Dimensions

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

TOGETHER, WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
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The Wayne County Community College District’s Curtis L. Ivery Health and Wellness Education Center is scheduled to open in Spring 2020. The building, adjacent to the Curtis L. Downtown Campus, is the final construction project in the District’s 20-year “Pathways to Transformation” strategic plan.

Some of the health and wellness programs that will be offered in the building include occupational therapy, physical therapy, biomechanics and culinary arts. The building will also house a gymnasium for the WCCCD Wildcats basketball program. The teams currently play home games at the Northwest Activities Center on Detroit’s west side.
We are pleased to bring you another exciting edition of the Dimensions newsletter. This publication showcases the many exciting activities taking place at the Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD)! Our team is very fortunate to be a part of the production for this magazine. We work hard to ensure every issue covers the programs taking place at WCCCD.

This issue focuses our most popular and in-demand continuing education programs, Faculty Convocation Day, commencement, some of our recent study abroad trips and more. We are also very excited to share information about our new Curtis L. Ivery Health and Wellness Education Center scheduled to open in Spring 2020, Horticulture Education Center and our new diversity, equity and inclusion initiative titled “Together, We Make a Difference!”

WCCCD is the largest urban-suburban community colleges in the state of Michigan. We are diverse and we serve a large community. We specialize in offering classes taught by exceptional faculty who bring experience and a passion for teaching and learning to the classroom. WCCCD offers more than 100 degree and certificate programs, in addition to flexible evening and weekend scheduling, accelerated courses and online options – all the conveniences students need to fit any lifestyle. We invite you to visit any of our five campus locations and the Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center to see the uniqueness of WCCCD.

We hope you enjoy reading this publication as much as we did putting this together.

Sincerely yours,

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

Unbreen Amir
Assistant to the Chancellor for Administrative Communication

Mission Statement
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.

Values Statement
• Excellence in teaching and learning
• Diverse, international and intercultural education
• Student and community service
• Accountability
• Integrity

Vision Statement
WCCCD 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.

Accreditation
Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) 230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500 Chicago, Illinois 60604 800-621-7440 / 312-263-0456 Fax 312-263-7462 info@hlcommission.org www.hlcommission.org
District-Wide Conference Day

WCCCD’s annual District-Wide Conference Day is a professional development day for faculty and staff. “Honoring the Past and Bridging the Future” recognized the hard work and dedication demonstrated by WCCCD employees. Highlights included Dr. Tonya Mathews as the keynote speaker along with a variety of sessions focused on leadership, customer service, student success and health and wellness.
Partnering with the Detroit Institute of Arts

Recently, DIA Director Salvador Salort-Pons and WCCCD Chancellor Dr. Curtis L. Ivery solidified the partnership between the two institutions with a Memo of Understanding (MOU). The MOU will expand the DIA’s InsideOut program to WCCCD campuses, and expand awareness and participation in a range of education and arts programs for the community and students, faculty and staff.

“Our mission has always been to provide pathways to better lives through higher education, and our partnership with the Detroit Institute of Arts fits perfectly with that mission,” said WCCCD Chancellor Dr. Curtis L. Ivery. “The arts not only fuel our mind and help us achieve more across disciplines, but strengthen our connections and our communities. We look forward to working with the DIA to help our students, and our community, thrive.”
Faculty Convocation Day

WCCCD’s Faculty Convocation Day is a bi-annual program held prior to each semester for faculty to network on the use of best practices in teaching and learning. This year’s keynote speakers were Rev. Jesse Jackson and Dr. Cia Verschelden, author of Bandwidth Recovery.
Horticulture Education Center

The WCCCD Horticulture Education Center will provide quality education and training for the industry and community members. The center will have three focus areas; greenhouse, conservatory and student laboratory and classrooms. Courses within these three areas would integrate technical knowledge, critical thinking and environmental stewardship appropriate for the 21st century.

Education Partnership

The Horticulture Education Center will provide unique education and training for the Agricultural science industry and the community. The center will focus on greenhouse technology, plant conservatory and student STEM research. Courses within these areas will integrate partnerships with Michigan State University, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge.

Fruit and Vegetable Crop Management

The Fruit and Vegetable Crop Management program provides students an opportunity to apply practical knowledge and training on the selection, use, and management of fruit and vegetable crops. The program combines classroom instruction and theory with practical experience gained through field laboratories and a professional internship. Graduates of the program are prepared for careers in the fruit and vegetable industry.

Landscape Management

The Landscape Management Program offers those students interested in working with plants, people, and the outdoors specialized training to pursue a career in the green industry. The program combines classroom instruction and theory with practical experience gained through field laboratories and a professional internship. The Landscape Management Program encompasses the production, selection, use, and management of ornamental plants. The curriculum begins with the understanding of plant growth, development, and identification. Related sciences of soils, entomology, and pathology are integrated with plant knowledge. The mechanical aspects of production systems, equipment operations, and cultural practices are also taught and applied.

