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READ THE LATEST **KV FOCUS**

Greetings,

There are so many things clamoring for our attention: from decisions about our personal finances, health and households to concerns including when we will return to the office, classroom or lab, how will our students cope with all the changes and what does the future hold for Kalamazoo Valley Community College? Unanswered questions abound.

I know that you are very interested in our plans for the college after the stay-at-home executive order is lifted. I can assure you that every option is being considered as we plan for the best way forward. This information will be shared with you as soon as it is available.

In the meantime, I am asking that you continue to focus on what you do know and to concentrate on what we all must do as we prepare for summer semester. Please remain focused on taking good care of our students, yourself and those you love.

One way we can sharpen our focus is to continue to build and replenish our resilience. We are running a marathon right now – not a sprint, Kalamazoo Valley is in this for the long haul. The college has been here for 53 years and will be here for at least another 53 more!

I accessed a professional development opportunity recently and this is what the trainer suggested:

- Establish a new routine, structure adds stability to life
- Monitor media consumption, too much can be overwhelming
- Stay connected to high-joy people, people who help build you up, people who can respectfully challenge you to be and do your best
- Do something playful every day, try something new

- Practice gratitude, studies show that gratitude helps rewire the brain and this allows us to find joy

Let us continue to respond to the opportunities before us with anticipation that tomorrow will be different and most likely it will be better. Let's stay focused and concentrate on making Kalamazoo Valley the very best place for every student to learn.

Sincerely,



L. Marshall Washington, Ph.D.

President

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### Virtual Faculty Summit to Focus on Virtual Instruction

As the college expands its ability to be responsive to student needs, the Faculty Success Center is providing professional development opportunities today for all faculty members.

Several professional development courses are available including those related to online course instruction and other important topics. All faculty members should access their college email for a complete [list of activities](#). The virtual summit also includes a [welcome](#) from Dr. Washington.

For more information, email David Kobb and Molly Pfaff at [facultysuccesscenter@kvcc.edu](mailto:facultysuccesscenter@kvcc.edu) or Gail Fredericks at [gfredericks@kvcc.edu](mailto:gfredericks@kvcc.edu).



### Watch Our Virtual Commencement Celebration

Kalamazoo Valley Community College hosted a virtual commencement celebration on April 26 for the 500 students who petitioned to graduate at the end of the Winter 2020 Semester. The online event, necessary due to COVID-19 stay-at-home restrictions, can be seen [here](#).

Graduates and their families and friends were invited to hear a welcome address by college President L. Marshall Washington, Ph.D. A number of faculty and staff members sang together. Pre-recorded speeches by Board of Trustees Chairman Jeffrey Patton, faculty speaker Jason Bishop, and nursing student Elizabeth Odeyemi can also be viewed. The video messages are also posted on the college's social media accounts. Those who wish to share their own

messages to the graduates are asked to tag them with #wewill.

“We will always hold a special place in our hearts for the graduating class of winter 2020,” said Washington. “Their achievement is particularly impressive because they accomplished this milestone during one of the most unprecedented times in our nation’s history.”

In addition to the virtual celebration, the winter 2020 graduates are invited to walk in the commencement ceremony that will be held in December 2020.

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## Payroll through May 15

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has modified the “Stay Home - Stay Safe” Executive Order. As a result some employees have been notified to return to college buildings to prepare for our eventual reopening of all campus locations. Unless you have been otherwise notified by your supervisor that you are an essential employee, you are to continue to work at home through May 15. The college has committed to continuing pay through pay period #9 (timesheets are to be submitted by May 1, 2020) in the same fashion.

Employees are to enter time for the hours **they are scheduled to work for this period** as “Regular Hours.” Please ensure work done remotely doesn’t exceed scheduled hours. Regular deadlines for submission and approval of leave reports and time sheets still apply.

Employees who are not available for work, please discuss your situation with your supervisor and use available leave balances. Also note the April leave reports are due May 7, with approvals due May 10. If you have questions, please contact the payroll department at [payroll@kvcc.edu](mailto:payroll@kvcc.edu).

Thank you for your cooperation.

[Brian Lueth](#)

Vice President for Finance and Business

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## Valley CARES Application Now Available

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented both Kalamazoo Valley and our students with unprecedented challenges. In consideration of this, the college has created the **Valley CARES Emergency Assistance Fund**. The Valley CARES Emergency Assistance Fund provides limited emergency financial support to students who have experienced unexpected expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus.

All Title IV eligible students (student who received funds by completing the FAFSA or could have applied for funds through FAFSA) who experienced additional expenses related to the disruption of campus operations can apply. To determine Title IV eligibility, a [FAFSA](#) must be on file. Other

options to assist with expenses may also be available, so please encourage students to submit the application even if they are not Title IV eligible.

The Valley CARES Emergency Assistance Fund application is now available. It can also be found in a student's MyValley account, by selecting [Valley Cares Application](#), under "My Links."

Eligible expenses for Valley CARES funding include, but are not necessarily limited to, medical, food, housing, utilities, technology expenses, laptop/tablet purchase, unexpected childcare, course materials, and other unexpected expenses included in the student's cost of attendance.

Please [email](#) the Financial Aid office or call 269.340.0707 with any questions.

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### **Important Information about the Summer Tuition Payment Deadline**

Students enrolled in summer semester classes have until May 21 to pay their balance in full, sign up for the payment plan, or have financial aid in place to cover the balance.

