

Chancellor's Weekend Memo



Weekend Memo 1562

September 5 - 11, 2026

2026 REGIONAL LEADERSHIP CONVENING

I was pleased to join Congresswoman Debbie Dingell and Wayne County Executive Warren Evans on the Regional Leadership Panel at the Downriver Forward 2026 Regional Leadership Convening. Hosted by the Downriver Community Conference (DCC) at our Downriver Campus in partnership with the Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber, this convening brought regional leaders together to share perspectives and explore opportunities to strengthen Downriver through collaboration, education, workforce development, and economic opportunity. We would like to express our gratitude to Jim Perry, Executive Director of the DCC, for helping make this event a success.



Congresswoman
Debbie Dingell



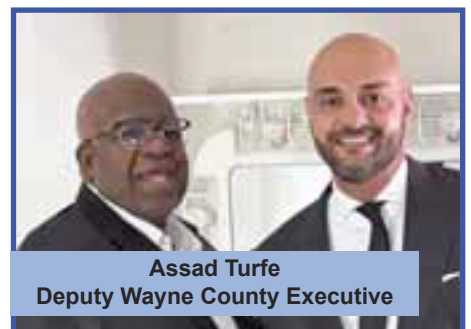
Wayne County Executive
Warren Evans



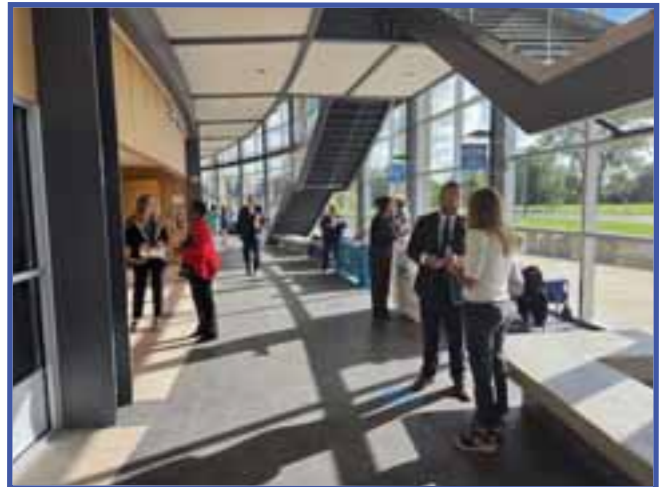
Trustee James Wagner



Jim Perry
Executive Director, Downriver Community Conference



Assad Turfe
Deputy Wayne County Executive





Enhancing Educational Partnerships

I met with Wayne County Sheriff Raphael Washington and members of his Senior Leadership Team to discuss innovative educational partnership opportunities.

180 Years of Detroit Schools: Integration and the Legal History of Detroit Public Schools

WCCCD's Institute for Social Progress presented a forum titled, "180 Years of Detroit Schools: Integration and the Legal History of Detroit Public Schools," at the Curtis L. Ivery Downtown Campus. Moderated by WCCCD Professor Josh Bassett, the forum featured University of Michigan Law School's Michelle Landry and Victori Pedri, who unveiled a new interactive timeline tracing the history of educational access in Detroit from 1839 to the present. The timeline draws on research associated with Professor Michelle Adams' book, *The Containment*.

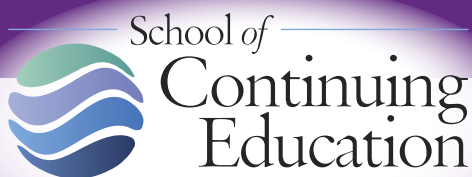




Dennis Archer Jr.
Chairman and CEO
Sixteen42 Ventures

NEW COURSE TEACHES STUDENTS ABOUT BRANDING

Students are learning strategies for building a powerful brand in a new course taught by Dennis Archer Jr., Chairman and CEO of Sixteen42 Ventures, at the Northwest Campus. Each class focuses on a key element of personal branding and marketing as students develop their own brand and marketing playbook while gaining practical skills in positioning, storytelling, content strategy, and public relations through real-world instruction and examples.



