Standing ovations, applause, and positive head nods interspersed with laughter were the reactions of the crowd during Bill Cosby’s recent visit to the Downtown Campus of WCCCD, in January. More than 1,800 men, women, and children of all races waited in the freezing rain before entering the building. Attendees filled the main floor of the campus atrium, bleachers on the second floor, and three overflow-rooms equipped with wide-screen televisions. Some even stood during the three-hour event to hear the famous comedian speak about his crusade to encourage African-Americans to take a stand against crime, drugs, and violence in their neighborhoods.

Before the show began, Cosby walked the crowd visiting each area, shaking hands, accepting hugs, and signing autographs. Detroit Free Press Columnist, Rochelle Riley, hosted the event sponsored by the Detroit Free Press, WCCCD, Comcast Cable, Detroit Public Television, MMXD FM92.3, and the City of Detroit.

“We’re losing our kids and we’ve got to do something about it,” boomed Hollywood actor-producer Robert Townsend. Popular TV Judge Glenda Hatchett, known for her no-nonsense approach, took parents to task for not spending enough time with their children, allowing them to do what they like and refusing to take responsibility when their child’s bad behavior lands them in court. “If you want your children to do right, you’ve got to do right by them,” Hatchett said, encouraging parents of boys to “pull in the reins.”

The crowd was on its feet when Cosby took the stage and only stopped applauding when the comedian asked them to be seated. “Our children are trying to tell us something and we’re not listening,” Cosby said, placing blame on parents for not being responsible and accepting the status quo under the guise of systemic racism. He also refused to accept poverty as an excuse for not speaking up for children and what is right for them. “It costs no money to open your mouth and it costs no money to say stop,” he said.

Neither sex was left without blame in Cosby’s address. He told the men to take care of their children, visit them, and let them know they are loved, even if they cannot afford financial assistance. Women, he said, “Pay attention to who you let in the house.” Think of the children first,” he said.
Welcome to the first issue of Dimensions for 2005. Developing this magazine is a pleasure for all of those involved, as it utilizes the creativity of students, faculty, administrators, and others.

The New Year is here, and we want this issue to be reflective of several things: innovative ideas, creativity, and persistence. These three qualities are indicative of the people who call the District home, whether they are students, faculty, staff, or administrators.

With approximately 44,000 credit and non-credit students among the five-campus District, there are so many things to learn about the District; and therefore, we see Dimensions as a great unifier, a way of broadening communication between us all.

In this and forthcoming issues, we want to give you an idea of what life is like at WCCCD, a place that we like to call home.

Sincerely,

Curtis L. Ivery,
Chancellor, WCCCD
“Oohs” and “aaahs” could be heard as a classic lime 2005 Ford Mustang rolled into the auto shop at Wayne County Community College District’s Downriver campus in Taylor on January 25th. The college has an educational partnership with the Taylor Career Technical Center, and about 40 students from Kennedy and Truman high schools are enrolled in an auto mechanics program.

Paul Daily was the first behind the wheel in Taylor. Being the automotive instructor has its advantages, he said with a grin. His students flocked to the car and choruses of “pop the hood” echoed in the shop’s garage. The retro-colored sports coupe was a development vehicle with 21,375 miles. The students will take it apart and put it back together again, perhaps multiple times.

The donated cars were at the end of their usefulness to the automaker, said Philip Spender, AutoAlliance president. The first 2005 Mustangs built, they were never intended to be sold. As a corporate citizen, Spender said his company focuses on youth education and donated the vehicles to the schools’ auto classes. Ford Motor Co. donated the repair manuals. The cars have the latest technology, and when the students are working on them they will be current in their experiences, Spender said.

Kyle Swanson, a junior at Kennedy, might be the envy of his class because he drove the Mustang from where it was dropped off to its parking spot — about 80 feet inside the shop. But this vehicle won’t be going far. It’s not “Mustang Sally’s” ride.

Under an agreement with Auto Alliance, the car can’t be driven or sold and must be scrapped at the end of its useful life. It is strictly for educational purposes for the students enrolled in auto mechanics classes. The cars are dismantled and reassembled by students and at any given time might not be safe to drive, Daily said.

Auto Alliance International of Flat Rock recently donated a 2005 Ford Mustang to the Taylor Career and Technical Center, which has been operated the WCCCD Downriver Campus for the past four years.
The U.S. criminal justice system is plagued with the highest rates of incarceration and prison population in the world. More than two million Americans are currently held in prisons throughout the United States. WCCCD, WDIV, and The Detroit News joined together to host a one-day educational conference to discuss the high rate of incarceration on Tuesday, November 16, 2004 at the Detroit Opera House in downtown Detroit.

In Dr. Curtis L. Ivery’s opening statements, he emphasized, “The epidemic of incarceration affects not only the prisoner, but the families and children who are left behind.” Dr. Ivery has encouraged early intervention and stated, “It is all about what we can do early on. The whole issue is about how the path to incarceration starts at a very early age.”

The keynote speaker, Dr. Manning Marable, Professor, stressed the need to “articulate a new agenda for Detroit and the entire nation” that will clearly define a new direction for the criminal justice system that presently affects the economy, national resources, voting rights, educational potential, and families. Dr. Marable closed his remarks by saying, “It is time to face the demon head on.”

Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick emphasized the need for active involvement at the community level. He said, “If cities don’t work, America doesn’t work, and schools don’t work.” The steady decline and loss of students is a result of training that has not adjusted to growing needs, and partnerships are needed between the community, colleges, and local schools.

John Conyers, U.S. Representative, discussed increased incarcerations due to substance abuse and the minimum sentences mandated by the “three strikes and you’re out law.” Conyers stated that, “Seventy percent of those incarcerated have some history of drug abuse and . . . we need a new national program to fight drugs systematically.” Conyers finished his remarks by asking, “Where do we go from here, after today?”

