



A Kalamazoo Valley Community College Publication
March 2017

Kalamazoo**VALLEY**TM
community college

CAREER & CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES ENRICH THE COMMUNITY

Kalamazoo Valley's Career and Continuing Education department offerings are expanding to better serve the community. "The focus for our programs is to build upon the College's mission," said Elizabeth Lyons, Kalamazoo Valley's director of Career and Continuing Education. "We are committed to enriching the lives of our students and communities through quality educational programs and services."

The schedule for upcoming courses includes established favorites as well as exciting new topics. Beekeeping 101 runs on Mondays from March 6 to April 24, 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Food Innovation Center. Beekeeping 102 follows on Mondays from May 1 to June 26, also at the Food Innovation Center. Both programs are \$140.

The next Fitness Center Basics course runs from May 1 to September 1. The fee is \$50 and enrollees have full access to the Wellness and Fitness Center and Free-Weight Room at the Texas Township Campus.

Fitness Center Basics participants can also take advantage of instructional clinics including: cardio machines, strength machines and circuit training. Instruction is provided by Fitness Center employees who assist patrons with questions.

Medical Culinary classes are offered in the Culinary/Allied Health building for health care professionals and the general public.

Based on the principle of "food as medicine," these cooking classes focus on nutrition knowledge and strategies for using food to impact physical and mental health. Health care professionals who participate in these programs are eligible to receive CME's through the Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine.

Each cooking class includes a presentation with a registered dietitian, a cooking demonstration with an executive chef, and hands-on cooking experience in the lab at the Culinary/Allied Health Building, 418 E. Walnut Street in downtown Kalamazoo. Topics include understanding gluten sensitivity, understanding how carbohydrates fit into a healthy diet, the impact of lipids on health and disease, and the link between food and mood. Classes are currently offered once a month and the schedule for March through June is available now.

A new Master Rain Gardener class is being held from March 21 to April 25 at the Food Innovation Center in downtown Kalamazoo. The term "rain garden" may be new to a lot of people. A rain garden mimics nature by letting rain water soak into the ground. It's a garden bed planted in a shallow depression with plants specially adapted for dry and wet conditions.

The hands-on course is focused on creating beautiful landscapes that protect the environment and improve property.

Participants will learn to create a living rain garden. The class will cover all phases, from locating and designing to planting and maintaining a beautiful and functional rain garden.

Classes take place on Tuesdays from 5:30-7:30 p.m., with no class on Tuesday, April 4. Students who attend all five classes and plant a rain garden will receive their Master Rain Gardener certification and a sign for their garden.

This project has been funded in part through the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's Nonpoint Source Program by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Tuition, normally \$125, is reduced to \$45 for the first program, due to this support.

Other Continuing Education programs likely to launch soon at Kalamazoo Valley include: Mushroom Cultivation for Farmers and Gardeners and World Cuisine, a six or an eight-week series of culinary classes highlighting the foods of area refugees and immigrant populations.

Other programs under consideration include: Sustainable Textiles, Yoga for Retirees, Conversational Spanish and Spanish for the Medical Professional.

The Career and Continuing Education department has a commitment to offering programs that have a health and sustainability



Beekeeping students

focus. Other programs, such as the Career Academies and Continuing Education classes, are focused on professional certifications to help individuals gain a competitive advantage in the workforce.

"Ideas for classes are most welcome," Lyons said. "We seek to partner with community members who have subject matter expertise in diverse and innovative areas. To instruct in this area traditional credentials are not necessarily required but expertise and passion certainly are."

To submit an idea for consideration, please contact Elizabeth Lyons at alyons@kvcc.edu or 269.353.1289.

To register for a class or to see the complete list, go to www.kvcc.edu/trainingschedule.

STUDENT SUCCESS AT HEART OF EFFORT AT KALAMAZOO VALLEY

In an enhanced effort to improve student outcomes in "gateway courses," Kalamazoo Valley is partnering with seven other Michigan colleges and the John N. Gardner Institute (JNGI) in a three-year Michigan Gateways to Completion (Michigan G2C) project.

