



EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM EXPANDS, NEARLY DOUBLING ITS ENROLLMENT

Ethan Liggett, a 12th grader at Gull Lake High School takes college classes, maintains a 3.56 grade point average, is secretary of the Student Senate, chairman of Model UN, drum major in the marching band, and a playwright and director for the high school's performing arts center. The 18-year-old, however, won't be graduating with his friends and classmates next month.

Rather, the aspiring conservation biologist from Richland will complete a fifth year of high school through the Early College program at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. During that year, he will earn not only his high school diploma but also his Associate of Arts degree – all at no cost to him.

"Enrolling in the Early College program was really a no brainer for me," Liggett said. "Both of my sisters went off to college, incurred a lot of debt while trying to figure out what to study and really struggled. I'm earning an associate degree for free and will transfer to Western a step ahead of everyone else."

The program allows students to earn a free associate degree or certificate by completing a fifth year of high school. Students delay high school graduation for one year while they take college courses at Kalamazoo Valley. Tuition and fees are paid by the local school district.

Two hundred and sixty five students from the Gull Lake, Kalamazoo, Galesburg-Augusta, Parchment, Schoolcraft, Vicksburg and Climax-Scotts school

districts are currently enrolled in the Early College program at Kalamazoo Valley. That number will nearly double for the 2017-2018 school year with 425 students enrolled, thanks in part to the addition of Portage Public Schools.

"We're excited to be able to offer Early College as another option toward early college completion to students in Portage Public Schools," said Dr. Deborah Coates, dean of instruction, Early College at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. "Early College is a great opportunity – academically and economically – for students in southwest Michigan."

Additionally, for the 2017-18 school year, Van Buren Technology Center will send 17 students to Kalamazoo Valley who are poised to graduate in May 2018 with up to an associate degree and their high school diploma.

Early College expands on traditional dual enrollment and builds upon classes already offered through Education for Employment (EFE) and Education for the Arts (EFA). Students take courses at Kalamazoo Valley campuses, but may also take Kalamazoo Valley courses at their high school (in certain school districts), or through EFE and EFA.

The program, explained Coates, is designed to help students get a head start on whatever they decide to do after graduating from high school, whether that's going into the workforce or continuing on with their education.

"Education is evolving and this is part of it. Early College prepares students for the world and makes sure they have as many options as possible," Coates said.

There are currently more than 100 Early College programs in Michigan.

Kalamazoo Valley Community College's Early College program offers transfer Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees to many Michigan colleges and universities as well as Associate of Applied Science degrees and a number of certificate programs.

Current programs include:

Associate of Arts

(Transfer degree to a four-year college)

- Art (WMU)
- Business Administration (WMU)
- Computer Information Systems (WMU)
- Computer Science (WMU)
- Criminal Justice (FSU)
- Elementary Education (GVSU/WMU)
- Secondary Education (GVSU/WMU)
- Social Work (WMU)

Associate of Science

(Transfer degree to a four-year college)

- Biology (WMU)
- Fisheries/Natural Resources (MSU)
- Engineering (WMU)

Associate of Applied Science

(Career ready degrees)

- Accounting
- Administrative Assistant
- Culinary Arts & Sustainable Food Systems



Early College student Ethan Liggett

- Graphic Design
- IT Support Technician
- Machine Tool Technology

Certificate

- Administrative Support
- Machinist
- Graphic Design
- Office Management

Certificate of Achievement

- Auto Brake Systems
- Inventor
- AutoCAD
- Machine Tool Operator
- Auto Suspension/Steering
- Network Manager
- CNC Operator
- Office Support Specialist
- Dietary Manager
- Software Specialist
- Help Desk
- Word Processing Specialist

Early College informational meetings for incoming 8th and 9th graders will be held in the fall. For more information, contact Coates at dcoates@kvcc.edu or visit www.kvcc.edu/earlycollege.