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)

The facility would contain features such as:

- Rainwater harvesting systems
- Highly efficient plumbing, lighting and mechanical systems
- High recycled content building materials
- Compact building footprint
- Passive ventilation system that reduces energy consumption
- An energy reflective roof surface to reflect solar energy and reduce cooling load
- Mechanically ventilated operable roofs
- Computer-controlled greenhouse system

Community Enrichment and Partnerships

The facility would provide year around opportunity for tours, workshops and seminars and partnerships for community projects. Partnerships groups would include:

- Colleges and Universities
- Conservatories and Public Gardens
- Gardening Clubs
- Highs Schools
- Landscapers
- Nurseries and Greenhouses
- Parks and Recreation Areas
- WCCCD Campuses

Programming

Programs and courses for associate degree, college certificates, short term certificates and continuing education will be available. Areas and topics would include:

- Aquaponics
- Ecosystem Fundamentals
- Garden Skills
- Irrigation
- Landscaping Design
- Nursery Growers
- Perennial Gardening
- Plant Identification
- Restoration Gardening
- Sustainable Gardening
- Urban Agriculture
- Hydroponics
- Environmental and Natural Resources
- Parks Management
Student Success Center

WCCCD’s Student Success Center is a one-stop-center that offers one-on-one assistance to help students plan for and achieve their academic and career goals in a supportive environment. The center offers a number of programs, resources, and services to all students which include:

- Academic Success Planning
- Career Planning and Placement
- Early Alert System
- Student Success Toolkit
- Success Seminars
- Student Activities/Clubs
- Student Activity Calendar
- Financial Resources & Support

Help Available for Student Debt Relief

Wayne County Community College District joined three other Metro Detroit institutions of higher education to offer former students debt forgiveness.

The college will offer relief of up to one half of total outstanding student debt for any students who did not complete their degree or certificate if they return to school at Wayne County Community College District or other participating institutions in the partnership led by the Detroit Regional Chamber.

“We’re in an interesting period in higher education across the country, where enrollment is down,” said Dr. Ivery, WCCCD Chancellor. “Students are perhaps trying to be involved more in the workforce, but students are actually challenged with finding work because there is a skills gap.”

The program expands upon its Tuition Amnesty Program which it announced last year that reduced tuition and fees by 30%, and reduced past debt for returning students who had earned some college credits but had not completed a degree because of financial constraints.
Three executives of the Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) were on hand to accept Governor Gretchen Whitmer’s 2019 Education Service Leader Award on behalf of the District. The award recognizes WCCCD’s contributions to help strengthen Michigan’s communities. The administrators on hand to receive the award were Kim DiCaro, District Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Fiscal Officer; Furquan Ahmed, Vice Chancellor for Human Resources and Accountability; Unbreen Amir, Assistant to the Chancellor for Administrative Communication; and Dr. Harvey Dorrah, Interim Provost for the Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center. WCCCD is the only Michigan institution of higher learning to win the Governor’s 2019 Education Service Award.

“Our state is lucky to have such outstanding Michiganders who work hard every single day to build a home for opportunity for everyone,” the Governor said. “Whether it’s uplifting our neighborhoods or bringing communities together when tragedy strikes, they do this work even when nobody’s looking because they know that every contribution makes a huge impact,” Whitmer said. “I’m proud to present the Governor’s Service Awards to this year’s recipients as recognition of their sacrifice and dedication throughout our state.”

WCCCD was the only educational institution recognized for “Education Leader Service.” Other organizations received: Humanitarian Award; Spirit of Detroit Award; and Volunteer of the Year Youth Mentor Award. The Governor’s Service Award winners were honored during a special ceremony hosted by the Michigan Community Service Commission at the Detroit Opera House.
Wayne County Community College District is looking forward to its visit by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) this Spring 2020. The last re-accreditation HLC visit from 2010 resulted in “no findings” with continued accreditation for 10 years, requiring no follow-up or reports. This is the highest commendation a community college can receive from the accrediting body. As the college continues to prepare for its upcoming visit, WCCCD will provide informational materials and share achievements and milestones, as well as provide communications through its HLC website to engage the college community. The District is excited to present evidence to the Higher Learning Commission related to all of its achievements, awards, growth, and transformation since its last visit to demonstrate continued teaching and learning excellence.
alumni reflect

Bellinda Jean Logan-Loggins
2019 WCCCD graduate

“It is a longtime goal but, an accomplishment that would never have meant as much to me as it did when I walked across that stage on June 8, 2019 at Ford Field at the age of 63 years old.”

Stella Bosswill
2019 WCCCD graduate

“I can feel my mother, father and sister’s presence looking down on us saying, ‘Well done.’”

Esha Price
MSN FNP-C

“WCCCD is the academic blueprint for higher education. My professors and the administration team worked in concert to prepare me for academic excellence. I can honestly say WCCCD believed in my success and that was the motivation I needed to strive for excellence. I am an example that anything is possible when you have an academic institution like WCCCD in your corner. After completing my Nursing degree at WCCCD, I went on to receive a bachelor’s and master’s in Nursing and am a Certified Nurse Practitioner, practicing locally.”

Nabil Bhatti
Pharm.D.

“My wife and sister gave me the strength to get back into school to obtain my GED, attend Wayne County Community College District and ultimately complete pharmacy school. I was guided and completed my pre-pharmacy pre-requisites while at WCCCD and matriculated to Ferris State University to complete my Doctorate. WCCCD is the educational backbone of my professional career. The faculty at WCCCD were always kind and helpful, and professors like Dr. Norman Samuelson and Dr. JoAnne Wittbrodt helped me with the knowledge and strategies that I needed for such a competitive program. I currently own and operate my own pharmacy in Brownstown Township, Michigan.”

Daniel Baxter
Director of External Affairs for the Office of the Wayne County Executive

“I came to Wayne County Community College District after graduating high school because I lacked confidence in my ability to do well in college. While at WCCCD, I enrolled in a biology course which transformed my life. Everyone can complain about problems, however value is not given to the problem or complaint, but to the one who has the ability to go beyond the issue, quest for the answer and upon discovering it, apply the finding and resolve the need. After graduating from WCCCD, I went on to earn a BA in Political Science from the University of Detroit Mercy.”

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Usef Saleh Julian
2019 WCCCD graduate

“I was so intimidated, thinking that the process was difficult, but in reality all I had to do was take the first step.”

