TRANSFORMING LIVES

- WCCCD Reaffirms HLC Reaccreditation with No Findings
- Virtual Commencement Ceremonies
- Virtual Study Abroad to Ethiopia
- High School Students Benefit from Dual Enrollment Program Offerings
- Dr. Curtis L. Ivery, CEO of the Year
The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) is the primary advocacy organization for the nation’s community colleges. The association represents more than 1,000 2-year, associate degree-granting institutions and nearly 12 million students.

There is an African saying that says “Unless the Hunter tells the story of the hunt, the glory sometimes belongs to the Lion.” The wise saying tells us that we have to tell our own stories well so that others won’t tell our stories for us and by so doing may distort our story.

For over two decades since Dr. Curtis L. Ivery became head of the Wayne county Community College District (WCCCD), he has been telling the great work that College has done and continues to do not only for Southeast Michigan, but for the whole State and for the country. Now that over 1,000 community colleges in the United States know what Dr. Ivery has done and every community college is telling the story of good work that Dr. Ivery is doing. In recognition of his commitment, dedication, the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), has named Dr. Ivery CEO of the Year. 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.

This honor was bestowed upon Dr. Ivery at the AACC’s by the (AACC) at a recent ceremony in New York City. The national, inaugural award from the AACC recognizes Ivery’s achievements and transformational leadership at Wayne County Community College District.

“T’m humbled by this award,” Dr. Ivery said. “I am honored to be the first recipient of the CEO of the Year Award. Our partnership with the AACC continues to play a major role in our successful transformation and having an impact on students’ lives at WCCCD.”

Addressing his staff upon his return following the award ceremony in New York to Detroit, Dr. Ivery paid special tribute to the First Lady, Mrs. Ola Ivery for her understanding and for her support that allows him to do his work. “The saying that every successful man needs an understanding partner is so true. My wife has been my strongest supporter through the journey which we thought was only going to be for couple of years, but now past two decades.”

Dr. Ivery also thanked his staff for their hard work and dedication. “I am honored to have such an awesome group to work with.” Under Dr. Ivery’s leadership, WCCCD grew from 7,000 students to a multi-campus cornerstone institution of higher education that serves more than 70,000 students annually over a six-campus district that covers more than 500 square miles. As the largest urban community college district in the state of Michigan, Ivery 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.

Ivery has assembled academic, community, business, and government leaders across a series of roundtables and conferences to develop strategies to expand educational equity and economic mobility in our region, and throughout the nation. He was appointed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer to serve on the Michigan Coronavirus Taskforce to address racial disparities and served on the committee to advise the governor on approaches and strategies towards immediate action to dissolve historical disparities that characterize systemic inequities.

About the American Association of Community Colleges
The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) is the primary advocacy organization for the nation’s community colleges. The association represents more than 1,000 2-year, associate degree-granting institutions and nearly 12 million students. www.aacc.nche.edu/
Dimensions

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The home season opener of Wildcats basketball, brought another exciting opening – the public unveiling of the WCCCD Curtis L. Ivery Health and Wellness Education Center.

The Health and Wellness Education Center (HWEC) kicked off its next phase of opening the center to the public with a week-long sneak peek and open house for students, faculty, and staff. During the week, those audiences were invited to tour the HWEC, try out the fitness center, and learn about the different membership options available for each group. Future phases will open academic programs, ongoing continuing education courses, and fitness club memberships to the surrounding community.

“We are truly excited to open the Health and Wellness Education Center to our WCCCD community and to the public,” said WCCCD Chancellor, Dr. Curtis L. Ivery. “This outstanding facility is unique across our district, and gives our students, staff, faculty, and the community a vital space to jumpstart or revitalize their health, their overall wellness, and their careers.

“I am humbled and proud to have such a dynamic space carry my name,” Ivery said.

Located on the Curtis L. Ivery Central Educational Complex on Fort Street, the Health and Wellness Education Center is a hybrid facility that features the world-class Thomas E. Howard, Jr., Gym, as well as the latest fitness equipment and classes, real-world training spaces, and event spaces to connect, learn, and have fun. Personal trainers and courses on nutrition, wellness, and more are available.

The HWEC boasts a large fitness floor with the latest cardiovascular fitness and weight training machines, as well as a wide variety of free weights and other training equipment. Three large separate studios with full-length mirrored walls and ballet bars host group fitness and continuing education classes including high-intensity aerobics, Zumba, yoga, dance, and many more. A full spinning studio is also available.

Home of the Wildcats Men’s and Women’s basketball teams, the HWEC has a regulation size full basketball court and an arena that fits 1,100 cheering fans, a fitting home for WCCCD’s dedicated students and athletes. Above the arena is an indoor track with a fully rubberized floor and amazing views of the Detroit River and the Downtown skyline.

Three separate terraces with access from the second floor will host classes and meetings, weather permitting. Imagine participating in an early morning yoga class with the city skyline to your side as the sun rises over the Curtis L. Ivery Downtown Campus to great you. Or attending a wellness event or seminar as the sun sets.

Whether you are looking to center yourself with a yoga class, sweat it out with a high intensity run, or find a nutrition plan that finally works for you, the HWEC has it all. To schedule a tour or for more information, call (313) 496-2600 or visit www.wcccd.edu.
Welcome to another exciting edition of our award-winning Wayne County Community College District’s Dimensions magazine.

Despite the many challenges brought on by the ongoing and unprecedented pandemic, we continue to persevere, thanks to the leadership and guidance of our Chancellor, Dr. Curtis L. Ivery. Our New Day, New Way theme is evident as we continue to offer our students, businesses and the communities we serve, high quality educational programs and services.

In this issue, we will share our dedication and commitment to student success through programs such as our virtual commencement, Faculty Convocation Day, District-wide Conference Day, study abroad and much more!

We thank everyone who contributed to making this publication a success.

Sincerely Yours,

David C. Butty
Executive Dean for International Programs/ Media Specialist

Unbreen Amir
Assistant to the Chancellor for Administrative Communication

Mission Statement
Wayne County Community College District’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.

Vision Statement
Wayne County Community College District will be known as a premier community college and innovator in the areas of high quality academic and career education, talent development in support of regional economic growth, diversity and inclusion, and technological advancement.

