manufacturing

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



Students attending Kalamazoo Valley's Career Fair

seekers the opportunity to meet with area employers.

"The Career Fair is a great resource for the entire community. In addition, the event provides an excellent opportunity for Kalamazoo Valley students. They are able to interact with a variety of employers and learn firsthand about the jobs available in the area," McConnell said.

Thursday, March 19, the college will host the Michigan Department of Education's (MDE) Education Workforce Job Fair from 3-6 p.m. also on the Texas Township Campus.

The MDE's Education Workforce Job Fair connects job seekers with those hiring teachers, substitute teachers, bus drivers, custodians, parapros, secretaries,

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and non-profit agencies will be available to talk about their job opportunities. A list of participating employers can be found at www.kvcc.edu/careerfair/employers.php.

"Statewide statistics point to improving employment opportunities for many types of workers," according to Mary McConnell, workforce coordinator at the college and event organizer. "There is high demand for those in skilled trades, health care, education, business, dental hygiene, culinary and brewing."

Job seekers who attend the Career Fair should bring copies of their resumes, dress for success and be prepared to meet with potential employers. The purpose of this event is to give students and community job administrators and other education-related positions.

The fair is free for all job-seeking candidates and exhibiting Local Education Agencies (LEAs), Intermediate School Districts (ISDs), and Public School Academies (PSAs) seeking to hire for the 2020-21 school year. Visit bit.ly/mieducation_jobfairs for more details and to register.

Those unable to attend the career fairs are encouraged to visit the college's free job board, Career Coach, at kvcc.emsicc.com. The online job board matches job seekers with careers based on their personal interests and skills.

GET KIDS THINKING ABOUT A CAREER



Groves Center, go behind the scenes

at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum and

enjoy scavenger hunts and swimming

Camp is open to boys and girls entering

campers per session. The camp is \$150

per week per camper (scholarships are

August 10 - 13 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Campers report Monday, Tuesday

and Wednesday at 8 a.m. to Room

8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

6th, 7th, and 8th grades (2020-2021

school year) and is limited to 24

available) and will be offered:

June 15 - 18

June 22 - 25

July 13 - 16

July 20 - 23

August 3 - 6

at the Texas Township Campus.

Kalamazoo Valley Museum

Marilyn J. Schlack Culinary and Allied Health Building
Do have you a creative middle schooler

at home? Someone who likes to draw, write stories, or take photographs? Or perhaps someone who is curious about the world around them, fascinated by the stars, or is good at math? How about someone who likes to cook, grow their own vegetables or entertain family and friends?

If so, put their creativity and imagination to work at Kalamazoo Valley Community College's popular Early/Middle College Explore Your Future Careers Summer Camps.

Careers in graphic design, astronomy and culinary arts are just some of the fields that will be explored during the week-long camps that take campers to all four of the college's campuses.

The camps, said Dr. Deborah Coates, dean of instruction, Early/Middle College, are designed to introduce area middle school students to different careers through skill-building activities and one-on-one interaction with faculty who are experts in their field.

"Keeping children engaged and learning over the summer months can be challenging," Coates said. "The Explore Your Future Careers Summer Camps offer students the opportunity to learn about a variety of careers through fun activities on a college campus."

Campers will be introduced to video production at the Center for New Media, create a "farm to fork" meal at the Food Innovation Center and Marilyn J. Schlack Culinary and Allied Health Building, use robotics at the college's

128 in Anna Whitten Hall on the Arcadia Commons Campus at 202 N. Rose Street. On Thursday, campers should report to the college's Food Innovation Center at 224 E. Crosstown Parkway. Drop-off begins at 8 a.m., with all activities starting at 8:30 a.m. Campers should be picked up at Anna Whitten Hall each day at 3 p.m. with the exception of Thursday when the pick-up location is at the Marilyn J. Schlack Culinary and Allied Health Building at 418 E. Walnut. Transportation to the different camp locations, lunch and snacks are provided by the college.

Online registration opens March15. Register at www.kvcc.edu/community.

For scholarship information or any other questions, contact Coates at 269.488.4509 or dcoates@kvcc.edu.



Young artists at the Center for New Media



Gardening at the Food Innovation Center

CALL FOR ENTRIES FOR KALAMAZOO VALLEY'S

NINTH ANNUAL ALUMNI+ ART SHOW



Christopher Darling's 2019 Best of Show: The Cleveland Symphony Plays Respighi

It isn't too early to start thinking about entering Kalamazoo Valley's Ninth Annual Alumni+ Art Show. The show opens on Friday, June 5 at 5:30 p.m. and submissions are accepted April 6 through May 21.

