Message from the WCCCD Executive Director of Government Relations

Welcome to the latest issue of the Legislative Update. Wayne County Community College District is proud to play a vital role in the continued growth in the county and regionally in southeastern Michigan. As the largest urban community college in Michigan, it is incumbent that we prepare students for careers in high-demand fields.

At our Eastern Campus, Governor Whitmer recently signed historic bipartisan legislation creating tens of thousands of good-paying jobs in the state of Michigan. The Eastern Campus will also host the Mechatronics Career Training Center, offering skilled and apprenticeship training to workers and students for numerous industries, including advanced auto manufacturing.

Our new Horizontal Infrastructure Training Center Collaborative is an innovative civil technician bootcamp program that trains hundreds of individuals to enter careers in a wide range of construction, logistics, and skilled-trades careers. The program is a partnership with MDOT, Wayne County Department of Public Services, the American Council of Engineering Companies, and the American Infrastructure Design Firm, HNTB, and trains at our Outdoor Careers Training Center.

Our recent partnership with the Detroit Police Department creates new pathways for high school students to jumpstart a career in law enforcement and establishes a state-of-the-art police academy at the District’s Northwest Campus.

I have personally witnessed these partnerships meet our students’ needs, as WCCCD has faced the COVID-19 pandemic head on by providing testing and vaccinations through our partnership with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). As Executive Director of Government Relations, it is my duty to see that WCCCD fosters partnerships that allow all of us in our community to thrive.

We are a multi-campus, multi-program community college district. These are real results, and these are just a few examples of how, with the guidance of Chancellor Ivery, we lead.

Thank you,
Dr. Yvette McElroy Anderson
WCCCD Executive Director of Government Relations

WCCCD Chancellor Ivery Receives AACC CEO of the Year Award

WCCCD Chancellor Dr. Curtis L. Ivery has been recently named CEO of the Year by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). The award from the AACC is in recognition of Chancellor Ivery’s outstanding accomplishments and professional contributions to the community college field, and for modeling innovative and successful ways colleges can create meaningful impacts in individuals’ lives.

Under Ivery’s tenure, WCCCD grew to a multi-campus cornerstone institution of higher education that serves students over a six-campus district. His leadership has transformed WCCCD into an institution that provides more than 120 career and academic programs to its students and is a regional leader in workforce development and healthcare fields.
Horizontal Infrastructure Training Center Collaborative

The new Horizontal Infrastructure Training Center Collaborative, an effort between Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD), the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), Wayne County Department of Public Services, the American Council of Engineering Companies, and the American Infrastructure Design Firm, HNTB, launched an innovative civil technician bootcamp program in October 2021 to train hundreds of individuals to enter in-demand careers in a wide range of construction, logistics, and skilled trades careers.

Throughout the pandemic recovery, access to well-paying jobs for low-income Americans has been a prominent feature in the Biden Administration’s American Jobs Plan. The proposed plan’s budget includes $4.8 billion for workforce development infrastructure and the creation of one to two million registered apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship opportunities for a diverse population of non-degree workers.

WCCCD programs such as the Civil Technology and Testing Program launched with a bootcamp in October 2021 and forthcoming academic programs in 2022. Training for these programs will be held at WCCCD’s Outdoor Careers Training Center, a 22-acre outdoor campus located at Greenfield and Joy Roads in Detroit.

“We are excited to see our inaugural cohort thrive, and to grow this program to support the dreams and goals of our students, and of southeast Michigan,” said WCCCD Trustee Marla Edwards-Wheeler.
WCCCD and DPD Partner to Expand Opportunity

A new dual enrollment partnership between Wayne County Community College District and the Detroit Police Department creates new pathways for high school students to jumpstart a career in law enforcement and establishes a state-of-the-art police academy at the District’s Northwest Campus.

The partnership creates several different pathways for high school students to earn credit towards an associate’s degree and to prepare them for careers in criminal justice or accelerated entry into the Police Academy. Students will train at a renovated 67,000 square foot facility that includes a specialized computer lab with equipment used by the Detroit Police Department and real-time simulation rooms to train on tactics and strategy, as well as reflex responses; a cadet research library, gym, and indoor weapons training range to allow for qualification and certification requirements is also included.

“We are excited to see this partnership come to fruition,” WCCCD Board of Trustee member Scott T. Holiday said about the announcement.

WCCCD Partners with Michigan State Police to Provide Community Connection and Understanding

A new partnership between WCCCD and the Michigan State Police (MSP) would create a structured series of community forums to forge greater understanding between the police and the many diverse communities across Wayne County.

An independent study commissioned in 2020 by the Michigan State Police (MSP) found racial and ethnic disparities in the frequency and outcomes of traffic stops conducted by troopers in 2020. MSP Director Col. Joe Gasper announced plans to commit resources to evaluate policies, practices and recommend systemic changes to address disparities in traffic stops. The partnership with WCCCD creates an avenue for deep dialogue and understanding to inform community-focused policies and practices.

“Our mission has always been to create pathways to better lives through learning,” said WCCCD Chancellor Dr. Curtis L. Ivery. “This partnership is part of that mission, and our enduring focus on fostering equity and inclusion in education. We welcome the opportunity to create avenues of greater understanding and knowledge that can help to produce better policies and experiences for the communities that we serve and allow every individual to live with dignity and peace.”

In addition to being one of the largest multi-campus community college districts in the state, WCCCD also is home to a broad array of law enforcement education programs and faculty, spanning all agencies of law enforcement including the Michigan State Police, former city police chiefs, county executives, sheriffs, judges, attorneys, and Detroit Police Academy Instructors. The District last year announced a dual enrollment program with the Detroit Police Department, and WCCCD’s Michigan Institute for Public Safety Education has long been a premier training ground for state and federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies.
WCCCD Legislative Update

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

BOARD of TRUSTEES

Dr. Curtis L. Ivery
WCCCD Chancellor

Vernon C. Allen, Jr.
Vice Chairperson
District 3

Sharon P. Scott
Treasurer
District 9

Scott T. Holiday
Member
District 4

Mary Ellen Stempfle
Chairperson
District 1

Denise Wellons-Glover
Secretary
District 5

Asm N. Rahman
Member
District 2

Marla J. Edwards-Wheeler
Member
District 6

Dr. Patrick M. Kelley
Member
District 7

Susan C. Steeby
Member
District 8

MISSION STATEMENT

801 W. Fort Street • Detroit, MI. 48226