WCCCD held a ceremonial groundbreaking for its new Downriver Education and Performing Arts Center at the Downriver Campus in July. The new center is a welcome addition to the District and the Downriver community with a theater capacity of 850 people, which can be expanded to accommodate even more. Currently, there are no auditoriums in the Downriver area that can accommodate audiences of more than 500.

Among the guests who attended the groundbreaking were Trustees Alan Anderson, Charles Paddock, Elizabeth Potter, Senator Raymond Basham, State Representatives Edward Clemente and Hoon-Yung Hopgood, Mayors Cameron Priebe of Taylor, Norma Wurminger of Southgate, and Levon King of Allen Park.

WCCCD is taking a giant leap forward as it continues to implement a comprehensive capital improvement program to transform student facilities at all campus locations by breaking ground on the educational facility.

According to WCCCD Chancellor Dr. Curtis L. Ivery, “Our strategic plan to implement a transformational capital improvement plan is built around the needs of our students and the communities in which we operate. The Downriver Campus has experienced a tremendous growth in student enrollment over the recent years and we are certain the Downriver Education and Performing Arts Center is a necessary and valuable addition to the Downriver Campus, the entire district, and the Downriver Community.”

The new 70,000 plus square foot facility will consist of an 850-seat theater with a full stage and scenery loft. Support spaces for the theater will include an 1,800 square foot rehearsal room located adjacent to the stage, dressing rooms, and a lobby. The facility will include a total of 14 classrooms, of which eight will have moveable walls enabling the space to be converted into larger seminar rooms. The building project will provide a new clearly identifiable entrance for the campus, a landscaped plaza with outdoor seating, information kiosks, and direct access to a turnaround drive with bus and automobile drop-off.

The state of the art facility will enable the District to offer and expand new program offerings including (but not limited to) the WCCCD Performing Arts Program, the visual arts, and other humanities courses while enhancing the Public Safety and Homeland Security Education Department.
Welcome to the fall issue of Dimensions. As we all know, fall represents new beginnings for many and at WCCCD we are continuously changing to serve our students as their needs change. One innovative change is the addition of new career programs reflecting economic and corporate demands in graphics design and forensics. Another is the construction of the Education and Performing Arts Center at the Downriver Campus, construction of the Educational Multipurpose Center at the Western Campus, and the creation of our Project New Start Initiative, which puts particular emphasis on establishing an impressive presentation at each campus to welcome new and returning students. Many students see college as representative of a new endeavor in their lives, so it’s imperative to ensure that each campus offers a welcoming environment.

As you will see within the pages of Dimensions, we have much to talk about: a dedicated faculty committed to teaching; students who are making inroads in their community; and staff and administrators who are responsive to the needs and demands of those who decide to make WCCCD their college.

Sincerely,
Curtis L. Ivery,
Chancellor, WCCCD

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**Chancellor’s Message**

“New Beginnings - Innovative Changes”

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**Campus Locations**

- **Downriver Campus**
  21000 Northline Road
  Taylor, MI 48180
  734.946.3500

- **Western Campus**
  9555 Haggerty Road
  Belleville, MI 48111
  734.699.7008

- **Downtown Campus**
  1001 W. Fort St.
  Detroit, MI 48226
  313.496.2758

- **East Campus**
  5901 Conner
  Detroit, MI 48213
  313.922.3311

- **Northwest Campus**
  8551 Greenfield Road
  Detroit, MI 48228
  313.943.4000
The District has been using the enterprise web-based data management system SCT Banner for more than a year. All modules are operational, increasing the productivity of the workforce and making the admission and registration process more efficient. System upgrades were successfully installed and end users report that the new Banner software has a more user-friendly interface; the forms are much wider, and over all navigation seems to be easier. The Human Resources module has been implemented, enabling staff and faculty to view their personal information online, such as leave balances, pay history, benefits, and deductions.

Banner Navigation Training continues to be provided for new and existing end users that need additional training. The training takes place every Monday at the District’s Technology Training Room #109. To sign up for training, please contact Carolyn Carter at (313) 496-2630.

Banner Update

Where do I start? Compared to the old system, Banner is a joy. Banner runs faster, has less down time and is user friendly; just point and click. The integration of information between departments gives us access to a wealth of data which is really an advantage when it comes to generating various operational and business reports. Banner has improved life for staff and students here at WCCCD. It has decreased processing time for advisors which means students will be awarded faster, and it has improved life for staff and students here at WCCCD. It has decreased processing time for advisors which means students will be awarded faster, and it gives students access to their financial aid information online which in turn gives students access to their financial aid information online which in turn has decreased the number of calls to the financial aid information center. More importantly it says that Wayne County Community College District is on the right track and that our enrollment is stable.

