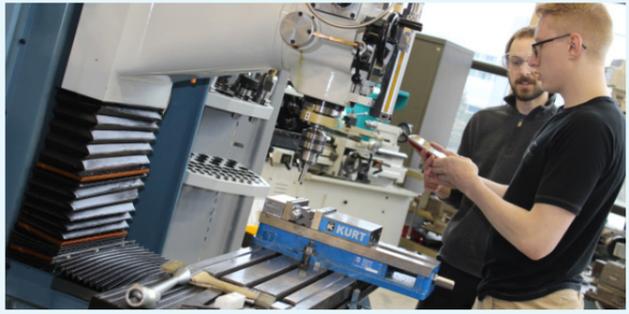


# JOIN US THURSDAY, OCT. 3, 4-7 P.M.

## SKILLED TRADES EXPO OFFERS PATH TO HIGH PAYING JOBS



Career. It's a pretty daunting word, especially when students are being asked to decide something that could be a part of their lives forever. For many, skilled trades often provide a faster and more affordable path to employment than a four-year degree.

A sizable professional trades shortage exists in Michigan and is expected to continue through 2024. Professional trades will account for more than 500,000 jobs in the Michigan economy, and approximately 15,000 new job openings are expected annually in the state between now and then, according to the Going Pro In Michigan website.

Wages for professional trades occupations is 45 percent higher than other occupations – \$51,000 is the median annual salary for these jobs.

Opportunities exist in a variety of emerging industries. Kalamazoo Valley is preparing students for high paying jobs in fields that include:

- Automotive Technology
- Electrical Technology
- HVAC Technology

- Engineering/Design/Manufacturing Technology
- Welding Technology
- Chemical Technology

When it comes to careers, one path does not fit all. That's why West Michigan students, parents, teachers and employers are invited to attend a Skilled Trades Expo on Thursday, Oct. 3 at Kalamazoo Valley Community College's Texas Township Campus. The event is free and open to the public between 4-7 p.m.

"We celebrate National Advanced Manufacturing Week every day at the college," said Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Services Dr. Peter Linden.

"Our graduates are receiving multiple offers before graduation. Our biggest challenge is providing enough trained workers for the regional labor market demand. While many students will continue their education pursuing a four-year degree, most are happy to get the training they need and to move quickly into a career, without a lot of college debt."

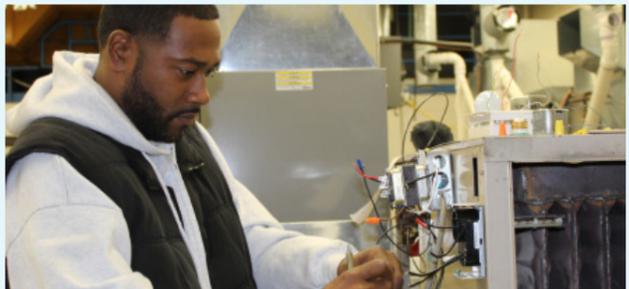
Today's skilled trades offer an array of opportunities that challenge both mind and body. "High-tech

manufacturing and skilled trades employers all across the state are nearly desperate for students looking to embark on a high-paying job with benefits, close to home," said Department Chair for Industrial/Technical Division Erick Martin.

This event includes free parking, refreshments, door prizes and a chance to meet with YouTube sensation Joel Goss, host of the Nobody Epic channel with more than 1.4 million followers. Goss will be available for conversations and photos and share his thoughts about how programs like those being offered at Kalamazoo Valley are addressing skilled-gap shortages in the state.

"Michigan is a great place to live, work and raise a family, especially if you have achieved a respected certification or degree for life-long employment from Kalamazoo Valley Community College," Martin said. "The Skilled Trades Expo provides a unique opportunity to learn more about potential careers."

For more information visit [www.kvcc.edu/skilledtradesexpo](http://www.kvcc.edu/skilledtradesexpo).



## RESPECTED CREDENTIALS PREPARE STUDENTS FOR LIFE-LONG EMPLOYMENT

Kalamazoo Valley offers one of the lowest tuition rates in the state which means students who choose to complete a degree or certificate program at Valley have a better chance of graduating without a lot of debt when compared to other options.

Training for many of the "Hot 50" jobs in Michigan is available at Kalamazoo Valley and students may choose from one of these career paths:

### AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Automotive Drivability Systems, AAS  
Automotive Undercar Systems, AAS  
Auto Hybrid & Adv Tech Vehicle, CERT  
General Automotive Service, CERT  
Auto Automatic Trans/Axle, COA  
Auto Brake Systems, COA  
Auto Electrical/Electronic Systems, COA  
Auto Engine Performance, COA  
Auto Engine Repair, COA  
Auto Heat/Air Conditioning, COA  
Auto Light Duty Diesel Engines, COA  
Auto Manual Drive Train/Axles, COA  
Auto Steering & Suspension, COA

### CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY

Chemical Technology, AAS

### CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE TECHNOLOGY

Electrical Technology, AAS  
Electrical Construction, CERT  
Electrical Control, CERT  
Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning, CERT  
Maintenance Mechanic-Industrial, AAS  
Maintenance Mechanic-Facility, CERT  
Maintenance Mechanic-Industrial, CERT