Eddie L. Washington Jr.
Executive Director, University of Michigan Division of Public Safety and Security Departments

“After an honorable discharge from the armed forces, I returned home to Detroit. Wayne County Community College District was accessible and an affordable option for me to begin my Criminal Justice degree to pursue a law enforcement career. WCCCD’s professors were more than instructors; they were role models who took the time to coach me and build up my confidence. They demanded accountability and set high standards. I went on to receive my bachelor’s degree, was the former Director of the Michigan State Police and now lead the University of Michigan Division of Public Safety and Security Departments as the Executive Director.”

Erin McNally
LVT

“Once I started researching Veterinary Technicians, I fell in love with the idea of the profession. Wayne County Community College District’s program had a great reputation and was one of the best in the state. I am 11 years into my career as a Licensed Veterinary Technician, with credentials in multiple states. The shape of my career would have looked very different without the opportunities allotted to me through the program. I will always be grateful to WCCCD for having a top-notch program that allowed me to fuel my passion and helped me to achieve my dream.”

Norman-Montgomery and Linda Thomas
2019 WCCCD graduate

“We are an example of a dream that has become a reality.”
Wayne County Community College District created a Police Advisory Board to give advice and support to the Police Authority Department. One of its duties will be to provide suggestions on ways to improve the public image of the WCCCD Police Authority Department. The Police Advisory Board will be chaired by James Jackson, Chair of the Criminal Justice Department and retired Director of Detroit Police Academy.

The Police Advisory Board will focus on the idea that policing at WCCCD is a shared responsibility between police and faculty, staff, and students. Its role will be different from that of a Community Review Board on Police Practices, which evaluates complaints from residents and reviews officer-involved shootings.

“Building and maintaining the college community trust is the cornerstone of our successful police department,” Chief Darrick D. Muhammad said. “This board is a group of accomplished law enforcement professionals who will be a help to reinforce trust in our police department and the entire college community.”

Other Police Advisory Board members include:
- Anthony Holt, Chief of Police Wayne State University
- James Gillespie, Mediator Dispute Resolution and Retire Small Business Finance
- James Baylor, Retired Chief of Police WCCCD and Dallas CCC
- James Younger, CRJ Faculty at WCCCD and Retired Deputy Chief from DPD
- Aracely Hernandez, Executive Project Manager Office of Chancellor
- Deborah Robinson, CRJ Faculty at WCCCD and Retired Deputy Chief from DPD
- Thomas Fisher, Security Awareness Officer Somerset Mall and former Security Director at Briarwood Mall
- Yoseph Demissie, Chief Technology Officer WCCCD
- George Anthony, Retired Police Officer and Attorney

In addition to the Police Advisory Board, the District has implemented a Police Authority Human Resources Department to address personnel and other human resources functions exclusively with the police department.
Critical Conversations Podcast

The Wayne County Community College District’s Critical Conversations Podcast, with host Ed Clemente, features a wide array of guests who share their expertise on various topics. To listen to any of the podcasts from the WCCCD Critical Conversations Podcast series, log onto the college’s website at www.wcccd.edu and scroll down to select the “Podcast/Videos” button located on the homepage.
Faculty Spotlight:
Tamara Renee Wright, American Sign Language instructor

Tamara R. Wright, an instructor in American Sign Language at Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) learned sign language at an early age. She received her Bachelor’s Degree from Madonna University, and was awarded a QAII state level certification less than one year after her graduation—and maintained that level for seven years. Tamara received her national certification, NIC Advanced, in June 2010.

She is also a freelancer who has worked with various agencies including: physicians, surgeons, specialists, and other hospital personnel, facilitating the necessary communication between the hearing medical staff and the deaf patients. Ms. Wright has ample interpreting experience with judges, referees, magistrates, attorneys, and other legal professionals. She has become acclimated to the day-to-day interactions of the civil, criminal, and family court systems. Along with medical and legal interpreting, Tamara has interpreted for and with local and state government officials. She has interpreted for mayoral inaugural ceremonies, state of the city addresses, town hall proceedings, and council meetings.

Tamara served as a member of the WCCCD interpreting staff. She joined the WCCCD faculty and has been an American Sign Language instructor since 2009. She has also assisted in the development and implementation of the sign language studies program at WCCCD, and works diligently to make it a success. In September 2013, Tamara joined the faculty at her alma mater Madonna University as an adjunct instructor in the Sign Language Studies Department, becoming the first African American to teach in the department.

Did YOU Know?

- After English and Spanish, American Sign Language is the third most used language in the United States, and has been used in the United States for over two hundred years.
- The sign for “I love you” combines the signs for the letters I, L and Y.
- As many as 500,000 people in the United States communicate using ASL.
- Babies can communicate using sign language 6-8 months prior to communicating verbally.
- The direction the palm is facing can change the meaning of the word entirely. For instance, the difference between the signs for “good” and “bad” depends on the palm orientation.
- Sign languages have their own grammar and their own syntax.
- There are different sign languages in different countries, and American sign language is considered a foreign language.

Source: Desert Hand and Physical Therapy
www.deserthandtherapy.com
Holiday Luncheon: Serving the Community!

WCCCD invited community organizations to a holiday luncheon sponsored by WCCCD's Division of Student Services, Student Executive Council, Phi Theta Kappa and Wildcats Athletes.

WCCCD's First Lady, Mrs. Ola Ivery (center), serving the community during the Holiday Luncheon.
Johnson was among nine other students from Wayne County Community College District’s Summer 2018 Water Research Program sponsored by Chancellor Dr. Curtis L. Ivery. The program is mentored by Drs. Barbara Radecki and Christian Nwamba. On Thursday, July 19, Johnson and her teammates proudly presented their research findings in the form of posters from their research of the Detroit River to an audience in the Frank Hayden Community Room at the Curtis L. Ivery Downtown Campus.

