



FOCUS

FALL SEMESTER
BEGINS SEPTEMBER 5
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www.kvcc.edu/register

A Kalamazoo Valley Community College Publication
Summer 2017

Kalamazoo**VALLEY**TM
community college

READY FOR COLLEGE KALAMAZOO VALLEY IS READY FOR YOU

Unlike some other colleges and universities, there is still time to apply and register for fall classes at Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

"We've heard that the cut off for fall semester has come and gone at other schools," said Valley's Director of Admissions, Registration and Records Sarah Hubbell. "Our admissions process is still available for all students, including those attending for the first time."

New students need to apply to the college at www.kvcc.edu/apply. Within two business days, students will be notified of their acceptance and provided the next steps for making enrollment in the fall semester a reality.

"After application, next steps include applying for financial aid, submitting or securing test scores, attending a New Student Orientation and then registering for classes. There's a clear process to enrollment and we are here to help," said Director of Enrollment Management EJ Bast. "Our goal is to get students ready for the first day of class."

Likewise, students already accepted at Valley still have time to register for classes by visiting kvcc.edu/register.

"The sooner the better," said Bast. Although fall registration is in full swing, students should act quickly to get the classes they want and need for their degree or transfer program."

According to the latest data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, some of the best paying jobs are those available to graduates with an associate degree. Respiratory therapist, electrical technician, web developer, dental hygienist and mechanical engineering technician are just a few of those jobs, and training for these professions is available at Kalamazoo Valley.

So whether your goal is to get training for a new career, move up by securing an associate degree, or transfer to a four-year school, there is a place for you at Kalamazoo Valley.

According to Bast, "Our welcome mat is out and our faculty and staff are dedicated to student success."



Fall semester begins on Tuesday, September 5. For more information, visit www.kvcc.edu/admissions.

SUPER TUESDAY GET READY FOR THE FALL SEMESTER

With more than 100 questions, filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) can be an overwhelming process for parents and students. Fill it out incorrectly and you may jeopardize receiving need-based grants, some merit-based grants, and possible loans that can assist in paying for college.

Help with financial aid paperwork is just one of the many services that will be available at the Super Tuesday – Get Ready for the Fall Semester event held at Kalamazoo Valley Community College's Texas Township Campus July 25 from 4:30 – 7 p.m. in Rooms 4230 and 4240. The event will serve as a one-stop option for students, parents and community members who have questions or are interested in attending Kalamazoo Valley.

Representatives from the Financial Aid Office, Office for Enrollment Management, the Admissions, Registration and Records Office, Student Activities and Organizations and the Student Success Center will be on hand to assist those in attendance. The Financial Aid Office will help anyone in the community who needs

assistance with their college financial aid paperwork or would like to learn more about the financial aid process. Computers will be available in order to access the online FAFSA application. Attendees should bring all necessary paperwork to complete the FAFSA, including 2015 tax return information.

"We're here to help," said Director of Financial Aid Alisha Cederberg. "I encourage anyone who has questions about financial aid to stop by – there's a lot of money out there to help with the costs of attending college – and the process can be complicated."

Cederberg will lead a number of short financial aid presentations throughout the evening, including discussing important changes coming to financial aid for the 2017-2018 school year.

"There are a lot of misconceptions about these changes," she said. "Changes made to the FAFSA allow students and families to apply earlier for financial aid. Families and students in our community need to know that there's still time to complete the financial aid process and, more importantly, apply for financial aid for

the upcoming fall semester."

Additionally, attendees at the July 25 event will be able to tour the Texas Township Campus, complete placement tests, talk to an academic advisor or counselor, register for New Student Orientation and enroll for the fall semester, which begins September 5. If available, participants should bring any educational documents, including high school and college transcripts and placement test scores to ensure for proper course placement.

"There's still plenty of time to become part of the Kalamazoo Valley community," said Director of Enrollment Management EJ Bast. "We're trying to remove as many barriers as possible for students to enroll in classes."

Students attending college for the first time, Bast stressed, must attend a New Student Orientation prior to registering for classes.

"We want students to succeed at Kalamazoo Valley and New Student Orientation lays the groundwork for that success," he said. "There are

several orientations this summer that students can attend and still have time to get enrolled for fall classes. Students who have already been accepted to the college can register by calling 269.488.4040 or we can help students register when they attend our Super Tuesday event."

Upcoming New Student Orientations at the Texas Township Campus include:

JULY 11 3 - 6:30 P.M.	AUGUST 23 1 - 4:30 P.M.
JULY 26 1 - 4:30 P.M.	AUGUST 29 9 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.
AUGUST 3 9 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.	AUGUST 31 9 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.
AUGUST 15 3 - 6:30 P.M.	AUGUST 31 1 - 4:30 P.M.