### ENGINEERING/DESIGN/ MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY

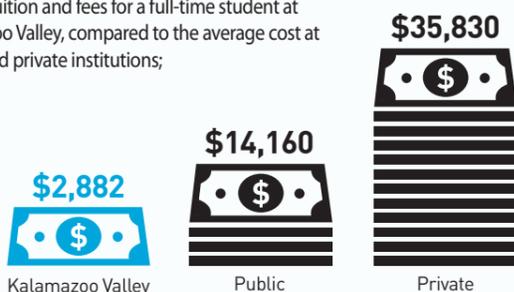
Computer-Aided Design, AAS  
Engineering Technology, AAS  
Machine Tool Automation, AAS  
Machine Tool Technology, AAS  
CAD-CAM, CERT  
CAD Specialist, CERT  
Machinist, CERT  
AutoCAD, COA  
CNC Operator, COA  
Inventor, COA  
Machine Tool Operator, COA  
ProEngineer, COA  
SolidWorks, COA

### WELDING TECHNOLOGIES

Welding Technologies, CERT  
Welding CC Processes, COA  
Welding CV Processes, COA

### COMPARE TUITION COST FOR FULL-TIME ENROLLMENT

Annual tuition and fees for a full-time student at Kalamazoo Valley, compared to the average cost at public and private institutions;



(Source: [www.collegecalc.org/college/michigan](http://www.collegecalc.org/college/michigan) and [www.trends.collegeboard.org](http://www.trends.collegeboard.org) based on full-time, in-district enrollment)

### DEGREE + CERTIFICATES

#### WHAT WILL IT TAKE?

#### ASSOCIATE DEGREE (AAS)

Approximately two years of full-time coursework, minimum of 62 credit hours.

#### CERTIFICATES (CERT)

Approximately one year of full-time coursework, minimum of 30 credit hours.

#### CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT (COA)

Requires fewer courses than a regular certificate program and provides training in a specific set of job or employment skills.

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY CENTER | TEXAS TOWNSHIP CAMPUS | 6767 WEST O AVENUE

# MAKE KALAMAZOO VALLEY A STOP ON ART HOP FRIDAYS

Kalamazoo Valley Community College is one of the sponsors of downtown Kalamazoo's ART HOP Fridays. The Center for New Media and Kalamazoo Valley Museum are popular destinations located on the college's Arcadia Commons Campus.

**FRIDAYS | 5:30-8 p.m.**  
**CENTER FOR NEW MEDIA ART HOP EXHIBITS**

**OCTOBER 4, 2019**

**FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: AUBREY RODGERS**

This year's spotlight is Center for New Media instructor Aubrey Rodgers and her animated short "Sweet Dreams." This short will explore the hauntings of a monster that creates bad dreams and a misunderstood creature that may vanquish if we let her. Created using traditional fine art skills and computer software with the support of the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo.

**NOVEMBER 1, 2019**

**THE PHOTOSYNTHESIS PROJECT:**

**LINDA RZOSKA**

An invitational endeavor for artists and writers who reside in SW Michigan, conceived by Linda Rzoska - owner of Kalamazoo's Ninth Wave Studio. The participants explored the subject of photosynthesis - which is so basic to our existence - and responded to it artistically.

**DECEMBER 6, 2019**

**NEW MEDIA SHOWCASE**

This juried exhibition of Kalamazoo Valley's Center for New Media students highlights their digital artistry in the categories of graphic design, illustration, web design, animation, game art and multi-media.

**JANUARY 3, 2020**

**NEW MEDIA SHOWCASE CARRY OVER**

**FEBRUARY 7, 2020**

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

In collaboration with the Black Arts & Cultural Center and the greater Kalamazoo community, Kalamazoo Valley's Center for New Media will host its 1st Annual Black Arts Exhibit in observance of Black History Month. This show will highlight the works of local black artists and provide a shared connection to the rich black cultural heritage in the Kalamazoo area. Live music also will be featured.

**MARCH 6, 2020**

**KALAMAZOO VALLEY FACULTY & STAFF ART SHOW**

An exhibition of visual art created by Kalamazoo Valley's faculty and staff.

**APRIL 3, 2020**

**2020 STUDENT ART SHOW**

This juried exhibition of Kalamazoo Valley student work displays a variety of traditional mediums that include painting, drawing, photography, sculpture and ceramics.

**MAY 1, 2020**

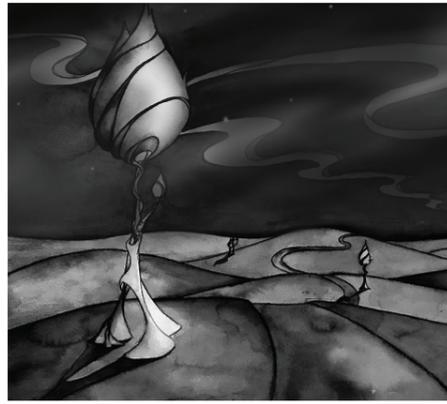
**ART AND NEW MEDIA GRADUATE SHOW**

Art & New Media graduates are highlighted in this exhibit featuring their best work in graphic design, illustration, web design, animation and video.

**JUNE 5, 2020**

**ALUMNI + ART SHOWCASE**

An annual juried exhibition of visual artwork created by Kalamazoo Valley alumni.



*Sweet Dreams by Aubrey Rodgers*

On select ART HOP Fridays the Kalamazoo Valley Museum is open late with a variety of live shows and events.

