WCCCD Alumna Holly Siemens pays it forward by giving back

Convenience, affordability, and feedback by local dentists about the best dental program were just some of the deciding factors that brought Holly Siemens to Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD). Siemens is grateful for the educational experiences she obtained at WCCCD. Although studying for school, board exams, and participating in other activities was challenging, she is glad to have done it.

In 2008, Siemens was selected to participate in WCCCD’s Study Abroad Program to Paris, France. “The Paris trip was a memorable experience! To see, take in, and bring back the French culture to this institution (WCCCD) was a great thing.”

Siemens was also a part of a select group of students who met with President Barack Obama at the WCCCD’s Downriver Campus during his first presidential campaign tour.

“Meeting Barack Obama was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, something I will be able to tell my family about in the future,” Siemens said. Present President Obama with a special bag filled with oral hygiene aids. While giving him the bag she told him, “Be sure to practice good oral hygiene on your campaign trail.”

Siemens graduated from WCCCD in 2009 with an Associate Degree in Dental Hygiene and went on to complete a Bachelor of Science Degree from Sienna Heights University.

Now, Siemens is back at WCCCD but in a different role. She teaches a Clinic Lecture Course for the Dental Hygiene Program.

“I feel honored to be teaching at my alma mater. I am thankful to WCCCD for my education, so this is a way to pay it forward so to speak. I am proud to have completed my dental hygiene education at this institution and feel a sense of obligation to uphold its high standards.”

When asked about why she loves being at WCCCD, she replied, “We are in northwest Detroit. It’s a diverse area and I have seen many people from the community come in and benefit from the services we provide. Helping others has opened my eyes.”

The WCCCD Dental Hygiene Clinic at the Northwest Campus provides a variety of services including cleanings, x-rays, dental exams, and fluoride sealants at an affordable cost. All services are provided by WCCCD dental hygiene students and faculty. The Dental Hygiene Clinic services are supervised by licensed dental hygienists and dentists.

“It’s a wonderful feeling to be able provide the community members of the Detroit metro area with affordable preventive oral hygiene services.”

Siemens’ greatest advice to other students is to never give up. “If you experience a bad situation, don’t let it bring you down.”
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Dear Friend,

We invite you to delve into yet another edition of Dimensions – which showcases the many exciting activities taking place at Wayne County Community College District. I consider myself very fortunate to be part of the production of this dynamic magazine. Every issue covers exciting programs taking place at WCCCD. Our goal is to provide our students with a personalized, affordable, high-quality education that will prepare them to be successful in their chosen careers.

WCCCD is one of the largest and most diverse community colleges in the state of Michigan. Although we serve a large community, we specialize in offering classes taught by exceptional faculty who bring experience and a passion for teaching and learning to the classroom. We offer flexible evening and weekend scheduling, accelerated courses and online options—all the convenience you need to fit any lifestyle.

Our priority is to serve students and promote their professional and scholarly growth. We understand that this requires all of us as we continue to move forward and make WCCCD a place where learning truly leads to a better life. There is so much happening at WCCCD. We invite you to visit any of our five-campus locations and the Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center and see the uniqueness of WCCCD.

We hope you get as much pleasure reading the publication as we did in putting it together.

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

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Completing “The Agenda!”

Dr. Ronald J. Harkness loves to be challenged! When he is not at work or at home among his family and friends, he enjoys helping to make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities by helping them to learn and retain information. At WCCCD, where he serves as the Provost of Career Preparation and Campus Operations, Dr. Harkness, Ph.D., CRC, has accepted the challenge of leading the 2020 Completion Agenda.

The WCCCD 2020 Completion Agenda is an initiative aimed at closing the skills gap and positively impacting the educational and economic competitiveness worldwide. It is a high priority assignment. Dr. Harkness is very attentive to task. His office planner is filled with various assignments, and the whiteboard on the wall is home to numerous clippings and reminders of the different types of assignments that must be completed and by what time.

