



## READ THE LATEST KV FOCUS

### **Greetings,**

I trust that you are beginning to enjoy your summer schedule! Along with you, I'm waiting for summer weather to return to Michigan, so that we can truly appreciate this special season!

Earlier this week I shared important news about the selection of Dr. Peter Linden as the new provost and vice president for instructional and student support services. Dr. Linden is currently serving as chancellor of the Michigan City campus of Ivy Tech. He will assume his new duties here on July 8.

Dr. Linden brings a wealth of experience to his new position at Kalamazoo Valley. His work in instruction, curriculum, student success and administration made him a perfect choice to succeed Dr. Dennis Bertch who retired in December and Dr. Paige Eagan who has been so capably serving as interim. I want to publicly thank Dr. Eagan for her fine efforts over the past five months. Her leadership has been exceptional. Please see the official press release about Dr. Linden's hiring below.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Summer Celebration event on Friday, June 7 at Anna Whitten Hall.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'L. Marshall Washington'.

L. Marshall Washington, Ph.D.  
President

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L. Marshall Washington, Ph.D. and Peter Linden, Ph.D.

## **Kalamazoo Valley Names New Provost and Vice President for Instruction and Student Support Services**

Peter Linden, Ph. D., has been named Kalamazoo Valley Community College's new provost and vice president for instruction and student support services, it was announced Tuesday by college president L. Marshall Washington, Ph.D.

Linden, who now serves as chancellor of the Michigan City campus of Ivy Tech in Indiana, will assume his new position on July 8.

Washington said, "Dr. Linden brings a wealth of experience to his new position at Kalamazoo Valley. His experience in instruction, curriculum, student success and administration made him a perfect choice." Linden succeeds Dr. Dennis Bertch who retired in December. He was chosen from a field of dozens of candidates after a national search.

Linden has a Ph.D. in higher education and policy leadership from Loyola University Chicago. He also holds a Master's degree in business administration from North Park University, a Bachelor of Science in business and management from Northeastern Illinois University and an associate degree in occupational studies from the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York.

As an educator and administrator in higher education, Linden said he lives by one motto, one that he hopes his colleagues at Kalamazoo Valley will embrace as well: "We are here to serve our students."

In his new role, Linden sees himself as a bridge-builder and a relationship-builder. He said he plans "to introduce and promote programs that are going to add to the economy of the region by way of workforce development." He hopes to do this by collaborating with high schools, area

businesses and other community partners to address the skills gap that currently exists in local industries.

Prior to Ivy Tech, Linden served as academic dean of career and technical education at Joliet Junior College. "Community colleges offer more options, more affordable prices and are more responsive to the needs of the community," he said.

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### **Cougar Athletes Excel in the Classroom**

The following student-athletes have earned National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Academic Awards for the 2018-19 school year:

#### **First Team (4.00):**

Grace Meachum, Women's Basketball  
Sophie Monroe, Softball  
Rachel Pijaszek, Softball  
Ariana Rowe, Softball

#### **Second Team (3.80-3.99):**

Lauren Chavis, Softball  
Sara Egly, Volleyball  
Nathan Myers, Baseball  
Clayton Stapert, Men's Basketball

#### **Third Team (3.60-3.79):**

Alex Babbitt, Baseball  
Hannah Bronsterrer, Softball  
Lukas Coker, Baseball  
Nicolle Larson, Softball  
Jacob Penny, Baseball  
MaKenna Wilson, Women's Basketball

Additionally, two Valley sports teams earned NJCAA Academic Team Awards for earning an overall team gpa of a 3.0 or higher. The Kalamazoo Valley baseball team, led by Coach Cody Piechocki, had a 3.06 gpa and the softball team, led by Coach Morgan VanderBor, earned a 3.30 gpa. Congratulations coaches and players!

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## **RSVP by June 1 for the Summer Celebration**

You and your family are invited to attend a college summer celebration with food and special activities for all ages on Friday, June 7 from 5 to 7 p.m. in the courtyard behind Anna Whitten Hall on the Arcadia Commons Campus.

Register by June 1 and you will be entered into a drawing for one of two pair of tickets to a Detroit Tigers baseball game. The drawing is at 6:45 p.m. and you must be present to win. Choose from:

### **INDIANS**

Friday, June 14  
7:10 p.m.

### **NATIONALS**

Friday, June 28  
7:10 p.m.

## **Next Level Customer Service Training – Still Time to Register!**

In response to faculty and staff requests for ongoing training and support for frontline employees, a new personalized customer service training program begins next week.

### **Next Level Customer Service**

Training will equip frontline employees across the college with tools, skills and knowledge needed to provide excellent service to students, visitors and coworkers alike.

The training is required for all frontline staff but is open to anyone who is interested in learning more about the college, its process and procedures. If you or someone on your staff is interested in participating in the training, please contact [Cathy Colella](#) or [Molly Cartwright](#) or [sign up](#) now.

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## **Momentum Graduation is June 13**

Please join us as we honor the Momentum/Warehouse Management and Inventory Control Academy graduates Thursday, June 13 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Trenches Church, 1003 Gayle Ave. Kalamazoo, MI 49048.