**NOVEMBER 1, 2019 | 5-8 p.m.**

**MURPHY DARDEN ORAL HISTORY AND EXHIBIT**

View the inaugural screening of an oral history conversation with Kalamazoo resident Murphy Darden. The interviews discuss his lifetime dedication to collecting and preserving objects representing the history of African Americans, while the exhibit focuses on his personal artworks. Show times at 6 and 7 p.m.

**DECEMBER 6, 2019 | 5:30-8 p.m.**

**GUITAR AND MANDOLIN ORCHESTRA**

The Kalamazoo Mandolin and Guitar Orchestra presents holiday music and traditional audience favorites.

**JANUARY 10, 2020 | 6-9 p.m.**

**FRETBOARD FESTIVAL PLAY-IN CONTEST**

Talented area musicians compete before judges and the public for a chance to perform in the 15th Annual Fretboard Festival.



*Murphy Darden collection*

**FEBRUARY 7, 2020 | 5-8 p.m.**

**STORYTELLING FESTIVAL**

The Annual Storytelling Festival will kick off with Growing Stories. Experience live performances by professional storytellers, which continue Saturday.

**MARCH 6, 2020 | 5-8:30 p.m.**

**KALAMAZOO FRETBOARD FESTIVAL**

Stringed instrument makers, music lovers and fans of all ages are invited to enjoy the 15th Annual Kalamazoo Fretboard Festival, which kicks off with live music Friday and continues on Saturday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

**APRIL 3, 2020 | 5-8 p.m.**

**FOODWAYS SYMPOSIUM**

The keynote speaker of the 4th Annual Foodways Symposium will share a unique perspective on this year's topic of plant-based food culture. The symposium continues Saturday at Kalamazoo Valley's Marilyn J. Schlack Culinary and Allied Health Building.

## REGISTRATION FOR WINTER SEMESTER OPENS ON OCT. 7



The Winter 2020 semester at Kalamazoo Valley begins on Monday, Jan. 6 and registration opens with a tiered system on Oct. 7. Students register for classes based on the number of credit hours they've accumulated. Registration opens to all students on Oct. 11.

New course offerings include a baking and pastry certificate program and a new culinary arts sustainable food systems certificate. Taught by Chef Cory Barrett, winner of Food Network's Spring Baking Championship, the new baking and pastry classes include CUL 211, Advanced Pastry Shop - a study of classical desserts, international pastries, hot and cold desserts, ice creams and ices and chocolate work and decorations; CUL 212, Breads and Rolls - a concentration on fundamentals of chemically and yeast raised breads and rolls; CUL 213, Cake Baking and Production - covering the principles and techniques of cake production; CUL 214 - Pies, Teacakes and Cookies - focusing on the preparation

of American and European-style pie and tart fillings and dough, cookies, teacakes, custards and batters; and CUL 215 - Quantity Baking Operations - covering advanced baking techniques to include volume production of a variety of breads and desserts. The new baking classes are offered beginning in the Winter 2020 semester and the certificate began in the fall semester.

A new associate degree in exercise science is also available now. The program allows students to get classroom experience and a hands-on approach to exercise science. Classes include lecture, discussion, laboratory and skill training. Upon graduating from the 62 credit hour program, students can pursue careers in wellness and fitness centers, corporate wellness, health and wellness promotion, personal training, strength and conditioning and coaching. Graduates may also choose to transfer into a bachelor's degree program at a four-year institution.

Two new liberal arts courses are also available: Introduction to Gender and Women's Studies and Media and the Sexes. Introduction to Gender and Women's Studies (SOC 280) is an interdisciplinary core course that provides analytical frameworks for the study of gender and gender-defining institutions, exploring the social conditions associated with gender in U.S. society in a global context. This course emphasizes approaches that study the diversity and similarity of gendered experiences across class, racial and ethnic groups. Media and the Sexes (SOC 281) investigates how films, television, music videos and advertising present images of women and men to different audiences.

Refer to [www.kvcc.edu/register](http://www.kvcc.edu/register) to see a complete registration schedule for the winter semester. For additional information or assistance, call 269.488.4100.

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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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**Kalamazoo VALLEY**<sup>™</sup>  
community college

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

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

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269.353.1253

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Kalamazoo, MI 49003-4070  
269.548.3200



# FOCUS

## SKILLED TRADES EXPO

THURSDAY | OCTOBER 3 | 4 - 7 P.M.

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

[www.kvcc.edu/register](http://www.kvcc.edu/register)

A Kalamazoo Valley Community College Publication  
September 2019

Kalamazoo**VALLEY**<sup>TM</sup>  
community college

## ANNUAL COLLEGE NIGHT SCHEDULED FOR OCT. 14

High school students who are exploring post-secondary options are invited to attend the 2019 Greater Kalamazoo Area College Night Oct. 14 at Kalamazoo Valley Community College's Texas Township Campus.

Representatives from nearly 80 different colleges, universities and training institutions will be available from 6-7:30 p.m. to speak with students and their parents about post-secondary educational opportunities, their programs and campuses.

Additionally, representatives from the U.S. Armed Forces will be on hand to discuss military opportunities and how military service can help pay for a college education.

Associate Director of Enrollment Management Megan Pauken said the event is an excellent opportunity and convenient way for college-bound students and their parents to explore their options.

"Where else can you access information about so many different colleges and universities under one roof?" she said. "It's a great way to learn about the different higher education opportunities available. From community colleges and large, four-year universities to small liberal arts

colleges, technical schools, go-to-work academies and military service, there's something for everyone. It's one-stop shopping."