As a continuation of the efforts initiated with the Criminal Justice Summit, the Eastern Campus, working with the Detroit Eastside Community Collaborative (DECC), has sponsored a “Community Call to Action.” The DECC represents 23 community, business, and community-development organizations based on the East Side. The agenda focused on solution-driven dialogue.

Criminal Justice Seminar Clears the Way for Reform of Incarceration Practices

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Welders Wanted

For 22-year-old Detriot Marcisha McGhee, welding is more than a career—it’s an escape. “You’re alone, by yourself, and because I am confident in what I’m doing, I can work and free my mind,” the WCCCD graduate said.

McGhee developed her interest in welding as a high school student. After taking a break to have a baby, she enrolled at WCCCD and earned an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Welding Technology. Instruction at WCCCD prepares students for jobs as welding and fabrication technicians, foremen, product test technicians, self-employed technicians, or sales engineers.

Students can either earn a certificate or Associate of Applied Science Degree at the District’s Eastern or Downriver Campus. Hands-on training and related theory in basic welding skills, exclusive of the areas of sales, nondestructive testing, and certification are the focus of the certificate program.

WCCCD Instructor Eula Grooms’ fascination with welding came at a very early age. As a youngster, she helped her father fix cars in the family garage.

“I liked being dirty and greasy,” she said.

As a high school freshman, Grooms enrolled in auto shop, much to the chagrin of school officials who questioned her motives. Grooms said they believed she was using the classes to meet boys. “Far from the truth,” she said. In fact, she objects to the stereotyping and strongly believes people should choose their vocation based on interest, not what’s socially acceptable.

After completing her college education, Grooms donned a lab coat and found herself back in high school—this time in front of the class teaching welding. For the past 15 years, she’s also taught welding at WCCCD’s Downriver Campus to students aged 18 to 70. Some of her students, she said, take the class just for fun, while others are interested in starting a career.

Grooms said, that as a new crop of students enter her class, she assumes they have very little knowledge of the craft. This may be cumbersome at first, as many are already working in the field and taking the class for a pay increase or job mobility. But there are rewards.

Over at WCCCD’s Eastern Campus, instructor Larry Fuciarelli stresses that welding classes are beneficial to students seeking careers in the arts or who enjoy working with their hands on craft projects.

“We’re preparing students for the future, and the future looks bright,” he said.

Every day Fuciarelli scans the want ads for potential employers to determine what they are looking for in an employee, and recommends his students for the positions. He’s also brought employers to the WCCCD campus to conduct interviews with welding students.

Said McGhee of her experience, “The teachers, the students, the program, I’m just completely satisfied.”

“Welding is so broad,” he said. “Students can even go into robotics and employers are always looking for fabricators. ‘We show our students the sky’s the limit,’ he said.

Fuciarelli said that despite their excellent training and high scores achieved on the American Welding Society Exam, some students still have a tough time finding employment. That’s where he goes the extra mile.

“Every day Fuciarelli scans the want ads seeking openings, interviews potential employers to determine what they are looking for in an employee, and recommends his students for the positions. He’s also brought employers to the WCCCD campus to conduct interviews with welding students. ■

ACCREDITATION

VETERINARY

The Veterinary Technology Program was once again granted full accreditation from the American Veterinary Medical Association Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities.

NURSING

The Nursing Assistant Program, offered at the Western and Northwest Campuses, received continuing approval from the State of Michigan, Bureau of Health Professions.

PHARMACY

The Pharmacy Tech Program received re-accreditation from the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

IN MEMORY OF DR. LAVERNE THOMPSON

Dr. LaVerne Thompson, former chief academic officer at the Northwest Campus, took the first step in promoting global cooperation between WCCCD and a college in Ireland. Dr. Thompson met with Vice Principal Sean Henry of Fermanagh College of Further and Higher Education, County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland this past October. In addition to other relevant topics, the pair discussed a position paper outlining on-line academic and CE course offerings sought by Fermanagh College and a faculty exchange program between the respective institutions.

Dr. Thompson died suddenly in December. Dr. Hattie Johnson-Norris recalls that, “In addition to having excellent rapport and communication skills, Dr. Thompson was caring and supportive toward students, faculty, and staff.” The Young Educator Society (YES), a program which helps motivate high school students to become teachers, has named a scholarship after her in honor of her service and commitment. As a respected member of the academic community, students and peers who continue to support the projects she initiated will miss Dr. Thompson.

WCCCD COORDINATES 2006 NCMPR CONVENTION

The National Council For Marketing and Public Relations has asked WCCCD to coordinate the program for its 2006 national convention. This includes leading the search for presenters and facilitators.

PHI THETA KAPPA INDUCTION

Phi Theta Kappa inducted 120 WCCCD students into this prestigious honor society. A crowd of nearly 500 people converged on the Northwest Campus to celebrate academic excellence. Phi Theta Kappa is the only internationally acclaimed honor society serving two-year institutions that offer associate degree programs.

PHI THETA KAPPA

Good as Gold

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Mark Your Calendars

Graduation Is Around The Corner

For graduates, the pride and sense of accomplishment that comes with walking across the stage to receive their diplomas leaves everlasting memories. We look forward to seeing all at this year’s Commencement Ceremony, scheduled for Saturday, June 4 at 11:00 a.m. at Cobo Arena. Let’s make this a memorable experience for the graduating class of 2005.
Newsmakers

Dr. Carlson Jackson, an English/Reading instructor at WCCCD since 1981, is the recipient of his third Fulbright Scholarship in the last six years. After being selected from a national search of 760 applicants, Dr. Jackson spent last summer in Japan studying the Japanese education system and the implementation of after-school programs. Dr. Jackson’s research involved reviewing the Japanese educational system and measuring it against the No Child Left Behind data.

