



## SUMMER CLASSES AT VALLEY

### “ONE OF THE BEST THINGS I’VE EVER DONE”

Are you looking for a way to improve your employment opportunities or are you a student returning home from a four-year school looking to pick up extra credits? Now is the time to register for summer semester classes at Kalamazoo Valley.

From communications, business and accounting to algebra, calculus, psychology and wellness and physical education, there is something for nearly everyone this summer at Valley.

Students looking to improve their presentation skills might find COM 101, Public Speaking or COM 113, Interpersonal Communications valuable investments. For those looking to explore new careers, ACC 101, Principles of Accounting or Business Computer Applications BUS 103, both blended classes (classroom and online), are popular choices.

ENG 110 and ENG 111 will help students become competent writers. MATH 096 and MATH 116 offer the study of algebra in small-sized classes close to home. MATH 150, College Algebra, helps students get ahead and stay ahead.

“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 a free online Kalamazoo

Valley application, and identify themselves as a guest student,” said 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](http://www.kvcc.edu/apply).

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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 credits. Once they have completed course work, students need to submit a request to have an official

transcript sent back to their primary institution.

Miami of Ohio pre-med student Jacob Almeda returned to the Kalamazoo area last summer and took his required statistics class at Kalamazoo Valley. “Taking summer classes at Valley is one of the best things I’ve ever done,” Almeda said. “I got a critical class that I needed out of the way and returned to my fall semester on track. I’ll be coming back during future summers for more classes.”

Guest students aren’t the only ones who benefit from taking summer classes. “Many of our community college 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.

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, they can also take advantage of our affordable tuition and small class sizes while completing classes that are offered in a shorter time frame than in a standard semester.”

Even if you are not looking to start or complete a degree at Valley, the college offers a number of wellness and physical education classes. Discussion and activity in state-of-the-art, air-conditioned facilities will enhance anyone’s



Jacob Almeda, a summer semester guest student

workout routine and WPE 101 will train students to plan and implement a personal fitness plan.

Summer semester for all students begins Monday, May 8 and concludes August 21. Online class registration is available now at [www.kvcc.edu/register](http://www.kvcc.edu/register).

## THE VALUE OF A LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION



Gabriel Walker, a liberal arts transfer student

The relevance, cost and value of a college education continue to be hot topics for students and parents. Savvy consumers debate the benefits of a traditional liberal arts education vs. more career and job-focused options. No matter the conversation, most agree that some type of post-secondary education is required for success in today’s competitive marketplace.

“Though recent state and national attention has focused on back to work and vocational skills enhancement at the community college, we argue for an integrated experience of education, identity, wholeness, and community,” said Kalamazoo Valley’s Dr. Julie Stotz-Ghosh. Together with Dr. Cheryl Almeda, she wrote “Emphasizing Community in the Community College Experience: The

Value of a Liberal Arts Education,” which was published in *Teaching English in the Two Year College (TETYC)*, an affiliate of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE).

At Kalamazoo Valley, all students can enjoy many of the same benefits offered at traditional liberal arts colleges including small class size, a small-college atmosphere, and instructors who are focused on relationships that foster student success.

Stotz-Ghosh and fellow English instructor Almeda know that these types of meaningful connections can greatly enhance the college experience, especially for students with a liberal arts focus. Both women attended Albion College and taught at other universities before coming to Kalamazoo Valley – Almeda at Western Michigan University and Stotz-Ghosh at Albion College. It didn’t take them long to discover that the liberal arts experience they witnessed at other institutions is alive and well at Kalamazoo Valley.

Kalamazoo Valley student Gabriel Walker, a liberal arts transfer major, says some of his most rewarding college experiences have come from the enrichment activities he’s pursued. He’s the vice president for fellowship for the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) honor society and co-leader of the campus Writer’s Guild. After he graduates next fall, he plans to transfer to Michigan State University to major in English.

“I found it really enriching to be a part of a scholarly community like PTK, and being involved in Writer’s Guild was the most fun thing I’ve done the entire time I’ve been here,” Walker said. He and a classmate revived the group and lead weekly off-campus meetings. Walker, who graduated from an online high school and began his college career at Utah State University, before moving to Kalamazoo, said he has enjoyed meeting people at Kalamazoo Valley. “I met some of my best friends through the writing group,” Walker said. “I’m grateful for the opportunity to have lifelong friends through this connection.”