Wayne County Community College District

ACS Taxonomy Review

This week, staff from the School of Continuing Education conducted the Activities Classification Structure (ACS) Taxonomy Review. This taxonomy review provides an in-depth overview of continuing education programs that are classified by the Michigan Community College Structure.



Wonderful Wednesdays

This week, Dr. Abby Freeman and members of the Health Science Team participated in the *Wonderful Wednesdays* program at the Northwest Campus.

This weekly program continues to bring community leaders, business owners, professionals, and partners together around the table—fostering meaningful connections while showcasing the talent and creativity of WCCCD students and culinary professionals at the Culinary Arts and Hospitality Center.



Great Customer Service

We received this complimentary note about Joseph Kellem:

Mr. Kellem with Student Services has a beautiful work ethic. He was personable, kind and very helpful also very patient and listened to all my concerns. This is my 5 star review. In today's times you don't really get warm, welcoming helpful support. I can tell he loves his job and takes pride in what he does

*Sincerely,
Ashley Jackson*





CULTURAL ENRICHMENT



2026 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S TEA GROUP



Staff participated in the 2026 International Women's Tea Group meeting, organized by Cynthia Khan of Refuge Nation. The event brought together approximately 500 participants representing nearly 40 countries to celebrate cultural diversity through traditional food, attire, music, and dance.



VIRTUAL INTERCULTURAL CONVERSATIONS

This week's Virtual Intercultural Conversations focused on Labor Day, the Hamtramck Labor Day Festival, National Hispanic Heritage Month, and Janmashtami, highlighting the history, traditions, and cultural significance of each observance. Presenters included Bruce Ewen, Nijhum Chakraborty, and Shaily Dey.



Division of Student Services



New Student Experience Welcomes Students

The New Student Experience (NSE) is creating a new beginning for students—helping them feel welcomed, connected, supported, and part of the college community.



But what does NSE mean to students? Their voices say it best:

“It was the sense of belonging for me.”

“I enjoy the workshops and events.”

“They are friendly and always there for you.”

“My NSE Advisor/Success Coach was helpful, supportive and available when I needed guidance.”



As we celebrate our inaugural NSE experience, we're proud to build a community where every student feels supported from the start.



District Student Services

Dr. Ashanti Israel was the featured presenter for the Division of Student Services weekly Information Session, highlighting the Federal Work-Study Program at WCCCD and opportunities for eligible students to gain part-time work experience while receiving financial aid.

Division of Student Services



Admissions and Records

District Student Services staff are assisting students with registration, locating classes, and other needs as the Fall Semester begins.



Outreach

The Recruitment and Outreach Team is meeting with high school students providing information about the college's program offerings.



Dual Enrollment

The District's Dual Enrollment Team met to discuss course alignment.



WCCCD's Considine GED Center Presents Music Therapy Workshop

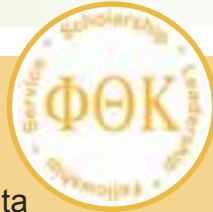
Students participated in a Music Therapy Workshop exploring how music can promote relaxation, self-expression, and personal growth.



Federal Work Study

Dr. Ashanti Israel met with new Federal Work-Study (FWS) students to discuss program expectations, workplace responsibilities, timekeeping procedures, professionalism, attendance, and the importance of maintaining satisfactory academic progress. The orientation provided students with an opportunity to ask questions and become acclimated to the requirements of the FWS Program.

Division of Student Services



Phi Theta Kappa Meeting

Alpha Upsilon Zeta Officers of Phi Theta Kappa met with members seeking financial aid and scholarship guidance and discussed upcoming service projects.



Community Service

Alpha Upsilon Zeta, members volunteered at The Buzzbees & Boys to Men Maintenance LLC 4th Annual Backpack Giveaway on Detroit's west side. The event was a wonderful opportunity for Alpha Upsilon Zeta members to put Phi Theta Kappa's Hallmark of Service into action while supporting local youth and giving back to the community.