During his stay, Dr. Jackson had the opportunity to experience Japanese life and culture first-hand. He lived with a Japanese family, observed high school, junior high, elementary, and special education classrooms. Called “juku” and “yobiko,” cram schools (schools held after the regular school day) are a thriving industry attended by 60 percent of Japanese students.

At a high school math class in Oga, Japan, using math manipulatives.

JoAnn Ellen Nyquist has been appointed as a consultant to the Northeast Regional Board of Dental Examiners (NRBDE) and the American Dental Association (ADA) Commission on Dental Accreditation. As a consultant to the NRBDE, Nyquist will have the opportunity to examine candidates for dental hygiene licensure in 14 northeast states, which participate in state board dental and dental hygiene licensure examinations. Her involvement with the ADA also allows her to participate in the accreditation process related to dental hygiene programs in the United States.

Nyquist has been named vice president/president elect of the 2004-2005 Executive Women International’s Detroit Windsor Chapter. The organization is one of more than 45 chapters chartered throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe promoting personal and professional development as well as community involvement.

In Oga City at fish market with Japanese workers.

Larry Morabito now serves on the Michigan Fire Fighter Training Council (MFFTC) which is a committee for the certified Regional Training Centers (RTC). Members are working on a plan to involve the RTC in the MFFTC class development process and are also comparing available standards and delivery processes to current methods.

Congratulations are in order for Dr. Hattie Johnson-Norris for receiving an Appreciation Award from the City of Detroit’s Department of Human Services in September. The award recognized her volunteer support of the Youth Division’s S.T.E.P. Program.

Dr. Hattie Johnson-Norris

The District’s Instruction and Accountability Department and Pat McNally are sponsoring Jason Johnson, a WCCCD student, to attend the Washington Center Internship program this summer. Johnson qualified under a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor for students with disabilities. The internship serves as a unique venue allowing students to gain academic credit from their college or university while attending classes and seminars in Washington D.C.

APPPOINTMENTS

Dr. Karen Brantley has been appointed to serve on the board of the “Women’s Informal Network,” which is a professional women’s group offering support and mentorship in professional goal achievement.

Dr. Karen Brantley

Larry Morabito

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: James Tatum

James Tatum is more than a professional musician. He’s a recording artist, lecturer, a specialist in jazz piano, and a part-time instructor at WCCCD’s Eastern Campus. A retired music director from the Detroit Public School system, with 32 years of service, Tatum now spends his time advancing jazz appreciation.

Tatum is the president/founder of The James Tatum Foundation for the Arts, Inc., that assists in identifying and financially supporting artistically talented Michigan youth. Since 1987, the Foundation has awarded over $226,000 in scholarships to high school seniors who plan to major in performing arts at colleges and universities across the nation.

Tatum is also the recipient of numerous awards and special recognition citations. He was named outstanding “Musician of the Year” by the Michigan State Senate, and was awarded a resolution from the U.S. House of Representatives praising his “lifelong commitment to promote and establish jazz as a national treasure in the eyes of all Americans.” In 2003, Tatum was selected by the Gala Group Worldwide Publisher Co. to become a distinguished member of the Who’s Who Among African Americans — an honor shared by U.S. Secretary Colin Powell, American Express President Kenneth Chenault, and Michael Jordan.

In addition to serving as a member of the International Association of Jazz Educators, Tatum is also the recipient of the 1994 Legends of Jazz International Jazz Award.

Lauren Ferguson

Lauren Ferguson began working at WCCCD in August 2003 as a Community College Fellow with the University of Toledo’s Educational Leadership Program. As of September 2004, Ferguson officially joined the WCCCD family and now serves as the Assistant to the Provost. Her primary responsibilities include the coordination of training programs and activities for the Professional & Staff Development Institute (PSDI), Systems Improvement and Quality Assurance Initiatives for the District, oversight of the Reading Room, and coordination of District Conference day activities.

Solomon Asmelash worked with Wayne State University for five years before joining WCCCD as the Interim Director of Systems Security/Special Projects. Asmelash, who earned a master’s degree in Computer Engineering from WSU, oversees the District’s central data security and privacy policies and procedures. He works with constituent groups to create, document, implement, and manage policies, procedures, and practices that ensure the availability, integrity, and privacy of the District’s information assets. In addition, he is responsible for ensuring the District is in compliance with relevant information technology laws and policies.

William Cartwright has been named the Associate Vice Chancellor for Accounts Receivable. Mr. Cartwright is responsible for student accounts, District receivables, and also serves as the team leader for the Finance Division Banner System implementation. Before coming to WCCCD, he managed his own CPA firm for 10 years specializing in system implementations and audits.

Lauren Ferguson

Pat McNally

Hattie Johnson-Norris

Lauren Ferguson

Larry Morabito

James Tatum

JoAnn Ellen Nyquist

James Tatum

Dr. Hattie Johnson-Norris

Lauren Ferguson

Dr. Karen Brantley

Larry Morabito

Larry Morabito

Lauren Ferguson
Dr. Amal David spent Thanksgiving week in Amman, Jordan. She was invited by the Jordan Trade Association to speak at a conference about enhancing the communication skills of Jordanian business leaders with Americans. During her stay, Dr. David was also asked to promote WCCCD at an expo highlighting study abroad.

In addition to hosting the District’s weekly radio show, “Education First,” Lisa Jackson serves as the voice of the Wildcats basketball teams. You can find Lisa at each home game at the Northwest Campus announcing players and calling the game. Lisa is a sports fan and says the most enjoyable part of announcing is interacting with the fans in the stands. “They can be pretty entertaining. One time as I was making some announcements over the PA system, the father of one of our former players made some ‘choice’ comments about the opposing team and I couldn’t control my laughter. The entire gym heard me laughing!”