Students who have registered for classes and are no longer planning to attend, must drop those courses themselves before the end of the add/drop period or they will be responsible for the tuition owed. For classes slated to begin May 11, classes must be dropped by May 21. Contact Admissions, Registration and Records at [arr@kvcc.edu](mailto:arr@kvcc.edu) or 269.488.4281 for questions about dropping a class.

To lessen their financial burden, additional [payment plan options](#) have been added to allow for the payments to be spread out over additional months, now going into July and August.

As a reminder, all tuition balances must be paid in full before grades can be released and/or transcripts can be sent. Additionally, if tuition is not paid, students will be unable to register for fall semester classes.

Students who have questions or need assistance, please contact the Pay Station at [paystation@kvcc.edu](mailto:paystation@kvcc.edu) or 269.488.4292.

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### **An Update from the KVCC Foundation**

Our required response to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic has dictated that we postpone the May 13 Opportunities for Education Scholarship Fundraising Dinner. Many of our colleagues had already started working on the event and I want to thank them for their efforts and you for your continued support of our scholarship fundraising efforts. The need for scholarship funds remains great. If you are able to do so, the Foundation will continue to accept your donation.

And speaking of gifts, the faculty-inspired Student Emergency Fund has collected more than \$4,000 which will be used to assist students with pandemic-related non-scholarship emergencies. Donations are still being accepted through the [Foundation webpage](#).

We look forward to expanding our ability to meet student scholarship and emergency needs. Please contact me if you have suggestions or questions.

Thank you.

[Linda Depta](#)

Executive Director

KVCC Foundation



### **Books for Summer Classes**

Students can order online through the bookstore 24/7 and get delivery to their home for \$5.

### **Rental Book Returns**

The due date for rental book returns has been extended to Thursday, May 28.

### **Textbook Buy Back Options**

1. Keep books for a little longer! The Bookstore will offer a BUYBACK when the college reopens!
2. Use our Virtual Buyback! Click on the "Sell Textbooks" tab on [bookstore.kvcc.edu](http://bookstore.kvcc.edu). Read and follow the directions carefully to sell textbooks online.



### **Kalamazoo Valley Libraries: Summer 2020 Course Reserves**

Kalamazoo Valley Libraries are purchasing textbooks to add to the Course Reserve Collection for Summer 2020. If you are teaching this summer and would like to place a book on reserve, contact us for more information.

If you or your students need access to a book that was placed on reserve before the building closure, we can help. Library staff have access to these items and can provide access to specific chapters upon request.

Are you looking to replace or enhance your textbook with free electronic content? Librarians are experts at navigating the content available in our subscription databases, as well as open educational resources. We will do our best to help you find content that fulfills your needs.

To see a full list of items on reserve, including physical books and eReserves, visit the library's [Course Reserves](#) website.

### **Library Instruction**

Libraries staff are also ready to teach and learn alongside you in your online summer courses. We look forward to discussing your instructional goals and how the Libraries can best provide library instruction during this time. For example, we are happy to facilitate Zoom or chat sessions with classes, small groups or individuals.

LibGuides is another online tool that may be useful to your classes. LibGuides are librarian-created research guides that can address specific topics, courses or assignments. Check out our existing guides on our [Research Guides](#) page and let us know how we can tailor a LibGuide to fit the needs of your students.

Contact the Kalamazoo Valley Libraries by email at [libraries@kvcc.edu](mailto:libraries@kvcc.edu) or by phone at 269.488.4380.

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### **Orientation Update**

In-person New Student Orientations are cancelled through May. Additionally, Athlete Orientation in June has been cancelled. As we receive more information about COVID-19's impact on gatherings we will update you further.

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### **EDMT Instructors partner with Local Manufacturer to Make Face Masks and Shields**



Kalamazoo Valley Community College has partnered with Vicksburg-based Eimo Technologies to produce face masks and shields for use by area medical professionals. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for personal protective equipment (PPE) has grown more urgent every day. As a result, Kalamazoo Valley faculty members Dave Brock and Bill Kring began exploring ways to create masks and face shields using the college's CNC machines and 3D printers.

Brock and Kring worked diligently in the Engineering Design and Manufacturing Technology (EDMT) lab to design, manufacture, and assemble face masks and shields based on a design they received from a major 3D manufacturer, Stratasys. Both men are EDMT faculty members and serve as co-chairs of the EDMT department.

The duo successfully created a prototype of a mask with a commonly available filter material that has tested similar to the level of a N95 mask. Corresponding filter elements can be replaced, and the shell sanitized for re-use. They are now able to produce 250 masks and 400 shields per day with a group of four volunteers helping with assembly. [MORE](#)

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### **Digital Grad Show Opens on May 1**

The Art & New Media Digital Grad Show virtual exhibit will open today. Art & New Media graduates are highlighted in this virtual exhibit featuring their best work in graphic design, illustration, web design, animation, and video.

Once submissions are received and the digital show prepared, the virtual 2020 Graduate Art Show will be available for viewing online at the Center for New Media Facebook page and at the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo page.

Entries are being posted on the CNM Facebook page, on the college's main [Facebook](#) account and on the Arts Council page. What a fun sheltering at home diversion! [more](#)

CALENDAR OF  
EVENTS

HUMAN  
RESOURCES

STAFF & FACULTY  
DEVELOPMENT