



## CAREER TRAINING AT KALAMAZOO VALLEY



*Kalamazoo Valley Community College Wind Turbine Technician instructor, Lief Doezeema, on the wind turbine at the Groves Center.*

The fastest-growing occupation in the nation through 2024 is wind turbine technician. If that's what spins your blades, then Kalamazoo Valley Community College and its specialized academy is the place to go. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, in this category of "fastest" are also jobs

involving occupational and physical therapy, health care in the home, nursing . . . and commercial diving.

If there is one staple in the "feds" projections, it is that health care, and its many derivatives, will be leading the pack in job opportunities,

followed by those involving the continuing digital transformation of the workplace. The "good" news is that, no matter what the 22 occupational groups, there will be 46.5 million job openings over the next eight years because of replacing workers who are retiring or because of employment growth, as in wind expanding as a source of energy.

What about Michigan? Similar projections – even downturns – are available through the Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget – specifically its Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives.

On its web pages for scores of occupational groups are predictions for employment outlooks, licensing requirements, required training, needed skills, and wage and salary ranges. Searchers can receive help in finding employers for each occupation. Overall, Michigan is forecasting an 8.7-percent growth in employment through 2022. That equates to 371,460 jobs. Kalamazoo Valley is a great place to start for just about any of them.

Leading the way in double-digit projected growth are jobs in construction, transportation and warehousing, professional and business services, scientific, computing and technical services, educational services, and health care and social assistance.

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Touching almost all of these groupings are what TV celebrity Mike Roe is promoting nationally – the skilled trades. Many only require the two-year degrees and certificates offered by Kalamazoo Valley. Here's what prospective "skilled traders" should also know:

1. These jobs – some 8,500 – are posted right now.
2. With the state's economic rebound, they will still be in demand in the years ahead. A skilled workforce can be a factor in Michigan staying strong in a competitive world. (Continued on page 2)



## NOVIOLET BULAWAYO RECEIVES OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD

Author and Kalamazoo Valley alumni NoViolet Bulawayo is receiving an Outstanding Alumni Award from the American Association of Community Colleges. She will be honored at an award brunch held during AACC's Annual Convention in Chicago on Tuesday, April 12.

Every year since 1982, AACC has presented the Outstanding Alumni Award to those individuals nominated by their community college who have excelled in their field and given back to their community.

Bulawayo was also the 2014 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient at Kalamazoo Valley Community

College. She was born in Zimbabwe and immigrated to the United States when she was 18, moving to Kalamazoo to join family already living here. She graduated from Kalamazoo Valley Community College with an associate of art degree in liberal arts in May 2003. She has credited Kalamazoo Valley instructors with sparking her interest in writing. "I realized that I was very passionate about writing and reading, and I also received encouraging responses from my instructors," says Bulawayo.

After leaving Kalamazoo Valley, NoViolet went on to attend Texas A & M University and was recognized with a Truman Capote Fellowship at Cornell University, where she earned her master of fine arts degree in creative writing. She was also named a Wallace Stegner Fellow with Stanford University's creative writing program.

**"I have been to many schools in my academic career, but Kalamazoo Valley remains for me the most important because of the formative experience I got there. I am who I am because of KVCC."**

She won the 2011 Caine Prize for African Writing, was shortlisted for the 2009 SA PEN Studzinski Award, and the 2013 Man Booker Prize. Her work was also long-listed for the 2013 Guardian First Book Award. Her writing has appeared in *Guernica*,

*The Telegraph*, *Callaloo*, *The Boston Review*, *Newsweek*, and *The Warwick Review*, as well as in anthologies in Zimbabwe, South Africa, and the UK. Her book, "We Need New Names," was included on Oprah Winfrey's list of Nine Must – Read Books for June 2013. She was also a featured writer at the Open Book Festival in Cape Town, South Africa.

NoViolet continues to gain recognition and praise worldwide. In February of 2014 she was named the winner of the Inaugural Etisalat Prize for Literature award, which was created in 2013. Just a month after winning the Etisalat award, she took the 2014 PEN/Hemingway Award for Debut Fiction. In addition to the \$10,000

cash prize, NoViolet received a one-week residency in The Distinguished Visiting Writers Series at the University of Idaho's MFA Program in Creative Writing.

