Flavors

A Wayne County Community College District Publication

PREMIER ISSUE

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* Sharing Experiences *
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Wayne County Community College District is committed to providing the highest standard of educational services to all of our students by creating an environment that is conducive to personal growth and enrichment. Pluralism is the core of a healthy educational and work environment, and our goal is to give students the opportunity to learn about themselves through exposure and by embracing other cultures.

This magazine provides you with a unique perspective of the various programs and events at WCCCD that help build bridges among people. Through our unique Study Abroad Program, students are educated outside of the classroom and beyond pages in history books with travel to Africa, Australia, Mexico, Austria and other countries. Our Distance Learning programs have opened our doors to the world and we now have students in other countries who take our classes online. All five campus locations regularly celebrate ethnic and cultural festivals, of which snapshots are included as well.

At WCCCD we celebrate all ethnic heritages and view them as learning opportunities. We are committed to providing an education that helps our students build a better world for everyone.

In this magazine you will see that we all share a common bond of communication, music, dance, art, architecture and food. It's a true journey in education, culture and diversity. We hope you enjoy reading it.

John Bolden
WCCCD Executive Vice Chancellor

Mission Statement

WCCCD's mission is to empower individuals, businesses and communities to achieve their goals through accessible services, culturally diverse experiences and globally competitive higher education and career advancement programs.
The study abroad program started in Accra, the capital of Ghana, where students visited the Ghana National Museum, the Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum and Park, and Cape Coast Castle, which houses the West African Historical Museum. One of the highlights of the trip was when WCCCD students participated in the Ghanaian naming ceremonies. This is a tradition among Ghanaians that a child's name is based on the day of the week he or she is born. The ceremony begins with the pouring of libations usually done on the eighth day after birth. Names are taken from prestigious ancestors.
Kakum National Park is the home of the only rainforest walkway: Canopy Walkway. Hidden behind the undisturbed virgin rainforest of Ghana’s indigenous plant life are rare butterflies, birds and other wild animals.

Beverly Paddock calls the 350 meters of suspended bridge and six tree platforms that reach the height of 30 meters above the forest floor breathtaking. WCCCD’s study abroad program bridges the cultural divide and creates rich educational experiences. International exposure is becoming a necessity and WCCCD’s study abroad program is one of the best ways to get such exposure.
This page, top left: Ava Rial, left, and Fateama Carr, help local women in the village of Bonwire to pound dye at the Adinkra kente cloth processing factory.

Above: A cultural dance troupe performed during a traditional naming ceremony in Accra.

At left: Terri Broaden proudly displays her certificate that makes her Ghanaian name official.

Students visited the W.E.B. (William Edward Burghardt) Dubois Center in Accra, Ghana. Shown here is the grave site of Dubois.
Why stand in line, when you can register for classes on-line?

Wayne County Community College District has made it easier for you to register for classes by offering the complete registration process on the District’s web site. Now you can register on-line for classes at a time and location most convenient for you! All of our five campus locations have Learning Resource Centers with advisors and instructors available to provide you with assistance and access to computers to register on-line. Descriptions of the course requirements are available on-line to help you decide which courses are right for you. Additionally the web site has an “On-line Registration Guide” that provides you with detailed information about the process. Log on to www.wcccd.edu and follow the links to register on-line today!
Buenos Aires is a port city, which stretches south to north along the Rio de la Plata River. It has been the gateway to Argentina for centuries. In November 2005, WCCCD students visited Buenos Aires to experience the culture and attractions that the city offers and to understand some of the key Argentinean political institutions. Students also compared the United States political system with that of Argentina and isolated their differences.

Apart from educational sessions, program activities included offsite heritage visits, welcome and farewell dinners, local city and surrounding area excursions and community interaction events.

A couple dances the Tango in the streets of Buenos Aires. It is believed that the dance originated from people of African descent, who mixed the name of their god of the drum with the Spanish word for drum (tambor), and came up with the word “Tango.”
Above: WCCCD students surround their instructors (woman in green dress and one with necklace) following the class session at the BridgeLinguatec School of Languages in Buenos Aires.