For more information about Super Tuesday and how to apply to the college and register for classes visit www.kvcc.edu/supertuesday. The event is free and open to the community.



Roasted Pork Tostada with Apple Pico de Gallo

CULINARY PROGRAM OPEN HOUSE JULY 19 | 2 - 3 P.M.

Cooking demos with Chef Cory Barrett of the TV show *Iron Chef* will be held at the Kalamazoo Valley Culinary & Allied Health Building, 418 E. Walnut Street, in downtown Kalamazoo.

CALL 269.548.3205 TO MAKE A RESERVATION

FOCUS PROGRAM HELPS STUDENTS SEAMLESSLY TRANSFER TO WMU

With two part-time jobs, a full class load and a family to raise, time is often of the essence for 42-year-old Kara Bailey.

The Kalamazoo resident is currently studying social work at Kalamazoo Valley and plans to transfer to Western Michigan University after graduating next April. She joined the Focus Program to help keep her on task. "I wanted more support to make sure that my time at Valley was well utilized," Bailey said. "Time is a nonrenewable resource, so I don't want to waste it."

The Focus Program at Kalamazoo Valley is a collaborative effort between the college and WMU. It offers academic support to students transferring to WMU after goal completion at Kalamazoo Valley. Through bi-weekly appointments, this bridging program provides students extra attention and information about activities, courses and services at Kalamazoo Valley to encourage academic and individual achievement.

Enrollment in the program is free and voluntary, although students sign an agreement, indicating that they will meet with Focus Program staff and attend personal development workshops each semester at both Kalamazoo Valley and WMU.

Bailey meets twice monthly with Robyn Schieber of the Focus Program to talk about her goals and classes as well as any barriers or struggles she might be encountering. Schieber also provides Bailey with progress reports

from her instructors. As member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society, Bailey appreciates their time together and being kept abreast of her grades.

"Robyn helps me make sure I'm meeting my goals," Bailey said. "It's great to have that extra person there to support you."

"Time is a nonrenewable resource, so I don't want to waste it."

Focus Program member Kara Bailey

Additional Focus Program benefits include:

- Academic advising
- Career assessments and exploration
- Achievement luncheons
- Campus visits to WMU
- Financial aid counseling
- Networking opportunities with instructors, other students and community leaders
- Peer mentoring at Kalamazoo Valley and WMU
- Tutoring and workshops in academic and leadership skills

Students are encouraged to apply to the Focus Program as soon as they decide to transfer to WMU – preferably during their first year at Kalamazoo Valley.

"To get the most out of the program, students should join early so we can connect them with the correct resources here and at WMU," said Focus Program Director Bonita Bates.

Originally called Project Focus, the program was established in 1989 to help African Americans, Hispanics and other minority students gain a solid academic footing to guarantee success upon transferring to WMU. The project was funded by the Michigan Department of Education Office of Minority Equity and run by WMU employees on Kalamazoo Valley's campus. After state funding ended in 1999, the program became a partnership between Kalamazoo Valley and WMU. Bates, who had worked in the Financial Aid Office at Kalamazoo Valley since 1993, was hired that year to run the program.

The name was changed from Project Focus to the Focus Program and opened to all students. Bates now has a team of four full and part-time employees, including a graduate assistant from WMU and a peer student leader, to work with Focus students.

"We help all students, not just students who might need more support academically," Bates said. "We provide the extra personal attention that a lot of students need to succeed."

Student success is celebrated each April with an Achievement Luncheon where graduates, academic achievement (a GPA of 3.0 or higher) and program participants are

recognized. Alumni who have gone on to graduate from WMU are invited back to discuss their journey.

"The Achievement Luncheon is a real highlight of the program," Bates said. "It's a very emotional day."

In its nearly 30 years in existence, the Focus Program has assisted more than 600 Focus Program students graduate from Kalamazoo Valley and make a seamless transition to Western. Additionally, the program has helped hundreds of others transfer to WMU.

Students interested in applying to the Focus Program can visit the Student Success Center, Room 9300, on the Texas Township Campus. Staff members also are available at Anna Whitten Hall, Room 120, during the fall and winter semesters Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to noon.

WHAT'S YOUR FOCUS?

