



Pictured with Trustees James Wagner, Paulette Brown and Roy Edmonds



Serving Our Community Together

2025 Neal Shine Award for Exemplary Regional Leadership

I am deeply humbled to be named the recipient of the 2025 Neal Shine Award for Exemplary Regional Leadership. This recognition is an incredible honor that reflects not only my efforts but also the unwavering support, collaboration, and inspiration I've received from so many dedicated colleagues and community partners.



WCCCD First Lady
Ola Ivery





Dr. James Sawyer



Dr. Rose Bellanca



Carol Cain



Jim Perry



Huel Perkins

Roop Raj



Ashley Wisniewski



Dave Bing

Shining Light Awards winner says we should unite 'to help a hurting world'

Detroit Free Press staff

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4 min read

In divisive times, the messages from three metro Detroit leaders were welcome — collaborating for the best possible outcome, empowering people to achieve their potential, uniting to make an impact.

The three leaders accepted awards for their work in skilled trades, community development and education on Tuesday, Oct. 7, during the 18th annual Shining Light Awards.

"We are living in uncharted times and sometimes it's very unsettling," said Lisa Johanon, executive director and co-founder of Central Detroit Christian Community Development, who accepted the Eleanor Josaitis Unsung Hero Award. "But, friends, it's not about you or me. It's about us and we. We, joining together to help a hurting world."

That "we" sums up the award series, which recognizes people who build bridges across a variety of groups and work toward regional cooperation and understanding.

The awards honor the work and legacies of late Free Press Editor and Publisher Neal Shine, late civil rights activist and Focus: HOPE Cbo-founder Eleanor Josaitis, and basketball legend and former Detroit Mayor Dave Bing. The Shining Light Awards are presented by the Metropolitan Affairs Coalition and the Detroit Free Press.

On Oct. 7, during a luncheon at Ford Field, nearly 300 people from across metro Detroit gathered to recognize the honorees. Here's a look at their work, and what they had to say.

Curtis L. Ivery, Neal Shine Award for Exemplary Regional Leadership

Curtis Ivery has led Wayne County Community College District for 30 years as chancellor of the six-campus college. Ivery, 76, arrived at the college when it was in turmoil. It had three presidents in five years, infighting among board members and a revolving door of administrators. He expected to stay for just a couple of years before moving to a new job, but Ivery never left. During his tenure, WCCCD has expanded its footprint, improved facilities and updated its course offerings. About 12,000 students enroll in degree programs for fall and spring semesters. About 40,000 enroll in non-degree programs, including vocational programs, every year.



Dr. Curtis Ivery, the Wayne County College District Chancellor, is the 2025 Neal Shine Award recipient for Exemplary Regional Leadership as part of the Shining Light Awards presented by Metropolitan Affairs Coalition and the Detroit Free Press. [More](#)

Ivery recognized not just to his own colleagues at WCCCD but fellow community college leaders in the region.

"We are about collaboration. When we can't get it done at one location we have no problem reaching out to another location to put in place whatever is necessary to serve students," Ivery said, as he accepted the Neal Shine Award for Exemplary Regional Leadership.



Jim Zeman



Derek Johnson

Manufacturing Day

WCCCD, in partnership with SEMCA, hosted our yearly Manufacturing Day. Middle and high school students from different districts learned about our wide range of program offerings, inspiring the next generation to explore careers in this valuable industry.



DOWNRIVER CAMPUS



EASTERN CAMPUS



TED SCOTT CAMPUS





Global Conversations Speaker Series The Public Safety Crisis

Wayne County Sheriff Raphael Washington and Detroit Police Chief Todd Bettison spoke at the Curtis L. Ivery Downtown Campus for the Global Conversations Speaker Series on The Public Safety Crisis. This session, moderated by Journalist Bankole Thompson, included topics on leadership, accountability, and prevention.





Division of Student Services

OFFICE OF OUTREACH AND RECRUITMENT



Outreach

Staff met to discuss dual enrollment and document completion for the upcoming Spring 2026 semester.



Dual Enrollment

Frontier Academy College Day

Records

Staff met to review the Spring 2026 registration checklist, conduct the Daily Admissions Review, and deadlines for Fall 2025 graduation applications.



Federal Work-Study Program

The Federal Work-Study staff recently trained FWS ambassadors on effective communication techniques, focusing on professional phone etiquette, and student engagement.



Division of Student Services



New Student Experience

The New Student Experience helps students transition into college life by offering support for academic preparation and social engagement. This new initiative connects students with the necessary resources and campus activities to ensure both personal and academic success.