Nearly 1,000 people attended the event last year.

A financial aid workshop, led by Kalamazoo Valley's Director of Financial Aid Alisha Cederberg, will be held at 7 p.m. in the Dale B. Lake Auditorium to assist those with questions and concerns about paying for college. The workshop will cover scholarships, student loans and the kinds of financial assistance available from the federal and state governments. It also will provide an in-depth look at the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), identifying the necessary documents needed and time frame for completion.

"I encourage anyone who has questions about financial aid to attend – there's a lot of money out there to help with the costs of attending college – and the process can be complicated," Cederberg said.

Co-sponsored by Kalamazoo Valley and Western Michigan University, the 2019 Greater Kalamazoo College Night is free and open to the public. For more information, visit [www.kvcc.edu/collegenight](http://www.kvcc.edu/collegenight) or call 269.488.4303.

6-7:30 p.m. | 7:00 p.m. Financial Aid Workshop  
Kalamazoo Valley Community College  
Texas Township Campus

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

Non-Profit Org.  
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## COLLEGE NIGHT

PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

- |                                        |                                   |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Kalamazoo Valley Community College     | Kuyper College                    |
| Western Michigan University            | Lake Michigan Community College   |
| Adrian College                         | Lake Superior State University    |
| Albion College                         | Lansing Community College         |
| Alma College                           | Lawrence Technological University |
| Andrews University                     | Lawrence University               |
| Aquinas College                        | Madonna University                |
| Baker College                          | Manchester University             |
| Ball State University                  | Michigan Army National Guard      |
| Calvin College                         | Michigan State University         |
| Central Michigan University            | Michigan Technological University |
| College for Creative Studies           | MI Student Aid                    |
| Concordia University                   | Northern Michigan University      |
| Compass College of Cinematic Arts      | Northwood University              |
| Cornerstone University                 | Oakland University                |
| Davenport University                   | Olivet College                    |
| Douglas J. Aveda Institute - Affiliate | Purdue University                 |
| Eastern Kentucky University            | Ripon College                     |
| Eastern Michigan University            | ROTC (WMU)                        |
| Elmhurst College                       | Saint Mary's College              |
| Empire Beauty School                   | Saginaw Valley State University   |
| Ferris State University                | Siena Heights University          |
| Franklin College                       | Southwestern Michigan College     |
| Glen Oaks Community College            | Spring Arbor University           |
| Grace Christian University             | Stillman College                  |
| Grand Valley State University          | Trine University                  |
| Holy Cross College                     | University of Michigan            |
| Hope College                           | University of Michigan-Dearborn   |
| Indiana University South Bend          | University of Michigan-Flint      |
| Indiana Wesleyan University            | University of Toledo              |
| Kalamazoo College                      | US Coast Guard Auxiliary          |
| Kalamazoo Community Foundation         | Valparaiso University             |
| Kalamazoo Promise                      | Villanova University              |
| Kellogg Community College              | Walsh College                     |
| Kendall College of Art & Design        | Wayne State University            |
| Kettering University                   | West Point Military Academy       |

Kalamazoo**VALLEY**<sup>TM</sup>  
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Kalamazoo Valley Community College<sup>®</sup>

# SKILLED TRADES EXPO

In Celebration of National Advanced Manufacturing Week

**AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY | ELECTRICAL TECHNOLOGY  
HVAC TECHNOLOGY | ENGINEERING/DESIGN/MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY  
WELDING TECHNOLOGY | CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY**

Learn more about the training available at Kalamazoo Valley Community College, training which will prepare you for a rewarding career in the professional and skilled trades.

- Tour Professional and Skilled Trades Labs
- Talk with Employers and Instructors
- Observe and Participate in Hands-on Skills Demonstrations
  - Meet with Industry Insiders
  - Observe Classes While in Session
- Learn About Financial Aid, Internships and Apprenticeships

**THURSDAY | OCTOBER 3 | 4 - 7 P.M.**  
**ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY CENTER**  
Texas Township Campus  
6767 West O Avenue

[www.kvcc.edu/skilledtradesexpo](http://www.kvcc.edu/skilledtradesexpo)

# 2019 FACULTY INSTRUCTIONAL AWARDS

Kalamazoo Valley's 2019 Faculty Instructional Award winners were announced on Aug. 28. The annual awards are part of an effort to recognize and honor individual excellence in teaching. The Faculty Instructional Awards are designed to reward those instructors at Kalamazoo Valley who actively encourage students' intellectual curiosity, engage them in the enterprise of learning, and have a lifelong impact. Current students, faculty and staff members may nominate for the recognition.

This year's recipients are nursing faculty Omer Hadzic; math instructor Lisa Nieuwenhuis; accounting instructor Alison Nord; chemistry instructor Charissa Oliphant; math instructor Michael Raines; and Laura Willbur, Spanish instructor. English instructor Ron Higginbotham announced winners and said, "It's important that we recognize our colleagues for the good things they do. This is what it's all about – the students."

