



REVERSE TRANSFER DEMONSTRATES COLLEGE'S COMMITMENT TO STUDENT SUCCESS



Kalamazoo Valley alumna and television personality
Lori Moore

She excelled in her classes and was encouraged by her counselors and instructors to apply to top universities. Eager to earn her bachelor's degree, she transferred to Hope College where she earned a degree in Mass Communications and Media Studies. She went on to graduate studies at the University of Notre Dame and is currently the host of "The Lori Moore Show" on the CW7.

Despite her good grades and hard work, she didn't, however, earn her associate degree from Kalamazoo Valley, something she always regretted. She transferred one credit shy of earning her degree.

All of that changed recently thanks to Michigan's Reverse Transfer Agreement.

Reverse Transfer is a partnership between Kalamazoo Valley Community College and other four-year colleges and universities that allows students to receive an associate degree by combining credits completed at Kalamazoo Valley with credits earned at a four-year university. Reverse transfer can be thought of as attaining a "retroactive" associate degree.

Moore was able to combine credits she earned at Kalamazoo Valley with a credit from Hope College to receive her associate degree from Kalamazoo Valley in General Studies.

"I'm so pleased and proud to be able

to put Kalamazoo Valley Community College on my resume, although I hope not to be using my resume anytime soon," Moore said with a laugh. "I have my degree from Valley hanging on the wall of my office. I was thrilled when they presented it to me."

The Reverse Transfer Agreement supports the college's commitment to student success and allows students to receive full credit for their academic achievement, says Sarah Hubbell, director of admissions, records and registration at Kalamazoo Valley.

"Graduates demonstrate their ability to earn both an associate and a bachelor's degree, exhibiting a more expansive view of their skills, abilities, and capacity to complete important goals and objectives," Hubbell said. "It provides students with an opportunity to add a marketable credential to their resume that will help give them an edge in the workforce."

According to recent data from the National Student Clearinghouse, community college students who transfer without having first completed an associate degree are less likely to get a bachelor's degree than students who graduate from the community college first—56 percent versus 72 percent degree completion, respectively. The Reverse Transfer Agreement, Hubbell said, can change that and help eliminate some of the risk for students in the process.

"Students who receive their associate degree are more likely to finish their bachelor's degree, increase their earning power, and improve their employment probabilities by showing competency and a dedication to finishing an educational milestone," Hubbell said.

Reverse Transfer, she added, is especially important for students who may work at the same time they are attending school, who are struggling financially, who may require an extended period of time to complete a four-year degree, or who ultimately don't complete a bachelor's degree.

"It can be a valuable safety net for students," Hubbell said.

Kalamazoo Valley's Reverse Transfer initiative started in 2012. To date, 122 students have taken advantage of the Reverse Transfer and earned their associate degree from Kalamazoo Valley. The majority of those students attended Western Michigan University. Students eligible for Reverse Transfer are notified by the registrar's office of the four-year institution they attend.

For more information, visit www.kvcc.edu/academics/transfer/reverse_transfer.html

STUDENT-RUN HAVIRMILL CAFÉ IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The student-run Havirmill Café, located on the Bronson Healthy Living Campus in the Culinary and Allied Health Building, 418 East Walnut Street, is open for business.

"The café classroom is part of Kalamazoo Valley's 'Menus That Matter' Culinary Arts & Sustainable Food Systems program and provides students with a hands-on experience in a working café," according to John Korycki, director of Culinary Education. "We welcome our guests to be a part of our students' classroom experience."

The cafe is open for lunch Tuesdays through Fridays, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

"A variety of soups, salads and sandwiches are prepared by our students following recipes from the healthiest cuisines of the world. Our menus change frequently based on

the seasonal availability of locally sourced ingredients," said Korycki. The café blends a quick-service "grab & go" concept with a small "a la carte" menu of made-to-order items. Popular items on the menu this semester have included blueberry and beet salad, pork and chickpea stew, fried chicken, salad bar with freshly made dressings, and infused herbal teas.