VALLEYS' NEW MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY LAB INCLUDES EVERYTHING BUT ANXIOUS PATIENTS



Joanna Olivares using new medical technology lab

The newly renovated Medical Assistant Technology (MAT) lab at the Texas Township Campus of Kalamazoo Valley Community College is meant to give students a realistic medical office experience. Anxious patients tapping their feet in the waiting room are the only ingredients the lab is lacking. "It looks exactly like a medical office. It's lovely and we're just ecstatic," Program Director Mary Dey said of the space. "We've waited a long time for this space and it was well worth the wait."

The \$173,500 renovation project will be unveiled for the public during a public open house on June 6 from 4 to 6 p.m. Guests are invited to tour the lab, enjoy refreshments and talk with current students and staff members.

Students began using the new lab during the winter semester. The space includes a front

desk, reception area, two medical examination rooms, a phlebotomy drawing area, lab space, and ample storage. The area is also equipped to create video and audio recordings of all simulated patient interactions. When students aren't in the lab, they are either in the classroom or placed in externships with local medical offices.

Lori Haley, health careers and MAT instructor, agrees that the new space is a boon to the program. "It's as real as we could make it," she said. "Now when our students go out on externships, they're not totally shocked. Students get a good idea of what flow is like in a doctors' office. This set up helps to better prepare them. The more real it is, the better prepared they're going to be."

Student Pam O'Connor agreed. "It really does put you in the environment," she said. "Things are more real now. We don't have to pretend any more. It's much easier to know what we're doing now that we're in the physical environment."

Architects from TowerPinkster created the designs for the space and the Kalleward Group constructed the lab. "We're extremely pleased with the way it unfolded," said Executive Vice President for Enrollment and Campus Operations Mike Collins. "It was a great project.

It really does simulate a doctor's office. It's a definite enhancement to the program."

Kalamazoo Valley first began offering the MAT program in the 1970s. Dey graduated from the program in 1979 and is the only full-time faculty member who works in the department. Students earn a certificate in medical assisting and have the option of pursuing an Associate of Applied Science degree also in medical assisting.

The MAT certificate program is a one-year program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. Students are trained in the administrative and clinical skills necessary for employment in an outpatient care setting.

Graduates are eligible to sit for AAMA (American Association of Medical Assistants) certification examination. Successful completion of this examination allows candidates to practice as a Certified Medical Assistant (AAMA) anywhere in the United States or its territories.

The MAT Associate of Applied Science degree allows medical assistant students to earn an associate degree by completing general education requirements. This fits into the career ladder often recommended by health care employers. Students are advised to check with

their employer for applicability.

Dey said the accreditation process gives graduates an advantage over students at other schools. "Our people come out knowing their skills," she said.

O'Connor said she decided to enroll in the program because she noticed so many MAT job openings when she began her job search. "I think this will be a good step toward continuing on in the medical field," she said. "It's something that can take you anywhere, especially with national certification."

Fellow student Rachele Chojnacki said she likes the flexibility that the training offers. Graduates can focus on clinical or administrative work. She is currently working at Bronson in housekeeping and is anxious to see where her new skills take her. "It's always been a dream of mine to work in a hospital," she said. "Doing housekeeping in the hospital has made me want to climb up that ladder. I can just imagine the difference my education is going to make."

Health care program applications are accepted each year from April 1 to 15 for the following fall programs, or until the programs are full. Contact the Health Career Admission Coordinator at healthcareers@kvcc.edu for more information.

POLICE ACADEMY INTEGRATES STATE-OF-THE-ART SIMULATOR INTO CADET TRAINING



Emergency Vehicle Operations training

Scott Tenney, 38, and Joseph Geiser, 25, recently headed to a local burger joint for lunch. Walking into the popular restaurant, they were met not with a friendly smile but a robbery in progress. Customers were hovered together screaming as the bartender scrambled to remove the cash from the drawer.

In an instant, shots were fired, stopping the threat.

Tenney and Geiser did not hesitate. They identified themselves as police officers and fired their weapons the minute they saw the threat.

Luckily, it was not a real life-or-death situation. Rather it was a training exercise for the two Police Officer Training Academy cadets taking place in a classroom at the Kalamazoo Valley Law Enforcement Training Center on Kalamazoo Valley's Groves Campus. The

scenario was projected onto a wall in 3D and HD through the use of the MILO Range Training System, a state-of-the-art training tool now being used at Kalamazoo Valley Community College's Police Officer Training Academy. The college partnered with Kalamazoo Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to bring the training system to the academy.

