Wayne County Community College District Celebrates 50 years of Education Opportunity

SIX CAMPUSES, ONE DISTRICT, ONE VISION
Welcome to the Heinz C. Prechter Educational and Performing Arts Center (EPAC). As Chancellor of Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) I am proud of the continued advancements of each of our six campuses including those made here at the Downriver Campus.

From its inception in 2010, there was a significant vision for the purpose of EPAC that has been surpassed by the outpour of commitment from the downriver community. One of the main purposes of EPAC was to provide a facility on this campus that would support the growing multicultural neighborhoods that call this area home. We have exceeded this purpose with annual events highlighting the cultural foundation that makes our region unique. This community has helped to make this campus a resource not only for education but for businesses, funders, artist and entrepreneurs as well.

EPAC has set the standard for our outreach programs going far beyond that of a traditional arts center. Through collaboration with the School of Continuing Education and Workforce Development, EPAC offers courses, seminars and workshops to further develop talent in the region.

WCCCD is committed to enriching the lives of our students, our faculty, our stakeholders and our community. As we approach our 50th Anniversary, we hope that you continue to celebrate the accomplishments of our district and continue to support EPAC. We welcome you to tour our facilities, browse through our catalog or take a course. We are a college built for the community. We are your college.

Dr. Curtis L. Ivery,

Chancellor, Wayne County Community College District
Welcome to Wayne County Community College District’s Heinz C. Prechter Educational and Performing Arts Center, a 78,000 square foot state-of-the-art education and entertainment center located at the District’s Downriver Campus.

The Performing Arts Center, with a 812-seat theatre and orchestra pit, enclosable studio/rehearsal space, exhibit and gallery space and 11 classrooms, has become a vital hub for the arts in our community. We’re proud to be the place where many residents enjoy star-studded performances, Broadway musical productions, family productions and cultural fairs that combine food, the performing arts and robust markets to delight all of the senses.

The Heinz C. Prechter Educational and Performing Arts Center is a community resource – and a constant source of inspiration and joy for all in our region.

We hope that you will find this magazine enjoyable, and that it inspires you to give us a visit.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,

Anthony Arminiak
President, WCCCD Downriver Campus
TABLE OF CONTENTS

EPAC Overview 03
Annual Community Events 05
Notable Performances 11
WCCCD Uses 23
The Heinz C. Prechter Educational and Performing Arts Center (EPAC) is a world-class performance auditorium and multipurpose facility on Wayne County Community College District’s Downriver Campus.

Named after Heinz C. Prechter, a German immigrant who grew his company from a one-room workshop to a global powerhouse in Southgate, MI, the facility honors the vision of the late automotive icon, to educate and inspire the Downriver community.

Opened to the public in 2010, the Heinz C. Prechter Educational and Performing Arts Center advances opportunities in the arts, education and entertainment in the Downriver area. Educational programs at EPAC seek to engage everyone from the youngest learners, discovering the magic of theatre for the first time, to young artists and technicians beginning their careers, to community members exploring the richness of the arts in a lifelong education – often at little or no cost. EPAC’s outstanding presenting season brings performers from around the world to WCCCD. Concerts feature headliners, as well as regional favorites, and cultural festivals showcase the rich diversity that exists within our communities.

Beyond the arts, EPAC also regularly hosts WCCCD credit, continuing education, visual and performing arts programs, professional development courses, as well as community meetings, corporate conferences, and more.

The Heinz C. Prechter Educational and Performing Arts Center serves as a center of learning and growth for all in our region. WCCCD is proud to provide the residents of Southeastern Michigan access to this important community resource.
The Heinz C. Prechter Educational and Performing Arts Center was designed and built to provide the Downriver community opportunities to access world-class arts, education and entertainment in their own backyard. While the Performing Arts Center is a professional venue, it is first and foremost a community center.

Educational programs at the Performing Arts Center seek to engage everyone from the youngest learners, discovering the magic of theatre for the first time, to young artists and technicians beginning their careers, to community members exploring the richness of the arts in a lifelong education - often at little or no cost. Annual community events at the Educational and Performing Arts Center range from family-focused, interactive performances, to celebrations of cultural heritage and more.
Each October, WCCCD opens the doors of the Heinz C. Prechter Educational and Performing Arts Center for a day of family fun with the Wild Swan Theater and Halloween-themed activities.

Wild Swan Theater presents Once Upon a Time, a charming set of classic tales and songs for young children that bring the magic of The Three Billy Goats Gruff, The Three Little Pigs, and other classics to life in a truly unforgettable experience. Children are encouraged to arrive wearing their Halloween costume for post-show activities, which include an on-stage costume parade, mask-making and indoor trick-or-treating.