This juried art show enables Kalamazoo Valley alumni to showcase their works. There is no artist entry fee. Each year this show is held at Kalamazoo Valley's Center for New Media in conjunction with Art Hop.

Works submitted will be considered for awards which will be presented to artists the night of the show. Show judges are area professionals who come from a variety of disciplines and whose expertise enables them to deliver expert, but impartial, determinations. Previous judges have been impressed by the variety and quality of work.

An alumni artist can enter the show if he or she: 1) has successfully completed at least one class at Kalamazoo Valley, 2) is not currently enrolled in any class at the time of the show (summer 2020); and 3) is not a Kalamazoo Valley employee.

Participants from any program of study are welcome. Previous show entrants have come from a variety of backgrounds including law enforcement, accounting, and medical coding. Alumni artists do not have to reside locally to enter or win. Past shows have accepted entries from Kalamazoo Valley alumni artists residing in Rhode Island, Arizona, and Wyoming.

For more details and to access the Call for Entry Form, Gallery Requirements Form and the Exhibit Agreement Form, go to https://www.kvcc.edu/alumni/artshow/.

Art can be turned in to Cindy Parks at the CNM reception desk. The submission deadline is Monday, May 21. For more information contact Tom Hamann, thamann@kvcc.edu or 269.373.7881 or Denise Thomas at dthomas1@kvcc.edu or 269.488.4314.

FOODWAYS SYMPOSIUM 2020

PLANT FORWARD



Kalamazoo's Fourth
Annual Foodways
Symposium will focus on
the future of foodways
and will provide a
platform for discussion
about the intersection of
food, culture, health and
environment. The event
takes place Friday, April 3,
at the Kalamazoo Valley
Museum and Saturday,
April 4, at 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.

The Museum will host keynote speaker Abra Berens in the Mary Jane Stryker Theater at 5:30 and 7 p.m. on Friday night. Berens is a chef, former farmer and writer who believes that the meals we eat should change with the seasons and that their ingredients should come from nearby. She strives to make simple, delicious meals that champion the region. Her first cookbook, Ruffage: A Practical Guide to Vegetables, is a teaching cookbook that aims to help build readers' confidence in preparing vegetables by providing easy-to-follow recipes, detailed explanations of cooking techniques, and a myriad of variations for each recipe to inspire future dishes. The book will be available for sale during both days of the event, and Berens will be signing books both days. The Friday night event kickoff will also feature painter Ellen Nelson's beautiful food-themed artwork and a tasty "plant-forward" food sample from a local chef.

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



Abra Berens

Some sessions require advance registration. All Foodways Symposium activities are free, family-friendly, and open to the public. More information is available at kalamazoomuseum.org/kalamazoofoodways/.

Join the movement and become immersed in celebrating our bountiful agricultural region and the richness that plants bring to our life and health.

The Foodways Symposium is a collaboration between the college and the community. 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.

VALLEY WELCOMES TOMMY ORANGE

Kalamazoo Valley's "About Writing" Visiting Writers Series welcomes Tommy Orange on March 26 for two events: an on-stage conversation at 10 a.m. and a reading and on-stage conversation at 2:15 p.m. in the Student Commons Theater, Room 4240, at the Texas Township Campus. Both events will be followed by a book signing. Drop-in community book talks to discuss *There There* are set for 6:30 p.m. on March 12 at This is a Bookstore, and at the Portage District Library at 6:30 p.m. on March 16.

Orange is the author of the New York Times bestselling novel *There There*, a multigenerational, relentlessly paced story about a side of America few have ever seen: the lives of urban Native Americans. *There There* was one of The New York Times Book Review's 10 Best Books of the Year, won the Center for Fiction's First Novel Prize, and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize.



Tommy Orange

A recent graduate from the MFA program at the Institute of American Indian Arts, Orange is a 2014 MacDowell Fellow and a 2016 Writing by Writers Fellow. He is an enrolled member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma. Born and raised in Oakland, California, he now lives in Angels Camp, California.

The Visiting Writers Series at Kalamazoo Valley Community College is coordinated by English instructor Dr. Julie Stotz-Ghosh and offers students the opportunity to talk with professional writers and listen to their work. Retired English instructor Rob Haight established the series and began bringing noteworthy authors to the college in 2001. The events are free and open to the public and include a craft talk and a reading.

