



READ THE LATEST **KV FOCUS**

November 2, 2020

Greetings,

Recent media reports about the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) underscore the importance of the health and safety precautions already in place here at the college. I have been very clear about our expectations for the use of face coverings, safe social distancing, hand washing, sanitation, daily health screenings and other required protocols to help minimize the spread of germs and disease on our campuses. Thank you for continuing to observe these protocols for your own safety and for the health and safety of others. Additional information is available [here](#).

In related news, I recently received an email communication from Philipp Jonas, President of the KVCC Faculty Association. The note stated, "We acknowledge the tremendous efforts our colleagues have made to create an extraordinary virtual culture for Kalamazoo Valley Community College in response to the current public health crisis."

I extend gratitude to our KVCC Faculty Association for recognizing the great work we do collaboratively to positively impact our students and the communities we serve. The full letter can be found [here](#).

With this positive recognition, I encourage you to remain focused on the goal of helping every one of our students be successful. Even in ordinary times, completion of a degree or certificate requires determination. Now, more than ever, the extra efforts you expend on behalf of our students and one another can make a huge difference in the learning environment here at Kalamazoo Valley. Thank you for what you are doing to make the college a great place for every student to learn.

Plans are coming together for our Drive-Thru Commencement Celebration on Dec. 20. We are working to make graduation a genuine celebration for our students, their families and the entire college community. Additional details will be announced soon.

The calendar continues to turn and winter semester begins on Jan. 11. Kalamazoo Valley will offer a mix of face-to-face and virtual/remote classes, similar to the current schedule. Please encourage our students to plan ahead and register for classes now.

I admire your ability to be flexible. Be assured that the college will remain flexible, too, as we continue

to respond to these unprecedented times, together. Your commitment to our students and community inspires me to continue to move us all forward!

Sincerely,



L. Marshall Washington, Ph.D.
President

Ordering PPE for Your Office

A reminder, bottles of hand sanitizer and packs of sanitation wipes are now being carried by Central Stores. Because both of these items are stored on site, the request will be filled within two days from when the order form is processed. To request either or both of these PPE items, please fill out the "Paper-Other Supplies Request Form" found within the new Employee Portal at home.kvcc.edu and forward it to Central Receiving.

Bob Badra Educational Scholarship Fund

The Kalamazoo Valley Community College family lost a beloved member on Sept. 16, when Bob Badra passed away after a short illness. His keen intellect, curiosity and his loving kindness for all left an indelible mark on the college community, its faculty, staff and students.

Starting as an English faculty member in 1968, he quickly transferred to philosophy. Along the way he taught at Siena Heights University (1993-2018) and was the recipient of many awards including inclusion among the "Great Teachers of our Time" in the 1986 journal entitled "Inspiration" published by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the Exxon Education Foundation Innovation Award for his paper, "The Genetics Revolution," in 1996. He retired in 2018.

Bob was passionate about the community college mission and even more passionate about people. His legacy includes a life well lived and lives deeply impacted by his presence.

Please join us as we honor Bob by contributing to the Bob Badra Educational Scholarship Fund. Our goal is to raise \$20,000 by December 30, so that Bob's legacy will be preserved by the annual awarding of a \$1,000 scholarship - in perpetuity.

Your tax deductible donation can be made online at kvcc.edu/foundation.

If you have any questions, please contact [Tim Welsh](#) or [Gloria Larrieu](#).

FINANCIAL AID

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Michigan's Scholarship for Frontline Workers

More than 70,000 have filled out the Futures for Frontliners scholarship program through the state of Michigan. Kalamazoo Valley hopes to welcome a number of these people to campus beginning in January. Several events, including one on Wednesday, Nov. 4, are being held to help students apply to the college and get enrolled in classes. [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.

Online Printing Request Form has been Revamped

The online Printing Request Form will have a new look beginning on Nov. 4. The form has been reorganized and should be easier for users to navigate.

To access the form and have print jobs prepared at Printing Services at the Texas Township Campus, go to the [Employee Portal](#), then click on the Printing Requests Form under Information Technology or Marketing. Printing Services, located in Room 8160 at TTC, is open for online, drop-off and walk-up service. For more information call 269.488.4606 or email [Charlie Devries](#).

LIBRARIES

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Kalamazoo Valley Libraries: Be Informed

The Kalamazoo Valley Libraries -- at Texas Township (TTC), Arcadia Commons (ACC), and [online](#) -- are here to provide you and students with up-to-date information. A student needs sources for a paper. You want information about election topics. Look no further than the Libraries' free resources.

Need reliable information about the issues? Instead of sifting through endless Google results, try searching the Libraries' [Current Issues databases](#). These databases cover everything from current events (Opposing Viewpoints or Points of View Reference Center), to scientific news (Today's Science), to humanities topics (JSTOR Daily).

Or, if you're looking for today's headlines, check out our [Newspaper databases](#). Did you know that you can read full-text articles from newspapers such as the New York Times, Washington Post, and the Detroit Free Press by doing a "Publications" search within some of the databases (Newspaper Source Plus or ProQuest US Newsstream)? Contact the Libraries and we'll show you how!

Also, before tomorrow, be sure to look at our [Voting 101 guide](#), full of information about candidates, elections and the voting process. Be informed!

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 a.m.-5 p.m.

