

Chancellor's Weekend Memo



Weekend Memo 1513

September 13-19, 2025



Student Success!

Members of the WCCCD Scholarship Committee met and reviewed 454 application packets for various scholarship offerings. The Committee awarded \$163,750.00 to 78 worthy recipients for the 2025-2026 academic year. We are grateful to our donors who have established scholarships, as well as employees who contribute through payroll deductions, for their generous gifts to support WCCCD students. Our sincere congratulations to the recipients.



Dyamond Cooke

"I am truly honored to be awarded the Chancellor Academic Achievement Scholarship. This opportunity has not only lifted the financial burden of my education but has also given me the encouragement to keep striving towards my goals! I feel very thankful and blessed to be able to continue my journey in Radiology, a field I am deeply passionate about. I am grateful for this recognition and excited for what the future holds!"

"This award represents so much more than financial support; it is a reminder that my hard work, determination, and commitment to this path are seen and valued. As the first in my family to enter the dental hygiene profession, I feel proud to follow in the footsteps of my brother, a nurse, and to inspire my children with the same dedication. Receiving this scholarship lifts a great burden and allows me to focus more fully on my studies and patient care. Thank you sincerely for believing in me and for investing in my future."



Mariam Alaouie

"



Cameron Watson

"This scholarship not only eases the financial burden of pursuing my education in dental hygiene, but it also provides me with the essential tools I need to succeed in the program. Receiving this scholarship is a reminder that my hard work and dedication are being recognized and supported, and it motivates me to continue striving toward my goal of becoming a skilled and compassionate dental hygienist."



Brynn Beason

"This scholarship will allow me to continue and eventually complete the Dental Hygiene Program, where I will gain hands-on experience that will help shape my career goals. I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity presented to me."



Chiamaka Catherine Okoro

"I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for selecting me as a recipient of this scholarship. I am profoundly honored to receive this support, which will significantly contribute to my academic pursuits. Thank you for your belief in my potential and for investing in my future. I am committed to making the most of this opportunity and will strive to excel in my studies. Your generosity is truly appreciated."

“



Rehab Alhaj

"The scholarship is extremely valuable to me, not only because it supports me financially, but also because it reflects the commitment and dedication that I have put into this academic path. This award reminds me that all stress, hard work, and self-doubt moments are worthwhile and are the stepping stones for achieving my goal. Receiving this award set my heart on fire with new excitement and reminded me exactly why I chose dental hygiene as my major. Even after all the obstacles I went through, receiving this recognition confirmed that I have the capability to achieve my dream. It also pushed me forward with self-confidence and boosted my sense of accomplishment in both my academic and professional development. And more importantly, this award inspires me to make a difference in my community through my future practice as a dental hygienist. I am sincerely thankful for all this."

”



Rawan Ismail

"This scholarship will bring me closer to reaching that goal. Thank you for supporting my future and believing in what I can do."

Chancellor's Scholarship Recipient

India Williams



On behalf of WCCCD, I am pleased to congratulate India Williams as the recipient of the Chancellor's Scholarship. Ms. Williams, who survived a tragic shooting at age seven, is one of our new students taking classes during this Fall semester. She is a proud graduate of Martin Luther King Jr. Senior High School and a former participant in the Detroit Police Law Enforcement Explorers Program.

"I've always wanted to help people," Ms. Williams shared. "I know the road ahead won't be easy, but I'm determined to earn my nursing degree and eventually attend medical school to become an orthopedic surgeon."

In 2014, while riding her bike on Charest Street in Detroit, she was critically injured by a stray bullet during a crossfire between two vehicles. Since that day, she has faced life in a wheelchair with courage and grace.

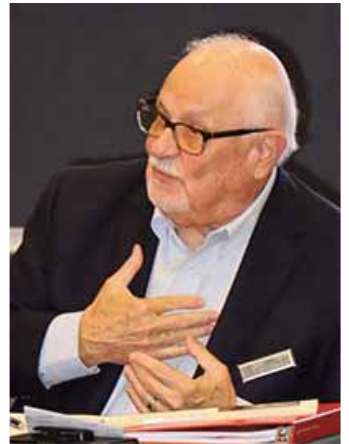
We are honored to support India Williams' academic journey and excited to see all she will accomplish.