"We are one of the first academies in the state to use this type of scenario-based training. It provides the practical experience the cadets need," said Director of the Kalamazoo Valley Law Enforcement Training Center Paul Bianco. "We're hoping to get mental health professionals and law enforcement on the same page when it comes to dealing with certain situations."

Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety and Grand Rapids Police Department both utilize the training system with their officers.

"It gives our cadets the additional training they need and goes above and beyond all state requirements," Bianco said. "We are lucky to be able to provide it at the academy level, before they become police officers."

The interactive video training simulator, originally developed for the military, comes equipped with more than 800 different scenarios, Bianco explained.

Through the simulator, cadets are immersed in true-to-life situations — the kinds of situations they will face as police officers.

From domestic disputes and traffic stops to robberies, drug raids and school shootings, the training tool gives the cadets the opportunity to assess the situation in real time and take the appropriate action.

"It's like you're part of a movie," Bianco said.

During the training, instructor Derek Weldon, a 10-year veteran of the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety and member of the training academy staff, changes the scenario's outcome based on how the cadet responds. For example, one time the subject may charge with a knife and another time he may comply with an officer's commands. The system recognizes and records each type of response, whether it's with a taser, pepper spray, a gun or verbal interaction.

When the scenario ends, Weldon debriefs with the cadets – using his years of experience in the field – to discuss what was done correctly, what was done incorrectly and what could have been done better. Together, they go frame by frame through the situation, analyzing not only their movements but the movements of the suspect and what is going on around them.

"Being a police officer is your life, 24 hours a day, seven days a week," said Weldon, who now serves as the Executive Officer of the Law Enforcement Training Center, after retiring from KDPS in 2016. "We run through everyday situations that officers encounter. The worst decision is indecision and these scenarios teach that lesson."



Defensive Tactics training

The 14 cadets in this winter's academy welcomed the additional training through MILO.

"We've watched videos and talked about situations but this is the first time that we're actually a part of it," said Tenney. "It's so realistic. It really teaches you to stay alert and stay ready because you never know what can happen."

Tenney will graduate from the Kalamazoo Valley Police Officer Training Academy this month. Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety sponsored him along with eight of the other cadets. They will all begin working as public safety officers for the city of Kalamazoo following graduation.

Ninety-two percent of Kalamazoo Valley Police Officer Training Academy alumni find work in law enforcement – the highest in the state – compared with a statewide average of sixty-nine percent.

The next Police Officer Training Academy begins August 21. For more information, contact Director Paul Bianco or Program Coordinator Monica Porter at 269.353.1261/60 or visit www.kvcc.edu/police.



MILO Range training



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT
Karen Rivard

It's no secret that police work can be draining, but Karen Rivard considers it an honor to assist people during some of the worst days of their lives. "It's very rewarding to be there as the calm person who knows what to do in a crisis situation," Rivard said.

After 23 years on the job, she still finds it thrilling to solve crimes and humbling to help citizens during bleak moments. "I love meeting people. I get to meet people from all walks of life, not always in the best circumstances. People's worst day is when I seem to arrive. It's rewarding to be able to help them along," she said.

Rivard graduated from the first Police Academy Tracking Program that law enforcement instructor Jeff Shouldice taught in 1994. Today, she is an instructor for the 16-week-long police academy and also teaches for the college's law enforcement program. She's also a detective for Kalamazoo City's Department of Public Safety (KDPS).

By the time she graduated from college, the Detroit native had decided that her dream job would be with KDPS. Because there was a hiring freeze in effect at that time, she was put on a wait list. She applied to 60 police departments within an hour of Kalamazoo and landed her first job in the city of Holland. She served as a patrol officer there for three years and was hired to start work in Kalamazoo just three days after her Holland contract ended.