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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
Travis Wilkinson

Kalamazoo Valley honors program student Travis Wilkinson is spending his summer in Ann Arbor at the University of Michigan as a Michigan Community College Summer Research Fellowship Program (CCSFP) participant. The program is meant to give community college transfer students the opportunity to conduct research at the Ann Arbor campus. He's working at the Hepatology Clinic at the Taubman Center and is helping to conduct research on ways to reduce Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease.

"Finding a way to reduce this disease is important because medical professionals estimate that this disease affects nearly one-third of the U.S. population," Wilkinson said. "Based on previous studies, diet and exercise are crucial for reducing NAFLD, so we are providing our 40 patients who have NAFLD with a Fitbit Zip. Over the course of three to six months, we will monitor the exercise of our patients based on data from their Fitbit Zip and determine if fat is being reduced in their liver. My specific job is to screen the patients in the clinic who have NAFLD and walk them through the study and its procedures." He keeps in constant contact with patients, teaching them to use a Fitbit Zip and helping them download and navigate the app on their smartphone or computer.

The 2015 Portage Central High School graduate is the second in his family to attend Kalamazoo Valley's honors program. His sister Kristy Wilkinson, a spring 2017 Grand Valley State University graduate, was enrolled in Kalamazoo Valley's honors program from 2012 to 2014. "She informed me of the great resources

and professors available through the honors program at Kalamazoo Valley, so I decided to apply after high school," Wilkinson said. "I had a great time in the honors program and at Kalamazoo Valley in general."

He explained that the honors classes were rigorous, but they allowed him to become a better student. Those classes typically involved extensive amounts of writing, and he learned how to manage his time wisely to complete assignments.

"I often think of my first honors program class with Mr. Keller in ENG 160. He wrote the word curiosity on the board. He elucidated to us that curiosity is the foundation of a well-educated person. The ultimate goal of education is to be curious and ask questions about the world. To this day, that lesson still sticks with me," he said.

Wilkinson said his non-honors courses at Valley were also excellent. He especially enjoyed math courses with Dr. Raines and working in the chemistry lab with Mrs. Oliphant and Mr. Bishop. "Overall, I would

say that the honors program and Kalamazoo Valley as a whole is a great opportunity for students to gain a valuable education," he said.

The honors program prepared him for the rigorous CCSFP application process. "It was a selective program that required an application, a community college transcript, three essays, and two letters of recommendation," he explained.

Wilkinson plans to attend medical school after he completes his undergraduate studies.

"Medicine is a dynamic field that is constantly changing with new techniques and treatments," he said. "I am attracted to the complexity and importance of medicine." He's taking his last Kalamazoo Valley class this summer, PHI 201, and will earn an Associate of Science degree from Valley before transferring to the University of Michigan next fall to major in biochemistry, possibly minoring in computer science or philosophy.

KALAMAZOO VALLEY ANNOUNCES DALE B. LAKE AWARD WINNERS



Jamie Liroy

A men's basketball team captain with a 3.5 grade point average and passion for producing music along with a volleyball team two-year captain with a 3.74 grade point average and aspiring dietician were recently named Kalamazoo Valley Community College Dale B. Lake Award winners.

Gabe Stokes, a 6'3 captain and point guard on the 2016-2017 men's basketball team and Jamie Liroy, a 5'8 six-rotation hitter for the 2016 volleyball team received the annual award in honor of the college's founding president, Dale B. Lake.

"Gabe has been part of the men's basketball program for two years and has represented our team and Kalamazoo Valley Community College

well on and off the court," said Men's Basketball Head Coach Jim Horn. "In the classroom he is a high achiever. He has direction in life as he plans to attend a four-year school to obtain a bachelor's degree in finance with an emphasis in accounting. On the court he was a captain and was voted by his teammates as the most valuable player for the 2016/17 season. He has a bright future ahead of him and is very deserving of the Dale B. Lake Award."

Head Volleyball Coach Jennifer Buikema nominated Liroy to receive the 47-year-old award given annually to one outstanding male and one outstanding female student-athlete.

"Jamie has been the best example of what I expect out of my athletes both on and off the court so far in my career at Kalamazoo Valley Community College," Buikema said. "Her dedication to the program both during and out of season cannot be compared. She has so much pride being a Cougar that she emulates the behaviors and values we expect our athletes to possess. Overall, she is just a very positive person, doing everything she is asked, with a smile. She is very deserving of this award."

Both players received additional post season accolades in their respective sports. Stokes, of Niles, was voted by the conference coaches as an Honorable Mention All-Conference player. Liroy of Sturgis, was named 1st Team All-Conference along with All-MCCAA and All-Region XII.