At right: WCCCD students surround a representative of BridgeLinguatec, upon arrival at the Buenos Aires Airport in Argentina.
The trip to Australia was a life-changing experience. You learn more from this experience than the lectures in the classrooms or the group tours. It broadened my opinion of my own life, seeing how other people live theirs. It made me realize how much I have lived in my own small world. I’ve had the opportunity of learning about a different culture, which has not only made me more open-minded, but has also given me an appreciation for my own career in today’s global society. The WCCCD study abroad program definitely is an awesome experience. It helps you get out of your own country and culture, which has benefitted me both personally and professionally.

Karen Blanchard
(Study Abroad, Australia)
A group of Aboriginals perform at the waterfront in Sydney, Australia.

At right: WCCCD Executive Dean for International Programs, David C. Butty, poses with students after class at the University of Sydney.
What fascinated me the most was the different types of people that I encountered while in Australia. I never entertained the notion that one day I would be spending an evening in Sydney with an Aborigine man I can only described as a ‘natural born storyteller.’ I went everywhere and perhaps, saw everything I needed to see to help me understand the country and its people. My adventure took me to the Blue Mountains where I saw koala bears and kangaroos. I guess the most impressive site was seeing the site of the 2000 Olympic Games. Did I mention that Australia is home to the best accent in the world? Don’t laugh out too loud, because the jokes may not be funny.

Michael Moomaw (Study Abroad, Australia)
Students listen to “Bryant” giving the history of first settlers at “The Rocks.” His lively rendition of the first settlers’ story left the students a mite confused about Aussie humor.
Hola! My experience during my study abroad trip to Guanajuato, Mexico, was unique. The trip was an adventure of a lifetime, priceless and educational. Traveling with a group of students from my five-campus college was also an experience that I will never forget.
The trip was an eye-opener into our own country's culture...with such a vast cultural diversity. The best thing that happened to me on the trip was the friendship I have made both with our host country and with students from the WCCCD. My advice to students considering studying abroad is GO FOR IT! It will probably be one of the best decisions of your life! Besides the adventure component of the entire experience, you grow so much personally. You gain confidence from the daily challenges you encounter adjusting to a new culture and new friends and you learn a lot about yourself and meet awesome people. Immerse yourself into a second language as well!
A day of graduation - WCCCD students and their instructors after the students received their certificates at the Don Quixote School of Spanish in Guanajuato, Mexico.
452 square miles
32 communities
one community college district

Downriver Campus
21000 Northline
Taylor, MI 48180
734-946-3500

Downtown Campus
1001 W. Fort
Detroit, MI 48226
313-496-2758

Eastern Campus
5901 Conner
Detroit, MI 48213
313-922-3311

Northwest Campus
8551 Greenfield
Detroit, MI 48228
313-943-4000

Western Campus
9555 Haggerty
Belleville, MI 48111
734-699-7008
PARDON OUR DUST

WHILE WE’RE BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE
Clockwise from above: Downriver Educational and Performing Arts Center interior rendering; exterior rendering; Groundbreaking Ceremony; and elevation rendering (below).
Clockwise from top left: Downriver Educational and Performing Arts Center exterior rendering detail; Western Campus Educational Multipurpose Center interior rendering; Downriver Campus Ray Mix Room; New Health Science Building, New Northwest Campus; Eastern Campus Community Room; Western Campus Educational Multipurpose Center exterior rendering
Clockwise from top left: Fire Tower, Michigan Institute for Public Safety Education, Downriver Campus; Burn Simulators, Michigan Institute for Public Safety Education, Downriver Campus Community Room, Downtown Campus; Subway Restaurant, Eastern Campus; Michigan Institute for Public Safety Education, Downriver Campus; Simulators, Michigan Institute for Public Safety Education, Downriver Campus.
Clockwise from top left: Eastern Campus Community Room; Entrepreneurial Institute and Resource Center, Eastern Campus; New Northwest Campus aerial view rendering; Entrepreneurial Institute and Resource Center, Eastern Campus; Downtown Campus Library.
The demand for the educational services provided by Wayne County Community College District is higher than ever before as thousands of people throughout our service areas look to the District to fulfill their educational needs. This tremendous growth emphasizes the enormous responsibility to optimally utilize all of our financial resources in order to serve the District, as we continue to move forward. Since 1999, the District has been on a systematic, strategic, measurable and determined growth track in order to meet the educational needs of the communities we serve.