According to Stotz-Ghosh, “for many of our students, Kalamazoo Valley is their first opportunity to be a part of a liberal arts community. Especially with older students, there’s a real appreciation of liberal arts experiences, possibly because it’s so different than the world of work. The very makeup of the community college lends itself to a liberal arts education because of the diversity.”

All Kalamazoo Valley students are encouraged to become lifelong learners and to take intellectual risks. “Our students are learning to reason, communicate, and to express their creativity and their ideas. They are capable of thinking and acting locally and globally. These qualities are the hallmark of a good education no matter the type of institution,” Stotz-Ghosh said.

Many of the college’s English classes participate in the Kalamazoo Public Library’s annual community read. The English department also sponsors writing contests for students. The Center for New Media and Kalamazoo Valley Museum host art exhibits and concerts during the city’s Art Hop events. “We have so many opportunities to enrich our students’ experiences through community interaction,” Stotz-Ghosh said. “There’s a unique synergy between the college and the community. There’s real value in a two-year experience. There’s a method and it fits well into a four-year transfer program.”

Almeda and Stotz-Ghosh concluded their article by emphasizing the enriching value of a liberal arts education. “Shared literacy can emphasize the connections we have to our schools, our communities, and our world. By emphasizing both the rigor of college and the inclusiveness of community, our community colleges can provide students with the benefits of a liberal arts education, bringing this valued experience to a majority of our culture’s citizens at a price – one distinguished by access and affordability – of which many can take advantage.”

For more information about transfer programs at Kalamazoo Valley visit: [www.kvcc.edu/schedule](http://www.kvcc.edu/schedule).

# MATTAWAN HIGH SCHOOL, GROVES CENTER HEADING TO WORLD ROBOTICS FINALS



Mattawan High School, winners of FIRST® Robotics Competition

Visit Kalamazoo Valley's Groves Center on any given day and you'll find future technicians scaling a wind turbine, police cadets engaging in scenario training exercises and employees from area businesses gaining advanced training in everything from CPR and interviewing skills to electrical safety and fiber optics. And, since August, nearly 30 Mattawan High School students logging hundreds of hours in the center's mechatronics and electrical training rooms.

As part of Mattawan's WiredCats FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Team, the students spent nearly seven months at the Groves Center preparing for the FIRST Robotics Competition, a global competition that combines the excitement of a varsity sport with hands-on training in science and technology. Remote-controlled robots, piloted by the students, go head-to-head in short games on the floor of a sports arena, battling it out to earn points during a two-minute round.

Students on FIRST teams learn from and play with the "pros" - professionals in the field who donate their time to work side-by-side with students to help design and build the sophisticated competition robots. The robots are designed and built during the six week "build" season.

Ian Salo, mechatronic instructional manager at the Groves Center, is one of those professionals.

Having participated in FIRST Robotics at a former job, Salo knew the support that the students needed to succeed in the competition. He reached out to Mattawan High School staff, offering use of the Groves Center and his expertise.

"The team had begun meeting in someone's basement and later transferred to an office space, which neither is ideal for building a robot," Salo says. "They were thrilled to be able to move into a much larger, more appropriate space."

The students, along with several parent volunteers who work in the science and technology industries, spent Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday afternoons at the Groves Center designing their robot. In addition to designing the robot, other critical roles for students include:

- Building and driving
- Computer animation and programming
- Research
- Fundraising
- Public relations and marketing

The students had access to various areas of the 70,000-square-foot Groves Center from conference rooms to classrooms and labs. Salo provided support when needed and offered a few evening classes for the students to gain a head start on becoming familiar with SolidWorks. Salo is a certified FANUC Robotics instructor and has more than 17 years of experience using a variety of CAD software packages.

"Most of the parents didn't know the Groves Campus even existed," Salo said. "Getting them in the door and showing them everything we have to offer was exciting."

The WiredCats, along with their alliance partners, won their first competition - the Gull Lake Regional March 16-18.

"We had started out leading the competition and after some unfortunate events ended Friday in 22nd place. We were able to claw our way back into the finals and take the gold," Salo said.

The team also won the "Pit Safety" Award and the "Excellence in Engineering Design" Award.