Mel Allen, Financial Aid Associate

WOW! Before I was transferred from the campus, I was constantly on Banner. I had calls from students who wanted to register at home, but didn’t know what their ID or pin was. I was able to find all their information via Banner 7. I just had to ask them a few security questions, and then I was able to reset their pin numbers so they could continue with online registration. Same scenario with walk-in students and with faculty who needed to put grades in and/or print class rosters. When we need to lookup a student or faculty phone number, Banner is the tool we use. If I get a leave request form with a Social Security number on it, I can look up the employees ID. Banner is a very easy tool to use.

Marcia Fairrow, Executive Assistant to the Provost

Banner has helped reduce the stress on staff and students during peak registration time. The students seem very happy with the speed and ease of it.

Mary K. Wolf, Administrative Secretary

Banner has helped me in my daily routine by allowing me to access student records more accurately and efficiently. I am able to utilize the resources from Banner on more condensed screens, as well as the quick access screens. This system, everything I need is right where I can easily access it. The coding is user friendly as well as the ability to navigate from screen to screen.

AntShauntie’ Watts-Buckley, Administrative Secretary

As a lead admission person, I can say that our enrollment processes are more efficient and student friendly. Banner has strengthened our institutional performance through improved services, increased accountability, and better educational experiences for our students. Banner allows me to maintain high performance during planned and unplanned changes in the work environment. Banner assists me in providing our students with excellent service.

Salathiel Thomas, General Clerk Student Services

Downtown Admission/Registration

Faculty Organization Day

Educational Affairs held WCCCD’s bi-annual Faculty Organization Day (FOD) for the Fall 2006 semester utilizing all five campuses by hosting a Pre-Faculty Organization Day at each campus. Instructors met at their home base campus and shared information and educational goals. Participants attended presentations by their respective campus president and various faculty and staff on topics such as a successful start up of the semester, maintaining a positive learning environment, addressing emergencies, and more.

The traditional FOD was held at the Western Campus the following day. Approximately 450 full and part-time faculty members attended the all-day meeting. During the opening remarks, discussions centered on the dramatic increase in enrollment and the new building projects for the Downriver and Western Campuses and the future move to the new Northwest Campus. Renderings of the new buildings were available for faculty to view. David Beaumont, vice chancellor of educational affairs, welcomed the group and introduced Dr. Stephanie Bulger, Dr. Debrah Watson, and Dr. Janet Dentlloff who presented updates regarding online classes and the new career and transfer programs and courses. Dr. Bin Ning reported the results of the Learning Resource Centers Critical Thinking and the WCCCD graduate surveys. Dr. LaDonn People and Mary Mahony, co-chairs of the Academic Assessment Council, presented a summary of past projects of the Council and the first newsletter. They also discussed the first Assessment Awareness Day, which will be held at the Downtown Campus. At the close of the day, many faculty lingered to discuss the day’s activities commenting on how much they enjoyed the day and how helpful they found the workshops.

Fall 2006 DISTRICT DIMENSIONS 3
Feeling of excitement, joy, and pride filled the Ambassador Ballroom at the Renaissance Marriott Hotel as the 2006 Special Recognition Award Ceremony honored students, faculty, and staff members who have played a role in WCCCD’s expanding success.

Dr. George Swan III, president of WCCCD’s Eastern Campus, served as master of ceremonies for the more than 200 attendees who were spellbound with tales about WCCCD’s powerful history and progressive educational programming.

Carl Farrington, Darrick Rushing, Anna Shapova, Kazi Kumkum, Anuradha Koripella, Dorothy Dudley, and Malek Saif received the student special recognition award. Each of the seven students, who graduated with honors and plan to transfer to four-year colleges, was also given a gift as a token of appreciation for their hard work.

Employees with 35, 36, and 37 years of employment with WCCCD were honored with crystal trophies and numerous ovations from the audience. Recognized for their expertise in various educational areas, the award recipients relished their moments in the limelight.

Students were recognized for outstanding performance in their applied areas and were honored. It is anticipated that these class leaders will continue in their highly competitive fields and in turn inspire future WCCCD students to excel.

Carl E. Farrington   3.94 GPA  
Associate of Liberal Arts

Darrick L. Rushing   3.88 GPA  
Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice

Anna Shapova   3.81 GPA  
Associate of Arts in Pre-Service Education/Urban Teacher

Dorothy Dudley   3.73 GPA  
Associate of Applied Science in Gerontology

Malek H. Saif   4.00 GPA  
Associate of Arts in Social Work

Kazi T. Kumkum   3.64 GPA  
Associate of Liberal Arts

Anuradha Koripella   3.68 GPA  
Associate of Science in Dental Hygiene
Innovative Programs

HELP TAKE A BITE OUT OF CRIME!