Mikael Tesfamikael, executive assistant to the vice chancellor for Administration and Finance, got the chance to visit his homeland, Eritrea, in East Africa. During his trip, he toured the Eritian Institute of Technology and Teacher Education College, a two-year college serving 18,000 students.

After receiving many inquiries such as these in his first months as Director of Extension Center Services at the Lutheran High East Extension Site, Michael Blair began to search for a sound, proven product that would help individuals become computer literate.

Fortunately, Certiport, the company that provides Microsoft Office Specialist exams to WCCCD, also provides a globally recognized certification program called Internet and Computing Core Certification (IC3), an ideal starting point for anyone interested in learning computer and Internet basics. The program gives individuals sufficient Internet and computing skills to enter the current job market, begin higher education programs, or merely use the computer and Internet productively for personal use at home.

Initially, the program was incorporated into the existing Continuing Education courses as a pilot project. Most of the students responded enthusiastically to the IC3 learning environment, with each student having a CD—enabling them to proceed at their own pace, along with the added comfort of an instructor present to assist them.

This semester, for the first time, the IC3 program is offered in three, five-week courses. In addition, the students receive a code number to access the IC3 program online from home 24 hours, seven days a week.

Basic computer and Internet skills have become prerequisites for success in higher education and in the job market. It can no longer be assumed that people have basic computer skills simply because of their increased exposure to computers. The fact remains—exposure does not equal understanding and proficiency. This is evident to many WCCCD instructors and administrators who observe a significant number of our students struggling with the use of computer technology as they attempt to complete their course assignments.

In a competitive marketplace, helping students and job candidates to differentiate themselves from the competition is one key to fostering their success. When student, and job seekers’ resumes and applications include the IC3 credential, admissions officers, and employers are assured these applicants have the computing knowledge and skills to meet the demands of a digital society.

Dr. Curtis Ivery with Dr. Amal David
Lisa Jackson
Eritian Institute of Technology and Teacher Education College
December Delights Dazzle Guests

In a repeat performance, Michael Connery, executive chef for The Hill Seafood and Chop House, dazzled attendees at the second annual December Delights Holiday Event by demonstrating one of his award winning recipes. More than 100 guests filled the Grosse Pointe War Memorial to shop at special boutiques and devour the sumptuous assortment of foods and beverages.

Throughout the evening, models sporting spa and evening collection garments from Chico’s and ties and scarves from Dominic Designs strolled around the guests. Models also changed hairstyles with each costume courtesy of The Coloseum.

“The December Delights event is a great opportunity for community members to show their support of students at Wayne County Community College District as they strive to reach their educational goals. Proceeds from this event will go to support the Education First Foundation at the District which provides scholarships to students in need of funding in order to complete their college degree. What a great time this is to be able to show our support with our friends and neighbors as we prepare for the warmth and joy of the coming holiday season. There is a wonderful selection of holiday goods from local vendors and some of the most delicious cuisine I have ever experienced.”

— Michael P. Dotson
Senior Associate Vice Chancellor for Budget and Financial Reporting
Wayne County Community College District

Dr. George Swan III serves as the MC for the evening

Grosse Pointe Artists Association vendors

Modeling fashions for winter parties

Undreen Asia modeling a festive hairstyle for winter parties

Michael Connery, executive chef for The Hill Seafood and Chop House

IT’S A NEW DAY
Gospel Music

Using the theme, “It’s A New Day,” Eastern Campus hosted the Annual Gospel Music Conference on January 23, 2005. The workshop, designed to provide educational enhancement in the field of gospel music and learning experiences for all choir directors, choir members, musicians, pastors, and singers featured renowned presenters Dr. David R. Curry, Jr., and Mrs. Dorcus Thigpen, founders of the Mississippi Mass Choir. Participants had the opportunity to enroll in a number of sessions including:

- Choir Directing One,
- The History of Gospel Music,
- Church Music Administration,
- The Role of A Choir Member and
- The Power of Prayer.

Professor JaHon Vance, program director, arranged for a Voice Collaboration of the Mass Choir in the Eastern Campus Atrium throughout the afternoon. The culminating event was a concert at the Joshua Temple Church of God in Christ in the evening.
Student Success
Russell Clement

“I believe the only thing we can take with us when we leave this world is knowledge,” said Russell Clement. “We don’t start dying until we stop learning.”

Clement, a Belleville insurance agency owner, decided if he was going to encourage his four sons to receive college degrees, he should obtain one himself. In an attempt to set an example, he began taking classes at WCCCD in 1991 and graduated in 1995. Now, ten years later, Clement was one of 1,500 undergraduate students who received diplomas at the Eastern Michigan University winter commencement.

“I got up this morning and was so excited that I ran six miles,” Clement proclaimed. He sees graduation as just another step in his education. Clement plans on earning a master’s degree in business administration from EMU.

Financial Empowerment Month

Detroit is a bustling metropolis whose foundation was built upon the entrepreneurial spirit of those who wanted to make a difference. From Henry Ford to Berry Gordy, from coney islands to Comerica Bank, businesses big and small are what make Detroit tick.

With this in mind, the Workforce Development and Continuing Education Division of the Wayne County Community College District, declared February Financial Empowerment Month. During that 28-day period a series of lectures and workshops dealing with finance, real estate, and entrepreneurship featuring well known authors and experts drew hundreds to the Downtown Campus.

Dr. Mary Smith, Vice Chancellor for Workforce Development and Continuing Education said, “Detroit is a city filled with people who are concerned with its future. They want to stay in Detroit and open successful businesses that will play a crucial role in its revitalization and renaissance. We see Financial Empowerment Month as a tool to help them along.”

