

Chancellor's Weekend Memo



Weekend Memo 1521

November 8-14, 2025



"This is more than a conversation—it's a movement toward rebuilding lives and empowering our youth. Detroit's strength has always been its people, and events like this remind us what's possible when we come together."

~ Dr. Curtis L. Ivery

We proudly launched the Detroit Urban Summit Series around issues that affect youth, drawing educators, students, civic leaders, and community advocates from across the region to confront some of the most pressing challenges facing younger generations across the nation.

The Summit, "Youth Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Rebuilding Communities and Lives," held at the Northwest Campus, offered an inspiring day of dialogue, learning, and shared commitment to the support and development of our next generations.



James White

President & CEO, DWIHN



Rev. Dr. Wendell Anthony, President of the Detroit Branch NAACP, gave a powerful call to action to come together as a community to support young people towards healthy and successful lives as they navigate how mental health and substance abuse intersect with education, social justice, and economic opportunity.



Keynote speaker **Shaka Senghor**, bestselling author and youth advocate, delivered a stirring message about resilience, redemption, and the transformative power of mindset and community.



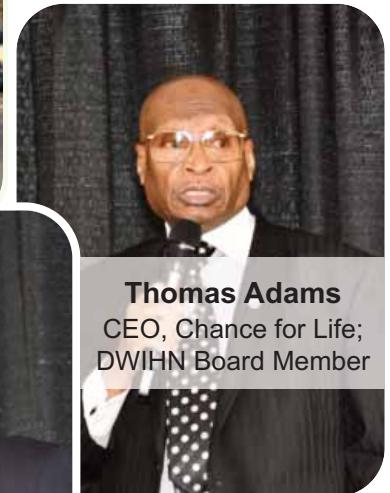
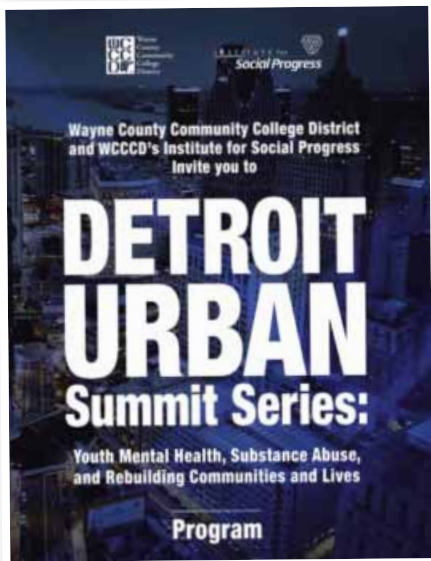
Leland K. Bassett

Master of Ceremony,
Chairman & CEO
Bassett & Bassett

Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent of DPSCD, led an engaging discussion where he explored the evolving educational landscape, youth-mental health issues, and collaborative solutions to advance student success.



Detroit Urban Summit Series



Thomas Adams
CEO, Chance for Life;
DWIHN Board Member



Matt Yascolt
Director of SUD, DWIHN

Community partners and leaders with Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network (DWIHN) connected with attendees to share resources and ongoing initiatives to support youth well-being and recovery.



Dr. Andre Johnson
Founder, President
& CEO, Detroit
Recovery Project

Discussion on
Solutions and
Community Support



Dr. Carmen McIntyre Leon
Assistant Professor & Associate Chair of Community
Affairs, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral
Neurosciences, Wayne State University



Detroit Pistons Shooting Guard **Chaz Lanier** provided a younger person's reflection on the mental health challenges that can confront everyone, and took photos with high school students from across metro Detroit area.

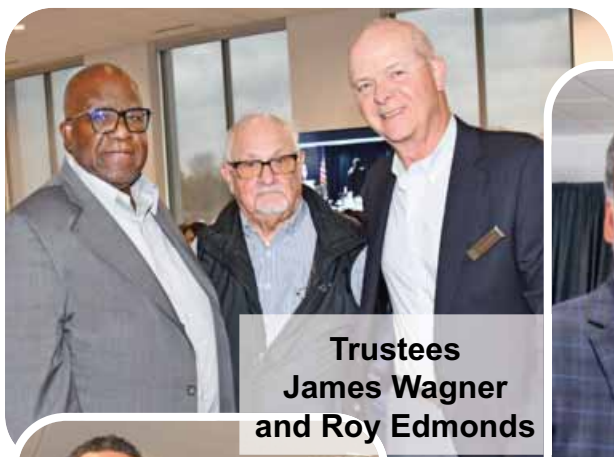


Judge William C. McConico
Chief Judge, 36th District Court

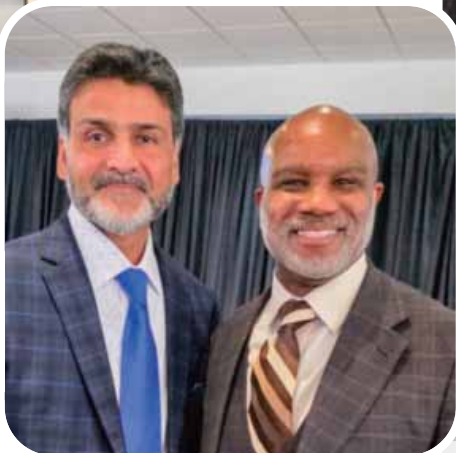


Bankole Thompson
Founder & Dean,
The PuLSE Institute
Opinion Columnist,
The Detroit News

