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December 16, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

During this time of year, I look forward to “finishing strong.” Finishing strong means completing the semester and accomplishing my goals.

For some of our students, finishing strong is easy, while for others, the struggle continues as they juggle the multiple demands of life while completing that one last assignment, their program or academy experience.

Being persistent and finishing strong provides an opportunity to heave a big sigh of relief. Finishing strong provides a sense of accomplishment and joy! Finishing strong allows us the opportunity to pause, reflect, celebrate, rest and focus on the future.

We have nearly completed another amazing year together, and that is an understatement! Your work is noticed and appreciated and I encourage you to finish strong.

However you celebrate the season, I hope you find joy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'L. Marshall Washington'.

L. Marshall Washington, Ph.D.
President

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 19 | 2 PM

Commencement

CELEBRATION

Commencement Schedule for this Sunday

Kalamazoo Valley's 85th commencement ceremony is scheduled for 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 19 in Miller Auditorium at Western Michigan University. The graduates total nearly 500 students who completed their studies in both April and December.

William deDie is the faculty speaker for this year's ceremony. He teaches English and transitional studies and has been a Kalamazoo Valley instructor for nearly 20 years. "I don't know what else I would have done if I hadn't become a teacher," deDie said. "This is all I've ever wanted to do." He said he enjoys seeing students gain confidence as they begin to understand class content. He also likes sharing information about topics he loves. Most importantly, though, is his wish to make sure no student ever has to struggle in class the way he once did. [More](#)



Volunteers Needed

Valley Food Share, an initiative designed to meet the immediate food needs of Kalamazoo Valley students, has its last share of the semester today, Dec. 16. Thanks to a generous donation from the Aramark Corporation, students will receive kitchenware and either a ham or prime rib, courtesy of Arvco, in addition to the box provided by the college. Thank you Aramark and Arvco for the donation!

Valley Food Share distribution will return Jan. 20. Volunteers are needed to help distribute shares to students at both the Texas Township Campus and the Food Innovation Center. With supervisor approval, please [sign up](#) to help!

Be sure to check out the new [webpage](#).



Texas Township Campus Limited Food Service Dec. 22 & 23

Cougar Cafe - Closed

Coffee Den - Open 7:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY

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Situational Awareness

In light of the recent school shooting and the ongoing copycat threats, Kalamazoo Valley Department of Public Safety Director Don Benthin is reminding people of the importance of situational awareness.

“Situational awareness is being aware of what is happening around you in terms of where you are, where you are supposed to be and whether anyone or anything around you is a threat to your health and safety,” Benthin explained. “Everyone needs to really think about whether or not they are ready and prepared for the unknown.”

During his Jan. 6 Summit presentation, Benthin will review a variety of scenarios and the appropriate responses to stay safe at work and at home.

“The most important lesson is that if you see something suspicious, say something,” he said. “Then do something – whether you intervene or just be a good witness.”

Register [here](#) for his presentation.

Vacation Accrual Reminder

An employee can carry over vacation time into the next calendar year with a maximum of the amount they accrue each year. The handbook states it this way: *On Dec. 31 of each year, an employee may not have more time accrued than the employee is entitled to earn during a calendar year. Any time in excess of this amount will be forfeited.*

You can see how much you accrue per pay in Banner Self-Service under leave balances. If you're planning the rest of your vacation time for 2021, you'd start by looking at your available balance showing today and adding two more accruals for the remaining two paychecks this year. Take that current balance, add the remaining accruals, and then subtract the total amount you'll accrue in a year. The remaining is what you'd forfeit if you don't use it before Dec. 31. If you don't know how much you accrue in a year, take your per pay accrual and multiply it by 24. If you have questions, contact [Amy Reynolds](#).

Kalamazoo Valley Community College
FOUNDATION 



Remembering Jim Taylor

Taylor Cook and her siblings always knew that their grandpa Jim Taylor valued education and expected them to go to college. Jim died in August 2021 after a 10-month battle with cancer. Long before his death, he established the James WM Taylor Respiratory Care Scholarship Fund at Kalamazoo Valley Community College and also set up savings accounts to help his grandchildren pay for college.

overseeing all of the healthcare programs at Kalamazoo Valley as the dean of health and sciences.

