

COLLEGE ANNOUNCES DEBT FORGIVENESS PROGRAM

Kalamazoo Valley Community College recently launched the Kalamazoo Valley Debt Forgiveness Program, an initiative designed specifically for students who left the college with debt and without a degree.

Through the program, the college will forgive up to \$1,000 of a student's past due balance upon successful completion of a degree or certificate – 50% of the debt upon successful completion of 12 credits or program completion (whichever occurs first) and the remaining 50% upon successful attainment of a certificate or degree.

"If existing institutional debt has held you back from achieving your academic goals, we want to work with you," said Director of Retention and Completion Evan Pauken. "Debt shouldn't stop

anyone from earning a degree or certificate."

To be eligible, students must have:

- Left Kalamazoo Valley with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher
- Not attended Kalamazoo Valley for six semesters
- An outstanding balance of \$1,000 or less
- The ability to pay in full, sign up for a payment plan or have financial aid to cover the balance for the semester they will be re-enrolling at the time of registration (i.e. Student can cover charges for upcoming tuition and fees)
- Not already been awarded a degree or certificate from Kalamazoo Valley

Students who qualify will need to establish, modify or confirm an academic plan alongside an advisor or counselor, complete a Free Application for

Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and participate in regular coaching/tutoring/mentoring as outlined by the program director. Additionally, students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or greater and attain a certificate or degree within three academic years of re-enrollment.

The college has identified and contacted nearly 700 students who are eligible for the program. However, students who think they could qualify should visit www.kvcc.edu/debtforgiveness and complete the program application.

"I encourage anyone who thinks they could benefit from the program to apply," Pauken said. "Winter semester starts Jan. 11 and it's the perfect time to complete a degree or certificate."

DR. PAIGE EAGAN NAMED NEW PROVOST



Dr. Paige Eagan

Kalamazoo Valley's new Provost and Vice President for Instruction and Student Services, Dr. Paige Eagan, is a lifelong learner who finds new knowledge energizing. "I enjoy it," she said. "It reminds me of how students feel. It does center you to remember how students feel – the nerves and the process of learning. I intentionally put myself in that position."

The Tennessee native was named to her current role in September 2020. In addition to challenging herself to continually learn, Eagan places top priority on service to others. "I've always seen leadership as service," she said, explaining that she grew up learning principles of leadership through her father, Col. (Ret.) Pat Eagan. "My dad showed me leadership,"

she said. "I would go out with him to visit the troops and serve meals in a variety of settings. "When he was still on active duty with the U.S. Air Force, his daily habit was to rise early and announce while leaving the house, "I'm off to defend the nation."

Eagan, who became Kalamazoo Valley's Dean of Instruction for Mathematics and Sciences in June 2015 and was most recently Interim Vice President for Instruction and Student Success Services, still shares her father's love of early mornings and service. Much like her father, her daily motto is, "I'm off to enrich the lives of students and the community."

Prior to joining the college, Eagan served as Natural Sciences Department Chair and Title III Strengthening Institution Program Grant Coordinator/Physical Sciences Activity Director at Lake Michigan College. She has more than 16 years of teaching experience at the University of Florida (instructor), Kalamazoo College (sabbatical replacement) and Lake Michigan College (full-time and adjunct), where she taught topics including gender and women's studies, chemistry, conceptual physics and math. "As I move into the role of provost and vice president, I'll continue to advocate for students and faculty as well as other important service areas of the college," she said. "I hope to help all of the different pieces come together to work in unity to serve our students and our community."

Eagan's willingness to serve on a variety of committees as a faculty member gave her an unique awareness. "It helped me see how the pieces fit together and gave me an opportunity to lead collaboratively," she said. Eagan firmly believes that collaboration is vital to the health of the college

and is a key element in preparing today for future students. "It's tough work, but it's so important," she said.

Eagan earned a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in chemistry and a minor in anthropology from the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. She received a Ph.D. with a concentration in analytical chemistry from the University of Florida. And while she is serious about learning, she also has a playful side. "There is a part of me that loves to have fun, laugh and find the humor in things," she said. "I can be very serious and contemplative, but I really enjoy having fun." She enjoys spending time with family and friends, especially in nature.

Eagan's close-knit family moved to several different Air Force bases and the Pentagon when she was young. She now lives in St. Joseph with her husband and son. Her husband is a Lake Michigan College instructor and her son is beginning high school. "My husband grew up in the Parchment area and it's been nice to serve in his community," Eagan said. "I love Kalamazoo's mix of science and technology and the arts. You don't often get that mix. It's really unique."

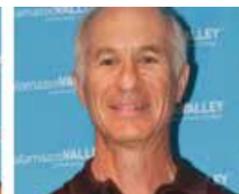
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2020 FACULTY AWARD WINNERS



Anna Fontaine



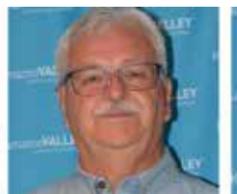
James Kordupel



Amy Longcore



Patrick Malsom



Erick Martin



Queen Roach

Faculty Instructional Award winners for 2020 have been announced. The Instructional Awards are part of an effort to recognize and honor individual excellence in teaching. The 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. Award nominations are made by any current student, faculty or staff member. More than 400 entries were submitted for consideration this year.