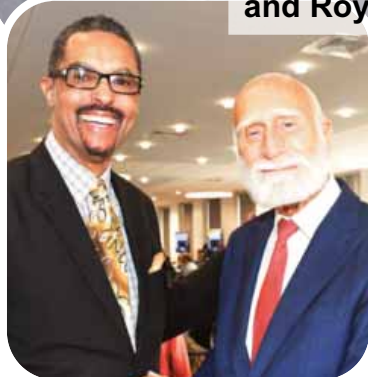
Detroit Urban Summit Series



**Trustees
James Wagner
and Roy Edmonds**



Marcina Mills Bowers
WCCCD Visual Communications
Associate & Senior Project Manager



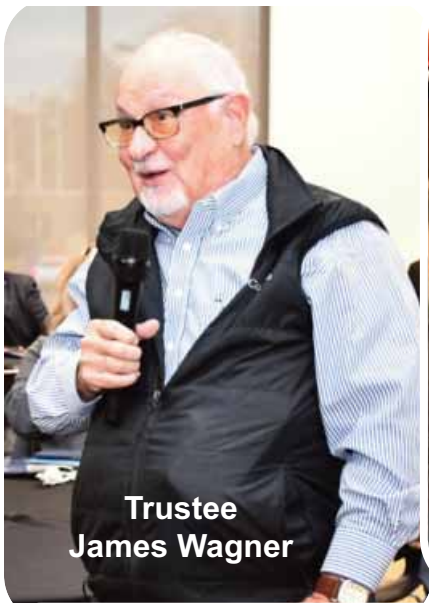
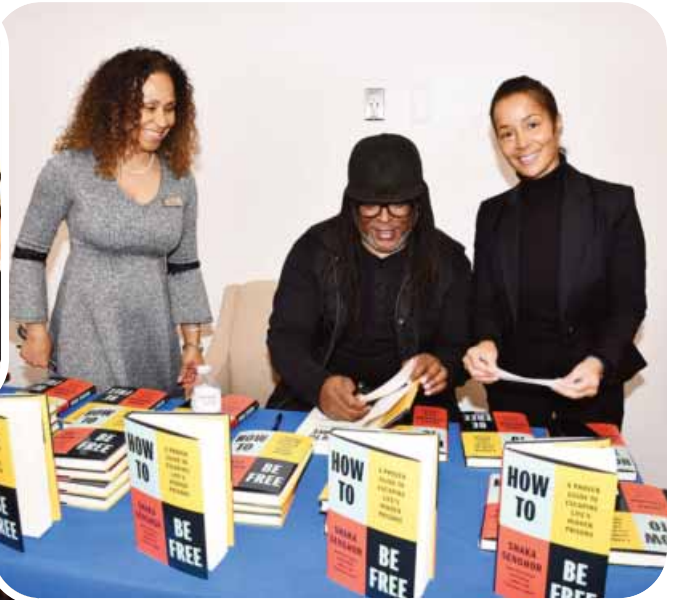
"I wanted to take a moment to express my genuine appreciation for the outstanding 2025 Detroit Urban Summit Series: Youth Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Rebuilding Communities and Lives. The Summit was both engaging and thought-provoking—timely, relevant, and deeply needed during these challenging times that affect us all. Your vision shines brightly, and is truly blessed to have a dynamic, dedicated team that shares his unwavering commitment to strengthening our community. The work being done here truly makes the world a better place." ~Greg Dunmore



Raihan Akther
Bridge Academy West Principal



Detroit Urban Summit Series



Detroit Urban Summit Series

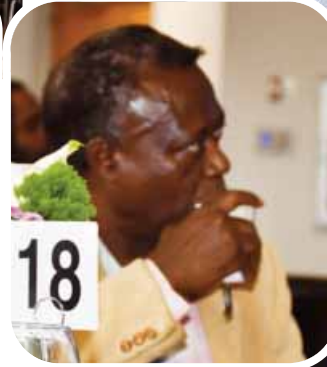


One Vision, One District, One College

Detroit Urban Summit Series



Detroit Urban Summit Series



Detroit Urban Summit Series

Participating high schools included Bridge Academy West, Harper Woods, Henry Ford, Northwestern, Old Redford Academy, and River Rouge.



