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READ THE LATEST **KV FOCUS**

February 1, 2021

Greetings,

As students embrace the reality of juggling classes, family life and for many, at least one job, this is a tenuous time during winter semester. For some, it can feel overwhelming. Take time to familiarize yourself with available [student resources](#), so that you can continue to be an effective advocate for their success.


As I speak with students, I remind them about my clear 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 and I point out that these guidelines are prominently displayed throughout the college.

Adherence to all safety protocols is required as the college continues a phased-in reopening of additional services. The [Kalamazoo Valley Museum](#) is now offering small group, in-person guided tours, with advance registration. The fitness center at the Texas Township Campus and the 418 Restaurant in the Culinary and Allied Health Building are reopening soon. Detailed information about these plans can be found in this newsletter.

I continue to be optimistic about the future. The [values](#) that we champion at the college, give me great hope for the weeks and months to come.

I encourage you to keep making Kalamazoo Valley the place where all students, faculty and staff members and guests can learn, be successful and belong. Thank you.

“Together is Better,”



L. Marshall Washington, Ph.D.
President



Celebrating Black History Month 2021

It was in 1964 when the author James Baldwin reflected on the shortcomings of his education. "When I was going to school," he said, "I began to be bugged by the teaching of American history because it seemed that that history had been taught without cognizance of my presence."

Baldwin's thoughts echoed those of many before and after him. Half a century earlier, when Carter G. Woodson had the same frustration, he set the foundation for what would become today's national Black History Month, observed each February.

"If a race has no history, it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world, and it stands in danger of being exterminated," Woodson said of the need for such study.

In 1926, Woodson and others launched a "Negro History Week" to bring attention to his mission and help school systems coordinate their focus on the topic. Woodson chose the second week in February, as it encompassed both Frederick Douglass' birthday on February 14 and Abraham Lincoln's birthday on February 12. [More](#)



**CELEBRATE TODAY,
OWN TOMORROW!**

Celebrate CTE Month

February is Career and Technical Education Month[®] (CTE Month[®]). This public awareness

campaign that takes place each February celebrates the value of CTE and the achievements and accomplishments of CTE programs and students. Check out some of the great work being done in our CTE programs in these video: [Machine Tool](#), [Automotive Technology](#), [Welding](#), [Electrical Technology](#), [Chemical Technology](#), and [Computer Information Systems](#).



New Scholarship for Adult Learners Launches Tomorrow

Adults 25 years or older, who have a high school degree and live in Michigan, will soon have a tuition-free pathway to community college through the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Development called Michigan Reconnect. It's a scholarship program designed specifically for eligible adults who want to pursue an associate degree at a Michigan community college or a skills certificate at a training school. Michigan Reconnect pays the remaining balance of in-district tuition and mandatory fees after other state and federal financial aid have been applied. Students who attend out-of-district community colleges will receive a large tuition discount.

Who's Eligible? Adults age 25 years and older at the time of application who have lived in Michigan for a year or more, have a high school diploma or GED, are not in default on a federal student loan and have not yet completed an associate or bachelor's degree.

The [application](#) launches Feb. 2.

Second Eight and 12 Week Classes Starting Soon

Please encourage students to register for second part-of-term classes! Classes begin Feb. 5 and Mar. 11. Click [here](#) for a complete list of second eight and 12 week classes.



Wellness and Fitness Center Reopening

The Wellness and Fitness Center facilities have 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 on-site WPE classes and only during the scheduled class times for the WFC; employee usage will be limited to those currently working on-site at the Texas Township Campus. 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. Phased-in reopening schedule is as follows:

Jan. 25

Police Academy

Monday - Friday | 6 - 7 a.m.