Values
• Supporting Excellence in Teaching and Learning
• Honoring Diversity
• Serving the Common Good
• Being Accountable
• Operating with Integrity

Accreditation
Wayne County Community College District is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission 230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500 Chicago, Illinois 60604-1411 Phone: 800-621-7440 / 312-263-0456 Fax: 312-263-7462 Website: www.hlcommission.org
Dedication of the Thomas E. Howard, Jr., Gymnasium

“To Dream The Impossible Dream”

Jennifer M. Howard, daughter of the late Thomas E. Howard Jr., had this to share. “One of our father’s favorite songs was “The Impossible Dream”, the Luther Vandross version. Within the lyrics of the song, Luther Vandross sings: To dream, the impossible dream. To run, where the brave dare not go. To try, when your arms are too weary, to reach the unreachable star. To dream, the impossible dream.

“Many years ago, while working in tandem with Chancellor Dr. Curtis Ivery, this was our father’s quest. To make what seemed impossible...POSSIBLE. With Dr. Ivery’s full support, our father charged forward with petitioning the Michigan Community College Athletic Association (MCCAA) to put Wayne County Community College District on record as The Wayne County Community College District Wildcats in Men’s and Women’s Basketball. From this approval, relationships were strengthened across the state’s various county community colleges, through respectful student-athlete competition from schools such as Schoolcraft College and Mott Community College. From uniforms, gym shoes, a training room with weights and cardio equipment, to charter buses for travel, my father insured that The Wildcats would be not only academically astute but athletically READY to compete. Through the WC3District athletic program, our father insured not only opportunities for students able to play ball and travel across the state while receiving a college education, but the athletic program provided employment opportunities for Michigan residents as coaches and team staff. Our father reached for what some may have seen as an unreachable star and made the Impossible...POSSIBLE. The Wildcats!”
Hats off to the Wayne County Community College District’s (WCCCD) combined classes of 2020 and 2021. Whether you are earning a diploma, a program certificate, a degree or even a cool new professional title, your hard work and dedication during this pandemic puts you in the category “with the highest distinction.” Even your Class Motto; “We Finished to Begin a New Journey,” deserves a standing ovation.

It’s no secret that the COVID-19 pandemic has altered the world of learning as we used to know it prior to the long months of quarantine, social distancing and virtual learning. WCCCD, like most institutions of higher learning has found itself in unchartered waters; and this includes going virtual and combining the 2020 and 2021 graduation ceremonies.

This year, the combined classes of 2020 and 2021 held a virtual graduation ceremony on Saturday, June 12, 2021, at 11 o’clock. More than 1,500 students received their degrees and certificates in various disciplines. This virtual ceremony supports our commitment to honoring our students’ academic achievements while keeping the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff our number one priority. The District used the Heinz C. Prechter Educational and Performing Arts Center as this year’s venue; replacing the usual Ford Field, which has hosted WCCCD’s graduation ceremonies over the years.

Haifa Ahmed represented the class of 2020 while Destinee-Faith Sienkiewicz represented the class of 2021. Both students addressed their class respectfully. There were nine Special Recognition Awards students.

Michigan Governor, Gretchen Whitmer, was this year’s keynote speaker; and is expected she provided words of encouragement to graduates who are going into the world today where working in the cubicles in the office setting has been replaced by working remotely from home.

Haifa Ahmed said she and her classmates are grateful to Wayne County Community College District for providing an educational opportunity at a time when life itself was uncertain. “The year was not what any of us expected. Life changed in ways that no one could have anticipated. Yet, we found ways to continue our studies and complete our dreams in the face of a global pandemic.”

Haifa Ahmed, who is studying for her bachelor’s degree in sonography at Wayne State University, added; “Today is proof of our determination to succeed in our education. We found hope at WCCCD because the faculty and staff were committed to helping us realize our potential by providing online learning opportunities when we were mandated to “stay at home.” It was a year full of emotions and anxiety but our faith remained strong and we pushed forward to this day. WCCCD stands as a strong symbol for us all.”

Destinee-Faith Sienkiewicz, class representative for the 2021 graduating class shares her personal story. “In the spring of 2019, when I decided to enroll at Wayne County Community College District, my goal was to receive a certificate in Sterile Processing and get a job. I accomplished that goal and it was an incredibly positive experience completing my courses and receiving my certificate. Before my certificate even came in the mail, I had a full-time position in a hospital doing what I loved – right in the middle of a pandemic.”
virtual graduation

Remembering and Honoring those lost in 2020-2021.
Gone, but never forgotten.

Thank you for joining us. This concludes the 2020-2021 WCCCD Virtual Commencement Ceremony. Congratulations, WCCCD graduates.
Taylor Johnson has seen what life can throw at you at one point in time or another. At 21 and a single mother, the high school dropout had zero plans and no direction for her life.

“Something came over me (which was a feeling of regret and failure, and I ended up Googling ways to earn my GED. I was scared, because I hadn’t been to school in years and in my head, I just felt like I wasn’t good enough. I made the call to WCCCD, because the website showed they had a GED program available.

WCCCD was friendly and they helped me with everything that I needed to receive my certificate. There were many long days, many bus rides, but that did not stop me, because I was eager and determined. I had something to look forward to,” Johnson said.

Johnson was among the class of 2022 when the District held its 52nd Graduation Ceremony on Saturday, June 11, 2022. Although the graduation was virtual, Ms. Johnson joyfully received her degree in Digital Media Production and shared her accomplishment with her son.

It is understandable that the COVID-19 pandemic has made it difficult for the class of 2022 to enjoy those perks always associated with graduation such as walking across the stage when their names are being called while their families cheer; hugs and kisses; to physically receive their degrees. For most students, an in-person graduation exercise would have been their families cheer; hugs and kisses; to physically receive their degrees. For most students, an in-person graduation exercise would have been great, but for the College, students’ safety is always a top priority.

US Congresswoman, Debbie Dingell, (MI-12), was this year’s keynote speaker. “It is an honor to be given the opportunity to address the Wayne County Community College District Class of 2022,” said Congresswoman Dingell. “Our nation’s students have faced incredible challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and this graduating class should be extremely proud for successfully navigating these unprecedented hurdles. I know that WCCCD has prepared them well for the future, and I can’t wait to see what they accomplish. Congratulations again to the WCCCD graduates, and to the faculty and staff who made the day possible.”

As always, “WCCCD recognizes the hard work and dedication of students whether they are retooling for a new professional path or earning a diploma or degree. Their perseverance during the pandemic reflects their resilience and a testament to the strength of our partnership with students,” said Brian Singleton, Vice Chancellor for Student Services.

