President’s Remarks:

Welcome to the WCCCD Western Campus! As the recently appointed Campus President, I’m pleased and excited to introduce you to the programs and people that make this Campus and the District an amazing place to learn. I’ve been with WCCCD for more than 14 years, most recently as the vice chancellor for campus operations and as the chief budget officer for the District. I was also the primary administrator involved in the design, development and implementation of the new WCCCD University Center in Harper Woods. The positions have given me a deep appreciation for the wonderful team at the Western Campus, and an appreciation of the exciting developments we are poised to experience.

Every issue of the Campus Insider includes inspiring stories of people who have changed their lives through their association with WCCCD and important information about upcoming events and campus news. We hope that it will provide you with new ways to engage with campus leadership, with the Western Campus and with the District to realize educational and life goals. Featured in this issue is Continuing Education faculty member Ralph Nodwell, and Inkster Dual Enrollment grad Janet Floyd. We also present some upcoming improvements to the campus we think you’ll like.

We take pride in our efforts to continuously improve YOUR Western Campus to make it a comfortable and inviting place for you to learn and enjoy. Please don’t hesitate to drop by my office and tell us how we’re doing and how we might do better. We look forward to seeing you on campus.

Best Regards,
Michael Dodson
President
Western Campus

We are always working to make the Western Campus the best learning environment possible. Currently, we are working to upgrade campus lighting and signage to ensure that our campus is as safe and easy to navigate as possible. We’re updating the technology in the campus Multi Purpose Room to provide a better learning and meeting environment for the community.

New this year will be the Ted C. Scott Environmental Terrace, a beautiful space near trees and a pond for campus and community members to gather and connect whether on their way to class or enjoying a bite to eat.

We continue to think about new ways we can improve the campus experience for all who come here. Check back often for updates!
**Ralph Nodwell: Still Giving Back After 50 Years**

In his more than 50 years as an educator, Continuing Education Instructor Ralph Nodwell approaches students the same way that he approaches everyone else – with profound respect and dignity.

“I respect the people that attend the college,” Nodwell says. “I only hope that I can give them something that they can use.

It’s a lesson that Nodwell, 77, has learned well over his career, one that has taken him around the world. Nodwell, who currently teaches small engine repair at the Western Campus, grew up with a full line diesel mechanic father and caught the mechanical bug early.

After coming home from the Korean War as a sergeant in the Marine Corp., he made a career out of teaching technical mechanics around the globe with General Motors. Nodwell also spent 14 years teaching at the Van Buren public schools and at the Schoolcraft County Community College in Escanaba – his first community college teaching experience.

These days, Nodwell presides over what is known as the best attended class at WCCCD’s Western Campus. Nodwell teaches a full course load every semester, and has graduated thousands of students.

“I’ve always been in the position of an educator,” he said. “When you enjoy what you’re doing and you want to be a success, what you do is easy!”

When he’s not teaching, Nodwell is an active member of the Van Buren Township community, devoting his time and expertise to teaching automotive-related subjects to adults and at-risk teenagers. Also active in the Van Buren Twp. Department of Parks and Recreation, health care nonprofits dedicated to raising awareness of cancer and muscular dystrophy, and arts organizations.

“I’m a self motivator,” Nodwell said, but says that his work as an educator and in the community is driven by respect for the student and the effort to “give them something they can use.

“When they leave my class, they can go home and fix things!” he said.

**Janet Lloyd**

Janet Lloyd remembers her first day as a college student as “surreal.” The environment, the instructors and the ability to dive deep into her favorite subject – biology – were all new to her.

But then, Lloyd was merely 15 when she started her college career.

Lloyd, was part of the first group of dual-enrolled students from Inkster High School’s Ivy League Academy. That Academy gives high performing students the opportunity to receive both a high school diploma and an Associate’s Degree from WCCCD upon graduation.

“I definitely felt like I had a leg up,” Lloyd said of receiving her associate’s degree. “Having that experience, it helped me to know what was expected of me as a college student. A lot of high schools don’t prepare you for the rigor of college, you have to study and be disciplined.”

Lloyd graduated with a 3.9 GPA and now attends Wayne State University with a major in psychology, while working as executive assistant to Inkster Public Schools Deputy Superintendent Dr. Jummane Sledge. Lloyd says she is on the PhD track for psychology. “I’m going all the way,” she says. “I’ve been able to find my purpose and my goal. Psychology just fits me.”

**Upcoming Events**

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For details of any upcoming event, please call XXX-XXX-XXXX.