Words of Wisdom

Since it was authorized by the State of Michigan in 1967 as a two-year community college, Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) has been awarding degrees and certificates in various disciplines.

The first graduation in 1971 saw only a handful of students receiving diplomas. Since then, the District has graduated thousands, with more than 2,000 graduates crossing the stage during the 43rd graduation exercises in 2011. In 2012, the District moved the ceremony from Cobo Hall to Ford Field to accommodate the increasing numbers of students completing degrees and certificates.

The District’s graduates contribute more than $122 million dollars annually to the State’s economy. Those completing studies in nursing and dental hygiene continue to fill vacancies in area hospitals and dental clinics.

“As enrollment grows in the District, the number of students completing programs of study has also increased proportionately,” said Martha J. Grier, associate vice chancellor for board and governance policy, who chairs the District’s Ceremonies and Ritual Committee. At the 2010 graduation ceremony, the District added an international flavor when Dr. Paulo Cezar Vieira, Secretary General for International Relations and Professor at the Federal University of Sao Carlos (UFSCAR), in Sao Carlos, Brazil, delivered the keynote address. The Federal University in Sao Carlos is one of the major institutions of higher learning with which WCCCD has established educational and cultural partnerships. In 2009, 26 WCCCD students visited Brazil and the university to study the importance of alternative energy. Brazil is now the world’s second largest producer of ethanol and the world’s largest exporter of alternative fuel.

The District’s graduation ceremonies have also drawn distinguished professionals and educators to offer their words of wisdom to students. Among them have been Dr. Cornel West, Judge Glenda Hatchett, and U.S. Attorney Barbara McQuade.

Clockwise from top:

WCCCD Chancellor, Dr. Curtis L. Ivery;
U.S. Attorney Barbara McQuade;
Dr. Cornel West;
Judge Glenda Hatchett;
Dr. Paulo Cezar Vieira.

ADVISING = Customer Service and Student Solutions

We have recently implemented a one-stop center dedicated to providing students with centralized support services, such as financial aid, book vouchers, registration, and other enrollment-related issues.

Call: 313.496.2600
Welcome

Dear Friend,
Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) has given thousands of students the opportunity to begin or continue their college-level learning opportunities. Educating people of all ages and from an astonishing diversity of backgrounds, WCCCD focuses on improving the quality of life through learning for everyone who comes through our doors. You will find amazing energy at all of our 5-campus locations and the Mary Ellen Stempfle’s University Center in Harper Woods. You will feel the pulse of learning as our students and faculty engage in lively conversations and scholarly debate.

As you browse through this Special Edition of Dimensions, you will discover the rich array of opportunities that exist at WCCCD – from the traditional classroom setting to online courses and our Study Abroad Program which has exposed our students to a world beyond our borders. Our Global Conversations Speaker Series and our Continuing Education provide cultural enrichment and the opportunity for participants to engage in discourse and promote personal and intellectual growth.

Our commitment is to serve students and promote their professional and scholarly growth. We understand that serving students well requires all of us – regardless of our roles or titles – to share in the essential work that changes lives – and make WCCCD a place where learning truly leads to a better life.

You can always count on WCCCD as a first-rate learning institution. I hope you will like the new look of our Dimensions.

Sincerely yours,
David C. Butty
Executive Dean for International Programs/Media Specialist

Mission Statement
Wayne County Community College District’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.

Values Statement
• Excellence in teaching and learning
• Diverse, international and intercultural education
• Student and community service
• Accountability
• Integrity

Vision Statement
To be recognized as an institution that has achieved national and international recognition for enduring excellence as a comprehensive, multi-campus community college. The Wayne County Community College District will focus on continuous self-evaluation and improvement; preparation of a highly skilled workforce in support of the Wayne County economy, student academic and career success, and leadership in strengthening the open door philosophy of educational opportunity.

Accreditation
Wayne County Community College District is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.
230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500
Chicago, Illinois 60604-1411
1-800-621-7440 and 312-263-0452
(fax) 312-263-7462 • www.ncahlc.org

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Dimensions
YOUR
Student Services
Division –
At Your Service!

