



READ THE LATEST **KV FOCUS**

July 8, 2021

Dear College Community,

Today I am writing to share updates as you continue planning for the eventual full reopening of all campus buildings.

I am communicating with you that the college continues to update and implement its Post Pandemic Reopening Plan. Kalamazoo Valley will continue to meet or exceed the minimum requirements for ensuring the health and safety of all people associated with the college.

On July 7, I reconvened the Post Pandemic Task Force and shared a presentation outlining the changes that will begin July 19, 2021. These changes follow below.

- All employees, students and guests are welcomed back to all campus locations with revised health and safety guidelines
- Building access will be limited to primary entry-ways or via keycard access
- Remote and in person instruction and student services will continue
- The Texas Township Campus Fitness Center and Cougar Café will reopen with limited access
- The Texas Township Bookstore will reopen with safety protocols in place
- Laptop and Hotspot loaner program will continue
- The Kalamazoo Valley Museum will continue with virtual programming and increased in-person visits

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

- All employees will be required to complete an updated COVID-19 protocol virtual training by September 8
- Employees should complete an at home health screening prior to coming to campus (complete a self-assessment, the MI Symptoms app will be discontinued)
- Where possible - social distancing protocols will be 3 feet
- Face coverings are encouraged for all and will be required for all unvaccinated individuals
- Healthcare Career programs will continue to follow Federal OSHA standards for the industry

- Employees and students should not ask one another for vaccination status
- Cleaning and disinfecting routines will continue
- Workspace cleaning supplies will continue to be available

IMPLEMENTATION

- Employees must work with their supervisors to establish a return to on-campus work schedule
- Electronic tools including zoom have been incredible resources and will continue to be in use, in-person meetings will resume with increasing frequency
- Course caps will be updated for Fall Semester 2021
- Instructional and other room assignments and configurations may be altered to achieve social distancing protocols
- Limited domestic travel will resume following standard college approval processes
- Campus health and safety signage and communication will be updated

We will continue to monitor conditions related to minimizing the spread of disease. Our decisions will continue to be based on recommendations from local, state and federal health and safety leaders.

Colleagues, the vaccine has been proven as a safe and effective way to prevent the spread of the virus; we strongly encourage everyone to become vaccinated. Please [seek out and receive the vaccine](#) if you have not already done so. Do not ask your colleagues, students or guests about their vaccination status.

Our mission remains unchanged and our goal is to create a safe environment where every employee, student and guest can learn, belong and achieve success. Thank you for your dedication to our efforts.

Sincerely,



L. Marshall Washington, Ph.D.
President

ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

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Summer Volunteer Opportunities

Kalamazoo Valley Community College is on the road this summer, taking our story to the streets by participating in a number of festivals and events, including the July 10 Black Arts Festival and the Kalamazoo Downtown Partnership outdoor event on the green space behind Anna Whitten Hall and the July 17 Inaugural 3on3 Basketball Tournament & Career Fair at the Douglass

Center. We need your help to make these events a success!

Please consider volunteering your time by staffing a table. Sign up with a friend or meet someone new! Non-exempt employees who volunteer will need to flex their work schedule, with supervisor approval, prior to the end of their work week

[Sign up now](#)

For more information, contact eventscheduling@kvcc.edu.

FINANCIAL AID

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ECARS Policy Update

The new Department of Education rules defining student "attendance" for distance education have been announced. Our online coursework - in any format (hybrid, blended, a-synchronous online, zoom, etc.) - falls under their definition of distance education.

For a student to "attend" an online course and earn financial aid based on that attendance, they must demonstrate "academic engagement." Our current ECARs policy meets/exceeds the new requirements to academic engagement. I encourage all faculty to review his/her current practice and ensure it complies with our policy and be able to provide evidence of compliance with our policy, if asked.

Our ECARs policy can be viewed [here](#).