"Kalamazoo Valley is where I took my first creative writing class and many others after that – the place that essentially gave me permission to pursue writing. These many years later, I am still grateful to the mentors there who took me seriously. I have been to many schools in my academic career, but Kalamazoo Valley remains for me the most important because of the formative experience I got there. I am who I am because of KVCC," Bulawayo said.

**ROBYN BENINCASA**  
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# EARLY MIDDLE COLLEGE

Go to College for Free While Still in High School!



TREVOR H. GENERAL STUDIES

High school students in Kalamazoo County can earn college credit and a high school diploma at the same time under the new Early Middle College program. Kalamazoo Valley Community College and Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency (Kalamazoo RESA) are collaborating to serve students through the Early/Middle College initiative.

Early/Middle College provides students the opportunity to simultaneously earn a high school diploma and one to two years of transferable college credit, a certificate or a degree, tuition free. Students apply in the 9th or 10th grade year then begin taking Kalamazoo Valley classes as a high school junior. The program allows students to earn a degree or certificate from Kalamazoo Valley Community College during an additional year in high school. “The ultimate goal of the Early/Middle College is to significantly increase the number of students graduating from area high schools with an associate degree or skills certificate,” said Marilyn Schlack, Kalamazoo Valley Community College President.

Deb Miller is working for both Kalamazoo Valley and Kalamazoo RESA as Assistant Superintendent and Associate Vice President for Secondary Programming and Early/Middle College. At Kalamazoo Valley, Dr. Deborah Coates is the new Dean of Instruction for Early Middle College.

This new agreement leverages existing Career and Technical Education programs, certificates and degrees by utilizing a Guided Pathways approach. The Early/Middle College program will streamline the current dual enrollment, Early College, Education for the Arts, and Education for Employment efforts. This approach will more effectively prepare high school students for the rigors of college study and graduation and help guide students through structured career and educational pathways aligned with the student’s interests and skills.

The Early/Middle College pathways of study include: Sustainable Food Systems, Art and New Media, Health Careers, Public Safety, Industrial Trades/Engineering, Design and Manufacturing Technology, Business, and Transfers programs.

Interested 9th and 10th grade students should contact their high school counselor for more information and to obtain the parent/student application. The PSEO Tuition and Transcript Authorization form is available at [www.kvcc.edu/earlycollege](http://www.kvcc.edu/earlycollege).

## Kalamazoo Valley EMC Eligible Programs of Study:

**Associate of Arts**  
transfer degree to a four-year college/university

**Associate of Science**  
transfer degree to a four-year college/university

**Associate of Applied Science** – career ready degrees

- Accounting
- Administrative Assistant
- Culinary Arts & Sustainable Food Systems
- Graphic Design
- IT Support Technician
- Machine Tool Technology

### Certificate Programs

- Graphic Design
- Machinist

### Certificate of Achievement

- Auto Brakes
- PC Support Technician
- Welding

# CAREER TRAINING AT KALAMAZOO VALLEY



Dave Brock, an instructor at Kalamazoo Valley Community College, shows student Patrick Quigley how to use some new equipment.

(Continued from page 1)

In searching for a career, there can be two routes for young adults – a materialistic, money-first perspective versus a quality-of-life approach. The latter promotes the belief that a job – or career – should be more of a vocation, meaning that people should enjoy the work they do. Those who pursue the monetary journey often come to regret that decision and retrace their steps. Kalamazoo Valley’s half-century of existence is full of these stories.

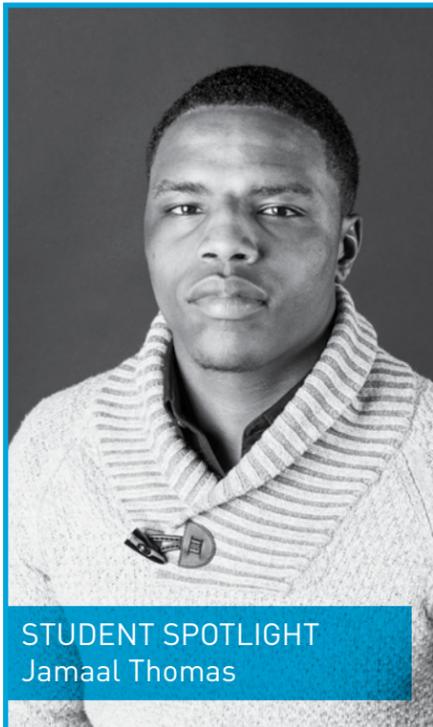
Because of the quickly changing times, people should be aware they could change jobs (or careers) five

or six times during their working lives. Roe, for example, trained to be an opera singer. Today he sings the praises of being an electrician, aviation mechanic, or HVAC technician. One strategy to cope with this is an open mind and a commitment to life-long learning/training.