This massive transformational program of facility and site development is a part of the Pathways to the Future program, and the response of students and citizens has been extremely positive as evidenced by increased student enrollment. The strategic initiatives have been developed based on student needs and market demands to help provide a qualified workforce for Southeastern Michigan and improve lives. Of equal importance is the emphasis on assuring the quality and effectiveness in the process that adheres to the highest standards of accountability and transparency. Now, major capital improvement projects are currently under way at all five campus locations.
For four consecutive years, WCCCD’s Continuing Education Division presents a day-long variety of educational, cultural and social enrichment activities to celebrate the many contributions that Africa and its peoples in the Diaspora have made to the world. The WCCCD Downtown Campus at 1001 West Fort Street is home to “Passport to Africa Day,” a community-based educational event jointly supported by the Detroit Public Schools, United African Community Organizations of Michigan (UACO), and the Alkebu-Lan Village, an African centered organization that embraces the rich cultural and traditional values of Africa. The event starts with the “pouring of libation,” an age-old African traditional ceremony, which holds the ancestors dead or living, in deep reverence. Members participating in this ritual are dressed in traditional African ceremonial attire.
Workshops and lectures in cultural enrichment and education transitions of Africa are held on the campus. Students visit the various rooms representing each region of the African continent to participate in cultural enrichment programs and education traditions of Africa. Throughout the day, visitors get to taste foods from regions of Africa, learn a few words in the local language, and learn about African religions, art and literature. Main attractions are the singers, dancers, and storytellers. Participants will explore African markets with the help of exhibits and displays from area vendors, from Kenya to Sierra Leone and from Morocco to South Africa. Other activities include breakout sessions such as the creative art of storytelling, while other sessions are designed to divide the continent into regions, such as North, South, West and East Africa, and representatives from these regions will be on hand to educate and entertain the public. The African music is the height of the day creating a vibrant atmosphere for dancers and drummers to entertain the crowd. The celebration brings the rich culture and traditions of Africa to the students on campus.
The Brown and Juanita C. Ford Art Gallery, located at the WCCCD Downtown Campus is a place where art is used as a teaching tool. The gallery houses artwork of accomplished and internationally renowned artists as well as aspiring artists. Among nationally and internationally renowned artists whose works are exhibited at the gallery are: Benny Andrews, Richard Mayhew, David Driskill, and a host of local artists. Benny Andrews, whose art is in the permanent collections of over 50 major museums, was the first artist to inaugurate what is now considered the best art gallery at any community college.
Benny Andrews, internationally renowned artist, painter, printmaker, cultural leader, and arts advocate is a frequent lecturer at the gallery. Much of his work is in the form of collage addressing human issues. Andrews explains, “Collage caused me to look for those symbols that I wanted to identify and merge into my work. Burlap, ropes, chains, gunnysacks, and other haunting textures and materials have stayed in my conscience though I'd left the environment where they predominated. I also wanted to develop work beyond my previous limitations involving country, race, poverty, and illustrations. At the same time, I didn't want to deny anything about myself or my past.” Andrews, whose art is displayed in the permanent collections of over 50 major museums, was the first artist to inaugurate what is now considered the most outstanding art exhibit at a community college.

Paintings, drawings, architecture, music, and dance, are all forms of art that date back to the beginning of time. Cavemen painted pictures of animals or other celestial objects they found difficult to comprehend, thereby using pictures of these to remind them of what they had encountered or to communicate what they observed to future generations. Art in this instance becomes an historical record akin to that of the great masters. Particular visual elements in paintings and drawings can be dated due to style or technology.

Today, we use the art to reproduce our own image, the image of our society, and the image of our environment. Life itself is a form of art for it keeps changing constantly. As our aesthetic experiences and interpretations of these subjects become more complex our understanding grows. Artists use their work to tell vivid stories about their communities to help people understand difficult issues that are not easily understood.