The last day of service in the cafe for the second eight-week term will be Wednesday December 14, 2016.

For daily menus and hours of operation visit the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/KVculinaryeats> or go to www.kvcc.edu.



Student-made grilled vegetarian sandwich on focaccia bread

KALAMAZOO VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE OFFERS 10-WEEK PHLEBOTOMY COURSE

In partnership with Bronson Methodist Hospital, a new Phlebotomy Technician Academy is coming to Kalamazoo Valley Community College. The 10-week non-credit course begins January 17. Students in the academy will receive training to work as phlebotomy technicians and they will work to become prepared to gain national certification through the American Society for Clinical Pathology.

Phlebotomists are crucial members of many clinical teams. Students will learn to draw blood from patients and prepare it for diagnostic testing. Phlebotomists work in labs, hospitals, doctors' offices, medical surgery centers, nursing homes, and in many other settings.

Classes and laboratory sessions will be held at Kalamazoo Valley's Culinary and Allied Health Building on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. from January 17 through February 23. Starting on

February 28 students will be at Bronson working in the lab from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. There will be no class during the week of March 6 and the last class will be held on March 28. Tuition is \$1,400. The average annual salary for phlebotomists in Kalamazoo is \$31,630, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of phlebotomists is projected to grow 25 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. The Academy is expected to be offered again in April.

"Training in the Phlebotomy Technician Academy is intense and finely focused," said Elizabeth Lyons, director of Career Academies at Kalamazoo Valley's Groves Campus. "Students will gain a vast amount of knowledge and career preparation in a short period of time. We expect this academy to fill up quickly."

The application process is competitive. Just six students will be accepted for the first academy. Subsequent academies will accommodate 12 students. Academy candidates must submit an application packet, complete a math skills assessment and go through a personal interview and a reference check.

A criminal background check, immunization history, physical exam and TB test must also be completed before the academy's start date.

For more information and to apply, contact Katelyn Vinson at 269.353.1282 or kvinson@kvcc.edu or go to www.kvcc.edu/phlebotomy.



FOOD HUB RECEIVES USDA SPECIALTY CROP GRANT

Kalamazoo Valley Community College has received a \$97,414 United States Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Block Grant. The funds will be used to develop and document operations at the Food Hub in the Food Innovation Center (FIC). The FIC will process and distribute Michigan specialty crops to institutions in the Kalamazoo area in order to increase sales and competitiveness of specialty crops. The grant was one of 18 awarded to aid Michigan's food and agricultural industry.

"The Food Hub at the Food Innovation Center has always been envisioned as a living lab, where the next generation of food systems leaders and workers can learn the skills they need to build strong local and regional food systems," said Director for Sustainable and Innovative Food Systems Rachel Bair. "This grant will support scaling up our operations

and kick-starting our effort to create a training curriculum. Good food safety practices are absolutely critical to the success of any food-based business. It makes so much sense to combine food safety training and business support for local farms into one project."

Objectives call for Kalamazoo Valley and its partners to create and implement business and operations plans for a Food Hub driven by demands of institutional buyers, to coordinate a GroupGAP farm food safety certification process for specialty crop growers who will sell to the Hub, and to host a Food Safety Conference which will include additional produce safety training for specialty crop growers seeking to scale up their operations to safely sell to institutions and wholesalers.

"We're very excited to be working in collaboration with Michigan State University Extension and fellow food hubs across Michigan to assist farmers

with farm food safety," said Food Hub and Food Safety Coordinator Randall Davis, "This work will help create a safer local food value chain and give Kalamazoo Valley students the opportunity to connect directly with food producers, processors, distributors, and retailers in the process. The end result will be more great tasting and nutritious produce being served in Kalamazoo - what's not to love?"

Community Food Systems Educator, Mariel Borgman, from the MSU Extension at the Food Innovation Center, called the grant an important step in the Food Hub's development. "Access to farm food safety training and certification programs, such as GroupGAP, will allow our local specialty crop producers to participate in new markets and distribution channels that will bring more of their good food to people in the Kalamazoo community," she said. "Michigan State University Extension is pleased to partner with

Kalamazoo Valley Community College on this initiative that will enhance the impact of the Food Innovation Center facility and provide new business opportunities for local growers."