Cracking the computer code gave us the Internet and new, more effective ways to work and communicate. That shouldn’t drastically change in the next decade or two, offering all kinds of career and employment opportunities.

But keep your eye on the evolving world of virtual reality and the next major transition – the cracking of the genetic code. The latter will be the long-anticipated revolution in the life sciences. As with its possible ramifications, the employment opportunities when that happens – robotics or not – will be limitless.

No matter what your career hopes are, you can receive a boatload of assistance, guidance, and information by taking advantages of what’s available in the college’s Student Success Center.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT  
Jamaal Thomas

“I’m very thankful for all of the support I’ve received and I want to stay focused so I can change somebody else’s life.”

At one time, Thomas had considered not going to college, but now he’s certain that he’s on the right path. “A lot of people blame what happened yesterday on their situation, but you can’t let your current circumstances be the foundation of your future,” he said. “You have to envision that big picture and if it doesn’t scare you, it isn’t big enough.”

Thomas recently spearheaded a campus-wide campaign to collect water for Flint residents. “When I first heard about the Flint water crisis, I knew I wanted to do something,” Thomas said. “It inspired me to try to get donations together. It’s all about involvement. After all, we are a community college.”

Thomas, a public relations/communications transfer student, joined with other Kalamazoo Valley students and staff to deliver the water directly to the Boys and Girls Club in Flint. He thought it was important to connect directly with students. “I really want to make a difference,” he said.

2013 Kalamazoo Central High School graduate Jamaal Thomas spent a year and a half at Michigan State University before coming to Kalamazoo Valley. An injury that prevented the track star from running and 10 devastating family deaths within two semesters took their toll on Thomas and he returned to Kalamazoo. “I’m taking all that pain that I had and turning it into inspiration,” Thomas said.

“Yeah, I got knocked down, but I put my head on straight and that’s really the fuel that gets me going. The impact that I want to have is bigger than all this.”

# GUIDED PATHWAYS

## What They Can Do For You

Navigating the college experience from admission through graduation can be an overwhelming task. That's why Kalamazoo Valley Community College is adopting a student-focused guided education pathways model to help ensure student success.

The college offers clear, coherent, and sequenced program pathways that are aligned with students' end goals for employment or transfer by helping students explore and select a pathway of interest and by providing a multi-disciplinary approach to assist and support students along their chosen pathway.

This structured way of integrating academic and student support services can help make a seemingly complex system more manageable and lead to greater satisfaction and success.

The overarching guided educational pathways at Kalamazoo Valley are: Art and New Media; Business; Health Careers; Industrial Trades and Engineering, Design, Manufacturing, and Technology; Public Services; Sustainable Food Systems; and Transfer.

The approach is meant to ensure that college students have a clear path to graduation and a degree or certificate that will lead to employment or continued education. "The goal of

Guided Pathways is to align student goals to their career or educational path and get them to complete the courses they need without taking additional courses," said Dennis Bertch, Executive Vice President for Instructional and Student Services at Kalamazoo Valley. "It's all about trying to help students figure out what they want to do and helping them to get there with little or no excess credit."

Bertch said the new approach will mean more contact with students. "We're going to be more intrusive in student scheduling," he said. "We'll have a conversation with students when they register for classes that don't make sense with their goals. The focus is on the student and the plan is to realign the way we do business in order to better meet student needs."

Bertch said the more intensive approach should improve student success and boost retention rates. He said a steering committee that includes employees from Information Technology, the Student Success Center, Institutional Research, faculty, counselors, enrollment, and the business and finance offices is working to figure out how to implement the plan.

**"We all have to take ownership," Bertch said. "It will take a village."**



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT  
Chemical Kim

**C**hemical Kim (Kalamazoo Valley Chemistry instructor Kim Hilton) readily admits that she has a healthy addiction to science. "I get a little crazy with my science. Just ask my kids," Kim said. "I'm not your typical mom, I'd rather use the kitchen as a chemistry lab than use it to cook a meal."