Among this year’s graduates was Mariona Shawn Owens, a WCCCD Dual Enrolled student who will be heading to Western Michigan University to major in architectural, mechanical engineering. Mariona, 18, from Arbor Prep High School in Ypsilanti, has already racked up over $200,000 in scholarship money. She made the Dean’s List and was recognized by WDIV’s Rhonda Walker’s “Brag Book for Academic Excellence.”

Also graduating was Zelda Jones, who, despite medical challenges, is proud of her academic achievements at WCCCD; while Kamelah Daniel, a 4.0 student, received her diploma despite dropping out of high school due to “all the poverty and issues I was facing in my household.”

This year’s Class Representative was Viola Davis, also a 4.0 GPA graduate and recipient of the Special Recognition award. Students Porsha Coleman; Yariksa Cordero-Lozono; Tuesday Dixon; Humphrey Ngwa and Benny Richard were also recognized for their academic achievement during the ceremony, as recipients of the Special Recognition Award.
As a part of our commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, we have developed an innovative initiative to attract, develop and recruit diverse talent to Infoblox. The Infoblox Diverse Student Certification Program (IDSCP) is an industry-exclusive pilot program that targets colleges and universities (HBCUs & HSIs) to introduce underrepresented minority students to cybersecurity.

The DDI and DNS Security training program prepares participants for careers in cybersecurity, who complete the course. It integrates Infoblox’s training expertise (Infoblox Academy) with industry certification and professional mentoring.

diversity.infoblox.com/idscp

WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT Launches Tuition-Free Skilled Trades Programs

Civil Testing and Technology  
Construction  
CDL Trucking

Enroll in one of these fast-track high-paying careers.

INTERESTED IN REGISTERING?  
Email us at studentservices@mail.wccd.edu
Walter Davis, M.D., MPH

Dr. Walter Davis’ passion for teaching is driven by seeing so many strong, brilliant, capable individuals who have been told they cannot achieve their dreams because they are poor, illiterate, lazy, etc. So, he makes it a point at the start of each semester to help his students see themselves as he sees them—excellent students who have the capacity to keep their “A” in their class by putting in the necessary time to study. “I teach to not only increase a student’s knowledge base, but to encourage and assist them in accomplishing their goals in life.”

Dr. Davis, a full-time instructor, has been teaching at Wayne County Community College District since 2013. He teaches Introductory Biology, Anatomy & Physiology I and II, and Microbiology. He has a doctorate in medicine (MD) from Wayne State University School of Medicine and a master’s in public health (MPH) from University of Utah.

Dr. Davis is a proud WCCCD alumni. He is an active member of Wayne State Medical School’s post baccalaureate admissions committee, helping approximately 16 underrepresented minorities gain admission into medical school every academic year.

Dr. Davis loves to spend time with his family, he sets aside protected time with them like “Boy’s Night” where every Friday, since his sons were little, they spend the evening together doing whatever they want. He also enjoys studying and sharing the Word of God. He says, “it helps to fulfill my purpose while on this earth”.

Holly Hanna, M.S.

Professor Hanna teaches to make an impact and see her students grow and develop during their time in our program, “They not only grow into professionals, but they flourish individually as well.” Her drive comes from the relationships she cultivates with her students that will one day become her colleagues. She recognizes that many students do not have a strong support system during their educational journeys so her goal is to be that helping hand or listening ear for those that need it.

Professor Hanna has been fortunate to have many student encounters in the professional world after their experience ended at WCCCD and “Seeing their success and happiness fulfills me in a way that I could not achieve through another profession”.

Before starting her day in the clinic, classroom, or lab she is out getting in a 4-5 mile walk, “It is my coffee!” In her spare time she is an active auxiliary member with the American Legion, a veteran’s organization that does good work for veterans, their families, and the surrounding community. Her husband is an army veteran, so this nonprofit is near and dear to her heart.

Elena Martin, M.A.

Professor Elena Martin has been an adjunct Spanish instructor at Wayne County Community College District since January of 2020. She teaches Elementary Spanish I, Elementary Spanish II, and Intermediate Spanish (SPA 210). She began her teaching career at Wayne State University in 2013.

Professor Martin earned her bachelor’s degree in French and a minor in Spanish and her master’s degree in Spanish from Wayne State University. She is currently pursuing her PhD at Wayne State University and is working on her dissertation titled “Innovative Critical Research in Cristina Fernandez Cubas’ Short Stories”, with plans to defend by Fall of 2022.

Professor Martin has been honored to present at multiple conferences at Wayne State University, Grand Valley University, University of Kentucky, and in Pennsylvania’s Duquesne University.

Teaching is Professor Martin’s passion, “There are many things that characterize me as an instructor, and I base my teaching philosophy on an optimistic view.” Her best quality as an instructor is the ability to inspire confidence in her students, giving them the comfort to express themselves regardless of their level of ability. Throughout her years of teaching, she has learned that the main principles as an instructor to guide the classroom correctly must be organization, accessibility, seriousness and flexibility. In her Spanish classes, the relationships are based on respect for one another and everybody’s ideas are listened and discussed equally. When Professor Martin is not in the classroom she enjoys spending time with family, traveling, and reading.

Martin Depowski, Certified Master Mechanic

Professor Martin Depowski has been instructing Automotive Service Technology at WCCCD for 13 years and has been successfully employed in the Automotive Repair industry for over 40 years. Professor Depowski works diligently to give his students the academic and tactile experience to be successful in the industry which has been so good to him, “I am humbled by students from all corners of life trusting me with their education.” His classes are project oriented working on real cars with real unscripted problems to be diagnosed and repaired in real time. “The sense of accomplishment students feel upon completion of an especially difficult project makes my job of teaching and retention of students that much easier.

Professor Depowski entered the automotive industry shortly after his high school graduation and went through a dealership provided apprenticeship program and attended Volkswagen and Mazda Factory Service Training programs. He became a Michigan State Certified Master Mechanic in 1980 and an ASE Certified Master Automobile Technician in 1984. He then proudly went on to become a WCCCD alumni in 2011.

When Professor Depowski isn’t in the classroom he frequently does consignment work for Raytheon performing field investigations on cars and trucks that allegedly do not function well. He also spent 10 years as a small scale bio diesel producer which involved converting used cooking oil into a clean renewable form of diesel fuel. Other current activities he enjoys is home brewing and fermenting!
Dr. Charmaine Johnson has been teaching at WCCCD for almost 40 years. She is the Lead Faculty member for Early Childhood Education and a professor of Elementary Education, Early Childhood Education, Language Arts and Human Services. Dr. Johnson earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Wilberforce University, a Master of Science in Education from the University of Hartford, and both an Educational Specialist Certificate and Doctorate in Education from Wayne State University. Additionally, at the Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit, she earned an Urban Ministry Diploma, a Master in Arts in Pastoral Ministry, and a Doctorate in Ministry. Dr. Johnson is an ordained minister at Hartford Memorial Baptist Church, where she works in the congregation’s health ministry, and serves as a trustee.