“This is the first time in my life I ever did a research project and I’m glad my teachers talked me into participating in the project. I am grateful to Dr. April Brown and Dr. Curtis Greene who taught me well in Micro-Biology lecture nine years ago. By the way, these are my two favorite professors,” Johnson said.

Each student presented the methods they used to conduct their research and the outcome of their findings. Lynnette Jackson, a student who was at the poster presentation, said she had always wondered whether the beach on Belle Isle was clean. “But Charles, one of the presenters, was able to put my mind at ease. Through his research, he was able to conclude that the beach on Belle Isle is a safe place to swim and have fun. Dr. Curtis Greene, my biology professor, always told us that once the research bug hits you, you can’t let it go,” she added.

Angel Johnson summed up the students’ poster presentations: “This was very interesting to attend. I learned a lot from the researchers. I will be very eager to learn from Dr. Nwamba because he is very passionate about his field of study and he wants all his students to broaden their minds and learn the material, because it can help in their careers.”

Cynthia Johnson is thankful for the research opportunity. “I’m so thankful that I was chosen. I’m having such great time learning about the importance of the Detroit River and what goes on in the Detroit River. The most important part of the research is seeing what lives in our waters through a microscope,” Johnson added.
kids camps

Downriver, Curtis L. Ivery Downtown, Eastern, Northwest, and Ted Scott campuses host summer camps for kids!

From health and safety, creative arts and crafts, nutrition, drama, chess, photography, robotic aircraft, archery, sign language, and music talents – a great time was had by all!

young elite

For many people, turning on their computer, checking or sending emails may often be the only functions they know related to their devices.

But for 15-year-old Gabriella Mathis and 10-year-old Josiah Dunbar, these devices involve a lot more technology than we would normally want to know. Over the last couple of years, these two youngsters have been expanding their knowledge about computer programming languages – often referred to as coding. Both can speak freely about video game designs or what makes a robot function.

This summer they are honing their skills in technology as part of the Cool Kids Code Program at the Wayne County Community College District Northwest Campus. Cool Kids Code is a summer program partnership with WCCCD and Rainbow PUSH that teaches kids how to code and communicate with computer hardware, build a website, computer apps, video games, and a whole lot more.

“Learning how to code is like learning how to speak a new language,” said David Robinson, the camp’s technical program coordinator. “We teach the kids how to speak a particular language, and that is the computer language. Cool Kids Code students like Gabriella and Josiah hone their skills in technology. We make the programs fun and allow the kids to improve on their creativity,” he said.
The Cool Kids Code Summer Program is supported by General Motors, Ford, Piston Automotive, Rainbow PUSH Coalition, Wayne County Community College District, Detroit Regional Trainers Center, Detroit Talent Hub and The AZIA Project, a Silicon based collaborative.

Baseball legend Willie Horton delivered a powerful graduation address. The students were treated to a rare opportunity during their Cool Kids Code graduation, when Willie Horton, a former Detroit Tigers legend, showed up to tell them his personal story of growing up in the Jeffries Project and playing in the Major Leagues.

Michigan Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist shared some thoughts with Cool Kids Code summer graduates at the Northwest Campus. Gilchrist also stressed on the importance of technology to advance career opportunities. The Cool Kids Code Summer Program is supported by General Motors, the Rainbow Push Coalition, Wayne County Community College District, Detroit Regional Training Center, Detroit Talent Hub, and the AZIA Project.

“Reverend Jesse Jackson asked me to implement a technology program to address the digital divide in Detroit. We could not have chosen a more suitable and respected partner than Wayne County Community College District. WCCCD opened the doors of technical opportunity for our students and these camps will pay long-term benefits,” said John Graves, chairman of Rainbow PUSH Global Automotive Project.

“We’re proud to have partnered with Rainbow PUSH and Wayne County Community College District to bring this innovative coding curriculum to hundreds of students this summer,” said Genna Young, manager of Detroit Community Partnerships at General Motors. “It was great to hear firsthand from the kids about their dreams for the future and how coding can play a part in reaching their goals.”

A parent who has a child in the program said, “This is only the first week, but I have nothing but a good testimony regarding the Cool Kids Code Summer Camp and I really appreciate this opportunity.”
Hispanic Heritage Festival

At WCCCD’s Downriver Campus, The School of Continuing Education hosts an annual Hispanic Heritage Festival. This festival is meant to showcase various Hispanic customs, foods, art, fashion, music and more.

The event includes Hispanic art, traditional dance, food and music. The Hispanic Heritage Festival showcases fun and learning activities, allowing children of all ages the chance to participate in art activities and the making of traditional piñatas. This event highlights the diversity and richness found within the Hispanic/Latino community. Those who attend are able to explore the multi-faceted traditions of the Hispanic cultures through workshops that focus on the contributions Hispanics have made in the United States.

Passport to Africa

Each year, more than 3,000 Metro-Detroiters receive a dose of cultural education and enrichment during the School of Continuing Education’s “Passport to Africa” event at the Curtis L. Ivey Downtown Campus. The traditional drumbeats welcome everyone from the community who are eager to learn about the contributions of the African continent at this day-long community-based educational event.

Participants will witness unique outfits and gain knowledge from this event, regarding culture, fashion and more. The continent of Africa holds various ethnic groups who have different traditions, styles, and clothing. The way people dress to engage in different occasions like weddings, funerals, or other festivities can differ by region. At many celebrations, you may notice the commonly known dashiki- a colorful garment for men in some parts of West Africa, or the kente- a popular dress of Ghana. You will get to see these outfits and more at this event. Passport to Africa affords participants the chance to explore the wonders of Africa and its people without leaving Detroit!
Bridge to Asia

The continent of Asia is rich in the diversity of its cultures, traditions, and customs, which shape the lives of the people who inhabit it. The School of Continuing Education aims to highlight these various differing cultures through a unique cultural experience.

