



READ THE LATEST **KV FOCUS**

April 1, 2021

Greetings,

You have heard it said that life is a marathon, not a sprint.

In theory, this makes sense. In terms of time, a marathon takes longer. We know from our work in higher education that often we feel like we are in a sprint to the finish line of the semester, a sprint to incorporate good changes into our college procedures and culture and in a sprint to the start of summer classes.

The events of the last year have made us impatient for change. We want to move on from the restrictions placed upon us by the pandemic, we want to reclaim the pre-pandemic momentum toward implementing our strategic initiatives and we desperately crave a civil society where all people are valued, respected and have the opportunity to achieve their success. Colleagues, we are in a marathon.

Deciding to run the 26.2 miles is just the first step of the race. The only way to win the marathon is to run the marathon – so keep at it! I am in the race with you.

At the same time, it is time for a recess. Beginning tomorrow, April 2 through Sunday, April 4, take a rest from the race. Sometimes even a short break can make a huge difference in our perspective and enthusiasm.

This is not an April Fool's message, enjoy the recess! I look forward to our continued sprints and to the marathon as we work together to make Kalamazoo Valley a safe place for all to learn, belong and find success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L. Marshall Wachtel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'L' and 'W'.

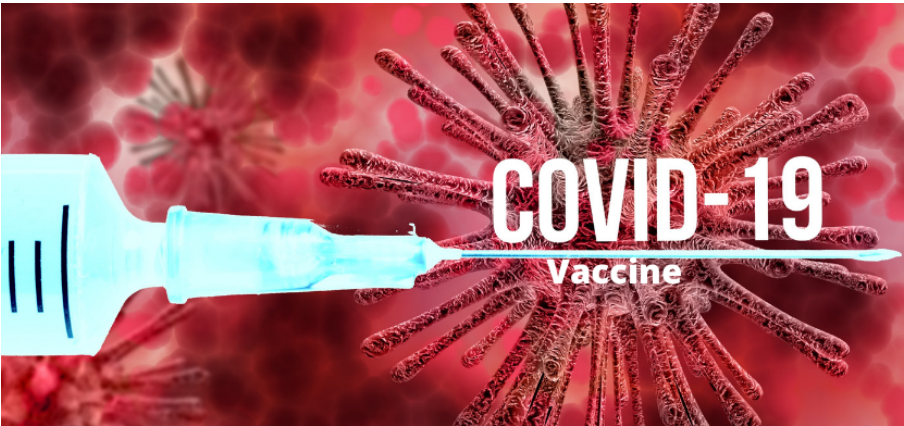
L. Marshall Washington, Ph.D.
President

Reminder!

A spring recess is scheduled for Friday, April 2 through Sunday, April 4. All college buildings will be closed. Because of the college holiday, Help Desk and Faculty Success Center services will not be available on April 2, but will resume beginning at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 3.

HUMAN RESOURCES

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COVID-19 Vaccine Information

In my recent communication dated March 14, 2021, I told you that the college would provide updated COVID-19 (Coronavirus) vaccination information as it became available and I am writing to remind you about the most recent announcement from Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services.

Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department is announcing that starting Tuesday, March 30, people who are 16 years or older who live in Kalamazoo County are eligible to receive a COVID-19 (Coronavirus) vaccine from the health department.

Appointment scheduling process for **people over the age of 16 who live in Kalamazoo County:**

- Starting March 30, people over the age of 16 who live in Kalamazoo County may use the online self-scheduling system. Appointments are released on Mondays at 7 a.m., 12 p.m. and 5 p.m. at www.kalcounty.com/covid19vaccine. New appointments may be added after Monday and throughout the week as existing appointments are cancelled. Residents with

limited internet access are encouraged to call the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Call Center at 269.373.5200 for assistance in scheduling appointments.

- Please note, those under the age of 18 may only schedule a Pfizer vaccine appointment. A parent or guardian must also accompany minors at the vaccination clinic.

Appointment scheduling process for **people over the age of 50, people 16-49 years old with disabilities and/or underlying medical conditions, or caregivers of children with special needs:**

- Kalamazoo County residents over the age of 50 continue to be prioritized for vaccination as well as people 16-49 years old with disabilities and/or underlying medical conditions and caregivers of children with special needs. The health department reserves special appointment slots at upcoming clinics for this group.
- If you qualify in this group and have not yet received the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) vaccine and wish to do so, call the health department's COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Call Center at 269.373.5200 to schedule your appointment.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has [expanded eligibility for COVID-19 vaccinations](#). Under their guidelines, all Michiganders age 16 and up will be eligible to receive a vaccination beginning April 5.