“He was very driven,” his granddaughter Taylor Cook said, acknowledging that his drive rubbed off on her. She graduated from Loy Norrix High School a year early and enrolled at Kalamazoo Valley. “I took a couple of extra classes which was easy with it being online. When he got really sick, I was doing it so he could watch me graduate.”

Cook remembers attending a naturalization ceremony with her grandpa at Kalamazoo Valley for immigrants gaining their citizenship. “That was the year I decided I’d go into criminal justice,” Cook said. She completed her first year at Valley with a 3.5 GPA and is certain that her grandpa would be proud. “I’m doing well. I have no concerns. He recommended some instructors and some classes he thought I should take.”

Cook is touched that some of her instructors attended her grandpa’s funeral. “There are a lot of people who still know who he is,” she said. “I have lots of people looking out for me.”

To make a donation to the James WM Taylor Respiratory Care Scholarship Fund, go to www.kvcc.edu/foundation or for more information, email [Linda Depta](mailto:Linda.Depta) or call ext. 4821.

FINANCE AND BUSINESS

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Payroll Reminders

Due to the upcoming holiday break, we wanted to send a friendly reminder of the due dates for payroll so you have time to make any necessary adjustments to ensure your reports are properly completed and approved in a timely manner.

1/14/22 Payroll:

- Employee time sheet submission due date is **TUESDAY**, Jan. 4 at 5 p.m.
- Manager approval of time sheets is due **WEDNESDAY**, Jan. 5 at 5 p.m.
- This pay covers the period Dec. 12 - Jan. 1 (this is a three-week period); **full-time** hourly employees should enter TOP (time off paid) for the college holidays of Dec. 24, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31.

If you will not be on campus when time sheets are due, please ensure that your time sheet is completed and submitted prior to leaving campus. If you normally approve time sheets and will not be on campus on the due date, please ensure you have a proxy set up to approve your time sheets or approve your time sheets before you leave campus. Alternatively, if you are off campus and have internet access, you can log in to your MyValley account by going to www.kvcc.edu to access the Banner Self-Service application to submit and/or approve time sheets.

4872 or Molly Riley at ext. 4239 or send an email to payroll@kvcc.edu.



Register Now for the Winter 2022 Summit

Winter Semester 2022 Virtual Summit takes place on Jan. 6. The college-wide (faculty and staff) portion of the Summit will be held in the morning with the college being closed to the public from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Sessions for faculty continue in the afternoon. Live Zoom sessions and recorded sessions will be offered.

Register early for the opening session and you may win a grab bag!

Click [here](#) for the full schedule and to register.

LIBRARIES

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Kalamazoo Valley Libraries: End of Semester Updates

Book Returns

Do you or your students have a stack of library books to return? Leave them with our friendly staff at either location. If you are on the Texas Township Campus, you can deposit books into the metal book drop in front of the Flag Entrance. Please only place books in the book drop. Any electronic materials should be brought directly to the library's front desk.

December Book Displays and Activities

Give yourself the gift of a good book. Come to the Texas Township library and choose a wrapped book based on your interests, and open it to reveal a library staff member's recommendation to

Township library, check out the card making station and take a few minutes to make a seasonal card for your family or friends.

*We appreciate you following Kalamazoo Valley's safety protocols and practicing social distancing when you visit us.

Virtual Assistance:

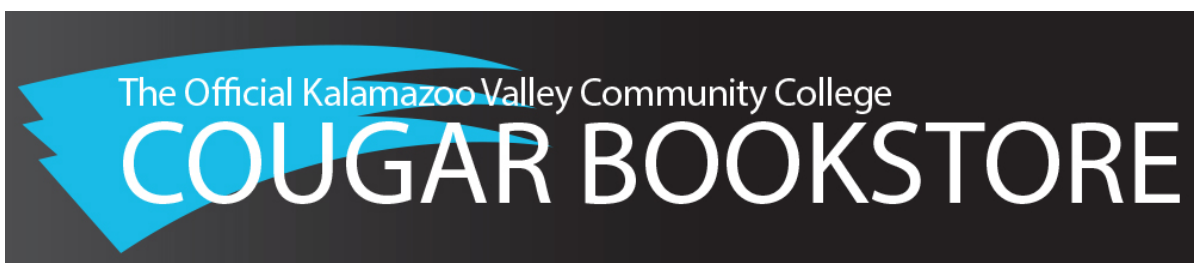
Visit us [online](#)

Call 269.488.4380 (TTC)

Email libraries@kvcc.edu

Zoom by appointment, please email

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



Employees Taking Winter Classes: Books Have Arrived

Winter 2022 textbooks are now available for purchase at the bookstore either in person at the Texas Township Campus from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday - Friday, or [online](#). Online orders may be picked up at TTC or Anna Whitten Hall at the Arcadia Commons Campus in downtown Kalamazoo, or mailed to your home or other address. Shipping is \$5.