Each year, WCCCD’s Downriver Campus builds a bridge that connects communities with the people and culture of Asia through its annual Bridge to Asia program. The event encourages participants to visit educational and marketplace booths depicting the life, culture and beauty of Asian countries. It is a unique extravaganza that has included artifact displays, and hands-on activities such as calligraphy, yoyos, henna, and origami and performances by musicians and dancers from the Hindu Temple Rhythm and Bangladesh Cultural Group. Bridge to Asia is designed to educate students and the community on the diversity of Asian cultures.

Native American Festival

The School of Continuing Education brings you the WCCCD Native American Festival. Join us as Native American Culture comes to the community with food, art, and entertainment. The festival will enrich participants knowledge of Native Americans, their culture, history, and their lifestyles. North America is home to many different Native American tribes and nations with various clothing styles. While in the past nearly every tribe had its own distinctive style of dress, these styles began to mix and take influence from European fashion as tribes were driven from their homelands and came into closer contact with each other. This mixed tribal dress style will be recognizable at this event!

WCCCD believes in the importance of highlighting Native Americans and their history. Through unique food, music, dance, and stories, participants of this event will learn about Native American culture and come away with a memorable experience.
Chancellor’s Reading Carnival and Winter Blast

The Chancellor’s Reading Carnival is an interactive program which involves storytelling for children in Pre-K to sixth grade. The program was founded by Mrs. Ola Ivery, wife of WCCCD’s Chancellor, Dr. Curtis L. Ivery. Mrs. Ivery’s passion for reading has encouraged her to develop this outreach program to promote development and growth through reading.

The event includes fun and games, free books and bags for children, light refreshments and other giveaways. The carnival-like atmosphere is complete with activities like face-painting and clowns. The program also features great stories, interactive programs, and stimulating activities designed to make reading exciting and desirable.

“Reading is one of the many ways that individuals learn,” Mrs. Ivery says. “Strong literacy skills are closely tied to academic, career success, and a better quality of life.” The Chancellor’s Reading Carnival is an engaging experience for students, held at the Curtis L. Ivery Downtown Campus.

Everyday Etiquette

Everyday Etiquette is another wonderful hands-on program, sponsored by WCCCD’s School of Continuing Education. This interactive program focuses on helping teens develop their social skills and manners used not only in professional settings, but in daily life interactions as well. Whether it’s learning to tie a necktie or proper table etiquette, this program proves to be a fun and useful experience for the youth. The program is headed by our lead facilitator, Tameka Mongo, who offers her guidance to all of the young men and women at these sessions in their communities.
There are many worthwhile experiences at Wayne County Community College District that members of our community may participate in. Once such initiative is our Breast Cancer Walk. This walk always gathers a large, supportive group helping to promote awareness, offering education experiences beneficial to everyone. In partnership with the American Cancer Society, this annual event helps to bring the community together for important causes while raising donations for breast cancer research.

In the past, WCCCD fundraised for St. John Providence Hospital’s “Because We Care” program through the WCCCD Think Pink Volleyball Tournament. The funds went towards helping women receive exams through the mobile mammography unit at St. John Providence Hospital. In collaboration with the St. John Providence Health System, WCCCD coordinated a seminar designed to provide information on screening, prevention, diagnosis, and the treatment of breast cancer. As part of this event, attendees got the chance to speak with renowned breast surgeon Dr. Cheryl Wesen. Dr. Wesen frequents WCCCD’s events involving breast cancer awareness and is a valuable resource.

Wayne County Community College District recognizes the various health concerns that individuals in the community may face. The Ted Scott Campus, in partnership with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) hosts an annual “Type 1 Nation Summit” at the Ted Scott Campus. Children, teens, toddlers, adults and seniors with Type 1 Diabetes learn about research, clinical breakthroughs, products and services to help manage Type 1 Diabetes. Keynote presentations include physicians, researchers, and health care professionals. The program focused on the unique needs of individuals struggling with Type 1 Diabetes. These on-going opportunities are the result of a strong multi-year partnership between JDRF and the School of Continuing Education at WCCCD.

Diabetes Statistics

• 1.25M Americans are living with T1D including about 200,000 youth (less than 20 years old).
• 40,000 people are diagnosed with some form of diabetes each year in the U.S.
• 5 million people in the U.S. are expected to have T1D by 2050, including nearly 600,000 youth.
• Less than one-third of people with T1D in the U.S. are achieving target blood glucose control levels.
• T1D is associated with an estimated loss of life-expectancy of up to 13 years.
Dr. Conrad C. Maitland served as moderator for a recent program putting the opioid crisis into perspective. "This is not the first time that America has been plagued by an epidemic. Like the epidemic in past years, the opioid epidemic is real, touching real people and real lives. We should care about it. We all should learn the deadly truth about opiates in order to veer off the road to addiction, while unmasking the deadly epidemic.

Opioid Health Symposium

Dr. Conrad C. Maitland

Dr. Conrad C. Maitland, a longtime Site Director of Urology Residency at Sinai-Grace Hospital, has served as Chief of the Department of Urology at multiple hospitals in Detroit. For over three decades now, Dr. Maitland, himself a prostate cancer survivor, has been on a mission of educating men, especially African American men about prostate cancer — a disease which kills more African American men than any other disease. “This is my passion, to help African American men take good care of their health to minimize the risk of prostate cancer,” said Dr. Maitland.

In 2002, I was diagnosed with prostate cancer. I am a prostate cancer survivor. This topic has not become my passion, simply because I ‘fell on my sword,’ but for years, even before my diagnosis, I preached prostate awareness and that early detection saves lives. For many years, I have sponsored and participated in prostate awareness programs, through several community organizations including different churches. I always welcome the opportunity to speak on urology topics, especially prostate cancer — screening, awareness, risk factors, and treatment. This condition has taken its toll on young African American men. African American men age 40 and older need to be proactive and spread the word about awareness.