Below is the new guidance offered by the Department of Education:

In a distance education context, documenting that a student has logged into an online class is not sufficient, by itself, to demonstrate academic attendance by the student. A school must demonstrate that a student participated in class or was otherwise engaged in an academically related activity, such as by contributing to an online discussion or initiating contact with a faculty member to ask a course-related question. Examples of acceptable evidence of academic attendance and attendance at an academically-related activity in a distance education program include:

- student submission of an academic assignment,
- student submission of an exam,
- documented student participation in an interactive tutorial or computer-assisted instruction,
- a posting by the student showing the student's participation in an online study group that is assigned by the institution,
- a posting by the student in a discussion forum showing the student's participation in an online discussion about academic matters

- an e-mail from the student or other documentation showing that the student initiated contact with a faculty member to ask a question about the academic subject studied in the course.

Please contact [Alisha Cederberg](#) if you have any questions.



GRADUATE PROFILE

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Graduate Profile: Alyssa Sanford

Before cancer, Alyssa Sanford worked in her father's financial planning practice, Sanford Advisory in Portage. After cancer, she's about to get married and is now a Registered Nurse at Bronson Methodist Hospital.

In 2017, when she moved back home from Florida to work with her father, her parents, Todd and Amy Sanford, noticed that she was pale, tired and bruising easily. Medical tests revealed that she had a rare form of leukemia (APL). "I'm very lucky to be here. My doctor said I was 24 to 48 hours away from not being here at all," she said. The doctor at Bronson knew she was gravely ill and knew they could not treat her, so they suggested that she be transported to University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor by ambulance immediately. [more.](#)

Donations to the scholarship fund are being accepted through www.kvcc.edu/foundation.

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INSIDE  **OUT**
COMPLETE THE STEPS NECESSARY TO GET ENROLLED

Students planning to attend Kalamazoo Valley this fall are invited to Inside Out, a special opportunity to complete the steps necessary to get enrolled on Wednesday, July 28 at the Arcadia Commons Campus and Tuesday, August 3 at the Texas Township Campus. Both events are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and will be held outdoors, weather permitting.

During Inside Out, we're bringing our services together to serve students best. Students can:

- Receive financial aid application assistance
- Complete placement testing

- Meet with an advisor or counselor
- Enroll in classes

A limited number of people can attend and a registration is required. If you're interested in volunteering, contact [Megan Pauken](#).



Excellence in
Academic Advising

EAA: Collaboration and Communication Committee

The EAA Collaboration and Communication Committee is comprised of 25 members from departments all across the college. The committee has been charged with assessing the degree to which the college fosters collaboratively-developed partnerships with a variety of stakeholders, both internal and external; as well as to what degree the college has a comprehensive advising communication plan that meets a number of defined parameters.

Under the Collaboration and Communication umbrella, there are 19 key performance indicators that our committee is working to assess. To achieve this goal, our committee has broken down into smaller sub-groups and each group is tackling 2-3 KPIs. To assess the individual KPIs, our groups are reviewing the staff and student surveys, along with the evidence (or data) that was uploaded by Institutional Research and others. Additionally, we are seeking out the expertise of departmental experts where needed. Once our sub-groups have completed their reviews, the sub-groups will present their findings to the full committee for feedback and the full committee will decide on the assessment ranking for each KPI. We hope that this methodical and analytical approach will provide relevant and useful insight for the larger EAA committee beyond simply the ranking; including comments, challenges encountered during the process and recommendations or suggestions identified along the way.

COMMUNITY & CONTINUING EDUCATION

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Life Enrichment Courses

Kalamazoo Valley's Community and Continuing Education department strives to provide innovative and relevant lifelong learning opportunities for community members of all ages. These non-credit classes emphasize personal enrichment, professional development and community outreach. Why not try something new this summer? Upcoming offerings include:

- Microsoft Excel classes linked [here](#).

- HR Certification prep class linked [here](#).
- Build a Nest Box, fun group activity co-led by Kalamazoo Valley Groves staff and members of the Kellogg Bird Sanctuary team. Find the link [here](#).
- Entrepreneurial classes for ages 16 and up, available [here](#).
- Theater classes including Intro to Improv, Intro to Stage Combat, and Intro to Theater and Acting. See more details [here](#).

Additionally, a full slate of sustainable foods, farm and garden classes is also planned for Fall 2021. Explore beekeeping, herbalism, mushroom cultivation and more. See the full list [here](#).