The recent increase in technological advances and in the reliance of forensic techniques utilized by police in certain crime scenes are just some of the reasons for the growing demand of forensic photographers and computer-based digital imaging specialists.

THE FORENSIC PHOTOGRAPHY PROGRAM provides students with the skills necessary to preserve crime scenes and items of evidence, from both technical and legal standpoints. The unique certificate program provides students with the skills needed in the principles of composition, focus, exposure, color theory, and lighting. The program addresses the need for an alternative career track for students who work in crime scene investigation, criminal justice, homeland security, fire safety as well as other evidence gathering related occupations.

GO T GAME?

Did you ever think that having a passion for playing video games could lead to earning money? Many top game developers credit their success to their love of the game.

THE COMPUTER GAME DESIGN AND ANIMATION CONCENTRATION CERTIFICATE PROGRAM provides graduates with entry into the computer game design field with an emphasis on graphical components for interactive educational and entertainment software.

The program emphasizes game design, game planning, two-dimensional graphical components, animation techniques, game scripting, and advanced production techniques to provide students with the skills and knowledge required to enter into the world of video game design.

Classes consist of lectures and lab participation in design and implementation of games using several programming languages to ensure that students receive a strong foundation in the most popular areas in the computer game industry.

WCCCD IS NOW OFFERING A LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY CERTIFICATE

The library science field is great for people who enjoy working in a dynamic industry. With a certificate, persons may work in libraries and emerging information centers as paraprofessionals such as library assistants. A variety of venues use library paraprofessionals such as public libraries, corporations, schools, colleges, and churches. A LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY CERTIFICATE, which may be completed in 45 weeks, represents an exciting opportunity for personal and professional growth.

According to WCCCD’s Vice Chancellor for Curriculum and Learning Technologies, Dr. Stephanie R. Bulger, “This certificate is an exciting professional development opportunity for our students as well as our staff from many different areas whose jobs include organizing information.”

COMING SOON

SPRING 2007 -- I SPY

Nowadays, it’s rare to turn on a news channel or even read a newspaper without learning about the increasing cases of personal identity theft, system viruses for major companies, and other data security incidents.

More than ever, there is a need for trained professionals in the area of information assurance. Whether it is using a debit card to purchase gas, checking personal bank account transactions online, or even booking online air reservations, cyber security is a must.

THE CYBER SECURITY CERTIFICATE / DEGREE PROGRAM will prepare students for jobs in information assurance. Upon completion, students will possess the skills required for national certification by the National Security Agency. In addition to learning about security topics, students will receive the knowledge needed to gain employment within private and federal government sectors. Students can specialize in areas such as computer networking, virus threats, and system administration.

DESIGN YOUR FUTURE

Imagination, creativity, and motivation are just some of the key qualities possessed by successful graphic designers. Given the task of creating distinctive visual presentations, graphic designers can work on multiple projects including developing logos, designing promotional displays, creating layouts for publications, and other design projects. The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, reports that among the five design occupations, graphic designers are expected to have the most new jobs through 2014.

THE GRAPHIC DESIGN CERTIFICATE PROGRAM prepares students for entry-level positions in a variety of industries requiring computer aided desktop publishing and graphic design applications. Students receive a solid foundation in basic art concepts paralleling the most current graphic design technology. Graduates may find employment in print companies, design studios, marketing firms, and creative design areas.

NURSING ASSISTANTS AT WCCCD !!!

Often referred to as, “a college jewel that is a well kept secret,” the existence of the Nursing Assistant Training Program at WCCCD is unknown to many within and outside the College. THE NURSING ASSISTANT: ACUTE AND CHRONIC CARE COURSE was designed and implemented by former Associate Dean of Nursing, Kathy Bradley, R.N. and has successfully continued for over 10 years under the direction of Dean of Nursing, Rosellen Burkart, R.N.

The nursing course is designed to meet the ever increasing need for assistants in health care professions. For many, successful completion of the program may be the initial step on the ladder to upward mobility in a health care profession.
Dr. Ivery is the recipient of the Outstanding Educator of the Year award from Wayne State University’s Alumni Association and the Best College Chancellor Award from the Black Women Contracting Association. Dr. Ivery accepted both honors on behalf of the Board and the administration. The awards speak to the District’s leadership and Dr. Ivery’s efforts to position WCCCD as a model institution both locally and nationally.