New Reading Room Serves as Resource for Faculty and Staff
January 31, 2005 marked the Grand Opening of the Reading Room. Located on the fifth floor in WCCCD’s Central Administration Building, it will serve as a resource library for faculty and staff with a special emphasis on higher education. Visitors will have the opportunity to conduct research on the Internet, and read published journals, and other reading materials advocating continuing education for the community college.
NORTHWEST CAMPUS

HEALTH AWARENESS FAIR KICK STARTS NEW YEAR

Promises to improve diet, exercise regimens, and overall health topped the list of New Year’s resolutions for 2005. WCCCD’s Northwest Campus helped participants get a start on keeping those promises with its Community Health Awareness Fair in January.

Downriver Campus

FISHING EXPO NETS THE BIG ONES

Fans of sports fishing discovered the secrets of netting the big fish and cooking them at the Michigan Sports Fishing Exposition at the Downriver Campus. Experts from Michigan’s biggest sports fishing retailers, clubs, and restaurants explored the art of catching and cooking, utilizing displays and seminars. White representatives from Cabala’s and the Huron Valley Steelheader’s shared secrets of steelhead fishing, Brass Pro Shops, Gander Mountain, and the Michigan United Conservation Club highlighted topics related to the fishing industry. A chef from the Big Bear Lodge demonstrated techniques for cooking fish, shared recipes, and provided samples for fish lovers. Representatives from the Wayne County Sheriff’s Department also discussed the basics of boating and safety on Michigan’s waterways.

EASTERN CAMPUS

FUTURE LEADERS

On January 15, 2005, Eastern Campus, in collaboration with the Alkeby/Ian Village, a Detroit Youth Opportunity Movement, 4H Clubs, and the City of Detroit Human Services Department sponsored the Future Leaders 2005 Youth Conference. The event featured world entrepreneurship, financial literacy, employability skills, neighborhood community civic participation, leadership, business, and career success. The keynote address by Raphael Johnson, a young entrepreneur, emphasized strategic solutions.

DIABETES AWARENESS FAIR

On January 29, WCCCD in collaboration with FOX 2 News, Bayer Pharmaceutical and Norvo-Nordic sponsored a Diabetes Awareness Fair. Local health professionals provided free screenings for diabetes with consultants from CVS pharmacy. Speakers provided tips on nutrition, prevention, and treatment. Participants in the event were able to obtain free glucose monitoring units and coupons for free units of insulin from CVS Pharmacy.

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

The Detroit Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, in cooperation with the National Tuskegee Airmen Museum presented the annual Aviation Careers Week. Participants from area schools visited the campus during the week-long event and were engaged in lectures by legendary World War II Tuskegee Airmen.

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

HOSTS CAREER EXPO

Officials in the health care industry are reporting that graduates in allied health continue to find employment opportunities and demand for their skills. In response to this trend, WCCCD welcomed high school students, displaced workers, and those entering the workforce later in life to its Career Expo at the Downtown Campus in December. Participants learned about the various allied health-related programs available at the District, Program directors, faculty, and staff were also on-hand to discuss job placement, tutoring and financial aid.

WESTERN CAMPUS

ISLAM AND AMERICA

More than 250 participants attended the third annual “Islam and America: Muslims and Democracy – Education Remains a Priority Conference” at the Western Campus. Democracy and its relevance to Muslims in America, the issues impacting U.S. minorities, and the role of Muslim political candidates were the key topics of discussion. Featured speakers included Dr. Ali Mazuri, an Albert Schweitzer Professor in the Humanities and Director of the Global Cultural Studies at Bingham University, State University of New York, and Dr. Sherman Jackson, Islamic Studies professor from the University of Michigan.

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

FIRE ACADEMY TRAINING PROGRAM

The Detroit Fire Academy is partnering with WCCCD to provide a two-year Training Program in Fire Science and Fire Protection. Those enrolled in this program will receive instruction on fire prevention, fire suppression, and fire protection. The program is open to anyone interested in a career in fire protection.

COMPUCARE CORPORATION

Compuware has agreed to provide three to five paid internship positions for the District’s Information Technology students beginning in May.

The DTE Energy Electrical Line Design Apprenticeship program, in its second year, has 11 students enrolled and a new group will begin in the Fall 2005 semester.

Hud employees, through a contract with the U.S. Department of House and Urban Development, will receive business writing and report writing skills from WCCCD.

A Lead Safety Training Seminar for low-income families with children under the age of six will also take place as part of the educational partnership with HUD.

Romulus Community Schools (RCS) has once again asked WCCCD to customize professional and education services for alternative students. This is the third contract with RCS for instruction that includes Medical First Responder, Emergency Medical Prep, Heating and Cooling, Refrigeration, Computer Information System, and Web Design. In addition, assessments in reading, math, writing, and locating information will be given to address the needs of high school students competing for the Michigan Merit Award.

In recognition that the future growth of the economy will depend on the ability of today's youth to transfer creative ideas into business opportunities, WCCCD, in partnership with Junior Achievement, facilitated a Train The Trainer workshop for Building Entrepreneurship Skills. The course teaches business and entrepreneurship concepts to children K – 12.

Citigroup Primerica Financial Service Group has partnered with WCCCD to host financial workshops for youth. More than 100 children attended the first workshop that focused on banking, saving money and investing.
WCCCD Responds to Student Needs

The District Communications Management Center (DCMC), which opened in August, is providing “Above and Beyond” customer service to students, community, and staff. Goals for the 2004-05 academic year include reducing the number of calls transferred, assisting with student concerns on a one-to-one basis, as well as identifying areas that present challenges to the District’s ability to provide service.

The District’s new toll free number, 1-800-300-2118, serves as an excellent example of how the DCMC continues to enhance its services. Trained staff provide rapid responses to students and community members, covering a wide array of subjects including degree and certificate programs, upcoming events, and bringing closure to customer service related issues.