As vaccine prioritization guidance evolves, and more Michiganders become eligible, the scheduling process and strategy within Kalamazoo County is subject to change.

With our healthcare systems, Ascension Borgess, Bronson Health Care, Family Health Center, and WMed Health, equitable distribution of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) vaccine remains the focus of the joint vaccination strategy in Kalamazoo County. All organizations continue to collaborate to ensure vaccinations are provided in a variety of geographic locations throughout Kalamazoo County and at a variety of community locations including senior centers, churches, schools, homeless shelters, and those in congregate living situations. Vaccination efforts in Kalamazoo County will continue to prioritize residents based on highest risk, including older adults, those with underlying medical conditions, and frontline workers.

Important points: The most up-to-date information is at www.kalamazoo.com/covid19 and www.facebook.com/KalamazooCountyHCS. The health department will notify the public via press releases, social media and website updates as information changes.

- If you schedule an appointment but find another option or cannot make it, **please remember to cancel your appointment so someone else can schedule.**
- Vaccination is by appointment only. Do NOT show up at the health department or any vaccination site without an appointment.
- All eligible residents are also encouraged to explore vaccination through other vaccine providers in the area, including Meijer Pharmacy and Rite Aid Pharmacies.
- Please reserve phone calls for those who cannot easily access online information. The health department's COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Call Center is 269.373.5200.

We have been told that other options for vaccinations are available through vaccinefinder.org. Although these opportunities are not sponsored by Kalamazoo Valley Community College, we are encouraging all employees to access the vaccine when it becomes available to them. Thank you.

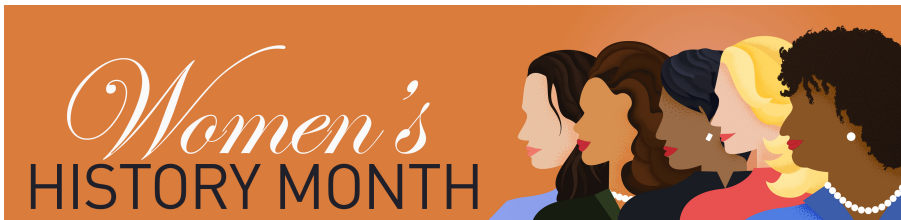
Sincerely,
Aaron Hilliard
Vice President for Human Resources



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SHOWCASE

Virtual International Student Showcase

International Student Services and the Kalamazoo Valley Global Student Union presented the 2021 International Student Showcase, a series of educational student-produced videos highlighting some of the countries represented among Kalamazoo Valley's student body last week. In case you missed it, check out the video [here](#).



Watch Recorded Versions of Women's History Presentations

If you missed the Women's History talks, you can still watch recorded versions of each session. Here's a [link](#) to Rebecca Durkee's March 18 presentation, "Are We There Yet? Recognizing 100 Years of Imperfect Progress."

Durkee is an instructor of gender and women's studies (GWS) and sociology at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. She leads the GWS concentration and teaches several classes on gender, including Introduction to Gender and Women's Studies as well as Media and the Sexes. Her research has included gender disparities in higher education and LGBTQ issues.

The March 25 talk, "Kalamazoo Valley Community College Women: Reflections on the Pandemic," featured a blend of speakers, media and experiences. The presentation was recorded here's a [link](#).

OFFICE FOR ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

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Campus Tours Return to TTC

The Office for Enrollment Management has resumed in-person campus tours at the Texas Township Campus. These individual family tours will showcase the campus and the programs and services available to students. Please be sure to welcome our guests to campus. If you know of someone interested in Kalamazoo Valley, encourage them to [register](#) for a tour. Strict COVID-19 safety protocols will be enforced. If you have questions, contact [Lynn Grammel](#).



Plants for Employees

You are invited to visit the warm, sunny greenhouse at the Food Innovation Center to select a plant. Simple plastic containers will be provided, or you may bring your own 6-inch or larger pot. Someone will be on hand to assist you if you are a plant novice. You're welcome to wander the greenhouse for a few minutes of tropical bliss. There are multiple varieties available as listed below.

- Purple heart
- Pothos
- Spider plant
- Coleus
- Dutchman's Pipe
- Christmas Cactus
- Bleeding Heart Begonia (can get very large)
- Sedum with small pink flowers

Click [here](#) to see a photo album of the plants.

To sign up, please register for Plants for Employees: Happy Spring through [Staff and Faculty Development](#).

There is no charge. Please coordinate with your supervisor. If you have questions, please contact [Cathy Colella](#) or [Rachel Bair](#).