Michigan G2C will help faculty create and implement evidence-based plans to continuously improve teaching, learning and outcomes in courses with historically high rates of failure, sometimes called "gateway courses." Gateway courses are often big survey courses (Biology 101, Intro to Psychology, etc.) that all students must take as they begin a desired major. Failure in these courses is directly tied to lack of degree completion – especially for low-income and first-generation students and students from historically underrepresented backgrounds.

And failure is too common, especially for minority students. G2C pilot data from 13 institutions show that on average 43.4% of all students enrolled in Introductory Accounting received a D or worse. For African-American students, nearly two-thirds received a D, F, W (withdrawal) or I (incomplete), and for Latino students, the number was nearly three-fourths.

"Research supports that the kinds of assessment, active learning and in-class and out-of-class strategies that are a part of G2C are directly connected to improvements in retention and graduation rates," stated Executive Vice President for Instructional and Student Success Services, Dr. Dennis Bertch. "This is especially true for historically underserved and underrepresented students."

Made possible with grant support from The Kresge Foundation, the project is based on JNGI's Gateways to Completion® process. Launched in 2013, G2C is being used by more than 40 colleges and universities in the United States to help faculty and staff make meaningful and measurable changes in the ways that they facilitate teaching, learning and success.

In addition to Kalamazoo Valley Community College, participating Michigan institutions include Eastern Michigan University, Lansing Community College, Oakland University, University of Michigan – Dearborn, Washtenaw Community College, Wayne State University and Western Michigan University.

Through this initiative, Kalamazoo Valley is reworking several of its gateway courses. "It has become obvious that success in gateway

courses is critical to a student's ability to continue progressing in their chosen major," Bertch said. "The initiative compels us to find solutions that go beyond the notion that students must simply be better prepared. It is showing us that instructional delivery methods can be thoughtfully retooled to achieve both teaching goals for instructors and successful learning outcomes for students."

Michigan is a focus state for Kresge's Education program, and Michigan G2C will be connected with other postsecondary projects underway in the state that receive Kresge support, including the Michigan Guided Pathways Institute and the Institutional Learning Communities initiative involving institutions from the Michigan Association of State Universities.

More than 80 faculty and staff from the eight participating Michigan G2C institutions recently came together for the daylong Michigan G2C Launch Meeting hosted by Lansing Community College. Future project meetings will be hosted by the two-year and four-year institutions participating in the effort.

"The gateway course experience is,

regrettably, an under-analyzed and under-addressed aspect of college success," said John N. Gardner, JNGI's President. "During my more than four decades of work with the student movement in the United States, I have seen thousands of institutions implement all kinds of programs to help first-year students, but very few have given attention to gateway courses. This is where the 'real first-year experience' occurs. It is the most important work that we can be doing right now."

"A unique aspect of this project is how it will unite both two-year and four-year institutions to address a common issue," said William Moses, Kresge's managing director for the Education Program. "Often, these institutions compete for students and limited resources. In the Michigan G2C effort, they will collaborate to find evidence-based approaches to improving gateway courses, so more Michigan students will keep on track to graduate."

The project will last through the 2018-19 academic year. The first year of the effort is focused on helping faculty and staff gather and analyze evidence to create course transformation plans. The redesigned courses will be taught and refined in the second and third years of the project.

APRIL FOODWAYS SYMPOSIUM OFFERS OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN AND COLLABORATE



Food writer and author Toni Tipton-Martin

The first Foodways Symposium will be held at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum and Kalamazoo Valley Community College's Bronson Healthy Living Campus on April 7-8, 2017.

"We've been working with a number of community groups over the past year to plan this event," said Elspeth Inglis, event co-organizer and assistant director for education at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum. "We all believe that it is important for the community to understand more about where our food comes from and about the social and political implications of a food system."