"She has always been ambitious and never let anything stop her from achieving her goals." ~Clinique Burnett-Davis, Mother

Board of Trustees Meeting

September 17, 2025



Victoria Christopher Murray

Receives WCCCD Honorary Associates of Arts Degree

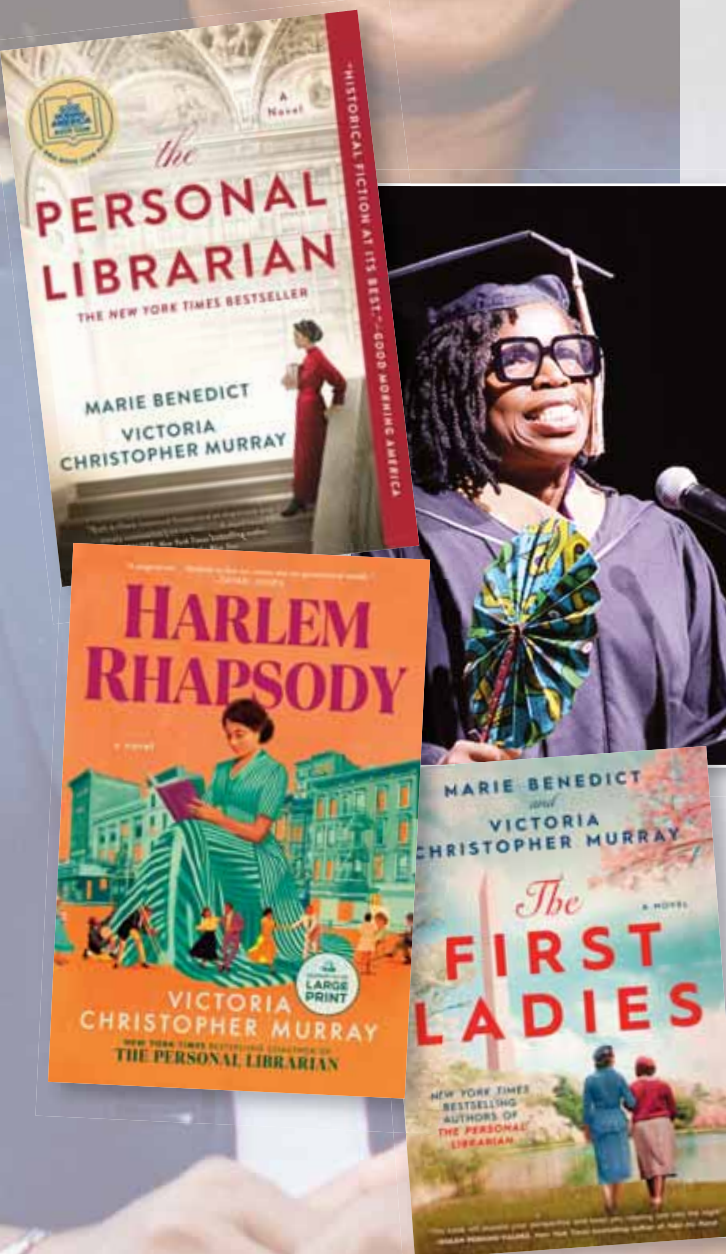
At its September 17, 2025 Board Meeting, the WCCCD Board of Trustees approved a recommendation to award an Honorary Associates of Arts Degree to the 2025 Commencement Speaker Victoria Christopher Murray.

Ms. Murray is the *New York Times* and *USA Today* best selling author of more than thirty novels. Her novels, *The Personal Librarian* and *The First Ladies*, which she co-authored with Marie Benedict, were both Instant *New York Times* bestsellers. In addition to that achievement, *The Personal Librarian* was a Good Morning America Book Club selection and named a Best Book of the Year by NPR. *The First Ladies* novel received the distinction of Target's 2023 Book of the Year.

