An Open Letter to the Community

Wayne County Community College District
2018 UPDATE

Dear Friends,

For 50 years, WCCCD has provided pathways to better lives through higher education.

We are champions of opportunity, defenders of big dreams, guardians of roads to prosperity. During our 50th anniversary, we pledge our commitment to you to keep our doors open and available to all who are looking for their next big thing across the 36 cities and townships that we serve.

We are the largest urban community college district in the state and one of the largest in the nation. During the years our economy restructured, we expanded our programs and services to offer more people a route to new careers, to new insights and to new growth.

In a time of budget tightening and shrinking budgets, we fixed our nationally recognized financial management model to make sure we prioritized resources to create the biggest impact where it matters most: Our student’s lives. Without losing one full-time faculty member, we became experts at doing more with less.

We know that we can and need to open our doors to more. Our region’s health and growth demand it. A recent report has shown that for every $1 invested in WCCCD, our communities receive a cumulative benefit of $2.20. We are an efficient and vital multiplier of growth in the state.

We continue to grow our programs, our staff, our resources and our facilities to ensure our next half-century is even more dynamic than the one that came before.

During the last year alone, WCCCD has:

- Strengthened our Full-Time Faculty and Advisor Numbers to Support our Mission - WCCCD has hired 23 new faculty members across STEM, General Education, Health Sciences and other programs. Thirty-nine faculty and academic advisors have also been hired to help our students advance their dreams. The increase was a part of an initiative to hire 70 key personnel over the next two years.

- Expanded our Programming to Match Community Demand with Greatest Opportunity - Whether its new health science programs such as Nanotechnology, Technology, or Advanced Manufacturing programs, or Cybersecurity and Computer Science programs, WCCCD has continued to expand its programming to assess that represent high-demand, rewarding career paths in our region. Working with our public and private partners, we lead the region in workforce development programs – key to our state’s economic advancement.

- Expanded Dual Enrollment Programs to Save Students Time and Money - We’ve long provided high school students with the option to earn college credit while still in high school. But new programs such as Deep into STEM aims to provide high school students with real-world knowledge of a broad spectrum of higher education options and career choices. The result? High school students with clear and focused paths to college completion and career readiness, and the right support to help them along the way.

- Expanded the Network of Resources Available to Students - WCCCD students lead busy lives. We made sure they could access a full range of learning resources however they needed them, whether that was at our Learning Resource Centers, our partner libraries, or online resources with a nearly unlimited supply of research and data across program subjects. And because we know our students are just as likely to study at 1 a.m. as 1 p.m. and all hours in between, we’ve expanded our tutoring options to include a full range of online tools to help them where they need it.

- Grown our List of University Partners - The District’s Mary Ellen Stempel University Center now offers eight University partners – eight channels through which our students can seamlessly transfer to earn advanced degrees across hundreds of fields. Our partners include: The University of Michigan-Flint, Michigan State University, Western Michigan University, Ferris State University, Northwood University, Madonna University, University of Detroit Mercy and Davenport University.

- Expanded our Public and Private Partnerships through Grants and Group Initiatives - The District is a regional workforce and economic development anchor. During the last year, we’ve grown the number of programs and related grant funding to give our students the real-world knowledge and skills they need to thrive in emerging and growing industries. Among them is work with the Michigan National Guard to provide urgently needed cybersecurity specialists, a program with DTE Energy to train employees to handle fire emergencies; and a program to make sure that kids that age out of foster care receive direction and resources to pursue a college education. Our network of partners and initiatives is as big as our mission, and we will continue to grow it.

- Announced World-Class Facilities to Support Student and Community Needs - Through robust management of capital funds, we’re adding two world-class facilities to provide learning ground for emerging fields and meaningful resources to the community. Our Health and Wellness Center near our Downtown Campus and our Horticulture Education Center at our Downriver Campus will allow us to expand programs such as biotechnology, hydroponics, urban agriculture, as well as sports management, sports medicine and kinesiology – all while offering our community new ways to boost their bodies, and their minds.

We are YOUR Community College District. Six Campuses, One District. One Vision.

Sincerely,

Dr. Curtis L. Iverson Chancellor

WCCCD: Where Learning Leads to a Better Life