This year's winners are math instructors James Kordupel and Amy Longcore; geography instructor Queen Roach; Anna Fontaine, English, philosophy and First Year Experience instructor; welding instructor Erick Martin; and physics instructor Patrick Malsom. English instructor Ron Higginbotham introduced the winners and noted that everyone rose to the challenge of teaching remotely when the pandemic began in March. This year, we are "celebrating the atmosphere of excellence that we all help maintain," he said. Watch a video of the instructors accepting their awards at www.kvcc.edu/Full_Story/2009020931dkem-news.

Anna Fontaine

One of Fontaine's nominators said, "This is a class I didn't want to take but after taking the (First Year Experience) course. I can't recommend it enough. This class was extremely helpful and motivating. It taught me things I thought I didn't need to know while also teaching me why I should know them. It was eye opening and fun. Not only was

it applicable to my college career, it taught me things I will continue to use in everyday life. Anna Fontaine was helpful, fun and very nice. If I see her to this day (I took the class five semesters ago) I go out of my way to stop and chat with her."

James Kordupel

Kordupel's nominators had high praise for him. A sampling of their comments follow: "Superior instructor, knowledgeable, presents material multiple ways for students to understand. Personable, encouraging, nonjudgmental, just a fabulous person who helps students to do their best."

"He makes math super easy to understand, and makes class fun and entertaining. He only wants success for his students and is available for extra help if you need it."

Amy Longcore

Longcore's nominators were grateful for her attentiveness and said, "She was a great teacher to me. I came into this class expecting to struggle and came out of this class able to teach people such as my roommates what I was learning. Overall, Amy was a great teacher and one of the best I've had in some years."

Patrick Malsom

One of Malsom's students said, "Patrick is the most friendly and helpful professor I've ever had here at Kalamazoo Valley. He will always strive to make the material as easy to digest as possible and any questions that arise are always met with positivity

and enthusiasm. I would challenge someone to find an individual who doesn't enjoy Patrick's classes."

Erick Martin

Erick Martin's nominators praised his exceptional skills as a welder and instructor, saying, "I nominate Erick Martin for being competent, organized and energetic as an instructor as well as extremely knowledgeable in his trade. I feel that Erick Martin had the most organized system of hand outs, vocabulary, presentation lectures, and lab based demos, above and beyond that of any other teacher I've encountered in any class here, regardless of department. His welding lab is also better than South Western Michigan because it has a larger variety of equipment that better reflects the industrial work environment. I have actually been down there and can confirm he wasn't making all that up."

Queen Roach

Queen Roach's students also stressed that she is caring and engaging, saying, "It has been an absolute delight to attend Queen Roach's class. She is the most caring, understanding, and genuine teacher I have ever had. When she is teaching, she constantly has a smile on her face and you can tell that she is truly passionate about what she does. She always takes the time to answer all questions and has even stayed after class with me to explain something I was confused about. Her tests reflect the material, she is fair, and she makes the class interesting."

KALAMAZOO AREA COLLEGE NIGHTS



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Kalamazoo-area high school students and their families are invited to attend one of two upcoming Virtual Kalamazoo Area College Nights. Representatives from Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo College will present live Q&A sessions that provide a high-level overview about the three institutions. Participants will learn what makes each of the institutions unique and why thousands of students choose the

Kalamazoo area to pursue their higher education.

Monday, Nov. 23 | 6-7:45 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 8 | 6-7:45 p.m.

RSVP at www.kvcc.edu/collegenight. When you register, you will select the virtual presentations you would like to attend and the Zoom link for viewing.

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LEARNING, DESIGNED WITH YOU & YOUR SAFETY IN MIND



Register now at www.kvcc.edu/register.
Winter semester begins Jan. 11

WHEN YOU MAKE THE COMMITMENT TO LEARN AND GROW, WE MAKE THE PROMISE TO BE THERE FOR YOU. IN-PERSON, ONLINE AND FOR YOUR FUTURE.

DEC. 20 DRIVE-THRU COMMENCEMENT

To honor its Fall 2020 graduates as well as those students who attained their degrees last spring, Kalamazoo Valley is hosting a Dec. 20, 2 p.m. Drive-Thru Commencement Celebration in the Texas Township Campus parking lot. The event is being held as an alternative to the traditional gathering at Western Michigan University's Miller Auditorium. Due to safety precautions put in place to guard against the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus), the college is not hosting large, indoor events. Commencement details will be posted as they are confirmed at www.kvcc.edu/commencement.

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A GIFT THAT CAN CHANGE A LIFE



Justin Trantham, scholarship recipient

Helping students achieve their educational goals is one of the best ways to have an impact on the future.

For more than 50 years, Kalamazoo Valley Community College has been providing life-changing experiences for students and their families. Although the college offers one of the lowest tuition rates in the state, many of our students can't afford to attend college without assistance.