A native of Queens, New York, Victoria holds a B.A. in Communication Disorders from Hampton University and an MBA in Marketing from New York University Stern School of Business.

She originally self-published her first novel, *Temptation* and in 2000, Time Warner published that novel. *Temptation* remained on the *Essence* bestsellers list for nine consecutive months. In 2001, she received her first NAACP Image Award nomination for Outstanding Literature for her novel *Temptation*.

Over her career, Victoria continues to receive numerous awards including the Phyllis Wheatley Trailblazer Award, the Delta Sigma Theta Osceola Award for Excellence in the Arts, eleven (11) African American Literary Awards and five (5) NAACP Image Award nominations. In 2016, she won the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literature for her social commentary novel, *Stand Your Ground*, which was also a Library Journal Best Book of the Year.





Educational Partnership Opportunities

I met with Trustee Scott Holiday, representatives from the Highland Park Community and members of my leadership team to explore educational partnership opportunities.



Trustee
Scott Holiday



Student Success Initiatives

I met with Dr. Yusuf Sabree and Jeff Anderson to discuss student success initiatives for the Fall semester.

Higher Education Delegation of African Leaders Visits Curtis L. Ivery Downtown Campus

We were honored to host a delegation of educational leaders from across Africa at the Curtis L. Ivery Downtown Campus. As part of the U.S. Department's International Visitor Program, coordinated by Global Ties Detroit, the delegation included representatives from the Central African Republic, Morocco, Nigeria and other countries. During their visit, they engaged with members of the Leadership Team to learn about the District's program offerings and explore strategies for collaboration.



Twenty-One Shots

A Capstone Experience Art Exhibition

Brown and Juanita C. Ford Art Gallery
Downriver Campus

The School of Continuing Education hosted the opening reception of the *Twenty-One Shots: A Capstone Experience* featuring the artwork of WCCCD's photography students.



The Culinary Arts students provided a delicious culinary experience for guests.



Brown and Juanita C. Ford Art Gallery

Northwest Campus

We continue to receive overwhelming and positive feedback about the "Humanity: Paintings and Drawings" Exhibit at the Brown and Juanita C. Ford Art Gallery. Gregory Johnson's work explores the human condition through vibrant, emotionally resonant artwork, highlighting themes of identity, resilience, and shared experiences. The exhibit, presented by the School of Continuing Education, is on view through November 10, 2025.





WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT



**MICHIGAN INSTITUTE for
PUBLIC SAFETY**
E D U C A T I O N



Downriver Campus



U.S. Customs and Border Protection K-9 Training

The Michigan Institute for Public Safety Education (MIPSE) hosted members of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection K-9 unit for training. The dogs are trained to find either narcotics or food.

BASF Fire Training

MIPSE hosted BASF for a Fire Extinguisher Training course. The training consisted of general fire safety knowledge, fire extinguisher features and the use of fire extinguishers using MIPSE's car simulator.





Building Community Relationships



Trustee
Susan Steeby

Trustee Susan Steeby and staff represented the District at the Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital Harvest Moon Ball.



Furquan Ahmed participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly renovated Behavioral Health Unit at Detroit Medical Center (DMC) - Sinai Grace Hospital. Pictured far left, Gary Purushotham, CEO of DMC - Sinai Grace Hospital.



Denis Karic represented the District at the Metro Bureau Executive Board meeting.



Dr. Jocelyn Rainey held an NCA Gallery Exhibition this week at the Northwest Activity Center in Detroit, Michigan.



WCCCD student Idreyonna Knox and Monique Smith, SMART Program Coordinator attended the Fostering Futures Scholarship dinner. The Fostering Futures Scholarship provides scholarships to aged out foster care youth.



Division of Educational Affairs



Pathway Opportunities in Early Education

Members of the Division of Educational Affairs met with Dr. Denise Taliaferro Basile, Dean of Education at Wayne State University and her team to discuss pathway opportunities for students in Early Childhood Education and Teacher Education: Elementary Education.