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

Arcadia Commons Campus Library (ACC)

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



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, opened on Oct. 1. See the [SHARE](#) website and the [Kalamazoo Valley Museum](#) website for more information.

Staff should discuss participation in the Summit on Racism with their direct supervisor. They need prior approval for registration fees to be paid and prior approval for using work time towards participation at the Summit, including the use of flex time for sessions offered outside of their regular work schedule. Instructors wishing to have their students' fees covered by the college need to obtain approval. Students need to note that they are students when sending their RSVP.

Deadline to RSVP is Nov. 3. Staff and students whose registration will be paid for by the college should NOT register through the online registration. Instead they should send Trice Batson an email with their intent to participate in the conference and with a selection of their breakout session choices Friday, November for 10-10:50 a.m. and 11:10 a.m.-12 p.m.:

10:15-11:00 a.m.– BREAKOUTS A (Choose One)

- A) Is THIS the New Normal? Exploring the Effectiveness of Remote Education For Students and Families
- B) Implicit Bias
- C) Understanding Racial Disparities in Health: How We Got Here and the Path Forward

11:10 a.m.-12 p.m. – BREAKOUTS B (Choose One)

- A) Training for Effective Policing
- B) Effects of COVID on Prison Populations
- C) Cultural Humility
- D) Voting Rights Today: Strategies to Move from Voter Suppression to Voter Protection

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](#)

OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

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Office of Diversity and Inclusion Hosts "White People Talking to White People about Racism"

The broad civil unrest following the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery brought forth a resounding call for social justice and a formal commitment to promote an anti-racism agenda in broader society. Included in that call to action was the expectation that higher education explore its pledge to racial justice and the necessary steps to underscore that work. On Nov. 18, Kalamazoo Valley's office of Diversity and Inclusion is hosting talks for students, staff and faculty called "White People Talking to White People About Racism."

Based on a webinar presented by The University of Southern Californian's Race and Equity Center, "White People Talking to White People about Racism" offers a space where white people can help each other in everyday anti-racist work beyond protest and public statements. This 90-minute program includes candid conversations about race, bias and other polarizing concepts of diversity and inclusion.

For many, this approach provides a framework to work intentionally on understanding white culture and white privilege and to learn from each other about these ideas, rather than relying on people of color to teach them (as often occurs in integrated spaces). During these discussions, it's also important to acknowledge and talk about whiteness. According to a recent Pew Research Center survey, 15 percent of white people say race is core to their identity compared to 75 percent of Black people, 59 percent of Latinxs, and 56 percent of Asian Americans. To effectively discuss racism and anti-racism, white people need to be able to recognize and understand the role of whiteness in a racialized society.

The sessions will be hosted via Zoom, moderated by Diversity and Inclusion Director Trice Batson and facilitated by various white people including Tracey Corbett, Coty Dunten, Craig Jbara and Patti Henning.

Wednesday, Nov. 18 - two sessions

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

2:30-4 p.m.

Please forward questions, accommodation requests,
and RSVPs to [Trice Batson](#)

Deadline for December New Media Showcase Submissions in November 24

Kalamazoo Valley art students are invited to submit artwork for inclusion in the Center for New Media's Virtual New Media Showcase 2020 which opens on Dec. 4 during Art Hop.

Art in the virtual exhibit will be created by current ART and ANM students and will be displayed and archived on the [CNM's Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Entries will be accepted until 2 p.m. on Nov. 24, 2020. All entries must represent digital art/design

works and not be created with traditional media. Entries must be formatted for electronic submission following the virtual exhibit Guidelines and Gallery Requirements flyers. The electronic Call for Entries form must be submitted with the artwork. Up to three entries may be submitted. Access the forms [here](#).

Entries previously entered in any Kalamazoo Valley exhibit are not eligible. Kalamazoo Valley has the right to withhold placement of any piece into the art show. For more information contact [Cindy Parks](#).



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.



Save the Date for Virtual Winter Summit

Plans are underway for the Winter Semester 2021 Summit, which will take place on Jan. 7 and 8. The faculty and staff portion of the Virtual Summit will be held the morning of Thursday, Jan. 7, with the

college being closed to the public from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Live and recorded sessions will be offered. Watch for details and registration [here](#).

Please consider sharing your expertise and talents with the greater Kalamazoo Valley team.

Submit your proposal for a 50-minute breakout session by Friday, Nov. 6th. Simply fill out this [survey](#):

How can you take advantage of this opportunity?

- Promote your program to an audience of staff, faculty and administrators
- Engage employees in a discussion on a topic that matters to you and to the college
- Bring people together through a team building exercise

Please contact [Amy Schmidt](#) if you have questions about this call for proposals.

IN THE NEWS

[American Chemical Society Announces Winner of 2020 Helen M. Free Award for Public Outreach](#)

[Community College Prepares for Influx of Students through Scholarship Program](#)

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

[Kalamazoo Valley Community College Announces Debt Forgiveness Program](#)

[Dearborn Heights Man, Known as 'Kid Santa,' Goes from Being Alone to Serving Children in Need](#)

[Debt Forgiveness Program Aims to Elevate Enrollment](#)

CALENDAR OF
EVENTS

HUMAN
RESOURCES

STAFF & FACULTY
DEVELOPMENT