My passions are helping persons to learn and in making a difference in their lives,” said Dr. Harkness, the second oldest of eight children; a husband, and a proud father of two daughters, both of whom are aspiring to advanced degrees in higher education just like their dad.

Dr. Harkness’ doctoral concentration prepared him to help individuals improve their cognition and retention of learning. “I think that when you help someone not only learn, but retain the information, you have started them on the path to a brighter future,” Dr. Harkness said with a smile that most consider his trademark.

By the year 2020, according to President Barack Obama, the goal of the Completion Agenda is to increase the number of students earning college credentials by redesigning educational service delivery and strengthening the college experience for students at each stage of the educational process—from entry to exit.

Dr. Harkness explained, “I think the biggest thing that most persons need to understand is that the Completion Agenda is all about educated choice. You see, it is imperative that we help educate those within our institution and community about the value of a degree or certificate and how this can lead to a sustainable living wage for them and their families. We have a responsibility to share this message with all; faculty, staff, students, community partners, and other community members. By informing others about educated choice, we provide them the ability to make an informed decision about what is best for them, not only for today, but also for their future.”

Today, through the work of Dr. Harkness and the Task Force he leads, you will find students, faculty, and staff proudly wearing the “I’m a Completer” t-shirt. “Students who identify a program of study and complete a plan of work will be given a certificate,” Dr. Harkness said. “This certificate can then be handed in at the administration office where the student receives the t-shirt.”

“Simply stated, the Completion Agenda is a national initiative to help increase student success ending in a degree or certificate. As an educational institution, it is our mission and goal to help students become part of a larger learning society. The Completion Agenda aims to educate others and support initiatives that help all individuals achieve a degree or certificate.”

From top, Dr. Ronald J. Harkness, Ph.D., CRC, is chair of the WCCCD’s Task Force for the “Completing the Agenda” initiative, and students proudly show off their pride for the Completing the Agenda Initiative.

Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center

The Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center, located at 19305 Vernier Road in Harper Woods, is easily reached from I-94, east just minutes away from the Grosse Pointe communities. The Center provides increased access through partnerships with baccalaureate and graduate degree-granting institutions in 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.

Top to bottom, left to right: Dr. Curtis L. Ivery, WCCCD Chancellor, 2013 graduates show their joy, the Color Guard, Dr. Walter G. Bumphus, President and CEO of the American Association of Community Colleges, who delivered the keynote address, 2013 Special Recognition Students.
Global Learning Day
More than 700 participants celebrated Global Learning Day at the Downtown Campus. The program, coordinated by Irv Jones, president and founder of Escape Study International, included dancing, music, and WCCCD study abroad experiences.

Top from left: A dancer from the North American Indian Association; Mr. and Mrs. Irv P. Jones, Michael Bianchini Q., from Costa Rica Nature Escape shakes hands with David C. Butty, executive dean for international programs/media specialist; Julie Fajihol, representing the Chancellor’s Office conducts the international trip raffle drawing; Mr. Jones, addressing the audience and students attending the program.
Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony Accolades

The Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) International Honor Society held its Spring Induction of members at the Heinz C. Prechter Educational and Performing Arts Center. The keynote speaker and first generation college graduate Michelle Bassett provided an inspirational presentation encouraging students to strive to meet their educational career goals. PTK advisors and officers recognized members and applauded the 151 applicants for the semester.
Nursing Clinical Partnership

Beverly Malone, PhD, RN, FAAN, CEO, National League for Nursing, spoke to friends and partners in our Clinical Training Programs on “Reflections & Dialogue: A Commitment to Diversity in Nursing Education.” Prior to the luncheon, she held a professional development discussion with nursing students on the trends and best practices in Associate Degree Nursing Programs. She also met with a select group of student representatives from WCCCD’s Student Nurses Association on the importance of continuing education and using their talents and voice to promote the profession. Dr. Malone stated that WCCCD was a model in demonstrating diversity in faculty, leadership and the student body. Dr. Malone’s presentation supporting the Clinical Training Program was well received by WCCCD’s clinical partners, students, and faculty.

