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READ THE LATEST **KV FOCUS**

Greetings,

We are rapidly approaching the mid semester. While many of our students are doing very well as they make their way to finals, some are feeling overwhelmed and not at all sure that they will be able to “pull it all together” to complete their course work.

We've all been there; I can sympathize with their feelings. Now is a good time to remind our students about the many college services which can help them be successful.

For assistance, students can schedule an appointment with a pathway advisor, career advisor or counselor. The library provides volumes of class assignment assistance and tutoring appointments are options for students who need just a bit more help. We know that our students juggle many responsibilities. Please encourage them to take advantage of the help that is available right now.

The end of the semester and commencement are just over 60 days away, so in addition to everything else, it is time to talk with students about their plans for winter semester and to encourage them to register early so that they are more likely to get the courses they need.

As we all continue to find ways to work more effectively together, our students will benefit. Let's help them finish what they started! Thank you.

“Together Is Better,”

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

L. Marshall Washington, Ph.D.
President

United Way

Kalamazoo Valley Community College and the Greater Kalamazoo United Way will partner with our annual campus fund drive beginning Oct. 21-Oct. 25. Over the next week, you will have the

opportunity to help our community “Change the Story” by participating in this year’s Greater Kalamazoo United Way campaign.

This campaign is about bringing people together to tackle our community’s most challenging issues, because no one person or organization can do it alone.

Your help is essential. With the help of hundreds of volunteers like you, we’re transforming our region together, one life at a time. Your contributions stay local, in our community. Your donations help many grassroots, small nonprofits who understand our local needs.

Change doesn’t happen alone, it takes YOU, and it takes US standing together. We hope you will choose to participate in this year’s campaign. You have the option of using payroll deduction as a means for donating, deductions will begin on Jan. 1, 2020. Please forward your pledge card to Vicki Warkoczeski in Room 3380.

As in the past, you have made a difference! Thank you for considering a gift to United Way. Thank you for helping *CHANGE THE STORY*.

Sincerely,

L. Marshall Washington, Ph.D.
President

Stephen Doherty
KVCC United Way Campaign Chair

International Student Services Office Grand Opening Celebration

Stop by the International Student Services office today from 3-5 p.m. for a grand opening celebration. Check out the new office, located in Room 4261 on the Texas Township Campus, and enjoy food and refreshments. For more information, contact international@kvcc.edu.

Volunteer for New Student Orientation

Increasing enrollment and improving retention are the college’s top priorities. As employees of the college, everyone must do their part to attract and retain students. Volunteering your time to share your enthusiasm and knowledge of Kalamazoo Valley is one very easy way to do your part.

It takes more than 20 people to put on each orientation. Everyone – administrators, faculty and staff – are asked to volunteer. Orientation is often the first impression we will make as a college community to engage and inspire our students by demonstrating our unified commitment to students. It’s a very small time commitment that, statistics show, can greatly impact a student’s success in college.

Volunteers are needed for a variety of positions. Opportunities include (but are not limited to): presenting, conducting campus tours and assisting students on the computer. Training will be provided.

To sign up for Texas Township orientations, please click [here](#). **Please do not sign up for Paying for College; those are reserved for our financial aid and financial services teams.**

If you are interested in assisting with orientations at Anna Whitten Hall, please email [Coty Dunten](mailto:Coty.Dunten) to get connected.

Merze Tate Explorers

What began as a local newspaper story about a little known African American educator has grown into an official non-profit organization dedicated to providing young girls with educational and travel opportunities called the Merze Tate Explorers.

Based in Kalamazoo, Michigan, the Merze Tate Explorers provides youth with educational, cultural and arts exploration through the use of multimedia. These students produce cable television, radio, print and online media in this hands-on S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Media) centered initiative.

Now the Merze Tate Explorers are partnering with Kalamazoo Valley Community College on a 10 month initiative called the Merze Tate Explorer College Academy. Selected students participate in weekly interactive activities designed to introduce them, particularly girls of color, to the college culture and to provide exposure to a college curriculum that will allow students as early as 6th grade to earn credit toward a college degree or trade program. [more](#)

PTK Enrichment

Interested in enriching your physical, mental, or even spiritual health? Join Phi Theta Kappa for a Holistic Health Fair Oct. 22 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the TTC Student Commons! Meet different vendors from our community who are experienced and can enrich your well-being. [more](#)



Veteran OF THE YEAR

Now through October 23, the Kalamazoo Veterans Events Committee will welcome submissions for their Veteran of the Year Award.

Many veterans call Kalamazoo County home, and they continue to serve this community with honor and commitment. The committee will recognize the continued service of our veterans and show gratitude for their years in uniform. [more](#)



Pancake Breakfast Supports Culinary Scholarships

The public is invited to enjoy a hearty pancake breakfast at the KVCC Foundation's student scholarship pancake breakfast.