Art, as most experts on the topic agree, help to sharpen our senses of appreciation. Many see in art a means through which they can communicate with their secular soul. To be able to appreciate the arts, we need to understand them, understand how art is used to preserve culture, bridge cultural gaps, and at times how it is worshipped and endowed.
The art of dance is taught at an early age with the help of musical instruments and musical games. This early introduction expands the educational scope providing an appreciation for art at an early age. On the collegiate level WCCCD reintroduces studies of Dance and music as cultural art forms in celebration of our diversity. Dancers from the Indian sub-continent performed during Global Education Day at the Downriver Campus. This annual event brings together people from across the world to celebrate their cultural diversity and cultural enrichment through music, song, dance and story telling.

WCCCD’s Hispanic Heritage Festival held each year at the Downriver Campus, celebrates and brings an appreciation to the customs of the Latino and Hispanic cultures. The day is marked with educational activities, Latino music, dance, face painting and other artistic expression. The dancer’s appearance not only aids in the visual performance but contributes to the vibrant energy that fills the room. The authenticity of the ancestral performance with the use of make-up, elaborate attire and intrinsic melodies engage students and faculty in a multicultural experience.

There is more to dancing than movement which includes reverent actions symbolic to the ceremony. Telling a story with every step, clap and turn during a performance is an expression of cultural identity. Colors, pace and tone of a dance is what separates one form of dance from another.

The enrichment programs and activities allow students to identify and appreciate the diversity amongst cultures. Each year WCCCD aims to provide knowledge and understanding of culture, language, geography and global perspectives. Most importantly, it enables the communities, students—local and international—to understand the world through the eyes of others. The art of dancing is unique in that it’s a universal language.
A young Polish girl does a Polish dance (left) while a Chinese woman demonstrates with a silk and a fan. (Top left), a display of Polynesian dance costumes and an African American acrobatic dance.
Dancers display their distinct cultural performances, entertaining the crowd during Global Education Day at the Downriver Campus.
WCCCD’s Hispanic Heritage Festival held each year at the Downriver Campus, celebrates and brings an appreciation to the customs of the countries of Latin and Hispanic cultures. The day is marked with educational activities, Latino music, dance, painting and other artistic expressions. Young people learn folktales, myths, legends history of the people of the Latino cultures. The annual event draws more than 2,000 people each year.
WCCCD recognizes food as a basic component of cultural identity.
The District’s Culture of Food celebrates flavor of food found in various cultures. The ingredients used to create delectable dishes are responsible for the bold taste. Herbs and spices found in the colorful spread are unique to certain areas of the world. At WCCCD food is another avenue for students to learn and appreciate other ethnicities. The symbolism behind breaking bread is a paramount tradition in all cultures, exhibiting a union and familiarity with the use of food. ■ Taste and see the difference in the way food is gathered, bought, prepared and consumed. Nothing is more culturally specific than food. Fresh fruits and vegetables planted in rich soils and warm climates make a difference. Kosher meats and rare delicacies only found outside of America is a treat at this annual event. Specialty markets and whole food stores are thriving as response to diverse appetites. ■ Farming and agriculture in other countries fashioned a superb foundation in producing foods in the harshest conditions. History of the hunters and gathers reveal the evolution of how foods were discovered and transported to different places. Rice, beans,
potatoes, and corn grow well in parts of the world and people have developed their cultures of food partially around what is available and abundant. ■ Cultural and religious beliefs have determined when and how we eat as well as what we think about what we eat. Food plays a significant role in the lives of people in rural and urban areas around the world and is an important element in understanding culture. How food is prepared, how it is served, and even the order in which it is presented have ritualistic aspects that change from culture to culture. Appreciating the diversity of food is essential to an appreciation of cultural diversity. The food chain is more than the four groups and basic nutrition. In many countries, eating together symbolizes shared joy and goodwill.
No poetry is complete without rhythm; the poetry of dance is no exception. For many of the dancers at Wayne County Community College District’s cultural enrichment events (Passport to Africa, Hispanic Festival, and Native American Festival) the drum provides the rhythm for their performances. Drumming is an ancient expression of the human spirit. It’s as fundamental as the beating of the heart—so much so that shamans throughout the world have used the drum for healing. In many cultures drumming is also an integral part of daily life. Drums are played for recreation, rituals, and important social events such as weddings and funerals. Although the styles may differ, the objective is the same: to express the various aspects of life.
The percussive sound of the hand against the tight skin of the drum head is common across cultures, but the rhythms themselves are unique and vary from one society to another. Each culture has its own architecture of sound, created by the sequencing of rhythmic patterns that are indigenous to it. Though, sounds are produced to entice the soul and are accessible to all. Since the drum is primal sound, it is occasionally enhanced by instruments that mimic the sounds of nature. Bells, rattles, shakers, and bongs build a background of rain, wind, thunder, and bird song.
In some societies, the lead drummer, well versed in traditional sequences, determines the rhythmic pattern of each performance. This anchors the other drummers, who play complementary overlapping rhythms in relation to the original. At times the lead plays solos against the wall of sound created by others in the group, or may initiate a call-and-response sequence with them. Toes tap, hips sway, rhythms change. The wall of sound grows momentarily still, and then begins to build again to the ecstatic delight of drummers, dancers, and listeners alike.