John Riling III, currently in shipping and receiving/inventory control at WCCCD’s Downriver Campus, was appointed to the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Committee of Wayne County by the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Board of Trustees. The board cited Mr. Riling’s commitment and dedication to the community, state, and nation in time of war and peace as considerations for this appointment. He has served as a volunteer for Vietnam Veterans of America for 20 years and the past 18 years as the state committee chairperson for Michigan State Council Veterans Administration.

Western Campus President Patrick McNally joined the Board of Directors for the Huron Charter Township Local Development Finance Authority. The authority, created to complete the development of an industrial area and to encourage the improvement of certain other industrial properties within the township, works to reverse historic trends, which have led to the loss of population, jobs, and businesses. The board consists of seven members appointed by the township supervisor, along with one member appointed by the Wayne County Board of Commissioners; one member representing WCCCD; and two members appointed by the superintendent of the Huron Public Schools.

Dr. Ivery is the recipient of the Outstanding Educator of the Year award from Wayne State University’s Alumni Association and the Best College Chancellor Award from the Black Women Contracting Association. Dr. Ivery accepted both honors on behalf of the Board and the administration. The awards speak to the District’s leadership and Dr. Ivery’s efforts to position WCCCD as a model institution both locally and nationally.

WCCCD’s Downtown Campus, under the direction of campus President Dr. Jacqueline Hodges, received The Spirit of Detroit Award by the Detroit City Council in recognition of exceptional achievement, outstanding leadership, and dedication to improving the quality of life for Detroit’s residents. The award recognizes the District’s commitment to academic excellence and innovation.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

GRAND MARSHAL

Ms. Carol Watson

WCCCD’s Grand Marshal for the 2006 graduation ceremonies, Ms. Carol Watson is recognized for her outstanding service to the College and her dedication to higher education. A member of the Human Services faculty and celebrating 36 years of service as a full time faculty member, Ms. Watson exemplifies the commitment required for this significant recognition.

Students honor Ms. Carol Watson

Campus Based Faculty

A pioneering endeavor to strengthen the campus environment has been launched by WCCCD according to Mr. David Beaumont, vice chancellor of educational affairs. Identifying faculty members by campus, often complex in a multi-campus community college district situation, is the focus of this initiative. It will promote faculty excellence and improve student learning at each campus site since faculty will be assigned a home base at one of WCCCD’s five campuses. In a win-win situation, the plan will enable faculty to work more closely with students and students will begin to identify certain courses with familiar faculty names. In addition to becoming more involved and engaged, faculty will have the opportunity to share their enthusiasm and expertise while creating a self-identity at their home campus. This will also provide the District with a feedback loop for professional development and assessment.

Prior to the event, Frances Schonenberg, member of the East Side Advisory Council and host of the SOC television show, interviewed Dr. George Swan III, Eastern Campus president, and Rose Mary Nelson, SOC executive. The show aired the week prior to the event. The television publicity in addition to information in local papers contributed to the success of the event. Dr. Julie Corbett and Surtsey Productions, Inc., produced the event.
Thousands of deserving students benefit from scholarship funds raised during the Chancellor’s Banquet held at the Roostertail Club in September.

The event, which benefits the WCCCD Scholarship Fund, drew more than 450 contributors who demonstrated their support for the merit scholarship and textbook initiative. Scholarships are presented to numerous deserving students who wish to pursue studies at WCCCD. The event was a huge success with record fund raising. It was an occasion to also pay tribute to Trustee Board Chairperson, Larry K. Lewis. The keynote speaker for the evening was Ms. Margaret Trimmer-Hartley, director of communications for the Michigan Education Association and coordinator of the Your Child Coalition.

In a letter from Mayor Kwame M. Kilpatrick, he praised WCCCD by stating: “I applaud WCCCD in its efforts to help individuals achieve career success and personal fulfillment. This institution has positively impacted Detroit by providing quality training and academic programs that enhance career opportunities.”

Following the keynote speaker, the event focused on the roasting of Larry K. Lewis. Several of Mr. Lewis’ close friends were able to recall interesting and amusing events that they had observed over the past 15 years. Larry K. Lewis was elected to the WCCCD Board of Trustees in 1992, representing District 6 and is currently Chairperson of the Board of Trustees. Mr. Lewis is an International Representative of the International Union and UAW, CAP Coordinator (for 20 years) specializing in political and community action in the City of Detroit. He is a member of various organizations that include the NAACP (life member), Detroit Association of Black Organizations, 14th District Democratic Party (serving as State Central Delegate and current District Chair), Wayne Civic League, Prince Hall Lodge # 24 – Master Mason, and many more. Mr. Lewis served in the United States Army and is a Vietnam veteran. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in business administration and political science in 1973 from Shaw College. All attendees at the banquet reveled in the stories about Larry K. Lewis.
WCCCD FORMS NEW HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS

WCCCD recently formalized new partnerships with neighboring colleges and universities in its continued efforts to expand high quality program offerings. WCCCD students now have the opportunity to benefit from a seamless credit transfer into certain bachelor degree programs at Walsh College, Madonna University, and Capella University.