Supporting our Mechatronics and Robotics/Automation Programs

The Division of Educational Affairs continues to draw talent for industry partnerships by building the faculty pool in Electrical Engineering, Mechatronics, PLC, and Computer Numerical Controls. These newly hired adjunct faculty will support the Mechatronic and Robotics/Automation programs at the Eastern and Ted Scott campuses.

Health Sciences Resource Collaboration

The Division of Educational Affairs is collaborating with the Allied Health Program Deans to evaluate and enhance the resources available at the Health Science Resource Center. This on-going review will:

- Ensure alignment with current curriculum needs.
- Incorporate newer, evidence-based materials.
- Support student success with more accessible and diverse resources.

Division of Student Services

CONSTITUTION DAY & CITIZENSHIP DAY

Ted Scott Campus



Curtis L. Ivery Downtown Campus



Eastern Campus



Downriver Campus



Northwest Campus



Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center



In the Legislative News...



CAPITOL UPDATE

Friday, September 12, 2025

Session Activity

The House approved [House Bill 4349](#), permitting cities to establish special assessment districts to finance maintenance and improvements for private roads.

Senators passed [Senate Bill 204](#) along party lines requiring school boards to establish procedures for potential building closures, aiming to ease the impact on families and staff.

Committee Activity

The Senate Elections and Ethics Committee reported four election bills along party lines this week, including a ban on paying petition circulators per signature and measures aimed at curbing misinformation.

The House Judiciary Committee heard testimony on [House Bill 4667](#), creating three new AI-related felonies, and [House Bill 4668](#), the Artificial Intelligence Safety and Security Transparency Act, which mandates risk management by large AI developers, adds regulations, and provides whistleblower protections.

In Other News

- Senate Democrats signaled support for many of the governor's road funding ideas. Senate Appropriations Chairwoman Sarah Anthony (D-Lansing) said a plan must combine new revenue along with budget cuts, while criticizing the slow negotiations ahead of the budget deadline. Possibilities include a wholesale marijuana tax, reallocating SOAR funds, heavy truck fees, and dedicating all fuel taxes to roads. This comes as another week passes with no action on the budget.
- The House Fiscal Agency reported August General Fund revenue at \$1.2 billion, about \$8.8 million above May estimates, but year-to-date collections remain \$82 million below projections for FY 2024-25.
- Governor Gretchen Whitmer will deliver her "Protect and Defend Michigan's Economy" speech on Tuesday, September 16th, in Lansing. Her office highlighted the need for a state budget amid economic uncertainty at both state and national levels.
- The Senate continues its effort to have nine leftover 2023-24 bills sent to the governor. Earlier this year, a court of Claims judge affirmed the House's duty to present the bills but stopped short of compelling action. The case, *Senate v. House* (COA Docket No. 374786), is now before the Court of Appeals, with arguments heard Tuesday by Judges Christopher Murray, Thomas Cameron, and Daniel Korobkin.

DR. RANDALL MILLER'S CORNER



Shining the Light on...

Xuefei Qi

Xuefei (Faye) Qi brings a rich personal and professional history to Wayne County Community College District. Born in Luoyang, China and coming to the United States in 2000, she immediately focused her energies on completing her higher education, earning a Master's degree in Mathematics and Computer Science from Eastern Michigan University (EMU) in 2004. Before coming to the U.S., she had earned a Bachelor's degree in Engineering and Fashion Design from China Textile University in Shanghai in 1996.



Prior to completing her Master's degree at EMU, Faye began working at Detroit Public Schools as a web programmer and database administrator. She soon moved to Eisenbahn Model Trains, Inc. in Plymouth to serve as the web master and database administrator, where she was responsible for designing and developing their website, for Internet research, and for updating and enhancing web graphics and images.

Thinking about how quickly web technology was advancing during this period, Ms. Qi's educational background and work experience prepared her for another move to the City of Ann Arbor, where she served as a web content/analysis specialist and designed and developed the city of Ann Arbor's website and maintained web content to meet all city departments' requirements.