Financial Aid TV:
Vital Information in the Palm
of Your Hands

Wayne County Community College District has rolled out the latest of a
series of new student service programs precisely where many of its
more than 72,000 students look first — their smartphones and other
mobile devices.

The new online service allows current and prospective students, parents,
community and staff to find accurate answers to financial aid questions through
an extensive searchable video library. The short videos are more expansive than
“Frequently Asked Questions” and more targeted than online search tools.

The District last year introduced its Student Solutions Team and a financial aid
hotline. The Student Solutions Team visits each of the District’s five campuses
weekly to provide a face-to-face, one-stop option for students to get financial
aid and administrative information, as well as help finding that information
online. The District’s call centers were expanded to provide fast information
on financial aid and things like book vouchers to students who called the
District’s hotline.

Did you know?

• Nearly 50% of the WCCCD student population is “first generation” students that are the first in their family to attend college.
• WCCCD enrolls approximately 20-25% new students each semester.
• Approximately 66% of WCCCD students are female and 32% male with an average age of 29 years.
• WCCCD’s credit and non-credit enrollment annual trend reached 72,000 in 2012.
• WCCCD’s Distance Learning Enrollment reached more than 10,000 in the 2010-2011 academic years.
Dr. Wallace Peace

Dr. Wallace Peace at the Detroit Opera House

Detroit Opera Theatre ‘Talking Head’

How do you explain the complicated love triangle between Julius Caesar, one of the greatest Roman generals who ever lived and Cleopatra, the ambitious Queen of the Nile; most especially when the storyline involves statecraft, assassination, betrayal and love. To complicate things—when the storyline is done in the 18th century baroque opera, such as Handel’s Julius Caesar, a classic musical that only very few people can understand or comprehend.

But the Detroit Opera House at the corner of Broadway and Madison has one person who is capable of breaking down the complicated scenes (though it is modernized with a Hollywood twist) and the plots of this opera into a simple to understand term. And, this individual can do that in a 25-minute lecture before the curtains rise. He is Dr. Wallace Peace best known as “Dr. Opera.” He is a guest lecturer and the Master of Ceremonies at the Detroit Opera House where he gives his first opera lecture for the Opera House six months after he arrived in Detroit. “At 15, I was well over 6-foot tall (he stands at 6-foot, 5-inches), and my father thought that I should be a soprano. It was in Detroit Opera Theatre where I began to collect records and books about the opera and opera singers. I really enjoy introducing new opera goers to the education of the operatic world. My involvement in the opera should not be surprising—at least not to me.”

His lectures at the Detroit Opera Theatre are always acknowledged by patrons. “That was a great lecture,” a patron high-fived Dr. Peace at the close of his presentation on Julius Caesar and Cleopatra, “I really enjoyed your talk.”

But that’s not all there is to know about Dr. Peace. He is a Vietnam Veteran. “I served as an Ordinance Captain and received the Bronze Star for my service.” He said in his leisure time, he enjoys movies and theatre; comedies, Black films, and action adventure films. “I enjoy audio books and I collect DVDs and CDs.”

He has a passion for teaching at WCCCD and has been on staff for nearly 30 years. “The classroom is where I belong,” Peace said as he flips through papers in his office. “In the classroom, my students often criticize me for requiring them to always speak in proper English and enunciate every word correctly,” he said. “And the opera is what I called my other world. My involvement in the opera should not be surprising—at least not to me. But to some it is surprising.”

The Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) is very proud of its faculty. They are diverse, they are teachers, as well as dedicated working professionals. They have advanced degrees and substantial experience in the fields they teach and most have extended their classroom to the outside world, enabling them to bring a powerful combination of theory and practical expertise to the classroom. Here in this edition of the Dimensions, we bring our readers some of our outstanding teaching professionals.