Student Success

Staff continue to assist students with exploring flex start classes, finding flexible options to stay on track with their studies.



Campus Life

Dr. Tammy Anderson welcomes her former Hamilton Elementary student, and now a new Dual Enrollment Instructor, Malik Singleton. Mr. Singleton attended WCCCD as a dual enrollment student, rounding his career off with a BA in Communications Studies and an MA in Media for Social Impact.



Kenyatta Green presented the new Cosmetology Management Programs to attendees of the Student Services Weekly Information Session. This new program offers both an Associate of Applied Science degree and a certificate. The program is housed at the Curtis L. Ivery Downtown Campus and is open to both new and licensed cosmetologists interested in owning or managing a salon or spa business.

Division of Student Services



Phi Theta Kappa (PTK)

PTK members hosted their annual PTK Edge Workshop Pizza Party at the Curtis L. Ivery Downtown Campus. The interactive workshop provided a live demonstration of how PTK Edges support members throughout their educational journey.

Kingsman Chess Club

WCCCD students are sharpening their skills in preparation for the upcoming tournament.



Athletics

The Wildcats participated in the Mott Community College Invitational at the Flint Golf Club.

Landon Kongeal led the way with a hard fought 76, to help keep the Wildcats competitive. Go Wildcats!

Creative Art Society Fall Festival of the Arts 2025



Tonya Seegars represented the District as the Honorary Chairperson at the Creative Art Society Fall Festival of the Arts 2025.

Creative Art Society (CAS) is a non-profit educational art club in Wyandotte, Michigan. The art club is comprised of artists, teachers, collectors, and just lovers of art. Their primary interest is helping to keep local art alive in the Downriver and Metro-Detroit areas.



Weekly Continuing Education Enrollment

September 27 – October 4, 2025

Curtis L. Ivery
Downtown Campus
753

Eastern Campus
374

Ted Scott Campus
223

Downriver Campus
564

Northwest Campus
795

Mary Ellen Stempfle
University Center
61

WCCCD Hosts the Lakin Institute

We were pleased to host the Lakin Institute at the Curtis L. Ivery Downtown Campus. Through this partnership, emerging leaders gain first-hand experience engaging with community and political leaders to advance their institutions and strengthen their communities.





Division of Educational Affairs

Academic Affairs

Drs. Harvey Dorrah and Carolyn Custer met with faculty members Drs. Yolanda Harris and Michelle Parizon to discuss strategies for providing specialized support to learners across the spectrum of neurodivergence.



The discussion focused on inclusive curriculum design, specialized services, and enhancing accessibility across academic pathways.



University of Olivet Meeting

Dr. Tynisha McGee met with Dr. Steven Corey, President of the University of Olivet, as part of the MI-ACE Senior-Level Leadership Shadow Program. They discussed leadership through a lens of education for individual and social responsibility.

LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER



Students at the Curtis L. Ivery Downtown Campus are utilizing the Learning Resource Center to study and use resources to complete assignments.



HUM102 Field Trip

HUM102 Introduction to Performing Arts students participated in a field trip to Detroit's Orchestra Hall. Students were able to see Troupe Vertigo, and to hear the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.



Building Relationships



Chris Dunavant attended the GrrCon Cyber Security Summit in Grand Rapids, MI.



Dr. Abby Freeman attended the Limitless Learning Summit in Colorado Springs with Cengage.

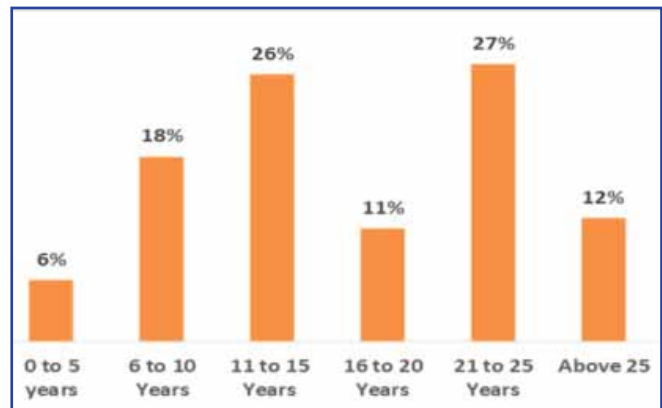


Staff and Rev. Jim Holley represented the District at the Amigos de SER Business Recognition Luncheon.



