The Wayne County Community College District’s Learning Resource Centers are committed to providing supportive academic services including access to computers, printers, special reserves, inter-library loans, and circulation services for students, faculty, and community users.

Special events are presented on a regular basis through the District Learning Resource Centers with art exhibits scheduled frequently in our stimulating art and learning environment, the Brown and Juanita Ford Art Gallery at the Arthur Cartwright Downtown Campus Learning Resource Center.
The Dental Laboratory Technician program is a four-semester certificate program with the option for continued studies and continuing education. The program prepares students for leadership roles in dental laboratories and continuing education, leading to a career in dental laboratories. The curriculum includes instruction on identification, preparation, and evaluation of dental prosthetic products. The Dental Laboratory Technician program offers a variety of career opportunities in commercial dental laboratories, private dental practices, and dental schools. Graduates may also find employment in commercial dental laboratories, private dental practices, and dental schools. Students may also open their own dental laboratory, which offers good personal business opportunities.

Where learning leads to a better life

Foodservice Systems Management

The Foodservice Systems Management program is designed to train the beginning student, as well as those presently employed and seeking advancement in the foodservice industry. Prepare yourself for a management position by gaining knowledge and skills in volume food preparation, menu design, cost control, HAACP, purchasing and management of human and material resources. Graduates also qualify to take the examination for the Foodservice Management Professional (FMP) credential and level one certification through the American School Food Service Association (ASFSA).
The Dental Laboratory Technician program is a four-semester certificate program with the option for continued studies and continuing education. The fulltime program can be completed quickly by attending classes three days a week for three semesters. The curriculum covers the skills necessary to design and fabricate dental prosthetic restorations. The program includes theoretical instruction in the use of materials, waxes, metal alloys, and porcelains. The Dental Laboratory Technician student works with a variety of materials to fabricate restorations. As part of their education, students are placed in on-site laboratory rotations where they will work with clinicians and technicians to develop their skills. The program is designed to prepare students for employment in commercial dental Laboratories, private dental practices, or dental schools. Students may also open their own Dental Laboratory, which offers good personal business opportunities.

The Foodservice Systems Management program is designed to train the beginning student, as well as those presently employed and seeking advancement in the foodservice industry. The program offers courses in volume food preparation, menu design, cost control, purchasing, and management of human and material resources. Graduates also qualify to take the examination for Foodservice Management Professional (FMP) credential and level one certification through the American School Food Services Association (ASFSA).
Welcome to our latest issue of Success Stories!

As you can see, the newest Success Stories is bigger than the last – with more profiles of students who have made great strides both personally and professionally because of their studies at WCCCD.

In keeping with the theme of student success, a committee was recently formed by WCCCD Board of Trustees member Vernon C. Allen. The committee's main objective is to develop and carry out a major alumni relations effort designed to increase contact between the District and proud former students. Within the next few weeks, as a part of this initiative, you will notice a real effort to identify successful WCCCD alumni and to spread the word about their accomplishments.

To get the ball rolling, we ask that if you are an alumni, or know someone who is, please fill out the postcard inside the back cover and return it to us. You’ll be hearing from us soon.

Sincerely,

Curtis L. Ivery
Chancellor
Board of Trustees

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Wayne County Community College District

Emergency Medical Technology

This program is suitable for new students or those presently employed in business and industry seeking advancement. Students will complete a core of liberal arts and business courses. The Business Administration Program provides a well-rounded study in the fundamentals of business organization, finance, management and related studies. Career opportunities include supervisor, management trainee, manager, sales, accounting and office operations.

Business Administration

The Emergency Medical Technology curriculum stresses the integration of knowledge and skills required to competently perform out-of-hospital basic, intermediate, and advanced life support. Graduates are eligible for National Registry Certification and Michigan licensure as a basic EMT, EMT specialist or paramedic. Career opportunities include basic emergency medical technician, EMT specialist, paramedic, emergency room technician and fire fighter paramedic.

Business Administration

Where learning leads to a better life

21000 Northline Road • Taylor, MI 48180
734-946-3500 • www.wcccd.edu
Editor’s Introduction

ENERGY AND ENTHUSIASM LEAD TO RICHNESS AND FULFILLMENT
Financial support is available to Wayne County Community College District students through the WCCCD Scholarship Committee, a 501(c)(3) organization. Students may apply for scholarship support beginning March first of each year. Students must submit an application for the individual scholarship awards, which will vary in accordance with eligibility requirements. A list of the various scholarships and eligibility guidelines is available in the Student Services Office at each WCCCD Campus and at the District Student Services Office located at 801 W. Fort Street, Detroit, MI 48226. Students may also access and download this information from the District’s web site at www.wcccd.edu.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 313-496-2634
Wayne County Community College District

The Computer Information Systems program prepares students for a career in computer information systems, with an emphasis on microcomputer end-user support and help desk training. Microcomputer specialists are in much demand. Typical positions available to graduates include microcomputer specialist, microcomputer technician, microcomputer trainer, PC technician, computer applications technician, microcomputer sales representative, network technician, help desk support, PC support specialist, operation specialist, and service specialist. Core skills include effective human relations skills, analytical problem solving, ability to work independently and in a team setting, along with good written and oral communication skills.

The Paralegal Technology program provides students with the educational background and training required to become a paralegal, legal assistant or legal aide, able to assist a licensed attorney in providing legal services to their clients. The program provides the knowledge and skills regarding the legal system and substantive and procedural law necessary to perform many routine legal processes under the supervision of a licensed attorney. Employing a paralegal enables the attorney to deliver more cost-effective service to their clients. The duties of paralegals vary depending on the area of practice and the type of employer.

Where learning leads to a better life

Paralegal

Computer Information Systems (CIS)

Downtown Campus

1001W. Fort St. • Detroit, MI 48226
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Jocelyn Brown

“STOP, DROP, AND ROLL” – A CHILD’S INSPIRATION FOR A MOTHER

Phoenix Rising

Phi Theta Kappa president and WCCCD class leader Jocelyn Brown did not begin college until 2004 at age 34. She had been inspired to learn by her daughter, Daisha, who upon returning home from Head Start told her mommy what she had learned that day. “Stop, drop, and roll” is a fire safety slogan taught to children and as her daughter continued to give daily progress reports, Jocelyn concluded that children really do learn at an early age. She realized that she could play a part in that process. Jocelyn immediately became a Head Start volunteer, attained certification in early childhood development or Child Development Associate (CDA), and shortly thereafter, enrolled in the Early Childhood Education program at WCCCD.

As a child, Jocelyn stayed at home with her parents or grandmother who lived three doors away. She realizes now that even though she was bright, she was at a different level socially and not ready to be involved in learning activities with other children. Once enrolled in school, Jocelyn stayed in school and continued to do well as a result of a strong support system. As an only child, she was given more responsibility than other children with siblings. She recalls, “I couldn’t blame anything on anybody, I had many chores and there wasn’t anybody to put it off on as an excuse.” She was accepted at Cass Tech, which her mother refused preferring her daughter go to Henry Ford, the neighborhood school where she could walk to and from school and someone was always at the house when she came home. “The way things are now, I can understand, as a parent, why my mother did not want me at Cass Tech in the Cass Corridor,” Jocelyn says.

Jocelyn has two daughters, Daisha and Courtney, and by working at Hartford Head Start daily from eight to five, she is able to get the girls up and ready for school so she can drive them. Daisha and Courtney stay in latchkey after school until their mother picks them up to go home where they immediately review their school homework together. Once completed, the girls are allowed some free time, but Jocelyn has parental locks on many television programs so it is easy to discern that this mother has high standards and house rules.
Jocelyn is a single parent and the tragic story unfolds as she tells how her husband was incarcerated on February 8, 2004. The following Saturday, a house fire destroyed her home and Courtney, age two at the time, was severely burned. Between trips to the courthouse for her husband’s trial, she was living at the hospital with Courtney and had nowhere to stay. Daisha was with her grandmother who was trying to help the family stay together. Jocelyn came to the realization during this crisis that she had to go back to school because she was now the sole caregiver for her children. Her husband was sentenced to 45 to 75 years. She wrote to her husband, “Thank you for the burden because it has made me stronger.”

Courtney has since survived many surgeries and skin grafts when the healing process began, Jocelyn started back to school and she and Courtney have finished together, one from medical treatments and one from college. Jocelyn received her associates degree in early childhood education on June 2, 2007.

Recreational activities for Jocelyn are centered on the girls and the three of them are learning to play checkers. She hopes to teach them strategies. Both girls read a lot and Daisha aspires to play basketball. She wants to be an NBA player. The girls attend Jesu Catholic School rather than public school, since Jocelyn is not comfortable with the safety and prefers the structured environment of the private school.