He has thousands of stories when it comes to the opera, but the one he loves to tell often is how astonished and surprised people are when they learn about his interest in the opera. “Once I had just finished a lecture and a beautiful woman came up to me to praise me for the lecture. She noticed my fraternity letter pin and stopped in her tracks. “You are a Q?” referring to my fraternity’s nickname. “Yes,” I replied. She said, “Omega Psi Phi?” in disbelief. I responded with “I know what a Q is.” She said, “You just don’t think of Q’s and opera together.” I said with a straight face, “You must be a Delta.” She said, “I am. How do you know?” I responded my mother was a Delta. She was stuck-up too. We both laughed. It turned out we were both alumni of Howard University. We have been friends since and have often attended the opera together. She just could not see an opera lecturer being an Omega. And Omega Psi Phi is the only Greek organization devoted to the cause of promoting classical music in the Black community.

On a personal note, Dr. Peace is a family man, having been married for nearly 39 years. His wife was formerly the Dean of Nursing at the University of Detroit, Mercy; a patron once attended the opera together. She just could not see an opera lecturer being an Omega. And Omega Psi Phi is the only Greek organization devoted to the cause of promoting classical music in the Black community.

The year was 1983, when Dr. Wallace Peace, a proud native son of Raleigh, North Carolina, migrated with his family from Brooklyn, NY, to Detroit. Later, he joined the Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) family as a counselor and professor, and found his passion with the Detroit Opera Theatre. He has since used both opportunities to teach and educate.

“Dr. Tough” as his students often refer to him, is a professor of History, and World Civilization. “I specialize in the Protestant Reformation and my students enjoy the class very much. They often compliment my lecturing style, but some say that I am too strict.”

One student remarked, “It was a great class. I learned a lot even though you could not eat, talk or move while class is in session.”

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“My role is to explain to the audience what they will see and hear during the performance. This, most opera goes say is the most difficult task since opera itself is sung usually in a foreign language.”
Global Conversations Speaker Series

Wayne County Community College District has offered important discussions on timely and diverse issues impacting the region, state, nation and the world through the Global Conversations Series. For more than four years, the Student Services Division has featured outstanding leaders, elected officials, international representatives and renowned educators as part of this unique program.

Through the Global Conversations Speaker Series, participants have an opportunity to engage in discourse with the speakers that promotes personal, intellectual and collective growth.
Imagine a country where nothing is wasted, where every citizen is conscious of being "earth friendly" and preventing waste is considered a priority. Imagine a country with no military and only the police force to keep the peace; and a country where money to support the military is earmarked for education. Or even imagine a country where everyone pays their fair share into the social security system and where every citizen has healthcare. Especially so, imagine a country where the average property tax is as low as $50 U.S. (25,000 Colones).

Pura Vida Costa Rica! If you are in doubt of the social security system, just ask Fernando Chavarr, a sociology professor who lectured on the Costa Rica social security system during the WCCCD health education and cultural enrichment Study Abroad Program’s trip to Costa Rica in the Fall of 2012.

“Nothing is wasted,” said Alisa McKinney, one of the 24 students on the trip. “Just thinking of property taxes being around $50 (U.S.) makes me smile. The whole country is really into recycling.”

The participants experienced the culture, learned conversational Spanish, the diverse geographical features and the wonders of Central America including rare animals and plant species. The trip included a visit to the Poas Volcano National Park, which Mother Nature could not let them see because of the constant change in the weather; a tour of Don Carlos’ dairy farm where they learned the different ways to process milk and cheese; and a visit to the town of Sarchi, well known for its handicrafts. Later visited the Santa Lucia School where they exchanged information with students about education in America and, they in return, discussed their educational ambitions.

During the question and answer session, students learned that a lot of the students there walk to school every day. One student said that she walked 15 minutes each day before connecting with her friend who lived on the road to complete the remaining 30-minute walk to school together. Most students longed to one day visit America, a country they have seen on television.

The WCCCD students attended a lecture on the social security system and learned about the similarities and differences between the United States and Costa Rica. Costa Ricans are required to contribute 9% of their wages while employers are bound by law to pay 14% of their employees’ salary into the social security system. So, for each employee, 23% of their salary goes into the system, which in turn pays for the employee, their family and even their parent’s healthcare needs.