"I started out as a patrol officer doing lots of investigations and that helped me later in Kalamazoo," Rivard said. In Kalamazoo, public safety officers are cross trained as firefighters, so she spent

much of that first year fighting fires. "It's rare that you do both, but I was excited by that," she said.

Later, she worked in undercover vice investigations. "I was pretty fortunate back then that I got to do a lot of proactive investigative work," she said. She also served on a Tactical Response Unit. The small team was not responsible for dispatch calls so they could focus on high crime areas in the city where drugs, prostitution and gambling persisted. "We were empowered to investigate and clean up the problems," Rivard said.

Rivard also served on the Kalamazoo Valley Enforcement Team's (KVET) drug unit where she was part of an investigative team that worked to dismantle mid-level distributors of drugs. In 2004, she was selected to serve in a grant-funded position as a task force officer with the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Rivard loves investigative work. "This work can be thankless, but I love being able to follow a case from inception to

the end. Nothing compares to giving closure to the victim," she said. Rivard was promoted to detective in 2010 and she's been a major crimes detective ever since. She is also a task force officer with of the Criminal Investigations Division. "My favorite thing about it is that it's different every day," she said. "I'm a learner. I like to learn something new or learn how to do something better. My job is always different and that keeps it fun and fresh."

Rivard also loves teaching. "In 2002, Jeff Shouldice (law enforcement faculty) saw something in me that I didn't see in myself," she recalls. "He asked me to teach in the police academy and I reluctantly said yes. It's helped me to develop a whole additional professional side. I've been able to explore and learn and grow. It's made me a better mentor. I love it as much as I love being a police officer."

In the fall, Rivard will be teaching LEN 132, Public Safety Report Writing. At the police academy, she'll also teach Report Writing and Responding to Crimes in Progress Sections.

APPLICATIONS STILL BEING ACCEPTED FOR MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

High school seniors planning to attend Kalamazoo Valley Community College in the fall still have time to apply for the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Merit Scholarship.

"Although our tuition rate is among the lowest in state, we recognize that attending college can be expensive," said Director of Enrollment Management EJ Bast. "This scholarship can help defray those costs while recognizing a student's academic achievement in high school."

To be eligible for consideration, students must have a minimum grade point average of 3.5, and a minimum ACT composite score of 21 or a minimum new SAT composite score of 1060.

Students who are selected will be awarded a \$3,000 scholarship for their freshman

year and can receive an additional award of \$3,000 for their sophomore year, if certain criteria is met.

For priority consideration, students must complete their portion of the application (available at www.kvcc.edu/merit), have a qualified high school official complete their portion and submit the completed application by May 31 to:

Kalamazoo Valley Community College
Office of Enrollment Management
Room 4261
PO Box 4070
Kalamazoo, MI 49003-4070

For more information, call 269.488.4303 or email enrollment@kvcc.edu.

SPANISH, BEER AND POLLINATION UP NEXT

Kalamazoo Valley's Career and Continuing Education department continues to expand its offerings to better serve the community. "We are committed to enriching the lives of our students and communities through quality educational programs and services," said Elizabeth Lyons, Kalamazoo Valley's director of Career and Continuing Education.

The schedule for upcoming courses includes Spanish for the Medical Professionals, Beer and Food Pairing, and a Native Pollinators and Plants course.

Spanish for the Medical Professional runs from May 15 to June 28 on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. The course addresses the needs of healthcare professionals with little or no background in the Spanish language. Students develop communicative proficiency in the use of the Spanish language in medical settings with Spanish-speaking patients. The goal of Spanish for the Medical Professionals is to make it possible for students to communicate in Spanish with patients whose dominant language is Spanish.

It will be taught at Kalamazoo Valley's Groves Center, 7107 Elm Valley Drive, Kalamazoo, 49009. The cost is \$175 plus a \$25 book, which will be available on the first day of class.

Beer and Food Pairing is meant to provide a brief overview of the ingredients in beer and how the flavors, aromas, textures, strengths, and colors of beer interact with the various harmonies of food. Four beer-food appetizer

tastings will be provided in a dining room setting. In an open forum, participants will discuss and provide conclusions on how the pairings compare and/or contrast with each other.