Prostate Awareness and Early Detection Saves Lives

Dr. Conrad C. Maitland is a Man on a Mission and is Spreading the Word

Dr. Maitland, who runs the Sherwood Urology Practice on Detroit’s near west side, said giving back to a community runs in his family. “At an early age, our parents instilled in us as children a giving spirit — ‘never forget your humble beginning; don’t forget where you came from and cast your bread upon the waters,’ our mother would often say to us.” Dr. Maitland has never forgotten his mother’s words and has not forgotten his humble beginning and his native land. He makes an annual visit to Grenada, which he calls his “Grenada Mission.” “This is made possible through cooperative efforts from staff or relief donations (supplies) that would otherwise go to waste. Annually, we will send barrels of medical supplies/equipment for the Mission in Grenada. While in Grenada, I will operate several urology clinics throughout the island and perform urology surgeries at the main hospital, the St. George’s General Hospital. The need in Grenada is tremendous, and what I contribute is only a drop in the bucket,” he said.

My second home is in Detroit. I consider myself “home grown” as a urologist practicing in Detroit. I always wanted to remain in the community, the place where I could do the most good to the people most in need. I always felt that the local community is where I could make the most impact or contribution, giving back the most to the ones who need it. I will always perform these community activities. I will never stop.”

Dr. Stephanie Beachnau

"An understanding of the basic pharmacology of opioids and how opioid use could lead to addiction can help prevent the opioid epidemic from continuing in the future.”

Dr. Sagar Patel

“To truly understand this medication and its implication on society, we need to focus first on how it behaves in our body.”

Dr. Marvin Glass

“The opioid epidemic can be outlined in three waves: 1990: increased prescribing; 2010: increased heroin use and 2013: increased synthetic opioid use.”

Dr. Carmen McIntyre

“Opioid overdose deaths are now double the number of traffic deaths in Michigan.”

Joann Watson

“Educators, students, community, health care experts, policy makers, legislators and media must harness our specific skills and expertise to craft a sustainable workable solution to the opioid crisis.”

#prostatecancerawareness
Opening Our Eyes to the World Beyond my Village!

I was born and raised in the small village of Jakakehn, Liberia, West Africa. The area was often referred to as the “Liberia Hinterland” because of its distance from the coast. Today, the area is now River Gee County, one of 13 counties in Liberia. As a child, I was always fascinated by stories about life beyond my own village. My inquisitiveness grew when I taught social studies at an elementary school in Pleebo, Liberia. There, I helped my students to be curious about the world beyond their home towns, villages and Liberia. Even though they, like me, may have never been outside their village, read a newspaper, or watched a television program, they, like me, loved to learn about the people, cultures, countries, and continents that they could never even imagine existed or actually have the opportunity to visit. Even in Pleebo, Liberia, a place of limited opportunity and resources, the lives of my students and me as their teacher were enriched by an awareness and appreciation of the international perspective from reading and following the world through our study of geography.

The years that I have directed Wayne County Community College District’s Study Abroad Program have taught me to be humble. I am proud of WCCCD’s Study Abroad Program because over the years, it has opened my eyes and the eyes of our students to a new horizon, by exposing them to different languages, music and art, and helps to become global citizens. I believe that every student should study abroad because I believe that globalization is here to stay.

David C. Butty, a native of Liberia, is executive dean for International Programs and Director of the Wayne County Community College District’s Study Abroad Program.

For more than two decades, Wayne County Community College District’s (WCCCD) Study Abroad Program has covered approximately 20 countries. The program has allowed students to improve their language comprehension and critical thinking skills as well as improve their written and oral communication skills and most importantly, acquire a greater understanding of cultural appreciation.
Beijing, China

Seen through the Eyes of WCCCD’s Study Abroad Students!
Wayne County Community College District students representing different program disciplines traveled to Beijing, China, at the invitation of the Beijing Union University’s College of Tourism for a week of educational and cultural exploration. The objective of the program was to study the similarities and differences between cultures and gain a better understanding of global issues.

At the College of Tourism, Dr. Ran Li lectured on some of the similarities and the differences between American and Chinese cultures. “We are very proud people and we are proud of our culture,” Dr. Li said. “In fact, every country is, but in China, we are very proud of our outer appearance. A small part of our culture can be seen on our buildings where you will see a beautifully decorated door, often painted red. To us, the outer appearance is more important since that first impression sends a powerful message.”

Copenhagen, Denmark

Studying Abroad to Denmark Helps WCCCD Students Gain an Edge on Cultural Diversity and Inclusion!
Twenty-seven Wayne County Community College District students had an immersive experience that left them with answers to more than fast fact lists – and left them curious to know more. The students, traveling as part of the WCCCD Study Abroad Program, spent a week exploring Copenhagen, Denmark, at the invitation of Copenhagen University and the Copenhagen Business Academy. The students were able to achieve these objectives at the Copenhagen Business Academy, where they were warmly welcomed by Annett Borchardt, Head of the International Relations Department. She was joined by Henny Melgaard Nielsen, International Coordinator.

“You students embraced my lecture on culture in a very open-minded manner. As they came to see that I offered an insight into both the Danish and the American culture with humor and honesty, they seemed willing to discuss and debate both current events as well as theories about why people of the world are both so similar and yet so different,” she said. “I believe that your students took with them from the lecture that though we may judge people based on the content of our own cultural ‘backpacks,’ at times we must consider that the actions of others are not necessarily rude, mean and inappropriate but just different.”

