WCCCD Center for Distance Learning Introduces Virtual Classrooms

WCCCD has one of the highest online enrollments in the state. To better serve the growing number of students who prefer to log on and learn as their schedule allows, the District’s Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center has reengineered their Center for Distance Learning (CDL).

Located in Harper Woods, the CDL is a 20,000 square-foot-facility that features five classrooms, a computer lab, Mac lab for digital media production, a media lab for idea production, and a fully functioning video production studio currently being developed. The CDL is designed to provide instructional technology and virtual learning across an array of courses and a wide range of disciplines.

While the CDL is a key resource for WCCCD students earning college credits, the Center has been designed to also aid teachers, nurses and other professionals who need continuing education credits, as well as businesses that want to offer training for employees.

“We have different leadership webinars and professional development options,” said Dr. Patrick J. McNally, Assistant Chancellor for Instructional and Student Success. “The idea is to add onto the ones we have and to create our own continuing education and workforce development programs in the Center for Distance Learning. We can take the programs out to local chambers of commerce and local businesses for their professional development options.”

Letter from the President

Welcome to the Downtown Campus of Wayne County Community College District. We are very proud of the accomplishments of our district, students, community and faculty for helping to make the Downtown Campus a premier learning institution in the heart of Detroit.

For many, the Downtown Campus is the first campus within the district that they ever attend. Because of this, our campus has grown as a community and continues to flourish as we build and add to the momentum of our wide selection of academic programs.

We hope you’ll take a closer look at our campus, and take full advantage of our world-class resources and facilities. There are great things happening at WCCCD, we hope you’ll find opportunities to engage in the life of this campus, and the college.

Sincerely,

Denise Shannon
President
Downtown Campus
WCCCD Workforce Development Programs Help Workers Reboot for New Economy

Wayne County Community College District has expanded its workforce development programs to keep pace with the needs of students and area employers.

The District in 2014 won a federal grant to train unemployed veterans for jobs in cyber security. Additional programs have focused training on high-demand fields such as computer and software programming, advanced manufacturing and health care.

The expanded programs have been vital to helping workers adjust to the rise of a knowledge-based economy in Michigan.

"Employers are seeking highly skilled workers with specific banks of knowledge before they will even look at their resumes," said WCCCD Vice Chancellor, School of Continuing Education and Workforce Development Shawna Forbes. "That’s why we tailor our programs around the current and existing needs of employers. Oftentimes, we can help that student transition directly into the work environment and make sure that they’re prepared to hit the ground running."

The programs are vital to the region. Approximately 95 percent of WCCCD students remain in the state. Their higher earnings and associated increases in property income generate nearly $12 million in added tax revenue each year, and save state and local governments nearly $747,000 in avoided social costs.

"Given the growth and advancements in the Workforce Development area, we feel that the appointment of Ms. Forbes aligns with the District’s mission," said Chancellor Dr. Curtis L. Ivery. "Ms. Forbes’ years of experience in higher education and growth within the district make her the perfect candidate to represent the college. We are confident in her leadership in this position will enable us to provide even greater service to the Detroit Workforce Development Board."

Ms. Forbes heads WCCCD’s Continuing Education and Workforce Development efforts, overseeing support of the District’s more than 125 workforce training programs and continuing education programs that help to connect organizations with highly trained workers for in-demand jobs across 32 townships and 500 square miles.

"Students who graduate from dual enrollment programs typically feel a greater sense of confidence and focus when it comes to college because they’ve already met the expectations of college-level work, and have had early exposure to a range of program options," he said. "By the time they arrive on campus of a four-year institution, they’re really motivated and self-directed towards success."

Senior Kenneth Daniels is a perfect example of the benefits of Wayne County Community College’s dual enrollment program. In addition to excelling in the co-op business curriculum at Cass, Kenneth also works at the Skillman Foundation as a part of their co-op program. Kenneth graduated from both Cass Tech and Wayne County Community College with an associate degree in general studies and is attending the University of Michigan in the fall.

"I think I will be deemed even more competitive by prospective universities and employers. By receiving a world-class education from certified professors, students build time management skills, learn to work independently and get an idea of what college will be like before they even step foot on campus."

"Dual enrollment has been an incredibly successful program for all involved," said WCCCD Vice Chancellor of Student Services Brian Singleton. "Not only is it a wonderful way for students and their families to save time and valuable resources by completing many required classes early, but we’ve seen other benefits that are just as considerable."

Twenty-one graduating Cass Technical high school students have put their college degrees on fast-track with Wayne County Community College District’s Dual Enrollment program.

WCCCD’s dual enrollment program allows students to enroll in college while still in high school to complete college credits that would take more time and money to complete at a four-year college or university. The 21 students from Cass Tech will have their associate degrees from WCCCD by the time they walk the stage to receive their high school diplomas.

The dual enrollment program gives the 21 graduates a serious leg up on their college studies, allowing them to transfer to four-year colleges or universities in many cases as sophomores or juniors, with many of their general education requirements cleared. WCCCD’s dual enrollment program accepts students as early as their freshman year, and allows students to take college-level courses either on one of five WCCCD campuses, online or at their high school.

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