Left to right: Dr. Conrad Matiain, chief of urology at DMC Sinai-Grace, Dr. Beverly Malone, CEO, National League of Nursing, addressed the gathering on diversity in nursing education. Dr. Malone seated with nursing students.

Above left at podium is Dr. Frances Jackson, a nursing consultant. Below Dr. Jackson is Eric Smith, who offered remarks on behalf of the nursing students.

The Rise of Non-traditional Students

There are more than 18 million undergraduates in the United States; only a fraction are traditional students.

<table>
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<th>IN MILLIONS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Two-year students</td>
<td>7.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Part-time students at four-year colleges</td>
<td>2.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Of remaining, for profit students</td>
<td>0.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Of remaining, those over age 21</td>
<td>2.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Traditional students</td>
<td>5.2</td>
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Source: Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce

Nursing and Allied Health Pinning Ceremony

Each year, WCCCD holds a joint pinning ceremony for all its health care disciplines. The ceremony, according to Dr. Debraha Watson, senior vice chancellor Nursing and Health Sciences, “Is held in May and December of each year and serves as a bridge from education to professional practice.” The ceremony brings together students from the participating disciplines to recite their professional pledges after they are pinned with a symbol of their respective profession. “This is important with the changing organization, financing, and priorities of the health care system. It creates new opportunities and new imperatives for interdisciplinary teamwork. Well-coordinated collaboration across professions has the potential to allow comprehensive, cost-effective patient care which will be essential in meeting contemporary health care challenges.”
Taking the pledge to fight for the freedom and safety of our country and sacrificing years otherwise filled with eventful memories with family and friends are some of the issues people face with when they enlist in the military. Whether it’s serving in the Navy, Army, or Air Force, military personnel have dealt with an array of life challenges once they have completed their service and are ready to return home. Many are not prepared to face yet another upcoming challenge—transitioning back into civilian life.

U.S. Navy Veteran Jamie Rose is a recent graduate from the Wayne County Community College District. After completing his service, he found that the skills he obtained in the Navy didn’t help him find a job. “I noticed that what I did in the military had no call for in the civilian world. I finally told myself that if I wanted to get a good job, I had to go back to school.”

According to academic and veteran’s advocates, veterans have difficulty in acclimating to civilian life. To address their special needs, some colleges such as the WCCCD are now designated “Veteran Friendly Schools.” The American Council on Education states that factors such as campus culture, academic environment, student body size and composition, location, and more all play a role in what programs and services characterize as a “veteran friendly” institution.

“How important it is for us to recognize and celebrate our heroes and she-roses!”
— Maya Angelou
Dedications!

Denise Wellons-Glover
Welcome Center

Larry K. Lewis
Education Center

Ted Scott
Environmental Terrace

Mary Ellen Stempfel
University Center

WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

wcccd.edu
Today’s workforce must be responsive to the increasing demand from employers seeking individuals with diverse skill sets. WCCCD is committed to providing the latest in cutting edge technology to prepare students for the “Jobs for Today and Jobs for the Future.”

Below are some of the newest programs and certificate offerings currently available at WCCCD:

**Bio-Medical Equipment Repair Technology**
This curriculum is designed to provide students with an in-depth knowledge of equipment used in the health care industry. The students will gain required skill sets for this highly technological field.

**Criminal Justice: Public/Private Security**
This program offers hands-on experience in crime prevention through environmental design. Students will also learn how to address various security related events, conduct site surveys, and utilize proactive security measures.

**Electrical Electronics Engineering Technology**
Offering four degree options, these programs prepare students for a wide range of employment such as installation, maintenance, research and development, and manufacturing in this technological market.

**Emergency Medical Technology**
The EMT program focuses on providing the knowledge and skills to perform pre-hospital basic, limited, and advanced life support. Students can become certified for Michigan licensure as an EMS Professional in this program.