PSDI Supports the District’s Commitment to Student Success, Community Outreach, and Economic Development. The PSDI’s goals include:

• Coordinating special events
• Providing ongoing training opportunities for new and current employees
• Educational sessions offered through distance learning and workshops covering topics such as Dealing with Difficult Colleagues, Teamwork Development, Developing Leadership Skills for Women, and Stress, Time, and Conflict Management.

Professional & Staff

Development Institute

WCCCD’s Professional & Staff Development Institute (PSDI) kicked off its fall line-up of workshops with a discussion about national priorities for development and the implications for metropolitan urban colleges.

Keynote speaker, Dr. George R. Boggs, president and chief executive officer of the American Association of Community Colleges, focused on how trends such as changing student demographics, the paradigm shift within teaching and learning, and strong educational leadership impact the strategic framework of urban colleges.

Participants listened carefully and took notes as he shared best methods, models, and practices to assist in promoting the success of multi-campus districts while advocating greater student access and opportunity for the future.

Designed to provide staff members with opportunities to develop their skills, the PSDI supports the District’s commitment to student success, community outreach, and economic development. The PSDI’s goals include:

• Coordinating special events
• Providing ongoing training opportunities for new and current employees
• Improving professional interaction between WCCCD’s employees, and between employees and the community

The district-wide PSDI winter and spring calendar is now available and includes educational sessions offered through distance learning and workshops covering topics such as:

- Managing & Leading:
  - Dealing with Difficult Colleagues
  - Teamwork Development
  - Developing Leadership Skills for Women

- Skill Enrichment:
  - Stress, Time & Conflict Management
  - Writing for Publication
  - Campus Violence & Prevention
  - Copyright Law in the Academic Setting

For more information or to register, contact Cora Morris at (313) 486-2252 or email at cmorris1@wcccd.edu.

Spring 2005 Calendar of Workshops

Managing & Leading

DEALING WITH DIFFICULT COLLEAGUES
Date: March 3, 2005 • Time: 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Location: Downtown Campus, Multipurpose Room

TEAMWORK DEVELOPMENT
Date: March 18, 2005 • Time: 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Location: Central Administration Building, Board Room

DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP SKILLS FOR WOMEN
Date: March 15, 2005 • Time: 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Location: Western Campus, Multipurpose Room

Skill Enrichment

STRESS, TIME & CONFLICT MANAGEMENT
Date: March 10, 2005 • Time: 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Location: Downriver Campus, Ray Mix Room

WRITING FOR PUBLICATION
Date: April 1, 2005 • Time: 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Location: Northwest Campus, Room A 200

CAMPUS VIOLENCE & PREVENTION
Date: April 7, 2005 • Time: 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Location: Downriver Campus, Ray Mix Room

COPYRIGHT LAW IN THE ACADEMIC SETTING
Date: April 22, 2005 • Time: 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Location: Central Administration Building, Board Room

DCCCD staff members engage in a brainstorming session during a PSDI workshop.

From left to right: Cecilia Soto, Diane Gonzalez, George Boggs, Donnell Mason II, Raquel Garcia-Anderson.

Bernadette Bostic, known for her skill in answering student requests.

WCCCD Introduces Career & Personal Development Institute

The Career and Personal Development Institute is designed to assist students by increasing their self-confidence and by helping them understand the process of decision-making as it relates to career, college, and life success. In addition to learning how to recognize personal strengths and values, participants are introduced to strategies including enhancing communication skills, and utilizing traditional career planning and job-search strategies to increase employment options.

How does it work?

Participants enroll in a for-credit Career and Professional Development Course and work with mentors to improve job search and interview skills. They attend college job fairs, receive assistance with creating a resume and cover letter, both hard copy and Internet based, and receive one-on-one advisement. Highlights include mock interviews with the Human Resources Department and an assessment of interests and abilities.

For more information, contact the Director of the Career and Personal Development Institute, David C. Butty, at 1-800-300-2118.

Deciding On A Career Path Can Be A Difficult Decision; what do you want to be when you grow up?
The District’s Third Annual District-Wide Conference Day kicked-off energetically with a special presentation by internationally renowned speaker, author, and television personality Les Brown.

Born as a twin and adopted at six weeks by Mamie Brown, Les Brown overcame both educational and financial challenges to rise to national prominence. “Mr. Brown is nationally renowned as a gifted motivational speaker. He brought tears, laughter, and a feeling of empowerment,” stated Unbreen Amir, who serves as WCCCD’s district director for publications and recruitment. “His story of courage and commitment touched everyone’s heart.”

District-Wide Conference Day is a joint partnership between labor and management and is designed to enhance communication, strengthen relationships, and provide opportunities for information sharing. The 900 faculty, staff, and administrators who attended the event, held at the Cobo Conference Center each year, came away with new ideas and inspirations for each of their positions with WCCCD.

This year’s theme, Access and Opportunity: Fulfilling the Promise – The Comprehensive Community College of the 21st Century, provided participants with the opportunity to choose from a variety of three-topic sessions which included economic impact, E-systems, continuing education, student services, instruction, managing and leading, a healthy workplace, and new programs and services.

Keynote speaker, Dr. George Baker, Professor Emeritus of the North Carolina State University Community College Leadership Program, addressed “A Promise of Access and Opportunity.” Baker is the former director of the National Initiative for Leadership and Institutional Effectiveness and has co-authored 150 books, articles, and technical reports.

The day concluded with a special program recognizing employees for outstanding service to the District. The following people received outstanding service awards.

