WCCCD....Critical Partner in the Economic Revival of Southeast Michigan Earns Highest Recommendation From the Higher Learning Commission (HLC)

The Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) has earned the highest possible form of national academic approval with the recommendation for a ten-year reaccreditation by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA). The announcement was made by WCCCD Chancellor Curtis L. Ivery.

“Building upon more than four decades of service to students as a comprehensive community college, WCCCD is reinventing itself to be a critical partner in the economic revival of Southeast Michigan," the HLC Consultant-Evaluator Team concluded.

“One of the greatest strengths of the organization is its strength and sustainability of leadership,” HLC Peer Review Chair, Dr. Phyllis Abt, said. She praised the exemplary efforts by WCCCD in the District’s self-study report and preparations for the on-site examination.

“We were impressed by the efforts of the District and its Chancellor and recommend that the next comprehensive visit by HLC occur in 2019-20," Abt said. “In spite of an unemployment rate of more than 20 percent, diminishing tax revenues and a declining population base, the District continues to deliver high quality instruction to meet the needs of its growing student population”.

The recommendation for a full ten-year reaccreditation was made with the unusual finding of zero improvements needed in the view of the HLC. The HLC is an independent group of top educators from around the nation.

The Higher Learning Commission of NCA accredits degree-granting post-secondary educational institutions in the North Central Region.
Fitch Upgrades Wayne County Community College District’s Bond Rating to A

Fitch Ratings

Fitch Ratings New York upgraded Wayne County Community College District’s (WCCCD) bond rating to A, from a previous BBB+, serving as a confirmation of WCCCD’s transparent, accountable and responsible accounting practices and leadership.

Fitch noted, in a statement issued May 28, 2010 that WCCCD’s bond rating was bolstered by “strong budgetary and fiscal management practices which, together with the District’s renewed 10-year property tax levy, provide the District with sufficient financial flexibility to meet ongoing spending pressures amidst a volatile revenue environment.”

“Wayne County Community College District strives to be transparent, accountable and responsible in its accounting principles and leadership, and the Fitch rating shows that we are succeeding,” WCCCD Chancellor Curtis L. Ivery said. “We are pleased our hard work is recognized particularly during these challenging economic times.”

The District is among the first colleges in the nation to regularly post and update all of its operational and financial details on its public website as part of its Accountability and Transparency Initiatives.

Fitch also noted WCCCD benefits from recent statewide workforce development initiatives that have insulated its state aid levels from the state budgetary pressures. Fitch’s key driver behind the rating was WCCCD management’s ability to maintain reasonable fund balances with a flat or declining tax base and increasing operating expenses.

Fitch expects the District to have ample financial flexibility to continue to internally fund its capital program and maintain balanced operations despite projected decreases in state aid and taxable value for fiscal 2011.

Got eMail?

Beginning in Fall 2010, WCCCD will offer all academic students free email accounts, in an effort to improve student’s access to District wide communications. This new initiative will enable students to have instant access to important District information such as, classes, financial aid, billing statements, emergency alerts and more. These new email accounts will provide students with a safe and secure method to communicate with WCCCD.

Registration is easy; once students have registered for academic classes they will automatically receive their email accounts. WCCCD student email accounts will help keep students informed and give them the ability to stay in-touch and take better control of their education.