There There is being read and discussed by many Kalamazoo Valley Community College classes during the 2019/20 academic year. "It's a book that's already popping up as one of the best books of the decade. We feel lucky to have this unique opportunity to introduce our students to Tommy Orange and his work," said Liberal Arts Dean Dr. Billy Reynolds.

Stotz-Ghosh, who will moderate the question and answer session, agreed that Kalamazoo Valley is fortunate to be hosting Orange. "As a creative writer, I admire Tommy Orange's writing style," she said. "The novel is complex and layered." She expects the experience of reading the novel to encourage students to explore and tell their own stories. "When we share our stories we become connected," Stotz-Ghosh said. "Literature connects us. Reading a book together creates community, connects us with others through imagination, empathy and conversation."

"Reading Tommy's novel connects people who otherwise wouldn't understand the experience," said Kalamazoo Valley Library Director Mark Walters. "Connecting people to one another and to the history that we want to forget about is important because otherwise we forget."

Copies of *There There* are available through the Kalamazoo Valley bookstore. Both of Orange's March 26 presentations run for 45 minutes and will be followed by a book signing opportunity. Orange's visit is cosponsored by the English Department, Kalamazoo Valley Library and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

STUDENTS GET HEALTHIER

IN THE CLASSROOM



Medical Assistant Technology students working in lab

Thirty-two students enrolled in Wellness and Physical Education (WPE) and Exercise Science classes have partnered with Medical Assistant Technology (MAT) students for a detailed blood analysis in hopes of improving their overall health and well-being.

"It's a voluntary program allowing students some tangible data that impacts their overall health and well-being," explained Joe Brady, WPE faculty. "The students volunteer for a blood analysis, completed by our MAT students, at the start of the of their WPE class. After talking about good nutritional habits, exercise routines, effective weight management, and other pertinent information, the students then have the opportunity to apply the information they have learned in their class to improve their overall health and well-being."

After 10 weeks, students have their numbers re-checked in hopes of seeing some positive changes in their blood work as a result of making those lifestyle changes. Students will then analyze the data from the pre-test and post-test and draw conclusions.

The program includes assessing blood pressure, total cholesterol, High Density Lipoprotein (HDL) level and blood glucose (blood sugar) level. In the classroom, students assess their body composition (lean body mass vs. fat mass). After the initial analysis, students discuss the values, recommended ranges and the diseases that can occur if students are out of the recommended range.

"Once students understand those values, we talk about ways to improve (or maintain) them," Brady said. "In the various WPE courses, we discuss proper nutrition for disease prevention including; intake calories, saturated fats, simple carbohydrates (sugars), recommended amounts of protein, vitamins, minerals and water. We also discuss incorporating sound exercise routines, including cardio-respiratory training, muscular strength and endurance training, and flexibility. Students are also taught the principles for maintaining a healthy weight and recommended body-fat composition."

According to Brady, students have seen positive results.

"Students have reported a reduction in blood pressure, total cholesterol, blood glucose levels and body fat. We have also seen an increase in the HDL (good cholesterol) levels," he said. "I love how the students can see measurable results and know that adopting a healthy lifestyle and making good choices truly works to improve an individual's overall health and well-being. You can see the pride in their faces as they progress toward their goals. Not only does it give our WPE and Exercise Science students positive reinforcement, but it gives our MAT students the ability to apply the techniques they have learned in their Medical Assistant Technology courses before they move on to their professional careers outside of the college."

Brady hopes to expand the partnership next semester and make it available to more WPE and Exercise Science students.



Lynn Chen-Zhang



Carolyn Williams

To RSVP and for complete list of activities visit www.kvcc.edu/womenscelebration.

ONLINE BUSINESS DEGREE PROGRAM



According to the National Center for Education Statistics, business is the most popular major field of study among U.S. degree seekers. The Bureau of Labor Marketing Information and Strategic Initiatives estimates that right now there are more than 48,000 job openings for business graduates in Michigan.

Many students may choose to earn their business degree online, rather than in a traditional classroom-based setting. Kalamazoo Valley's new online associate degree program in business administration provides students with a comprehensive overview of the skills they need in organization and management, business procedures, leadership techniques and other fundamental aspects of business administration.

The flexible, user-friendly online format is also ideal for students who must balance completing their college education with other commitments such as employment and child care. This online business degree also prepares students for further educational opportunities, including transfer to one of the college's University Center partners.