Farmers interested in GroupGAP Food Safety Training or in providing produce to the Food Hub can contact fic@kvcc.edu for more information.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
Alex Lasher

Kalamazoo Valley graduate Alex Lasher (Communications, 2015) had only planned to take community college classes for one year. His first year went so well that he stayed until he earned his associate degree. "I know I wouldn't have done well and I would have struggled if I'd transferred

after one year," Lasher said. "Staying at Kalamazoo Valley allowed me to flourish." While at Valley, Lasher worked in the student recruitment office and served as an assistant coach for the women's basketball team and an announcer for home basketball games.

Lasher lived with his parents while attending Valley. "I was able to save quite a bit of money and pay for my classes out-of-pocket," he said. "I could focus on school without the distractions of a big university and I learned how to function in a work environment."

Lasher said he's known since fourth grade that he wanted to work in sports broadcasting. He's well on his way.

The 2013 Parchment High School graduate earned an associate degree in communications from Kalamazoo Valley before transferring to Northern Michigan University where he's currently majoring in multimedia journalism.

He admits that he couldn't imagine enrolling at NMU until he visited friends on campus and checked it out in person. "I just pictured some podunk little town before I visited Northern," Lasher said. "As soon as I set foot on campus, I knew that was where I needed to be." Lasher loved his time at Valley and he is thoroughly enjoying the Northern Michigan University experience, too. "Go on as many campus visits as you can," he advises

other college-bound students. "You really have to see it for yourself before you can decide."

At NMU, Lasher works as a campus visit assistant. He also broadcasts home football games and writes movie reviews for the newspaper. He says the two years he spent at Valley helped launch him into college life and prepare him for his future career. "When I went to Northern for orientation, I realized how well prepared I was for college," he said. "I had already figured out how I work my best when it comes to my schedule. I had already learned to become an effective college student."

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND FOR CURRENT, INCOMING STUDENTS

Students looking for money to pay for college should look no further than Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

The college is promoting close to 50 scholarships this fall to students currently enrolled at Kalamazoo Valley. Award amounts and criteria vary based on the scholarship.

“There is a lot of scholarship money available,” said Financial Aid Director Roger Miller. “I really encourage students to take the time to apply. You never know what types of scholarships you could be eligible to receive.”

Funding for scholarships is provided by the state of Michigan, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, the private sector, and the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Foundation.

“For the 2015-2016 school year, the college award \$1.65 million in scholarship dollars to deserving students,” Miller said.

Applying for scholarships has never been easier, Miller explained, thanks to an online processing system that

allows students to complete one general scholarship application and the system automatically considers scholarships that match the student’s application and eligibility requirements.

“It really simplifies the process for our students,” Miller said. “Students can indicate their area of study and the system will find scholarships that match. Students no longer have to complete individual applications for each scholarship they are applying for. It has eliminated a lot of work for everyone.”

The college has been using the online application process since January of this year. The simplified system has significantly increased the number of students applying for scholarships.

Scholarships through the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Foundation for current Kalamazoo Valley students are promoted twice a year. The applications for the fall semester scholarships are currently being reviewed. Funds will be awarded in November/December. Winter semester scholarships will be promoted in late January and awarded in February/

March. All registered students are notified via email when applications are being accepted. Miller encourages all students to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) prior to filling out any scholarship applications, as it may increase consideration for other scholarship opportunities.

Students interested in attending Kalamazoo Valley also have the opportunity to earn scholarship dollars to use toward their tuition.

Each year, the college offers 48 Trustee Achievement Scholarships to area high schools and alternative high schools. This includes Climax-Scotts, Comstock, Galesburg-Augusta, Gull Lake, Kalamazoo, Mattawan, Parchment, Portage, Schoolcraft and Vicksburg.