While Jocelyn was a student at WCCCD, she was inspired by instructor Marlene White who
always encouraged and urged her to continue her education. She got the CDA in 2003 by attending classes for eight hours every Saturday. White said, “Don’t stop here, I have observed you and you have what it takes.” White also urged Jocelyn not to wait too long before returning for the associate’s degree saying, “the longer you wait, you’ll stay out.” Jocelyn took the advice but did not have the conviction until life circumstances forced her to make an important decision and she returned to WCCCD in 2004. White enthusiastically welcomed Jocelyn back!

Graduation for Jocelyn was truly exciting and the girls and Jocelyn’s mom were there. Jocelyn was selected for the Michigan All-State academic team and her mother and daughters accompanied her to Lansing where she received her awards. She overheard daughter Courtney in the next room saying, “Mom is really smart, the man said it.”

Jocelyn has received numerous additional awards and recognitions including Phi Theta Kappa where she serves as chapter president. She has since been elected Michigan Regional President of Phi Theta Kappa as she continues to serve as president of WCCCD’s Alpha Upsilon Zeta Chapter.

The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) recognizes Phi Theta Kappa, established in 1918, as the official honor society of two-year colleges. Eligibility requires a minimum 3.5 cumulative grade point average (GPA). Jocelyn believes that the honor society is an invaluable tool that can offer many things for students at WCCCD including mentorship and a strong support system.

Phi Theta Kappa, AACC, and USA TODAY jointly sponsor an
annual academic competition to select and honor 60 outstanding community, junior, and technical college students to represent all outstanding students of the nation’s two-year colleges. These students make up the All-USA Academic Team. In March 2007, Jocelyn Brown, along with three other WCCCD students, was honored. To be eligible for this recognition, students must have a minimum 3.50 GPA and a record of outstanding community service.

When asked, “If you had a box on the table in front of you and were told that you could put anything in the world in the box, what would you put in it?” After several thoughtful moments, Jocelyn responded, “My Phi Theta Kappa gavel, it represents how far I’ve come in life in just two years and it still is a symbol to show my girls what they can accomplish.”

“My Phi Theta Kappa gavel, it represents how far I’ve come in life in just two years and it still is a symbol to show my girls what they can accomplish.”

Jocelyn has now registered for enrollment at Marygrove College and will begin coursework for a degree in early childhood education.
Cameron G. Priebe
PASSION FOR POLITICS

Taylor Made

What does it mean to be mayor in the Midwest where family values and hard work are part of the community ethic? For Cameron (Kim) G. Priebe, family values and community pride are worn like a badge of honor. A lifelong resident of Taylor, Michigan, and elected Mayor of the City of Taylor twice since 1981, Priebe fits the description of one who loves his family, his friends, his community, and his job. As he talks about his past and current positions, one gains insight into what has contributed to his success.

Upon graduation from high school, Priebe enrolled at WCCCD, taking evening courses in astronomy and philosophy and began working at Masco Corporation during the day. He attended Madonna College and Monroe County Community College and has certificates in leadership and crime prevention through environment design. He is a graduate of the Harvard University Program for senior executives in state and local government and was awarded a Taubman Fellowship. After completing the police academy, Priebe served as a Taylor police officer from 1970 until 1979. Following a two-year term on the Taylor City Council, he was elected Mayor of the City of Taylor for the first time in 1981.

Newly re-elected as Mayor of Taylor, Priebe knows a thing or two about management whether it is a city or a county. He resigned the mayor's job in 1997 to become the Assistant Wayne County Executive to Ed
McNamara. Affable, fast-talking Priebe, whose looks closely resemble Jack Nicklaus, likes to tell stories about his city and his friends. Close friend and confident, Senator Raymond Basham says, “I have known Kim Priebe for many years and have watched him serve his community with great pride. Though we are independent thinkers, we have always shared a passion for public service and Harley Davidsons. So whether it’s in City Hall or on our motorcycles, I’m looking forward to future endeavors with the Mayor.” The two, with their families, have been riding their Harley Davidson motorcycles up north and across the country for 25 years. Priebe and his wife, Terrie, have two children and two grandchildren.

Having grown up when Taylor was mostly farm-land, Priebe recalls playing in fields which are now the present location of WCCCD Downriver Campus on Northline Road. His parents, a work-at-home mom who later worked, at Sears and a father who was a factory worker were outstanding role models for Cameron and his brother. The
Firefighter, teacher, paramedic, mother, and wife are all roles familiar to Heidi Wachtel a five-foot seven, 110-pound dynamo. While working as a paramedic, she was inspired by instructor Liam Carrol who observed her determination and work ethic and encouraged her to enroll in WCCCD’s firefighter program. Despite the fact that hauling 75 pounds of gear and tank was no problem, Heidi recalls, “Too many people said I couldn’t do it since I am small had to prove them wrong.”

Routine fitness tests require that each fire fighter drag a 200-pound dummy up and down stairs within a time limit and additional requirements must be met before a candidate can apply for a fire department position. Carrying heavy equipment, raising and lowering ladders, and moving fire hoses is sport for Heidi and her fellow workers at the Brownstown Township fire department where she has worked for one and one-half years.

Brownstown Township has two fire stations and generations of families who live in the downriver area known as Brownstown, a quiet community that runs along I-75 from Taylor on the north to Lake Erie on the south. Historically, Brownstown covered some 43 square miles and was one of the original nine townships that were created in Wayne County. It is cut into three separate sections with other towns in the middle. For this reason, firefighters, who also must be paramedics, need to know the area. Key in successful rescue is knowing the routes to the nearest medical facility, which may be Henry Ford Brownstown, South Shore, Heritage, Wyandotte, or Receiving hospitals.

Showing up for 911 calls is routine since eighty percent of the calls are medical. For Heidi who believes that talking with the patient is important to successful rescue says, “I personally believe that talking fixes half of the problem. A lot of people get so wrapped up in medical procedure and what has to be done in an emergency that they forget to talk to the patient.” Heidi reassures patients by explaining each procedure and says it makes an enormous difference in the patient’s response.

Heidi speaks highly of the other fire fighters saying that, “Everyone gets along and there has never been a gender issue with my job.” Depending on the day, firefighters practice safety routines and check equipment, go on rescue runs, or sit around the firehouse like a family. They work a 24-hour shift, therefore, making the workplace simulate a home environment is necessary for camaraderie. The firefighters relax by watching DVDs or cooking a good meal and each person takes a turn at cooking. Heidi says, “We each put 10 dollars in the pot and one of us shops and makes dinner; quite a few of the guys are amazing cooks!” Heidi says she is usually not the chosen cook since she is a vegetarian, saying, “I usually get trumped on the cooking.”

Choosing to be vegetarian most of her life, she attributes her dietary choice to being raised by a mother who was a strict vegetarian. When the parenting role switched to her dad, she stuck with the diet by choice. The strict organic and healthy eating style is the way she feeds her family and claims that it makes an enormous difference especially with her nine-year-old middle son, Marcus, who is autistic and oldest son, Garreth, who is a type one diabetic (the family has a history of type one diabetes). “In some cases, it takes more work and is more expensive but I think it makes a difference,” Heidi says.

Marcus, Garreth, and five-year-old Jacob keep the family very busy. The boys are enrolled in private schools that have a smaller class size. Heidi and her husband, Branden, a special education teacher at the Beacon Day Treatment Center, evaluate schools by educational benchmark comparisons with other local schools. Both parents are active in their children’s
Wayne County Community College District

Heidi often takes time to work as a “Kindergarten Mom.” The boys are involved in numerous sports activities - basketball, baseball, soccer, and Cub Scouts.

Heidi practices the Martial Arts of Tae Kwon Do with one of her sons. Tae Kwon Do is a modern martial art characterized by its fast, high and spinning kicks. There are multiple interpretations of the name Tae Kwon Do. Tae Kwon Do is often translated as “the way of hand and foot.” Not limiting recreational physical activity to Martial Arts, Heidi will be accompanying her husband and eldest son on an adventure in Tree-top walking in Collingwood, Ontario. High among 200-year-old oak trees, up to 50 feet above the ground, walkers view the picturesque forest valley from the top of Blue Mountain, including a short hike over a 410 foot suspension bridge overlooking a view of Collingwood and Georgian Bay.

The Wachtels have recently moved to a large older home that they will begin to paint and restore as a family. Heidi says, “I’m just a mom with a dream job raising a blessed family; we have everything we have ever wanted.”
Solidarity and Settles

Since ending recent United Auto Workers (UAW) strikes against automakers, the first against GM since 1970, union workers and leaders are reeling from the pain of a new labor movement and automobile industry restructuring. James Settles has personally experienced the hurt and insecurity, a vivid part of union history in Detroit since the UAW was founded in Detroit in 1937. Settles began his career as a trade union activists in 1968 by joining UAW Local 600 at Ford Motor Company’s Dearborn Iron Foundry and Michigan Casting Center. Being elected union district committeeman in 1972, Settles has devoted his life to improving conditions for workers.