The students took a hike literally through the Manuel Antonio National Park where they encountered sloths, monkeys, and learned the history of flora and fauna of the region. The visit to the University of Santa Paula gave students the opportunity to learn about healthcare delivery between Costa Rica and the United States.

“I am still excited about the trip to Costa Rica and considered myself lucky to be a part of this experience,” McKinney said. “Studying abroad proved to be a valuable aspect of my college experience for both personal and professional reasons. The opportunity to go to a foreign country to see how others live and structure their everyday lives was awesome.”

Each of the students had a unique prospective of their experiences. Tamiko Adams-Eddie, who will graduate this Fall from the Nursing Program, said the trip overwhelmed her.

“Nothing was wasted,” said Adams-Eddie. “The entire experience of having the opportunity just to make it to the top of the volcanic mountain was invigorating and spiritually uplifting. Once we reached the top, there was a special connection with nature, an inner peace, and a calmness that we experienced by being there, and it seemed as though the presence of God was all around us, which made the challenging climb all worthwhile.”

She added, "Although I am not a farm kind of girl, I never thought that I would milk a cow, but now there is the opportunity to tell the story. I will never be able to express my gratitude to the Wayne County Community College District for allowing me an opportunity to behold such beauty, meet the wonderful people, experience the culture, great cuisine, and most of all – participate in such a unique experience. Everything was Pura Vida," Adams-Eddie concluded.

Wayne County Community College District students reflect on their educational and cultural enrichment experience during study abroad trip to Costa Rica.
Under the leadership of the Wayne County Community College District’s Board of Trustees and Dr. Curtis L. Ivery, Chancellor, the District has designed and built a world class arts facility to support the discovery and richness of the performing and visual arts for generations to come.

Named to honor the automotive industry icon and passionate ambassador for the Downriver communities, The Heinz C. Prechter Educational and Performing Arts Center strives to educate, entertain and enlighten members of the 32 communities serviced by Wayne County Community College District.

The 812 seat, state of the art theatre has hosted world-class entertainment such as country music superstars Clint Black and Lee Greenwood, Broadway musicals, Motown legend Mary Wilson, New Orleans great Aaron Neville and dance events such as the high-flying Giordano Dance Chicago. The venue has also played host to a variety of community and corporate events including the Midwest Regional Dance America Festival, Southern Great Lakes Symphony, the Taylor Conservatory and BASF Corporation. In addition, the Center supports District-wide events such as Phi Theta Kappa inductions, Health Science pinning ceremonies, District Conference Day and Faculty Organization Day.

Children and their families enjoyed a main stage show, decorating windows and trick-or-treating at the District’s Annual Halloween Family Fun Day.

Left to right, top to bottom: Aaron Neville, performers of In The Mood, performers of Damn Yankees, Jeff Daniels, Giordano Dance Chicago, Michel Lauziere, Mary Wilson, Steve March-Torme, party attendees, Lee Greenwood and Clint Black at the Heinz C. Prechter Educational and Performing Arts Center.
Financial Aid Marathon: All hands on Deck

The Wayne County Community College District’s Division of Student Services has adopted an “all hands on deck” approach to support students. A command center housed on the fifth floor of the District Administration Building last August took in a total of 7,382 calls to address students’ concerns about registration, financial aid and other school-related issues. Another 700 students were personally served during the Financial Aid Marathon that took place between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on August 25.

“The District’s Command Center addressed all financial aid and registration inquiries that are typically directed to the District’s Call Center, Student Solutions Hotline and Retention Center,” said Brain Singleton, vice chancellor for student services. He said all 7,382 students were personally contacted by District administrators. “It was a truly collaborative effort that yielded 100% student satisfaction highlighting WCCCD’s continuous commitment to student success.”

Besides the volume of financial inquiries, the District’s Command Center addressed other student issues including book vouchers, student loans, satisfactory academic progress, and the Tuition Incentive Program.