In 2013, Dr. Johnson was named Outstanding Professor, a Woman of Excellence by the Michigan Chronicle, and the 2016 Citizen of the Year by the Wayne State University School of Social Work. She is also a recipient of the John and Suanne Roueche Excellence Award-League for Innovation.

Dr. Johnson’s dedication to teaching centers on giving, “I am very passionate about giving. As an instructor you just have to give, it is not a selfish profession.” She is ardent on how education helps to achieve goals and the self-satisfaction she sees in her students when they reach them. “Education is the best gift you can give yourself. I love to be able to have a student have an ‘ah-ha’ moment. In life there are situations and problems we have to learn how to attack and solve to the best of our ability.”

Roger Short, CPA.

Mr. Roger Short has a long history of teaching students and impacting lives at WCCCD. He brings a wealth of accounting knowledge and experience to the classroom. Additionally, he is inquisitive about teaching and learning. “I love the learning process that is the exchange of knowledge between two individuals. Over the years I have wondered how humans learn. And what factors like the social environment impact the learning process.”

Teaching is meaningful for Mr. Short and provides the opportunity to affect the lives of his students. “It is memorable moment when a student contacts me and lets me know where they are in their professional career, and thanks me for their accounting learning experience.”

When Mr. Short is not instructing students at WCCCD, he teaches low-impact aerobics at the YMCA, and loves to ballroom dance. He also enjoys cooking when he has the time.

Dr. Saab has a passion to serve the students and community by making education the first goal in life. He served for six years as a Board of Education member for the Muslim American Youth Academy (MAYA) in Dearborn. He is also a member of the education committee at the Bint Jebail Cultural Center (B.J.C.C.).

Dr. Saab is happily married with four children and six grandchildren.

Stacha Floyd, M.A.

Professor Stacha Floyd realizes the importance of education, beyond the focus of disciplines. She demonstrates this importance through her actions. “I realize how important education has been in my life; therefore, it is important to me to show others its value as an educator. Each semester, I try to teach my students the skills that they need to be successful not only in my class but also in their other classes, their chosen careers, and even their personal lives. Therefore, while I challenge them so they can communicate effectively and compete against anyone applying for the same job, I also give encouragement and support to my students.”

Professor Floyd is invested in ensuring her students are successful by being accessible, investing in their goals, and treating them as individuals. “For instance, I try to memorize their names on the first day of class. When I call them by their names on the second day of class, at least one student will ask how I remembered him or her. I believe it is because of my efforts that I have remained in contact with students after the semester ends. Through that continued contact, I see that many have learned the value of their own education. In fact, one of the proudest moments for me as an instructor was when I had the honor of calling my former students’ names at the 2018 graduation.”

Professor Floyd is involved in WCCCD and her discipline department by attending meetings and keeping up-to-date on any course changes. She has served on the Faculty Network, presented numerous times during Faculty Convocation on various topics including technology, and was a member of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) re-accreditation committee this past year.
Higher Learning Commission Accreditation

Despite the imposed limitations and social distancing, the District’s unwavering commitment and professionalism demonstrated its quality education, services, and excellence in serving our constituents and community partners. The peer reviewers were gracious and complimented the District for its hard work and fiscal responsibility during these unprecedented times. WCCCD continues to be a beacon of hope for its students and community by securing another historical accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission until 2029-30!! Congratulations to the faculty, staff, students, and community partners in exhibiting excellence and positioning the District for a bright future.
At Wayne County Community College District, forging a love of reading has been a personal mission for Chancellor Dr. Curtis L. Ivery and his wife, Ola Ivery.

Ola started the annually held Reading Carnival for Children in 2004. This signature event has grown to include thousands of children and families, immersing them in a world of storytelling and imagination. Families are invited back for several BookWorm Club meetings, where children are led in storytelling, songs, and appearances from the cuddly BookWorm to help grow their excitement for reading.

Reading is not just for National Reading Month – it’s for every day!
Grow your love of reading at Wayne County Community College District, where learning leads to a better life!

“We know that early literacy skills are one of the most powerful tools for personal and economic growth and progress. It has been a lifelong passion for me and my husband to empower future generations – to spark their curiosity and to champion their intellectual growth so that they might create their best lives through education.”

— Ola Ivery
The Curtis L. Ivery Health and Wellness Education Center welcomed its first general community audience during its grand public opening!

The Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) Wildcats Men’s basketball squad brought down the roof at its home opener with a victory of 104 to 62 over the Washtenaw Community College Wolfpack. The game was played in the Thomas E. Howard, Jr., Gymnasium on Saturday at the Curtis L. Ivery Health and Wellness Education Center. The Wildcats ushered in its 2021-22 season with a decisive victory.

“WCCCD continues to blaze an academic and operational trail that is second to none,” said the Rev. Dr. Wendell Anthony. “The new Gymnasium and health center is another Detroit jewel. Chancellor Curtis Ivery and staff are to be commended for the vision and determination displayed in the middle of a pandemic. As the Wildcats are winning on the court, WCCCD is winning in the community to empower all of the people,” Rev. Anthony added.

Yes, the community and the Wayne County Community College District family all came to cheer the Wildcats on to victory. “After a long week, that was the best place to be,” said Dr. David E. Beaumont, WCCCD’s District Lead Vice Chancellor for Educational Affairs. And he was not alone. “Congratulations and Thank You to Dr. Ivery, the Wildcats and the entire WCCCD event team on an outstanding performance,” said Tina Bassett, President of the Bassett & Bassett Communication Managers and Counselors.

“The WCCCD Wildcats are so fantastic. They are a really good team and were a delight to watch. They played their hearts out and put on quite a show. WCCCD can be very proud of them, she added.” And a special shout out to the Wildcat mascot who never sat down and was an amazing cheerleader. Everyone who attended had so much fun.”

The chants were loud and one could feel the vibration everywhere leading the Wildcats to victory with loud chants from the unofficial bench coaching staff yelling. “Defense! Defense!”

Everyone felt the “glow” when the final whistle was blown and the Wildcats dominated the Wolfpack. From the free throws to the jump shots, the Wildcats outplayed the Wolfpack in every capacity.