Munich, Germany

WCCCD students gain educational and cultural experiences studying abroad in Munich, Germany!
While in Munich, the students were taken on a guided tour to study the architectural designs of the Linderhof and Neuschwanstein castles, both built by King Ludwig II. The students also visited the famous English Garden and the vehicle delivery showroom and museum of the Bavarian Motor Works, better known as BMW. They spent time visiting the past at the Dachau Concentration Camp. WCCCD student Christina Bachis described the visit to the Dachau Concentration Camp as a “sombre” experience.
Wayne County Community College District is pleased to announce newly approved programs. The Ted Scott Campus in Belleville recently started a one-year Practical Nursing Program to fulfill an immediate need in the workforce. This program also serves as a pathway to other medical careers.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of licensed practical nurses is projected to grow 11% from 2018 to 2028, much faster than the average for all occupations. The Northwest Campus offers the one and only accredited Anesthesia Technology Program in the state of Michigan. According to payscale.com in 2019, an anesthesia tech’s salary is, on average, $40,997 each year. As the baby-boom population ages, the overall need for healthcare services is expected to increase.
Surgical Tech • Dental Hygiene • Pharm Tech
The Banner 9 Administrative Applications provide a restructured user interface, updated technical infrastructure, and improved browser-based navigation and accessibility features.

The benefits of the modernized technical infrastructure include:

- Navigation Improvement
  - Multiple record views
  - Filtering
  - Searching/Lookups
  - Recently Viewed Folder
  - Collapsing of sections within the page
- Modern User Interface
- Customized Branding
- Extensibility Framework

Banner 9 Testing
Each department selected a number of power users to receive an advance orientation to Banner 9, and to lead testing of the system for their department.

IT created a test instance of Banner 9 and populated it with data from the production Banner 8 system. IT then setup user ID’s and replicated the access for the test users. IT then assisted each department in documenting primary work flows for testing in Banner 9.

Banner 9 Navigation Orientation
Banner 9 has a brand new interface that makes searching and retrieving information much easier. The forms and the data contained in them will be familiar to users of Banner 8, however navigation is different and there are new navigational tools.

After navigation orientation, the departments went live with Banner 9. IT collaborated with those departments as they went live to provide support as needed. We will conduct a post implementation review with each department after a period of use in production to identify any issues or opportunities for Banner enhancements.
Financial Aid Marathon

The Wayne County Community College District’s Division of Student Services has adopted an “all hands on desk” approach to support students. A command center housed on the Fifth Floor of the District Administration Building last August took in a total of 7,382 calls to address students’ concerns about registration, financial aid and other school related issues. Another 700 students were personally served during the Financial Aid Marathons that took place between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on August 25.

“The District’s Command Center addressed all financial aid and registration inquiries that are typically directed to the District’s Call Center, Student Solutions Hotline and Retention Center,” said Brian Singleton, Vice Chancellor for Student Services. He said all 7,382 students were personally contacted by District administrators. “It was a truly collaborative effort that yielded 100% student satisfaction, highlighting WCCCD’s continuous commitment to student success,” Singleton added.

Besides the volume of financial inquiries, the District’s Command Center addressed other student issues including book vouchers, student loans, satisfactory academic progress and the Tuition Incentive Program.

The “Together, We Make a Difference!” Initiative

Chancellor Ivery has approved a general process of faculty and staff dialogue about the next stage of WCCCD’s transformation. This next phase is currently being referred to as the “Together, We Make a Difference!” phase. Since 2002, WCCCD has proceeded through three transformational stages of the Pathways to the Future initiative. The fourth phase, Pathways to the Future IV, will focus on equity-driven talent development and student success as expressed in the theme “Together, We Make a Difference!” This initiative, which will guide WCCCD’s strategic development during the next five years, is in the exploration and discussion stage. Input from all stakeholder groups is very welcome as the contours of the initiative are studied and decisions are made.

The three pillars of the “Together, We Make a Difference!” initiative are:

- Talent development and leadership: Advancing WCCCD’s position as a primary leader in talent development for Detroit, Wayne County, and Southeast Michigan (integrating career and workforce education development with community leadership efforts).
- Equity: Major steps in advancing WCCCD’s diversity, equity, and inclusion agenda.
- Student success and completion: Equity-minded steps in advancing WCCCD’s student success and completion model.

The objectives of the “Together, We Make a Difference!” initiative are:

- Building on WCCCD’s open door philosophy and history, to advance a campus climate of belonging to persons of all races, ethnicities, gender identities, and income levels; to be a place of welcome and support to persons from all marginalized and disenfranchised groups.
- To remove all barriers to student success and completion, including financial issues, food insecurity, housing insecurity, transportation, child care, inadequate prior education, and limited job and career skills; remove all barriers caused by internal policies, structures, processes, and staffing.
- To position WCCCD as a leader in Detroit, Wayne County, and Southeastern Michigan in equity-driven talent development in support of regional economic development, thus creating job and career opportunities for persons from all income levels.

The Design Center of WCCCD will facilitate involvement of all stakeholders as the Pathways IV: “Together, We Make a Difference!” initiative takes shape and implementation begins. A Strategic Initiatives Team chaired by Chancellor Ivery will guide the development of this initiative.
Faculty Innovation:
Gary Ciampa, Professor of Business Law

“I came to the college because I wanted to teach and that’s the one thing I’ve been able to do for all these years. My desire to teach never wavered. I came to WCCCD (then just WCCC) in 1970, because I wanted to teach at the college level. I had just completed my law degree. I felt that the law degree along with my undergraduate degree in business would qualify me to accomplish that goal. Fortunately, several job opportunities presented themselves.

“However, I chose to come to WCCCD. I not only felt that being at the ground level of a new institution, which arose out of the riots in the city of Detroit, would be challenging and exciting, but I also felt that the institution would help change the culture of the metropolitan area. We were truly going to be part of the renaissance of the city and county. If just the mere enthusiasm and idealism of that group could have driven the college, it certainly seemed that WCCCD was destined for success.