Chemical Kim has been a fixture at Kalamazoo Valley for 16 years. The mother of three daughters and one son first taught part-time, but she's been a full-time faculty member since 2009. Kim said she considers it a privilege to work at Kalamazoo Valley with other educators who go above and beyond for their students.

In addition to teaching, Kim is the resident scientist on ABC affiliate WZZM 13 My West Michigan. She records a live science segment

every other Friday, presenting a blend of smart and entertaining science concepts which include hands-on activities for kids of all ages. Kim also volunteers her time teaching hands-on science to area kids at local schools, organizations, and children's hospitals.

"I consider it giving back to the community," Kim said. "I want to get kids excited about science and keep them motivated to exploring their world and seeking answers to their questions." She says all of her involvement and inquiry "Lets me release my addiction to science. I'm constantly asking why things work the way they do."

Kim knows many of her students walk through her laboratory doors with high levels of anxiety. "Many of my students do have that fear of chemistry," she said. "My goal in teaching is to break down this fear. I jokingly tell my students that by the end of the semester, they will change their majors to chemistry." Occasionally, that does happen and Kim is tickled when it does.

I tell my students to find something they're afraid of and face it," Kim said. "I often see that when they face those fears, they end up finding what they're passionate about." Kim thinks its important to stay young and stay inquisitive. She points out that the only difference between science and play is that "science writes it down."

# TECHNICAL TRADES AT VALLEY

## Kalamazoo Valley Community College Makes Major Advanced Technical Training Upgrades

Students in the machinist, CNC, welding, maintenance mechanics, mechatronics, engineering design, and advanced electrical programs at Kalamazoo Valley Community College are using new equipment that was funded by a \$4.8 million Community College Skilled Trades Equipment Program (CCSTEP) grant. CCSTEP funding is meant to enable community colleges to purchase state-of-the-art equipment to enhance educational programs in high-wage, high-skill, and high-demand occupations. Kalamazoo Valley was one of 18 community colleges to receive a CCSTEP grant. New equipment was installed at both the Texas Township and Groves Campus facilities.

Bill Kring, of Kalamazoo Valley's Engineering Design Manufacturing and Technology Department, said the new equipment "moves Kalamazoo Valley to the head of the class" and gives the college new opportunities for partnerships with vendors and area employers. "These machines are going to help our students blend into local manufacturing. They'll be able to go directly to work with the experience

they gain in our labs," Kring said. At the Texas Township Campus, the new equipment includes 3-D printers with the capability to create products with 14 types of materials, a three-axis CNC machine, a four-axis lathe, a five-axis CNC machine, a wire-EDM machine, injection-molding equipment, grinder polishers and a high-powered microscope for the metallurgy lab, and welding and CAD/CAM lab upgrades.

"The new equipment in our labs and the increased flexibility in scheduling will give our faculty the opportunity to restructure course offerings around formalized skills-based competencies," said Tom Buszek, Dean of Instruction for Business and Industrial Trades at Kalamazoo Valley. "These competencies will be grouped as stackable credentials so students can gain the skills necessary to obtain a job and formal workplace-recognized credentials, and then later return to college and efficiently complete a certificate or degree. The bottom line is that we'll be better able to connect students with jobs as a result of this expanded effort."



Matt McCaleb, a student in the EDMT program at Kalamazoo Valley Community College, works with new equipment.

Welding instructor Erick Martin said the new arc welding trainer in his lab allows students to develop their motor skills with virtual reality technology before going live. "We have the ability to move out of a virtual world into the real world," Martin said, explaining that a welding simulator is connected to the lab's welding equipment. The blend of technologies enhances the learning process for students because they can go right back and correct their mistakes instantly. "Technology has kind of gone uptown," Martin said.

At the Groves Campus, upgrades include the addition of FANUC Robodrill 5-axis mills, HAAS CNC lathes with Y-axis and bar-stock feeder, a

production 3-dimensional printer that prints in 12 materials from plastics to metals and produces parts that are ready to install; CAD/CAM lab with the latest 3-D CAD modeling software; 3-D scanner equipment which converts a scan of an object directly into 3-dimensional CAD software, information-technology equipment to support wi-fi systems, fiber optics and structured cable system installation and maintenance.