FINANCE AND BUSINESS

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The campus will be closed on Friday, April 2 for Spring Recess. As a result, the time sheet submission and approval deadlines have been modified.

- Employee time sheet submissions are due at 5 p.m. on Monday, April 5.
- Time sheet approvals are due at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 6.

Please note that if you are a full time hourly employee regularly scheduled to work on Friday, April 2, record the time on your time sheet at “time off paid” (TOP). If you are not regularly scheduled to work on Friday or are a part time employee, no hours should be entered for this date on your time sheet.

Make the necessary arrangements to ensure that your time sheet submission and approvals are completed prior to the deadlines. As a reminder, the Banner Self Service application can also be accessed off campus by logging into the Employee Portal at home.kvcc.edu.

If you have questions, contact the Payroll Department with questions. You may call Anita Gonzales at 488.4872 or Molly Riley at 488.4239 send an email to payroll@kvcc.edu. Thank you.

[Sara Herrmann](#)

Controller



Call for Proposals for Fall 2021 Summit

It's time to submit proposals for presentations to be conducted during the Fall 2021 Summit for faculty and staff. The event will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 1 and Thursday, Sept. 2.

Faculty and staff will participate on Wednesday. Thursday's schedule is for faculty. At this time, a virtual event is being planned. However, some portions of the summit may include face-to-face participation. Presenters who prefer to offer a pre-recorded or live Zoom session will have the option to do so.

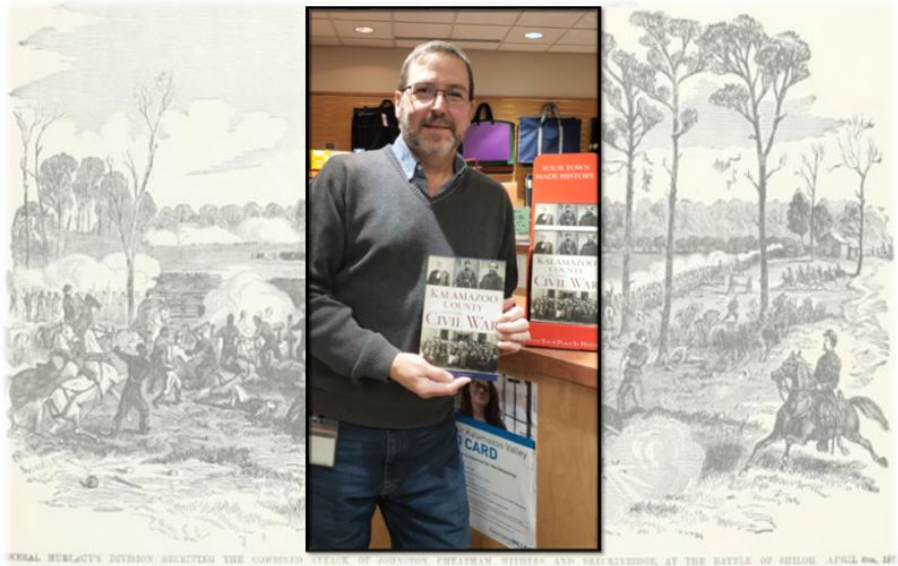
There are multiple ways to present at summit: Live virtual, pre-recorded, pre-recorded with live discussion/Q&A and in a round-table format. As always, co-presenting with your colleagues is an option. If you are interested in presenting but would like to try a different type of presentation or would like some extra support in developing a presentation, please consider reaching out to [Gail Fredericks](#) (faculty) or [Amy Schmidt](#) (staff) to discuss options.

The theme of the Fall Summit will be the college's values of:

- Caring and Respect
- Integrity
- Excellence and Quality
- Humor and Well-Being
- Teamwork and Stewardship

When you submit your proposal, please explain how your presentation will relate to these [values](#). Submit your proposal [here](#) by April 19.

If you have any questions, please contact [Amy Schmidt](#).



Former College Archivist has a Newly Published Book

Kalamazoo Valley Community College bookstore employee and former college archivist Gary Gibson has a newly published book, *Kalamazoo County and the Civil War*. It's available for purchase on campus in the bookstore and at other vendors like Amazon and Target.

Gibson, who earned an associate of arts in history from Kalamazoo Valley before he went on to pursue his bachelor of science degree with a major in public history, is a volunteer curator at Michigan's Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall and Museum, a Civil War veterans'

museum in Eaton Rapids. Several years ago, he began researching the unmarked graves of Civil War veterans in Kalamazoo and eventually compiled the men's stories and secured headstones through the Veteran's Administration. "I felt their stories needed to be told," Gibson said of soldiers he learned about.