**Outstanding Student Service**
- George Hicks
- Jacqueline Alexander
- Mohammad Lazarus
- Marie Welt
- Patrice Yancey

**Outstanding Faculty**
- Michael Bumgardner
- Gary Ciampa
- JoAnn Nyquist
- Richard Sietz
- Jahon Vance

**Outstanding Service to District**
- David Beaumont
- James Dodson
- Martha Grier
- Mohammad Mirza
- Mattie Porter
- Tina Casali
- Lorraine Colts
- Mary Frances Finley
- Earlene Williams
- Ernestine Smith
1 Faculty and staff converge for lunch and speakers.  2 Harvey Hershey (left) chats with colleague James Flaherty.  3 Staff enjoys break-out session.  4 Guest speakers Les Brown (left), and Mildred Gaddes (center) pose with and Dr. Ivery after delivering their presentations.  5 Dr. George Baker and James Jackson President of the American Federation of Teachers, Local 2000.  6 Omobonike Odogbami.  7 Elizabeth Atkins Bowman (left) and Stanley Kirk (right).  8 Seated from left to right: Wanda Tate and Blanca Sosa, enjoy District Conference Day activities.
Senior Power has partnered with WCCCD to offer free courses in basic and intermediate computer usage from composing e-mails to scanning and uploading photos.

With the assistance of WCCCD students, seniors can learn keyboard use, computer terminology, e-mail, photo scanning and uploading photos, surfing the Internet, utilizing online forums, personalizing and e-mailing e-Greeting cards, and Internet safety and secure online shopping tips. Instruction on programs such as MS Windows, MS Word, and MS Excel is also available.

The classes are offered every Wednesday at the Western Campus.

**AROUND THE DISTRICT**

**COMBASE**

WCCCD Selected to Make Two National Presentations in 2005

COMBASE, a national consortium of community colleges, has selected WCCCD to present at the April 2005 convention of the American Association of Community Colleges in Boston.

The theme of the convention relates to the open door of community colleges. WCCCD and North Harris Montgomery Community College District (NHMCCD), in Texas, will represent COMBASE and present best practices for serving under-prepared and under-served populations. WCCCD will outline plans to develop an Open Door Institute to consolidate and re-organize its services to those experiencing personal, financial, social, and educational barriers to success. NHMCCD will discuss its new learning center concept.

WCCCD has also been selected to make a presentation on a similar topic at the March 2005 convention of the American Association of Higher Education, recognized as the premier national organization of the American family, examines both the shortcomings and strengths of American community colleges, and promotes the value of a learning agenda and learning outcomes.

**LEARN TO SURF THE NET**

WCCCD Chancellor, Dr. Curtis L. Ivery’s book, *Journeys of Conscience*, is a reflection of his thoughts on life and human values from a personal level.

A dynamic collection of essays which detail the human condition and the resulting triumphs and tragedies that arise from them, the book has been a labor of love for Dr. Ivery, whose columns detail the emotional, the physical and sociological impact of how our surroundings from birth to death define us and the way we choose to live.

In *Journeys of Conscience*, Dr. Ivery pulls no punches, using a razor sharp and sometimes biting wit, along with tender flourishes to get his point across about the choices we make on a conscious and subconscious level. He doesn’t hold back in terms of subject matter, discussing sometimes controversial issues surrounding families, children, media, current events, government, and male-female relationships in a forthright manner that sometimes makes even the most jaded of people stand up and take notice.

**WELCOME ALAN ANDERSON**

WCCCD would like to extend a warm welcome to Grosse Ile resident Alan Anderson, the newly elected member to the WCCCD Board of Trustees. As a successor to Edward D. Clemente, Anderson will begin his first term as a representative of District 7. He brings years of service and experience having served as chair for the BASF Community Advisory Panel, Council of the Arts board member, and is active in many other local business based organizations. He was also recently chosen to serve the Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber of Commerce. The Board of Trustees also elected officers. Trustee Lewis will now serve as the chairperson and Charles Paddock as the vice-chair. Juanita C. Ford was designated as the treasurer and Mary Ellen Stempfle as the secretary.
Distance Education
Can Reduce Digital Divide for Low-Income Mothers

by Dr. Stephanie R. Bulger

Amy Jones is a 32-year-old single mother of two young children. She works 30 hours per week making $5.15 an hour at a fast food restaurant in her neighborhood, a job she found through the Work First program, an arm of the Department of Career Development and Michigan Works.

She is barely making ends meet and wants a career as a surgical technologist that could net her a salary of $31,000 a year. Her community college counselor suggested she enroll in online Distance Education courses that will fit into her busy schedule. But without a computer or the skills to use one, she’s stuck.

Thousands of women in Detroit are like Jones. According to 2000 U.S. Census Bureau data, 8,301 single mothers in Detroit live at or below the poverty level. With responsibilities including work and child care, it’s almost impossible for these women to attend college in the traditional sense. What many don’t know is that policy changes in the State of Michigan can help give low-income women access to computers, the Internet, and technology training.

THE POTENTIAL OF DISTANCE EDUCATION

Distance Education allows students to take courses at a convenient location and time, usually assisted by technology such as a computer. The Internet has made college more accessible to students, such as low-income mothers who may be unable to attend regular face-to-face classes. Indeed, the trend is women who participate in distance education outnumber men.

HOW CAN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN HELP?

In my view, the state can improve opportunities for working mothers to take Distance Education courses in several ways.

STIMULATE COMPUTER OWNERSHIP AND INTERNET ACCESS

■ Tax credits can be considered for corporations, organizations, and local governments that convert old computers into Internet terminals and donate them to programs serving low-income mothers.

■ Affordable Internet access provided by the state. The Michigan Broadband Development Authority (MBDA) recently financed a $1.3 million loan to extend and improve wireless broadband service in a rural part of the state. Wireless Internet service provider M-33 Access has been contracted to create a wireless infrastructure to serve about 158,500 households and 9,700 businesses. Net4Kids, a program sponsored by M-33 Access, gives parents a discount on Internet service. Similar programs can be instituted across the state.