“It was a truly collaborative effort that yielded 100% student satisfaction”.
Detroit-area sculptor Melissa Machnee, a third generation welder and seamstress, brings her creativity as welding instructor to Wayne County Community College District this Fall.

One’s first impression of Melissa Machnee would reveal a characteristic that most artists are known for—freedom and creative expression. She is an artist and is thriving in a profession once dominated by men—welding. Her latest artwork is part of the WCCCD Faculty Art Exhibition that has been on display in the Brown and Juanita C. Ford Art Galleries at three of the District’s campus locations.

She brought her experience and talents to Wayne County Community District this Fall through an innovative metal sculpture class she is teaching at the Eastern Campus.

Machnee’s passion is welding which, according to the U.S. Department of Labor Statistics, is a profession that is expected to continue to add new jobs through 2016. Even in today’s bleak economy, welders are always in high demand because they are practically involved in every aspect of the industry—from automobile manufacturing and repair, construction, and thousands of advanced manufacturing processes.

She primarily works with metal and fabrics, and her sculptures suggest similarities between welding and sewing. She uses the strong qualities of the welding process and nurtures it with the soft characteristics of textile and fashion.

“As a third generation welder and seamstress, I am fascinated with both the welding and fashion industries. I see many similarities in the way that these products are produced and used. I use the raw masculine qualities of the metal industry and nurture it with the soft feminine qualities of the fashion industry,” according to a statement on her website. Combining these materials together make me question different roles that we play in society.”

In 2002, Melissa received her Bachelors in Fine Arts (BFA) in Sculpture from Wayne State University. In 2007, she received her Welding Fabrication Certificate from Schoolcraft College. In 2008, she received her Masters in Fine Arts (MFA) in Sculpture from Eastern Michigan University.

She developed and taught a metal sculpture program at Schoolcraft College’s welding department and is a certified welder in MIG and TIG welding. She is also a Certified Welding Educator (CWE) and Certified Associate Welding Inspector through the American Welding Society. Machnee developed a private sculpture park within the Irish Hills of Michigan and someday hopes to open the park to other sculptors’ work.

“I go through all of the safety and operation [of the tools] and we all practice together,” said Machnee. “I’ve taught advanced artists and people who have never welded or created art before. It invites a lot of different perspectives in the room. “Creating this class was very exciting for me. I hope to pull creativity out of people that they never would have imagined they could do before.”

Machnee says she welcomes both beginners and advanced sculptors into the program. “Industry plays an important role in my work but animals are an everyday occurrence for me. For example, bunnies symbolize creativity, intelligence and wit.”

She added, “Another animal that I am attracted to is the deer. I often see them in the wild. The deer symbolizes unconditional love and compassion. They remind me about the strength and compassion that exists in the world. They have a natural connection to humans that are unique from person to person. Using a variety of animals has helped me uncover the different meanings that animals have and the roles that they play in our world. I use Animal Spirit Guides and Astrology as a guide to help uncover their many different meanings,” as she further described her work.
Reading Carnival

The Chancellor’s Reading Carnival at Wayne County Community College District was founded by Mrs. Ola Ivery, wife of WCCCD’s Chancellor, Dr. Curtis L. Ivery. Mrs. Ivery’s passion has encouraged her to develop the Reading Carnival, an outreach program that encourages intellectual development and growth through reading.

This interactive program which includes storytelling is open to children in pre-K to sixth grade. “Reading is one of the many ways that individuals learn,” Mrs. Ivery said. “Strong literacy skills are closely tied to academic, career success, and better quality of life.”

The next Chancellor’s Reading Carnival will be in May at the Downtown Campus. Highlights will include refreshments and face painting. Books and book bags will be given to children while supplies last.

Above: Mrs. Ola Ivery reads to young people during a Reading Carnival.