The focus will be on food history, food culture and food systems, offering

programs and activities that provide historical, cultural, and practical insights into food and food systems in Southwest Michigan.

The event will serve as a convening point for students, professionals, and the community. According to Rachel Bair, event co-organizer and Kalamazoo Valley's director for Sustainable and Innovative Food Systems, "Our hope is that the community will continue to come together to build a strong, vibrant, local food system for the entire region."

On Friday, April 7, the lineup includes a healthy pancake breakfast in the Culinary/Allied Health Building. Presented by the KVCC Foundation, the breakfast will be available between 8-10 a.m. and will include a variety of pancakes and Michigan maple syrup. A suggested donation of \$10 per person will be used in support of student scholarships.

Additional programming that day will include presentations, demonstrations and opportunities for hands-on experiences, especially for culinary and food systems professionals. Friday's program will also include the quarterly meeting of the Good Food Kalamazoo collaborative. The

Culinary/Allied Health facility is located at 418 East Walnut Street.

Friday evening's keynote address, during Art Hop, will feature Toni Tipton-Martin, food writer and author of *The Jemima Code*. She will speak in the KVM's Mary Jane Stryker Theater from 6:30-7:30 p.m. She is an award-winning food and nutrition journalist using cultural heritage and cooking for social change. More about Tipton-Martin is available at her website <http://tonitiptonmartin.com>.

A "Food Not Food" photography exhibit by local artist Kristina Lechner will be

on display throughout the evening. Lechner's work was recently featured in *Cosmopolitan* magazine. The Kalamazoo Valley Museum is located at 230 North Rose Street in downtown Kalamazoo.

Saturday's events take place at the Culinary/Allied Health Building and the Food Innovation Center. Tipton-Martin will give cooking demonstrations in the Culinary Theater, there will be "Kids in the Kitchen" workshops in the Community Kitchen, a brewery demonstration, kids activities, farm animals from Lake Village Homestead, tours of the greenhouse and grow room, and more.

All programs are free and open to the public. For a complete schedule of events visit: <http://kalamazoomuseum.org/kalamazoofoodways>.



BE OUR GUEST STUDENT

"The benefits of taking summer classes at Kalamazoo Valley are endless, not only does this help students stay on track for graduation or get ahead in their program while they are home for the summer, they can also take advantage of our affordable tuition and small class sizes while completing classes that are offered in shorter time frames than a standard semester."

E. J. Bast - director of enrollment management

While most of us look forward to the slower pace of summer, some area students are hitting the books. They know that enrolling in summer semester classes at Kalamazoo Valley Community College is the perfect way to get and keep ahead toward completing a college degree.

"Students who are enrolled in other colleges and universities often return home for the summer and Kalamazoo Valley makes becoming a guest student easy; students only need to complete an online Kalamazoo Valley application, and identify themselves as a guest student," said Kalamazoo Valley's Director of Admissions/Registration and

Records, Sarah Hubbell.

These students will receive an acceptance letter within one week containing the information they need to register for classes through the college's self-service online portal. Tuition bills are available online and payment can be made online, on campus, or by mail. To apply, students should visit www.kvcc.edu/apply.

Before enrolling, guest students should consult with their current college or university to ensure that the classes they take at Kalamazoo Valley will be accepted as transfer credit. Once they have completed

any course work, students need to be sure to submit a request to have an official transcript sent back to their primary institution. According to Director of Enrollment Management, E. J. Bast, "The benefits of taking summer classes at Kalamazoo Valley are endless, not only does this help students stay on track for graduation or get ahead in their program while they are home for the summer, they can also take advantage of our affordable tuition and small class sizes while completing classes that are offered in shorter time frames than a standard semester."

Guest students aren't the only ones that benefit from taking summer classes.