Meanwhile, those needing to return book rentals should note that they are due on Dec. 20. Also mark your calendars for Textbook Buy Back. Textbook Buy Back will be Jan. 6 from 1 - 6 p.m., and Jan. 7 from 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. in Room 4380, both days.

Questions? Call the bookstore at ext. 4030 or email bookstore@kvcc.edu.

Treat Your Cougar Alum to a Bookstore Gift!

Just in are warm, stylish charcoal-colored fleece jackets! But you can get everything from comfy college-branded sweatshirts and pants, socks, T-shirts, hoodies, cardigans, mugs, backpacks, caps to water bottles, toothpick holders, a set of pub glasses and much more. These items are also suitable for that current Cougar student or employee in your life!

For your convenience, you can shop online at bookstore.kvcc.edu. Shipping is \$5. Those wishing to buy in person may do so at the Texas Township Campus from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Cougar gift cards make a great present, too! Click [here](#)!

Questions? Call the bookstore at ext. 4030 or email bookstore@kvcc.edu.

Holiday Music Planetarium Show Offered in December

What do Frank Sinatra, Chuck Berry, Brenda Lee and the Trans-Siberian Orchestra have in common? They and other popular artists are featured in the **“Let It Snow” holiday music planetarium show** running through Dec. 31, 2021 at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum!

Showtimes: Fridays and Saturdays at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Buy tickets at the front desk, or in advance by choosing from the [list of dates](#). Tickets: \$3 (museum entry is free). Run time: 30 minutes. Check out the trailer [here!](#)

‘A Journey of Autism Through Art’ Exhibit Ends Soon

Jan. 2 is the last day to enjoy the colorful, stunning pieces in the “Expanding Scott’s World: A Journey of Autism Through Art” exhibit at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum. The show reflects the personal journey of Scott Fergus, who was diagnosed as being on the autism spectrum when he was a child. The exhibition has been on display since September. Click [here](#) for a video about Fergus and his art! For more info, visit kalamazoomuseum.org. FREE.

Museum Closed Dec. 24, 25 and Jan. 1

Kalamazoo Valley Museum’s exhibits and planetarium are a great way to spend the holiday break. The museum is open for limited entry Tuesday through Saturday 10-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-3 p.m. Preregistration at kalamazoomuseum.org is recommended. Walk-in slots are offered to allow visitors to register when they arrive, but availability is not guaranteed. The museum will be closed Dec. 24-25 and Jan. 1.

CENTER FOR NEW MEDIA

CNM to Host February Black Artists Exhibit

In collaboration with community partners, Kalamazoo Valley Community College’s Center for New Media will host an exhibition of works by local Black artists in February 2022.

“We are confident that this event will build on the success of the first Black Artists Exhibit in 2020 and last year’s virtual event,” said Center for New Media Director Tom Hamann. “The community’s great response to both events proved that there was a large and enthusiastic regional audience for this type of programming and exhibition.”

The exhibition is part of the college’s celebration of Black History Month. Artwork will be exhibited in the Center for New Media and its Arcus Gallery throughout the month of February. The exhibit’s opening will coincide with the city of Kalamazoo’s Feb. 4 Art Hop.

For gallery requirements and the call for entries and loan agreement forms, go to www.kvcc.edu/artexhibits.

Protect Yourself & Loved Ones

Get your Flu Vaccine today!



IN THE NEWS

[Twenty Community Colleges Receive Grants To Boost Adult Student Enrollment](#)

[This Michigan City is the Cheapest Place to Live in the U. S.](#)

[BUSINESS BEAT: BCSD Deputy Completes 16-week Kalamazoo Valley Academy](#)

[Art Beat: Life Through a Camera Lens](#)



Kalamazoo Valley Community College
6767 West O Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49003-4070



