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Greetings,

We are proud that our name includes the word community. Kalamazoo Valley Community College reflects the community we serve by the students we welcome each semester and interact with each day.

The word community also comes to the forefront as a result of the events and activities we sponsor. Examples during February include our partnership with the Black Arts and Cultural Center, The Metropolitan Branch of the NAACP and the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts for the First Black Artists' Exhibition at the Center for New Media. Hundreds of guests attended the opening night reception on Feb. 7. I hope you have the opportunity to view the show between now and the end of the month. Please see the link below of photos from opening night.

Speaking of art, the college has adopted art students at Parchment Middle School. This community partnership is meant to encourage future Cougars to further develop their artistic skills and to continue to explore educational opportunities through various events and activities. An exhibit showcasing student artwork is on display in the 3000 hallway at the Texas Township Campus between my office and the library. The work will be on exhibit all semester and students, their friends and families will be invited to a celebratory reception on Thursday, February 27 beginning at 5:30 p.m. We look forward to working with other schools in the future.

The Kalamazoo Valley Museum has partnered with the Kalamazoo Area League of Women Voters to celebrate its 100th anniversary through the installation of a special display on the second floor. A timeline traces the history of the suffragist movement and the milestones of the League from 1920 to 2020. The special exhibit runs through March 31. You can read more about the college's celebration of Women's History Month below.

"Together is Better,"

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L. Marshall Washington". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'L'.

L. Marshall Washington, Ph.D.
President



Photos from the Feb. 6 PTK induction ceremony

Black Artists' Exhibit Photo Gallery

In collaboration with the Black Arts and Cultural Center, The Metropolitan Branch of the NAACP and the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Kalamazoo Valley Community College's Center for New Media is hosting an exhibition of works by local black artists. It opened during Art Hop on Friday, Feb. 7 and remains on display through the end of the month. Congratulations to all of the local artists whose work is included in the exhibit!

See the complete gallery of [photos](#) from the exhibit opening.



Pints with the President

Join Dr. Washington for Pints with the President, Feb. 18 from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m., during Taps on Tuesday at the Marilyn J. Schlack Culinary and Allied Health Building. These \$5 happy hours are

hosted by culinary and brewing students and staff, and offerings will include student-made beers, a local wine selection and food pairings and shareable appetizers. Enjoy social time with your colleagues and Dr. Washington.



**TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 18**
11a.m. - 2p.m.

**WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 19**
11a.m. - 2p.m. &
4-6p.m.

**FACULTY
RECEPTION
AREA**

**PROFS
&
PIZZA**

A fun and informal get together with your math and science instructors.

Kalamazoo**VALLEY**[™]
community college

Apply Now for Catalyst University

Staff Development is again sponsoring an opportunity for three employees to attend Catalyst University to support their growth as leaders.

What is Catalyst University?

This one-day leadership conference featuring world-class speakers, incredible peer-to-peer interaction and an energizing atmosphere will empower leaders who want to take control of their destiny. Designed for leaders who want to be FIRST and lead the way, Catalyst University is guaranteed to put your leadership into overdrive. [more](#)

- **Thursday, May 21 | 8:00 am - 5:00 pm**
- **The Arena at Wings Event Center in Kalamazoo**

To hear first-hand about Catalyst, just ask one of the individuals who represented Kalamazoo Valley last year - Erin Macioce, Misti Mahon and Roxie Swank!

Application Process

The Human Resources team will anonymously review all applications and select both supervisors and non-supervisors. As with other Staff Development opportunities, you must have your supervisor's approval first.

- [Apply](#)
- Deadline to apply: Feb. 27
- Selections announced: March 19

One last thing

If selected, we'll ask you to develop a breakout session for the Winter 2021 Summit to share

your insights with the rest of the college.

Please contact [Molly Cartwright](#) with any questions.

Fretboard

Stringed instruments makers, music lovers, and fans of all ages, shouldn't miss the 2020 Kalamazoo Fretboard Festival!

KICKOFF CONCERT WITH CABILDO

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

5 – 8 pm

Join us for the Kickoff Concert of the 15th Annual Kalamazoo Fretboard Festival at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum, featuring Cabildo. A West Michigan-based alternative Latin-rock collective, Cabildo delivers a unique blend of cumbia, ska, folk, and other genres of music from Latin and South America.

FREE MUSIC, WORKSHOPS, INDUSTRY VENDORS, & MUCH MORE!

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

9:30 am – 6 pm

Meet music professionals to learn about their art and trade, attend workshops of all varieties, see demonstrations on guitar maintenance with Heritage Guitar Company, and enjoy the live performances from area musicians!

Patrons attending the 2020 Fretboard Festival will appreciate the convenience of food service provided by The Spot at Anna Whitten Hall, where performances, workshops, and vendor booths will also be taking place. The cafe will be open for service from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. and will be serving snacks, beverages, and simple sandwiches. Cash or debit/credit cards will be accepted.

[more](#)

Women's History Month Celebration

Join Kalamazoo Valley Community College and presenting sponsor Kalsee Credit Union for a month-long celebration of the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote.

Free events are scheduled across the college community and are open to students, faculty, staff and the public. In an effort to continue to be good stewards of resources, advanced registration is required for many of the events.

Sunday, March 8 | 1:30-2:30 pm

Kalamazoo Valley Museum

“The Right Stuff at the Wrong Time: First Lady Astronaut Trainees”

At the start of the Space Age, 13 female pilots were tested by NASA doctor William Lovelace to see if they had the "right stuff" for space travel. Dr. Nicolle Zellner, professor of physics at Albion College, shares the story of these women, including two from Michigan, who passed (or excelled in) the same tests undertaken by the famous "Mercury 7" astronauts but were denied the opportunity to fly in space. Seating is limited; please reserve a seat [here](#).

