Special Events

DOWNSRIVER CAMPUS

ALL EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Winter Art Fest

January 19, 2008
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Mosaic Youth

Camp 1
June 23rd through July 11, 2008

Camp 2
July 14 through August 1, 2008

Winter Art Fest

The diverse talents of student and community artists were celebrated at the Winter Art Festival held on January 19, 2008 at WCCCD and at the Downriver Council for the Arts (DCA). Attendees toured the DCA and discussed the finer points of the creative process. Community members had the chance to view student artists during a tour of the Downriver Campus.

Mixing It Up With the DCA

The DCA and WCCCD brought the sounds of the Caribbean, Hawaiian, African, and American gospel music to Downriver with a Wednesday, March 18th performance by The Gratitude Steel Band. The Gratitude Steel Band has played an eclectic mix of calypso, reggae, Hawaiian, and “gospel music” in the metro Detroit area for more than 15 years. Their performance was part of a free music series called “In the Mix,” presented by the Downriver Council for the Arts and the District. An April 2nd jazz concert featuring the Royal Garden Trio was also part of the series.

Preparing for Downriver’s next chapter:

Senator Ray Basham

sen. Ray Basham (D-Taylor) makes no bones about how important education is in the next chapter for Downriver communities: “Education is our future,” Basham said.

“...and institutions such as Wayne Community College District have a pivotal role to play for those constituencies,” Basham said. “When it comes to retaining for folks that have lost their jobs, want a better education, kids getting out of high school or getting post-secondary degrees to get a better paying job . . . it’s integral,” he said.

Basham has lived in Taylor for the past 34 years and served in public office for more than two decades. The U.S. Air Force veteran was also a Ford Motor Co. employee for 28 years.

He sees opportunity in health care, where a nursing shortage has created big demand for high-paying jobs that cannot be outsourced, and in forming new business alliances that will bring jobs to the Downriver area.

But all of those opportunities require the same foundation – a strong education.

“I tell my grandchildren and all the people that I talk to this issue about, don’t even think about not going to college.”

Capital Improvement

Performing Arts Center Update

Steel being erected on the Herz C. Prechter Performing Arts Center. The $30 million multipurpose auditorium will include a full stage and scenery lift. Numerous classrooms will be built for instructional use by teachers. View of how the Center will appear when completed.

MY COLLEGE

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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.

Wayne County Community College District

Downriver Campus

21000 Northline Road
Taylor, MI 48180

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Capital Improvement
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Letter from the President

We're making great progress in providing new resources and facilities for the Downriver community to learn and enjoy.

In this My College newsletter, we're proud to present a construction update of the Herz C. Prechter Educational & Performing Arts Center on track for completion within a year. We're also excited to present profiles of some of the top-notch experts we offer to the community, and a few highlights from recent events that reveal the rich cultural fabric of the Downriver communities.

We hope that you will take full advantage of the high-quality programs and services available at the campus, and that you’ll find opportunities to engage in the life of the campus and the district.

Anthony Armniak
President
Downriver Campus
**Shining Light on the Shadows:**

Former CIA, FBI Agent Joins WCCCD

Jim Marcinowski spent the better part of his career protecting the nation’s most sensitive secrets, but he’s spending the latter part sharing some of what he knows with Wayne County communities to do nothing less than prepare them to engage with the world.

Marcinowski, a veteran of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), U.S. Navy Special Intelligence Operations and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), recently joined the Wayne County Community College District as its top homeland security expert. Together with District Chancellor Dr. Curtis L. Ivey, Marcinowski is establishing new programs to engage the District, the community and surrounding businesses to keep their organizations and information safe.

“I see my work at the College District as an opportunity to disseminate and educate the community about how homeland security works,” he said.

“If you make this stuff understandable, then you empower communities to use the knowledge they have to engage in issues that directly affect them.”

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**In The Community:**

Creating A Bridge to Asia

The rich beauty and diversity of Asia’s food, music, culture and crafts were showcased February 8th at the Bridge to Asia Extravaganza, presented by WCCCD and the International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit. Visitors were treated to a wide variety of dance and music performances, as well as hands-on activities such as calligraphy, henna and origami. Samples of Asian food were on hand, and a series of educational and marketplace booths depicted slices of life and culture from various Asian cultures.

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**In The Spotlight:**

Richard Seitz

Professor of Math, Downriver Campus

Richard Seitz encourages more students to give WCCCD a try, “I tell everyone it’s a wonderful place to be.”

Seitz sees numbers in almost everything he does, and he’s working hard to show a new generation of students at the Downriver campus that there’s opportunity in doing the same.

According to Professor Seitz, “The biggest misconception about math is that it’s too regimented, that it’s just a set of rules that aren’t used in daily life.” Math, he said, “is actually a key part of everything we do.” Enjoy listening to music? The beat you’re tapping to is math. Like to play video games? The movements that you see on your screen owe a great deal to, you guessed it, math.

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**Three Things To Know About Richard Seitz:**

1. Seitz has been a Downriver resident for about four decades.
2. Seitz has been an educator for 40 years and started teaching at WCCCD on its opening day in the fall of 1969.
3. Seitz is on the board of directors for the Detroit Area Council for the Teachers of Math and heads the “factored” committee.

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**Jo Brighton Partnership - Shadow Program and Student**

Wayne Direct Student

West Laskey stands beside one of his large works on display at the Conner Arts Council building. His work was part of a student show that opened with works of art for sale to the community.

West is participating in his third year of painting classes at the Downriver campus as part of a partnership program with the Jo Brighton Skills Center in Wyandotte. That center, created in 1973, provides alternative training services for special education students aged 15 through 26 living in the Downriver/Dearborn school district. The Center serves more than 300 students, in part, with the District’s help.

For West Laskey, the program has given him an important outlet to give voice to his passions—whether music, color or form.

Carl Kamitsuki, Laskey’s painting instructor on the campus, said he’s enjoyed students from the Jo Brighton campus in his class for the last three to four years.

“There is such a sincerity that West and the other students bring to the canvas,” Kamitsuki said. “The program has been such a good experience for me in every way.”