

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Wayne
County
Community
College
District

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Message from the WCCCD Executive Director of Government Relations



Welcome to the newest issue of the Legislative Update.

Wayne County Community College District is a regional leader in higher education in the southeastern Michigan region. More than just an academic institution, our training for high-skilled labor jobs and robust programming for career pathways helps prepare our students for a future in high-demand fields, here to assist those making a mid-career switch to find their new career path.

In this edition, we highlight strong programs and our solid partnerships in all sectors of industry; Michigan's Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist's visits to WCCCD in the last few months, and the Michigan Reconnect Program, a program that has benefited many WCCCD students. We also highlight WCCCD's signing of the Transfer Pathways Agreement with Wayne State University. The agreement provides seamless transfer and resources for qualified WCCCD students pursuing a bachelor's degree, saving them time and money. Our partnership with SwiftMD gives our students and their families free, around-the-clock access to medical and behavioral healthcare through SwiftMD's telemedicine platform. As you can see, partnerships are the foundation of many of our diverse programs at WCCCD.

At our Eastern Campus, the collaboration with Stellantis with the Mechatronics Training Center and Program shows the strength of WCCCD Chancellor Curtis L. Ivery's leadership in establishing the innovative program. The MTC expands Workforce Development programs that provide avenues for students and trains the community for high-demand career pathways in Robotics and the Mobility sector.



Finally, on behalf of WCCCD I would like to welcome Joe Tate as the new Michigan Speaker of the House. The first Black House speaker in Michigan, Tate said he'll continue building bipartisan camaraderie, just as he has throughout his legislative career in Michigan.

At WCCCD, we know that coalition building through partnerships helps foster our excellent programs. Bringing people together from across the table, through partnerships and programs, that's the WCCCD way.

Thank you,

Dr. Yvette McElroy Anderson
WCCCD Executive Director of Government Relations



Lt. Gov. Gilchrist Visits WCCCD to Expand Michigan Reconnect Program

Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist visited WCCCD's Downriver Campus in Taylor to discuss the expansion of the Michigan Reconnect Program for students. By lowering the enrollment age from 25 to 21 years old, the Reconnect Program will help more Michiganders pursue their academic goals tuition-free.

The program is specifically designed for residents who are 21 years or older and have obtained a high-school diploma or equivalent. Michigan Reconnect will help pay the costs of tuition or training for eligible adults who want to pursue an associate degree or technical degree.



Innovative Mechatronics Training Center and Program on Eastern Campus

WCCCD's award-winning next generation Mechatronics Training Center and Program, the result of an innovative collaboration with Stellantis North America, includes more than \$10 million in robotics equipment from Stellantis, COMAU, and other Tier 1 suppliers. An additional \$10 million will be invested by the college district for infrastructure and staffing to support the program, which is expected to launch in 2023.

The state-of-the-art program based at the Regional Training Center on WCCCD's Eastern Campus houses the largest training cell of its kind in the nation.

The MTC will provide the region with open access to training in robotics, programmable logic controls, and related engineering courses to give students the knowledge and skills they need to thrive in the advanced manufacturing center.



WCCCD Signs Transfer Pathways Agreement with WSU

Transfer students will now have a seamless path to their bachelor's degree with a new Transfer Pathways Agreement between Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) and Wayne State University (WSU).

The agreement maximized the credits students earn while they complete an associate degree at WCCCD, saving time and money when they transfer to WSU to complete their bachelor's. The agreement goes into effect in the fall of 2023.

"We are proud to announce an agreement that continues our work with an institution that shares our commitment to helping people thrive through higher education," said WCCCD Chancellor Curtis L. Ivery. "This partnership will help more students forge career pathways to high wage and in demand job opportunities that will allow them to grow in place, support themselves and their families, and help their communities grow."

Qualified students receive guaranteed admission to WSU. Requirements include earning at least 60 credit hours with a 2.5 or higher GPA and completing their associate degree at WCCCD. Students will also be eligible for WSU transfer merit scholarships valued at up to \$6,000 a year and receive specialized academic advising and career counseling prior to transferring and once they enroll at WSU.



Wayne County Community College District Launches Tuition-Free Training for Skilled Trades Programs with Rocket2Work™ Initiative

Wayne County Community College District launched the Rocket2Work™ initiative, providing tuition-free training for skilled trades programs, connecting students and hiring employers/jobs with a minimum starting wage of \$15/hour.

Programs included in the Rocket2Work initiative involve careers in CDL-licensed professional truck driving, skilled construction, advanced manufacturing and mechatronics, and technology and technical careers, and more. All programs included in the initiative are in high demand with thousands of open positions across the region.

"Our mission is completely focused on helping people create better lives through higher education," said WCCCD Chancellor Ivery. "Our Rocket2Work initiative is aimed at removing the friction points in connecting students with the skills and knowledge they need to grow a well-paying career with employers that have open opportunities."

Ivery stated further: "This powerful initiative will encourage more southeast Michigan residents to take the leap and fast-track their start to a new, high paying career, while building the skilled labor force that we have in our own backyard. It is a win-win initiative."



WCCCD, in partnership with the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS), has administered more than 21,000 COVID-19 tests during the past three years. In 2022, approximately 7,000 COVID-19 tests were administered at the Northwest Campus.



WCCCD partnered with State Representative Stephanie Young to host a vigil in support of the recent MSU tragedy.



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801 W. Fort Street • Detroit, MI. 48226

WCCCD Legislative Update

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MISSION STATEMENT

WCCCD's mission is to empower individuals, businesses, and communities to achieve their higher education and career advancement goals through excellent, accessible, culturally diverse, and globally competitive programs and services.

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