James “Jimmy” Settles, Jr. was elected a vice president of the UAW on June 14, 2006, at the union’s 34th Constitutional Convention in Las Vegas. He has served on the International Executive Board (IAW) since June 2002, when he was elected director of UAW Region 1A. As regional director, Settles successfully organized campaigns with automotive parts suppliers Johnson Controls, Arvin Meritor, GKN Sinter Metals, Bridgewater Interiors, and Hollingsworth and was part of the UAW team in negotiations with Detroit Diesel and the State of Michigan.

Born in Detroit on January 31, 1950, and a longtime political activist and Democratic precinct delegate, Settles has worked on many campaigns and causes in southeast Michigan. He is active in numerous community and civic organizations including the Detroit-Wayne County Board of Authority, the Trade Union Leadership Council, the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, and a Life member of the NAACP. He serves on the board of the Henry Ford Community College Employment and Training Development Center, the Detroit Public School Compact Association at McMichael Middle School and the North Rosedale Park Civic Association.

Settles began working for the Ford Motor Company after graduating from Northwestern High School in 1968 and enrolled in the apprenticeship and accounting classes offered in the Ford night class apprenticeship program. He also took classes at Wayne County Community College (WCCCD), Wayne State University (WSU), and the Detroit Institute of Technology (DIT). The apprenticeship and accounting courses were particularly helpful because in 1976, Settles took the required test, scored high and therefore, was given the opportunity to choose any trade he selected. He picked the electrician trade and credits WCCCD with giving him the academic background that provided the skills he needed to do well on the test.

Throughout his career, Settles has worked in many capacities that have provided him a myriad of experiences and his career status is a direct result of the richness of his background. He recalls working at the Dearborn Iron Foundry and says, “That was hell — dirty, nasty, but excellent people; it was like a family there.” Being elected committeeman to represent these workers in a bad environment, he had contact with workers on a daily basis regarding benefit questions, conflict resolution, and negotiating with supervisors. It provided firsthand experience as a problem solver for the larger union problems he would face in future leadership positions. In 1980, he was elected Michigan Casting Center Vice President in the bargaining committee which put him on the track leading to UAW Vice-president in 2006. In the interim, he worked for UAW President Mike Renaldi and was instrumental in developing the programs for empowering workers including retraining for laid off workers. Settles worked closely with WCCCD at this time and the College played an integral part in the retraining phases for workers. He recalls that, “WCCCD worked to develop programs in robotics and nursing that worked tremendously well for workers, some of whom had not attended school for many years.”

He says that WCCCD continues to be an excellent starting place for many students, young and old, for the most reasonably priced education in the state with its many associate degree and certificate programs.
Settles says that his father, also an international union representative, set an example by his strong work ethics. Jimmy Settles said that his father told him, “Do the best you can without the glory.” His father died in 1989 but his mother, a former social worker is active and Jimmy takes very good care of her as demonstrated in a phone call he received from her during this interview. With many work interruptions, and phone calls about union-related issues including a strike, Settles took time out and lovingly answered his mother’s questions and reassured her that he would take care of some of her personal banking.

Settles speaks proudly of his three children. His two sons have successful careers, one an engineer for Daimler, the other a math teacher in Houston, and a daughter who is majoring in biology at Lane Jackson College in Tennessee. He is stepfather to Dennis, Anthony, and Derrick Yancy. Despite his demanding career, Settles is interested in landscape design and has installed the gardens around his new home. He started playing golf in the past few years and plays often at Chandler Park consistently breaking 100. He is rereading, *The Covenant with Black America*, by Tavis Smiley which is a book written to increase dialogue and understanding of issues ranging from healthcare and education to jobs. Settles also recommends that all should read *The Many and the Few*, by Henry Kraus, an historical recount of the sit-down strike in 1937. Settles muses about the solidarity of union members and their families at that time and regrets that he doesn’t see it now.

At the end of our interview, Settles became philosophical, posing questions about globalization which he says can be articulated in many ways, and slavery, which he feels is prevalent in many countries throughout the world, and the impact on United State’s economy. He asks, “Are we in a race to the bottom?” He expresses concern for workers regarding health care, social security, civil rights and one can feel his angst by the lack of an easy solution. His commitment to solving problems for workers is clearly evident as he sits in his office looking across the Detroit River into Canada, and portending a vision reaching much farther than Detroit.
Frank Hayden Has It All

PROMOTING FROM WITHIN

Student to Trustee

Frank Hayden served on the Board of Trustees of WCCCD for eleven years beginning in 1995 and provided strong leadership as a Trustee and Chairperson of the Board from 1999 through 2004. Raised and educated in Detroit and an alumni of WCCCD, he is known as a “fighter for education.” Hayden’s devotion to the College is expressed as he says, “We work hard to ensure that individuals who walk through the doors of WCCCD will walk out with the necessary tools they need to be successful in life, whether that is a certificate, a two-year degree, or the preparation they need to go on to a four-year institution.”

When Hayden was a student at WCCCD, the college owned no buildings and rented sites that could be called “storefront classrooms.” He recalls campus rental sites at the Garfield Building at Woodward and Forest, a building at Linwood and Boston and another at Shoemaker and McClellan. Working for the City of Detroit during the day, he attended night classes until he was graduated with an associate’s degree in political science. He attended the University of Michigan, Dearborn and was graduated with a bachelor’s in general studies with a major in political science and a minor in sociology.

Hayden was employed with the City of Detroit for over 35 years at the water and sewerage department managing the public affairs division. He served on the American Water Works Association Board of Directors and Senior Accountants. He was active in the Appraisers Association, serving as vice president for community affiliations.

Those who know Hayden and have followed his career and active community involvement say he is a fighter when it comes to providing quality education and making sure that Metro Detroit students succeed. He is a former Detroit Public School board member, where he served as vice president and president and he is a former board member of the Junior Achievement of Southeastern Michigan. He is actively involved in numerous other organizations which include: the Highland Park Family YMCA, Board of Directors; Council of Urban Board of Education, National Chair; Metropolitan Youth Foundation, Board of Trustees; Citywide School Community Relations Organization; Martin Luther King, Jr. Senior School Community Council; Chairperson, Detroit City Council Youth Advisory Commission; Golightly School Community Organization; Parent Member, Detroit Urban League Guild. Hayden has demonstrated a life-long dedication to the City of Detroit by serving in many capacities.

One could attribute Hayden’s success in many life-fulfilling arenas by being a life long learner and contributor. He recounts early days at WCCCD where he may have lacked focus but was guided by Mr. Boone in the English department, who was instrumental in motivating Hayden and ensuring that he kept focused. Another inspiring teacher, Barry Hankerson in the history department, was one who led by example. Hayden recalls that Hankerson, who later married Gladys Knight, wrote songs and created inspirational dialogue, which he shared with Frank.

Hayden served in the United States Air Force from 1967–1971 as an orderly room clerk who had the responsibility of processing
all the paperwork. Skills learned in the military also served him well in leadership and professional positions. He matriculated at WCCCD shortly after being discharged.

Hayden says, “If it had not been for WCCCD, I would not have continued my education. I was only an average student when I graduated from high school.” “My parents like most folks from the south did not go to college, but education was important and my motivation for education came from my parents.”

Thrilled to have the opportunity of a lifetime, Frank Hayden has discovered a community where he can play golf (often) and has a little bit of time on his hands (not often enough). Currently, he is the director of procurement for the South Florida Management District. All services, gas and oil, with providers, are part of the job he performs. By residing in Florida, he is able to enjoy semi-retirement in a warm climate and live near his two youngest children. He has four children: two sons ages 38 and 39 who each have two children: a daughter age 34 who lives in Florida and a 20-year old son, Frank, Jr. who attends the University of Florida.

Hayden is not severing all ties with Detroit; he has made it possible for his son to buy the family home in the historic Wayne District on Ferry Street. He and his wife are purchasing a condominium at 1300 Lafayette so they can easily come to Detroit from Florida to be with family and friends, and by doing so, they will continue to enrich the lives of those they love.
Michelle Hair graduated from the WCCCD Dental Hygiene program in 1988 and was president of the class. She recalls Ms. Joanne Nyquist and Ms. Janice Counts as diligent instructors providing a challenging and competitive dental hygiene program. Being the youngest student in the program, she was most inspired by these two outstanding instructors. She says, “My career in dental hygiene has allowed me to be very independent and marketable in other areas of the country as well as financially able to explore other career and personal interests.

Upon graduation from WCCCD, Hair attended the University of Detroit earning a bachelor of science degree, cum laude in 1990. She moved to Colorado in 1993 to work in public health for the Migrant Health Program and the Community Health Center as a dental hygienist. In a lifelong quest for knowledge in other healing therapies, she has continued taking classes and participating in new programs in a variety of other modalities, including massage therapy, spiritual direction training, energy healing including healing touch and Reiki. She is also proficient in Hakomi bodywork.