Gabe Stokes

The Dale B. Lake Award began in 1970 in honor of Kalamazoo Valley Community College's founding president. It is an effort to give annual recognition to one outstanding male and one outstanding female student-athlete. Special consideration is given to exceptional academic achievement as well as outstanding athletic contribution. Qualities such as leadership, loyalty, enthusiasm, reliability, and initiative are also evaluated. Each coach may nominate one individual to the athletic director for consideration for the Dale B. Lake Award. The coaches select one male and one female award winner. Winners receive plaques and their names are added to the Dale B. Lake plaque displayed within the Athletic Office at Kalamazoo Valley.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT Paul Abrahamsen

Attorney Paul Abrahamsen received the 2017 Kalamazoo Valley Community College Distinguished Alumni Award because he is a dedicated public servant. He is the pro bono program director for Legal Aid of Western Michigan and has worked for the organization for 31 years. "I assist low income clients with civil legal matters," he explained. "These are people who have nowhere else to turn."

Abrahamsen, a Lansing native, graduated from Kalamazoo Valley Community College in 1978 with an associate degree in liberal arts. He transferred to Western Michigan University and earned a bachelor of business administration degree in accounting and finance before earning a doctorate degree from Ohio Northern University's Claude W. Pettit College of Law in 1983.

Abrahamsen said Kalamazoo Valley was the perfect place for him to begin his college career after graduating from Parchment High School. "It was a great transition," he said. "Kalamazoo Valley was by far the best school I attended, primarily because of the instructors. I wouldn't be where I am today without the start I got at Valley."

Abrahamsen spent two years in the private sector before he became Legal Aid of Western Michigan's pro bono program director. He served on the State Bar of Michigan Pro Bono Committee and on the Grand Rapids Bar Association's Lawyer Referral Committee.

In addition to Kalamazoo Valley's Distinguished Alumni Award, Abrahamsen has received Ohio Northern University College of Law Pro Bono/Public Interest Alumni Award and the Donald R. Worsfold Distinguished Service Award from the Grand Rapids Bar Association.

"I love what I do and I hope I've made a difference," Abrahamsen said. He accepted the Distinguished Alumni Award via video during the Opportunities for Education Scholarship Fundraising Dinner in May.

The Distinguished Alumni Award is given annually to an alumnus of distinction for use of his or her education toward personal achievement and contribution to the betterment of the community. The award recipient is recognized each spring at the Opportunities for Education Dinner. Denise Thomas, coordinator of alumni relations for Kalamazoo Valley, said Abrahamsen was a deserving recipient. She explained that Abrahamsen was selected to receive the award because of his passion for law and to the pro bono work he has done for more than 30 years.

KALAMAZOO VALLEY COMPUTER CLUB NATIONAL WINNERS

The Kalamazoo Valley Community College student chapter of Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP) won first place in the Web Development Competition at the 22nd Annual National College Conference for the third year in a row. Jason Kovacs was awarded Volunteer of the Year and the group won in Java Development and the Professional Banner competitions as well.

This year's web development team designed and built a website for St. Monica's Boy Scout Troop 211. It can be viewed at <http://stmonicatroop211.org/>. This project is the result of a year-long endeavor by the Kalamazoo Valley students under the mentorship of Computer Information Systems (CIS) instructor, David Barnes, to design a creative look and an easy to navigate, update and maintain website for a local non-profit organization.

The team members are Project Manager Uta Turcotte, Developer Yihan Wang, Developer Chad Cunningham, Lead Documenter Taressa Halpin, and Designer Alissa McKenna. The Kalamazoo Valley students were the only community college representatives involved competing against university seniors

in their capstone class.

Team members agree that the excellent teaching and high standards of Kalamazoo Valley's CIS department made this award possible. "Over the years our AITP group has developed 11 websites for local area non-profits at no cost," said CIS instructor Dawn Pantaleo. "These websites were all designed and created with a database to store data along with giving the non-profit organization the ability to maintain their own site."

Along with the web development award, student Josh Wiegel brought home honorable mention (top 6) in java development, a four-hour competition against 80 other students, mostly university upper class students. The team took third place in the professional banner competition, designed by Allison McKenna, Web Designer and ANM student.

Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Jason Kovacs, alumni and network manager. "This coveted award is given annually to a volunteer who excels during the conference," Pantaleo explained. "AITP is a volunteer organization. Jason has managed the set up and tear down of the competition computer lab

for several years and, this year, was recognized for his dedication and excellence."