Faculty and staff gathered for annual District-Wide Conference Day at the Downriver Campus, Heinz C. Prechter Educational and Performing Arts Center. The event provided participants with a wide range of professional development opportunities aimed at enhancing communication and strengthening relationships. This past year’s 38 special interest sessions included Cultural Competence, the Changing Role of Community College Faculty, Working with Students with Disabilities, and Beyond Sticks and Stones: The Prevention of Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination in the Workplace. According to Chancellor Dr. Curtis L. Ivery, the special day celebrates the achievements of faculty and staff and provides an avenue to plan for the future.

Above: John Biddle, Executive Vice Chancellor

At right and below: Radio personality, Mildred Gaddis, Dr. Ronald J. Harkness, Ph.D., CRC, Provost, Career Preparation & Campus Operations; Michelle Bassett of Bassett & Bassett, Incorporated, Communication Managers and Counselors, PR Specialist, Karen Dumas, and faculty sharing ideas during the conference.

Above: John Biddle, Executive Vice Chancellor

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Nursing Students broaden their learning beyond the traditional classroom through ‘Service Learning’

The Wayne County Community College District realizes that in order for students to develop and be fully prepared in their disciplines, they must achieve knowledge that prepares them for a world beyond their current environment. This global learning may be gained in the form of service-learning which gives students and faculty a simple tool for linking classroom learning to the community. It provides an opportunity to extend their experiences beyond the traditional classroom thereby broadening their global knowledge.

In 2008, the District made it possible for 27 nursing students and three nursing faculty members to travel to London, England, where they participated in an educational exchange and nursing enrichment programs at two of England’s leading hospitals—Guy’s and St. Thomas’ National Health Service Foundation Trust; two leading teaching hospitals located in central London. While in England, the students were able to compare and contrast the healthcare delivery system between the United States and the United Kingdom. They received lectures and demonstrations by health educators and nurse practitioners—experience that could help them in their future careers. At both hospitals the students learned how to prevent the spread of infectious diseases through a practice called “Gel In and Gel Out”—when entering and exiting a hospital room.

These lectures included the structure of care and service delivery, the role of a chief nurse and the senior nursing team, caring for the elderly, working as a nurse in accident and emergency rooms, and a special presentation by the Chief Nurse, Eileen Sills. The students also learned about pre and post registration training in the United Kingdom, especially at Guy’s and St. Thomas’, the competencies and policies for nursing skills, the role of nurse caring for children, and protecting patients’ rights. They toured the Florence Nightingale Museum named after the “mother of nursing” for her achievement in raising nursing to the level of a profession, and visited the historic Operating Theatre where they observed through demonstration how surgery was done before modern technology was developed.

Twelve students from the WCCCD’s nursing program traveled to Costa Rica in 2012 as part of the District’s Study Abroad Program. They attended lectures and toured the labs at the Santa Paula University where they learned about the multicultural approach to healthcare delivery system and participated in discussions on how to increase their awareness of the constant changes in the healthcare delivery system.
At the WCCCD School of Continuing Education (SCE), it is never too late to learn. The SCE offers opportunities for young and old to enhance skills, knowledge, creativity, and gain new appreciation for diverse cultures, languages, the use of technology, and healthy living. Whether participating in a workshop, seminar, a one-day, weekend or week-long course, or the Global Lecture Series, Silver Circle or Kid’s College, there are many opportunities for enriching and worthwhile experiences at WCCCD. Typically college credits are not offered for continuing education classes, however the District often works with organizations to grant Continuing Education Units (CEUs) often required for professional development and licensure. As well, there are quite a few offerings that are free but registration is necessary to participate. Learning is a lifetime endeavor, so become an engaged learner through the SCE.
Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center provides increased access through partnerships with baccalaureate and graduate degree-granting institutions to higher education courses and programs beyond the associate degree level. The University Center serves as a regional center for select District academic courses, dual enrollment experiences for high school students and special community programs. Students benefit from articulation and transfer agreements with colleges and universities including the University of Detroit Mercy, Walsh College, Ferris State University, Michigan State University, the University of Michigan-Flint, and Western Michigan University. Whether in a traditional classroom model or through courses offered online, the University Center provides access convenience, support and an environment that focuses on student success.

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