WCCCD students can transfer up to 82 credits at Walsh College and complete a bachelor’s degree in accounting, business administration, or business information technology. Upon transferring to Walsh College, students must complete a minimum of 45 credits in residence for a bachelor’s degree. Available at the Troy and Novi campuses are the complete Bachelor of Accountancy, the Bachelor of Business Administration with majors in Accounting Processes, Finance, General Business, Management, or Marketing, and the Bachelor of Science in Business Information Technology. These degrees are also available completely online.

WCCCD and Madonna University have developed an articulation agreement designed to facilitate the educational mobility and transfer of students from WCCCD’s Law Enforcement Administration or Corrections Program into Madonna University’s Criminal Justice Program. Students who have earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in Law Enforcement Administration or Corrections at WCCCD may transfer the identified credits toward a Bachelor of Science degree at Madonna University in Criminal Justice. Capella University will also accept credits earned by WCCCD students toward the attainment of a bachelor’s degree. Upon successfully completing WCCCD’s Associate of Arts or Science degree requirements, students will be provisionally accepted for Capella’s upper division bachelor’s program.

WCCCD’s Vice Chancellor for Student Services Carol Wells states that “Our obligation to each student at WCCCD is to maximize their opportunities to accomplish their personal and academic goals. Many of our students have dreams of completing a baccalaureate degree at a four year college or university. These articulation agreements not only represent increased access to a four-year degree for our students but they also provide for a smoother transition from WCCCD.”

WCCCD HOSTS MICHIGAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE ASSOCIATION

WCCCD hosted the annual in-service training workshop of the Michigan Community College Association (MCCA) Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is comprised of the president and a representative of the Board of Trustees of each Michigan community college having membership in MCCA.

Trustee Charles Paddock welcomed the group to Wayne County and WCCCD. Michigan’s “First Gentleman,” Dan Mulhern, spoke about the potential of the state’s community colleges to play a central role in developing Michigan’s future workforce. Mr. Michael Hansen, the incoming president of MCCA, briefed the Board of Directors on state-level legislative and governmental matters. A team of WCCCD officials, led by Chancellor Curtis L. Ivy, presented an overview of the transformation of programs, services, facilities, structures, and systems now taking place at WCCCD at both district and campus levels. Highlights of the presentation included recent student enrollment increases, the enhancement and expansion of career education programs, advances in distance learning and on-line instruction, the major building programs now underway at the Western and Downriver Campuses, progress on the transition of the Northwest Campus to a new site on Outer Drive, the opening of the Michigan Institute for Public Safety Education, and the opening of the Entrepreneurial Institute at the Eastern Campus. Workshop participants indicated they were very impressed with the progress WCCCD is making in improving and expanding its services to students, businesses, and communities in the Wayne County area.

MCCA serves as the common voice for Michigan community colleges as state-level legislation and other governmental matters are being considered. MCCA serves as a convener of community college leaders to work together on state-wide initiatives in areas such as curricular changes, professional development of college staffs, and learning technologies.

Paving The Way With New Construction

The Education and Performing Arts Center at the Downriver Campus (story on cover) and the project at the Western Campus are two areas of major focus for the near future. The Western Campus project will include additions, building renovations, equipment and furnishing updates, and site work to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. A Corporate and Technology Education Building is being proposed immediately west of the existing building to provide area employers with a flexible, high-tech academic environment for employee training and student instruction. Additional spaces within the building will include six divisible seminar rooms, a computer commons lab complex, three flexible technology labs, a lecture hall with 100 seats featuring full teleconferencing capabilities and multi-media resources, and an entrance lobby that will also serve as a gallery. A central commons, including dining space, will provide the requisite comforts of a training facility and food service for the campus-at-large.

In addition, a new student services center will be redesigned for the campus to create a welcoming image near the entrance where the current bookstore is located. Support and faculty offices will be relocated to a renovated second floor space.
A DELEGATION FROM THE CITY OF CHENGDU, CHINA, REPRESENTING LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INTERESTS, VISITED WCCCD IN JULY.