Michelle currently has two main jobs to support her lifestyle. The Community Partnership for Child Development, Colorado Springs’ local Head Start program, was awarded a grant to develop an oral health program to meet the needs of over 1,500 children aged 0-5 and pregnant women. Being a past volunteer with Head Start for nine years, she was hired to develop, implement, and design the instruction for a comprehensive oral health program to include education, prevention, early intervention, and access to oral health programs.

She designed the instructional program creating educational materials for parents and staff, an oral health newsletter updating dental volunteers, staff, and community members on oral health activities happening at Head Start. Hair also designed training for dental providers in the community on oral health needs of children under the age of six. She created dental exam and screening forms, risk assessments, and guides for presenting oral health to Head Start parents.

As Oral Health Program Coordinator, she provides dental education and training to parents, children, and staff. The program also encompasses the dental and medical community of Colorado Springs. Visiting classrooms, providing dental screenings, risk assessments, and fluoride varnish treatments to children without dental insurance or current access to a facility is also a part of this exceptional program.

Hair owns her own bodywork business called “Insight.” The type of bodywork she provides assists people in becoming more “in tune” with the wisdom and messages that are spoken by the body. She demonstrates to clients how memories, emotions, and negative belief systems are often stored and hidden in our bodies, sometimes causing pain and illness. Consciously allowing our attention to notice those areas creates space for the body to release. Experiencing this deep, inner work with people is satisfying.
Michelle believes that spiritual direction training, spiritual practices, other jobs she has held, and books she has read about becoming more aware and present in life have provided a unique way of working in her job. These combined activities have also proved advantageous in everyday interactions with people. Learning to be an active listener and more compassionate to every living creature on the planet, she feels it is also very important to nurture oneself to be available to others. She does things that help her relax and be present through meditation and prayer. In the past couple of years she has incorporated free movement and dance as a spiritual practice. This involves moving her body to music in whatever way it wants to move. This practice has not only been freeing and healing but has also provided a connection to an inner source of wisdom.

Michelle's advice to other students: "I feel it is very important to do what you love, whatever that might be. In my opinion, no job is better or worse than another. The way one approaches each day makes the biggest difference. Whether you are an attorney, doctor, stay-at-home mom, or performer, being present with other people and finding what you love to do can be very fulfilling."

She has been involved with community and civic organizations, teaching life skills and self-esteem classes to adolescent girls through The Boys and Girls Club. She served as a counselor at a homeless shelter for teens and spiritual director at a retreat center.

Michelle has been married to her wonderful, supportive husband, Chris for 10 years. They have two cats and a dog. Living in Colorado allows them to pursue their love of camping or vacationing in other parts of the state. They have also done some traveling and exploring in New Mexico. Hair says, "Being able to live in such a beautiful part of the country with mountains, blue sky, and sunshine, even in the winter, has truly been an added blessing for which I am grateful on a daily basis."
Rachael and Ron, first met at WCCCD while taking classes but were reintroduced by Dr. Joan Ridley who played a major role in their initial relationship by hosting parties for students in her home. Ron says that WCCCD was a unique place when he attended and students and faculty became as close as family. He still has contact with those friends. Rachael states, “WCCCD did turn me on to be interested in learning and I would not be where I am today if I had not started there.”

The Elliott’s have three children, a son who is a sophomore at Michigan State University, a daughter who is an A-plus senior at Renaissance High School, and the youngest, a seven-year-old daughter who is reading well, and giving joy to the family, especially her dad. Both parents speak to discipline and high standards for their children and are particular about their friends and social activities. Rachel reflects on having teenagers and parental expectations for college and high achievement saying, “There is something to be said for the experiential part of living; I do not know if an 18-year-old has the maturity or self-awareness to determine what they want to be.” She draws from her own experience of returning to school late and acknowledges how clear her goals became and by pursuing those goals, is now able to work in a position she truly enjoys. She has no regrets about delaying her formal education.

Historical renovation has become a hobby for the Elliotts; their current project is a Victorian Georgian built in 1905 in Brush Park and, once that it is completed, an 1870 structure in midtown Detroit is waiting to be refurbished. Rachael, Ron, and the children currently reside in the Brush Park residence. They are familiar with the process of getting the plumbing, electricity, plaster, and carpentry restored. Ron likes to grow flowers and vegetables on the properties he owns and landscapes the property prior to beginning the interior work.

Rachael and Ron in addition to being highly motivated, have a love for the city of Detroit and a dedication to causes that will improve the lives of others. Ron speaks of living in a community that provides mass transit, which could improve employment conditions in Detroit. He says, “It is unfortunate that we as citizens of the city don’t demand a better place to live. We need a clean, safe city.” He affectionately refers to the outstanding architectural history in the city including all the Albert Kahn buildings, Bell Isle, the International Institute and the Detroit Institute of Arts. Ron and Rachael are pushing to improve many projects project in Midtown Detroit.
Rachael and Ron love being involved in city activities and often attend events and workout sessions at the Detroit Athletic Club. Rachael believes in creating an environment for a good education and positive work experiences to build life skills. They encourage their friends to consider living in Detroit and speak of the opportunities offered by the many youth organizations in the city, including the YMCA. They are setting an example that they dream others will follow.
RONALD ELLIOTT

As president and founder of Alternative Telephone Services (ATS), Ronald Elliott runs a company that provides infrastructures for security surveillance, sound systems, communications, and wireless connectivity. Currently, ATS is installing a closed-circuit system that will run from Martin Luther King Boulevard and Cass Avenue up to Warren through 2nd and 3rd Streets that will provide surveillance around the The Max M. Fisher Music Center, the Detroit School of Performing Arts, and the surrounding new homes and businesses. ATS also has installations in Wal-Mart and the presidential aircraft, Air Force One. Creative business ideas flourish in his mind and he talks about new businesses and inventions that he hopes to develop.

Ron was fortunate to grow up with the camaraderie of friends who were academically competitive and therefore, always took summer and evening classes throughout middle and high school enabling them to graduate early. At age 16, just out of Kettering High School, Ron enrolled at WCCCD and took college preparatory classes prior to matriculating at Northern Michigan University (NMU), which also afforded him the opportunity to hunt and fish, which he enjoyed. Following two years at NMU, Ron transferred to Fisk University, valuing the historical heritage at the college in Nashville, Tennessee.

Fisk was established shortly after the end of the Civil War, and just two years after the Emancipation Proclamation. The founders shared a dream of an educational institution that would be open to all that would measure itself by the highest standards, for education in America. Coincidentally, Fisk alumni have taught all three of the Elliott children.

Ron was graduated from Fisk with a bachelor in science majoring in biology and did post graduate work at Wayne State University (WSU). While at WSU, he worked two part-time jobs as a telephone installer and at Comerica Bank, making it possible for him to take night classes. Ron owned a party store for a short time and, sensing that the business had flaws and the neighborhood where the store was located was not desirable, he started a telecommunications company.
SUCCESS Stories

RACHAEL ELLIOTT

As customer director for General Motors (GM) Worldwide with the Eaton Corporation Automotive Group, a Fortune 500 company and one of the premier diversified industrial companies in the world, Rachael Elliott coordinates global business activities and strategies for high performance in revenue, profitability, product technology road maps, and customer satisfaction.

Her easy demeanor belies professional experiences that include director of global sales, minority supplier development, and global strategic sourcing coordinator for Dana Corporation, sales account manager for Daimler Chrysler and General Motors, sales account manager for The Bing Group, and administrative assistant to some of the top law firms in Detroit and Washington, D.C. Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Maura Corrigan speaks warmly of Rachael and says, "I am so delighted to know of Rachael's accomplishments, but not in the least surprised! Rachael is living proof that dreams can come true, not by wishing, but by true grit and staying focused on a goal. Eaton Corporation is lucky to have Rachael at the helm."

Rachel credits Judge Corrigan for encouraging her to pursue excellence; Rachel was graduated from WSU in 2002 with a bachelor of arts degree focused on globalization. She completed a master's degree at WSU in 2004 in organizational communication and public relations. Rachel modestly explains that she was a late bloomer!
Rachael's heritage tells a unique story. Her paternal grandmother, a member of the American Evolutionist Society, a direct descendant of free slaves, was sent back to Africa and given a considerable amount of land.

She returned to Talladega, Alabama, one of the oldest historic black colleges in America, to attend college and later moved back to Detroit where Rachael's father was born. She and her then-adult son moved back to Liberia. The son met an indigenous African who lived in a village where missionaries came to the village to educate the young women. Rachael says that her mother remembers them saying, "Before you take my A-B-C's you must accept my G-O-D." Americans founded Liberia so that freed slaves could resettle back in Africa. Monrovia was named after U.S. President James Monroe, and was founded during his term by the American Colonization Society. The first town was established in 1822 on Providence Island and the settlers were called America-Liberians.