The class will run from 5:30 to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays June 13, 20 and 27 at the Culinary and Allied Health Building, 418 Walnut, Kalamazoo. There is a \$150 fee to participate.

Native Pollinators and Plants will be offered at the Food Innovation Center, 224 E. Crosstown Parkway, from June 8 to July 27 on Thursdays 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., plus one field day on a Saturday.

Students in the Native Pollinators and Plants course will learn about the species of pollinators native to Michigan and how to garden with them in mind. Instructors will explain the role of native species in the pollination of urban and agricultural environments and how we can adapt plant species selection and garden management to maximize habitat for pollinators. The class will include one field day for insect identification and students will learn how to build their own native bee hotels using recycled and reclaimed materials. The course fee is \$140.

For more information about Continuing Education courses, contact Melody Woods, Program Coordinator, at mwoods@kvcc.edu or 269.353.1290.

To register for a class, go to www.kvcc.edu/trainingschedule.



Recycled bee habitat



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
Brian McKinney

In 2011, Brian McKinney was doing time in the Ojibway Correctional Center in the Upper Peninsula for drug and weapons possession charges. Last year, he was invited to the White House twice to discuss ways to positively engage young people from underserved, urban communities on behalf of his tech startup company, JOURNi.

McKinney, a Detroit native, got his start at Kalamazoo Valley after being paroled in 2012.

"I felt Kalamazoo Valley Community College was the best place for me to re-enter school after over a decade of being outside of the classroom," McKinney said. "I wanted to attend a school where the class sizes were small and professors were accessible."

Thanks to correspondence classes that he took while incarcerated and support from student services, McKinney, 35, completed 65 credit hours in just 10 months by utilizing the College Board's C.L.E.P. and advanced placement exams. He graduated in December 2012, earning his associate of science degree, typically a two-year program, in less than one year.

"I definitely have to thank the tutoring center," he said. "I spent a lot of time in the tutoring center and greatly appreciate the support I found there."

He also credits math instructor Dr. Michael Raines for helping him get through some difficult math courses.

"Dr. Raines is a math rock star," McKinney said. "He seeks to meet his students where they are and ensure that they grasp the material. He made all of the calculus courses fun for me."

After graduating from Kalamazoo Valley, he transferred to Western Michigan University

to begin work on his bachelor's degree. He received his degree in engineering from WMU in 2014.

"Ezra Bell, in the Student Success Center, really helped me navigate my post-graduation plans," McKinney said. "He aided in my evaluation of universities not only based on my major of choice, but to ensure the university I selected was a great fit culture wise."

With a lifelong passion for entrepreneurship (he started a real estate development firm with no bank financing right out of high school and successfully bought and sold properties in Detroit for nearly a decade), McKinney pursued a variety of startup projects connecting underserved youth with opportunities in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), including co-founding JOURNi in 2015.

"At JOURNi, we strive to build an authentically inclusive tech ecosystem in the city of Detroit, by tapping into the heart and spirit of its residents," McKinney said. "To achieve this goal, we provide immersive courses, youth-centered programming, beneficial employment opportunities, start up education, and socioeconomic resources."

The company's work earned him, not one but two invitations to the White House under President Obama's administration.

"It was an incredible opportunity, one I'll never forget," McKinney said.

In addition to his work at JOURNi, he is currently the CEO of the Houston-based software company Benjii, that provides quality, cost-effective financial solutions to individuals and small to mid-market businesses.

Prior to Benjii, he oversaw community engagement at Pigeonly, a company which builds products that make inmate services more affordable.

"Kalamazoo Valley provided me a solid foundation. It really gave me a springboard for a lot of what I do today," he said. "I met professors who not only helped me with the material presented during their courses but I really benefited from individuals who affirmed their belief in me and what I could accomplish. That mentorship and support has made a tremendous impact on my life."

TOP-PAYING JOBS

What do these jobs have in common: web developer, mechanical engineering technician, respiratory therapist, electrical technician and dental hygienist? They are among the 25 highest-paying jobs you can get with an associate degree and Kalamazoo Valley Community College provides training for all of these and more.