**Hemodialysis Patient Care Specialist**
Students admitted into the HPCS program will be trained to help patients with chronic kidney disease to receive safe and effective dialysis. Upon successful completion of this program, students are employable within the health care industry.

**Light Rail Engineering**
This Associate of Applied Science program prepares students for the light rail industry workforce. Students will be prepared to pursue railroad worker certification upon completing the program.

**Sustainable Technology Specialist**
This program provides students with the principles and practices of sustainability within any industry, and will expose students to a vast range of topics in the ever expanding “Green Collar” job environment.

**Welding Technology**
Whether artistic or industrial application, these programs help individuals become more entrepreneurial—adding to their skill set base. Welding offers the opportunity to make a sustainable living wage within the industry.

Check Out the Great New Programs at WCCCD!
Dr. Christian Nwamba: “Teaching is Transforming Lives, one Student at a Time.”

WCCCD Microbiology Professor, who received the 2013 Exceptional Faculty Award, uses his humble beginnings and lessons from his father to impact the lives of students.

Dr. Christian Nwamba, a Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) microbiology professor, grew up in a very poor and remote village of Omuma, Imo State, in Nigeria, West Africa. There, he attended both primary and elementary schools before moving on to attend high school in another town, away from his village. He said his village, like most remote villages in Africa, had no public utilities like electricity, running water, or a working sewage system when he was growing up. These conditions, he said, forced successful individuals to build and provide such comforts privately for themselves and their immediate and extended family in the vicinity.

“Such harsh realities of life in many of the Igbo villages in Nigeria became a major influence for any good child’s aspiration, determination and tenacity for academic, economic success to build a better life for themselves and their family. Living through and surviving the Nigeria—Biafra Civil War (1966–1970) with its deprivations, starvation and hardship was another life experience that planted the seed of dreams to seek knowledge and success via education to the highest level possible. As a result, I began my pursuit of a doctoral degree in the United States when the opportunity presented itself,” Nwamba said.

Today, Dr. Nwamba is a proud father and husband, who is providing for his children those things that his own father could not provide for him. He has come a long way from his native land, and is now a professor in microbiology at WCCCD. He is one of the pioneer undergraduates from the University of Port Harcourt in Nigeria, where he obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology, and holds a Ph.D. in biology from Wayne State University. Along the way, Dr. Nwamba said, he is thankful to those who made his educational journey a very successful path. He said as a teacher, there is nothing more pleasant than for a student to show appreciation at the end of a semester or quarter for what they have learned from that class. “One of my recent students wrote, “Dr. Nwamba, thank you so much for an amazing Summer Semester! This is the first college science class I actually learned something in and felt that the professor cared about my success in the class! Hopefully, I can take all that you’ve taught me back to my university and have a good Fall Semester.”

“It is such comments and testimonies of success by my past students among other things that gives me the joy to teach,” said Dr. Nwamba. He admits that the path to his educational journey had not always been easy, but that he took on the courage and lessons from his father, who himself was an educator.

“It is such early life experiences and guidance from my father, a seasoned teacher/educator and disciplinarian, which helped to form my philosophy about the importance of education. Our students here at WCCCD have much better opportunities and chances to succeed in today’s higher education institutions if they can take advantage of the enormous resources here, exercise discipline and remain focused on their main purpose of coming to the institution.”

Dr. Nwamba said he has no magic wand in presenting his materials for students to understand, but added that what gives him joy to teach is the simple fact that he sees teaching as a form of transformation. “It is an opportunity to change my students from what they are not at the beginning of the semester to what they want to be and should be at the end of each semester. My students deserve similar opportunities to be productive, successful, confident members of our society and that is why they are here at Wayne County Community College District.

Dr. Nwamba also is a community leader and activist, and in his native village of Omuma, was bestowed a chieftaincy title of “Emenuo 1” of Umuhu, Omuma, where he is honored and greeted by proper homage.