Board of Trustees Meeting

November 12, 2025





MCCA Presidents Committee Meeting

I participated in the Michigan Community College Association's (MCCA) Presidents Committee Meeting. Some of the agenda items included:

- A Sponsor Presentation on Element451
- Student Success Discussion
- Merit Network Services
- Legislative Updates
- AACC Guidance on Workforce Pell Implementation



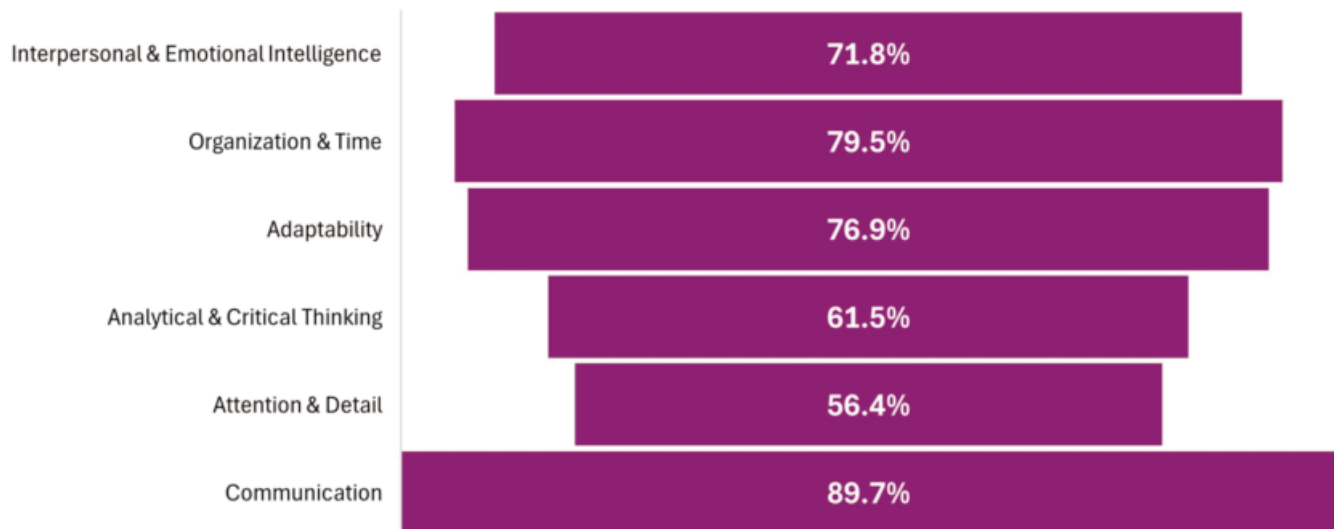
I met with Harper Woods Mayor Valerie Kindle, Trustee Roy Edmonds, and members of my Leadership Team to discuss mental health and other programs that are important for supporting and empowering our youth.



Institutional Effectiveness

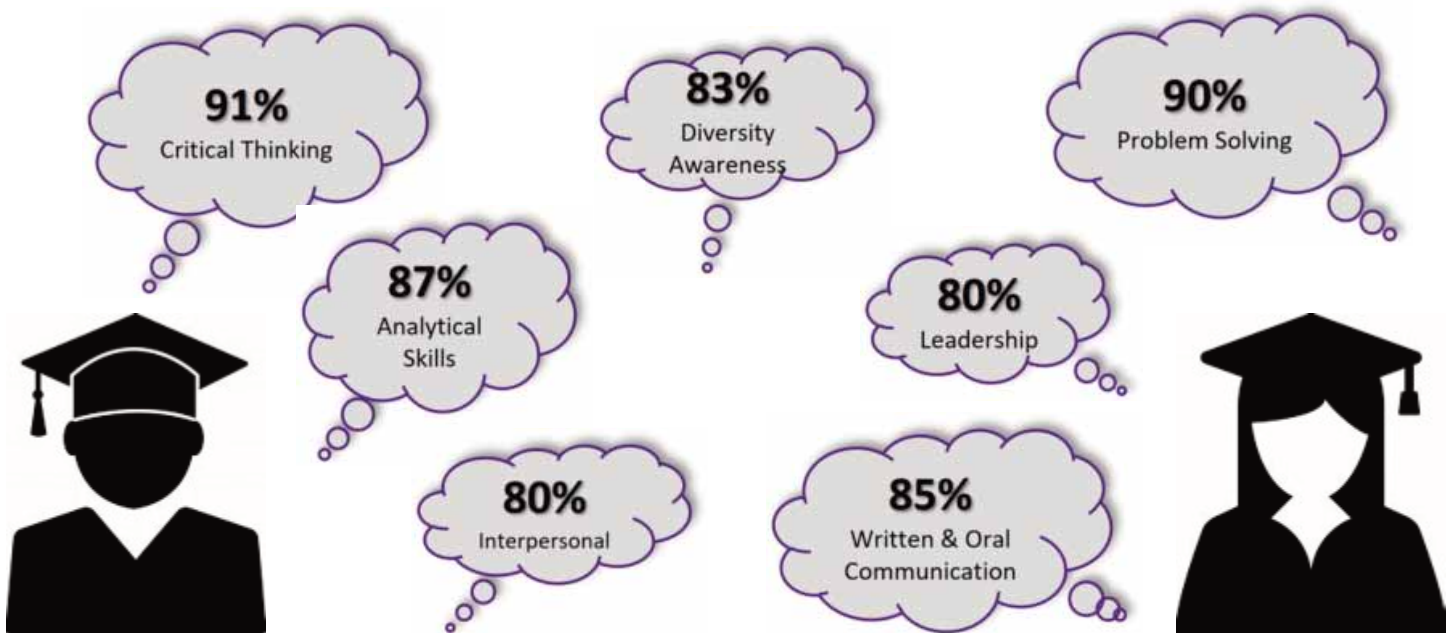
The Division of Institutional Effectiveness (IE) continues to collect feedback from students, faculty, staff, and business partners to identify required skills for future careers and jobs. IE conducts labor market analysis and prepares data for the program review process led by the Division of Educational Affairs. A key data source is the graduate exit survey to understand how WCCCD students perceive preparation for their post graduation goals. Below highlights education research on the frequency of soft skills referenced in job descriptions for several sectors in the job market.

