Winter Delights
November 8, 2008

Winter is around the corner. Is your garden ready? Winter Delights will teach you how to prepare your plants and gardens to weather cold winter weather. Get hands-on experience developing Christmas wreaths and other fun items to get you in the spirit of the season.

Information about all District events can be found at www.wcccd.edu.
Education at WCCCD - Just a Click Away! Distance Learning Courses and Programs Gain Popularity

Education at WCCCD is just a click away as the District’s Distance Learning Division makes more courses and programs available online. Students can select from the numerous online course offerings of WCCCD and gain flexible access to a high quality education wherever they are located throughout Wayne County, the State of Michigan, around the country, and the world. And now more than ever, thousands of students are choosing to do so. The flexibility of being able to pursue an education at a time and place of choice is invaluable to students.

Enrollment in distance learning courses grew by 177% from Fall 2004 to Fall 2007. The trend continues into the current semester as enrollment has risen more than 30 percent from Fall 2007 to Fall 2008.

The infrastructure for WCCCD’s learning technologies is the foundation on which the District builds greater capacity to offer distance learning to students. Special campus improvements have been made District-wide like those at the District’s Western Campus. The Western Campus upgrades include the addition of an ITV classroom which provides state-of-the-art videoconferencing technology, wireless access so that students may use their laptops to connect to the Internet. These enhancements have made these ITV and online courses attractive options for WCCCD students.

The District has added applications to enhance Blackboard learning experiences such as Horizon Wimba Voice Tools, and Live Classroom, and Safe Assign, a plagiarism detector which has employed improved and documented processes for maintaining Blackboard and video conferencing technologies. WCCCD has also provided 24/7 Blackboard and SCT Banner online technical support for students who have challenges related to registration such as resetting student identification numbers.

The Distance Learning Division offers academic credit courses and programs through three primary venues as an alternative to the traditional classroom: online, interactive-television, and live-interactive online. Also, the Division offers non-credit courses for professional development through the e-Learning Center and high school students the opportunity to jumpstart their college career by taking online courses through the Virtual Middle College.

Courses and programs offered online cover a broad range of areas including new online certificate programs in Entrepreneurship, Surgical Technology (accelerated), and Hotel Management; new career courses in Homeland Security, Project Management, Allied Health, and Computer Information Systems are also offered. The Distance Learning Division has expanded its educational offerings through partnerships with K-12 school districts, third-party organizations, and other colleges as well.

TOP 10 REASONS: WCCCD Must Achieve Renewal and Reduction of the Property Tax Levy

1. This request is for a renewal and a reduction of the property tax levy. It is not a tax increase. The current millage is 1.5 mill and this request is for a reduced rate of 1.25 mill.
2. Renewal will allow the continuation of services for nearly 70,000 students each semester with many free classes for seniors.
3. WCCCD has a proven track record for financial integrity and transparency. Every dollar is spent on student needs.
4. WCCCD plays an essential role in preparing people for jobs so that they can live a better life.
5. WCCCD plays an important role in job retraining for laid-off auto workers and others in career transitions.
6. Every citizen benefits daily from the public safety and health professionals who developed their job skills at WCCCD.
7. WCCCD provides educational services to meet the needs of the urban and suburban communities in its service area.
8. WCCCD’s partnerships with regional secondary schools encourage students to complete high school and transition on to college.
9. WCCCD students deserve high-quality educational services that are equal to those provided by other community colleges.
10. The millage renewal will provide enduring excellence in higher educational services and insures an open-door policy for educational opportunities for everyone.

VOTE TUESDAY NOVEMBER 4, YOUR VOTE MATTERS

In the Spotlight: District Nursing Students Cross the Pond

Kimberly Lynne Sexton will graduate from WCCCD’s nursing program next year with something few other nursing students will have: a global perspective.

Sexton, a nurse intern at Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital was one of 27 students in March who traveled to London, England, to experience how care was administered at two leading teaching hospitals: Guy’s and St. Thomas’ national Health Service Foundation Trust.

“For me, the value here was in being able to go outside of the only way of life I have known and see how others live,” Sexton said. “As a soon-to-be graduate nurse, I am hoping to use the information I have gathered to make a difference here at home.”

Seniors Get Tech-Savvy, Connected

Tony Fama is passionate about empowering baby boomers and seniors. And a partnership with WCCCD is providing hands-on computer instruction to seniors to do just that.

Ten years ago the former investigative reporter started the Maria Madeline Project Inc. with a deceptively simple concept: Find ways to give baby boomers and seniors the resources they need to live full, active lives. Fast forward to today and Fama’s company, named after her mother (Maria) and his grandmother (Madeline), is a growing online venture that’s quickly becoming a social network for boomers.

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The trip is part of the District’s service learning experience, which takes students inside environments different than their own to deepen their understanding and appreciation of their profession. Previous trips have given students an insider’s view of the economic and political systems of Argentina and India.

“Today’s nurses need an array of approaches to the profession and service learning offers those critical thinking skills,” said Rosellen Burkart, director of WCCCD’s nursing program. “The ability to communicate with their patients across cultures and national boundaries; and the ability to make informed judgments regarding patient care.”