One of the beauties of the drum is that – with training and practice – anyone can play. It’s a myth that some people are born with rhythm and others are not. A person – even a child – who taps to the beat or sways in time to the percussive sounds of the drum can play one. Playing or listening, the sound of the drum brings people together. Its reverberations get inside the body and make it move, loosening spirits, creating smiles. Both drummer and audience find the experience powerful, accessible, and joyful. Drumming is a communal activity that joins people to one another within the rhythm of life.
WCCCD has been engaged in distance education for over 30 years. Many students are attracted to distance education at WCCCD because of flexibility, cost, quality, and accessibility. All of the distance education courses offer students some degree of flexibility either by taking a course at a campus location convenient to them, by attending an in-person class periodically, or by participating in class via the Internet at home or from some other location. We offer distance education through online, telecourses, interactive television, and live online courses. Students are attracted to our distance education courses because they are substantially less expensive than a similar course at a four-year college or university. Students can take credit courses at the community college rate and transfer them to another college. An additional bonus are small class sizes and support services that focus on personal attention. All distance education courses fall under the District’s accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission of North Central Association and are taught by qualified faculty. The courses have high standards for content organization and interactivity with the instructor, the course material, as well as other students.
Distance education continuously evolves to serve the District's mission of providing access to higher education opportunities locally and globally. We offer online courses to students throughout the country, to high school students through the Virtual Middle College, and around the globe through partnerships with colleges as far away as Africa. New online certificate programs appeal to students with many different learning objectives, whether they are seeking a degree, interested in learning new skills to enhance their job prospects, or just looking for personal enrichment. Here at WCCCD, we will continue to apply new technological developments to bring our students quality instruction through distance education.

**A True Educational Partnership in Africa**

By implementing a Distance Learning initiative, students in the African country of Eritrea can take classes at WCCCD via the Internet. This is truly a partnership for which the District is proud. By enrolling in an online degree program, students have the opportunity to further their education, which translates into a better jobs and the possibility for a higher standard of living. Education is the vehicle for achieving both social and economic goals, creating a new society and shaping the destiny of the people who live in a society - in this case, the people of Eritrea.
distance learning

I am Seble Asres, a student at the Eritrean Institute of Technology, in Eritrea, East Africa. I am happy that my college has a Distance Learning partnership with Wayne County Community College District, in the USA. Before enrolling in this program, I had knowledge of computers, but not distance learning enabling me to interact with students in the United States, ask my instructors questions, and see my classmates. Technology is making the world smaller each day and distance learning has put technology and education on the cutting edge.

My name is Ermias Negassi, and I am student at the Eritrean Institute of Technology. I would like to thank WCCCD for giving me the opportunity to be a part of this distance learning opportunity. I now have a better way of communicating with other students around the world using WCCCD’s partnership with Eritrean Institute of Technology through its Distance Learning Program.

WCCCD Chancellor, Dr. Curtis L. Ivery (left) the Honorable Osman Saleh Mohammed, Eritrean Minister of Education, Mr. John Bolden, and Dr. Ghebrebrhan Ogubazghi, Vice President, Eritrea Institute of Technology, posed for a photo following the signing of the Distance Learning agreement in Asmara, between the Eritrean Institute of Technology and WCCCD.
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