"Omer (Hadzic) is an out-of-the-box instructor," said a student who nominated him. "He teaches with real life nursing scenarios and makes the information stick! He lays it all on the line, the good, the bad, and the ugly of the nursing field and that is exactly how a nurse should be taught. Textbooks are great, but an instructor like Omer comes along few and far in between. No way would I have succeeded in pharmacology without him and I am blessed to get another semester with him as my instructor next fall. As a nurse, I believe he truly cares for his patients and wants the best for them, and as an instructor I believe he is the same with his students. He wants each and every one of us to come out of his classes with a strong confidence but also with the knowledge and insight enough to know that we will be novices in the field and that it is okay to ask for help and admit when we don't know what to do. Omer is one of a kind and an incredible asset to the Kalamazoo Valley nursing program."

Lisa Nieuwenhuis also received accolades. "She made me understand math better than I ever have in my past educational

experiences," one of her students said. "I highly like her method of teaching and she was always so understanding and helpful whenever someone needed her. She's quick to answer any emails you send her and she always gets your work graded in a super timely fashion, which you don't see very often with certain professors. She's a lovely person and amazing teacher and definitely deserves an award for her hard work!"

Another student echoed those sentiments, saying, "I nominated Lisa (Nieuwenhuis) because she is extremely caring, thoughtful and very professional. Her methods of teaching are clear and if there is a subject more challenging to students, she takes the extra effort to make sure we understand the content! I personally appreciate the real life examples she gives, it's very helpful having a teacher who can teach the material and also apply it to our reality. I hope Lisa gets this award because she most certainly deserves recognition for all of her hard work!"

One of Alison Nord's nominators said, "Mrs. Nord is great with making her class feel like a family. She personally made my transition into college very easy. She pushes you to do your best, but makes sure that there isn't a student left behind. Mrs. Nord will go above and beyond to make sure each and every student is learning the current course that needs to be covered, but also prepares her students for the courses to come." Another said, "She's a fantastic teacher who makes accounting fun and easy to learn. I started her 101 class as a business administration major and I'm now in her 102 class with plans to switch my major to accounting. She's also given me more confidence as a student. She's a great teacher and deserves recognition for that."

A student said this about Charissa Oliphant: "Mrs. O. has been a phenomenal instructor. I was not excited about having to take chemistry and she has made the class so accessible and as easy to understand as possible. She actively works to make sure her students are informed about all of the opportunities available to them for both learning and professional development. She is extremely patient with questions



Alison Nord, Charissa Oliphant, Laura Willbur, Lisa Nieuwenhuis, Michael Raines and Omer Hadzic

and is always willing to spare the extra time to help a student having trouble with a problem or concept." Another nominator said, "Mrs. Oliphant helped create my love for chemistry. She is a great instructor and really cares about her students. She is very organized and puts her students in a position to succeed. Chemistry isn't the easiest class but she was always willing to help and ensure her students were prepared. I would recommend her to anyone taking chemistry. She is a great instructor who explains everything clearly and is so helpful."

Michael Raines was also praised for the way he helps students understand difficult course content. "Dr. Raines is the very best professor I've had at Kalamazoo Valley," a nominator said. "He has a talent for teaching in a way that everyone can understand, and takes no shortcuts. He explains everything completely and thoroughly, to the extent where I have no questions throughout his lectures. There are no surprises on the exams he provides, and makes sure you can get as much practice as you need before. His style of writing notes on the board fits perfectly on my page, and is always easy to look back and understand. He also knows how to break the monotony of calculus with his hilarious stories. I consider it an honor to learn from Dr. Raines, as he is the most talented educator I know."

Laura Willbur's nominators were equally enthusiastic. "Laura is one of the most caring instructors I've ever had. She really listens to her students. She gets to know them and shows genuine interest in them. She is fair and encouraging. She really knows how to connect with each and everyone in her class. She is also very cheerful and funny. Being in her class

put me in a good mood every time. She is extremely knowledgeable in her field (Spanish) and she is conscientious about teaching the skills that are needed. Her expectations are always very clear and her classroom management is professional. She is experienced and yet keeps her teaching fresh and current. She goes above and beyond what one would expect from an instructor and is available to help outside of class. She deserves to be recognized, but would be the last person to desire or seek it." And another said, "Profesora (Willbur) was so knowledgeable and professional. You could tell she really loves what she does. She made Spanish a fun and exciting class where all students were included and challenged. I cannot wait to take Spanish Conversation with her!"

## STUDENT-RUN CAFE AND RESTAURANT RE-OPEN FOR FALL SEMESTER

At the Havirmill Cafe, located in the Marilyn J. Schlack Culinary and Allied Health Building, 418 W. Walnut Street, students are creating dishes from different regional American cuisines and also some international fare this semester. Each week features a different cuisine theme. "Students are learning how to hone their culinary fundamentals in a high-volume production setting," said culinary instructor chef Stephanie Hughes. Lunch is open to the public Monday through Friday, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

The student-run 418 restaurant, also located in the Culinary and Allied Health building, is serving dinner to the public again this semester. The restaurant is open Tuesdays and Thursdays. Reservations for dinner are scheduled between 6 and 7 p.m. For 418 Restaurant reservations call 269.548.3200 or go to KVculinarydining on Facebook.

The 418 Restaurant will also be hosting \$5 craft beer and food pairings from 5-6 p.m. on evenings when the restaurant is open for dinner. Reservations are not required for happy hour and other drink specials will also be available.



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT NOAH BOSMA



Noah Bosma

Hamilton High School graduate Noah Bosma wasn't certain that he wanted to attend college. He was accepted at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, but decided to start at Kalamazoo Valley. "Due to the location and price, I decided to start at Kalamazoo Valley. I liked it enough that I decided to stay," he said. He never transferred to Northern and has no regrets. The Holland resident is now a mechanic for Hope College.