She then moved to Leapers, Inc. in Livonia as a website analysis specialist where she developed and maintained the company website and worked with internal/external staff to identify, develop and implement online Web applications and solutions.

Having amassed a vast amount of relevant experience, Ms. Qi joined WCCCD, serving as the webmaster. She presently serves as the District Director, Web Security Administrator and develops, maintains and updates the college website for all departments, campuses, services, and products on a daily basis. She was central to the recently launched new college website and continues to have major responsibilities for updating and maintaining that site. Given her commitment to working in website development, her personal and professional goal is to continue learning new skills and keeping pace with new trends and staying abreast of cutting-edge technology.

When she is away from the District she enjoys dancing Zumba and playing pickleball. She also likes to explore nature and learn about different cultures. She is also fluent in written and spoken Mandarin Chinese.



CULTURAL ENRICHMENT



The International Women's Tea



The International Women's Tea was a vibrant event that served as a powerful platform for cultural exchange, networking, and community building. This event provided a unique and valuable opportunity to engage with communities, deepen understanding of global cultures, and foster meaningful connections.



Cultural Enrichment Course

Drs. Allan Cosma and Fidelis D'Cunha met to discuss the creation of a Cultural Enrichment course. This course would examine the value of long-held "Common Core" principles through an exploratory lens, while fostering inclusivity, strengthening cultural connections, and preparing students for the next millennium.

VIRTUAL INTERCULTURAL CONVERSATIONS



Participants in this week's Virtual Intercultural Conversations series joined in a session honoring National Hispanic Heritage Month and International Day of Democracy. Professor Bruce Ewen kicked off the session with Hispanic music. Dr. Fidelis D'Cunha facilitated the discussion which included presentations by Shaily Dey presented on Hispanic American history and by Nijhum Chakraborty on the value of democratic principles with reflections on Nepal.



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Northwest Campus



Detroit Institute of Arts Tour

The health science students, faculty, and staff participated in an educational trip to the Detroit Institute of Arts. The tour centered around the theme of healing and empathy, offering participants a guided experience to observe and reflect on a curated selection of artworks.





Division of Student Services

OFFICE OF OUTREACH AND RECRUITMENT



Outreach

The team continues to visit local high schools.



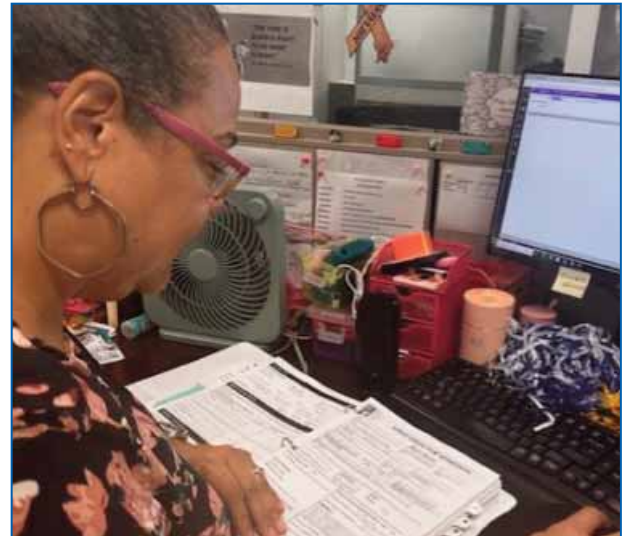
Dual Enrollment

Staff met to discuss strategies for recruitment for the Spring 2026 semester.



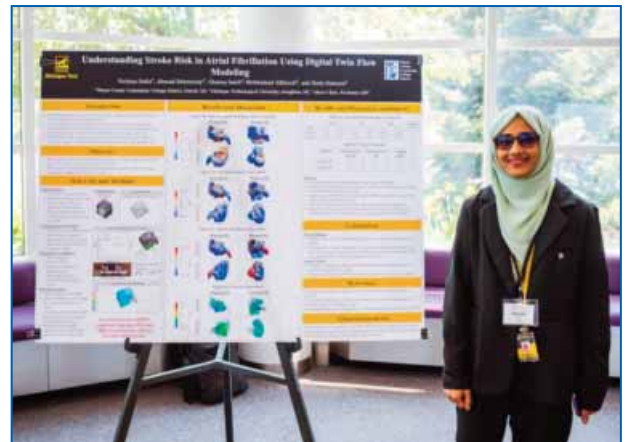
Considine

At our Considine GED site, our instructor Kola Hasanaj is assisting a new student get set up for class.



