



CENTER FOR NEW MEDIA TO HOST "CREATIVITY DURING CRISIS" VIRTUAL ART SHOW

The Center for New Media is hosting a virtual art show, Creativity During Crisis, premiering on Sept. 4, 2020. Entries are being accepted until Aug. 14. The show is open to greater Kalamazoo area artists, writers and musicians. There is a limit of two entries per artist. Work must have been created after the Michigan "Stay Home, Stay Safe" Executive Order was put into effect on March 23, 2020.

The categories are animation/time based media/video; 2D artwork such as paintings, drawings, mixed media, digital and traditional art or photography; 3D artwork such as sculpture, ceramics, and mixed media; and the written word.

"Now, more than ever, we can turn to creative expression to help us understand ourselves in the context of all that is happening," said Kalamazoo Valley English

instructor Dr. Julie Stotz-Ghosh. "We have watched with wonder and gratitude as artists, writers, actors and musicians have offered their talents to the world throughout the pandemic crisis. We know how to heal ourselves – it is an instinct we are remembering. Culture, creative expression, art and music have always comforted us in times of struggles."

Entries will be featured on the Center for New Media's Facebook account @KalamazooValleyCNM and on the Center's Instagram account @centerfornewmedia.

All entries must be sent by 4 p.m. on August 14 to Cindy Parks via email at cparks@kvcc.edu. For detailed show requirements and submission instructions, see the Gallery Requirements form at www.kvcc.edu/news/documents/COVID19_Show_Guidelines.pdf.



VALLEY FOOD SHARE RETURNED JUNE 9



Valley Food Share at the Food Innovation Center

year until the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic closed the campus buildings in March.

To assist students, Valley Food Share distribution returned as a drive-thru service alternating between the Food Innovation Center and the Texas Township Campus on June 9. Students are emailed a form each week allowing them to select a pick-up time and are asked to wait in their cars when they arrive. College employees, wearing masks and practicing social distancing, place the shares in cars when students arrive.

"A significant number of Kalamazoo Valley students experience food insecurity every day," said Kalamazoo Valley President L. Marshall Washington, Ph.D. "This issue deeply impacts students' educational efforts and outcomes. It was a priority of mine to get Valley Food Share up and running again during the pandemic. I am glad we can help our students during this uncertain time."

For more information about Valley Food Share, email foodshare@kvcc.edu.

Valley Food Share, an initiative designed to meet the immediate food needs of Kalamazoo Valley students, returned June 9. Through the program, currently enrolled students can pick up a box, or a "share" which includes food grown locally and sourced through the college's Food Innovation Center as well as non-perishable items from Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes, to take home. The college had been providing students with shares once a week for the last

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

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OCTOBER 1, 2020

- Interactive Zoom demonstrations
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- Talk with our instructors who are industry experts



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VIRTUAL SUMMIT ON RACISM SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER



The Society for History and Racial Equity (SHARE), with the support of Kalamazoo Valley Community College and its Kalamazoo Valley Museum, the Kalamazoo Public Library, Kalamazoo Community Foundation and others, will present a virtual Summit on Racism Nov. 12 – 14. Registration for the virtual Summit, which will be accessed through Zoom, opens on Oct. 1. See the SHARE website at www.sharekazoo.org and the Kalamazoo Valley Museum website at www.kalamzoomuseum.org for more information.

SHARE was established to nurture respect, to foster racial healing, and to promote the appreciation and study of the African American heritage and its contributions to Southwest Michigan history.

"At Kalamazoo Valley Community College, we consider the rich diversity of our students, faculty and staff to be an asset," said college President L. Marshall Washington, Ph.D. "Decades of research have shown that diversity, nurtured in a welcoming and respectful environment, encourages critical thinking, reduces harmful stereotypes, and strengthens the ability to communicate, work and play across lines of identity and difference.