FOOD INNOVATION CENTER

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Get Outside at Valley

It's summer, and that means we're harvesting our first field crops at ValleyHUB - Kalamazoo Valley's urban farm at 224 E. Crosstown Parkway. This year, we planted crops specifically to supply the Valley Food Share with fresh, seasonal produce. We harvested cabbages and tomatoes for last week's boxes, and the kale is nearly ready. Stop by any time and enjoy a walk through the flower and vegetable gardens. There's always something new blooming!

This is the first "Get Outside at Valley" feature - stay tuned for more photos and info about the beautiful green spaces on Valley's campuses in future newsletters.

KALAMAZOO VALLEY MUSEUM

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Explore Michigan Mythical Mysteries at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum

The Kalamazoo Valley Museum is inviting guests to explore dragons, mermaids, fairies, unicorns and more through stories, songs and art. The summertime series, Michigan Mythical Mysteries, features legends that have their roots in Michigan folklore, stories from around the world, and other tales that have been preserved through the years. All have been inspired by this summer's traveling exhibit "Giants, Dragons & Unicorns: The World of Mythic Creatures." [more.](#)



Valley Food Share

Valley Food Share is an initiative designed to meet the immediate food needs of Kalamazoo Valley students. Since March of 2019, the college has been providing students with a box or "share" of food, most of which is grown or sourced at the Food Innovation Center. It takes the work of numerous volunteers to make the Food Share happen each week. Check out the photos from a [recent assembly](#) and [distribution](#). If you're interested in getting involved, email foodshare@kvcc.edu.

LIBRARIES

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Kalamazoo Valley Libraries: Celebrating Anti-Boredom Month and Supporting Student Success

July is National Anti-Boredom Month and the Libraries have a new virtual book display to celebrate! Browse the [Anti-Boredom Month book display](#) for activities to defeat the doldrums and books to learn necessary skills. Dig deeper into the display to learn about the history of National

Anti-Boredom Month and read articles about the psychology of boredom and strategies to beat the blahs. You can also view [book displays](#) from prior months for other reading ideas.

You can place books on hold and come to the library to check them out. Consult our [How-To Videos](#) if you need help creating an account to log into the ValleyCat Library Catalog or how to put a library book on hold.

As always, the library is also standing by to help your students with their school-related needs:

- **Computer and internet access for classes.** The library will loan students a laptop and hotspot for the semester. They need only fill out the online [laptop loan request form](#), for both. Once they receive email approval, they can check them out at either library.
- **Calculators.** Students can check one out for the semester at either library – no pre-approval needed.
- **Course materials.** We can give your students access to course materials that you place on reserve. They can make copies of sections to take with them. Contact us to put your textbook or other items on reserve.
- **Help with research projects.** Library staff will help students craft workable topics, find their sources and cite them appropriately, and get their papers into the proper format. We can help in-person, over the phone, by email, or over Zoom. Our 24/7 chat service means there's help for them at any hour.

Virtual Assistance:

Visit us [online](#)

Call 269.488.4380 (TTC)

Email: libraries@kvcc.edu

Zoom by appointment, please email

Summer Hours 2021

Virtual Hours:

Monday - Thursday | 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.

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

Library Open Hours:

Texas Township Campus Library (TTC)

Monday- Thursday | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.*

Arcadia Commons Campus Library (ACC)

(located in Anna Whitten Hall, Room 321)

Monday | 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Tuesday | 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Wednesday - Thursday | 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**Libraries closed from 8 - 9 a.m. on Tuesdays for staff training*

IN THE NEWS

[Lessons in Leadership: Creating Safe, Respectful and Responsive Campuses](#)

[Marilyn Schlack, First Woman President of a Michigan Community College, Remembered as a 'Leader Among Leaders'](#)

[Marilyn Schlack is Worthy of Recognition](#)

[Former KVCC President Marilyn Schlack Left Huge Legacy](#)

[Longtime Kalamazoo Valley College President Marilyn Schlack Dies at 85](#)

[Former Kalamazoo Valley President Dr. Marilyn Schlack Passes Away](#)

[Reaching Stop Out Students Through Debt Forgiveness](#)



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