In their second regional competition against 41 teams at Grand Valley State University March 23-25, the team again took the gold and advances to the state finals this month at Saginaw Valley State University. The team will then travel to the World Championships in St. Louis April 26-29 where they will compete against students from parts of Europe, Russia, India and Canada.

The state of Michigan has more high school robotics teams than any other state, with more than 450 teams participating this year, thanks in part to a grant from the state designed to help seed new teams across Michigan. The grant pays for the registration fees, a stipend for the teachers, and some of the advancement fees - making it easier and more affordable for schools to participate.

FIRST® was founded in 1989 by inventor Dean Kamen to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology. The 501(c)(3) not-for-profit public charity inspires young people to be science and technology leaders, by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs that build science, technology, math, and engineering (STEM) skills.

*Ian Salo will be teaching Basic Robotics May 24 from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Groves Center. The class is open to the public. For more information and to register, visit [www.kvcc.edu/trainingschedule](http://www.kvcc.edu/trainingschedule).*



## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT Tom Sutton

Tom Sutton's strenuous days are fueled by caffeine and his passion for the field of wind energy. As Kalamazoo Valley's Director of Wind Energy and Technical Services, he is almost always thinking about work. He studied aircraft engineering and earned an automotive engineering degree from Western Michigan University. He then went to and work for Harold Zeigler Lincoln/Mercury as a Senior Master Technician, and later worked with Ford Field Engineering. He taught at WMU as an adjunct engineering faculty member before coming to Kalamazoo Valley 11 years ago.

Sutton enjoys the hectic pace and multitude of tasks that fall under his command. "I work with a great team," Sutton said. "There are always going to be aspects of every job that we like or don't like, but I'm happy as long as I've got a good team. I enjoy working with the team we have assembled and

I enjoy problem solving." In addition to his roles as an administrator and trainer for Kalamazoo Valley's Wind Turbine Technician Academy (WTTA), Sutton is a senior trainer for Wisconsin-based ENSA (Experts in Work-at-Height Rescue Training), the nation's premier at-heights training organization. He travels internationally to train other wind energy trainers. He is also on the steering committee for the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) and is active with the Workforce Development and chair of the Operations and Maintenance sub-committee. Internationally, Sutton is a member of the International Technical Committee where he works to develop the international training standards for worker's safety.

Sutton recently took four of his students to the American Wind Energy Association's Wind Power on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. The two-day trip

was a rare opportunity for the group to participate in advocacy training and then put that training to work to educate legislators and their staff on the wind industry's top policy initiatives at both the state and federal level.

All of these connections help strengthen Kalamazoo Valley's WTTA program, Sutton says.

"We have become recognized as the go-to safety trainer whenever someone needs advice," Sutton said. "Our graduates are highly sought after." Kalamazoo Valley's WTTA program is the nation's leading training program for wind turbine technicians. Focused on specific, hands-on competencies, the unique training model moves students from the classroom to the learning labs and into the field quickly. The non-credit, full-time program allows graduates to be job-ready in less than six months. Students attend Monday through Friday, eight hours each day for 24 weeks. They also take turns as the on-call technician to accompany a wind instructor to the turbines if a fault should occur on a weekend.

Because he's in constant contact with the six turbines the program operates and maintains, and the wind turbine manufacturers in Germany and Denmark, Sutton starts his day by checking in at 4 a.m. "I start by checking emails and overnight fault logs," Sutton said. He starts early to account for the six-hour time difference. By 6:30 a.m., he's in his office at Kalamazoo Valley's

Groves Center where he has to check in with the turbine owners and update them on overnight production and any problems encountered. When he's not on site or in the office, he's always available through his cell phone which includes an international calling plan.

Sutton says he's careful not to micromanage and does what he can to troubleshoot for his team, adding that the program runs smoothly because everyone is cross-trained. "Everyone has to be able to do everything at some common basic level, otherwise we just come to a grinding halt," he said. Still, Sutton is the only staff member who is trained in all areas. To remain current, he maintains 37 different certifications or licenses and also spends eight weeks in the field training WTTA students at Michigan wind farms in Mackinaw, Traverse City and McBain.

On top of his Kalamazoo Valley duties, Sutton is an on-call firefighter with the Kalamazoo Township Fire Department. "Any time I'm not here or out in the field training, it's expected that I respond to calls by pager," he explained.