Since Rachael had family ties to Detroit, she moved here in 1979 from Monrovia, Liberia, due to a civil war. It was the beginning of her senior high school year, but instead of attending school, she took the GED and enrolled at WCCCD. Rachael took classes at the Northwest Campus from 1979-1981 and becoming restless, traveled to Ohio and Washington, D.C. When she moved back to Detroit in 1987, she met up with her former professor, Dr. Joan Ridley, and consequently, reconnected with Ron Elliott whom she later married.
M. Dujon Johnson

PERSEVERANCE HAS LED TO SUCCESS

International Citizen

M. Dujon Johnson, a former student at WCCCD, lives in Taiwan and works as an international law professor in the Fijian Province, 75 miles from the Taiwan Strait near the southeast coastal region in mainland China. He now devotes his life to human rights issues that affect Asian and American cultures.

Growing up in a family of eight children with divorced parents in the Ecorce projects, M. Dujon managed to rise above a rough beginning. His mother moved to California taking one baby with her when M. Dujon was about 14 years old. His father had substance abuse problems and was not around often, so M. Dujon and his brother lived in the house alone most of the time. He had to walk from Snowden and Outer Drive to Cooley High School and was unable to get to school on time. He was asked to leave after being tardy six times. He then walked from Snowden and Outer Drive to Redford High School and due to tardiness was kicked out again. At that time no counseling was provided and it was dark in the morning and evening when he walked. He had no time for friends or after-school activities. As to his lack of success in high school, M. Dujon recalls, "It wasn't that I was a bad student. I found high school boring but I knew I was a smart kid. I always had a strong appetite for learning and there were not enough reasons to give up."

At Redford he began to realize that two worlds existed and society was polarized. His reaction was that of anger but he decided that he was not going to make it easy for society by committing crimes or doing drugs. Ultimately, his father died from liver poisoning but he continues to communicate with his mother. While regretful of her absence, she is proud of what her son has accomplished.

M. Dujon smiles and says, "Some can say he pulled himself up with his bootstraps, but everyone must realize it is impossible to be successful without the help from others. "People along the way have encouraged me." At age 28 he was a janitor in Detroit, cleaning toilets yet perseverance has led to the success he currently enjoys.

In retrospect M. Dujon says, "Traveling around the world, I have observed that people have it worse than I did so it puts it in perspective. It wasn't until I went to Europe that I realized, everyone doesn't see me this way and there are other opportunities."

Wayne County Community College District
M. Dujon started at WCCCD in 1988 and remembers that one of the great things about the College back then was that it was an open door. He says, “There was no testing and it wasn’t very intimidating. One of the great things about the college was that I could take courses and have the opportunity to grow without pressure.” He took courses for almost two years at the main and northwest campuses and says, “One of the courses that stands out was a speech course. I thought, this is the most useless, elementary course; it was beneath me. This is ridiculous; this is nothing but a high school with ashtrays.” He now realizes that it was one of the most influential courses that he had because it taught him to focus on writing skills. He says, “I cannot say enough about the importance of that course and still have that book, Fundamentals of Speech Writing. After the course, when I was in college, I actually came back and apologized sheepishly for my attitude and told the teacher that it was probably the best course I had.” M. Dujon remembers being particularly inspired by Dr. Wallace Peace, a WCCCD professor. Dr. Peace writes about M. Dujon’s book saying, “It took someone of Mr. Johnson’s unique background to put this together . . . scholarly but straightforward.”

By joining the Army and scoring high on the exams M. Dujon was able to enter into the National Security Agency (NSA). M. Dujon was required to complete basic training in South Carolina. Where the drill instructor tried to give him a hard time until he learned that M. Dujon was going into NSA. Following Basic Combat Training, he was attached to the Pentagon and assigned to Intelligence. He says, “When I was in the service, I probably held the first intelligence strike in history.” A friend, a young black man, was beaten to death by the military police. Observing that no action was being taken in the case, M. Dujon slowed the information flow of intelligence causing an incident that remains classified. He says, “I learned later that race riots, especially during the Vietnam War, were quite common and somehow because of the position I held or the way I carried myself, I was able to become a spokesperson. I was one of the few African Americans in Intelligence in Europe. I don’t drink, don’t smoke and never did drugs. I got my first taste of dealing with power, race, and politics and at one point, dealt directly with Alexander Haig and other high ranking military officials. Much of this information remains classified. One of the first things I did when I came back was to register to vote and got a library card. I also returned to college determined to play a role in international politics.”

Returning to the United States, he went to Milwaukee and Matriculated at Marquette University where he ran for President losing to Steve Gunderson, who later became a U.S. Congressman. As he worked and learned about politics, he became a spokesperson.
Wayne County Community College District

for the NAACP and worked on the election committee for Ted Kennedy.

M. Dujon has always been especially interested in foreign affairs and keeps informed by reading New York Times, Washington Star, Washington Post, Guardian, The Economist, and the Globe and Mail from Toronto. In one publication, he was reading an article about China written by Dr. Michael Oksenburg, a professor at the University of Michigan and director of the China Center. Dr. Oksenburg and M. Dujon were able to meet shortly thereafter and established a lasting academic relationship.

M. Dujon was graduated from the University of Iowa, receiving his bachelor of arts in east asian studies and a Juris Doctorate. He returned to the University of Michigan China Center for his master of arts degree. He has been awarded an international doctoral fellowship from the National Sun Yet-sen University in Kaohsuin, Taiwan, and a Taiwan Ministry of Education Scholarship.

If M. Dujon has ever been complacent or distracted with time on his hands, he is definitely not feeling that now. He is writing his second book and lectures in the United States and China.

M. Dujon's recent book, Race and Racism in the Chinas, is dedicated to his children: M. Dujon II, Princeton, Sterling, and Essence. He writes, "Part of my obligation as your father is to help make this world a better place for you and your children. I do hope this work goes toward me fulfilling part of that obligation to all of you."

M. Dujon has a vision for what the potential of a world of understanding could create for the next generations. His early environment in the city of Detroit provided him with life skills and the perception to work through difficult societal problems. His perseverance has broken through barriers that have prevented others from finding success. His dedication to telling stories about complicated racial issues may be revealing to others so that they, too, may be more accepting of different races, ethnicities, and colors.
SUCCESS STORIES
Wouldn’t you like to be a part of this exceptional group?
(Please return the alumni form found inside the back cover.)

Della Burton-Staller  Jerry Hill  Artina Tinsley-Handlin  Patricia Kukula-Chylinski
Melody Light  Nina Bernard  Delbert A. Davis  Terry E. Packer
Carol Ann Owens  Bishop John H. Sheard  Raymond Basham  Jonathan Edison
Saadiah Ahmed  Sean Ryan  Bette Misuraca  Joseph Mendrysa

Where learning leads to a better life
Patricia A. Wallace - Little  
FIRED UP ABOUT FORENSICS

CSI: Detroit

Michigan-Licensed Psychologist and Certified Forensic Consultant Patricia A. Wallace-Little started post-secondary education at WCCCD and was valedictorian of the first graduating class in 1972. She earned a bachelor’s, master’s, and doctorate at Wayne State University (WSU). Additional outstanding credentials include fellow, American College of Forensic Examiners Institute of Forensic Sciences; diplomate, American Board of Forensic Medicine; diplomate; and American Board of Forensic Examiners.

Dr. Wallace-Little operates a private practice, Wallace and Associates in Southfield, Michigan, and consults as a forensic examiner and expert witness for criminal, civil, and probate matters including competency issues, insanity pleas, criminal responsibility, diminished capacity, child custody, and other legal categories. Her clinical experience includes individual and group psychotherapy, psychological testing, and diagnostic evaluations of adults and children. She has consulted for the Juvenile Assessment Center in Detroit, Detroit Public Schools, City of Detroit, United States Department of Defense, State Judicial Council, Recorder’s Court, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Washington, D.C., Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Ford Motor Company and other Michigan State departments.

Still, consulting does not consume all of Wallace-Little’s time as she has taught at Northville Regional Psychiatric Hospital in Northville, Lafayette Clinic, Eastern Michigan University, WSU, and currently serves as Adjunct Psychology Faculty at WCCCD. She continues to lecture throughout the U.S. on topics of importance to forensic psychologists and has authored numerous publications.

Wallace-Little works closely with her daughter, Denise Wallace-Butler, who is also a psychologist and has been teaching psychology for 14 years. Denise accompanied her mother when she first began classes at WCCCD.

Living in what was called “Black Bottom,” Wallace-Little recalls that growing up she “didn’t know anything else so I felt fine and my mother reinforced that I was ok and I could do and be whatever I wanted to be.” She says, “I didn’t know that times were bad or that I was poor — I was a very happy child.” Patricia was inspired by her mother, Alma Searcy, a Detroit Public School Aide for special needs children. Wallace-Little says, “She had confidence in herself and in us (her children) and we referred to her as the Empress. I come from a long line of very strong African-American women, including my grandmother, Sarah Jefferson who moved to Detroit from Louisiana.”