“Who I am today must have been influenced by my early exposure to a strong father, an educator and teacher that directed the affairs of my early life. As the first son and second of seven children of my parents, there were high expectations and pressure to succeed and excel educationally. My personal, educational and professional experiences since my relocation to the Detroit metro area of United States also helped to form my philosophy about transforming my students and the importance of education to them.”

Dr. Christian Nwamba, who received the WCCCD’s 2013 Exceptional Faculty Award, uses his humble beginnings and lessons from his father to impact the lives of students.

Mark Nouhra, left, and Mark McMahan, perform the aseptic transfer experiment in the biology lab, as Dr. Nwamba observes.

Students in Dr. Nwamba’s biology lab watch as he demonstrates an experiment. “I use my extensive teaching and scientific research experiences along with my personal and life philosophy to guide, help and transform my students.”

Dr. Christian Nwamba, a microbiology professor, guides Molly Anderson on how to perform aseptic transfer technique. He received the WCCCD’s 2013 Exceptional Faculty Award.
Kids Camp 2013!

Kids Camps 2013 across the District were filled with lots of fun for everyone. Children learned how to work together on projects through team building, which helps to create friendships, leadership skills, and good citizenship. At other camps, children learned about safety and prevention—including injury prevention, fire safety, first aid, and also explored entrepreneurial opportunities.

Real Men Read!

Real Men Read (top row), Peter Sims, Lt. Pride Johnson, James Andre Jackson; Large photo, Eastern Campus President. Four cluster photos clockwise: Dan Saunders, Clarence Madison, Ms. Mawine Diggs, sharing in the joy of students as they display their books, and Edgar Vann III.
Inside Our Surgical Tech and Dental Labs

Healthcare careers are fueling the job market. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, more than 14 million professionals were employed in healthcare nationwide in 2008, and an estimated 3.2 million new jobs will be added by 2018. WCCCD continues to meet the demands for the jobs of today and the future by offering state-of-the-art educational training through its allied health programs.

The median wage for surgical technologists is estimated at $39,920 while that of dental assistants is estimated at $33,470, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. However, annual wages may differ based on experience and place of employment.

Outstanding Faculty of the Year

Dr. Patricia A. Wallace-Little is the recipient of the 2013 Outstanding Faculty of the Year Award by the Michigan Community College Association (MCCA). According to MCCA President Mike Hansen, “The nomination was evaluated against a number of other extremely qualified and exceptional candidates. Her selection is truly an honor not only for her but for the entire WCCCD system.”

Citing her humanitarian achievement, the MCCA Executive Committee wrote, “Dr. Wallace-Little has worked to help thousands of students and community members understand their potential and aspire to educational goals many thought beyond their grasp. For more than 37 years as an educator and motivator, Dr. Wallace-Little has demonstrated a commitment to ensuring that the institution where she received her start continues to serve as a launching point where dreams can become a reality.”

Dr. Wallace-Little, a WCCCD alumna, is a longtime psychology faculty member at the District.

Dr. Wallace-Little was the valedictorian of the WCCCD’s first graduating class. She graduated summa cum laude from WCCCD in 1972 with an A.A. and went on to earn her B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. from Wayne State University.

“I am proud of the recognition of my 41 years of service to and the benefits received from this unique community college (WCCCD),” stated Dr. Wallace-Little. “This college (WCCCD) was born from the ashes of Detroit’s riot and the call was for educators who were willing to tackle the challenges of this unique, new, and untested institution,” expressed an emotional Dr. Wallace-Little.

“And that call was answered many times over by faculty and staff. It was the conviction, mission and sincerity with which faculty and staff inspired, motivated and encouraged me and other 30-year-old students that we had something to share. That we need not be ashamed of a late start but rather take pride in our growth and achievement. I learned at the college through those ‘unsung’ heroes to never stop learning and always give back. There are many who came before me that are just as deserving of this recognition. I am only the carrier of the continuing message that WCCCD is an opportunity for renaissance.”

Dr. Stephanie Bulger, left, is vice chancellor of educational affairs at WCCCD.
WCCCD nursing student Tamika Inge could not stop shaking when she heard the Sim Man calling out to her in agony. How was she to respond to his medical needs utilizing her training as a nursing student? What if she made a mistake?