According to the latest data from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, these are only a handful of the highest-paying jobs that require only an associate degree. Each has a median annual salary of at least \$51,000. So if you don't have time or money to get a bachelor's degree, it turns out that plenty of two-year associate degrees have a high return on investment.

"Students deciding on a college will find that Kalamazoo Valley is very welcoming," said Director of Admissions/Registration and Records Sarah Hubbell. "New students should apply to the college by completing

an online application at www.kvcc.edu/ apply. There are no application fees and the college accepts applicants throughout the summer months."

Director of Enrollment Management E. J. Bast said that returning students should log on to My Valley and register for fall semester classes now to help ensure that they receive the classes they want and need.

So whether the goal is to move immediately into the workforce after college graduation, re-tool for an in demand career or eventually transfer to a four-year college or university, you are welcome at Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

Fall semester begins on Tuesday, September 5. New students attending college for the first time are invited to apply to the college this summer and must be registered for class by August 28.

SIGNING DAY



High school students celebrating their future

More than 800 high school seniors from Kalamazoo County's public, private and alternative high schools celebrated their post-secondary education plans last month at Kalamazoo Valley Community College's Texas Township Campus.

The College and Career Action Network (CACAN) in partnership with Kalamazoo Valley and Western Michigan University hosted the second annual event which provides an opportunity for every college, military or workforce-bound high school senior in Kalamazoo County to gather and celebrate their plans for the future.

"It's a great chance for students to celebrate all that they have accomplished throughout their time in K-12 education," said Evan Pauken, College and Career Action Network coordinator. "The event serves as a way to bring together students from across Kalamazoo County to both build community as well as encourage continuing education in all of its forms."

Kalamazoo County College Signing Day is Kalamazoo's local reworking of the National College Signing Day, a program of the former first lady Michelle Obama's Reach Higher initiative and The Michigan College Access Network's State of Michigan College Decision Day. The event was held last year at WMU.

The event included a "signing process" by all students where they formally acknowledge their post-secondary plans, a performance by local spoken word artists Kinetic Affect as well as entertainment from different high school bands, choirs and drum lines.

"The majority of students who come to Kalamazoo Valley are from within Kalamazoo County so we were thrilled to host this event and give those students another chance to see our campus," said EJ Bast, director of enrollment management at Kalamazoo Valley.

Close to 300 students at the event plan to attend Kalamazoo Valley Community College in the fall.

GUIDED PATHWAYS HELP STUDENTS CHART THEIR COURSES

Kalamazoo Valley Community College welcomes students of all backgrounds and with all types of dreams. Even when their goals are clear, however, college students can sometimes be faced with an overwhelming number of requirements and choices. It is not uncommon for students to decide to come to college with a good idea of what they want to achieve, but without knowing the best way to start or how to develop a plan that provides the right college/life balance.

Guided pathways are designed to provide students with a clear program plan - from admission through program completion, and into employment. "This concept means that we're thinking about students as early as their first years of high school, as well as our students coming to Kalamazoo Valley after experience in the workforce," explained Dr. Dean McCurdy, Associate Vice President for Instruction of Sustainable Food Systems and Culinary Arts. "In many cases, we're considering not only what students need to do to complete our programs, but exactly what they need to do to transfer successfully and complete a bachelor's degree through transfer at a four-year college or university. Each of our academic pathways has been designed by a team of faculty and staff at Kalamazoo Valley to help provide a great balance of foundational education, skills, and experiences to prepare our students for advanced coursework at top universities, meaningful opportunities for employment, and a changing world."