2025 In Demand Soft Skills



Source: <https://www.educations.com/industry-reports/what-soft-skills-are-employers-looking-for-in-2025>

Below provides an overview of WCCCD graduates perceived skill development after completion of their degrees and certificates.



Detroit Metro Robotics League

The Ted Scott Campus presented the Detroit Metro Robotics League Meet Workshop. Attendees learned applied multi physics engineering skills.



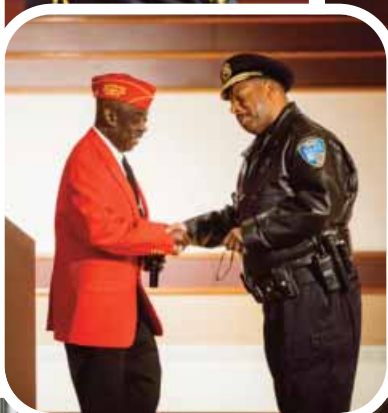


Veterans Day Flag Raising 250 Years of U.S. Military Service

The Downriver Campus hosted a Veterans Day Flag Raising ceremony honoring 250 years of U.S. military service. Several Veterans shared their experiences and reflections on what military service means to them. Following the flag rise, attendees were provided with information about college and Veteran resources.



WCCCD District Police Authority





GET IT Connection Summit

The Ted Scott Campus, in partnership with the Michigan Council of Women in Technology presented the GET IT Connection Summit. Young women spent the day learning about different technologies and/or tech concepts in a practical, hands-on environment.





Division of Human Resources

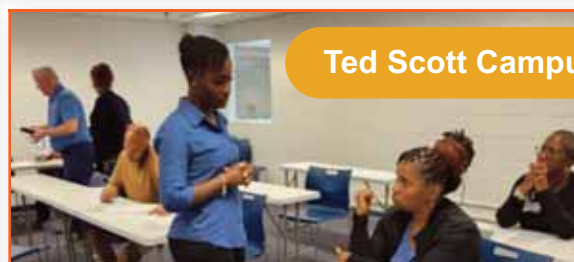
Benefits Open Enrollment/Payroll Audit



Curtis L. Ivery District Office



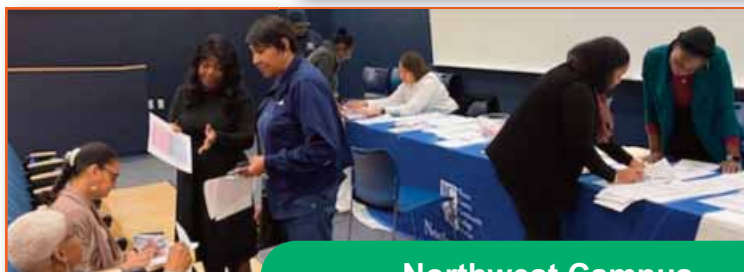
Curtis L. Ivery Downtown Campus



Ted Scott Campus



Downriver Campus



Northwest Campus



Amanda Seales

“What Would the Ancestors Say??”