Jazz and musical composition is another part of Wallace-Little’s rich heritage. Her biological father, James Baker, was a musician with Duke Ellington’s band and composed “Stella By Starlight.” She remembers seeing him perform at the site now known as Orchestra Hall. Closed during the depression, Orchestra Hall was reopened in 1941 as the Paradise Theatre, taking on a new life as one of the nation’s premier jazz venues for performers such as Ella Fitzgerald, Billy Holiday, Count Basie and Duke Ellington. Rivaling Harlem’s legendary Apollo Theatre, the Paradise era lasted until 1951. Wallace-Little speaks with pride about the pictures of her father which hang in the Charles H. Wright Museum of African – American History. He performed as part of the jazz group, the “McKinley Cotton Pickers.”

A member of one of the last graduating classes at Eastern High School in Detroit, Wallace-Little has fond memories and says, “It was a great high
school that was culturally diverse.” During the time of urban renewal, Martin Luther King and Kettering high schools were opened, Eastern was torn down and the east side of Detroit was being changed by streets being demolished to make room for the Chrysler Freeway. The result was that the neighborhood was destroyed.

Wallace-Little’s face lights up as she talks about her husband, Michael Little whom, she describes as a “fascinating” man! They have been married for 16 years and Michael’s passions, in addition to Patricia, include golf and flying. Both are aviation enthusiasts. Patricia is a member of the Ninety-Niners Flyers Club and therefore, can fly in an emergency. Michael owns Conquest Reproductions, a Detroit printing company. Despite a demanding schedule, they manage to visit their vacation home in Las Vegas or Michael’s mother in North Carolina twice monthly.

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Wallace-Little’s first husband, Jerry Wallace, is the father of her daughter, Denise. They have maintained a close relationship over the years and she considers him a wonderful person. The families share recreational activities and trips together with Denise and granddaughter, Simone Patrice Butler.

Teaching at WCCCD for more than 33 years, Wallace-Little finds the current students to be different from those in the past. Initially, her students were older and highly motivated. Many of those students would have not had the opportunity had it not been for WCCCD she says, including me.” She was a secretary prior to enrolling and says, “I feel a real allegiance to WCCCD and will probably teach here until they throw me out because I love teaching, sharing, and giving back.”

“I feel a real allegiance to WCCCD and will probably teach here until they throw me out because I love teaching, sharing, and giving back.”

She is constantly trying new ideas to motivate current students who are distracted and confused by media. Wallace-Little brings an uncommon dedication to both teaching and research benefitting many students who have taken her class.

Wallace-Little claims that she and Michael are workaholics and managing their two businesses is the work they love. They have breakfast and coffee together but contact for the remainder of the day is left to phone calls. Patricia claims that she does not cook and describes the two kitchens in her homes as snack bars. Michael plays golf any day that the temperature is above 32 degrees and Patricia spends time writing articles for professional publications. She is currently working with McGraw-Hill on a book about forensic psychology and successfully offered a new course at WCCCD this past fall for students and professionals interested in understanding the complex interface between mental health and the law.
Roman Hammes officially retired in February 2007 and continues to fulfill his life mission to serve others. He has a nursing degree from WCCCD where Mrs. Ester Howell, the chair of gerontology who advised him that certain courses would enable him to obtain a double major for his associate’s degree. This advice proved to be valuable and provided direction that has lead to a rewarding career.

Hammes began studying nursing and got his first job at Harper Hospital in Detroit. He followed up with additional courses at Macomb County Community College but switched to WCCCD since the nursing courses were nearby at the Austin Center and the tuition was less expensive. He was impressed with the quality of teaching and was inspired by Douglas Amstom and Mrs. Ester Howell. Some of the inspiration from connections and people with whom he associated in the past culminated and as a result, Roman Hammes is a dedicated, knowledgeable facilitator for the many he has served and continues to serve.

Interested in gerontology for many years, he got the degree in 1983 completing an internship at Services for Older Citizens in Grosse Pointe. Hammes was a member of the Gerontology Society of America for many years.

Hammes worked with Common Ground Sanctuary which serves Oakland County adults, children, and families through a variety of programs including 24-hour crisis and referral hotline a 24-hour psychiatric screening and assessment; short-term residential psychiatric facility for adults; victim assistance/advocacy; short-term shelter care, transitional living, street outreach services and outpatient counseling for runaway and homeless youth; in-home youth and family counseling and support and education groups. He specifically performed emergency room mental health screening and assessments in Common Ground’s Royal Oak facility. Hammes continued in his lifelong learning mission of acquiring additional certifications.

Harper Hospital provided the ideal training site where Hammes fulfilled final requirements to become a licensed practical nurse. He received additional training as part of the Manpower Development Training Act, a CEEDA program at Herman Keifer Hospital.

Originally from Random Lake, Wisconsin he came to Detroit at the age of 25 to look for work. He stayed with relatives in Grosse Pointe Woods. His first job was that of a butler chauffeur for the late Countess Cyril Tolstoi (Gwendolyn Currie Seyburn) who lived on Lewiston Road in Grosse Pointe Farms. Grosse Pointe Farms resident Gwendolyn Currie Seyburn became the Countess Cyril Tolstoi after marrying a distant relative of
the famed Russian author. The couple lived in a gracious home on Lewiston Road near Ridge Road; the property was once part of her family’s summer retreat. George Cantor interviewed Hammes for the job at the time in the historic Book Building. Following that position, he served as a houseman for another prominent medical family in Grosse Pointe.

Roman is enjoying “retirement” by freelancing in politics serving as assistant to the District 1 Wayne County Commissioner, Tim Killeen. Having helped worked on Killeen’s election committee and serving as a planning commissioner in Harper Woods, Hammes was asked to work on special projects with Killeen. Killeen states, “Roman is very active in community organizations including SOC and the Rotary and is someone who is very concerned about the quality of life in the community and works hard to improve life for people in his surroundings.”

Hammes is currently reading, Repacking Your Bags by Richard J. Leider and David A. Shapiro which shows readers how to climb out from under burdens and find the fulfillment missing in their lives.

For recreation, Hammes belongs to Bali Fitness going three times weekly and is involved with Harper Woods Library and has helped raise funds for special projects. He also enjoys volunteering at Services for Older Citizens where he also serves as a board member.
"FREEDOM IS HAVING YOUR OWN BACKYARD TO PLAY IN."

Creativity, Inspiration, Spirituality

From her modest migrant worker beginnings to an artist and spiritual leader and a WCCCD lifelong student, Adelina Fuentes Connelly is an inspiration to her students and numerous friends who have become her extended family. A woman of passion and inspiration, Adelina connects with people by her intuitive insight, leading them to greater self-understanding through creativity.

By connecting with The Arts League of Michigan, recognized as a leadership organization offering a variety of cultural arts programs, services, and activities for both artists and audiences, sponsorship through the Ford Motor Company and money from the Downriver Council for the Arts’ Ashes to Action fund, Adelina has survived the devastating fire that destroyed her art gallery in March 2001. By turning a dreadful experience into a constructive one, she opened the Fuentes Gallery at 904 Oak Street in Wyandotte where she has art studios and a gallery to display her art and that of other talented local artists and sculptors.

Being of Hispanic heritage, Adelina qualifies for a Michigan Rehabilitation Services’ college grant for Hispanics with disabilities, which enables her to afford tuition for art classes. Carl Kamulski, recognized in 2004 as the “Outstanding Arts Educator of the Year” by the Wayne County Council for the Arts and Humanities and art teacher for over 25 years at WCCCD, says, “Adelena is a very driven creative artist who continuously finds new way to express herself using a variety of media.”

Adelina works in various mediums, acrylics, mixed media, oil, pencil,
pastel, and clay — depending on the day or mood. She has developed techniques and styles that look Mayan as she draws from her Hispanic heritage for inspiration. She first visited the Mayan Ruins in Mexico when she was 20 years old and recalls structures that translate into some of the pieces she creates. The Mayans were concerned with creating monumental ceremonial spaces, often astronomically aligned, within which ritual and political theater could take place. The same could be said about the space Adelina has created in her gallery.

Spiritualism plays a significant part in Adelina’s life. She does readings and spiritual work with women’s groups in the gallery in an attempt she says, “To open up the mind to spiritual truths.” Many years ago, a young man came to Adelina for a reading and she recalls seeing an image above his head. Later she realized that the image was her face. She and this man, Gerald Connelly, have been married for 38 years. Gerald is an Irish poet and the two have published a book of poems and artistic sketches, *Green Thoughts, Recollections of an Irish Poet*. Her favorite poem, *George – Farewell Thoughts*, is about her deceased brother.

In Adelina Fuentes Connelly’s mind, service to others is as important as the art she creates. On Saturday mornings, she teaches free art classes for children and the gallery is open in the afternoon for adults who wish to paint — again, no fee is charged. Every third Friday, when all art galleries are open in Wyandotte, the Fuentes gallery holds an open house and a potluck supper. The inventiveness does not end with art. Adelina has created a loving community where artists and those who appreciate art can gather and share friendship. While a recent purchase and commission by the prominent Prechtor family may contribute to some financial stability for Adelina and the gallery, it is in the larger community where artistic ingenuity resides that the ultimate contribution can be found.