Bosma graduated from Kalamazoo Valley in 2008 with a general automotive service technician associate degree and nine certifications including engine repair, brakes, manual drive transmission, engine performance and more. "I wasn't one for high school so I wasn't sure college was my thing," he said. "But I really liked all of the classes at Kalamazoo Valley. All of the teachers had their specialty and did it well. There's real value in their knowledge and experience."

Thanks to his training, Bosma's career has steadily progressed. He went to work for a car dealer after he graduated from college and then went to work maintaining equipment for a landscaping company. He's been employed at Hope College for two years. "I maintain all kinds of grounds maintenance equipment – everything without a license plate," he said. "Every day I really do use the training I received at Kalamazoo Valley."

Bosma believes in the value of education. "I was told once that the best investment in life is an investment in yourself," he said. "There's no reason not to try to learn something new." He also thinks it's important to do your best. "Engage yourself as much as possible," is his advice to others. While at Kalamazoo Valley, he joined the Auto Tech Club. "It helps to plug into something besides class," he said. "Kalamazoo Valley was right up my alley. The classes were good and the labs were even better."

# VISITING WRITERS SERIES BEGINS ON SEPT. 26 WITH AUTHOR SHONDA BUCHANAN



Shonda Buchanan

Kalamazoo Valley's "About Writing" Visiting Writers series is coordinated by English instructor Dr. Julie Stotz-Ghosh and offers students the opportunity to talk with professional writers and listen to their work. Retired English instructor Rob Haight established the series and began bringing noteworthy authors to the college in 2001. The visits are free and open to the public and always include a craft talk and a reading.

#### UPCOMING VISITS:

Thursday, Sept. 26, Shonda Buchanan: memoir. Craft talk at 10 a.m. and reading at 2:15 p.m. in the Student Commons Theater, Room 4240, Texas Township Campus.

Award-winning poet and educator Buchanan was born in Kalamazoo, a daughter of mixed bloods, tri-racial and tri-

ethnic African American, American Indian and European-descendant families who migrated from North Carolina and Virginia in the mid-1700 to 1800s to Southwestern Michigan. *Black Indian* is her memoir of migration stories of free people of color communities exploring identity, ethnicity, landscape and loss.

For the last 18 years, she has taught creative writing, composition and critical theory at Loyola Marymount University, Hampton University and William & Mary College. An Eloise Klein-Healy Scholarship recipient, a Sundance Institute Writing Arts fellow, a Jentel Artist Residency fellow and a PEN Center Emerging Voice fellow, Buchanan has received grants from the California Community Foundation, Arts Midwest/National Endowment for the Arts Big Read Program and several grants from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities.

Her first book of poetry, *Who's Afraid of Black Indians?* was nominated for the Black Caucus of the American Library Association and the Library of Virginia Book Awards. Her second collection of poetry, *Equipose: Poems from Goddess Country* was published by San Francisco Bay Press. Her poetry and essays have been featured in numerous anthologies. Freelance writer for the *LA Weekly* since 1991, and *Indian Country Today*, the *Los Angeles Times* and the *Writer's Chronicle*, she is completing a novel and a collection of poetry about the iconic singer, concert pianist and Civil Rights activist, Nina Simone.

Thursday, October 17, Marion Boyer: poetry. Craft talk at 10 a.m. and reading at 2:15 p.m. in the Student Commons Theater, Room 4240, Texas Township Campus.

Marion Starling Boyer, professor emeritus for Kalamazoo Valley Community College, has published three poetry books: *The Clock of the Long Now* (Mayapple Press, 2009), nominated for a Pushcart and Lenore Marshall Award, and two chapbooks, *Green* (Finishing Line Press, 2003) and *Composing the Rain* (Grayson Books, 2014). Her poems and essays have appeared in numerous journals and anthologies. Born in Ontario, Canada, Boyer calls the Great Lakes region home. While she has lived most of her life in Michigan, she now resides in a small town near Cleveland.

Tuesday, March 17, 2020, José Olivarez: poetry. Craft talk at 10 a.m. and reading at 2:15 p.m. in the Student Commons Theater, Room 4240, Texas Township Campus.

José Olivarez is the son of Mexican immigrants. His debut book of poems, *Citizen Illegal*, was a finalist for the PEN/Jean Stein Award and a winner of the 2018 Chicago Review of Books Poetry Prize. It was named a top book of 2018 by NPR and the New York Public Library. Along with Felicia Chavez and Willie Perdomo, he is co-editing the forthcoming anthology, *The BreakBeat Poets Vol. 4: LatiNEXT*. He is the co-host of the poetry podcast, *The Poetry Gods* and a recipient of fellowships from CantoMundo, Poets House, the Bronx Council on the Arts, the Poetry Foundation, & the Conversation Literary Festival.

In 2019, he was awarded a Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Fellowship from the Poetry Foundation. His work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Paris Review*, and elsewhere. In 2018, he was awarded the first Author and

Artist in Justice Award from the Phillips Brooks House Association and named a Debut Poet of 2018 by Poets & Writers. Olivarez is a master teaching artist. As part of his #GenteficationWorldTour, he visited 20 different states in the fall of 2018 in support of his debut book, *Citizen Illegal*. He has taught poetry workshops and performed at community organizations, high schools, book fairs, and universities all over the country.