Students came to the Curtis L. Ivery Downtown Campus to enjoy an engaging and thought-provoking evening with author Amanda Seales. Blending humor, history, and social commentary, Ms. Seales captivated the audience with *What Would the Ancestors Say??*, a dynamic performance that explored the wisdom of the past and our role in shaping the future.



Amanda Seales





CULTURAL ENRICHMENT



BANGLA MELA

Participants celebrated the Bengali culture through interactive discussions, performances and displays, highlighting its rich tradition in art, literature and cuisine.



Trustee
Asm
Rahman



Legislative Update...



CAPITOL UPDATE

Week Ending November 14, 2025

Session Activity

The House and Senate both unanimously approved amended versions of [SB 596](#) and [HB 4420](#), establishing a mandatory 45-day review period for legislative earmarks before they can be voted on.

The Senate passed a petition signature gathering legislative package. [SB 529](#) bans paying petition circulators based on the number of signatures they collect; [SB 530](#) creates a fine for circulators who fail to show or read the proposal summary to potential signers; and [SB 531](#) allows election officials to count only the first valid signature from voters who sign the same petition more than once.

Committee Activity

Reps. Brad Paquette (R-Niles), Jennifer Wortz (R-Quincy), and Rachelle Smit (R-Shelbyville) testified before the House Health Policy Committee in support of [HB 5201](#), [HB 5202](#), and [HB 5203](#), a package reinstating abortion-reporting requirements, collecting data, and making improper disclosure a felony.

Those who received unemployment benefits for which they may not have been eligible for during the COVID-19 pandemic could be relieved of repayment under legislation advanced by the Senate Labor Committee. [SB 700](#), sponsored by Sen. Darrin Camilleri (D-Trenton), would waive recovery of UIA payments issued between Feb. 7, 2020, and Sept. 5, 2021, by classifying them as agency errors.

The Department of Health and Human Services is developing a plan to lower Michigan's SNAP error rate as the state faces potential federal penalties. The department aims to bring the rate below 6% and has outlined an eight-step strategy to get there. Under federal law, states must cover part of SNAP benefit costs if their error rates exceed 6% starting in FY 27-28. Michigan could owe between \$160 million and \$481 million, depending on the rate.

The House and Senate held a joint committee meeting to discuss the recent Implementation Recommendations on Alternative Funding for Trial Courts. The House Judiciary Committee and the Senate Civil Rights, Judiciary and Public Safety Committee heard the proposal, which would fund trial court operations from local units, existing state and federal funding, centralized Trial Court Fund revenues, and increased state appropriations.

In Other News

- More than 30 business groups formed the [Michigan Alliance for Legal Reform](#), saying Michigan's legal system has become too costly and unpredictable. Citing a tort tax on households and job losses tied to excessive litigation, the coalition is backing upcoming reform legislation from Rep. Mike Harris (R-Clarkston). Their top priorities are restoring the open and obvious defense and requiring transparency in third-party litigation funding.
- Senate Republican Leader and gubernatorial candidate Aric Nesbitt (R-Lawton), along with 21 other Republican legislators, are urging the U.S. Department of Justice to oversee Michigan's 2026 election, arguing that Secretary of State and fellow gubernatorial candidate Jocelyn Benson faces a conflict of interest.
- House Republicans introduced the Real Jobs Tax Credit, [HB 5292](#) and [HB 5293](#), offering a payroll tax credit of up to 50% of income tax withholding for creating full-time, permanent jobs paying at least 150% of the regional median wage. The program is capped at \$50 million per year, allocated across small, mid-sized, and large employers. Under the legislation, MEGA credits would be folded into the Corporate Income Tax. HBs [5294](#), [5295](#), [5296](#), and [5297](#), also part of the package, would fully repeal SOAR.



WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT



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



Downriver Campus

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Training

The Downriver Campus hosted the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary for a training course. This training helped participants develop essential first aid knowledge, hands-on skills, and the confidence to respond in emergency situations.



William D. Ford Career-Technical Center

Fire Students



Students practiced donning and doffing fire gear and SCBA, knot tying, and salvage tarp techniques, essential skills used to secure scenes, preserve property, and protect life during fire emergencies.



WCCCD Fire Fighter I Practical

Students practiced essential fire skills, including knot tying and scene preservation techniques, reinforcing their ability to respond effectively to real-world fire emergencies.

Detroit Fire Department Driving Training

Members of the Detroit Fire Department participated in a hands-on driving training. The sessions included the operation of various fire department vehicles.





WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT



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



Downriver Campus

Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital – Relationship-Based Care Training

The Downriver Campus hosted Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital for a Relationship-Based Care training workshop.



FBI Detroit

The Michigan Institute for Public Safety Education (MIPSE) hosted FBI Detroit for a two-day Bloodstain Pattern Recognition and Blood Processing for Forensic Scenes course.