McCurdy said Guided Pathways provide Kalamazoo Valley faculty and staff with new opportunities to help students succeed. Once in a pathway, each student will work with a pathway advisor and a counselor to make sure a clear plan has been established. The student can quickly see all of the coursework and other requirements needed to complete the program. If any changes need to be made, the process and pathways have been designed to accommodate flexibility while keeping students on-track for success in a variety of fields. Students wishing to change their status between

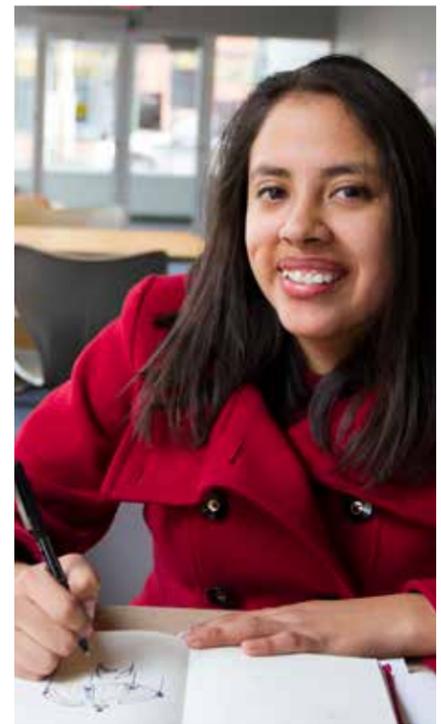
full- and part-time can also change their academic plans as needed.

"As we move toward full implementation of Guided Pathways over the next year, the college experience will take on a new "feel" for students at Kalamazoo Valley," McCurdy said. "The application and admission process will be more focused on career and continuing education opportunities for students, and the orientation process will be more tailored to the needs of students enrolled in their areas-of-interest." Students will have opportunities to explore career fields early in their programs. "Most importantly, students will have more opportunities to build important relationships with our counselors, faculty, and a network of employers and transfer schools," McCurdy said.

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

Guided Pathways have already been established for Culinary Arts and Sustainable Food Systems as well as Art and New Media. The Art and New Media concentrations at the Center for New Media are designed to prepare students for highly successful careers in the extremely competitive field of creative digital media.

"Our Guided Pathways approach provides students with meaningful contact with faculty and support staff, meeting regularly with faculty and staff for progress reviews and referrals to resources," said Tom Hamann, director of the Center for New Media. "Advanced Art and New Media students also have the opportunity to apply and to enroll in Design Crew, which provides them with real-world, immersive experience with client-based projects." "We are always looking for meaningful ways to better the Kalamazoo Valley student experience and provide each student with ongoing opportunities specific to their future goals and success. With this



Jacklyn Perez illustration student

in mind, credit articulation agreements have been established with Columbia College Chicago in Graphic Design and illustration and also Columbus College of Art and Design in Graphic Design, Illustration and Animation/Game Art. Additional partnerships are under development with other four-year Art and Design schools throughout Michigan and beyond."

Pathways in the Art and New Media programs at Kalamazoo Valley include:

- Animation and Game Art
- Graphic Design
- Illustration
- Multimedia-Video
- Web Design and Development

Pathways in the Sustainable Food Systems at Kalamazoo Valley include:

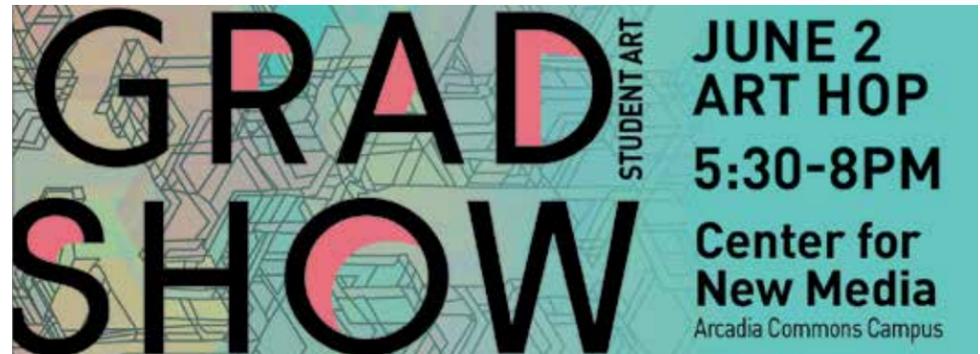
- Culinary Arts and Dietary Management
- Sustainable Brewing

Pathways include opportunities ranging from Certificates of Achievement and two-year degrees, with the option to go-to-work immediately or transfer to another college or university to complete a four-year degree.

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

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