The scholarships are a one time, \$1,000 award to be used the fall semester following high school graduation. The

high schools determine who is selected to receive the awards.

“It’s up to the high school counselors to determine who is most deserving of the award,” Miller explained.

For more information and a complete list of available scholarships, visit www.kvcc.edu/scholarships.

Make a **DIFFERENCE** in the **LIFE** of a student. Make a **SCHOLARSHIP** donation at www.kvcc.edu/foundation.

MOVE YOUR ROUTINE TO KALAMAZOO VALLEY'S FITNESS CENTER

Make a plan before the snow flies and enroll now in “Fitness Center Basics” beginning January 9 at Kalamazoo Valley’s Texas Township Campus. This 15-week course includes full access to the Wellness and Fitness Center and Free-Weight Room.

Participants will also be able to take advantage of “clinics” including: cardio machines, strength machines and circuit training. Instruction will be provided by Fitness Center employees who will be on-site to assist patrons with questions.

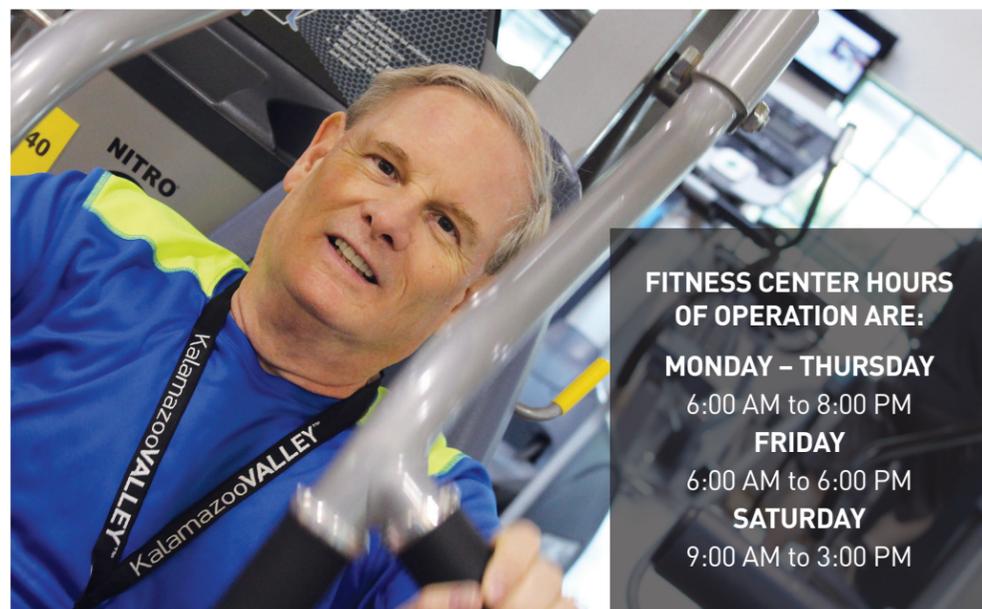
“We’re going to offer in-depth instruction on all of the Fitness Center equipment,” said Blake Glass, Fitness Center director. “Using a gym can be intimidating so we’re offering assistance and explaining all of the various options on each piece of equipment. We want to let people experiment and try all of the variations.”

Fitness experts agree that it’s best to incorporate a variety of exercises into a fitness routine. “You want to challenge your body into working harder so you burn more calories,” Glass explained. Eventually, the course offerings may be expanded to include yoga, Zumba and other options.

The course fee for Fitness Center Basics is \$75 for 15 weeks of Fitness Center use. Registration is available to community members ages 16 and older. More information is available at kvcc.edu/trainingschedule.

The first 50 applicants will receive a Kalamazoo Valley Community College lanyard for their Fitness Center/College identification card.

For more information, call 269.353.1253 or email grovescenter@kvcc.edu.