The program is a flexible alternative for students which includes the ability to submit written assignments from anywhere. Current technology also enables study away from home using a laptop, tablet or other device.

For more information contact enrollment@kvcc.edu.

Tickets available at kvcc.edu/artistsforum

CELEBRATE WOMEN'S

HISTORY MONTH

In recognition of Women's History Month, Kalamazoo Valley Community College has scheduled a month-long celebration of the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote.

During the month of March, free events, sponsored by Kalsee Credit Union, are being held at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum and the Texas Township Campus. In an effort to continue to be good stewards of resources, advanced registration is required for many of the events.

Events include:

"Are We There Yet? - 100 Years of Imperfect Progress"

Wednesday, March 18 2 - 4 p.m.

Texas Township Campus | Room 4240
Reserve your seat by March 11
Since gaining the right to vote, women have made remarkable progress in the workplace, in higher education and in politics. However, progress has been uneven and barriers still exist as women attempt to gain equal footing in America. Join us for this inspiring presentation and panel discussion led by Rebecca Durkee, instructor of gender and women's studies (GWS) and sociology at Kalamazoo Valley

Community College. She leads the GWS concentration and teaches several classes on gender, including Introduction to Gender and Women's Studies as well as Media and the Sexes. Her research has included gender disparities in higher education and LGBTQ issues.

The panel discussion participants will include local leaders Dr. Grace Lubwama, executive director of the YWCA of Kalamazoo and Dr. Julie Stotz-Ghosh and Skylar Bre'z, faculty members at Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

Celebrating Women Leaders Tuesday, March 24 11:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Texas Township Campus | Room 4240

Reserve your seat by March 17
Michigan Women Forward (MWF) has
a vision where women and girls are
empowered to be leaders, inventors,
dreamers and doers. Kalamazoo Valley has
partnered with MWF to present inspiring
messages from Hon. Judge Carolyn H.
Williams and Lynn Chen-Zhang, two
groundbreaking local women. Both were
MWF's 2019 Women of Achievement and
Courage Award winners. Join us for lunch,
presentations and a panel discussion.



GRAHAM
PARKER

and Elden Kelly Trio

Ridfor in part by the Irvina S. Silmage and Barold and Grace Unicho Foundations.

APRIL 15 7:30 PM

DALE B. LAKE AUDITORIUM - TEXAS TOWNSHIP CAMPUS
TICKET SALES START MARCH 14 | DOORS OPEN AT 6:45 PM

For more information on tickets contact TTC Bookstore 269.488.4030 or Dave Posther 269.488.4476



OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION DINNER FEATURES

FOOD NETWORK SPRING BAKING CHAMPION

Cory Barrett will be the keynote speaker at the May 13 Opportunities for Education (OFE) fundraising dinner, which is a primary source of funding for the KVCC Foundation's student scholarships.

Barrett, co-program director of Kalamazoo Valley's culinary arts program, was Food Network's Spring Baking Champion and has been an instructor for the college since 2016. He has more than 20 years of culinary experience and worked with Michael Symon on 17 episodes of Food Network's Iron Chef show. His winning dessert on the 2019 Spring Baking Championship was a Mother's Day-themed salted caramel macchiato entremets or mousse-based cake.

Barrett had a hand in the development of the college's culinary program and will talk about his experiences on Food

Network, Kalamazoo Valley's culinary arts program and his own college experiences. "I'm excited about the opportunity to talk about our culinary program and share more of my own story," he said.

This year marks the 16th annual OFE Dinner. The need for financial aid among students continues to rise steadily. Each year, Kalamazoo Valley Community College processes nearly 10,000 requests for financial aid. Of those requests, 40 percent receive some form of financial aid. "The OFE Dinner enables the Foundation to continue to do the important work of helping students succeed," said Executive Director of the KVCC Foundation Linda Depta.

The event runs from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Delta Hotel by Marriott Conference Center. The pre-event reception begins at 5:30 p.m.,

followed by dinner and the program. In addition to Chef Cory's remarks, the college will announce its 2020 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient.

The evening will also include the opportunity to bid on several college culinary-related gift packages and remarks from KVCC Foundation Board Chairperson Matt Lahman and college President L. Marshall Washington, Ph.D.

Tickets are \$160 for individuals and \$75 each for students. Sponsor tables that seat eight are available for \$1,650. Tickets are now available. To order tickets, go to www. kvcc.edu/foundation. For more information about the event and the KVCC Foundation, contact Depta at 269.488.4821 or email Idepta@kvcc.edu.