The conference was held in April in downtown St. Louis, MO. Other attendees this year were Jeff Martin, project manager for last year's first place trophy in web development, along with Justin Kohler and Anthony Aernie, top fundraiser the past two years. Everyone attended the keynote, several breakout sessions and a job fair. Staff members attending were David Barnes, Kalamazoo Valley alumni who has returned to assist the club and lead the web development team for the past several award-winning years.

Pantaleo, full-time CIS instructor, has been instrumental in the beginning and continuation of the Chapter for the past 19 years.

The computer club meets monthly on Friday evenings with various IT professionals speaking on topics including job acquisition, interviewing, internships, resume writing, and more.

KALAMAZOO VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

TAPPED AS BEST BREWING SCHOOL IN NORTH AMERICA



Kalamazoo VALLEY™
SUSTAINABLE BREWING

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College Beer
Championship
WINNER

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“Best College
Brewing
Program in
North
America”



Less than two years old, Kalamazoo Valley Community College's sustainable brewing program is already garnering national attention – recently winning the U.S. Open College Beer Championship, the only craft beer competition for beers exclusively brewed by college and university brewing and fermentation programs.

Kalamazoo Valley won the Grand National Championship and was named the best college brewing program in North America. The college took home a gold for its 9009 Stout and bronze medals for its Babb's Tradition Weizen and Falcon's Puddin' Strong Ale.

“We are thrilled to be recognized as the top brewing program in North America,” said Associate Vice President for Instruction and Bronson Healthy Living Campus Dean McCurdy. “It reflects the creativity, artisanship, and attention to detail that we’ve built into our award-winning curriculum. Competing successfully against the top colleges and universities throughout North America is a validation of the investments we’ve made in recruiting world-class brewers and scientists who teach in our program, the strong partnerships we’ve built with the local brewing community, and of the state-of-the-art brewery we opened at our Kalsec® Center for Sustainable Brewing Education.”

Held in Oxford, Ohio, the annual competition is open to colleges and universities that teach brewing courses to help determine the best future brewers in North America. This year's competition had five categories: Belgian, Bavarian, Stout, IPA and Open. The “Open” category allowed students to enter any style of beer they wanted to brew.

Kalamazoo Valley students responsible for the school's championship performance include: David Cohoe, Dylon Davis, Joseph Garvin, Christopher Golobish, Jesse Franke-Rose, Dan King, Jake Kirkendall, Amy Pradna-Waugam, James

Saddler, Daniel Smith, Colin Thompson, Lea Vanklompberg, and Scott Vant Hul. Brewery Operations Manager Brian Lindberg was the submitting instructor.

Kalamazoo Valley Community College's Kalsec® Center for Sustainable Brewing Education teaches all aspects of brewing science.

“Students have the opportunity to go through the entire brewing process - from developing a recipe, to brewing the beer, and analyzing the finished product,” McCurdy explained. “They learn all about the science and technology involved by working directly on industry equipment in our teaching brewery.”

Faculty members bring years of experience into the brewing classroom.

“Our lead brewer and founding full-time faculty member is Mike Babb, a master brewer who brings decades of experience from the industry and teaching about the brewing process, McCurdy said. “Our Brewery Operations Manager, Brian Lindberg, brings experience from Michigan craft breweries and analytical labs. Other adjunct faculty involved in our brewing courses include Matt Brower from Bell's Brewing, our Cicerone Phil Hogg, and faculty from our Biological Sciences Department.”

Students can earn a certificate or Associate of Applied Science degree in sustainable brewing. Additionally, thanks to a partnership with universities, students

can transfer after goal completion at Kalamazoo Valley and earn a Bachelor of Science degree at Western Michigan University or earn a Bachelor of Business Administration or Applied Science at the Kalamazoo Valley University Center.

Regardless of what path students choose to follow, all students spend time outside the classroom working with experts in the brewery industry.

“Every student in our programs completes an internship working with an industry partner – giving them practical, real-world experience,” McCurdy said. “We provide additional support to help students find the right options for them in the industry and to help them build professional networks. Most of our students who are not already working in the brewing industry when they start our program find opportunities within their first few months of study.”

There are currently more than 100 students working toward a certificate or associate degree in sustainable brewing at Kalamazoo Valley.

“We welcome students from all backgrounds interested in taking specific classes to become a better brewer - at home or within the profession,” McCurdy said.

Registration for brewing and other fall classes at Kalamazoo Valley is now open. To register visit www.kvcc.edu/apply.

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Editor: Linda Depta
Managing Editor: Dawn Kemp
Designer: Robyn Hughes
Photographer: Jacqueline Luttrell
Thomas Wrench

Contributors: Linda Depta
Erin Dominianni
Dawn Kemp

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