Chengdu, which is listed by the Chinese State Council as one of China’s 24 most important cities in terms of historical and cultural significance, dates back over 3,600 years. Approximately 11 million people reside in the city which covers over 4,700 square miles.

The delegation was led by the Chief of Chengdu Police Su Peiwei. Other members included Zhang Quan, division chief for the Chengdu Municipal Administration for Comprehensive Revitalizations; Guo Haiyan, division chief of the Chengdu Police Bureau; Yin Chao, deputy division chief of the Chengdu Police Bureau; and Hu Benjun, division chief for the Chengdu Foreign Affairs Office. (pictured right, above)

Although the delegation’s main focus was to tour WCCCD’s Michigan Institute for Public Safety Education (MIPSE) at the Downriver Campus in Taylor, the two-day visit represented a unique opportunity for WCCCD to promote international partnerships, collaboration, and demonstrate an ability to meet the educational and training needs of a global community.

The delegation was well received with a welcome luncheon attended by local community members. Among the many attending were Detroit Police Chief Ella Bully-Cummings, Assistant Detroit Police Chief Walter Martin, Wayne County Undersheriff Frank Ross of the Wayne County Executive’s Office; Bill Johnson of the Wayne County Commissioner’s Office; City of Taylor Mayor Cameron Priebe; and Assistant Wayne County Executive for Homeland Security Benny Napoleon. After the luncheon, the delegation visited the Detroit police administrative center and the police command center.

On the second day, the delegation toured the MIPSE Facility. WCCCD staff prepared over 10 different demonstrations including:
- Rescue in confined space
- Fire suppression in a passenger vehicle
- Fire suppression in an airplane simulator
- Fire suppression in a residential simulator
- Fire suppression in a ship/basement simulator

Chief Su and several delegation members delightfully took a 70-foot sky-ladder ride on a fire truck brought by the fire officers from the Taylor Fire Department to the MIPSE facility. The delegation also visited the newly-built fire station in the City of Taylor.

HIGHLIGHTS

1. Chinese delegation with City of Taylor Fire Chief
2. WCCCD’s Tony Arminnak demonstrates closed space extraction
3. Ms. Guo Haiyan, Zhang Quan, and Dr. Bin Ning
4. The Chinese Delegation with the Taylor Fire Department and WCCCD Staff
5. Yin Chao, Chengdu Police Bureau and Detroit Police Chief Ella Bully-Cummings
AROUND THE DISTRICT

DTE ENERGY FERMI II CONTRACTS WITH WCCCD TO PROVIDE FIRE SAFETY TRAINING

DTE Energy

DTE Energy Fermi II contracted with WCCCD to provide customized fire safety training for the DTE Fire Brigade Unit. The training agreement will include training sessions held at the Michigan Institute for Public Safety Education (MiPSE) at the Downriver Campus. Program participants will receive training in fire brigade techniques utilizing the complex’s burn room, airplane simulator, foam application, sprinkler control, and search and rescue exercises. This will be the first of many training programs that DTE Energy has planned at MiPSE.

FORD GALLERY

Hugh Grannum

“Street Life - Profiles of Culture”

Downtown Campus • Art Gallery • 1001 West Fort Street • Detroit, MI 48226
August 31, through December 9, 2006
Monday - Friday 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Hugh Grannum relocated to Detroit in 1970 to join the Detroit Free Press as a staff photographer, encouraged by both his parents and then mentor, Free Press Photographer Ken Hamblin. Over thirty-six years, the vibrant Grannum has amassed many photo credits and has earned the admiration and respect of his peers, as well as the Detroit Metropolitan Community. From the moment Grannum arrived in Michigan, Detroit became his base of operations. When Grannum looked through a lens or contemplated a subject on his mind, Detroit and its people were always in focus. Most of the images in the WCCCD exhibit are from the city’s streets.

Grannum’s passion for photography is conveyed through his disciplined, yet artistic photos. The WCCCD exhibit mainly displays Grannum’s “home” work, which demonstrates how he uses film to tell Detroit’s history. Grannum has quite a repertoire and “likes hearing everybody’s story.” He said, “I extract moments of life from the universe so the individual viewing the image can see what has transpired during that time.”

Time is thought to be unstoppable, but the once admittedly shy Hugh Grannum has stopped time in its tracks and has the pictures to prove it.