- Capacity limited to 27 people including instructors, cadets and WFC staff

Feb. 8

Employees

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays | 6 - 8 a.m. | 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

- Restricted to employees currently working onsite at the Texas Township Campus
- Capacity limited to 27 including WFC staff, monitored and enforced by WFC staff
- Drop-in fitness classes have been suspended

Feb. 16

WPE Classes begin

- Capacity limited to 27 people including instructors, students and WFC staff
-



418 Reopens this Week

The 418 Restaurant reopens Wednesday, Feb. 3 at 25% capacity. Reservations (open to Kalamazoo Valley Community College employees only) are required via [Sign-up Genius](#). The restaurant will be open most Wednesdays and Thursdays through March 4. Seating begins at 11:30 a.m. A two-course lunch will be offered for \$12 and a three-course lunch will be offered for \$16.

Schedule a Professional Head Shot Today

Do you need a professional head shot taken for use on the college website or for your LinkedIn profile? The marketing department will take photos in the Student Commons pit area Feb. 16 from 9 - 11:30 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. Please sign up [here](#). Questions? Email marketing@kvcc.edu.

WRITTEN STYLE GUIDE

ACCURATE | CONSISTANT | UNIFIED

New Written Style Guide and Updated Branding Guidelines

When writing, Kalamazoo Valley Community College follows AP style and subscribes to the AP Stylebook guidelines, which includes spelling, grammar, style and usage. Please see the new written style guide that highlights some of the most used words and phrases as it relates to the college. Please reference it when writing. Editorial consistency across the college is key to creating a positive impression and maintaining our identity. Updated branding guidelines that govern the composition, design and general look and feel of the college's branding, can be found [here](#).

Both documents can be found on the [employee portal](#) under marketing.



Loose Change Adds Up

Every dollar counts, that's the motto at the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Foundation and that's the spirit that drives one Kalamazoo Valley employee who collects loose change from the floors and sidewalks outside during her walks around campus.

This employee, who requested to remain anonymous, recently presented a check for \$94.72 to the Foundation to help support the Valley Food Share program. "“Wherever I walk, I often find loose change,” she said. “Since much of it is found here on campus, I think it should stay on campus and donating it to a good cause is something we all can celebrate. And I'd like to say thank you to all those people who leave money around for me to find.”"

When she received the check, Foundation administrative assistant, Vicki Warkoczeski, was immediately impressed. "I've seen many examples of philanthropy in my day," Warkoczeski said. "This is one of the best, great ingenuity on the employee's part."

Valley Food Share, launched in March of 2019, is an initiative designed to meet the immediate hunger needs of currently enrolled Kalamazoo Valley students. Hunger and food insecurity issues can deeply affect students' educational efforts and outcomes. A recent survey found that 45% of college students were food insecure in the prior 30 days. The Valley Food Share program is supported by college faculty and staff volunteers and by a grant from the Marvin Okun Foundation. [Make a gift.](#)

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION



As part of the college's Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI) strategic plan, ODI collaborates with student groups, faculty, our own Committee for Cultural Understanding as well as the community to provide support, resources and leadership as we strive for inclusive excellence. For more information, to get involved or to suggest a diversity related training or event, contact Director of Diversity and Inclusion Trice Batson at tbatson@kvcc.edu or 269.488.4119.

1. Foster continued growth of underrepresented backgrounds in the presence of faculty and staff
2. Promote faculty and staff awareness of diversity and inclusion
3. Educate and promote standards of inclusion for equitable treatment of all individual



Kalamazoo Valley Museum’s Feb. 6 Virtual Storytelling Festival Focuses on “Raising a Generation That Changes the World”

The Kalamazoo Valley Museum celebrates its Ninth Annual Storytelling Festival virtually from 1 - 6 p.m. on Feb.6. This past year has been full of challenges and struggles, and many people are all longing for a healthier, safer and more kind and gentle environment. Throughout history and around the world, oral storytelling has been a means for teaching values, character and morals. Join Museum staff and guest storytellers for stories that uplift and challenge everyone to embrace love, serve others and make a difference. “Raising a Generation that Changes the World” can happen, one story at a time.

