



READ THE LATEST **KV FOCUS**

October 15, 2020

Greetings,

Fall is always a busy season and the college continues to move forward on many fronts.

We are celebrating good news from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). At its September meeting the Board of Commissioners granted accreditation to the college's associate nursing program, Nursing AAS. I am very pleased to be able to share this information and congratulate all those who worked diligently to achieve this important status.

Congratulations are in order, too, for all those who had a hand in the Virtual Skilled Trades Expo earlier this month. More than 1,300 persons took part in this online showcase of the college's skilled and professional trades programs including: automotive technology, chemical technology, electrical technology, HVAC, engineering, computer information technology, design and manufacturing technology, welding, apprenticeships and wind turbine technician academy.

The college received a grant from the Michigan College Access Network (MCAN) which will allow us to add a full-time College Completion Corps coach. The coach will support a cohort of 100-150 students, identified as exhibiting factors that may place them at risk of non-completion. The coach will work to provide wrap-around support services, promoting student persistence and – ultimately – completion of a degree. This will assist Kalamazoo Valley in achieving its goal to increase persistence and completion of at-risk students.

This week, we launched the College Debt Forgiveness Program which will target students who are in good academic standing, have stopped out for a minimum of six semesters, have an outstanding financial balance and who want to return to the college to complete a degree or certificate. Read more about the program below.

All of this positive news serves as a reminder about all of the good work being done here despite the challenges we face. I am thankful that we continue to work together to make Kalamazoo Valley Community College a great place for all students to learn and be successful.

The beauty of this fall season never ceases to amaze me! In spite of all of our many responsibilities, I hope that you will find time to go outside and enjoy all that Michigan has to offer.

Sincerely,



L. Marshall Washington, Ph.D.

President



DEBT FORGIVENESS PROGRAM

Kalamazoo**VALLEY**TM
community college

College Announces Debt Forgiveness Program

Kalamazoo Valley Community College recently launched the Kalamazoo Valley Debt Forgiveness Program, an initiative designed specifically for students who left the college with debt and without a degree or certificate.

Through the program, the college will forgive up to \$1,000 of a student's past due balance upon successful completion of a degree or certificate – 50% of the debt upon successful completion of 12 credits or program completion (whichever occurs first) and the remaining 50% upon successful attainment of a certificate or degree. [more](#)

HUMAN RESOURCES

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Vacation Time Carry Over

Employees who were unable to use vacation time as a result of the pandemic have options so as to not completely lose the unused time at the end of the calendar year. As a reminder, employees are eligible to carryover up to one year's worth of accrued vacation hours.

The options are:

Option 1 – Carryover up to an additional 16 hours of vacation time above your current cap. These additional hours are not eligible for vacation payout should there be a separation of service during calendar year 2021. The normal cap will apply at the end of calendar year 2021.

Option 2 – Convert up to 40 hours of vacation time above your current cap to sick leave. Converted hours would be added to your accrued sick leave time and would be eligible for use based on the criteria for use of sick leave outlined in the employee handbook.

Additional information and the form to submit your request can be found [here](#). Forms must be submitted by Dec. 15, 2020 to payroll@kvcc.edu.



Wellness and Fitness Center Reopening

The Wellness and Fitness Center Facilities has reopened following a phased-in approach as outlined below. This includes the WFC (Room 6060) and the locker rooms. The pool will remain closed until further notice. The free weight room will remain closed until further notice; however, exceptions may be made for WPE instructor-led classes upon request. At this time student usage will be limited to those currently enrolled in onsite WPE classes scheduled to use the WFC; employee usage will be limited to those currently working onsite. New guidelines will be in place to ensure compliance with all safety recommendations including proper social distancing and adequate cleaning. Please make note of the following: scanning-in and out with college ID will be strictly enforced to comply with contact-tracing requirements, face masks will be required to be worn at all times, patrons will receive a bottle of cleaner and a cloth upon entry and will be instructed on proper procedures for cleaning equipment after each usage, the blue lockers upstairs will not be accessible and towels will not be available.

October 12

Police Academy

1. Monday - Friday: 6 a.m. to 7 a.m.
2. Capacity limited to 27 people including instructors, cadets and WFC staff

October 19

WPE Classes

1. WPE 153, Weight Training for Fitness, T & R 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
2. WPE 179, Cardio Training, T & R 2 p.m. to 3:20 p.m.
3. Capacity limited to 27 people including instructors, students and WFC staff

November 2

Employees

1. Monday – Friday:

- 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.
- 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

2. Restricted to employees currently working onsite

3. Capacity limited to 27 including WFC staff, monitored and enforced by WFC staff

4. Drop-in fitness classes have been suspended

Nursing Program Earns Accreditation

The Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) recently granted initial accreditation to the college's associate nursing program.

Student services, such as learning assistants, Valley Food Share Program and the Marilyn Schlack Student Assistance Endowment Fund, were listed as program strengths from ACEN because they "help to promote positive educational outcomes for nursing students as well as other students enrolled at the college."