Admissions and Records

Staff continue to process applications for Dual Enrollment students.



Michigan College and University Partnership—MiCUP

WCCCD student, **Farjana Sadia** prepares to present her findings at Michigan Technological University's Undergrad Research Symposium. Farjana was one of five WCCCD students who participated in the month-long research internship.

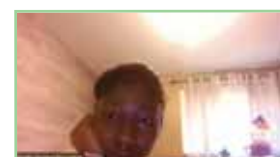
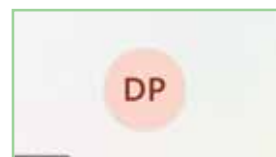
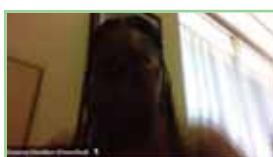
Division of Student Services



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Elizabeth Ajayi-Bridges presented at the District Student Services Friday Information Session. Dr. Ajayi-Bridges, Campus Dean, informed attendees of the new/updated programs in Fashion Design. Students may now opt for the Associates of Applied Science Degree in Fashion Design or the College Certificate in Fashion Design, both with an emphasis on Digital Fashion. The Associates of Applied Science in Fashion Industrial Tailor and/or College Certificate in Fashion Industrial Tailor and/or the Certificate of Achievement in Industrial Tailor, all with an emphasis on sewing. Also available is the Associates of Applied Science in Fashion Merchandising and/or College Certificate in Fashion Merchandising both with an emphasis on Business.

Financial Aid



Federal Work-Study (FWS) students started the Fall 2025 semester with temporary part-time jobs which are secured through the District Financial Aid Office. This program is designed to help students pay for educational expenses with wages earned directly from their employers. To receive these funds, student workers must first apply for federal student aid by submitting the FAFSA and demonstrate financial need. Once determination of eligibility is established, students are awarded federal funds and finally are able to secure a position with a participating offsite organization, or with one of our five campuses or center.



The District Financial Aid Office is preparing for the first disbursement of student financial aid funds for the Fall 2025 semester. The funds being disbursed are federal and state funds. They will cover tuition, fees, books, and supplies.



Division of Student Services



Phi Theta Kappa (PTK)

Phi Theta Kappa Alpha Upsilon Zeta members met to discuss research for their Honors in Action projects, PTK Edges, and their college project with WCCCD staff.

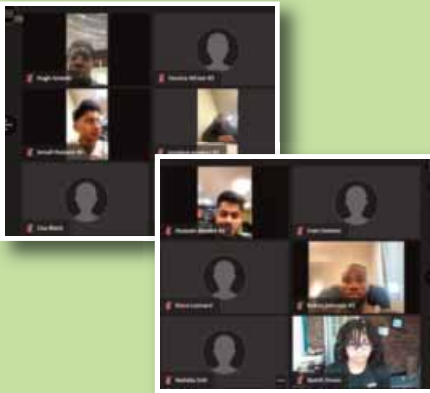
The Student Executive Council kicked off the academic year with True Colors. Students completed a questionnaire to learn more about their own communication styles and strengths, assisting them in performing more effectively within teams or groups, the workplace, classroom or personal life.

Student Executive Council



Cybersecurity Club

More than 40 students participated in the Cybersecurity Club's monthly meeting, which meets every second Wednesday. The featured speaker was Davon Joseph, Detection Engineer at United Wholesale Mortgage, who brought insights from his 3+ years in cybersecurity and over 10 years of IT experience.



