

BOXING TRIBUTE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT PAYS TRIBUTE FEBRUARY 8<sup>th</sup> TO DETROIT'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP BOXERS WITH EXHIBIT AT BROWN AND JUANITA C. FORD ART GALLERY AT DOWNTOWN CAMPUS**

DETROIT, Mich. –February 6, 2017 – Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) will celebrate a unique relationship between sports and the city of Detroit with a historic exhibit that will pay tribute to Detroit's Champion Boxers at The Brown and Juanita C. Ford Art Gallery. A commemorative Opening Reception is scheduled at 5:30pm on Thursday, February 9, 2017 located at the Downtown Campus, 1001 W. Fort St., Detroit, Michigan.

The exhibit will be available for public viewing Monday- Friday from 9:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m. at no cost to the public.

“Detroit is home to legendary boxers, and iconic gyms that are still producing some of the greatest in the sport,”said Dr. Curtis L. Ivery, Chancellor of WCCCD. “From the dozens of gyms that train the youth to live championship matches, the City of Detroit has a rich history that we wanted to provide a space to celebrate this rich history and contribution through art.”

A number of Detroit Champions will be recognized as World Title Championship recipients of competitions sanctioned by the World Boxing Council (WBC), World Boxing Association (WBA), World Boxing Organization (WBO) and International Boxing Federation (IBF) and International Olympic Committee, including Jonathon Banks, Leeonzer Barber, Joe Louis Borrow, Cornelius Bundrage, Tommy Burns, Thomas Hearn, Tom Johnson, Hilmer Kenty, Joe Manley aka Bilal Sekou, Milton McCrory, Steve McCrory, Jimmy Paul, Mary Joe Sanders , Frank Tate, and Duane Thomas.

A special memorial tribute will be awarded to world renowned Hall of Fame boxing trainer and manager Emanuel Steward and Former IBF President and Vice President of WBA Hiawatha Knight.

“What a great event to honor our Detroit champions whose impact opened the doors for many, including myself. This event will reveal how historic Detroit boxing was and remains to be significant to not only Black America but to all of America! ,” said Frank Garza WBC Championship Referee, Former Board Member Michigan Athletic Board of Control.

The Brown and Juanita C. Ford Art Gallery is housed on five WCCCD’s campuses to serve all 32 cities and townships within the county. The art gallery attracts local, national and international reputations for thousands of students and community members seeking enrichment in the arts.

The Brown and Juanita C. Ford Art Gallery is open from 9:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. For more information, call 313-496-2610 or visit [www. wcccd.edu](http://www.wcccd.edu)

**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 32 cities and townships, spanning more than 500 square miles. WCCCD is committed to the continued development of new programs, hosting community-based training sessions, improving student facilities and services. For more information visit: [www.wcccd.edu](http://www.wcccd.edu).

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