Patriot Day & National Day of Service and Remembrance

As we observe September 11, we remember those who lost their lives and honor the heroes who served others in the aftermath. May we carry their legacy forward through kindness, service, and commitment to community.



WCCCD Wildcat Mascot is getting ready!

WCCCD's Wildcat Mascot Gears up for the 2026-27 Athletic Season

Wildcat fans can follow WCCCD sports on the mcaa.org website. This month, our Golf Team opens their season at Kirtland Community College's Golf Invitational. Go Wildcats!

Division of Educational Affairs

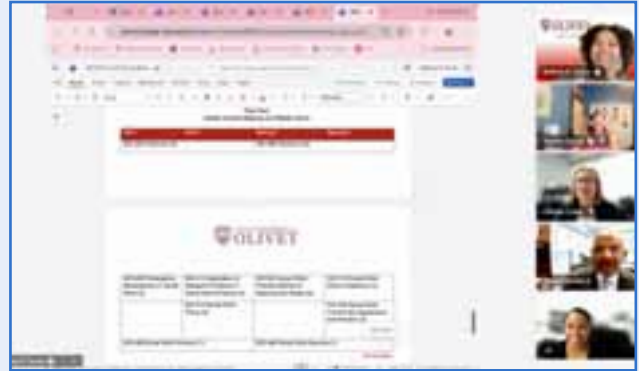
Expanding University Partnerships

Grand Valley State University



Staff from the Division of Educational Affairs recently met with representatives from Grand Valley State University to explore transfer pathways leading to a Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity.

The University of Olivet



Team members also met with representatives from The University of Olivet to discuss pathways in Social Work.



LRC Satisfaction Survey

The LRC Satisfaction Survey is now open for students, faculty, and community members to share their experiences with Wayne County Community College District Learning Resource Centers.

Thank you for helping us continue to improve and better serve our campus communities.



District Police Authority

Honoring Our Retiring Officers

Members of the WCCCD District Police Authority recently visited Officer Richardson and Officer Clark as they begin their well-deserved retirement after many years of dedicated service to the Detroit Police Department and WCCCD's Police Authority. Please join me in extending our sincere appreciation to both officers for their longstanding commitment and service to our community





Program Highlight

Pharmacy Technology Program

Students in the Pharmacy Technology Program are gaining hands-on experience in medication preparation, pharmacy operations, and patient care. Through practical instruction and real-world learning experiences, students are developing the knowledge, technical skills, and confidence needed to pursue rewarding careers in pharmacy and related healthcare settings.



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**

Eastern Campus



Ongoing Eastern Campus Fire Safety System Upgrades

Northwest Campus



Our Facilities team continues to play a vital role in keeping WCCCD's campuses safe, maintained, and ready for our students, employees, and visitors. From working on campus upgrades and improvements to addressing repairs and maintenance needs, their work happens every day to ensure our facilities remain welcoming and functional. We appreciate their commitment, responsiveness, and dedication to creating a safe and positive campus environment.



Continuous **Quality** Improvement

District Campus Support Services

HVAC and Facilities



Preventative maintenance and repairs continue across the District, with a focus on ensuring safe, reliable and operational facilities at all locations.