PROVIDE ACCESS TO TRAINING ON BASIC COMPUTER SKILLS

■ The State of Michigan could expand the number and type of approved education and training programs through Michigan Works to provide more opportunities for basic computer training. Regulations could also be amended to allow low-income mothers to receive subsidized training on basic computer skills.

EXPLOIT THE FLEXIBILITY OF THE FEDERAL TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF) STATUTE.

■ The State could create a “Parents as Scholars” program modeled after one in place in the State of Maine. In Maine, the program allows parents to continue their college education and receive TANF benefits.

■ Consider an “education pays” initiative currently in place in Kentucky, which grants $2.5 million a year to community colleges to implement “Ready to Work” programs. Offered by community and technical colleges, financial and academic supports are put in place through work-study, mentoring, and other mechanisms.

■ Take another lead from Kentucky where the flexibility of TANF funds is used to allow low-income parents to attend 24 months of postsecondary education while unemployed. Additional benefits are available for those working at least 20 hours a week.

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Members of WCCCD advisory councils from Grosse Pointe, Harper Woods, Downriver, and Western and many other dignitaries and community activists were invited by Dr. Curtis L. Ivery to attend a special session at the Downtown Administration Building October 22, 2004. The Pathways Presentation including capital improvements and the Accountability Transparency Update was given by Dr. Curtis L. Ivery, Executive Chancellor, Mr. Michael Dotson, Senior Associate and Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance, Mr. Mark Lang, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, Dr. Randall Miller, Executive Vice Chancellor, Shelia Anderson, Executive Assistant to the Chancellor for Budget & Procurement Accountability, and Tony Arminia, Associate Vice Chancellor for Career Programs. Among those attending were Senator Ray Basham, Senator Erma Clark-Coleman, Representative Hoon-Yung Hqoppod, Attorney Carl Miltsell, U.S. Representative John Conyers and many advisory council members and guests. Attendees were delighted to learn about each other. At the conclusion of the session, they introduced themselves individually, revealing a wealth of community activists.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR DISTANCE LEARNING STUDENTS

The Western Campus Learning Center (formerly known as the Academic Support Department) has embarked upon a mission to provide educational support services to the District’s on-line students.

The Western Campus Learning Center (formerly known as the Academic Support Department) has embarked upon a mission to provide educational support services to the District’s on-line students. The Learning Assistant, students can open an account in Blackboard to find information on numerous topics dealing with writing, reading, math, science, computer skills, and much more, and how to use the computer. The Internet has made college more accessible to students, such as low-income mothers who may be unable to attend regular face-to-face classes. Indeed, the trend is women who participate in distance education outnumber men.

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www.wcccd.edu
Requests your presence at a reception Celebrating WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY BROWN AND JUANITA C. FORD GALLERY Student Art Exhibition (313) 496-2570 January 20, through March 5, 2005 COLLEGE DISTRICT WCCCD Downtown Campus OPENING RECEPTION First K-12 EXHIBITION R.S.V.P. or 12:00 - 5:00 p.m. (313) 496-2570 January 20, through March 5, 2005 WCCCD Downtown Campus Thursday, January 20, 2005 1001 Fort St. • Detroit, MI OPENING RECEPTION First K-12 EXHIBITION R.S.V.P. or 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. (313) 496-2521 (313) 496-2521

WCCCD's first Technology Showcase took place at the Western Campus in December. Presented by the Distance Learning Department in sponsorship with the Workforce Development/Continuing Education Division and Tech Prep, the one-day event allowed high school and college instructors to sample new and emerging technologies making a difference in the development and delivery of education. Sandy Mills-Alford, of Alivetek.com, served as the guest speaker on the topic of “The Cool Genius of Interactive Learning Objects.” WCCCD faculty, Dr. Gerald Van Dusen, Verna Brown, Dr. Belinda Moses, and William Casey presented hands-on workshops on Group Work, Virtual Chat and Online Examinations.

On January 20th, the Brown and Juanita C. Ford Gallery hosted an Opening event for the First K-12 Student Art Exhibition. This celebration of young artists from Detroit will be on display from January 20 to March 5, 2005, Tuesdays through Fridays, Noon to 5:00 p.m. The Gallery is located in the WCCCD Downtown Campus at 1001 Fort Street. Come see the emerging talent of Detroit’s young artists.

Fall enrollment at Wayne County Community College District reached record breaking numbers as students registered for classes at all five campuses. The dramatic 65 percent increase at the Western campus is a direct result of the District’s mission to respond to the rapidly growing economic demands occurring in the Western Wayne region. WCCCD’s management strategy of consistently focusing on all urban and suburban regions within its service area has led to this tremendous student enrollment growth. Credit hour enrollment is up by 3.4 percent. Dr. Curtis L. Ivery, Chancellor, attributes the increases to the fact that, “Our efforts are providing high quality educational services and strong student support services.” Campus improvements, along with a more comprehensive Continuing Education Division with additional course offerings and special events, One-Stop-Shopping for student services, an increased number of program offerings, and enhanced customer service have all contributed to the student enrollment record.

Interesting Facts: Over 10,000 students will benefit each year as a result of the newly renovated labs. Fourteen labs were renovated into state-of-the-art facilities at the campuses, excluding the Northwest Campus. The Downriver, Western, and Downtown Campuses now have a BIO lab.

CALLING ALL READERS! Are you a WCCCD graduate? Have you recently been promoted, published an article in a professional journal, or gone Above and Beyond to make a difference in the lives of others? If so, we want to hear from you! Send your news to uamir1@wcccd.edu or call 313.496.2819.