

BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE

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**NATIONAL LEADERSHIP PERSPECTIVE ADDED TO WCCCD STRATEGIC PLANNING INITIATIVES  
WITH 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY BLUE RIBBON LEADERSHIP TASK FORCE**

**Task Force Comprised of Leaders in Academic, Business and Governmental Fields to  
Review Operations and Report to the Public**

DETROIT, Mich. – June 20, 2016 – A national leadership perspective has been added to the Wayne County Community College District’s forward-looking planning with the creation of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Blue Ribbon Leadership Task Force, WCCCD Chancellor Curtis L. Ivery announced today.

Comprised of nationally-recognized community college leaders, as well as local educational, business, and governmental leaders, the task force will review the College’s operations and report their observations to the public. The WCCCD leadership will “open the books” to the task force members, inviting them to do an in-depth review of all District operations including the financial management of the District.

The task force will be asked to report to the public their assessment of WCCCD’s history of clean financial audits, upgraded bond ratings, endorsement of accreditation agencies, investment in needed new programs and services, transformation of the District’s facilities, dramatically increased student enrollment, maintenance of a sustainable ratio of full-time to

part-time staff, and the transparency of its financial accounting. Dr. Gunder Myran, a long-time senior consultant to Dr. Ivery and President Emeritus of Washtenaw Community College, will facilitate the work of the task force.

The theme of WCCCD's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary is "Celebrating Our Heritage, Designing Bold Future Pathways." "The celebration of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary," said Chancellor Ivery, "is an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of the past and also provides a dramatic platform from which to launch a number of bold strategic projects that will shape the future of WCCCD." The Blue Ribbon Leadership Task Force will play a significant role in designing WCCCD's future by recommending strategic redesign and improvement projects based on their assessment of current operations.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Blue Ribbon Leadership Task Force is the second such group formed by Chancellor Ivery. Dr. Ivery recruited the first Blue Ribbon Leadership Task Force in 2002 as WCCCD was beginning its "Pathways to the Future" initiative to transform the district's programs, services, facilities, learning and information technologies, and finances. This task force was also made up of national community college leaders and local leaders. The 2002 task force was charged with providing an independent, objective, and in-depth public assessment of WCCCD's past, present, and future health, particularly as it related to financial and personnel matters.

The 2002 Blue Ribbon Leadership Task Force report contained eight major recommendations which served as guidelines for improving the operations of the College. Those recommendations were: focus on future plans, revitalize the leadership team, create a new image, develop a strong communication/marketing program, move to a multi-college structure, implement a stronger suburban strategy, place new emphasis on career education, and establish safeguards to assure strict accountability and transparency for financial integrity.

“We believe we have successfully implemented most of the recommendations the 2002 Blue Ribbon Task Force final report. We are very proud of all of our accomplishments and the quality of our current programs and services,” said Dr. Ivery. “But, as we plan for the future, it is necessary to be prepared for the extremely fast-paced and changing environment in which we operate. I believe the Blue Ribbon Task Force will help us stay ahead of the curve and continue to perform at the highest level of professionalism.”

The advice of the new Blue Ribbon task force will help shape major strategic initiatives such as increasing student success and completion, advancing teaching and learning (faculty, curricular, and pedagogical development), leading community talent and workforce development, reinventing diversity and multiracial democracy initiatives, expanding strategic community partnerships, redesigning data-informed and technology-enabled institutional processes, improving internal policies and practices, and strengthening faculty and staff professional and leadership development.

**About WCCCD:** WCCCD, the largest urban community college in Michigan, is a multi-campus district with six campus locations, including the Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center and the Michigan Institute for Public Safety Education (MIPSE), serving more than 70,000 credit and non-credit students annually across 32 cities and townships, and more than 500 square miles. WCCCD is committed to the continued development of new programs, workforce transformation, hosting community-based training sessions, and improving student facilities and services.