Thursday, March 26, 2020, Tommy Orange: fiction. Craft talk at 10 a.m. and reading at 2:15 p.m. in the Student Commons Theater, Room 4240, Texas Township Campus.

Tommy Orange is the author of the New York Times bestselling novel *There There*, a multigenerational, relentlessly paced story about a side of America few of us have ever seen: the lives of urban Native Americans. *There There* was one of The New York Times Book Review's 10 Best Books of the Year, and won the Center for Fiction's First Novel Prize and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. Orange is a recent graduate from the MFA program at the Institute of American Indian Arts. He is a 2014 MacDowell Fellow, and a 2016 Writing by Writers Fellow. He is an enrolled member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma. He was born and raised in Oakland, California, and currently lives in Angels Camp, California.

*There There* will be read by many classes across the college for the 2019/20 academic year at Kalamazoo Valley.

For more details about the Visiting Writers series, go to <https://www.kvcc.edu/campuslife/visitingwriters/>.

## ACADEMY RECEIVES DONATION OF WIND TURBINE NACELLES TO ENHANCE STUDENT LEARNING

Students enrolled in Kalamazoo Valley Community College's Wind Turbine Technician Academy now have two new wind turbine nacelles to use for hands-on training, thanks to a donation from NextEra Energy Resources, LLC.

Weighing approximately 180,000 pounds, the nacelle houses all of the generating components of a wind turbine. They were delivered to campus last month from the Lake Benton II Wind Farm in Pipestone County, MN.

"We are extremely grateful for this generous donation and look forward to helping supply the industry with qualified and safety-focused technicians for years to come," said Tom Sutton, director of wind energy and technical services for the Wind Turbine Technician Academy.

NextEra Energy Resources, LLC, is a clean energy leader and is one of the largest wholesale generators of electric power in the U.S., with approximately 21,000 megawatts of net generating capacity,

primarily in 36 states and Canada as of year-end 2018.

"We are thrilled to partner with Kalamazoo Valley Community College's Wind Turbine Technician Academy and contribute to the nation's leading training program for wind turbine technicians," said Erico Lopez, NextEra Energy Resources project manager. "Wind technician is one of the fastest growing jobs in the United States, so the direct experience these students can receive from working with the equipment will help them as they progress in their journeys to becoming wind technicians."

The competency-based academy provides a fast track to jobs that are in demand and pay high wages. Kalamazoo Valley offers the course as a non-credit, full-time program allowing students the chance to be job-ready in less than six months. Focused on specific, hands-on competencies, the unique training model followed at the academy moves students from the classroom to the learning labs and into the field quickly.



Delivery of the wind turbine nacelles

"It is critical in experiential learning that the trainee can make the connection between the classroom, learning lab and field as efficiently as possible," Sutton said. "These nacelles give us the ability to more closely replicate the field experiences they are being prepared for and teach the safe use of tools, processes and basic movements through a nacelle while in a safe and controlled environment."

More than 96 percent of Wind Turbine Technician Academy alumni work in the wind industry, with the majority accepting offers for employment prior to graduation. The academy is offered twice a year, in January and July. The next academy begins on January 3, 2020. For more information call 269-353-1253, email [careeracademies@kvcc.edu](mailto:careeracademies@kvcc.edu) or visit [www.kvcc.edu/wind](http://www.kvcc.edu/wind).

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## EARN AUTO TECH CREDENTIALS IN AS LITTLE AS ONE YEAR



Jessica Tiffany, automotive student

Kalamazoo Valley is offering a one-year certificate program in General Automotive Service (GAS).

"This was driven by our local employers and advisory

committee who are desperate for technicians at any skill level," said Kalamazoo Valley's Automotive Department Chair Doug Martin. "It has led to a few agreements of understanding with employers who want to see their technicians progress and become more skilled. Employers are looking at sending new hires or perspective employees through the one-year certificate program so they do not have to do the training in-house. This will benefit the program, the student and the industry."

Martin explained that the certificate program is designed to provide a rapid path to entry level technician skills. Students may enroll in the program independently or employers may choose to send their technicians for training.

The program teaches some of the foundational skills that area employers require of their technicians who are starting in the repair industry. If students are successful, they can earn State certifications in Brakes, Steering and Suspension, Electrical and Air Conditioning. It also

provides the student with the ability to test for MACS (Mobile Air Conditioning Society), Refrigerant Handling Certification (EPA 609).

The GAS certificate is designed to serve as the first two semesters of Kalamazoo Valley's AAS degree in Undercar Systems so it can be easily rolled into an associate degree path, if the student wants to further their education.

It can also be used as the first year of a 3+1 degree program established between the Auto department and Siena Heights that allows students to continue on to a B.S. in Automotive with an emphasis on management skills.

"We have employers considering using this option for training service writers, clerical, management and other positions," Martin said. "This industry is just changing so fast. We strive to use the resources we have to do everything we can to keep up with employer demand."

## LABS PREPARE STUDENTS FOR CUTTING EDGE TECH JOBS

A cutting edge, hand-held X-ray unit is being used by Kalamazoo Valley's Engineering, Design, Manufacturing, Technology (EDMT), chemistry and geology classes. "It's a big step forward," said EDMT faculty member Dave Brock. "Currently in our area, only a few colleges have this technology. Local industries are using this sophisticated equipment."