HVAC Facilities Work Order Meeting

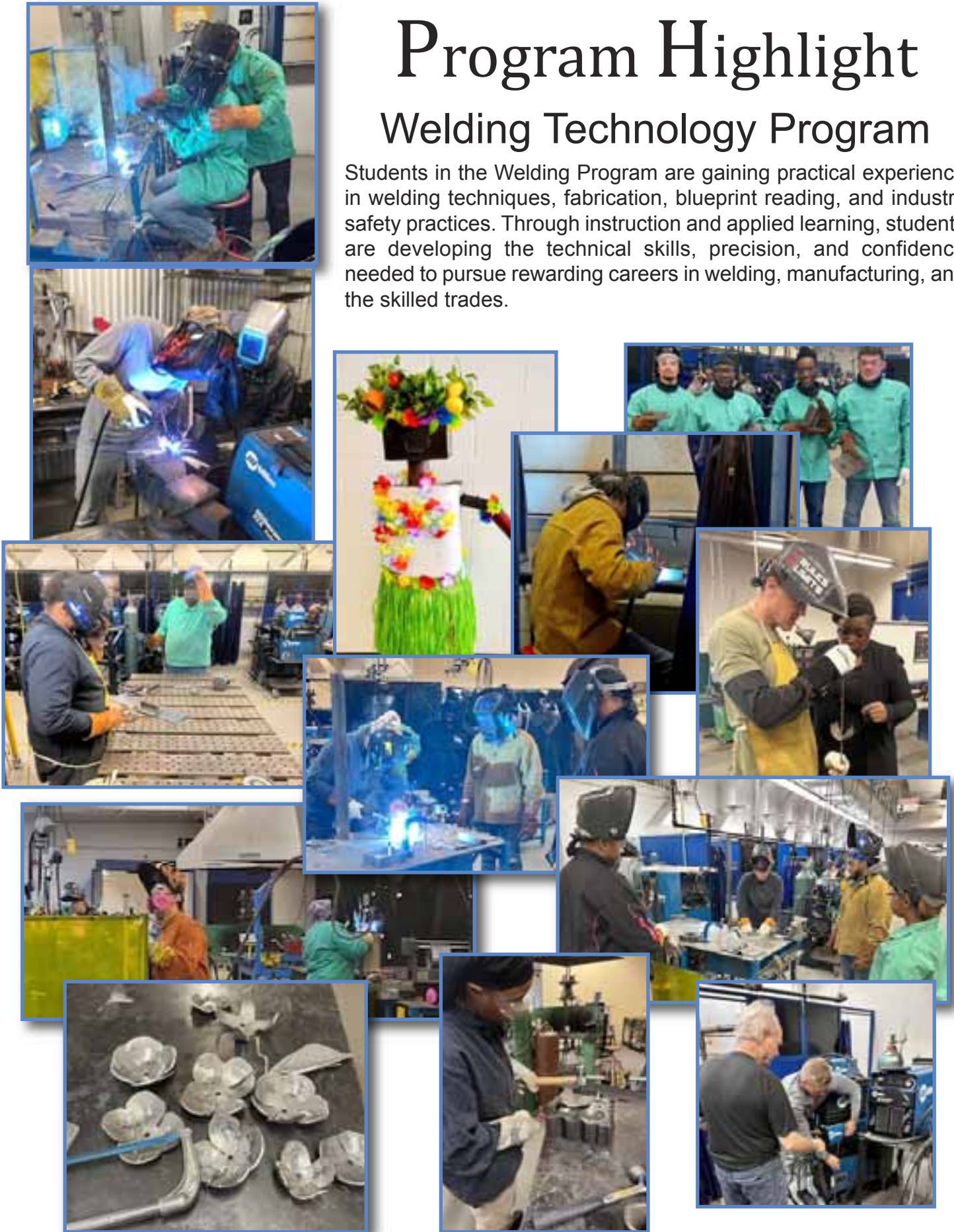


Jeff Anderson and Orlando Wilkins met to review incoming work orders and establish priorities to ensure repairs are addressed efficiently and strategically across all District locations. This collaborative approach supports ongoing timely response, effective resource allocation, and continuity of operations throughout the District

Program Highlight

Welding Technology Program

Students in the Welding Program are gaining practical experience in welding techniques, fabrication, blueprint reading, and industry safety practices. Through instruction and applied learning, students are developing the technical skills, precision, and confidence needed to pursue rewarding careers in welding, manufacturing, and the skilled trades.





Building Community Relationships



Trustee Sharon Scott

Trustee Sharon Scott and Matt Green attended the Westland State of the City Address.



Furquan Ahmed and Wayne County Treasurer Eric Sabree participated in a humanitarian community outreach event supporting the local community

Scholarship Committee Annual Meeting



The WCCCD Scholarship Committee held its annual meeting, during which it installed new officers, elected new board members, and began the 2026–27 scholarship review process.