“The early years at the college were frustrating, challenging, and exciting all at the same time. We had no past to guide us. I soon learned that my brief case and the trunk of my car would be the closest thing that I would have to an office for many years to come. However, despite those humble beginnings, the enthusiasm and idealism remained.

Faculty Innovation:
Dr. Christian Nwamba, Professor of Biology

The WCCCD summer water research project is an annual undergraduate research project open to undergraduate science students of Wayne County Community College District. Sponsored and funded as one of the Chancellor’s special projects to support WCCCD students in STEM research, the summer water research program addresses community environmental needs while challenging the student participants to develop more critical thinking and problem solving skills as environmental biologists and chemists. As research scientists and faculty mentors, Professor Christian Nwamba and Barbara Radecki have mentored over 50 students in summer water research since its inception at WCCCD in 2015.

This yearly 9-week summer research program runs from mid-May to mid-July each year, taking students to four strategically mapped out sampling sites of the Detroit River at Belle Isle Park in Detroit. Water samples collected at such sites are taken back to the microbiology and chemistry labs of the Curtis L. Ivery Downtown Campus where extensive water analysis is carried out for data collection, interpretation and reporting in the form of end of project poster presentations by student participants. While the students are paid stipends for their time during this summer water research, their scientific skills development and problem solving ability is evident in the quality of poster and public lecture presentations by each of the student participants at the end of the program in mid-July of each year.
MORE THAN 100 IDEAS TO HELP PARENTS RAISE ACTIVE READERS, CRITICAL THINKERS THE SUBJECT OF NEW BOOK BY DR. CURTIS L. IVERY

A new book from nationally honored educational leader and Wayne County Community College District Chancellor Dr. Curtis L. Ivery shares more than 100 tips and ideas that parents can use to raise active readers and critical thinkers. *The Wonder of Words: A Parent’s Guide for Raising Children Who Read,* gives out-of-the-box ideas that make reading fun and open children’s imaginations to foster an early love for creativity, curiosity, and learning.

“This book is the culmination of years of thought and passion about supporting early reading as a vital foundation to critical thinking, a joy for learning, and intellectual and personal growth,” Ivery said. “It has been an honor to champion early learning through decades of work and support with my wife, Ola. We remain dedicated to helping to build strong thinkers and learners who will grow to become strong leaders in our community.”

Proceeds from the sale of the book will go to The Wayne County Community College District Student Scholarship Fund.

Dr. Ivery credits early reading with fueling a lifelong passion for learning and intellectual growth. “My parents were my first teachers,” Ivery said. “Wonder of Words is intended to foster that deep appreciation for the world of imagination and thought in the home as early as possible to grow the next generation of leaders.”

The Wonder of Words Includes Insight from Years of Work in Supporting Early Learning, Literacy, and Educational Equity
Authors Corner: Esperanza Cintrón

“As any teacher will tell you, I learn more from my students than they do from me,” Cintrón said. “I am inspired by the diversity here at WCCCD. It makes me want to understand the multiplicity of cultures, beliefs and desires that make up our world. As a writer, it’s my job to translate those ideas and emotions, to make people understand how alike we all are.” She’s been writing since fifth grade, when she was chosen for a special creative writing class and the teacher praised a poem she wrote about snow. That bit of encouragement was the spark. In retrospect, she says it is also proof of the impact teachers have on the lives of their students.

Shades: Detroit Love Stories is a short story collection that is distinctly Detroit. By touching on a number of romantic and sexual encounters that span the historical and temporal spaces of the city, each of these interconnected stories examines the obstacles an individual faces and the choices he or she makes in order to cope and, hopefully, survive in the changing urban landscape.

Authors Corner: Gerald Van Dusen

“I have taught at WCCCD since 1972, nearly since the College opened its doors. I have known since I was sixteen years old about the Birwood Wall, a segregation wall built in 1941 in northwest Detroit to separate a new development of white owned houses from an existing community of African Americans. Over the years, I would come across a story that mentioned the wall, but it always troubled me that no one ever told the story of the of the African American community that was being isolated by the wall. Ultimately, what I learned—and what I hope the reader of the book will learn—is that discrimination in all its forms, whether perpetrated against women, handicapped individuals, or racial and ethnic minorities, constitutes an ongoing problem in our society, even 80 years after the Birwood Wall was built.”

In 1941, a real estate developer in northwest Detroit faced a dilemma. He needed federal financing for white clients purchasing lots in a new subdivision abutting a community of mostly African Americans. When the banks deemed the development too risky because of potential racial tension, the developer proposed a novel solution. He built a six-foot-tall, one-foot-thick concrete barrier extending from Eight Mile Road south for three city blocks—the infamous Birwood Wall. It changed life in West Eight Mile forever. Gathering personal interviews, family histories, land records and other archival sources, author Gerald Van Dusen tells the story of this isolated black enclave that persevered through all manner of racial barriers and transformed a symbol of discrimination into an expression of hope and perseverance.

2020 Michigan Notable Book Award Winners

Every year, the Library of Michigan selects up to twenty of the most notable books, either written by a Michigan resident or about Michigan or the Great Lakes. Each selected title speaks to our state’s rich cultural, historical, and literary heritage. Esperanza Cintrón and Gerald Van Dusen won the award in 2020.
In Loving Memory

Recently, WCCCD lost three of our most cherished colleagues. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the families and friends of long time Board of Trustees member Charles Paddock, President of our Northwest Campus, Dr. Letitia Uduma, and President of the Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center, Dr. Sandra Robinson.

We appreciate all of their contributions, and they shall be greatly missed.