Midland Dow Chemical Tour

Staff met with representatives from Midland Dow Chemical to discuss future training opportunities.



School of Continuing Education



Home Ownership Forum

We continue our Three-Part Community Forum Series, designed to empower individuals and families with the knowledge, tools, and resources to achieve their dream of owning a home.

December 10, 2025
 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
 Eastern Campus

How do we develop the housing that is needed?

In this last session, we will bring together developers, contractors, policy makers, housing advocates and community leaders to develop strategies to close the housing gap.



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



The NAACP Detroit Branch presented by George W. Crockett Jr Community Law School at the Eastern Campus. Discussion focused on Caregivers' Rights, Disability Rights, and Employment Rights.

Weekly Continuing Education Enrollment

October 27 – November 8, 2025

Curtis L. Ivery
Downtown Campus
669

Eastern Campus
283

Ted Scott Campus
803

Downriver Campus
932

Northwest Campus
492

Mary Ellen Stempfle
University Center
68



Division of Student Services



Phi Theta Kappa (PTK)

Staff attended the PTK Region Advisor's Meeting to discuss the upcoming Hallmark Nominations, Scholar-Dash, Honors in Action, and College Projects.



New Student Experience

In the peak of registration, the New Student Experience Team assists students in registering for Spring 2026 courses.



Student Activities

Students participated in a session with Michigan Technological University representative, Kaylah Michelson, as she shared information about the Michigan College and University Partnership Program.



Dual Enrollment Program

Staff met to discuss Spring 2026 course offerings for dual enrollment students.

Division of Student Services



Financial Aid

Staff represented the District at Financial Aid Night to assist students with completing FAFSA applications.



Professional Development

Donnell Mason facilitated the District Student Services Information Session this week. Mr. Mason gave a thorough overview of registration, Degreeworks, Brianfuse as well as other helpful functions in the My Wildcat Portal available for staff, students, and faculty.

**Good Luck to our
Wildcats Basketball
Teams this Season!**

MEN



WOMEN

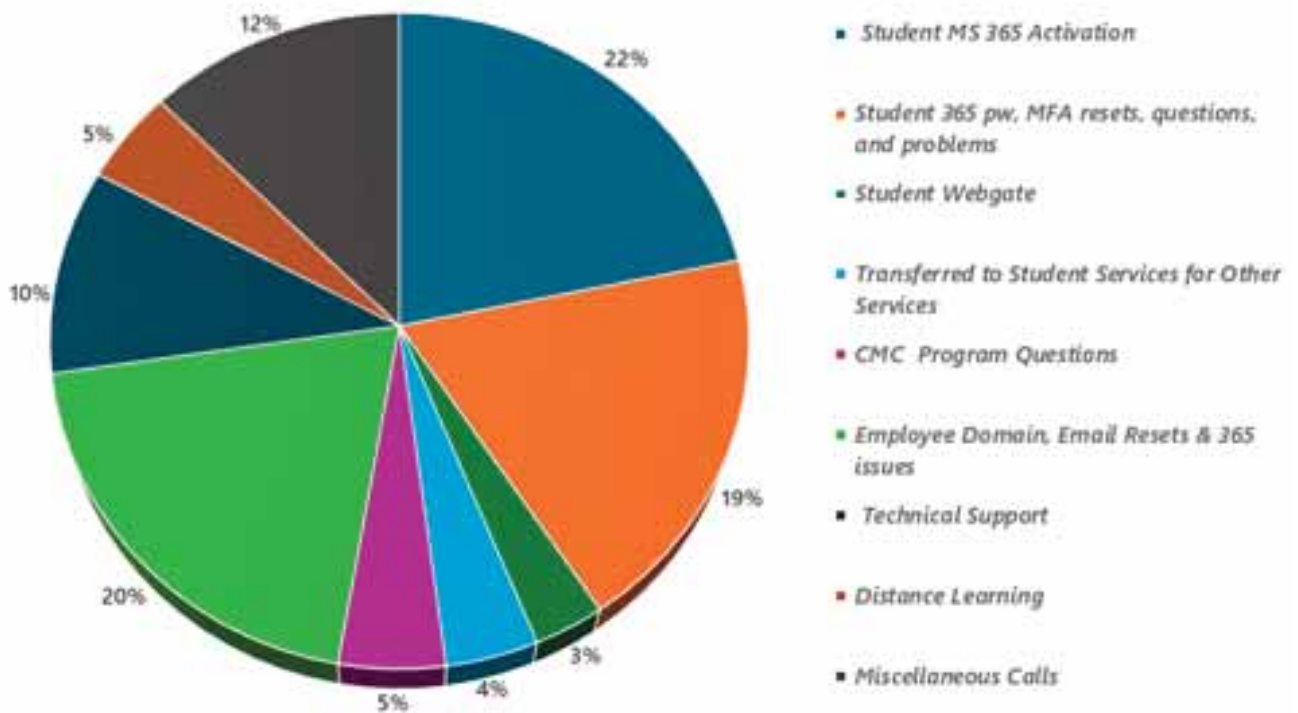


Student Support Services

Daniella Captain, WCCCD Student, expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to have her professional headshot taken by Professor Bill Sanders.