Congratulations to the nursing program's faculty and staff!

Additional Entrance to the Groves

The college engaged the services of Prein and Newhof to design the extension of Elm Valley Drive to O Avenue to provide a second access to the Groves and to open up additional property for development.

The project began last week and should be substantially completed by Dec. 1, 2020. Roadway lighting and final seeding will occur in the spring.

LIBRARIES

Kalamazoo**VALLEY**[™]
community college

Kalamazoo Valley Libraries: Guiding You to Information You Need

The Kalamazoo Valley Libraries -- at Texas Township (TTC), Arcadia Commons (ACC), and [online](#) -- support the information needs of the entire college community. Providing academic support to students is a big part of what we do, but we also strive to meet the non-academic information needs of students, faculty and staff. One way we do this is to create [topic-oriented guides](#). These online guides can be created for a class, discipline, event or issue.

While we do have academically-oriented guides (see: [Agrifood, Brewing, Culinary](#), or [ENG 111](#)), the Libraries also have several guides that may be of personal interest to you. Perhaps you consulted our [Together is Better](#) guide during the first days of the pandemic to learn about campus technology and community resources? The [Concentration, Distraction, & Focus](#) guide is a deep look at these important topics, created as part of sabbatical research. The [Visiting Writers](#) showcases past years' writers and their work and will be updated when more talks are scheduled.

And, [Voting 101](#), is a timely guide, with local, state and federal elections coming up on Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2020. For this guide, we've put together the most up-to-date links to government agencies, political parties, and non-partisan organizations and advocacy groups. (This guide is for information purposes only, and does not endorse any candidate or position.)

Let us know how the Libraries can work with you to guide our entire community to the information they need. Call 269.488.4380 (TTC) or 269.373.7848 (ACC) or email libraries@kvcc.edu.

Contact us:

Visit us [online](#)

Call 269.488.4380 (TTC) or 269.373.7848 (ACC)

[Email](#)

[Chat](#) with a college librarian 24/7

Locations and Hours

Texas Township Campus Library (TTC)

Upper Level Open Only

Monday - Thursday, 7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Arcadia Commons Campus Library (ACC)

Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



Artists Needed!

Please encourage art and new media students to participate in the Arts Council's Nov. 6, 2020 Art Hop - The Student Showcase.

The exhibition will be uploaded to Facebook on November 6, 2020 5–6:30 p.m. and to the Arts Council website under the Art Hop page approximately 10 days following the Facebook event. [more](#)



Art Hop Artist Alexa Karabin

The Center for New Media's November Art Hop virtual exhibit features the work of Alexa Karabin. The exhibit will premiere on Nov. 6 and will remain available online.

Her artist's statement reads:

"I received my Master of Fine Arts degree from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (2011), where I studied Print Media and Painting. I have exhibited internationally, and my work is in private collections around the world. Through a variety of techniques, I create artworks that explore themes of natural history, historical occurrence, memory and cycles. My materials are found and handmade—my most precious material is my grandmother's antique jewelry that I crush and use to make handmade watercolors."

Karabin's exhibit will be posted on the Center for New Media's [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts.



Society For
History And
Racial Equity

S · H · A · R · E

SHARE to Host Virtual Summit on Racism in 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.kalamazoomuseum.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. [more](#)

College to Host December 20 Drive-Thru Commencement Celebration

To honor its Fall 2020 graduates as well as those students who attained their degrees last spring, Kalamazoo Valley is hosting a December 20, 2 p.m. Drive-Thru Commencement Celebration in the Texas Township Campus parking lot. The event is being held as an alternative to the traditional gathering at Western Michigan University's Miller Auditorium. Due to safety precautions put in place to guard against the spread of Covid-19 (Coronavirus), the college is not hosting large, indoor events.

Graduates who choose to participate in the event will be invited to park their cars and will then be routed across the flag pole entrance to receive their diplomas and certificates. Dr. Washington will provide brief congratulatory remarks. Plans are being made to have the event broadcasted live on a local radio station. "Over the past six months we've all been challenged to be flexible and adaptable and to find new ways to teach, learn and achieve success," Dr. Washington said. "While we wish we could celebrate together with no restrictions, we're confident that this approach will convey our pride and gratitude to our graduates." Event details will be posted as they are confirmed at www.kvcc.edu/commencement.

IN THE NEWS

[3 Candidates Vying for 2 Seats on Kalamazoo Valley Community College Board](#)

[New Coldwater and Quincy Officers Sworn in on Monday](#)

[Ben Thomas Aims for Big, Full Season with GVSU Baseball](#)

[Broncos Kitchen Hunger Relief Program Moving to Indoor Services through December](#)

[Schoenauer Promoted by Coldwater Police Department](#)

[The 25 US Cities that are Best for Launching and Growing a Business, where Capital Flows and Talent Abounds](#)

CALENDAR OF
EVENTS

HUMAN
RESOURCES

STAFF & FACULTY
DEVELOPMENT