Fortunately, Inge and other nursing students were taking part in a simulation laboratory exercise. Her experience in the laboratory helped her to use the nursing skills she has obtained to respond to an emergency situation under the supervision of faculty.

“Mistakes can be deadly,” stated Inge. “This is a great way to practice this profession, hands down! Everything I am learning in my theory classes is manifested in just one simulation lab experience. I wish I had the opportunity to be involved in a simulation lab every week. The experience enhances your skills as a nurse without actually having to use a live person. I loved it!”

WCCCD’s Interdisciplinary Simulation Laboratory launched in March of 2013, is located in the Health Sciences Center at the Northwest Campus in Detroit, Michigan. The Simulation Lab occupies approximately 1,400 square feet on the first floor of the center. The simulation space consists of three individual simulation rooms, one classroom, and a home care unit.

The Simulation Lab has a vast inventory of medical equipment and supplies providing a state-of-the-art educational environment for all Health Science students. Included in this inventory are Sim Man, Sim Baby, and the Sim Mom Birthing Mother. The Sim Mom Birthing Mother simulator is a full-sized articulating female designed to provide complete training of prenatal, intra-partum, and postpartum skills as well as emergency care for the mother and the neonate after birth. These life-size high fidelity patient simulators mimic many human functions such as the rise and fall of the chest that occurs during breathing and the ability to talk and provide details of symptoms to students.

The appropriate use of simulation in education enables students to practice rare and critical events. Assessment skills can be practiced and observed in an environment that allows for errors and professional growth without risk to patient safety. Simulation also provides an opportunity for students to align knowledge and skills learned in theory courses with the clinical setting; emphasizing instructional strategies, Socratic questioning, critical reading, and competency standards.

“Wayne County Community College District is dedicated to taking a lead role in offering students effective learning environments that maximize their opportunities for success in and out of the classroom,” states Andrea Juarez who serves as provost for health science and campus chief academic officer at WCCCD’s Northwest Campus. The Health Science Simulation Lab meets this goal by providing students with real-life clinical and surgical scenarios in a safe and supportive state-of-the-art laboratory.”

According to WCCCD nursing student Mary Smith, her participation in an obstetric scenario helped her learn how to work in a team and address the needs of patients directly from caring for the mother in labor to assessing the immediate needs of a newborn baby.

WCCCD’s Dean of Nursing Dr. Gwendolyn Cook explains, “The simulation scenarios progress through increasingly complex medical conditions from a patient experiencing a medication reaction to a difficult delivery. Faculty and students meet after the scenario to debrief and critique the students’ interventions, how the team responded to the scenario, self-assessment and areas for improvement, and develop a plan for enhancing skills. The simulation lab and the use of real life scenarios offer a safe yet realistic environment for students to translate educational experiences into the workplace.”

“Everything I am learning in my theory classes is manifested in just one simulation lab experience.”

— Nursing student, Tamika Inge
Summer Safety for You and Your Children
For most parents and their children, summer means more outdoor activities: swimming, camping, bike riding, and a whole lot of fun. For all parents, this means being extra vigilant to keep your child safe and healthy. That is why the Wayne County Community College District’s School of Continuing Education held a Family Summer Safety Fair at three of its campus locations to help prepare young people and their families for a fun and safe summer.

International Taste Fest
WCCCD’s School of Continuing Education and Workforce Development, in Partnership with the International Education Council, hosted the Seventh Annual International Taste Fest at the Downtown Campus. Participants had the opportunity to celebrate diversity and enhance their knowledge about the world’s different cultures while tantalizing their taste buds to amazing and unique flavors. Program highlights included food samplings representing various cultures, music, dancing, hands-on arts and crafts, and children’s activities.

Bring back those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer!
Participants of all ages enjoyed numerous educational activities while sampling delectable foods that represented a variety of ethnicities and cultures from around the world.