"Many of our students enroll in summer semester classes to keep on pace to complete their programs in a timely manner," said Dean of Liberal Arts, Billy Reynolds. "Several Kalamazoo Valley programs of study include opportunities to fast-forward degree completion and transfer options by including summer semester classes." A complete list of summer semester classes is available at www.kvcc.edu/schedule.

Summer semester begins for all students on Monday, May 8 and concludes on Monday, August 21. Online registration begins the week of March 13, www.kvcc.edu/register.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT
Cory Barrett

Chef Cory Barrett's career has come full circle and he couldn't be happier. The Oak Harbor, Ohio native began his formal training at the culinary school at Baker College in Muskegon. After working in Ann Arbor and Farmington Hills restaurants as a pastry chef, he moved to Las Vegas and was an opening member of Wynn Hotel and Casino.

For seven years, he worked in Cleveland for chef Michael Symon who stars in the television shows *Iron Chef* and *The Chew*. "That was probably the hardest job I've ever had," said Barrett, who now teaches for Kalamazoo Valley's culinary arts program and helped open the student-run Havirmill Café and 418 restaurant. In addition to serving as the corporate pastry chef for the Michael Symon Restaurant Group, he assisted with *Iron Chef* cooking show episodes.

"I was in 17 *Iron Chef* episodes. It was a lot of fun," Barrett said.

When Symon won *The Next Iron Chef* competition, he asked Barrett and chef Derek Clayton to accompany him to the show. Barrett spent four years in that role. Clayton is still doing episodes. Barrett said the experience was unique. "You spend two weeks filming in New York and then you fly back home and life resumes," he explained.

Barrett and his wife Caroline were ready to walk away from that hectic lifestyle when their son Parker was born. "I knew I was ready for a change because I wanted to be able to see my kids sometime," Barrett said. "I kind of always thought my life path would go this way." Parker is now five and the Barretts also have a daughter, Veronica, who is three. Barrett said having a hand in the

development of the college's new culinary arts program has brought a new kind of excitement to his life. "It's fun to be a part of something new," he said. "The building is beautiful, the staff is gracious and students are excited."

Barrett said he thinks the culinary arts and sustainable food systems program is based on innovative concepts that truly have the potential to change lives and impact the community. "I like the mentality of being health and sustainability focused," he said. "We're doing something important for the community, the students and the instructors. It's only going to keep getting better."

INTERNSHIPS: A WINNING COMBINATION FOR STUDENTS, EMPLOYERS

Casey Smith recently helped develop a new software system for Hiemstra Optical, allowing the local 40-year-old company to operate more efficiently.

He was not a paid employee but rather a student at Kalamazoo Valley Community College completing an internship as part of his Software Developer Associate of Applied Science degree.

Internships are designed to provide students with the opportunity to apply knowledge gained in the classroom in a work environment and receive college credit for it.

Smith spent 20 hours a week for four months working in the IT department at Hiemstra Optical mainly fixing computer-related hardware issues.

"It was a great experience because my co-workers understood that as an intern I was still learning," Smith said. "I was able to see some of the 'real world' problems that come up in my field of study and learn from them. It was a way to get real experience in the field and learn things that you can't learn in the classroom."

Smith completed his internship and was offered a paid position at Hiemstra based on his performance.

"My internship actually led to a job opportunity which was great," he said. "Not only was I able to keep my part-time schedule during the school year, but when summer came around I was able to work full time enjoying a position with a great company. It also gave me an awesome advantage on my resume."

He is now working in web/software development at Focal 5 Group and C First Computer Consultants in downtown Kalamazoo.

To be eligible for an internship at Kalamazoo Valley Community College students must have successfully completed approximately 75% of their program's core courses, have an overall grade point average of 2.0 or higher, with at least a 2.5 grade-point average in those core classes.

For more than 30 years, students at Kalamazoo Valley Community College have completed internships at area businesses as part of their program of study. According to Monica Koning, internship coordinator at the college, more than 6,000 students have gone through the internship program.