Scholarship recipients are forever grateful for these life-changing gifts.

"After high school I had received no scholarships and was hurt by that. I became very motivated and changed many parts of my life. When I heard that I had received the John LaSotta Memorial Scholarship, I became quite

emotional," said Justin Trantham, scholarship recipient. "Emotions of joy, achievement, and happiness poured out as I thought about all the work and change it took to get to this moment. You as the donor of this scholarship have given me motivation to not only achieve my dreams but to push that much harder while knowing that someone is finally believing in me."

Now is your opportunity to make a difference. Please make a gift to the KVCC Foundation for student scholarships. Send your tax deductible donation to KVCC Foundation, P. O. Box 4070, Kalamazoo, MI 49003 or visit www.kvcc.edu/foundation to donate online or call 269.488.4821.

MULTIPLE WAYS TO GIVE

1. Give a cash gift. Your gift will be put to immediate use for college scholarships.

2. Amazon Smile: If you're shopping from home this season, please consider adding Kalamazoo Valley as an Amazon Smile partner. It costs nothing to you and is an ongoing help to the college.

3. Include the college in your legal will. It's an easy way to protect the people and causes you care about the most, and help the college take care of the students and communities we serve.



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November 2020

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KALAMAZOO VALLEY WELCOMES ESSENTIAL WORKERS THROUGH FUTURES FOR FRONTLINERS PROGRAM



Kalamazoo Valley Community College is excited to welcome frontline workers, through the Futures for Frontliners program, to campus beginning in January of 2021.

Through the Futures for Frontliners scholarship program, Michiganders who served as an essential worker during the COVID-19 pandemic have the

opportunity to attend community college tuition-free – even if they don't have a high school diploma or equivalency. Those without a high school diploma or equivalency are eligible for services to help them prepare for and complete this credential and go on to a community college or job training program.

Essential workers include those who staffed hospitals, nursing homes, and grocery stores, those who cared for children, provided critical police and fire services, delivered food, picked up trash, manufactured PPE, and other key jobs during the April-June period that kept the state running.

To be eligible for the Futures for Frontliners scholarship, one must:

- Be a Michigan resident
- Have worked in an essential industry at least part time for 11 of the 13 weeks between April 1 – June 30, 2020
- Have been required by their job to work outside the home at least some of the time between April 1 – June 30, 2020

- Not have previously earned an associate or bachelor's degree
- Not be in default on a Federal student loan
- Complete a Futures for Frontliners scholarship application by 11:59 p.m., Dec. 31, 2020 at www.Michigan.gov/frontliners.

The college is hosting several Futures for Frontliners: Get it Done events to help essential workers complete the steps necessary to become enrolled. At these special events, frontline workers will have the opportunity to apply to the college, complete the FAFSA, register for classes and more.

Events are being held:

- Nov. 4 | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. | Texas Township Campus
- Nov. 17 | 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. | Texas Township Campus
- Dec. 1 | 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. | Anna Whitten Hall
- Dec. 8 | 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. | Texas Township Campus

In order to adhere to state regulations, an RSVP is required. For more information and to confirm your attendance visit kvcc.edu/frontliners.

WINTER SEMESTER BEGINS JAN. 11, 2021

Students who are rethinking their college plans in order to stay closer to home due to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic are encouraged to register now to take classes at Kalamazoo Valley. The winter semester begins on Jan. 11 and registration is open to everyone.

"With all of the uncertainty in the world right now, being close to home, near family and friends is important," said Megan Pauken, director of enrollment management. "The college welcomes anyone thinking about taking classes to apply to Kalamazoo Valley. We offer one of the lowest tuition rates in the state and have more than 900 classes available for winter semester."

To meet student health and safety needs, course offerings continue to be revised and additional online classes have been added. The majority of classes are being held online, but some courses require labs, including those in the industrial trades, health careers and wellness and physical education, which are being held on campus, in person. Additionally, some liberal arts courses have face-to-face instruction.

Anyone interested in attending Kalamazoo Valley Community College this winter is invited to Get it Done, a special opportunity to complete the steps necessary to get enrolled in a safe and controlled environment.

There will be two Get it Done events:
Nov. 17 | 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. | Texas Township Campus
Dec. 1 | 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. | Anna Whitten Hall

During Get it Done, students can:

- Receive financial aid application assistance
- Complete placement testing
- Meet with an advisor or counselor
- Enroll in classes

In order to adhere to state regulations, an RSVP is required. Go to www.kvcc.edu/getitdone to secure your spot.

Kalamazoo Valley values the health and safety of our students and staff. These events are structured to meet social distancing guidelines put in place by the state of Michigan. If you plan to attend, masks

must be worn throughout the duration of your time on campus.

If you are unable to attend, don't worry! All of our services are available Monday - Friday during the fall semester. Call 269.488.4040 to set up an appointment with an advisor or counselor. If you have financial aid questions, call 269.488.4340.



Dental Hygienist class