Momentum Urban Employment Initiative, a division of Urban Alliance, is a six-week intensive program designed to help unemployed and underemployed individuals in our community secure and maintain employment. This is accomplished through a unique mix of essential, employability and life skills trainings, along with job placement assistance.

Kalamazoo Valley Community College partnered with Momentum to offer the Warehouse Management and Inventory Control Academy Academy – a short-term career training program that teaches the skills required for a career in warehouse management.

Thirty percent of those who enrolled in Momentum in the past year were homeless. Eighty-four percent were ex-offenders and 80% came from generational poverty. In the same year, 72% of those enrolled in the program successfully graduated; 90% were successfully placed into employment with an average starting wage of \$12.96 per hour. Graduates also maintained an 81% success rate for employment retention beyond 90 days.

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### **Wind Turbine Technician Academy Graduation Slated for June 14**

The college community is invited to attend the June 14 graduation ceremony for the Wind Turbine Technician Academy June 14 at 11 a.m. at the Groves Center.

The Wind Turbine Technician Academy provides a fast track to jobs that are in demand and pay high wages. Kalamazoo Valley Community College offers this course as a non-credit full time program allowing men and women the chance to be job ready in less than six months. Students attend Monday through Friday, 8 hours each day for 24 weeks.

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### **Happy Hour at the Culinary and Allied Health Building**

Host your next department happy hour on the patio at the Marilyn J. Schlack Culinary and Allied Health Building on June 11 or July 16 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. For \$15, guests of these summertime Taps on Tuesday events receive two beverage tickets for beer or wine (no spirits or cocktails), and appetizers made in-house by the culinary department staff. There will also be vegetarian options at each event.

Dr. Washington plans to attend these fun, new social events. Come out and enjoy some fantastic food and lively conversation. Attendees must be at least 21 years old. Buy tickets [here](#).

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### **Register Now for Cultural Awareness Training**

Register now to attend the upcoming training, Expanding Our Horizons: A Cultural Awareness Experience, led by Captain Stacey Ledbetter, a 26-year public safety veteran whose niche is community policing, cultural awareness and customer service training for police officers, civilian employees and community members.

Date: Thursday, June 27  
Time: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. (with 1 hour lunch break)  
Location: Groves Rm B1100  
[Sign up](#)

The training was recently added to the Police Officer Training Academy and was featured in a recent [KV Focus](#) article.

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### **Resilience: The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope**

Recent research indicates that more than half (54%) of all adolescents aged 12 to 17 years experience Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), and more than one-quarter (28%) experience two or more. The effects of trauma during childhood and adolescence have impacts on adolescent health and educational status, including a greater likelihood of repeating a grade in school, lower resilience, increased risk for learning and behavioral issues, suicidal ideation, and early initiation of sexual activity and pregnancy.

Please join us for a viewing and discussion of Resilience, a documentary that chronicles the movement among pediatricians, therapists, educators and communities who are using cutting-edge brain science to disrupt cycles of violence, addiction and disease.

Thursday, July 25 from 8 -10 a.m., TTC Rm 9130

Presenter: Behavioral Health Services Director at Family & Children Services Diane Marquess  
Please RSVP to [Ashley Hamilton](#).

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### **Check Out the College on [Flickr](#)**

A number of exciting events and celebrations have happened over the past few months at the college – from graduation to the crowning of the Spring Baking Champion. Check out photos from all of the fun!

A link to the Flickr account can also be found on the left-hand upper corner our [website](#).

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Do you have something you'd like included in the next issue of KV Focus Plus?

Email [kvfocusplus@kvcc.edu](mailto:kvfocusplus@kvcc.edu) with story ideas and suggestions.

## **CAMPUS SAFETY TIP**

- Never hit your brakes before encountering a pothole. This can actually cause more damage to your vehicle.

- Try and slow down as much as possible if contact with a pothole is inevitable. Let off the brakes the moment before you hit the pothole allowing your car to absorb the blow.
- Hold the steering wheel tightly. Hitting a pothole with a loose grip can cause you to lose control of your vehicle.
- Be especially wary of puddles, they can conceal massive potholes large enough to cause severe damage to your car.

## CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

### **Texas Township Campus**

[Scholarship Available to McDonald's Employees](#)

### **Arcadia Commons Campus**

[Kalamazoo Valley Museum to Host Juneteenth Celebration of Freedom](#)

### **Bronson Healthy Living Campus**

[Kalamazoo Valley Student Brewers Take Home Honors](#)

### **Groves Campus**

[Spring/Summer Community and Life Enrichment Classes](#)

### **Kalamazoo Valley in the News**

[Ultimate Kalamazoo Summer Fun Guide](#)

[Kalamazoo Promise Recipient Trying to Use Some Tuition Funds Before Time Runs Out](#)  
[Trauma, Indecision were Barriers for Kalamazoo Promise Grad, but He Sees College in Future](#)  
[Why Some Students Don't Go to College Even when It's Free](#)

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CALENDAR OF  
EVENTS

HUMAN  
RESOURCES

STAFF & FACULTY  
DEVELOPMENT