Professional Headshots Photo Seminar

To kick off the Fall semester, WCCCD's new Learning Support Services (LSS) Program hosted a professional development series. Students learned about the Digital Photography Technology Program, the Professional Clothing Closet and received professional headshots from Professor William Sanders. Our LSS Program aims to empower new students by introducing them to key resources that enhance their college experience and promote college and program completion and success.





District-Wide Network Upgrade

The network equipment and bandwidth upgrade, wired and wireless networks across the District is underway. This week, the Network Support Team, in collaboration with our ISP provider, is working to complete upgrades at the Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center and Ted Scott Campus. In addition, site visits were conducted at the Curtis L. Ivery District Office and the Northwest Campus to survey fiber cabling and network equipment in preparation for upcoming upgrades.

This project will provide a faster, more secure, and reliable network for students, faculty, and staff across the District. The improvements will enhance both wired and wireless connectivity, supporting teaching, learning, and administrative operations.

District-wide Technical Support



**Northwest
Campus**
Nursing SimLab Support



Eastern Campus
Connecting Minority
Communities Program
Promotion



**Curtis L. Ivery
District Office**
Call Center & Facilities
Monitor Installation



**Curtis L. Ivery
Downtown Campus**
Art Gallery Smart
Projector Upgrade

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

OFFICE OF FACILITIES PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

The Office of Facilities Planning and Management serves the District by developing and maintaining clean, safe, functional, and attractive campuses. This office has a diverse range of functions. Some include:



**PLANNING AND
CONSTRUCTION**



**MECHANICAL
SYSTEMS
MAINTENANCE**



**PROPERTY
MANAGEMENT**



**MANAGEMENT OF
EXTERIOR AND
INTERIOR ASSETS**



**STUDENT
INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS**

Downriver Campus

Multiple major improvements were completed at the Downriver Campus to enhance accessibility and safety for students, staff, and visitors. The improvements included:



Replacing parking lot lights

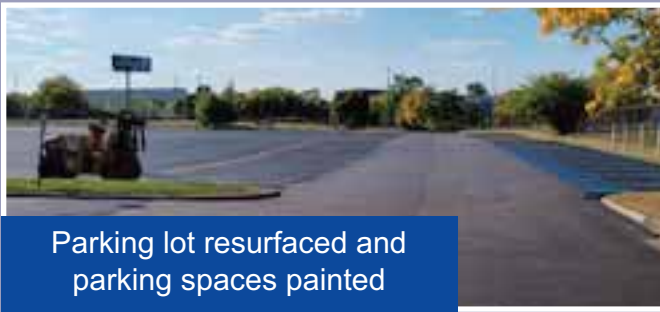


Routine landscaping maintenance

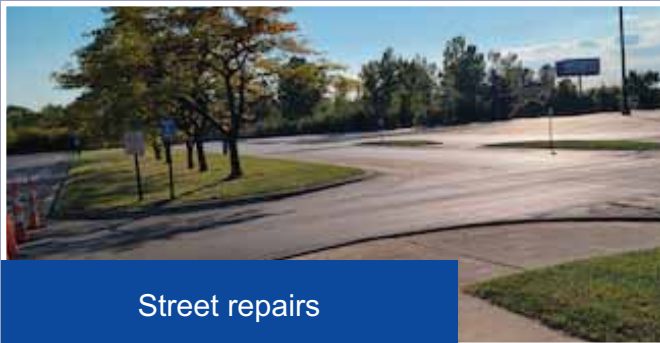


**Removal and replacement of concrete and
asphalt throughout the campus**

Eastern Campus



Parking lot resurfaced and parking spaces painted



Street repairs



Campus grounds maintenance

Northwest Campus

Facilities staff continue working on campus upgrades.



Division of Administration and Finance



The procurement team met to discuss the acquisition of goods and services for the District and reviewed updates regarding coordination with the Facilities Department.





Division of Workforce and Economic Development

Partnership Opportunities

Furquan Ahmed met with John Graves, Chairman of the Rainbow PUSH Automotive Project, to explore potential opportunities related to an EV Automotive Program partnership.