The Division of Human Resources (HR) recognizes the critical significance of the dynamics and demographics of the District's workforce. In our commitment to excellence, we continuously assess and analyze relevant data to ensure that the District is strategically positioned for success.

Employee by Year of Services



HR is continuously working on reliable data management so that campuses and divisions can use the information in an easily accessible and secure environment.

HR compiles weekly reports on:

- Leave Time Usage Report
- FMLA/FFCRA Report
- Position Control Summary
- Benefit Administration Report
- Personnel Action Notices
- Assignment Extended and Ending Report
- Attendance Report
- Retirement and Separation Report
- Faculty Pool Report
- Home Base Report

Division of Information Technology



Microsoft 365 Migration Project Update

The Division of Information Technology continues to make steady progress on the migration of staff, faculty, and student email to Microsoft 365. This initiative, which has been underway for several months, is enhancing access to communication tools and strengthening protection against phishing and other cyber threats.

October's focus is on completing the transition for student inboxes and ensuring full alignment of faculty and staff accounts. The project team is finalizing configurations, preparing support resources, and coordinating with departments to ensure a smooth experience for all users.

Project Update Meeting

The Systems and Infrastructure team convened to develop strategies for enhancing and maintaining comprehensive documentation to better support IT department staff during future deployments and implementations. These open brainstorming sessions provide a collaborative environment for team members to share insights, identify recurring challenges, and propose solutions, ultimately contributing to more efficient, organized, and seamless technology rollouts.



District-Wide Technical Support



**Eastern Campus
Classroom Hardware
Upgrade**



**Ted Scott Campus
CCTV Server
Rack Upgrade**



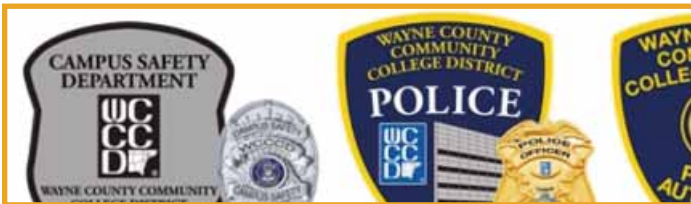
**Curtis L. Ivery
Downtown Campus
Event Support**

Website Redesign Taskforce

Aalog Update Training Session



This week, members from the Division of Educational Affairs and the Website Redesign Taskforce participated in an Aalog Update Training Session. Aalog is our college's online catalog system, designed to help students, faculty, and staff easily find up-to-date courses and program information.



District Police Authority

Professional Development

Police Authority officers Kimberly Castillo and Kenneth Moore successfully completed the Field Training Officer Program, a cornerstone of professional development within modern policing. The program is designed to identify and enhance the leadership potential of veteran officers by transforming their on-the-job experience, tactical expertise, and communication skills into effective teaching and mentoring practices.





CULTURAL ENRICHMENT



Asian Cultural Meeting



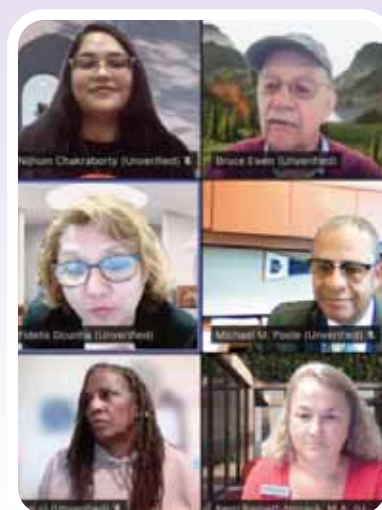
This week's Asian Cultural Meeting took place at the Northwest Campus. Insights on the vibrant traditions of South Asia were shared. A presentation on the intricacies of a Bengali marriage, detailing the rich ceremonies, rituals, and the deep cultural significance they hold, was given.



Virtual Intercultural Conversations

During this week's Virtual Intercultural Conversations, we celebrated both German American Heritage Month and the Jewish festival of Sukkot. We also focused on Germantown, Pennsylvania, and the German American Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C.

Professor Ewen shared about notable German American contributors. He also discussed German food, their strong sense of discipline, and their influence in fields such as science, politics, and the automotive industry.





Division of Workforce and Economic Development



Construction Trades Training Program

The Construction Trades Training Program has officially launched its third cohort of the year. This six-week training begins with credentialing in First Aid/CPR and OSHA 30.

CDL Class A Program

The new CDL Class A cohort has commenced. Students will complete a minimum of 160 contact hours—split evenly between behind-the-wheel road/range training and structured observation. Graduates of the program will earn their Class A Commercial Driver's License, equipping them for high-demand careers in commercial transportation.