WCCCD STUDENTS INDUCTED INTO THE PHI THETA KAPPA

Over 90 WCCCD students were inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society during the annual spring ceremony held at the Northwest Campus. WCCCD’s Executive Vice Chancellor John Bolden also received honorary membership into this prestigious society. The American Association of Community Colleges recognizes Phi Theta Kappa as the official honor society for two-year colleges. Each semester, students who have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours of college-level coursework with a cumulative 3.5 GPA or higher, are extended letters of invitation for membership.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS CROWDED INTO THE DOWNTOWN CAMPUS THIS PAST SPRING TO LEARN HOW TO GET A JUMPSSTART ON A COLLEGE EDUCATION AND BEGIN PREPARING FOR THEIR FUTURE CAREERS WHILE STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL.

Dual/concurrent enrollment was the focus of the successful event, which was broadcast live during the Mildred Gaddis radio talk show. Participants learned that high school juniors and seniors may be eligible to enroll in WCCCD’s Dual/Concurrent Enrollment Program. Students in the program can earn college credit by taking courses at one of WCCCD’s five campuses or through the District’s Virtual Middle College (VMC), which is a distance learning program designed to offer high school students online courses.

Approximately 180 students applied for admission and registered for Fall 2006 classes. WCCCD staff assisted in organizing and supporting the event. Student advisors and other staff gave presentations and demonstrations about the VMC. Radio personality, Spudd Mackenzie also motivated the audience by sharing his personal story and talking about the importance of education.

“With the increasing cost of higher education, high school students recognize that the dual or concurrent enrollment program not only represents a jumpstart for their college career but it also represents a substantial savings in what they can expect to pay for college education,” stated Ericka Jones who serves as the District’s dual/concurrent enrollment manager. “WCCCD is pleased that so many students continue to express an interest in this very important initiative.”

District Dimensions

Fall 2006

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Students who have worked and dreamed of completing degree programs or certifications received the coveted piece of paper – a diploma! WCCCD’s Commencement Ceremony held Saturday, June 3, 2006 at the Cobo Arena was the site for many celebrations. Families and friends who had supported their special scholar gathered to watch the ceremony and rejoice in the success of a loved one. Mrs. Martha Grier, assistant to the chancellor, and chairperson of the Standing Committee on Ceremonies and Rituals, introduced the thrilling event. The Plymouth Community Band, under the direction on Mr. Carl Battishill played the traditional processional marches as 1,180 members of the Class of 2006 marched in with confidence knowing that they have the ability to step forward in a changing society with the tools needed to succeed. The class motto – “If you can believe, you will achieve,” was confirmed by the welcoming applause. Father Norman Thomas, Pastor of Sacred Heart Catholic Church gave the invocation. Ms. Carol Watson served as the 2006 Grand Marshal.

Vice Chancellor of Educational Affairs, Mr. David Beaumont presented special Recognition Award recipients. The Special Recognition Award at WCCCD is given to those students who have performed volunteer services, for the District and in their communities while maintaining a high level of academic achievement. Students receiving the prestigious award were Carl C. Farrington, Dorothy Dudley, Anuradha Koripella, Kazi Kumkum, Darrick L. Rushing, Malek Saif, and Anna Shopova.

NEW PARTNERSHIP MAKES 3 MILLION DOLLARS IN MICROLOANS AVAILABLE TO CITY OF DETROIT SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS

WCCCD’s Entrepreneurial Institute has joined with The Center for Empowerment and Economic Development (CEED) and the City of Detroit Mayor’s office on Neighborhood and Commercial Revitalization to provide three million dollars in small business microloans to City of Detroit business owners. Since 1984, CEED has been providing assistance for thousands of business owners to begin and expand their business. CEED’s microloan program extends credit to businesses that cannot obtain financing from conventional sources. People face many obstacles when trying to obtain a business loan. These include lack of capital, no credit, and insufficient collateral. Entrepreneurs, especially women and minorities, may demonstrate the ability to operate successfully, but do not have access to traditional financing, and need alternative sources of money. This exciting partnership will combine access to microloans with courses on business training and professional development, giving these entrepreneurs the tools necessary to become successful business owners.

The location for this partnership will be at WCCCD’s Eastern Campus Entrepreneurial Institute, located at 5901 Conner, Detroit, Michigan. For more information please call 313-267-1020.
Wayne County Community College District Hosts National Conference

WCCCD hosted and co-sponsored the “Leading Organizational Change to Re-Invent the Community College Open Door” Conference, in partnership with COMBASE, a national consortium of about 60 community colleges, including WCCCD. The three-day event, endorsed by the American Association of Community Colleges, was held earlier this year at the Holiday Inn Southgate and WCCCD’s Downriver Campus in Taylor.

The Open Door Conference was a national conference dedicated to student access, inclusiveness, success, community engagement and change. Approximately 80 community college leaders from all regions of the United States (U.S.) attended.