His book is "not a typical Civil War history book," Gibson explains. "I talk about what was going on in Kalamazoo before, during and after the Civil War. It contains a lot of human interest stories." For instance, Gibson discovered that the Ladies' Soldiers Aid Society raised money to buy necessities for Kalamazoo's troops. During the Civil War, there were five regiments including men from Kalamazoo, who trained at the former harness racing track in the Washington Square neighborhood. Over 3,000 Kalamazoo County men served in the war and 396 did not return home.

Gibson spent about two and a half years researching and compiling previously untold Civil War stories related to Kalamazoo. He was contacted by The History Press of Arcadia Publishing in Charleston, South Carolina and sent about 50 photos and the book proposal before completing the project.

"It was a neat experience," Gibson said. "I had a great editor to work with and I'm looking at doing another book. It seems kind of surreal."



April is National Poetry Month

Virtual Book Display: Poetry

Celebrate National Poetry Month by discovering and checking out a new book of poetry!

Starting April 1, visit the Kalamazoo Valley Libraries' [Virtual Book Display](#) on Poetry.

The guide features the poet, poem and poetry book recommendations of faculty and staff from around the college.

Ned Foskey Poetry Prize, Virtual Reading: Friday, April 23 @ 4 p.m.

Listen to winners of the Ned Foskey Poetry Prize read their poems during this online event.

Kalamazoo poet and contest judge Margaret DeRitter introduces the winners and reads from her own work.

The Ned Foskey Poetry Prize is a student poetry competition at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Mr. Foskey was a tutor in Kalamazoo Valley's Writing Center. The contest was established by his family and friends to honor him and the students he helped.

Margaret DeRitter is the poetry editor and copy editor of *Encore*, a regional magazine based in

Kalamazoo, Michigan. She is the author of *Singing Back to the Sirens* (Unsolicited Press, 2020) and was a winner of the 2018 Celery City Chapbook Contest, sponsored by Kalamazoo's Friends of Poetry, for her chapbook *Fly Me to Heaven By Way of New Jersey*. Her writing has appeared in the anthologies *Surprised By Joy* (Wising Up Press) and *Queer Around the World* (Qommunicate Publishing) and in a number of journals, including *The 3288 Review*, which nominated her poem "At the top of Sleeping Bear Dunes" for a Pushcart Prize. DeRitter has also written numerous magazine and newspaper articles. She worked for 22 years at the *Kalamazoo Gazette* and has taught journalism at Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo College. She was born and raised in New Jersey and has lived in Michigan since college. When not writing or editing, she often paddles Michigan lakes and rivers.

Register for this webinar through [Faculty and Staff Development](#).



The Center for New Media will host the Student Fine Art Show during the month of April. This is a juried art competition. All accepted entries will be displayed on the CNM's [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts.

Any Kalamazoo Valley Community College student enrolled between September 2020 and May 2021 is eligible to participate. Each student may submit two pieces of artwork that has been completed within the past two years.

The Center for New Media will not be open for Art Hop on Friday, April 2.

The categories are:

- Drawing - Color
 - Drawing - Black and White
 - Painting - Oil, Acrylic, Alkyd
 - Watercolor
 - Film Photography
 - Sculpture
 - Ceramics
 - Mixed Media
-



Arbor Day Ceremony Planned for April 30 at the Texas Township Campus

An Arbor Day ceremony will be held at 12 p.m. on April 30 to honor those who died during the pandemic. The event will include a tree planting as well as a virtual presentation. Opening remarks by Dr. L. Marshall Washington, Ph.D., are planned. Watch for additional details as they become available.



Black Women's Roundtable Honors Kalamazoo Valley Student

Kalamazoo Valley student Shona Espinoza and her daughter Tyarra were recently honored by the Black Women's Roundtable: Metro Detroit for helping people get registered to vote. The women received the 2021 Community and Leadership Award.

Espinoza will graduate in May with an associate degree in general studies. She plans to transfer to Western Michigan University to continue building on her experience in youth and community development activities. She's passionate about helping young people and those in need. "Those are the ones that struggle the most," she said. "Those in need are the most vulnerable." [more](#)

STUDENT PROFILE

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Student scholarship recipient Harmony Bock after a day in an Industrial Trades classroom

Student Profile: Harmony Bock

It took Kalamazoo Valley Community College student Harmony Bock a while to figure out her career aspirations, but she couldn't be more pleased with the path she's on today. The Portage Community Education Center graduate said she didn't do well when she first started college because she didn't have clear goals.