Because his work life is so demanding, Sutton and his wife Michelle, a legal assistant, always set aside time for riding their Harley Davidson motorcycles and vacationing in the Caribbean. Sutton can't imagine slowing down. "I'll stay as long as I'm having fun and being challenged. I like the development process and I just want to make a difference."

# KALAMAZOO VALLEY COMMENCEMENT TO BE HELD APRIL 30



Krystalyn Mahl, student commencement speaker

Kalamazoo Valley Community College will celebrate its 79th commencement at 4 p.m. April 30 in Miller Auditorium at Western Michigan University. Close to 500 students are eligible to participate in the ceremony. It is free and open to the public. The ceremony will be broadcast live through Public Media Network on channel 191 with Charter Communications and channel 99 with AT&T U-Verse.

President of Kalamazoo Valley Community College Dr. Marilyn Schlack will give the welcoming address, followed by Board of Trustees Chairperson Jeffrey Patton. Graphic arts instructor Aubrey Rodgers, and student Krystalyn Mahl also will speak. Mahl is earning an Associate of Arts degree in communications and will transfer to Western Michigan University in the fall. She plans to major in public relations and minor in journalism.

A 2013 graduate of Comstock High School, Mahl has served in numerous leadership roles for Phi Theta Kappa, the college's honor society – including acting as chapter president and vice president of public relations as well as sitting on the regional board of the organization and competing for a place on the honor society's international board – placing third.

While managing a full class load, Mahl also worked on campus in both the Student Success Center and currently in the Office for Enrollment Management. She talks to high school students about Kalamazoo Valley and gives campus tours.

"I almost made a multi-thousand-dollar mistake by going to a four-year university completely unsure about what I was going to do," Mahl said. "I came to Valley, changed my major four times, but found my passion thanks to PTK and the support of people at the college. I want to make sure others know about the opportunities Valley provides."

The college has four locations – a main campus in Texas Township, the nearby Groves Campus, Arcadia Commons Campus in downtown Kalamazoo and the Bronson Healthy Living Campus.

The college offers certificate programs in more than 20 areas of study and associate degrees in 25 others. These include business, health care, human and public service, and technical occupations. Kalamazoo Valley also provides student-placement services and works closely with other institutions to ensure the transfer of students' credits. A fully accredited institution, Kalamazoo Valley offers day and evening, online and weekend classes.

Registration for summer and fall is open now, [www.kvcc.edu/register](http://www.kvcc.edu/register).



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT  
Sommer Hayden

Kalamazoo Valley alumna Sommer Hayden is a genetic counselor for St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, dividing her time between the cancer centers in Brighton and Ann Arbor. She credits her Kalamazoo Valley experiences and guidance from Kalamazoo Valley staff members Verne Mills and Diane Vandenberg with helping her get to where she is today. "Biology instructor Verne Mills was my all-time favorite instructor. He expected a lot of his students and that gave me a lot of motivation," said Hayden, who graduated from Kalamazoo Valley with a biology degree in 2007, from Western Michigan University with a bachelor's degree, and from Wayne State University in 2011 with a Master of Science in genetic counseling.

The Pinckney High School graduate moved to Kalamazoo to attend WMU, but the large setting was intimidating and her finances were limited so she transferred to Kalamazoo Valley. "Everyone at Kalamazoo Valley was so friendly and approachable," Hayden said. She was a work study employee in the Student Success Center (SSC) and later became an advocate. Hayden was also an officer in the Phi Theta Kappa honor society. She worked for Vandenberg and still considers her a dear friend and mentor.

"I can't even begin to tell you how valuable my experience at Valley was," Hayden said. "I attribute my ability to get into a graduate program on my first attempt all to my experience at Valley. I found the SSC and career department invaluable when I was preparing my graduate school applications and practicing for interviews. They helped review my personal essays and put on a mock interview."

Admission to genetics graduate programs is extremely selective. There are less than 35 genetics counseling graduate school programs in the United States and each only accepts an average of six students per year. "There are really small class sizes and it's really competitive," Hayden said.