During the halftime show, the District recognized the hard work and dedication of the late Thomas E. Howard, Jr., in whose honor the Gymnasium is named. The Howard family took center stage and was recognized for the work of the late Thomas Howard; who served the District in several capacities, including creation of the WCCCD Athletic Department, and serving as its first Director. Also, during halftime, all children were invited on the court for a round of shooting hoops.

WCCCD Men’s basketball coach, Rogeric Turner, remembers Mr. Howard’s commitment to the team. “What I remember so well about Mr. Howard is that no matter where the teams were; he and his wonderful wife Arvadia, would either travel to the games or call to make sure that everything was okay.”

The Thomas E. Howard, Jr, plaque is hanging in the gymnasium. The late Thomas E. Howard, Jr., also served as WCCCD’s first Purchasing Director. The Polemarch Kappa Alpha Psi, a fraternity to which the late Thomas E. Howard, Jr., was a member, came in their full regalia to show their appreciation and support.

“This is a proud day in the history of the District,” said Chancellor Curtis L. Ivery. “To be surrounded by my family, the WCCCD family, friends, business constituents and the community at large is a humbling experience. The Wildcats performed like the champions they are with an overwhelming victory. Kudos to Coach Turner and his staff for building a winning team. Since the on-set of the pandemic, I have not seen or felt this kind of joy and enthusiasm.”
Kimberly Feaster, a mother of two girls, ages six and 12 is passionate about helping and caring for others. She has always had a desire to work in the medical field.

This year, Kimberly graduated virtually and received her degree. “I graduated with honors from Wayne County Community College District in August 2021 and I currently work at Henry Ford Hospital as an Anesthesia Technician.”

But the real story is when Kimberly nearly aced the Anesthesia Technology Program’s national examination. She received 124 on the 125 question exam given by the National Certification Examination provided by the American Society of Anesthesia Technologists and Technicians (ASATT). She missed acing the exam by just one point, and her score was the highest in the nation.

“When I was informed that I scored the highest in the nation, I was so shocked, but grateful! I praised and thanked my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ because He made all this possible for me.”

“So after I graduated, I began to prepare for an examination to be a certified anesthesia technician. At every free moment I had, which was not very much, I studied every resource that I could to prepare for my big examination day.”

Marc McGaffic, MS, BS, Cer ATT, Campus Dean of Anesthesia Technology has nothing but praise for Kimberly’s hard work and dedication. “Kimberly is a graduate of great integrity, remarkable moral compass, and is a natural born leader. She started the Anesthesia Technology Program, Fall 2019, with an eagerness for learning and she quickly became an astonishing student. Kimberly was a keystone stakeholder within her graduating class – creating and implementing study groups, on a virtual platform – at the beginning stages of the COVID Pandemic.

“Kimberly would also drive to student's homes, entering in full PPE, so they may arrange an in-person study session. She was the rock that many leaned on when they needed support or help from a peer. Kimberly was selected for student of the quarter summer 2020 by the Anesthesia Technology department. She has been selected as the Anesthesia Technology Graduate of the Year 2021.”

“My girls mean the world to me and they are the inspiration to pursue a career in the medical field to enhance our quality of life. So this is only the beginning of what I plan to achieve for myself and for them too!”

How did she do it with two children, beats all odds? “I am a single mother that works full-time, so it’s difficult to find time to study. However, with discipline and determination, I manage to study at least five hours a day. I always strive to give my best effort in everything I do, and to be a high achiever.”

With a score of 124/125, Kimberly Feaster, a WCCCD’s Anesthesia Technology Program graduate was just one point shy of a perfect score on the program’s national exam
Wayne County Community College District’s (WCCCD), Michigan Institute for Public Safety Education (MIPSE) and the District’s Human Resources COVID-19 Task Force continue to provide COVID-19 Pandemic health and safety response at all WCCCD locations. WCCCD continues to apply monitoring and an effective mitigation strategy to provide safety to its employees, students and community guests. The District also practices and promotes hand washing, use of hand sanitizers, providing masks to anyone needing one, and on-site vaccinations and testing.

WCCCD has partnered with the Michigan Department of Public Health and the Wayne County Health Department to provide both vaccinations and testing at four of the WCCCD campus locations. The Downriver campus, Ted Scott and Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center campus are vaccination sites and the Northwest campus hosts both vaccinations and testing.
So you think you know your table manners? Wait till you pass Tameka Mongo’s etiquette test. Most recently, Tameka provided some food for thought on dining etiquette to a cross-session of the Wayne County Community College District’s administrators. In attendance was the Chancellor, Dr. Curtis L. Ivery and his wife, Mrs. Ola Ivery. The topic: “Where is my fork?”

“In these unpredictable times, manners help guide us,” Tameka said. “They give us the tools to navigate social interactions with confidence and how to treat one another with grace, kindness and respect – these lessons are so very essential.”

The table was set for a four-course informal business meal provided by Lone Star Catering. The hour-long session included detailed instructions such as how to approach the table, posture, the role of your napkin, how to follow utensil placement, and eating technique.

It has been eight years now since Tameka Mongo was given the assignment of teaching young people etiquette at Wayne County Community College District under the guidance of the Chancellor, Dr. Curtis L. Ivery, who wanted a program to help build the social skills and confidence of young people in the community at no cost.

Her patience with young people is paying off. Since the beginning of the program, more than 500 young people have participated in the session. “We all sometimes forget our table manners,” Tameka said. “Whenever we sit down to dinner, it’s important to remember a meal isn’t about food – it’s about bonding with one another. With holidays approaching, we can always refresh and sharpen these skills,” she said.

David C. Butty, who attended the session held in the Charles E. Morton Board of Trustees Conference Room, called the session very valuable.

“I learned some things that I have always taken for granted when dining. For example, the direction to pass the pepper and salt shakers or the bread have always evaded me.”

Mrs. Ola Ivery, WCCCD’s First Lady

Mrs. Ola Ivery, WCCCD’s First Lady
“Whenever we sit down to dinner, it’s important to remember a meal isn’t about food – it’s about bonding with one another.”
Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) through its School of Continuing Education and Workforce Development has always promoted continuing education as the bedrock for its outreach programs to the communities. Each year, the District provides intriguing and engaging learning opportunities in collaboration with the communities and faith-based organizations to offer non-traditional students a forum for cross-cultural educational programs; seminars, workshops, and professional development courses as well as cultural activities to energize and empower the communities.