The XRF Analyzer is used to tell the difference between varying components in a mixture or to quantify components in a material. "It's a super cool tool that we use to analyze metals," Brock said. "It has the capacity to give us real insight. It can even be used to analyze paint to see if it contains lead. I'm excited to get it out here." Brock explained that the purchase was a collaboration between three college departments. "We all have access to incorporate it into our labs," he said.

Veronica McCann, who teaches physical geology, said the scanner is useful to illustrate several scientific concepts. "I use it to show students how the same metallic elements are contained in different rocks," she said. "From a geo-chemistry standpoint, I'll be able to show students

rocks in a different way. It's a new tool to help students understand how minerals differ and show them on a molecular level what we can't otherwise see. Elements are kind of a foreign concept. I'm hoping this instrument will bring something they can visualize and see."

In addition to the new portable scanner, students have access to a new machine tool lab. EDMT faculty member Bill Kring said the new space, adjacent to the existing machine lab, added space and technology. "This allowed us to stretch out a little and add technology and capacity," Kring said. "It puts us better in line with local manufacturers and allows us to be more flexible to serve our current and future student needs."

Kring said he takes phone calls almost daily from area employers who want to hire skilled trades workers. "Our renovations go right along with where the economy's at," Kring said. "The strongest need is in CNC and electro-mechanical maintenance-type positions."

The new lab is equipped with three, four and five-axis VF1 machines, a Makino wire EDM machine, Sinkner EDM



The XRF Analyzer

machine, ST-20 Y lathes, Zeiss inspection equipment, and a host of manual tools including mills, lathes and grinders.

"From beginning, to intro, to advanced, we can serve our students quite well," Kring said. "When our students leave us, they're ready. I'm quite confident that they're going to become some of the most valuable employees in any company. They can go to work in a host of capacities and they're going to be some of the best."

The new lab was completed last winter. "There's a lot of opportunity in this area and we're well connected in the industry," Kring said. "We're excited about being able to streamline training and fill attrition rates."

## EARN AS YOU LEARN - BE AN APPRENTICE

As director of apprenticeships at Kalamazoo Valley, LaJoyce Brooks is working hard to address the state's shortage of skilled tradespeople. "There is a real demand for people in the skilled trades," Brooks said. "Companies are constantly looking for talented people. The pool is low and the demand is high."

An apprenticeship, Brooks explained, is a method of preparation for careers which includes more than just classroom instruction. There are two components that prepare an apprentice for success: on-the-job training and technical-related instruction of theory and practice. Required classroom instruction is typically provided by technical schools and community colleges. The program allows for advancement and progressive wages, and is driven and funded by sponsoring employers. Apprenticeships vary in length – ranging from one to six years, with the majority requiring a completion of 2,000 work hours. Throughout that time, apprentices work, learn and earn as employees. Programs are endorsed by and registered with the U.S. Department of Labor.

Upon completion, apprentices receive a nationally recognized certificate from the U.S. Department of Labor, as proof of their qualifications. Additionally, Brooks said, the classroom instruction received during the apprenticeship often counts toward other licenses, certifications and college degrees – making the employee even more marketable.

The most popular apprenticeships at Kalamazoo Valley include electrical, HVAC, engineering/manufacturing and industrial technology. Since 1979, Kalamazoo Valley has offered apprenticeship training programs to area employers. Brooks works with more than 70 companies including Perrigo Company, American Axle, Stryker Instruments, Mol-Son, Landscape Forms, Parker Hannifin, Metal Technologies and Esper Electric.

As program sponsors, they choose the apprentices, develop the training standards, pay wages and tuition. Brooks works with Kalamazoo Valley faculty and each company's onsite apprenticeship coordinator to design programs to match the necessary technical and academic skills for a specific job. The goal, she said, is to provide workers with advanced skillsets that meet the specific needs of the employer. The benefits to the employer, she added, include reduced training costs, long-term employee commitment and a workforce that keeps the company competitive, flexible and adaptive. "It's a great partnership that is a win-win for everyone involved," she said. "Every person is passionate about the success and development of the employees."

Over the next decade, nearly 3.5 million manufacturing jobs will likely need to be filled and the skills gap is expected to result in two million of those jobs going unfilled, according to a recent survey by The Manufacturing Institute and Deloitte.

The two major factors contributing to the widening gap are the impending retirement of nearly 76.4 million baby boomers and economic expansion. Baby boomers occupy the majority of all skilled-trade positions. For example, 72 percent of electrical workers are 45 years old and older, with 38 percent of electrical jobs being held by workers over the age of 55.

In addition to retirements and economic expansion, the survey also found that other factors influencing the widening gap include the loss of embedded knowledge due to movement of experienced workers, a negative image of the manufacturing industry among younger generations, lack of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) skills among workers, and a gradual decline of technical education programs in public high schools.

To address these needs, Kalamazoo Valley offers numerous classes, certificates and degrees in the skill trades. Together with faculty and staff at Kalamazoo Valley, Brooks hopes to change the perception of the professions in the skilled trades. "These aren't just jobs, these are careers," Brooks said. "These are fields that promise job security, excellent earning and advancement potential."

Learn more about the Kalamazoo Valley apprenticeship program during the Oct. 3 expo or contact Brooks at [lb Brooks@kvcc.edu](mailto:lb Brooks@kvcc.edu).

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[www.kvcc.edu/skilledtradesexpo](http://www.kvcc.edu/skilledtradesexpo)