**George – Farewell Thoughts**

What will become of us?  
How will we remember him?  
Will it be as the musical man?  
Who played on TV and The Gong Show?  
Will it be as the Wonder Bread Man?  
Or as the ladies dream date?  
Will we bring out old school pictures  
Packed away somewhere?  
How do you measure someone  
Who leaves so many behind  
With unanswered questions?  

Can we ever forget his smile?  
No, that’s not possible.  
Can we think of a joke he told— 
Like the one about the “Parkay-porque?”  
Will it ease the pain within?  
Does anyone remember his fire-fighting stint?  
What would you tell him now, 
If you had the chance?  

We gathered for his funeral, with the question:  
Is there anything we ought to tell someone  
While there’s still time?  
Can we look around and see 
Someone we need to forgive or to  
Ask forgiveness of?  

Now is the time to pose  
The one question that looms before us:  
What will become of us?
“I interviewed for the job as chief and was asked, “What are your priorities in life?” Stephen Poloni replied, “My priorities in life are, and I try to maintain them in this order, number one is God, number two is my family, and number three is my job. If I hold true to number one, two will take care of itself, and therefore, I will be a better employee.”

Stephen Poloni is the director of public safety for the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores and serves as chief over both the police and fire departments. He began with the village as a public safety officer in January 1987, after serving as a firefighter for nearly five years with the River Rouge Fire Department. In 1993, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant, in 1996, to the rank of lieutenant, and in 2000, to the position of inspector/deputy chief.

During his tenure with the department, Chief Poloni has received numerous citations and commendations. In 1991, he received the Special Recognition Award from the Fraternal Order of Police for his community service efforts, which included his efforts in feeding needy families through the “Feed A Family” program. With generous donations from Shores citizens and many others over the years, the departments, Grosse Pointe and River Rouge, have fed over 1,000 families during the holidays. Chief Poloni has also been recognized for his work with children, teaching them about fire safety, utilizing
“Pluggie” the robot. In 1992, the Optimist Club recognized him as the “Officer of the Year” and in 1993, he was awarded the “MADD” award for his efforts in enforcing the drunk driving laws.

He currently serves as the chairman of the Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods Mutual Aid Committee and was appointed as a member of the Wayne County Emergency Management Staff. In 2006, he was elected as the president of the Wayne County Chiefs Association.

He attended high school in River Rouge and worked in the local fire department starting in 1983. Poloni became concerned upon learning that due to city cut-backs, consideration was being given to layoffs in the public safety department. Poloni’s wife was originally from nearby St. Clair Shores and Poloni says, “Just by the Lord’s blessing, I was driving by the Grosse Pointe Shores city offices and saw a fire truck in the driveway and thought that would be a good place to put in an application, so I stopped and obtained one.” Time passed, he put the application in a drawer, and one day his wife Kathy asked, “Are you going to do something with
this or shall I pitch it?” Poloni replied, “No, they are still talking layoffs — so I sent it in.” He immediately received a call requesting him to come to the Shores department to take a test and was hired immediately. Poloni declared, “I’m a believer, I am a Christian and I think the Lord leads us and takes us in the places we need to go.”

Being ambitious, Poloni realized that he needed to get additional training to advance his career. A graduate of Police Command and Management School through Eastern Michigan University and Macomb Community College, Poloni is also a graduate and member of the F. B. I. Law Enforcement Executive Development Association. He holds an associate’s degree in criminal justice from WCCCD and bachelor’s degree in public business administration from the University of Phoenix.

Poloni has fond recollections of the WCCCD graduation ceremony: graduating Summa Cum Laude, his proud wife and children attended the graduation, making it a memorable and inspirational family outing. At the family church, there are yearly displays of the recent high school graduates and Poloni, laughing recalls that someone placed his picture on the bulletin board among the other high school church members who graduated — he says he looked older than the typical graduate.

Poloni recalls that while attending the Downriver Campus he was inspired by Dick McIntyre and the two became friends. Poloni was an older student when he went back to school after having worked for several years in the fire department and as a police officer.

Poloni lives in Taylor, Michigan, a 30-minute drive to work and arrives at 6:30 a.m. to begin his workday. The Grosse Pointe Shores Department is small and Poloni professes to do everything from scheduling, payroll, human resources, oversight of daily operations, and record keeping. Highly efficient, there are 20 sworn officers in the department and nine civilian dispatchers. Community leaders and Poloni make a strong team, a “mutual admiration society” — they love him and he has high remarks of praise for them. Poloni says, “This is a good place to work, good administration, they are fiscally responsible and ahead of the curve.” The community, mostly
residential, has no businesses other than the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club and the Edsel Ford Estate. The public safety officers perform all three jobs: paramedics, police officers, and fire fighters.

Poloni like to advise current students, “Going to college gives you the opportunity to get the educational background and it gives you the piece of paper which enables you to move on: without it (the diploma), is virtually impossible to get your foot in the door.” He knows from experience that the diploma is what will pay off in the long run. He says, “Sometimes you don’t see the finish line until you get there.”

Poloni currently serves on the WCCCD Criminal Justice Advisory Committee. Most career programs are required to have professionals who are currently employed in the field. Poloni has worked with students at job fairs for the College and meets with the committee to advise the college on industry trends.

Director Poloni and his wife Kathy have been married for 25 years. He has two children, Andrew, 23 and Sarah, 20. Andrew has attended the University of Michigan for three years and has completed his degree at Wayne State University in order to get journalism credentials from renowned instructor, Ben Burns. Sarah currently attends Eastern Michigan University, working on a degree in special education. Kathy, who also attended WCCCD to obtain the early childhood certificate, teaches preschool at St. Paul Lutheran in Trenton.

Poloni’s pastime is golf and he claims to shoot around 84 or 85. He says, “Some days I play really well and the next day I am asking myself, “Where did I get these clubs?” He has only been playing golf for five years and watches the game on television. His dad, also a golfer, was a hard worker who was the plant manager for the International Salt Company. He also owned a welding fabrication shop, which produced products for some of the auto companies.
In his commencement speech, Francisco Juan Solano said, “As I reflect back on the time when I first made a conscious choice to attend WCCCD, I was hesitant. I had not been in school for a number of years, and in 1994, I suffered a life-threatening closed-head injury while employed as a City of Detroit police officer.”

Solano joined the Detroit Metropolitan Police Force in 1986. Following his injury and after a prolonged recovery, he was given an honorable retirement. He recalls, “The injury affected my memory and self esteem and I was not sure if I could handle the challenge of college.” He was graduated from WCCCD with an associate’s degree in social science and a 3.72 grade point average. Francisco also known as Frank was inducted into the honor society, Phi Theta Kappa Society, and was selected to be the speaker for the WCCCD graduating class of 2007, proving that he is truly a success story.

In his commencement speech, Solano said, “As I stand before my fellow graduating class, it is with great honor, for today is a very special moment in our life, a day that will live forever in our hearts and in our minds. A day that we may give thanks to all that assisted in our academic accomplishments.” Throughout his speech, he urged the class to accept new challenges and to help others and all the species of life that exist on earth. His speech gave insight into the spiritual and philosophical side of Frank Solano. Even though his time is filled with benefit concerts, he plans on pursuing a bachelor’s degree at Madonna College where he has been accepted but needs financial assistance or an academic scholarship.

Solano was born and raised on the southwest side of Detroit. He is second-generation Mexican American with 14 siblings. He calls himself Mexican American because he was born in America and one of the early beliefs instilled by his parents was to believe in the culture of America, which is to work hard, be honest, go to school, and always help people. Helping other organizations and causes comes easily for Frank. As a musician, he has played lap steel guitar for 34 years using music to help those in need and fundraising for worthy causes. Performances by his band, the Frank Solano GNS Band, are numerous and local performances for many civic events include the International Institute during the Detroit Festival of the Arts. These unique performances are well attended and appreciated for their soothing sounds and atmospheric natural rhythms. The band has also performed in fundraisers for the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Brighton School for the Performing Arts Celebration of Music, Mayor Dennis Archer’s Scholarship Ball, Unity in the Community Festival Casa de Unidad Detroit, the Benefit for the Saint Anne Church, the American Indian Association, the American G.I. Forum, and the Southwest Detroit Business Association. Solano and the other seven musicians in his band have a dream to be recognized nationally.