Division of Information Technology

HELPDESK REPORT - OCTOBER 2025



District-wide Technical Support



Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center
Smart Technology Installation



Northwest Campus
Classroom Support



Ted Scott Campus
Robotics Competition Event Setup/Support



Division of Educational Affairs

Digital ACCESS Program Meeting with Follett Higher Education



Members of the Educational Affairs team met with Ryan Peterson, President of Follett Higher Education and his executive staff members. Discussion focused on the Digital ACCESS program for Pearson textbooks. This initiative focuses on expanding affordable and immediate digital access to required course materials for students.

Visual Arts Class DIA Field Trip

Visual Arts students went on an inspiring field trip to the Detroit Institute of Arts, where they explored exhibits, including the vibrant Ofrendas Altar and African American Art Gallery, to spark ideas for their final projects.



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

New Center Plumbing completed repairs on the hot water heater at the Downriver Campus.

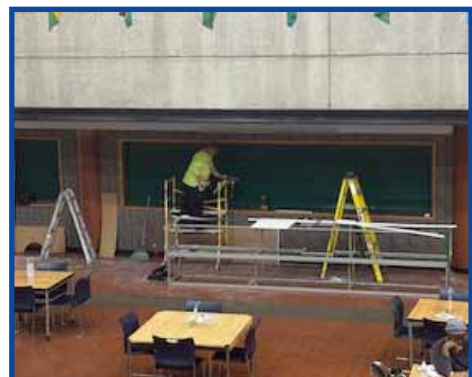


Eastern Campus

New Fashion Design tables installed in the classroom.



Curtis L. Ivery Downtown Campus

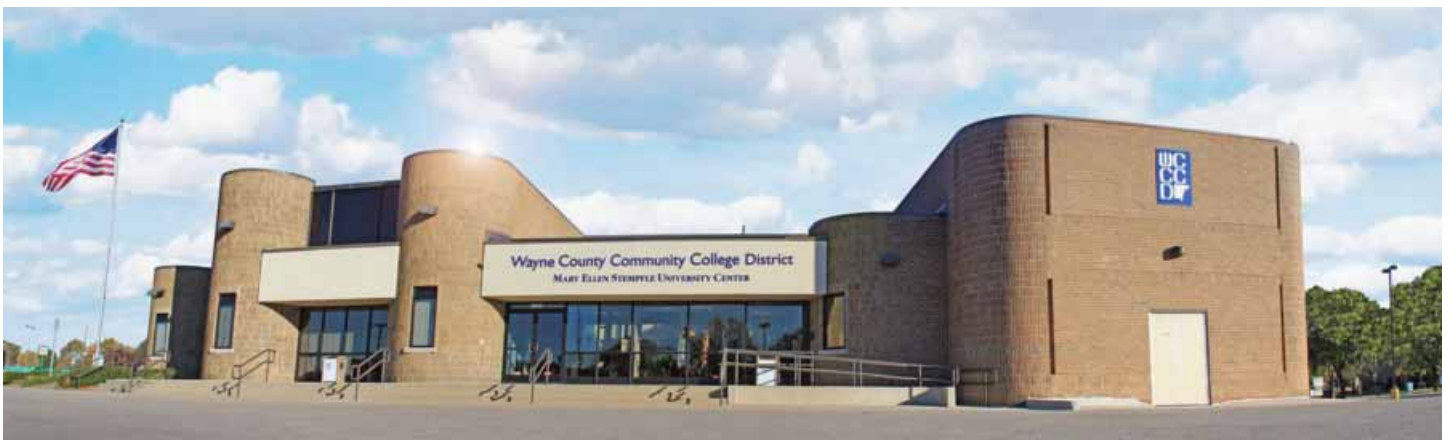


Renovations are underway for the upcoming food pop-up restaurants.



**Michigan Institute for
Public Safety Education**

Concrete repairs were completed this week.



Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center

Educational Partnerships

Diverse Learners Theatre Production Showcase

The Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center, in partnership with the Grosse Pointe Theatre and Michael B's, presented an exciting end of semester theatre production showcase for students with special needs. This collaborative program allowed participants to demonstrate their hands-on theatrical experience in a supportive environment.



University Partners

Staff from the University of Michigan were at the Curtis L. Ivery Downtown Campus sharing information with students regarding programming and transfer opportunities once they graduate from WCCCD.