Friday | Nov. 1 | 8-10 a.m.
**Marilyn J. Schlack Culinary and
Allied Health Building on
Kalamazoo Valley's Bronson
Health Living Campus**

The minimum suggested donation is \$10 per person. Advance tickets are available. Contact [Vicki Warkoczeski](#) x4539 for tickets. [more](#)

Murphy Darden Exhibit

Oct. 12, 2019 - March 29, 2020

For the past several decades, Kalamazoo resident Murphy Darden, now in his nineties, has indulged his passion for the parts of history that have long been ignored in classrooms and in public discourse. In his pursuit of preserving this history for future generations, he has collected artifacts, images, and historic documents chronicling the achievements of African Americans. Not all of history can be represented through material objects. Sometimes, the richest and most complicated stories are better interpreted through artistic expression. It was in these situations, when Darden felt pieces of the story were missing, that he created artworks to fill in the gaps. Some of his works will be featured in the exhibit *Filling in the Gaps: The Art of Murphy Darden*, which runs Oct. 12, 2019, through March 29, 2020, at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum. Selections of his art will be assembled into four distinct themes: black cowboys, Darden's personal experiences in Mississippi, civil rights heroes, and the African American community in Kalamazoo. The display runs in conjunction with the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts' hosting of *Black Refractions: Highlights from The Studio Museum in Harlem*, through Dec. 8, 2019. [more](#)

KVCC Foundation 2019-20 Grant Funding Deadlines

For the 2019-20 academic year, the KVCC Foundation has established funding deadline dates for internal grant requests/proposals consideration. Those faculty and/or administrators considering grant requests to the Foundation must make plans in advance and adhere to the established deadlines. Grant applications must be submitted to the Director of Development [Steve Doherty](#) by grant request deadlines or they will not be reviewed until the following period. Limited funds will be dispersed on a first come first served basis and once awarded are gone for the year.

The following dates for internal grant requests have been established for the 2019-20 academic year.

Grant Request Deadline

Oct. 18, 2019

Jan. 17, 2020

Board Funding Consideration

Oct. 31, 2019

Jan. 30, 2020

Upcoming Public Safety Training

Public Safety Captain Don Benthin will lead the following training for faculty and staff.

Registration is required.

Reacting to Active Violence

In this session we will expound on the active shooter responses run, hide, fight. The training will provide attendees with a better understanding of how to implement each of these responses in order to successfully respond and survive an active shooter. Although emergencies such as fire, tornado and active shooters are extremely rare it is important that we take a moment to prepare for all of these low occurrences/high risk situations. The break out sections of this training will provide a scenario opportunity to put into practice the information you have learned and then discuss how they worked and options to improve your response. Oct. 20 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. or Nov. 8 from 2-4 p.m.

Please [sign up](#) through Staff Development.

Staff Development

Learning How to Budget

Oct. 22 | 12-1 p.m. | TTC 4370

Can a budget help you get a better handle on your finances? Do you know where your money goes every month? Please join us for a workshop on creating a realistic budget that works for you! [Sign up here](#)

Understanding Your Credit Score

Oct. 23 | 12-1 p.m. | TTC 4370

How do you establish credit? How can your credit score save you money? What is a good credit score? Please join us for a workshop on understanding your credit report and improving your credit score. [Sign up here](#)

Momentum/Manufacturing and Material Handling Academy

Please join us as we honor the Momentum/Manufacturing and Material Handling Academy graduates.

The graduation ceremony will be held from

Thursday | Oct. 24 | 6-7:30 p.m.

Trenches Community Church

1003 Gayle Ave, Kalamazoo MI 49048

The Momentum Urban Employment Initiative is a six-week, community-based economic development program that connects unemployed and underemployed individuals of the community to sustainable employment opportunities through pre-employment training, life skills training, coaching and networking with its business partners. The program emphasizes five major components: pre-employment education, volunteer work experience, mentoring, job placement and job evaluation with incentives.

The Momentum Urban Employment Initiative has partnered with Kalamazoo Valley to offer training academies in a variety of different fields.

CTE Millage

On Tuesday, Nov. 5, voters in the Kalamazoo RESA service area will decide on a one-mill, 20-year Career & Technical Education (CTE) Millage to fund a comprehensive, K-12+ redesign of CTE in our county. The plan provides more students with access to career coaching, work-based learning and opportunities to earn credentials and certificates, preparing them for the high-wage, high-demand, high-skill openings that businesses are struggling to fill. Learn [more](#) about the local need and proposal details.

Do you have something you'd like included in the next issue of KV Focus Plus? Email kvfocusplus@kvcc.edu with story ideas and suggestions.

CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

Texas Township Campus

[Visiting Writers Series Continues on Oct. 17 with Professor Emeritus Marion Boyer](#)

[Petition to Graduate by Oct. 31](#)

[Students and their Families to Get Hands-On with STEM](#)

[Petition to Graduate by Oct. 31](#)

Arcadia Commons Campus

[Petition to Graduate by Oct. 31](#)

[Kalamazoo Valley, KVM to Sponsor Downtown Holiday Traditions](#)

Bronson Healthy Living Campus

[Collaboration Helps Get More Locally Sourced Healthy Food to Area Older Adults](#)

[Nov. 1 Pancake Breakfast Supports Culinary Scholarships](#)

Groves Campus

[Seats still Available for Kalamazoo Valley's January Police Officer Training Academy](#)

[Register Now for Community Education & Training Classes](#)

Kalamazoo Valley in the News

[Longtime Kalamazoo Valley Coach Ron Welch Heading to BCAM Hall of Fame](#)

[Schools Step Up Efforts to Find Food for College Students Who Don't Have Enough to Eat](#)

[Kalamazoo's Higher Education Leaders Say They're Working to Make Campuses More Diverse](#)

[Kalamazoo Valley Museum Hosts Chemistry Day on Oct. 12](#)

[Sign Language Interpreter Alan Abarbanell to Perform at Kalamazoo Valley on Oct. 4](#)

**CALENDAR OF
EVENTS**

**HUMAN
RESOURCES**

**STAFF & FACULTY
DEVELOPMENT**