A special love match last year resulted in the marriage of Frank to Rosario, a woman he met in Lima, Peru, three years ago. Rosario is a social worker and a community activist in her school and community. She plans to join Frank in the U.S. and the two are currently working through the legal immigration process. In the meantime, they try to visit often and communicate via email daily. He has managed to continue his mission of helping others and has made a connection between the Kennedy School in Livonia, Michigan and the one where his wife works in Peru. Over 40 boxes of school supplies have been shipped to students in Peru since Frank established this connection. Shipping the supplies has become a costly issue for which Frank is seeking a solution.
Solano has respect for different cultures and beliefs that extend beyond his local neighborhood. He reads the Wall Street Journal and National Geographic to keep abreast of international issues. Most recently, he has been interested in occupied Tibet, his holiness, the Dalai Lama, and the issues of oppression.

Frank Solano has led a life filled with numerous experiences. He was a decorated police officer, and performed with the police organization, the Blue Pigs, he was injured in a freak accident during a hockey game in Cobo Arena; he entered college as a mature adult and achieved success, and lost his 37-year-old brother Gabriel to prostate cancer in 2005. It affected Frank deeply since the two were very close. Subsequently, he dedicated his life and the pursuit of education to his brother’s memory. Frank has also been a baker, a mechanic for the U.S. Postal Service, and he was in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves. The life experiences are reflected in the poetry and music he writes incorporate his spiritual passions and love of the environment.

Community involvement continues to be the constant in Solano's life. He observes the depressed areas near his home and, as an activist, gets vacant houses torn down and reports incidents to the police when he observes stolen vehicles and chop shops. Frank, in a sober moment, contemplates the end of his rich life, saying,

“I want my tombstone to read, “Frank did his best to help his community and humanity. Frank was a good man.”

Winter Harvest

The august night whispers through my open window
september moon smiles high in the sky.

The rose bush shivers as her leaves fall to the ground.

Shadows standing long and tall silent to the winter harvest.

The weathers change like that of a snow-drop falling from the sky, brings beauty to all who know the winter harvest.

The peacefulness of the river flowing, soon to be ice covered, reasons of living for the sun knows when it is time to go, tail colors waiting to be seen.

The glow of life waits to be shared.

Francisco Juan Solano
June 01, 2002
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International Book Fair

AWARD-WINNING AUTHORS HAVE BEEN FEATURED IN THE INITIAL YEAR OF WCCCD’S INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR.

JACQUELINE WOODSON
has written many children’s books including Miracle Boys (recently produced for television). Her other publications include: Behind You, The House You Pass On The Way, On The Other Side, Feathers and I Never Meant to Tell You This. As a young child, Woodson dreamed of becoming a teacher, lawyer, or hairdresser, but writing was in her soul. “I wrote on everything and everywhere. I wrote on paper bags, my shoes, and denim binders. I loved and still love watching words flower into sentences that blossom into stories.” She has won many awards, including the Caldecott Medal, the Coretta Scott King Book Award, the Margaret A. Edwards Award, the Newbery Medal, the National Book Award, and the Parents’ Choice Awards.

CHRISTOPHER ABANI
internationally-acclaimed novelist first wrote a book at age 16. As a professor at the University of California, Riverside, he is the recipient of the Prince Claus Award, Lananan Literary Fellowship, California Book Award, Hurston/Wright Legacy Award, and the PEN Hemingway Book Prize. Among his books and plays are: Do, Woman My Heart is Unending, Daphne’s Lot Kalakuta Republic, Graceland, Masters of the Board, The Poet, The Soldier, The Lover, The Paper-Kite Maker, Song of a Broken Flute, and Room at the Top.
ELIZABETH ATKINS writes and speaks from the spectacular human spectrum that she embodies as the daughter of an African-American judge and a former Catholic priest who was English, French Canadian and Cherokee. With books, screenplays, poems, and lectures, Elizabeth entertains and educates by using her unique appearance and perspective to explore provocative issues such as “What is Race?” She writes pioneering bold, new voices in novels and screenplays with mixed-race characters: White Chocolate, Dark Secret and Twilight (written with Billy Dee Williams). She has also written two hip-hop novels for Urban Books, both featured in Black Expressions Book Club.

STEVE CLIMBER has been writing horror/fantasy for most of his life. There usually isn’t a time when he’s not working on something - even if it is just staring out the window. His novels include; Dream Thieves, BearWalker, Soul Temple, and M, and his short stories have appeared in over a dozen magazines, including Implosion, The Midnight Gallery, Into the Darkness, Altered Perceptions, and FrightNet.
Logistics Management is a unique business management program that prepares graduates for employment in the areas of logistics management, inventory control, materials management, and distribution. The field of logistics management includes a myriad of occupations, including supervisors or managers of transportation, storage, distribution; helpers, laborers, hand material movers; and transportation/machine and vehicle material movers. This program combines core education courses with specific occupational courses in the areas of customer service, supervision, supply chain management, and logistics. The Program is designed to provide an overview of the process from product idea conception to the delivery of the product to the consumer.

Wayne County Community College District

The Video Game Design program provides an entry into the game design field with an emphasis on graphic components for interactive educational and entertainment software. It is intended to provide a basic foundation in the most popular areas in the computer game industry with an emphasis on game design, game planning, 2D graphical components, 3D graphical components, animation techniques for games, game scripting, and advanced production techniques. These are the skills essential for the world of video game design. This program provides flexibility that enables students to acquire specialization that meets a number of job descriptions common to the computer game and animation industries.

Where learning leads to a better life

Video Game Design

Logistics Management

9555 Haggerty Rd. • Belleville, MI 48111
734-699-7008 • www.wcccd.edu
This program prepares students for immediate employment in the hotel industry. Students will learn about the different hotel departments. The operations of the front desk, food and beverage, housekeeping, facility management, catering and sales will all be explored. The course objectives are reached through the use of case analysis, technology, leadership and marketing training. The Hotel and Restaurant Management program is designed to prepare students for a broad range of positions throughout the hospitality industry. Career opportunities for this program include customer service representative, hotel sales, hotel catering management, hotel/motel owner/manager and hotel desk clerk.

The Wayne County Community College District’s Learning Resource Centers are committed to help you explore the idea of being your own boss. The basic requirements for starting a business as well as an awareness of the management skills that are necessary for business success are taught.

THE MONDAY BUSINESS SERIES

How to Grow Your Business
If you’ve already got your business off the ground, attend this workshop to learn how to take it to the next level.

Business Plans Part 1: Write a Winning Business Plan
Learn the essential components of writing a solid business plan that projects a sound product and marketing plan.

Business Plans Part 2: Write a Winning Business Plan
In the second part of a two-part series on writing a solid business plan, you will also learn the necessary steps to acquire business financing.
Wayne County Community College District’s new University Square is ideally located to deliver instruction to high school graduates and adult learners via satellite, online courses, and state-of-the-art educational auditoriums. The facility will be called University Square and will serve as a beacon for those who seek an exciting learning environment with links to major universities. By building partnerships between the community college and institutions that grant bachelor’s and master’s degrees, WCCCD will serve as a critical link and hub for services.

University Square is a partnership of universities and colleges with Wayne County Community College District to provide seamless articulated programs, common shared facilities and various modalities of distance learning technologies. As a center of communication, the University Square will become the educational hub of the region.

The partnership will make possible customized options for continuing education, professional studies, bachelor’s degrees and master’s degree programs. Convenient, flexible, accessible and affordable, the University Square will build partnerships that are designed to encourage innovation and productive connections with the global learning community.
Dental Laboratory Technician

The Dental Laboratory Technician program is a four-semester certificate program with the option for continued studies and continuing education. The curriculum covers the skills necessary to design and fabricate dental prosthetic restorations. The program focuses on a variety of materials, waxes, metal alloys, and porcelain to fabricate restorations. It is designed to prepare students for a career in the dental laboratory field. The curriculum covers the skills necessary to design and fabricate dental prosthetic restorations. The Dental Laboratory Technician works with a variety of materials, waxes, metal alloys, and porcelain to fabricate restorations. As part of their education, students are placed in on-site laboratory rotations to incorporate theory with practice. Upon completion, students may find employment in commercial dental laboratories, private dental practices, or dental schools. Students may also open their own dental laboratory, which offers good personal business opportunities.

Foodservice Systems Management

The Foodservice Systems Management program prepares students for management positions in various foodservice industries, including schools, hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living communities, correctional facilities, casinos, and resorts. The program covers volume food preparation, menu design, cost control, HAACP, purchasing, and management of human and material resources. Graduates are eligible to take the examination for Foodservice Management Professional (FMP) certification through the American School Food Service Association (ASFSA).

I want to make a connection at WCCCD!

Wayne County Community College District
SUCCESS Stories
Where learning leads to a better life

Learning Resource Center

The Wayne County Community College District’s Learning Resource Centers are committed to providing supportive academic services including access to computers, printers, special reserves, inter-library loans, and circulation services for students, faculty, and community users.

Special events are presented on a regular basis through the District Learning Resource Centers with art exhibits scheduled frequently in our stimulating art and learning environment, the Brown and Juanita Ford Art Gallery at the Arthur Cartwright Downtown Campus Learning Resource Center.

www.wcccd.edu
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