"Then I came back to Kalamazoo Valley a year or two later and started to take classes for tool and die, before I got scooped up for maintenance," she said. Today she works in maintenance at Benteler Automotive. At her previous job in a small factory in Kalamazoo, she was the only technician on her shift. "I wanted to work with more automation, so now I am. I'm training with robots every day," she said. [more](#)



Kalamazoo Valley Community College to Host May 2 Drive-Thru Celebration

To honor its May 2021 graduates as well as those students who attained their degrees last spring, summer and fall, Kalamazoo Valley is hosting a May 2, 2 p.m. Drive-Thru 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. President Washington will provide brief congratulatory remarks.

Invitations will be mailed to previous graduates and pending 2021 students on April 1. **RSVP is required in order to attend. The deadline to RSVP is April 23.**



Announcing Kalamazoo Valley Community College's NISOD Membership

Kalamazoo Valley Community College is now a proud member of the [National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development \(NISOD\)](#), a consortium of community and technical colleges

committed to promoting and celebrating excellence in teaching, learning, and leadership.

This membership will help the amazing and dedicated faculty, administrators, and staff at Kalamazoo Valley Community College realize an exceptional level of commitment to our students' success. Start exploring our membership today by engaging with a couple of NISOD's most popular benefits:

1. [Sign up to receive NISOD's members-only newsletter](#), which offers weekly access to the latest membership information and exclusive content, including [Innovation Abstracts](#), NISOD's weekly flagship teaching and learning publication that spotlights faculty-focused essays.
2. Participate in NISOD's monthly [Webinar Series](#), a faculty-focused virtual meeting space led by community college faculty and other leaders and experts in the field.

To gain access to these great resources and [much more](#), log onto [nisod.org](#) using Kalamazoo Valley Community College's username and password:

Username: kvcc.edu

Password: nisod203

If you have any questions, please contact membership@nisod.org or Kalamazoo Valley Community College's NISOD Liaison, [Paige Eagan](#).

LIBRARIES

Kalamazoo**VALLEY**[™]
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Kalamazoo Valley Libraries: Follow Us on Social Media

Have you checked out Kalamazoo Valley Libraries on Instagram, Facebook and YouTube? Now is a great time to follow us.

Throughout the month of April, on Instagram [@kalamazoovallibraries](#) and Facebook [@kalamazoovallibrary](#), read poetry by students and fellow staff members of Kalamazoo Valley in honor of National Poetry Month. Join our community in celebrating Valley's own poets!

Still want more poetry? Peruse the National Poetry Month [virtual book display](#) on our website. We also have displays for [Women's History](#) and [Black History](#), with more on the way. See the [display home page](#) for information about finding, reserving and checking out these books.

Also, our [YouTube channel](#) features helpful tutorial videos on topics including library use, database research and general technology skills. Look it over and pass it on to students.

Follow us and keep current on future Valley Libraries happenings!

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

Curbside Assistance:

Texas Township Campus Library (TTC)

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

HUMAN RESOURCES

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The following full-time positions have been posted for both internal and external applicants:

- **Marketing Projects Manager** at Texas Township Campus
- **Research Assistant** at Texas Township Campus
- **Academic and Career Pathway Advisor** at various campuses

Please contact Human Resources if you have questions or need assistance creating an applicant account.

For more information, and to apply, visit Kalamazoo Valley's [job board](#) and search available jobs.

CAMPUS PLANNING AND OPERATIONS

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On Friday, March 19, employees participated in a training about Title IX. The program was presented in cooperation with the law firm of Miller Canfield and was recorded. If you missed the

training or would like to view the program again, it is available [here](#).

Title IX applies to any institution receiving federal financial assistance from the Department of Education, including state and local educational agencies, including Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

Kalamazoo Valley Community College's Title IX policy states that: "Members of the college community, guests and visitors have the right to be free from all forms of gender and sex-based discrimination including sexual harassment and acts of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual exploitation, stalking and other conduct of a sexual nature that is so severe, pervasive and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the college's education programs and activities."

Thank you.

Dannie Alexander

Vice President for Campus Planning and Operations

IN THE NEWS

[Dr. Washington Supports Meals on Wheels](#)

[Kalamazoo Woman Plans Community Garden on South Side to Address Food Insecurity](#)

[Saluting The Women Of St. Julian Winery](#)

[Southwest Michigan Students Invited to Virtual Career Exploration Day](#)

[Community Colleges See Thousands of Applications Under Free Tuition Programs](#)



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