Downriver Campus



Art of the Arc – Closing Reception

The Downriver Campus hosted the Art of the Arc closing reception, presented by The Arc Downriver. The Arc Downriver is a membership-based organization that supports children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, as well as their families.



Southern Wayne Conference Quiz Bowl

The Downriver Campus presented the Southern Wayne Conference Quiz Bowl weekly competition. This high school sanctioned competition of academic teams from Southern Wayne Conference competes in jeopardy style matches.



Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

The Downriver Campus hosted the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Sigma Zeta Chapter for a members luncheon.

Curtis L. Ivery Downtown Campus



The Curtis L. Ivery Downtown Campus displayed a Veteran's table in honor of all who served.



Celebrating our Veterans!



Veterans Lounge

The campus has added new furniture to the Veterans student lounge area. This area is designed to create a more comfortable and inviting space to relax or study.



Student Activities WCCCD Chess Club



The Language Institute

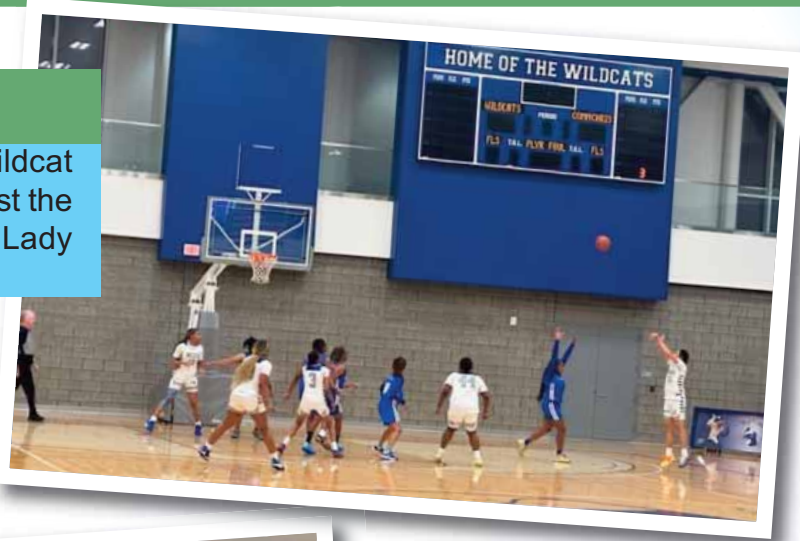
The Language Institute presented an engaging session on the French language, customs, and traditions. Dr. Dib Saab offered students an immersive cultural experience by exploring the beauty of the French language through interactive learning activities and discussions highlighting France's rich history, art, and lifestyle.

CURTIS L. IVERY HWEC

Health & Wellness
Education Center

Basketball

The HWEC hosted the Wildcat Women's Basketball game against the Christian Community College Lady Lions.



Vibrant Health Series

The Vibrant Health Series returned with a seminar discussing the benefits of healthy living with Kenneth Green, Environmental Scientist and Musician, who discussed *Bio-Friendly Frequency as a Healing Modality*.

Class

Members enjoy a fast-paced workout that incorporates kettlebells of different sizes and weights for an intense, fun full-body exercise.



Eastern Campus



Student Creativity in Art

Students are exploring textures, colors, and shapes through their art creations.



The Art of Makeup

Students are learning how to apply eyelashes, lipstick, and the finishing touches to facial makeup.



Introduction to Graphic Design

Students are learning how to create digital footprints with social media.

Eastern Campus

Division of Workforce and Economic Development

Introduction to HVAC and Hermetic Systems

Students are learning about HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) and Hermetic Systems focusing on the principles of thermodynamics, the refrigeration cycle, and hands-on skills in installation, maintenance, and repair.



Construction Trades Training Program
*Student Completion
and Success On the Rise!*

Ted Scott Campus



Coming Soon! Dual Enrollment Suite

Staff did a walkthrough of the future Dual Enrollment Suite to discuss plans for the renovation of the space.

Northwest Campus

Outreach Opportunities

Furquan Ahmed met with the Honorable Judge Shannon Holmes to discuss community outreach opportunities.



Education Policy Symposium

The Northwest Campus hosted The McKinney Foundation's 2025 Education Policy Symposium, titled "Stop the Learning Loss, Equip Schools to Thrive." This program brought together educators, policymakers, and community leaders to explore how social determinants of health impact K–12 learning.



Dr. Yvette Anderson moderated a panel discussion titled *Impact of the Social Determinants of Health on K-12 Education: Critical Issues, Barriers and Strategies*.



Townhall Healthcare Resource Outreach Program

Northwest Campus



Henry Ford Hospital Employee Resource Fair



The HSC team represented the District at the Henry Ford Hospital Employee Resource Fair.



Community College Fair

Staff represented the District at the Community College Fair at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan office.



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