CDL Program Completers

Graduates of the most recent CDL Class A program received their Certificates of Completion this week.





Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center



University Partners

The Central Michigan University recruitment team visited students at the Curtis L. Ivery Downtown Campus. They shared information regarding transfer opportunities once students graduate from WCCCD.

Community Outreach

Kimett Hackworth met with representatives from the Helm to discuss Continuing Education course offerings for the Spring 2026 semester.



Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors

The Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center hosted the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors monthly meeting.

Downriver Campus



Wayne Metro Community Action Agency CPR Training

The Downriver Campus hosted Wayne Metro CAA CPR training.



Wayne County Department of Health, Human, and Veterans Services



Wayne County Department of HHVS held its Safe Sleep Matters: Infant Safe Sleep Conference, providing education and resources to help families and professionals promote safe sleep practices and prevent infant deaths.

WiHERed



The Downriver Campus hosted WiHERed Day, founded by Dr. Kay Ready and officially recognized by Governor Gretchen Whitmer and Congresswoman Debbie Dingell. This annual program celebrates women in real estate and business who rise above fear, embrace purpose, and build lasting legacies.

Wayne RESA Early Childhood Positive Behavior Interventions and Support Workshop

Participants explored foundational practices that support young children's social and emotional development through nurturing relationships and high-quality, supportive classrooms.



Curtis L. Ivery Downtown Campus



PepsiCo Scholarship Foundation



PepsiCo participants were provided with clear learning objectives to equip them for real-world challenges, while they set specific targets to foster their professional growth and deepen their industry engagement.

Fluency on Demand



The Language Institute hosted a Fluency on Demand session to assist students learning the English language. This workshop used interactive Mango Languages Software and popular board games.



Trading Stories

The Language Institute continued its ESL TV show exercises. Students enjoyed watching the classic episodes of sitcoms and then discussed the story.



Afrofuturism: Reimagining Our Future

The Curtis L. Ivery Downtown Campus hosted the Afrofuturism: Reimagining Our Future workshop. This session raised awareness and helped educate the community increasing their understanding of dyslexia and its impact on students, families and educators.

Northwest Campus



Screening of The Whitmore Project Documentary

This documentary follows Lisa Whitmore Davis's personal journey through breast cancer treatment. The event offered valuable resources and educational materials, emphasizing the importance of preventive care and early detection.



Detroit Association of Realtors

The Detroit Association of Realtors hosted a Home Buyers Seminar at the Northwest Campus.



Civil Engagement Discussion

The Northwest Campus hosted a discussion panel to promote civic engagement and participation in economic and political issues.

Eastern Campus



Be In The Know Workshop

This educational workshop informed youth and caregivers of the impact of illicit drugs, prescription drugs and alcohol on the brain and body.



Microbiology

Students in BIO 295 are preparing the Gram Staining experiment to show the morphology of the culture.



Campus Meetings

- Janitorial Needs Meeting
- Student Services and Instruction Collaboration Meeting



J55 3D Printer Installation

Ted Scott Campus



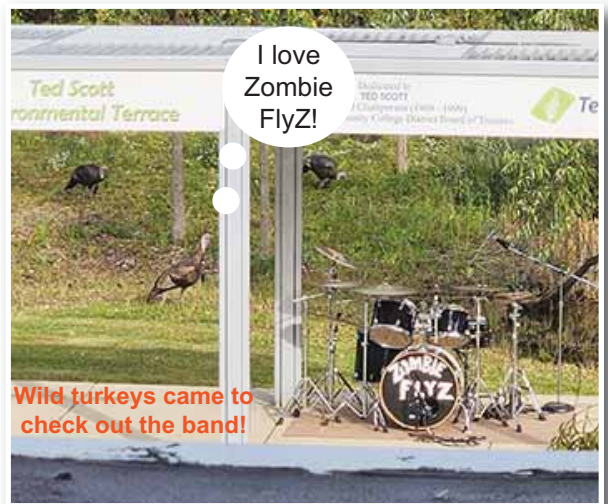
Continuing Education

Students in the Continuing Education Beginner Sewing class are learning the basics of using a sewing machine to make blankets.

Music on the Terrace



The Ted Scott Campus hosted Zombie FlyZ for the first in a series of four bands, as part of the Music on the Terrace series. Participants were able to enjoy a variety of music from different backgrounds and genres.



Wild turkeys came to check out the band!

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