Inspired by author Susan Verde and illustrator Peter H. Reynolds’ “I Am” picture book series, this year’s Festival incorporates stories that teach about courage and adventure, compassion that moves us, empathy through understanding, action through service, mindful peace and self-care. For listeners of all ages, the stories will be stirring conversation starters that can lead to growth and change. [More](#)



LIBRARIES

Kalamazoo**VALLEY**[™]
community college

Kalamazoo Valley Libraries: Supercharge Student Success with a Library Orientation

During this time of increased virtual learning, it can be more challenging for students to navigate the library and its resources. Do your students need help developing their research skills? Would you like someone who can show them the secrets of the library databases or how to evaluate information?

Our librarians are here to offer research instruction for your students! Work with a librarian to develop a class session that suits your needs. Or if you prefer, contact us to arrange for a librarian to visit your Zoom class and provide a brief 10-minute introduction to the library's services.

And, of course, library staff is always available in-person, curbside and virtually to help you and your students with any other questions you might have.

Contact us today and let us help you simplify your semester!

Virtual Assistance:

Visit us [online](#) at

Call 269.488.4380 (TTC)

Email libraries@kvcc.edu

Zoom by appointment, please email

Virtual Hours:

Monday - Thursday | 7:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Friday | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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

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

Library Open Hours:

Texas Township Campus Library (TTC)

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

Arcadia Commons Campus Library (ACC)

Monday - Friday | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Monday - Friday | 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Curbside Assistance:

Texas Township Campus Library (TTC)

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



Join the Book Club

Join us for Book Club! Cheryl Almeda and Denise Miller will lead three sessions of discussions covering the book *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson. Each session will cover a section of the book. You can [register for the discussions here](#). Contact [Gail Fredericks](#) to obtain a copy of the book or check it out from the library.

Book Club: *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson (Session 1)

Cheryl Almeda, Denise Miller

Description

Session 1: Feb. 26 from 10 - 11 a.m. covering Parts 1, 2 and 3 (pages 1-164) *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* is written by Isabel Wilkerson and is a follow-up to her Pulitzer-winning novel *The Warmth of Other Suns*. Wilkerson's *Caste* examines "the unspoken caste system that has shaped America and shows how our lives today are still defined by a hierarchy of human divisions." Denise Miller and Cheryl Almeda, English faculty, will offer three Zoom sessions in response to reading the text and share analysis and discussion surrounding it.

Location

Zoom TBA

Date & Time

Friday, Feb. 26, 2021 | 10 - 11 a.m.



Melody (l) and Paris Woods

Paris Woods Receives Scholarship for Video Cooking Series

Paris Woods, a Loy Norrix High School junior who launched Paris's Kitchen, a video cooking series on social media last spring, has been rewarded for her efforts with a \$3,000 scholarship from the United Dairy Industry of Michigan (Milk Means More). At the start of the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic, Woods began producing and posting cooking demonstration videos, as part of collaboration between Bronson Hospital, Kalamazoo Public Schools and Kalamazoo Valley Community College, featuring ingredients from weekly school lunch distributions. [more](#)

THE SOCIETY FOR HISTORY AND RACIAL EQUITY
PRESENTS



BLACK HISTORY
**GAME
NIGHT!**

Presenting the Young Adult
Service Award to
-Ashley Davis-
For her contributions to local
Non-Profits

Thursday, February 25th
6:00pm
Via ZOOM

Featuring Black History Bingo
Individual winners will receive a FREE
SHARE T-Shirt

*First 50 to register will receive a FREE Soul Food Dinner
Courtesy of Davis Delectables
Pick-Up Required
February 25th 4-5:30pm
471 West South Street

TO REGISTER: <https://forms.gle/oVHy1JaqHcsfc5vcA>

For Additional Information Contact
Share471a@gmail.com or (269) 381-9775

IN THE NEWS

[Town Hall Explores Answers to the Question: What is Systemic Racism](#)

[Milk Means More Awards Local High School Student \\$3,000 Scholarship](#)

[Kalamazoo Valley Works to Strengthen Community-Police Relationship with New Racial Awareness Training](#)

[55 Businesses Across Michigan's Great SW Gain Going Pro Talent Fund Grant of \\$1.98M](#)

[I-Team: Tumultuous 2020 Election Cycle Could have Long-Lasting Impact on US Politics](#)



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