Cory Barrett

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

CONTRIBUTE TO U.S. ECONOMY



Mohaned Halawa from Egypt is studying computer science at Kalamazoo Valley

International students studying at Kalamazoo Valley Community College contributed \$2.7 million to the economy in Michigan's Sixth Congressional District and supported 14 jobs during the 2018-2019 school year, according to a new report from NAFSA: Association of International Educators.

The college hosted 100 international students last fall, the largest number of any community college in the area. There were more than 3,000 international students studying within the district during 2018-2019, contributing \$102.5 million to the area economy and supporting 1,169 jobs, according to the report. The majority of those students were pursuing a four-year degree at Western Michigan University.

"This report demonstrates the significant return on investment for the college's international enrollment operations," said International Student Services Manager Chris Voss. "International student enrollment benefits our campus as well as the community around us."

Further analysis showed international students studying at all U.S. colleges and universities contributed \$41 billion and supported 458,290 jobs to the U.S. economy. For every seven international students, three U.S. jobs are created and supported by spending in the following sectors: higher education, accommodation, dining, retail, transportation, telecommunications and health insurance. According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, education currently ranks as the nation's fifth largest services export, larger than business travel.

"The United States is strengthened by our long-standing commitment to academic exchange," NAFSA Executive Director and CEO Esther D. Brimmer said. "This latest economic value analysis demonstrates the vast economic benefits international students and their families bring to the **United States."**

There are currently 81 international students studying at Kalamazoo Valley, with the largest numbers coming from Saudi Arabia, Nigeria and Malawi. Voss and his team are currently focusing their recruitment efforts in countries like Kazakhstan and Columbia, in hopes of attracting more students to Michigan and Kalamazoo Valley.

SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS

For nearly 30 years, Kalamazoo Valley Community College has offered summer sports camps for area students. This summer, a number of truly unique Cougar Camps – for boys and girls basketball, volleyball and softball – will again be offered at the college's Texas Township Campus.

VOLLEYBALL CAMP

June 22 - 25 | 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Girls entering grades 6 - 8 | 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Girls entering grades 9 - 12 | 1 - 4 p.m. Equipment needed: Gym shoes, socks, shorts, knee pads, jersey or t-shirt and labeled water bottle or thermos. Camp fee: \$110 until May 25. \$135 for registrations received after May 25. Registration closes June 15.

VOLLEYBALL TEAM LEAGUE

June 25, July 9, 16, and 23 6-8 p.m. 2 matches/night For area high school varsity teams. Ten team maximum. All teams must adhere to MHSAA rules regarding coaching players in the off season. Team fee: \$200/team. Registration opens Feb. 1 and closes June 22. For more information call 269.488.4799 or email jbuikema@kvcc.edu.

GIRLS BASKETBALL CAMP

July 6-9 | 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Girls entering grades 6 - 12 Equipment needed: Gym shoes, socks, shorts, jersey or t-shirt and labeled water bottle or thermos. All campers should bring a sack lunch or money to eat in the school cafeteria. Camp fee: \$150 until June 8. \$175 for registrations received after June 8. Registration closes June 29.

BOYS BASKETBALL CAMP

Session 1: July 13 - 16 | 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Session 2: July 20 - 23 | 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Boys entering grades 6 - 12 Equipment needed: Gym shoes, socks, shorts, jersey or t-shirt and labeled water bottle or thermos. All campers should bring a sack lunch or money to eat in the school cafeteria. Session 1: Camp fee: \$150 until June 15. \$175 for registrations received after June 15. Registration closes July 6. Session 2: Camp fee: \$150 until June

22. \$175 for registrations received after

June 22. Registration closes July 13.

GIRLS SOFTBALL CAMP

July 27 - 30 | 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Girls entering grades 4-7 | 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Girls entering grades 8 - 12 | 1 - 4 p.m. Equipment needed: All campers should arrive dressed to play each day with a softball glove, bat, helmet, cleats and labeled water bottle or thermos. Camp fee: \$110 through June 29. \$135 for registrations after June 25. Registration closes July 20.

For specific information about each camp and to register visit: athletics.kvcc.edu/ camps. Registration is now open.

Campers may cancel or request a refund (less a \$25 administrative fee) up to seven days before their camp begins. No refunds will be given after this deadline. Personal belongings should be taken home daily. Kalamazoo Valley is not reponsible for lost or stolen items.

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

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