**"The bottom line is that we'll be better able to connect students with jobs as a result of this expanded effort."**



Culinary & Allied Health Building

# NEW CAMPUS OPENS

## Public is Invited to the Bronson Healthy Living Campus Open House and Tours

The public is invited to a community open house at the Bronson Healthy Living Campus on Sunday, April 24. Tours, demonstrations, and an opportunity to meet with faculty and students will be available from 2 to 5 p.m.

Responding to increasing consumer demand for holistic approaches to sustainable food production and safety, along with the need to impact the health and well-being of residents through improved nutrition and diet, the \$46.1M campus on 14 acres donated by Bronson Healthcare, includes three structures. "Everyone is welcome to tour our buildings and learn more about programming there," said college President Marilyn Schlack. "We are grateful for the collaboration of our partners Bronson Healthcare and Kalamazoo Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

and the collaboration with the City and others who have helped to make this vision a reality."

The Food Innovation Center opened in January at the start of the winter 2016 semester.

The first students to use the facility are enrolled in Introduction to Sustainable Food Systems, Food Safety Essentials, Winter Crops Practicum, and Food Industry Career Planning.

Tiny sprouts of microgreens, radishes, cabbage, kale, cilantro, and basil offer just a glimpse of what's coming. Soon, the live wall in the visitors' center will be covered with plants. The grow room will house hydroponic and aquaponic growing systems, and a space-saving,

vertically stacked growing rack system that's popular in dense urban areas. The building houses lab spaces and one large classroom. There is also a 9,600-square-foot greenhouse on the grounds with shades that provide light and temperature controls and a self-venting roof. The building is located at 224 East Crosstown Parkway.

At 418 East Walnut Street, the Culinary/Allied Health Building is the home for students enrolled in the new Menus That Matter™ Culinary and Sustainable Food Systems programs. The three-story structure houses a culinary theatre, community education kitchen and will soon house a full-service teaching restaurant and café. The Kalsec® Center for Sustainable Brewing Education is located on the second floor and includes a teaching brewery, classroom spaces, and labs.

The building will also be the new home for Kalamazoo Valley students enrolled in nursing, emergency medical technology, and respiratory care programs. Students will train in state-of-the-art simulation labs, spacious classrooms, and a real ambulance which was hoisted into position earlier this year during the construction of the building. Students are expected to occupy the space beginning the summer of 2016.

Kalamazoo Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, (KCMHSAS) a partner in the project, has constructed a 17,000 sq.ft. person-centered clinic and pharmacy at 615 East Crosstown Parkway. This integrated, health-services clinic opened in December. "It is hoped

that its close proximity to Bronson Methodist Hospital will help prevent avoidable emergency room visits and facilitate timely post-discharge follow up," according to KCMHSAS Chief Executive Officer Jeff Patton. "Location on the healthy living campus will create opportunities to incorporate garden-based therapies in holistic patient care."

In addition, the entire campus has benefited from extensive property improvements. Mike Collins, Executive Vice President for Enrollment and Campus Operations and project manager said, "the college received a \$1M grant from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for site work. We worked with the Kalamazoo Brownfield Redevelopment Authority since the site was deemed a brownfield." Kalamazoo Valley continues to work with the City, Kalamazoo County, and the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail on a trail through the campus that would connect the north and south campus along the creek. Other activities scheduled to celebrate the campus opening include a "Tasting Kalamazoo History: Favorite Dishes and Recipes from Rich Midwestern Heritage" at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum from 1 to 2 p.m.

For more information visit [www.kvcc.edu/healthyliving](http://www.kvcc.edu/healthyliving).

All of the April 24 events are free and shuttle buses will be available between all three buildings.

### Kalamazoo Valley Community College

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Food Innovation Building



KCMHSAS Integrated Health Services Clinic

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## Kalamazoo Valley Community College IMPORTANT DATES

Summer Semester Registration Begins	March 14
Alumni+ Art Show	April 1
Artists' Forum Presents Mavis Staples	April 2
Fall Semester Registration Begins	April 6
Bronson Healthy Living Campus Open House	April 24



GETTING HIS START  
**AT VALLEY**  
Kalamazoo**VALLEY**™  
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Kalamazoo**VALLEY**™  
community college

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