Special Events
WESTERN CAMPUS
ALL EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Springtime Delights
March 1, 2006
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

A Wealthier You!
April 9, 2006
9:00 a.m. - Noon

Campus Information
9555 Haggerty Road • Belleville, MI 48111 • 734-699-7008

Western Campus Hours of Operation:
Monday - Thursday 7:30 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday 7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

WCCCD’s mission is to empower individuals, businesses and communities to achieve their goals through excellent and accessible services, culturally diverse experiences, and globally competitive higher education and career advancement programs.

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Congratulations
Wayne County Community College District
2007 Fall Semester Phi Theta Kappa Inductees

Wayne County Community College District

Samuel Brauning
Asa Brower
Laura Budai
Laura Cook
Tracey Dux
Kimberly Kemp
Kimberly Lundy
Emmanuelle Cugliare
Donna Payne
Cristina Schrave
Kiet Blundquist
Chelsea Zita

Letter from the President

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the inaugural issue of My College—a newsletter that’s designed for and about progress and events at your community college, Wayne County Community College District’s Western Campus.

We hope that you’ll find the stories engaging and interesting, and perhaps, discover new things about the Campus that you didn’t know before.

Every My College newsletter will bring you new stories about exciting events, outstanding faculty members and students, and local events that affect the Campus, and the College District.

Wayne County Community College District

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Western Campus
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Belleville, MI 48111

New Educational Multipurpose Center
A Resource for the Community

This New Year brings an opportunity for the Western Wayne community to learn and discover the world with the building of a new Educational Multipurpose center on the Western campus.

Construction on the $12 million facility began in October 2006 and includes a 43,000 square foot expansion of classroom space, as well as a 100-seat lecture hall, seminar rooms, computer labs, dining space and a two-story glass enclosed atrium.

“Both residents and the business community will be able to take advantage of the new spaces on campus.”

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Campus News

Career Programs Expand at Western Campus
Wayne County Community College District’s Western Campus is keeping pace with the rapidly growing health care industry by offering exciting new programs. The expansion of health care programs is part of a wider expansion that includes additions in engineering and technology-based fields.

“The diverse selection of career and academic programs reflects not only the changing needs of our students,” said Western Campus President Patrick J. McNally, “but the needs of our local and national economies. The needs have shifted as a result of an increasingly competitive and demanding workplace, and we have kept pace.”

“Our campus is located in a manufacturing, engineering, health care and tech-based company hub,” McNally said. “Those companies are looking for graduates who can transition immediately from the classroom to workplace environments in the most western part of Wayne County and beyond.”

New health care programs added to the Western Campus roster include:
- Long Term Care
- Medical Administrative Office Assistant
- Nursing (see story below)
- Surgical First Assistant
- Surgical Technology

Other featured programs the Campus offers include:
- Video Game Design
- Forensic Photography
- Logistics
- Child-Care Training
- Accounting
- Business
- Heavy-Equipment Maintenance Technology

In the Community:
Cindy C. King, Van Buren Township Supervisor

Cindy King knows firsthand how a WCCCD education can help shape careers for a better life. She began her college education at the Western Campus, earning credits while juggling an administrative job with Van Buren Township. King finished her degree in human resources at Concordia University, and these days is well into her second decade in public office, but is still an ardent supporter of the College District.

King served as Van Buren Township Clerk from 1992 to 2003, and has served as Township Supervisor since 2003.

“This is the only institution of higher learning near the township that is affordable and easily accessible,” she said, adding that the impressive growth in student enrollment, and facility improvements have made the Campus a “real success story” for the Western Wayne communities.

Having the college here provides a great opportunity for residents to learn new skills. That’s a valuable resource,” she said.

King has served as an advisory group member for the District’s Western Campus, which helped shape planned capital improvements for the campus, including the addition of classroom space and a multipurpose education center. According to King, the community needs to know that good things are happening on the campus.

“Positive stuff doesn’t always grab the front-page headlines, but there are great things happening on the campus. They’ve expanded their nursing programs and added to others, and they’ve formed a solid relationship with the University of Michigan’s nursing program. Those are good partnerships, and it’s a sign that the College is paying attention to what’s on the radar for our community now,” she said.

“With the campus improvements and student enrollment increases, there’s such a success story right there,” King concluded.

Student News

Kenneth Kidd’s transition from a Ford employee building SUVs on the plant floor to a student at the Western Campus pursuing an emergency room nursing career has gained him media attention on both the small screen and the printed page.

Kidd, a former telecommunications operator for the U.S. Army, appeared in a September Wall Street Journal story and multiple television news specials about former auto workers life transitions, and was profiled in an upcoming video “Life After Ford.” The video, filmed by a team led by Cathy Walsh, will be distributed to 50,000 United Auto Worker employees who may be eligible for buyouts. Kidd is building experience working in a rehabilitation facility while completing prerequisite courses for entry into WCCCD’s nursing program.

“Both my mother and wife graduated from the District’s nursing program,” Kidd said, “so I had plenty of exposure to it and knew how far it could take me. I’m excited about my future career. An emergency room nurse has to think fast, and make split-second decisions. That’s the environment I’m most comfortable in,” he said.

Things To Know About Kenneth Kidd
- Kidd enlisted in the U.S. Army for eight years and spent part of his tenure working at a VA hospital.
- For six years during his commission with the U.S. Army, Kidd lived in the Netherlands.
- Kidd is in a partnership program with Henry Ford Health System that will allow him to receive clinical training while working towards his degree.

Spotlight on Lou Toarmina: For the Children

Lou Toarmina may be best known for his double-cheese topped pizzas served from the more than 30 “Jammin’ Pizza” locations that dot Southeast Michigan, but the Westland-based business owner is building on a new reputation as a generous donor to children’s educational efforts, with the help of WCCCD’s Western Campus.

Six years ago Toarmina began an ambitious project to equip every elementary school student in the Wayne-Westland School District with school supplies and a backpack. WCCCD has co-sponsored the effort for the past two years, supplying more than 600 backpacks each year to children who would otherwise have to go without. “There was such a need,” said Lou Toarmina. “We’re focused on getting children engaged in their education at the elementary level. That’s the best time to get them interested in continuing their education to college and beyond.”

Toarmina, as President of the Westland Rotary, is also engaged in literacy programs and providing warm winter clothes for needy children in the area as well.

According to Western Campus President Patrick J. McNally, that’s standard practice for Toarmina. “As busy as he is, he spends so much time giving back to the community.”