Tuesday, March 10 | 7:30-8:30 am

Texas Township Campus, Room 4240

Celebrating Kalamazoo Valley Community College Female Employees

Complimentary breakfast provided

Seating is limited; please reserve a seat [here](#) by March 3

Join your fellow colleagues for a drop-in breakfast. President L. Marshall Washington will provide remarks at 8 a.m. For more information and events visit [here](#).

Orientation Volunteers

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.

There are 27 New Student Orientations that will take place between March and September on all of our campuses. 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.

April 17 | April 24 | May 1 | May 7

High School Orientations

These will be larger and students will be selected by their high school counselors and advisors to attend.

June 11

Student-Athletes

June 18 | July 20

Anna Whitten Hall Orientations

[Sign up](#)

If you have any questions, email [Coty Dunten](#).



Gaming Club is looking for a second advisor to help with the club.



Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with
Kalamazoo Promise Students

They play all types of games and meetings are every Thursday 4 - 9 p.m.

It would not require that you attend every meeting, but be able to attend, especially in their current advisor, Nick Blain's absence. As always, please consult with your supervisor, before making this commitment. Contact [Coty Dunten](#), if you are interested.

Kalamazoo Promise Services invites faculty and staff to attend its Kalamazoo Promise Luncheon Tuesday, March 17 from 12 - 3 p.m. in Room 9318, located in Student Success Services on the Texas Township Campus. This is an opportunity to meet with the Promise staff and Promise students. This is a drop-in event. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by calling x4692 or x4040.

Stand Up Kalamazoo Valley Community College: Mentor the Future

Friday, April 3 | 9-10 am | TTC 4370

We need Bigs like you. Every child deserves a chance to see their potential realized. By matching mentors, one-to-one, with children in our community, Big Brothers Big Sisters defends that potential and helps change lives and futures today and forever. Kalamazoo Valley has partnered with Big Brothers Big Sisters to offer a unique volunteer opportunity. Become a Big with our Bigs on Campus Program. No traveling required, as the Portage North Middle School students are bused to our Kalamazoo Valley site. Your commitment is meeting one-to-one with your Little: one hour, two times per month on Thursdays from 11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. October – May (being matched with the same Little for 2 school years). If you have any questions, please contact Mary Johnson at: mjohnson@kvcc.edu or Coty Dunten at cdunten@kvcc.edu. The facilitators will be Kathy Praedel and Vinson Phillips from Big Brothers Big Sisters. Sign up [here](#).

Day of Giving is April 16

Last year's Day of Giving scholarship fundraising campaign was a huge success. That's why we're so excited about hosting the event again on April 16. Throughout the day on Thursday, April 16, donations will be collected at Anna Whitten Hall, The Groves Campus, Marilyn J. Schlack Culinary and Allied Health Building and on the Texas Township Campus.

Names will randomly drawn from those deposited in the collection areas and from donations made online that day for fun giveaways.

Watch for more details about fundraising goals and incentives. Let's have some fun and raise some money for the KVCC Foundation and more importantly - our students!

Discounted Gilmore Keyboard Festival Available

Kalamazoo Valley faculty and staff receive a 15% discount on all eligible Gilmore Festival events. Running from **Wednesday, April 22 to Sunday, May 10** the Festival will feature more

than 100 concerts and events and nearly 40 pianists. Highlights include performances by 2018 Gilmore Artist Igor Levit, *Late Show* bandleader Jon Batiste, megastar soprano Renée Fleming performing with renowned pianist Evgeny Kissin, the hugely talented Pink Martini, and rising star Emmet Cohen.

Simply identify yourself as a Valley employee when purchasing tickets at the Epic Center.

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

RETIREMENT party

Annual Retirement Party Slated for April 28

Mark your calendars and save the date as we honor faculty and staff who have retired from the college in the past year. The celebration will be held April 28 from 3:30 - 5 p.m. in the Theatre, Room 4240 on the Texas Township Campus.

CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

Texas Township Campus

[#Sign Your Story Video Campaign](#)

[Enter the Ned Foskey Poetry Prize Contest Before Feb. 28](#)

[Visiting Writers Series Continues in March with José Olivarez and Tommy Orange](#)

Arcadia Commons Campus

[League of Women Voters: The First 100 Years](#)

[Feb. 19 Spotlight On Performing Arts at the CNM](#)

[Kalamazoo Valley Community College 2020 Alumni+ Art Show](#)

[Call for Submissions for Faculty and Staff Art Show](#)

Bronson Healthy Living Campus

[Culinary and Brewing Programs Host Winter Taps on Tuesday Events](#)

Groves Campus

[Black and Blue: Police Cadet Training Designed to Bridge Communities of Color and Police](#)
[Kalamazoo Valley Preparing for 90th Police Officer Training Academy](#)

Kalamazoo Valley in the News

[Management Options Outlined at Ag Action](#)

[Kalamazoo Bee Club's Annual Bee School](#)

[Judge Darnell Jackson Takes on rRole of Saginaw County's Chief Judge](#)

[Michigan Family Farms Conference Brings Education and Resources to Small-Scale Farmers](#)

[25 Fun Romantic Weekend Getaways from Detroit, Michigan](#)

[Black and Blue: Training Designed to Bridge Communities of Color and Police](#)

**CALENDAR OF
EVENTS**

**HUMAN
RESOURCES**

**STAFF & FACULTY
DEVELOPMENT**