AI Fundamentals for HR Professionals

A woman with short dark hair, wearing a white cardigan over a pink top, is seated at a desk. She is looking down at a stack of papers in front of her, with her right hand resting on them. A computer monitor is visible to her right, and a window with a view of a city skyline is in the background.



Division of Administration and Finance



Members of the District Travel Policy Committee met to review best practices to ensure ongoing alignment with current travel trends and increased travel costs.

DR. RANDALL MILLER'S CORNER



Success, Failure, and the Courage to Continue

Bernie Marcus, the Co-founder of Home Depot and the founder of the Marcus Foundation, was still contributing to society up until his death at age 95. He had been enormously successful, and he had been willing to share his approach to helping others.

He began by saying that his senior team was never really impressed with themselves. They were humble and were “always looking for flaws, weaknesses, and ways to improve.” At Home Depot, “we visited our competitors, listened to complaints, talked to our customers, and tested new technologies,” as Marcus stated in *Kick Up Some Dust*. We found that giving away big money through the Marcus Foundation also had its challenges, and “we learned to ask tough questions, leveraged our giving to encourage others to join, and tried to expand our partnerships.”

Both in retail and in philanthropy, Marcus was always looking at what they learned and how they could get better. He quoted Winston Churchill, who said “success is not final, failure is not fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts.” The ability to pivot from both failures and successes is what enriches life.

Book Recommendation

Kick up Some Dust: Lessons on Thinking Big, Giving Back, and Doing it Yourself
Written by Bernie Marcus with Catherine M. Lewis

Happening Now!



Staff participated in a Business Review Meeting with Ellucian focused on reviewing the District's progress, current operational performance, key challenges, and priorities for the upcoming months. The discussion provided an opportunity to assess the overall partnership, identify areas requiring additional attention, and align Ellucian's services and resources with WCCCD's strategic and operational priorities.

District-Wide Technology Disposal



District-Wide Campus Technical Support





Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center

First Day of Classes: Diverse Learners

On the first day of Fall classes, Diverse Learners students were back in the classroom, energized and ready to take on a new semester.



Distance Learning

As the Fall semester begins, WCCCD's Distance Learning staff have been hard at work helping students get started, whether that means walking them through Blackboard over the phone, in-person, or troubleshooting technical issues on a video call. From the first day of classes, our team has been available to make sure students feel confident navigating their online courses, no matter where they're logging in from.



University Partnership Spotlight

The University of Michigan-Flint (UM-Flint) is one of our valued University Partners, helping our students continue their education and complete a bachelor's degree after earning their associate degree at WCCCD.

Early and Timely Feedback

As we reach the three-week mark of the semester, faculty provide early feedback on assignments or quizzes in all online courses. Timely, specific feedback allows students to gauge their progress and stay motivated as the semester continues.

Curtis L. Ivery Downtown Campus

Language Institute Helps Students Build Skills for Academic Success

Students continued strengthening their language proficiency through focused instruction, academic practice, and collaborative learning. With support from faculty and staff, as well as academic resources, research materials, and Mango Languages, students expanded their communication skills and reinforced key concepts. Their work throughout the week helped prepare them for their first exam while keeping the learning experience engaging and interactive.



Campus Activities



Students had the opportunity to relax, socialize, and connect with their peers through fun and interactive activities on campus. Video games and board games provide a welcoming environment where students can take a break from their busy schedules while building friendships and creating positive campus experiences.

SCIENCE LABS



Curtis L. Ivery Downtown Campus



Adult Education

Staff met to discuss the introduction of a new Basic Computer Course offered through a partnership with The Salvation Army. The course will be held at The Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center in Detroit and will provide students with essential computer skills to support their educational goals, employment opportunities, and future success.

Disability Services

Staff met to discuss the upcoming Department Alignment Workshop.



CURTIS L. IVERY HWECC

Health & Wellness
Education Center



Crews worked to apply a fresh new top coat finish to the floor of the Thomas E. Howard Jr. arena at the HWECC in preparation for the beginning of the 2025-26 Men's and Women's Basketball season.