For 16 years, Kalamazoo's Summit on Racism has offered a unique and important venue to bring the community together for open dialogue regarding race and to create solutions to eradicate racism. This year's summit occurs at a moment in our history that is particularly significant, not because the issues have changed, but because the events of 2020 have caused more people to become actively engaged. "The college and the Kalamazoo Valley Museum have collaborated with SHARE in the past and we believe that our sponsorship of the Summit this year will help demonstrate our commitment to

creating an environment, both on campus and off, where all students can learn and achieve their full potential," said Director of Diversity and Inclusion at Kalamazoo Valley, Trice Batson.

Donna Odom, the executive director of SHARE, stated, "In these challenging times, as we face a pandemic that impacts people of color more than any other group, an economic collapse, and the acknowledgement of the endemic racism that exists in America, we hope to provide not only an opportunity for learning and exchanging ideas, but ideas and inspiration for personal and community change and transformation."

Participants of the Summit are from wide backgrounds, and the sessions will also foster general cultural competence among and between groups. The goals are to replace white privilege with multiculturalism as the dominant paradigm and eliminate Institutional Racism by changing systems that perpetrate racism, Odom explained.

In addition to the conversations and keynote speakers featured, there will also be several video shorts, produced by local Kalamazoo-area residents, premiering during the Summit. Community members will attend a series of webinars in September and October in order to self-produce personal stories on a variety of subjects related to race and healing.

Mary Ann McNair from StoryCenter will lead the pre-Summit webinars and said, "Every person's voice, every person's lived experience, is part of the fabric of the community, the nation, and the world. Too many voices have systematically been shut down or excluded for hundreds of years, and digital storytelling is one way to bring them to the forefront. Each story is a snapshot of an era in our history and is a record of where we have been as a culture. When we pay attention to the 'small' stories, we see larger patterns, and we find the motivation to effect change—not only in ourselves, but even in public policy."

A grant from the KVCC Foundation supports the partnership with StoryCenter. StoryCenter founded and pioneered the Digital Storytelling methodology of participatory media creation and has since taught hundreds of workshops around the world.

After the videos are streamed at the Summit, some will be used by the Kalamazoo Valley Museum, SHARE and Kalamazoo Public Library as teaching tools in future programming, online content and exhibits.

For more information and a complete schedule of the two-day Summit on Racism, visit www.sharekazoo.org.



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UNIVERSITY CENTER TO HOST VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE IN AUGUST

The University Center at Kalamazoo Valley Community College combines the degree completion opportunities of four-year schools with the local convenience and services offered at a community college campus. Davenport University, Siena Heights University and Ferris State University all offer degree completion options through the University Center. The Center was established in 2015 when the partnership with Davenport was established. Siena Heights joined a year later and Ferris State is being added to the offerings this summer. Representatives from each of the three universities are hosting a virtual open house for prospective students on Wednesday, Aug. 12 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Links to the event will be posted at www.kvcc.edu/universitycenter.

The University Center concept tightens the linkage between a two-year associate degree and a four-year baccalaureate degree. It allows students to seamlessly transition from one level of education to the next without leaving Kalamazoo Valley's campuses.



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KALAMAZOO VALLEY MUSEUM MAKING PLANS TO REOPEN



Kalamazoo Valley Museum's Innovation Exhibit

At the Kalamazoo Valley Museum, plans are being considered for a phased in reopening to the public that will initially involve very small groups of visitors in timed visits. "Visitor and

staff safety is the number one priority," said Museum Director Bill McElhone. "The pandemic closure has been challenging for all of us. The shining light during this major reset has been the resilience of staff to get creative, explore new ideas and pursue innovative approaches to redefine the museum visitor experience."

New orientation videos will be produced to share the measures being taken to provide a safe experience for all visitors. This fun and informative video will share some of the history and science behind the pandemic and will likely be part of a campaign to welcome visitors back to the Museum.

It's anticipated that the initial reopening will occur this fall. The "see and read" experience of the exhibit will not have any touch interactives. The museum's Exhibits and Programming

team is in the process of modifying some of the exhibits along with creating engaging experiences such as large video projections, new banner exhibits including those from the National Archives, and using other innovative technologies.