FITNESS CENTER HOURS OF OPERATION ARE:
MONDAY – THURSDAY
6:00 AM to 8:00 PM
FRIDAY
6:00 AM to 6:00 PM
SATURDAY
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Ed Jacobs, Fitness Center regular

Kalamazoo Valley nursing student Chelsea Packard is the daughter of an assistant middle school principal. The 19-year-old Kalamazoo Central High School graduate is a dedicated student who inherited her mom’s quest for learning.

Even though she always knew she was destined for college, a move from Bay City to Kalamazoo three years ago created financial struggles for Packard and her mother, Dana Heyl. A \$2,000 scholarship from the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Foundation took some of the pressure off and allowed Packard to focus on her studies.

“I’m trying to pay for school all on my own while juggling car insurance and the phone bill and other things,” said Packard. “I’ve never been so grateful to receive something. It meant a lot because my mom and I are really struggling right now and school has been hard to afford.” In addition to maintaining two cars, the two women are managing two mortgages because their house in Bay City is still on the market.

Packard works as much as she can, but school has always been her top priority. “Attending Kalamazoo Valley Community College was the best decision I’ve ever made,” she said. “Not only do I get amazing support from the institution itself, but I also receive great support from my professors and my counselor, who truly have my best interest at heart.”

She said her experiences have reinforced her desire to work as a nurse. “Throughout the past couple of years I’ve had the chance to really find myself. I always knew I wanted to work in the health care system because when I was three years old, my grandpa had a heart attack and wasn’t expected to live. Yet, some miracle allowed me to get to know



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
Chelsea Packard

him and spend time with him to this day. That was why I decided to get into health care,” she said.

Packard considers her Foundation scholarship a tremendous gift because it enhances her ability to keep on learning. “Education isn’t about what you’ve learned but what you do with the information you’ve been taught,” she said. “At Kalamazoo Valley, I’ve learned some of the most important life lessons that I’ll take with me forever. I am sincerely thankful.”

The Kalamazoo Valley Community College Foundation, an independent 501 (c) (3) charitable organization, is one way the college works to assist students with financial needs. The Foundation was established in 1980 to accept and administer unrestricted contributions and those designated for specific purposes, such as student scholarships, the purchase of equipment to improve instruction, and the construction of new facilities.

For more information or to contribute to the Foundation, go to www.kvcc.edu/foundation.

FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE COURSE LAYS GROUNDWORK FOR COLLEGE SUCCESS

Students in Anna Fontaine's class spent time this semester walking the nature trails that surround Kalamazoo Valley Community College's Texas Township Campus. They weren't in a forestry class or studying environmental science but rather on a discovery hike as part of their First Year Experience (FYE) course.

FYE courses are intended for first-time college students to broaden their knowledge and abilities necessary for college success and to build a sense of community. Students also enhance their awareness of the Kalamazoo Valley campus and the resources available to them.

Fontaine's FYE course is designed to get students thinking about how they fit, not only into Kalamazoo Valley's culture, but also as citizens in our local, national, and global communities. A visit outdoors seeks to enhance their traditional classroom experiences.

The college piloted its first sections of the FYE course in the winter of 2015 after research found that the foundations built during the first year of college are key to a student's success, explained Dr. Cheryl Almeda who serves as the chair of the English and Transitional Studies department.

"College is a distinctly different academic experience than high school," Almeda said. "Most students are unfamiliar with how to register for the right classes, how particular majors require specific courses, and where exactly our different campuses are located, just to name a few of the 'mysteries' surrounding college."

FYE courses cover a wide curriculum. Topics covered include:

- Time Management
- Goal Setting
- Finances
- Personal Responsibility
- Emotional Intelligence
- Interpersonal Communication
- College Culture
- Interdependence

The classes offer students, especially those attending college for the first time at any campus, a welcoming introduction to college life.

"FYE instructors are the first warm, friendly, encouraging faces that our newest students see on campus," Almeda said. "FYE courses provide a foundation for success as these students begin their college experience."

FYE instructors offer students the extra assistance, encouragement, and support they might need in their first semester.