Downriver Campus

There is something for everyone during such programs as -- Passport to Africa; Hispanic Heritage Festival, Chancellor’s Reading Carnival, Bridge to Asia; Cancer Awareness, Camp Infinity; Summer Safety Fair; the Global Conversations series and other performances at the Heinz C. Prechter Educational and Performing Arts Centers have all been designed by the communities in collaboration with the District.

Family Movie Night • Summer Safety Fair • Trunk or Treat
Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center

The University Center held its first Juneteenth Celebration in partnership with the cities of Harper Woods, Grosse Pointe, and Eastpointe. Local artists and performances by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra were at center stage. The Mayors of Harper Woods and Eastpointe were in attendance, as well as the Harper Woods Schools Superintendent.

Participants gathered at the Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center/Center for Learning Technology in celebration of Juneteenth. The workshop provided a forum to celebrate and educate the community on the history and origination of Juneteenth – often known as “Black liberation from the institution of slavery, but also a time to highlight the resilience, solidarity, and culture of the African American community.

WCCCD's Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center offers bachelor's and master's degrees along with a Doctor of Education program through partnerships. In addition, select WCCCD academic course offerings are available. Conveniently located in Harper Woods at 19305 Vernier Road, this facility offers easy access to both 8 Mile Road and I-94 expressway.

• Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice
• Bachelor of Science in Mortuary Science
• Bachelor of Science in Welding and Metallurgical Engineering Technology
• Bachelor of Science in Business Administration – Human Resource Management
• Bachelor of Science in Aging Studies
• Bachelor of Nursing
• Bachelor of Applied Science*
• Bachelor of Business Administration*
• Master of Business Administration
• Bachelor of Business Administration with concentrations in: Accounting, Computer Information Management, Management
• Bachelor of Science in Information Technology (BSIT)
• Bachelor of Science in Information Technology - Concentration in Cybersecurity (BSIT-Cyber)
• Master Gardener Training
• Fruit and Vegetable Crop Management - Certificate
• Landscape Management - Certificate
• Bachelor of Science in Network Management and Security
• Bachelor of Science in Medical Case Management
• Doctor of Education

*ONLINE PROGRAM

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EARN YOUR BACHELOR’S, MASTER’S OR DOCTORAL DEGREE CLOSE TO HOME!
Elijah Hardgrove, 48, is a graduate of the Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) truck driving school on the Eastern Campus. He lives by a code: “It’s all in your attitude. You can be your own best friend or your worst enemy.”

Since its inception in 2017, WCCCD’s CDL (only college in Michigan) program has graduated over 500 students with an 82% completion rate and 84% hired or placed in jobs within 30 days of completion.

Some of WCCCD’s business partners/employers include the Detroit Talent Hub, Faygo Beverage (Detroit, Michigan), Teamsters Local 337 companies, US Xpress Enterprises (Toledo, Ohio), Universal Trucking (Detroit, Michigan) and Schneider International (Green Bay, Wisconsin).

Hardgrove, who is one of the success stories of the program, said that he’s a living proof that it’s never too late to learn a marketable skill. He jumped on the news right away when he heard through a grape vine at an employment agency that the WCCCD’s truck driving school was accepting students. He enrolled and because of his hard work and dedication, he completed the five-week course and received his Class A certificate even before the course end date.

“Learning to drive a truck with a 10 speed, manual transmission was difficult at first, especially downshifting,” he said. “It’s nothing like driving a single axle automobile. Automatic trucks are easier to drive but I trained and tested on a stick shift to give myself more job opportunities.” Today, Hardgrove is employed at Hi-Lex Controls Inc.; supplier, where he is earning $25 per hour. My goal is to start my own logistics company so that I’ll have a bit more freedom as owner/operator and, hopefully, a lot more money,” he said. The father of two, a stepdaughter and three grandkids, Hardgrove loves to ride his motorcycle and go to church when he is not working.

“If you think you can do it, you’re right. If you think you can’t, you’re right,” said Hardgrove, who has nothing but praises for WCCCD’s truck driving school and its instructors. “The truck driving school at Wayne County Community College District’s Eastern Campus is at the top of the pyramid. They insure that classes are small so that students get in a lot of actual driving time. The instructors have about a hundred years of experience between them, probably more.”
When I tested for my Class A Commercial Driver’s License, my road examiner commented on how smooth my driving was. It was the excellent tutelage of Paul Turner, Elbe Dunston and Bernard Andrews that got me there."

Bernard Andrews, the Regional Training Center CDL coordinator says it was a pleasure having Hardgrove as a student. "He impressed me with his ability to articulate and execute difficult concepts. Elijah was an active participant in the classroom and on the road. He diligently supported his peers and instructors," he said.

Andrews added that Hardgrove was awarded with his Class A certificate even before the course end date. "He (Hardgrove) was recruited and initially hired by Faygo Beverage Corporation soon after. I am certain that Elijah will continue to do great things in his future."
Virtual Storytelling

David C. Butty
Storyteller, Journalist, Diplomat, International Educator

David C. Butty was born in the African village of Jakakehn, Eastern Liberia, where he learned the art of storytelling from his parents and the village elders at a young age. Because storytelling is an important pastime within the Grebo Dako; children would gather around the campfire or under the palaver hut after the day’s work was done and the evening meal was eaten; to listen to the elders teach the children the stories of their people. These stories are used to amuse as well as teach lessons about life. They are oftentimes in the form of proverbs, riddles, folktales, legends and parables. In the Grebo stories, animals are sometimes central characters; but there are stories, too, about the deities, especially, Nyesoa, considered the Giver of Life for the Grebos. Nyesoa means “old and wise one,” and is featured prominently in most stories. Today, Butty, Executive Dean for International Studies, is proud to share the stories he learned when he was a child with others.

Satori Shakoor
Artist, Storyteller and a Social Entrepreneur

Satori Shakoor is a storyteller, an artist, social entrepreneur and a 2017 Kresge Literary Arts Fellow. Satori received early recognition as a background singer/recording artist when she toured with George Clinton, Parliament/Funkadelic as one of the Brides of Funkenstein. She expanded her performance career to include actor, comedienne, and television comedy writer. Satori was the catalyst and a founding member of the award-winning Obsidian Theatre Company in Toronto. Founded in 1999, Obsidian Theatre has become Canada’s leading culturally diverse theatre company. In 2011, Satori began her professional career as a storyteller touring the country as a Moth main stage storyteller and host. She has told stories globally on many stages and storytelling platforms, PBS, NPR and podcasts. Satori hosts the Twisted Storytellers podcast produced by WDET Radio and 2021 Detroit Performs Live at Marygrove, produced by Detroit Public Television. Satori is the Executive Producer for The Secret Society Of Twisted Storytellers®, which she founded in July 2012 in Detroit.