Conference speakers included keynote speaker, David Bornstein, author of *How to Change the World: Social Entrepreneurs and the Power of New Ideas*; Dr. George R. Boggs, president and chief executive officer of the American Association of Community Colleges; Dr. Sharon L. Blackman, president of Brookhaven College, Dallas, Texas; Alfreda Stroman, of Sandhills Community College; and Alice Bedard-Voorhees, League for Innovation in the Community Colleges Fellow.

The conference provided participants with multiple general sessions and several specialized break-out sessions and workshops. One of the highlights was a President’s Panel with Dr. Sharon Blackman, Dr. Mary Spangler, president of Oakland Community College, and Dr. George Swan III, president of WCCCD’s Eastern Campus.

“Community colleges must be both excellent and accessible, and this conference is a great opportunity to share ideas about achieving these dual goals,” commented Dr. Boggs.

The conference allowed participants to exchange ideas and share experiences about how community colleges across the country can re-invent the open door. “It is the great task of a community college to be the door of educational opportunity which is always wide open,” stated WCCCD Chancellor Dr. Curtis L. Ivery.

According to conference coordinator Michele Martinez, who is a presidential fellow from the University of Toledo, “Feedback from the conference has been overwhelming in terms of the excitement to host similar conferences. The event has garnered national attention for the District.”
Virtual@ MIDDLE COLLEGE
by Stephanie R. Bulger, Ph. D.

Last spring, the State of Michigan made a bold move to raise the standards for high school graduation. The new requirements, which will affect the graduating class of 2011 and beyond, include an online course or experience so that students will be more prepared for twenty-first century jobs. This requirement is the first of its kind in the nation. In an effort to help high school students fulfill this unique requirement, Wayne County Community College District created the Virtual Middle College (VMC).

The VMC is a distance-learning program designed to offer high school students online courses to jumpstart their college education and career preparation. The VMC is an extension of the Middle College concept. Thousands of high school students around the country are currently attending Middle Colleges, which are designed specifically to give them access to an early start in college. For example, Finney High School students in Detroit took courses at a Middle College located on the Eastern Campus of Wayne County Community College District during the past academic year. These high school students had an opportunity to experience a college campus, take college-level courses, and earn college credits before they get their high school diploma. The “Middle College High School” concept, coined by Dr. Janet Lieberman, is noted for its success with at-risk youth. One key to the success of the program is the experience that the students get by being in a college environment. Some Middle Colleges are located on college campuses while others are located in a high school. In all cases, high school students take courses provided by a college and are encouraged to take advantage of college support services.

While Middle Colleges immerse students in a physical college or high school location to take college courses, the VMC introduces students to college courses online. Students have access to online resources (e.g., online class orientation, library, and technical support) as traditional college students. Students use computers at their schools, any one of our five campuses, at home, and in their community to take courses that are available 24 hours per day, seven days a week. Their college instructors hold them to the same standards as traditional college students. Students may enroll in courses under dual enrollment guidelines.

The purpose of the VMC is to provide high quality online courses to help students meet the state requirement and increase the likelihood that high school students will go to college or further their career education after high school. The goals of the VMC are to help students earn college credit, graduate from high school, improve academic performance, pursue post-secondary education or further their education toward a career after high school, and hone their technology skills.

With these goals in mind, the Distance Learning Department launched a pilot of the VMC this summer. Eight high schools in the Detroit Public School District participated in the pilot. Seventy-seven students took online courses in Criminal Justice, Political Science, Psychology, English, American History, World Civilization, Introduction to Computer Applications, and College Algebra. All students took the Compass test before registering for courses.

Faculty feedback at the fourth week of the semester was revealing about the abilities and motivation of the high school students. Faculty were positive about their academic performance (i.e., participating in discussion forums and submitting assignments). The instructors adhered to the standards they regularly set for traditional college students, and the high school students were meeting them. The faculty found that the students had a positive attitude toward learning, which was manifested in eagerness and passion. The faculty offered some advice, however, to instructors who teach high school students in college. When teaching these students, faculty may need to clarify directions for assignments and expectations, increase presence in the course through more announcements, and be open to the students whenever they need feedback. Faculty should remember that the high school students are adjusting to the pacing requirements of a college course, which are different than their high school courses.

While these results are preliminary, it is clear that the VMC is providing high school students with an opportunity to discover college. Created to support the new state requirements for high school graduation, the Virtual Middle College is a natural extension of the Middle College concept. In a Detroit Free Press news article, Governor Granholm lauded the new standards for high school graduation in the hope that they will spur a better-educated workforce. The VMC is committed to helping Michigan students achieve access to post-secondary education and career preparation through online options for earning college credit.
CALLING ALL READERS!
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