Congratulations
Wayne County Community College District
2007 Fall Semester Phi Theta Kappa Inductees

DOWNRIVER CAMPUS
Brannon Baskin
Larry Bays
Karen Boshell
Muriel Cadei
Abdelrahman Chakir
Jimmy Day
Rosamaria Dicknans
Audrey Dooley
Kristopher Eastbrook
Olga Gonzales
Anitra Goosby
Corey Grimms
David Israel
Farah Jarjour
Amber Kinney
Desire Lewis
Tamatha Linsky
Neil Page
Lori Parks
Evelyn Pasmore
Jennifer Paxton
Tricia Polce
April Richards
Nahia Rimali
Ronald Sharp
Laura Stephenson
Mercedita Villareal
Karen Warren
Julie Webb
Debra Wisniewski
Rhonda Woods
Kathy Wrotlawski
Jose-Carlo Zuleta

WCCCD’s mission is to empower individuals, businesses and communities to achieve their goals through excellent and accessible services, culturally diverse experiences, and globally competitive higher education and career advancement programs.

Dr. Curtis L. Ivery, Chancellor

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New Performing Arts Center
Receives Name of Famous Downriver Entrepreneur

Taylor Mayor Cameron G. Prieste and Mrs. Wallyraud “Wally” Prechter Iden as speakers at the Heinz C. Prechter Educational and Performing Arts Center Naming Ceremony recount their favorite memories of Heinz Prechter.

The new, $16.52 million Educational & Performing Arts Center under construction on the Downriver campus received one of the Downriver area’s most famous names during a ceremony held at the campus on Oct. 31st.

The Heinz C. Prechter Educational and Performing Arts Center will be a 74,000 square foot, modern facility that will include 14 classrooms, an 800 seat theatre, and rehearsal rooms for use by District students and the surrounding community. Groundbreaking for the facility was in September 2006. The building is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2008.

“Heinz Prechter and his wife, Wally, committed their energies to giving back to the community that helped them realize their dreams,” said WCCCD Chancellor Dr. Curtis L. Ivery at the naming ceremony. “We thought it was more than appropriate that his name be chosen to grace this building that will help countless District students and community members realize their dreams.”

Heinz Prechter, an immigrant from Germany, was better known as the “Duke of Downriver,” for his tireless work to promote economic development and health for the Downriver area. His American Sunroof Company grew from a one-room workshop in a garage to a global automotive powerhouse based in Southgate, Michigan. Prechter also founded successful development and publishing ventures in metro Detroit. Heinz Prechter passed away July 6, 2001. Wally Prechter continues to initiate and support numerous projects and charitable efforts across the metro Detroit region. She was presented with a plaque and certificate of recognition for the

WCCCD Board of Trustees
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Campus Information
21000 Northline Rd., Taylor, MI 48180 • 734-946-3500

Downriver Campus Hours of Operation:
Monday - Thursday: 6:00 a.m. - Midnight
Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday: 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Special Events
DOWNRIVER CAMPUS

ALL EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
The Bridge to Asia
Saturday, February 9, 2008
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Winter Art Fest
Saturday, March 8, 2008
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Downriver Campus Adds Programs That Reflect Growing Needs of Community

Taking a cue from the Downriver communities it serves, the WCCCD Downriver Campus has added career programs that keep it in lockstep with the area’s burgeoning homeland security, health care, criminal justice and technology driven fields.

The Michigan Institute for Public Safety Education program (MIPSE) located at the campus boasts one of the most unique homeland security and emergency preparedness training facilities in the state, and has become a local, national, and even global, draw for law enforcement officers and fire departments. The draw? The $6.2 million MIPSE facility, includes a five-story fire tower, a 50,000 square foot emergency vehicle training course, a man-made lake for water rescue, aircraft and ship simulators, and a confined space rescue area.

Health care programs, including emergency medical technology and phlebotomy, and technology-focused programs are critical programs for the Campus. Seven different specialties within the computer information systems program, as well as industrial computer graphics technology, business information technology, automotive service technology and numerical control technology are offered at the Downriver Campus.

Empty Bowls Filled at Downriver Event

Feeding the hungry was the focus of a unique dinner event hosted by the Wayne County Community College District’s Continuing Education Division, housed within the Downriver Campus.

Entitled “Empty Bowls,” the event is part of an international effort to feed the world’s hungry and was held December 5th at the Taylor VWF Hall. For a donation of $10, participants received a hand-made clay bowl and a simple meal of soup and bread. The sparse meal and simple bowl served as a reminder that there are millions of people at any given time who are unable to fill their empty dinner bowls with even the most basic of meals.

One hundred percent of the monies collected were donated to a variety of charities, which support local food banks, soup kitchens and other organizations, including The Salvation Army, Starfish Charities, Maryhaven and more.

Faculty Profile: Women Fighting Fires, Saving Lives

“WCCCD firefighting instructor Kimberly Pilarski remembers what it was like to be one of only three women in her unit when she became a firefighter more than a decade ago. “I was the youngest, but I was probably the most invested in making this my career,” Pilarski said.

Pilarski has been a firefighter for Brownstown Township for 11 years, she said, and has used her hard-earned expertise to train new firefighters for the past four years. Since she started teaching, she’s noticed a subtle change in the composition of her class—more young women appear to be interested in making firefighting a career.

Student Profile: Two Students That Are Taking on the Heat

Melanie Fiorillo | Southgate

Melanie Fiorillo is used to being one of only a handful of women in her classroom. Fiorillo is one of only two women completing the fire service training program at WCCCD’s Downriver Campus. She was formerly enlisted in the Air National Guard and is an accomplished mechanic. But Fiorillo, a 38-year-old mother of two, said she’s working towards a career that’s all about helping people.

“I’ve always felt that I’ve been one of those leaders who will pull someone who needs help to a place of safety,” Fiorillo said.

Fiorillo was named “sergeant” of her class of 30 students. But, she said, the WCCCD program isn’t about one person shining above the rest, its about bringing everyone to the finish line together.

Kylie Johnson | Gibraltar

Kylie Johnson surprised her family with her decision to become a firefighter. But Johnson said, she had long dreamed of being in a field where she helped save lives. Now halfway through the training program at WCCCD’s Downriver Campus, she said she has earned the support of not only her family, but of her classmates too.

“Once they realized that we were there for the same reasons they were, they were a lot more accepting,” she said.

Johnson is working as a paid on-call firefighter for the City of Gibraltar, and credits WCCCD with putting her on the path to success. “My instructors were all there to back me up,” she said. “There isn’t anything, I think, that I can’t do.”