Ivory D. Williams
Storypreneur

Bring your funny bone and thinking cap as Master Storyteller Ivory D. Williams displays his trademark wit, wisdom and humor throughout the Storytelling Symposium. As a professional storyteller and public speaker, his presentations are highly interactive, educational and fun. A retired Sales/Marketing manager at AT&T and a former elementary school principal and past president of Efficacy Detroit, Mr. Williams is equally adept at connecting with both youth and adults. His masterful use of story captivates and engages audiences of all ages, promoting and perpetuating the ancient art of oral storytelling to spread positive messages.

Veronica Obianwu
Master Storyteller

I came to America in 1972 after my undergraduate degree in Nigeria. In 1977, I obtained a master’s degree in Library Science and another Master’s degree in Education Administration both from Wayne State University. I retired in 2014 from the Detroit Public library as a Children’s librarian, where I told stories in different libraries during the summer reading programs. I conducted many storytelling tours throughout Detroit to different schools in my area branches. I also belong to the Detroit Association of Black Storytellers (D.A.B.S.). During several events in the Nigerian community, I have been invited to tell stories during their community events. Presently, I am very active in Toastmasters International, where my skills as a storyteller help me in my leadership and communication.
There is more to just patching clothes up, mending a broken button or a hole at a hem; or just the needle and thread. The WCCCD Fashion Design Program is an associate of arts degree designed for those persons who are innovative and driven to design and create apparel. The courses are designed to offer students creative studies in design fundamentals, fashion analysis, fashion history, textiles, color theory, sketching, as well as technical training in draping, pattern making, pattern grading, and clothing construction.

Marion Hood, a native of Toronto, Canada, is dreaming of one day taking the knowledge she is gaining in the fashion design program to a new level. Hood, who is now a permanent resident of the United States, is hoping to gain her U.S. citizenship in the future.

Today, Hood is a student at the Eastern Campus. “I heard about the fashion design [program] five years ago when I was studying Cyber Security,” said Hood, who took online fashion design program. “I enrolled in the program to add Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop to my 4-year Fashion Arts Degree from Ryerson University Fashion Arts Program. I have been in the WCCCD fashion program since May 2021. I enrolled on my own as well [am] getting student counseling.”

“My future in fashion is to start a fashion business in Detroit and go on my own as well [am] getting student counseling.”

“My goal is to earn a degree in Fashion Design, with great hopes of teaching Tailoring and Fashion Design in a school or manufacturing company that I created. My purpose is to instruct, to inspire, to up-lift, to shape and to empower the next generation of tailors and designers.”

Fashion design students needle and thread their future careers

Wayne County Community College District...
Jobs for Today. Jobs for the Future!

313-496-2600 • DIMENSIONS • 27
Welcome to our “virtual” study abroad to Ethiopia. My name is David C. Butty, and I am Executive Dean for the Wayne County Community College District’s Study Abroad Program. I have been associated with the Program since 1983; thanks to our Chancellor, Dr. Curtis L. Ivery for giving me this opportunity to serve in this capacity as program dean.

We made our maiden trip to Accra, Ghana, West Africa, in 2003, and since then, the program has touched the lives of more than 500 students; exposing them to such life-changing experiences such as cultural diversity, the art, music, languages, and intercultural communication skills, in more than 20 countries on six of the seven continents.

I also like to thank those who have worked with me over the years as Study Abroad Facilitators; especially, Julie Figlioli, who has been with me since her initial trip to Brazil. There is so much work that goes into preparing students for all of our trips abroad and sometimes we have sleepless nights rehearsing plans for a momentous experience for our students.

In the words of one of our former study abroad student: “traveling abroad with a group of people whom I never met before, forced me to accept new people, places and things.”

Join us and become a part of our Study Abroad alumni!!

I like to thank Mr. Irv Jones, Founder and President of Escape Study International, whose knowledge in international education and commitment to the WCCCD’s Study Abroad Program has made it possible to create an international education opportunity for our students.
Ambassador Abdulaziz M. Ibrahim is the Consulate General for the Ethiopian Consulate based in St. Paul, Minnesota. He is a seasoned diplomat with over 25 years of leadership experience at different levels of government and has led and worked to build trust of the public. Among his skills are: interpersonal communication; Team building; Planning and coordination; Problem resolution. Ambassador Ibrahim holds Ph.D. in Industrial Economics from Eastern Mediterranean University, Cyprus; a Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership from Azusa Pacific University, in Azusa, CA, and a Bachelor of Science degree from Haramaya University, in Haramaya, Ethiopia. Dr. Ibrahim has held many leadership position before being named Consulate General. Among these are: Ambassador and Consul General – Djibouti and Saint Paul, MN; where he represents the embassy of Ethiopia to Djibouti and the regional Organization IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development; Deputy General Manager; Metals and Engineering Company – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Vice President of Oromia Regional State – Addis Ababa and Minister of Finance for the government of Ethiopia in Addis Ababa.

If you had asked me year ago what I thought about Ethiopia, I never would have considered it a tourist destination. After listening to Mr. Ibrahim, I would be more than happy to visit if ever given the opportunity. For someone who has an interest in history and culture, such as I do, Ethiopia would be a wonderful place to visit. After learning all I did about this beautiful country, I can now look at in terms of the country that was the beginning of everything. Some may even say that, essentially, we are all Ethiopian. After covid-19 hit this beautiful land, tourism suffered a bit, and it is a crucial part to their economy. If you ever get the chance to visit, you should! I truly believe anyone will walk away with beautiful memories and experiences, if they do. I am extremely grateful I had the chance to listen to ambassador Ibrahim and hope I get the opportunity to pay his country a visit one day.

Corin Halliday
Student Exchange Program Ethiopian Essay

I learned a lot during my virtual study abroad to Ethiopia. I learned that Ethiopia is a landlocked country in east Africa that is diverse, naturally beautiful, and rich in history. Ethiopia has over 80 ethnic groups and as many spoken languages. The landscape is as diverse as the population. Ethiopia is home to rivers, lakes, and wetlands, as well as deserts, mountains, and volcanoes. The primary economic products of Ethiopia are agricultural, coffee and oilseeds. The country has done a lot of modernization over the previous decade, improving its textile industry and increasing foreign trade. Ethiopia has been a regional economic and idealistic leader for centuries. There is evidence of ancient kingdoms in what is now Ethiopia as far back as the eighth century B.C. Many kingdoms rose and fell over the centuries. In modern history, Haile Selassie is one of the most recognizable figures. He became emperor of Ethiopia in 1930 and gave the country its first constitution. Italy invaded Ethiopia in 1935 and occupied it until 1941 when British forces helped to restore its sovereignty. Selassie ruled until he was overthrown by a group of military and police officers. Ethiopia has always been a regional leader, and a proponent for an African Union.