"Most students who come through our FYE curriculum respond with an appreciation for 'getting what they needed,' even if they didn't know yet, that they needed it," Almeda said. Ana Luz Sainz Rodriguez is one of those students. The 18-year-old from Portage is currently enrolled in Fontaine's FYE course.

"I like that she shows us how and where to get help instead of just telling us we need it," said Sainz Rodriguez.

Imani Morrow, 19, is another first year college student who appreciates the extra assistance she's receiving as she embarks on her college career as well as the new friendships she's made as a result of the course.

"I feel like this class is really helping me to identify my academic flaws and it's helping me to try and fix them," Morrow said. "There's a nice group of people to interact with inside and outside of class." Morrow was dual enrolled at Kalamazoo Valley while attending Gull Lake High School and was familiar with the



FYE student Eileen Morales explores the trails on the Texas Township Campus

campus but felt that this class would provide a good foundation for a full-time college student. She graduated from Gull Lake in 2016.

Students beginning college at Kalamazoo Valley for the winter semester are encouraged to enroll in one of five FYE courses being offered.

To register, visit www.kvcc.edu/register.

ALUMNI, WHERE ARE YOU?

As a part of its 50th anniversary celebration, the college is making a concentrated effort to reconnect with alumni.

Currently there are more than 28,000 graduate alumni records, but over 2,000 alumni records have incorrect addresses and only 600 alumni have provided a post-Kalamazoo Valley email address. In addition, many of our alumni have experienced a name

change after graduation.

To update your contact information, go to <https://www.kvcc.edu/alumni/updatecontact.html>.

For more information, contact Kalamazoo Valley Community College Coordinator of Alumni Affairs, Denise Thomas by email at dthomas1@kvcc.edu or call 269.488.4314.

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 995
Kalamazoo, MI

Kalamazoo Valley Community College BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mary T. Gustas *Chairman*

Jeffrey E. Patton *Vice Chairman*

A. Christian Schauer *Treasurer*

Susan L. Miller *Secretary*

Lucinda M. Stinson *Trustee*

Von Washington, Jr. *Trustee*

T. Kenneth Young *Trustee*

Marilyn Schlack *President*

KALAMAZOO VALLEY Phi Theta Kappa Student Honors Association

presents

Queen of the Sun What Are the Bees Telling Us?

Time: **Sunday, November 13 at 3pm**
Location: **Kalamazoo Valley Museum**
Cost: **FREE**

Movie screening, short presentation and survey.
Learn how you can protect, build, and help expand our bee population.

Free bee habitats while supplies last!

For more information visit www.facebook.com/ARNHonors2016

KV Focus is a publication of Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Questions about the publication may be directed to the college marketing department at 269.488.4821.

Editor: Linda Depta
Managing Editor: Dawn Kemp
Designer: Robyn Hughes
Photographers: Michelle Barry
Robyn Hughes
Jacqueline Luttrell

Contributors: Linda Depta
Erin Dominianni
Dawn Kemp

It is the policy of Kalamazoo Valley Community College not to discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, disability, height, weight, or marital status in its programs, services, employment or activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Executive Vice President for Enrollment and Campus Operations, 6767 West O Avenue, P. O. Box 4070, Kalamazoo, MI 49003-4070, 269.488.4434.

Kalamazoo VALLEYTM
community college

www.kvcc.edu

Connect With Us!



Texas Township Campus
6767 West O Avenue
PO Box 4070
Kalamazoo, MI 49003-4070
269.488.4400

Arcadia Commons Campus
202 North Rose Street
PO Box 4070
Kalamazoo, MI 49003-4070
269.373.7800

The Groves Campus
7107 Elm Valley Drive
PO Box 4070
Kalamazoo, MI 49003-4070
269.353.1253

Bronson Healthy Living Campus
PO Box 4070
Kalamazoo, MI 49003-4070
269.548.3300

[facebook.com/KalamazooValley](https://www.facebook.com/KalamazooValley)

[@KalamazooValley](https://www.instagram.com/KalamazooValley)

[@KalamazooValley](https://www.twitter.com/KalamazooValley)