"It's the perfect way to experience prospective career paths and gain confidence in your abilities," Koning said. "Internships give students the opportunity

to develop new skills and refine others while deciding if a particular career path is right for them."

At Kalamazoo Valley, several programs require an internship for credit, including:

- Accounting
- Administrative Assistant
- Administrative Support, Certificate
- Automotive Drivability Systems
- Automotive Undercar Systems
- Business Administration
- Culinary Arts & Sustainable Food Systems
- Dietary Management
- IT Support Technician
- General Marketing
- Legal Office Assistant, Certificate
- Medical Administrative Assistant, Certificate
- Software Developer, AAS
- Sustainable Brewing

Programs offering an internship as an Elective:

- Animation & Game Art
- Chemical Technology
- Graphic Design
- Electrical Technology
- Illustration
- Multi-Media/Video
- Web Design & Development

Koning works with students to find a business or organization to provide the best internship opportunity possible. She has a database of hundreds of employers interested in partnering with Kalamazoo Valley.

Jody Tuinier, office manager at Randall L. Brown and Associates, a law firm in Portage, has sponsored interns from Kalamazoo Valley for more than a decade.

"Interns typically bring freshness and a new perspective to the job which oftentimes will cause me to pause and say 'why can't we do it this way?'" Tuinier said.

Student interns at the law firm do a variety of different jobs.

"All interns are responsible for copying and mail processing as well as opening and closing of files, miscellaneous filing, answering income phone calls, delivering documents to local law firms, and proof-reading pleadings," Tuinier said. "Depending on the strengths and abilities of the intern, I try to have them work on basic dictation, letter and/or pleading preparation and legal research."

Tuinier's interns are studying to become legal office assistants. She makes it a priority to provide her interns with the hands-on training they don't get in the classroom.



Student Cory Dawson works with Internship Coordinator Monica Koning

"Internships give students the opportunity to develop new skills and refine others while deciding if a particular career path is right for them." *Monica Koning - internship coordinator*

"The classes at KVCC are wonderful at laying the foundation for basics, but being in the office and actually having the opportunity to apply those basics in real life is critical," she said. "I enjoy showing our interns the inner workings of a law firm from the ground up. As a small office, our interns have more one-on-one time with myself and the attorneys – a great opportunity to learn hands-on."

The time she invests in the interns has paid off – both professionally and personally.

"We have hired two individuals after their internships have ended. The first left after eight years to pursue a full-time position and the second intern just ended her internship a couple of months ago, and is now working part time for us," she said. "I have written several letters of recommendation for interns when they have completed their internship. I am honored to be able to start off the career of future legal assistants or paralegals."

Like Tuinier, Teresa Snook, director of administrative services and community outreach at Friendship Village, has hosted Kalamazoo Valley interns for more than a decade.

Interns play a critical role in the well-being of residents at the senior living center.

"Our residents love having young people in the building," Snook said. "They are encouraged by the students' hard work, their vibrancy and their desire to be here spending time with them. The students

bring vitality and freshness to both staff and residents."

Interns at Friendship Village are studying to be medical administrative assistants. They are placed in the skilled nursing health/rehabilitation centers or in the therapy department when working at the center.

"The interns assist the office staff with many different aspects of their jobs – filing, checking charts for accuracy, directing phone calls, answering questions for residents and guests," she said. "As a result, they gain insight as to what it takes to run a premier senior living community like ours. They also learn about the many aspects of aging and how our community works to keep our seniors active."

Koning is looking for businesses, like Randall L. Brown and Associates and Friendship Village, to partner with Kalamazoo Valley.

"There's always a need for internship site companies and organizations to provide meaningful work experiences for students in their field of study," she explained. "As an internship site you're helping to develop the local workforce and influencing the educational process. Kalamazoo Valley students bring the most current technical knowledge and skills to the workplace. They're up-to-date on the newest processes and acceptable practices and bring enthusiasm, fresh ideas, and creativity with them."