Tyler Lynch
Virtual Study Abroad
Coffee with a Cop

The District Police Authority participated in the National Coffee with a Cop initiative at all campuses by having a cup of coffee with students, faculty and staff to discuss community concerns.
Most experts say that there are many reasons why high school students should participate in early middle college and dual enrollment programs while still attending high school. Among some of the benefits are; but not limited to students starting college earlier and get a head start on earning college credits. In most instances these credits are counted toward their high school and their associate’s degree requirements, giving them an opportunity to earning their associate degree or professional certificate while still in high school.

Best of all, the student saves money; and a lot of it, comparing to what college classes cost today. Many colleges, like the Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) has had dual/concurrent enrollment program with school districts for decades. Their reason is to give parents the opportunity to reduce the cost of four-year college tuition.

The Early Middle College Program between Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) and area high schools is like a bridge between high school, and college because it helps students to get a “jump start” on their college education, said Brian Singleton, WCCCD’s Vice Chancellor for Student Services. “The program provides students with a rich college experience while they are still in high school,” Singleton added.

And this exactly what Joseph Wenzel did when he was a freshman in the Woodhaven-Brownstown School District. He said that he heard about the WCCCD Early Middle College Program from his parents “who had seen it in a Woodhaven-Brownstown School District advertisement. “As it was a new program, my high school was starting back in my freshman year of high school. After looking into the program and talking with my parents, I decided to participate in the program to save money and get a head start on college,” said Wenzel, who added that he participated in the program with encouragement from his parents and his school district.

“...I decided to participate in the program to save money and get a head start on college.”

“My experiences in the Early Middle College program were very positive! I had a lot of knowledgeable, outgoing, and interesting professors that taught my classes. I also had an amazing college advisor, Lina Warra, who worked closely with all of my classmates and myself to create class schedules that met our career goals and did not interfere with our personal or high school schedules. There were some very interesting and fun classes that I had an opportunity to take that allowed me to go out into the real world with the professors and have very emerging learning experiences,” Wenzel said.

“Saving on college tuition and other expenses are among one of the benefits of the Early Middle College Program,” said Anthony T. Arminiak, WCCCD’s Regional Campus President for the Downriver and Ted Scott campuses. Arminiak is also CAO and Provost for the Michigan Institute for Public Safety Education MIPSE & Health Science.

Although Wenzel will not put an exact amount he has saved on his college program, he estimates that it is “anywhere from $10,000-$20,000 by participating in the Early Middle College program. I certainly have no idea on the exact amount.” But he said that now that he is armed with his high school diploma and college degree, he is “more prepared and ready for both the workforce and for continuing my education for a four year degree. I feel like it really gave me a head start and put me at an advantage to have the ability to get a good job right out of high school and only have a few more years to finish for a Bachelor’s Degree,” said Wenzel, who is now working in the Woodhaven-Brownstown School District Information Technology department.

“Right now my goal for the future is still being determined. I am planning on continuing my education for a Bachelor’s Degree and I am undecided on where I will do that. I am currently working full-time for the Woodhaven-Brownstown School District Technology Department, which I had worked as a part-time Co-op for while I was doing the Early Middle College program. I plan to continue working with the WBSD and have no decisions on where I plan to work long-term in the workforce once I have all my schooling and experience acquired.”

High Schools with Dual Enrollment programs at WCCCD:

- Airport Community Schools
- Detroit Public Schools Community District
- Flint Rock Community Schools
- Frontier International Academy
- Gee Academy
- Gibraltar School District
- Grosse Ile Township Schools
- Harper Woods School District
- Huron School District
- PrepNet Schools
- River Rouge School District
- Riverview Community School Dist.
- Romulus Public Schools
- Taylor School District
- Trenton Public Schools
- Van Buren Public Schools
- Voyageur Academy
- Woodhaven-Brownstown School Dist.
Cool Kids Code Program Now in its 2nd Year, Holds Fall Semester Orientation and Clinic at the Curtis L. Ivery Downtown Campus in Detroit

While this summer was a drastic shift in education not only in Michigan, or the United States, but worldwide, more than 100 children together with their parents braved the challenges imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic to attend the Cool Kids Code Program Fall Semester orientation and Clinic at the Curtis L. Ivery Downtown Campus in Detroit.

The program in its 2nd year, teaches children to hone their skills in technology through coding; computer programming, web, software and game development, and a whole lot more. This year’s program is a partnership between Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) and Rainbow PUSH Coalition and supported by General Motors, FCA, Piston Automotive Group sponsorship. Other collaborative partners include the Eastern Campus Detroit Regional Training Center, the Detroit Talent Hub with Silicon Valley technology collaborative guidance.

The two-day orientation was marked by activities and exercises at the Curtis L. Ivery Health and Wellness Center. The students heard words of encouragement from WCCCD Chancellor, Dr. Curtis L. Ivery and from the Lt. Governor of Michigan, Garlin Gilchrist, II; who himself holds a computer science engineering degree from the University of Michigan, and is a former Microsoft employee.

“Keep up your quest for knowledge in computer science and never give up,” Gilchrist told the students. “If you can, invent something that no one has ever invented before and take your knowledge in computer science to a new level and make Michigan proud.”

Also on hand to give the students a boost in their pursuit for knowledge in technology was Dewayne Kelly, member of the Motor City 9 Baseball Club who led the students in baseball batting demonstrations; while Scott Edward Lusader and Daniel Fields, both a former Detroit Tigers professional baseball players, compared the changing technology with the change in pitching, hitting and baseball techniques. “Like in technology, you have to be quick in your decision-making in baseball” said Lusader.

The kids were received swag bags donated by the Detroit Red Wings and Detroit Tigers paraphernalia. They also were treated to lunchtime pizza provided by Little Caesars Pizza donated by the Ilitch Group. The online portion of the Cool Kids Camp to follow will touch the lives of more than 300 students.
The School of Continuing Education hosted the virtual Breaking the Barriers Breast Cancer Awareness seminar. Cheryl Wesen, MD from St. John Providence Health System provided the most relevant information on screening, prevention, diagnosis and therapy of breast cancer.
the walk