Benefits of Tai Chi Workshop

The Vibrant Health Workshop Series kicked off the Fall season with an informational session focusing on the benefits of Tai Chi featuring HWECC instructor Aramis and refreshments from the HWECC cafe.



Core and More Workout Class

Members worked to enhance core strength and stability in this fun fast paced full body Core and More workout.

Downriver Campus



Trustee James Wagner

Downriver Community Conference Event Walkthrough

Trustee James Wagner, Andy Steeby, and Tony Arminiak conducted a walkthrough with the Downriver Community Conference staff.



Learning Resource Center

Students participated in a Learning Resource Center Orientation at the Downriver Campus. The orientation included an introduction to the online library catalog, research databases, e-books, and internet resources.

Downriver Campus

STUDENT SUCCESS

BIO 295 Experiment

Students in BIO 295 collected environmental samples from commonly touched surfaces around the Downriver Campus, including elevator buttons and a keyboard, to explore the microorganisms present in everyday environments.



Continuing Education Monthly Planning Meeting

Staff participated in planning meetings for Black History Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, and Welcome Week.

EMT Program Accreditation Meeting

Andy Steeby, Jeff Moore, and Cathy Rowley met and discussed the upcoming State of Michigan and COAEMSP accreditation for the EMT program.



Basic EMT Class

Students in the Basic EMT Class practiced how to move patients up and down stairs using a stair chair.

Boy Scouts of America Workshop

The Downriver Campus hosted the Boy Scouts of America Michigan Crossroads Council Great Lakes District Commissioner Workshop. Executive board members reviewed reports from the council commissioner, treasurer, and council operating committee chairs.





WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT



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



Downriver Campus

Fire Department Training - Trenton Fire Department

Michigan Institute for Public Safety Education (MIPSE) hosted the Riverview Fire Department for team training. Employees practiced removing people from a second story building.



Michigan Institute for Public Safety Education (MIPSE) Fire Drill

MIPSE conducted a fire drill to reinforce emergency preparedness and fire safety procedures. The drill provided participants with an opportunity to practice evacuation procedures and ensure everyone was familiar with the appropriate response during a fire emergency.



Eastern Campus



Early Childhood Training Workshop

The Eastern Campus hosted United Children Family Head Start (UCFHS) for a Head Start Program Training Meeting. The session provided Head Start and Early Head Start staff with required professional development, including updates on national and state educational standards, health and safety, and strategies to strengthen support for children and families.



UAW Labor Relations Meeting

The Eastern Campus hosted the UAW for their monthly Labor Relations Meeting.

Division of Workforce and Economic Development



As the Construction Trades Training Program (CTTP) enters its second week, students have completed their First Aid/CPR certification and are advancing toward the OSHA 30 exam.



Students in the CDL-A Training Program have demonstrated mastery of the pre-trip vehicle inspection, the systematic assessment of vehicle condition and safety systems required before any commercial operation. They are now advancing to backing and parking maneuvers, including straight-line backing, offset backing, and the 90-degree alley dock. Vehicle control in confined spaces serves as the foundation of the curriculum, preceding all on-road instruction, which is scheduled to begin within the next week.

Ted Scott Campus

Students at the Ted Scott Campus are working hard studying as the Fall Semester gets underway.



Preparing for Manufacturing Day

Staff participated in a planning meeting at Henry Ford College in preparation for the upcoming Manufacturing Day at the Ted Scott Campus.

Northwest Campus

Exploring Partnership Opportunities Meeting with the Piast Institute



Meeting with Muslim Family Services



Department of Elections

Poll workers participated in training for the upcoming fall election. We're proud that WCCCD will serve as an Early Voting Center from October 24 through November 1, providing our community with another opportunity to participate in the electoral process.

Northwest Campus



Northwest Campus Quality Assurance Update Meeting



Furquan Ahmed met Rev. Lonnie Peek to discuss literacy program initiatives for the Fall Semester.

Northwest Campus



Physical Health Therapist Orientation

Sandirria Harris, Dean of Pharmacy Technology, held a PHT orientation for the new incoming fall 2026 cohort students.



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