Hayden's work involves collecting and analyzing family history data, with a focus on hereditary cancer syndrome. She works to identify patients who are at an increased risk for cancer and to help them access resources and make preventative health changes. "I identify people who are good candidates for genetic testing and help people understand why it would or would not be helpful for them to have further testing."

Hayden and her husband Greg live in Howell with their young sons. She works several long days in a row and then enjoys time off each week with her family. "I'm always home on weekends and I love watching our children grow," Hayden said. "This is really a fun time for us."

## MOMENTUM HOLDS CULINARY GRADUATION

Anthony Williams, 36, has always wanted to be a cook.

Growing up in Kalamazoo one of 10 children, he was often responsible for preparing meals for his siblings – giving him plenty of time to practice and master different recipes.

His dreams of pursuing a culinary career were halted, however, after a series of poor decisions landed him in prison. While incarcerated, he kept his dream alive by working in the food service department, preparing daily meals for nearly 2,000 fellow inmates.

"I made everything from grilled cheese to baked fish to bean salad," Williams said.

Now out of prison and the father of a four-year-old girl, Williams has the opportunity to finally have a career in the kitchen. Last month, he, along with eight other students, all of whom have faced significant barriers to finding employment, walked the stage at Mary Jane Stryker Theater at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum, as graduates of the Momentum/Culinary & Sustainable Food Systems Career Training Academy.

Momentum Urban Employment Initiative, a division of Urban Alliance, is a six-week intensive program designed to help unemployed and underemployed individuals in our community secure and maintain employment. This is accomplished through a unique mix of essential, employability and life skills trainings, along with job placement assistance.

Momentum focuses on assisting those facing significant barriers to employment in overcoming those barriers and building self-sufficiency. Forty percent of those who enrolled in Momentum in the past year were homeless. Eighty-eight percent were ex-offenders and 79% came from generational poverty.

Kalamazoo Valley Community College partnered with Momentum to offer the Culinary/Sustainable Food Systems Career Training Academy - a short-term career training program that teaches the technical skills required for successful work in the food industry as a culinary professional and/or employment in produce management.

The five-day-a-week, three-week program was taught by a team that included local chefs, farmers and nutritionists at Kalamazoo Valley's Culinary and Allied Health Building but also included tours of area farms and restaurants.

Gorilla Gourmet, Bronson Healthcare Group, Greenleaf Hospitality, Millennium Restaurant Group, and Town & Country Market are among the partners that provided support to the program. Elizabeth Lyons, director of Career and Continuing Education at Kalamazoo Valley, called the effort "an extraordinary collaboration."

She said it was amazing to witness the academy students working together as a team, maturing and blossoming. "This has taught us that it takes collaboration to transform a community," she said. "We've come together to transform lives."

Williams is hopeful that his life will be transformed.

"I want to have a career and this program will hopefully help me get that career. I don't want to fail. I want to be a success," Williams said. "My daughter is my motivation. If I can't build myself up, how can I build her up? I want her to be proud of her dad."

During the academy, students learned about food production, food processing, cooking methods, sanitation practices and equipment usage and tested for the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation ServSafe Food Handler and Allergen certification exams.



Momentum graduates Shelly Goff and Anthony Williams

"I thought I knew how to cook," Williams said. "But I didn't know the ins and outs of it all and how it went from farm to table. I learned so much."

A job fair was held at the end of the program, giving the students an opportunity to talk with potential employers. Among the participants were Bronson Healthcare Group, Greenleaf Hospitality, Millennium Restaurant Group and Brite Eyes Brewing.

Another Momentum/Kalamazoo Valley partnership begins May 15 with a CNC Career Academy. This will be the second time the CNC Career Academy has been offered through Momentum.

In the last year, 81% of the students enrolled in the Momentum program successfully graduated; 91% were successfully placed into employment with an average starting wage of \$11.96 per hour. Graduates also maintained a 90% success rate for employment retention beyond 90 days.

For more information about the collaboration, contact Lyons at 269.353.1289 or [alyons@kvcc.edu](mailto:alyons@kvcc.edu) or Brian Parsons at 269.873.2804 or [bparsons@uainc.org](mailto:bparsons@uainc.org).

# KALAMAZOO VALLEY FOUNDATION PRESENTS DAVE ZILKO

The Kalamazoo Valley Community College Foundation has announced the keynote speaker for this year's Opportunities for Education Scholarship Fundraising Dinner. Dave Zilko will take center stage at the May 9 event which is a primary source of funding for Kalamazoo Valley students with financial needs.