Civil Technology Boot Camp

Ime Umana attended WCCCD's Civil Tech Boot Camp at the Michigan Department of Transportation. Mr. Umana has since registered for CIV 100 and CIV 160. He is demonstrating outstanding focus, determination, and perseverance to his academic and career goals.

Civil Technology Program

Thank you to Fatima Carr and Carlos Hewitt for registering all the new students for the Civil Technology Program. Their dedication and support are truly commendable.





Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center

Dual Enrollment Program

Parents and students attended an orientation to learn about WCCCD's Dual Enrollment Program.



Detroit Association of the Deaf

The Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center hosted the Detroit Association of the Deaf's monthly meeting.

AKA- Alpha Gamma Lambda Omega Chapter

The Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center hosted the AKA - Alpha Gamma Lambda Omega Chapter's monthly meeting.



Curtis L. Ivery Downtown Campus



Language Institute

The Language Institute hosted a session featuring Morocco language and culture. Through interactive lessons, activities, and discussions, students gained a deeper appreciation of the country.

The Language Institute continued its ESL TV Show activity. Students enjoyed watching the classic episodes of sitcoms and then discussed the story, sharing reflections, and asking each other questions.



Detroit Housing Work Group

The Curtis L. Ivery Downtown Campus hosted Councilman Pro Tem James Tate and Councilwoman Latisha Johnson to collaborate with others across Detroit, in order to explore meaningful ways to increase affordable, accessible, and attainable housing.

Service Employees International Union Workshop

Service Employees International Union held its contract negotiation meeting.



Community Partners

The Community Law School provided a forum for community members to become educated in the critical areas confronting historically marginalized communities.

CURTIS L. IVERY HWEC

Health & Wellness
Education Center



Senior Strength Training

HWEC seniors enjoyed learning techniques to improve balance, flexibility, and body strengthening in a safe space designed especially for seniors.



Vibrant Health Workshops

The Vibrant Health workshops returned with a seminar discussing the benefits of healthy eating with restaurant owner Fatima Tekko who focused on smoothies, juices and “energy soup.”



Meeting

Mike Dotson and staff met with representatives from the non-profit community group, HealThyself to review the schedule of Vibrant Health Workshops for the Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 semesters.

Downriver Campus



Learning Resource Center

The Downriver Campus hosted a community puzzle activity in the Learning Resource Center. Students, faculty, and staff worked together to contribute to the puzzle, encouraging collaboration and engagement on campus.

Wayne Metro Community Action Agency (CAA)

The Downriver Campus hosted Wayne Metro CAA Head Start Staff In-Service. This in-service included training on safety precautions, fire safety, first aid and choking response, and medication administration and management.



Wayne County Sheriff's Department

The Downriver Campus hosted Wayne County Sheriff Implicit Bias training. This training refers to implicit bias, also known as the unconscious attitudes and stereotypes that affect our understanding, action and decision, often without our awareness.



Republic Services

Republic Services held its Annual ROAD-EO Business Unit Competition. The event consisted of multiple skills and safety challenges related to commercial motor vehicles, forklifts, and technician tasks.

Eastern Campus



Spring 2026 Schedule Development Meeting



Continuing Education

Participants learned a variety of techniques in the Art of Makeup course.



Student Satisfaction Inventory Action Plan Meeting

Ted Scott Campus

Brown and Juanita C. Ford Art Gallery



The School of Continuing Education hosted the opening reception of the Purple Orange Agnes Detroit art exhibit featuring artwork by Agnes Gira.



Wayne County Literacy Coaching Network

The Ted Scott Campus hosted Wayne RESA's Wayne County Literacy Coaching Network 2025-2026. Participants discussed research-based practices using collaborative inquiry, common texts, and discussion of the essential coaching practices for literacy.



Chancellor's Weekend Memo

Mission

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.

Vision Statement

WCCCD will be known as a premier community college and innovator in the areas of high quality academic and career education, talent development in support of regional economic growth, diversity and inclusion, and technological advancement.

WCCCD's Values Statements:

- Supporting excellence in teaching and learning
- Honoring diversity
- Serving the common good
- Being accountable
- Operating with integrity