The museum will continue to expand its online offerings including 360 degree virtual tours of the museum, exploration of the online collections catalog, a new podcast on interpretation and that traditional fall programming including annual National Chemistry Day which will be held online this year from Oct. 18 to 24.

For more details about the museum reopening and the calendar of online events, go to www.kalamazoomuseum.org.



FOCUS

www.kvcc.edu/register

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KalamazooVALLEYTM
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REGISTER NOW FALL SEMESTER CLASSES BEGIN SEPT. 8



Olivia Scheel

Students who may be rethinking their fall plans and hoping to stay closer to home due to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic, are encouraged to register now to take classes at Kalamazoo Valley. The fall semester begins Sept. 8.

"With all of the uncertainty in the world right now, being close to home, near family and

friends is important," said Megan Pauken, director of enrollment management. "The college welcomes anyone thinking about taking classes this fall to apply to Kalamazoo Valley. We offer one of the lowest tuition rates in the state and have more than 900 classes available this fall."

To meet student health and safety needs, course offerings were revised and additional online classes were added to the fall semester schedule. While the majority of fall classes will be held online, some courses that require labs, including those in the industrial trades, health careers and wellness and physical education, will be held on campus, in person. Additionally, some liberal arts courses will have face-to-face instruction.

"Our faculty have been working tirelessly to revamp our fall semester classes to best meet the needs of our students," said Dr. Dennis Bertch, interim provost and vice president for instruction and student services. "We

REOPENING: STAYING SAFE ON CAMPUS

A phased-in reopening of campus buildings is underway at Kalamazoo Valley. "The health and well-being of our students, faculty, staff and the communities we serve is a top priority," said college President L. Marshall Washington, Ph.D. As COVID-19 (Coronavirus) is primarily spread through respiratory droplets, the college will require that all faculty, staff, students and visitors wear face coverings or masks while on campus.

Work spaces, classrooms, labs, offices, common spaces and the Kalamazoo Valley Museum have been deep cleaned and sanitized. Hand-sanitizing stations and cleaning kiosks have been installed in all college buildings. Participation in a Return to Campus training, which includes a daily health-screen questionnaire, is required for all who enter campus buildings. No Touch tools will also be made available for all and face masks and shields will be provided to those who do not have their own.

The fall class schedule has been significantly updated to provide a mix of online/remote learning and on-campus instruction. The Texas Township Campus computer lab has been moved to facilitate compliance with social distancing protocol. Student services, including financial aid and advising and counseling will be offered online and on-campus by appointment. Planning is underway to provide for possible in-person, drop-in advising and counseling and other student services.

Across all campuses, cleaning of high-traffic areas and high-touch surfaces such as handrails, benches, tables, handles and restrooms has been increased. All surfaces are being wiped and disinfected at least daily using products approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Electrostatic Victory sprayers and backpack sprayers are being used to clean and disinfect large areas with additional emphasis on high-touch areas

have a number of new online options for students but also plan to offer in person or hybrid classes in areas such as art, culinary, economics and English as well as in the industrial trades and health career programs."

Students who are hesitant to try online learning, shouldn't be, according to Olivia Scheel. "I really enjoyed the online humanities class that I took at Kalamazoo Valley," she said. "I felt like the instructor really cared." She explained that her questions were always answered promptly and the instructor worked hard to keep students engaged. "Just because you think you don't like online classes doesn't mean you wouldn't like an online class at Kalamazoo Valley," said Scheel, who was dual enrolled at Valley before graduating and transferring to Western Michigan University. "I always felt like the instructors at Kalamazoo Valley really did care," she said.

Get registered today! Visit www.kvcc.edu/register or call 269.488.4040 for assistance.

in restrooms. "These unprecedented times require that we continue to act courageously to ensure that Kalamazoo Valley is a great place for every student to learn and be successful," said Washington.

For more information, visit www.kvcc.edu/coronavirus.



Campus cleaning station



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