Zilko is a founder of the Garden Fresh Gourmet salsa line and an equity partner in and CEO of FUEL Leadership, a digital media property that organizes premiere business events. More than 20 years ago, Zilko took over an unassuming startup, a fresh salsa company founded in the back of a bankrupt restaurant, from the unlikeliest of places, Detroit. Despite operating in a mature industry with a team that had virtually no formal training or formal education, he applied a unique, counterintuitive style and grew it into the largest brand of fresh salsa in the United States.

He recently engineered its sale to a Fortune 500 company for almost a quarter billion dollars. His experience as an entrepreneur and with Garden Fresh is chronicled in a national bestselling book, "Irrational Persistence: Seven Secrets that Turned a Bankrupt Startup into a \$231,000,000 Business."

Zilko has been an entrepreneur for more than 25 years and is on a mission to help people lead the lives they've imagined for themselves, regardless of what stage of their career they might be in, or their circumstances.

According to Steve Doherty, executive director of the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Foundation, the need for financial aid among students has continued to rise steadily. In 2015-16, Kalamazoo Valley Community College processed 14,122 requests for financial aid. Of those requests, only 41 percent, or 5,775 students received some form of financial aid. The number of financial aid applications continues to increase each year and the Foundation's scholarship fund is one way the college works to meet student needs.

The dinner runs from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Radisson Plaza Hotel and Suites in downtown Kalamazoo. The pre-event reception begins at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner and the program which concludes at 8:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$160 for individuals and \$75 each for students. Sponsor tables that seat eight are available for \$1,600. To order tickets, go to [www.kvcc.edu/foundation](http://www.kvcc.edu/foundation). For more information about the event and the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Foundation, contact Doherty at 269.488.4442 or email [sdoherty@kvcc.edu](mailto:sdoherty@kvcc.edu).



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# HONOR SOCIETY RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Kalamazoo Valley Community College's chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Alpha Rho Nu, recently received national recognition for their student recruitment efforts.

The chapter was named a 2017 REACH award winner by the Phi Theta Kappa national offices in Jackson, Mississippi. In 2016, Phi Theta Kappa launched REACH Rewards, a program designed to recognize and reward Phi Theta Kappa chapters that excel in the area of membership development.

"We did this because we believe strongly in the mission of Phi Theta Kappa and want as many students as possible to receive the benefits of membership—benefits including scholarships and increased opportunities for engagement with their peers and key faculty members on campus—which lead to higher rates of completion among our members," said Lynn Tincher-Ladner, Ph.D., president and chief executive officer of Phi Theta Kappa in a letter to Kalamazoo Valley President Marilyn Schlack. "Congratulations and thank you for your support in furthering Phi Theta Kappa's mission of providing recognition and opportunity to students on your campus."

The Alpha Rho Nu Chapter at Kalamazoo Valley has 407 members, a more than 15 percent acceptance rate. Acceptance rate is calculated by dividing the number of students accepting membership by the number of students eligible for membership. To be eligible for membership students must be enrolled in a program at Kalamazoo Valley leading to an associate degree, completion of at least 12 credit hours that count toward the degree and a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher.



PTK students attend the PTK Michigan Region Leadership Conference in Maple City, Michigan last fall

In an effort to increase membership, Alpha Rho Nu members hold orientations each semester to educate students about PTK. Additionally they hold fellowship events, volunteer on campus and work welcome tables at the beginning of each semester, explained Krystalyn Mahl, vice president of service for Alpha Rho Nu.

"PTK offers you a really exclusive experience in a community college," Mahl said. "It offers great opportunities to travel, grow as a leader and develop your leadership and public speaking skills."

As a result of their efforts, the chapter will receive special recognition in the form of four Phi Theta Kappa graduation stoles to be worn by chapter officers or members during Kalamazoo Valley's April 30 graduation ceremony.

The Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society has recognized academic excellence in the two-year college since 1918. More than 1.2 million members have been inducted at 1,200 colleges in the United States, Canada, and U.S. territories and military installations abroad.

## CONGRATULATIONS LADY COUGARS

on Advancing to the Elite 8 of the National Tournament!



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.

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