For more information about the internship program or to host a Kalamazoo Valley intern, contact Monica Koning at 269.488.4344 or mkoning@kvcc.edu.

2017 ARTISTS' FORUM SERIES - CONCERT

Ruby & Velle

The SOULPHONICS

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Paid for in part by the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation.

KALAMAZOO VALLEY HOSTS AREA'S LARGEST CAREER FAIR

The Kalamazoo Career Fair returns to Kalamazoo Valley Community College's Texas Township Campus from 12-4 p.m. on March 22. The event is free and open to the public.

Nearly 100 area employers are scheduled to host booths with information about employment opportunities.

"We have companies from all over the state looking to fill a variety of positions in a number of different fields," said Stephanie Keeler, career advisor and coordinator of this year's Kalamazoo Career Fair. "If you're looking for a job or thinking about making a change, I encourage you to stop by the Kalamazoo Career Fair. There are opportunities for everyone."

Advia Credit Union, Bronson Healthcare, Greenleaf Hospitality Group, Four Winds Casino Resort, PNC, W. Soule and the Michigan State Police are among the many employers who are scheduled to host booths with information about employment opportunities.

Job seekers who attend the Kalamazoo Career Fair should bring copies of their resumes, dress for success and be prepared to meet with potential employers, Keeler said.

"The purpose of this collaboration is to give student and community job seekers the opportunity to meet face-to-face with area employers," she explained. "We want people to think of these meetings as potential job interviews."

To help people prepare for the Kalamazoo Career Fair, the college's Career Services department will host two prep events – coaching attendees on everything from what to wear to what to say. Those events will be held March 14 from 2-3:30 p.m. on the Arcadia Commons Campus in Anna Whitten Hall, Room 128C and March 15 from 12:30-2:30 p.m. in Room 4230 on the college's Texas Township Campus.

Last year's event drew more than 700 job seekers.

Kalamazoo Valley along with Midwest Communications are the event sponsors again this year.

A list of participating employers and descriptions of the jobs they are hiring for as well video interviews with area employers, tips for job seekers, and other details are available on the Kalamazoo Career Fair website at www.kvcc.edu/careerfair.



EXPLORE CAREERS AT HANDS-ON SUMMER CAMPS

Do you have a creative middle schooler at home? Someone who likes to draw, write stories, or take photographs? Or perhaps someone who is curious about the world around them, fascinated by the stars, or is good at math? How about someone who likes to cook, grow their own vegetables or entertain family and friends?

If so, put their creativity and imagination to work at Kalamazoo Valley Community College's Early College Career Exploration Summer Camps June 26-29 or July 24-27.

Careers in graphic design, astronomy and culinary arts are just some of the fields that will be explored during the week-long camps that take campers to all four of the college's campuses.

The camps, said Dr. Deborah Coates, dean of instruction, Early College, are designed to introduce area middle school students to different careers through skill-building activities and one-on-one interaction with faculty who are experts in their field.

"Keeping children engaged and learning over the summer months can be challenging," Coates said. "The Career Exploration Camps offer students the opportunity to learn about a variety of careers through fun activities on a college campus."

Campers will experience the world of computer animation at the Center for New Media, create a "farm to fork" meal at the Bronson Healthy Living Campus and use robotics at the Groves Campus. Additionally, they'll go behind the scenes at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum and enjoy swimming and scavenger hunts at the Texas Township Campus.

Camp is open to boys and girls entering 6th, 7th and 8th grade and is limited to 24 campers per session.

Campers report daily at 9 a.m. to Room 128C in Anna Whitten Hall on the Arcadia Commons Campus at 303 North Rose Street. Transportation to the different camp locations, lunch and snacks are all provided by the college, in partnership with the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency (KRESA). Camp ends each day at 3 p.m.

The first session of the Early College Career Exploration Summer Camp runs June 26-29. The second session is July 24-27. The cost is \$100.00 per camper.

Register online by June 1 at: <https://www.kvcc.edu/earlycollege/camp>.



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