WCCCD is honored to support the mission of the Ann Arbor-based Wild Swan Theater by hosting this low-cost, audience-accessible performance year after year.

Other family events held at the Performing Arts Center in the past include performances by the Southern Great Lakes Symphony and the Golden Griffon Stringtet.

Originally formed as a volunteer group of musicians from Allen Park who wished to play together and perform on occasion, the Southern Great Lakes Symphony has grown into a professional regional orchestra of high quality and regard. In addition to stunning performances, the Symphony provides audience members the opportunity to learn more about the nature and history of the music the orchestra performs through live question and answer sessions, making a trip to the symphony something the whole family can enjoy!

Performances by the Golden Griffon Stringtet, an acoustic, instrumental, square dance and contra dance band, provide a similar experience. The Stringtet infuses performances of early American traditional and folk music with discussion on the origins of the instruments and music they play. The Golden Griffon Stringtet is a family favorite at the Heinz C. Prechter Educational and Performing Arts Center.
The Heinz C. Prechter Educational and Performing Arts Center hosts a celebration of Hispanic culture and heritage each September with the Annual Hispanic Heritage Festival. The event celebrates the talents, creativity and achievements of the Hispanic community. Participants have the opportunity to learn about the culture and contributions of Hispanics through a variety of workshops and group discussions. The event also includes an art exhibit and workshop, traditional dance and music presentations from the Center for Music and Performing Arts Southwest (COMPAS), as well as appearances by Fantasia Ballet Folklórico and Latin Extravaganza. The event is open to the public at no cost.
Wayne County Community College District’s Continuing Education, in partnership with The International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit, Inc. presents the annual Bridge to Asia Extravaganza each April at the Heinz C. Prechter Educational and Performing Arts Center. Bridge to Asia showcases the beauty, diversity and history of Asian cultures and their communities to residents of Southeastern Michigan through performances, cuisine, and demonstrations of traditions. Included in the event’s itinerary are visual displays of artifacts, hands-on activities such as calligraphy, yoyos, henna, origami, colorful art and craft exhibits and much more. Stage performances allow each country to display dancers, musicians and speakers both live and on video. This event is open to the public at no cost.
The All About the Arts Coffee Series, presented at no cost to the public by the Wayne County Community College District School of Continuing Education, explores the roots of different performance arts in, and tracks their development through, time and space.

Past talks have covered the rise and fall of Motown in the music clubs of Detroit in the 50s and 60s; the origin of American folk music; and, the science of love as seen through different artistic mediums and expressions.
The Heinz C. Prechter Educational and Performing Arts Center also hosts a world-class presenting season, bringing an array of top performances and talent from around Michigan, the nation and the world to the Downriver Community. The 812-seat venue provides audience members the unique opportunity to enjoy star-studded performances in an intimate setting, while the technical amenities make the Performing Arts Center a favorite stop for big-name artists passing through Michigan.

Yearly offerings include marquee headliners, touring theatre pieces, children’s programming and variety acts. Past seasons have featured Michigan’s very own Jeff Daniels, country music legend Clint Black, Tony award-winning Broadway musical DAMN YANKEES, and more.
Actor, musician and playwright Jeff Daniels brought his original blend of folk, bluegrass and blues to the EPAC in February, 2011 for a solo performance that attendees will not soon forget. The Michigan native, who has released six full-length albums while maintaining a prolific acting career and serving as Executive Director of the non-profit Purple Rose Theatre Company in Chelsea, Michigan, proved himself an excellent guitarist, songwriter and performer.
Wayne County Community College District was honored to have country music superstar Clint Black formally open the Heinz C. Prechter Educational and Performing Arts Center with an inaugural concert in April 2010. Black, known for his fiercely independent style and original material, set a high bar for future EPAC performances with a high-energy set of traditional country songs.
Crystal Bowersox took the stage at the Heinz C. Prechter Educational and Performing Arts Center in late September 2015 with a personal and moving, yet energetic performance of her signature blend of folk, rock and country. Bowersox, who was the runner-up on American Idol in 2010, has released two albums and play alongside everyone from Harry Connick Jr., Joe Cocker, and Alanis Morrisette, to Michael Franti, John Popper and BB King.
Michel Lauziere, a Canadian visual humorist, fantasy artist and creative musical performer, dazzled audiences at the Heinz C. Prechter Educational and Performing Arts Center in October 2011 with a performance that linked music and comedy together for an unforgettable experience. Lauziere wowed the audience with his imagination and creativity, entering in his famous giant balloon and playing “Happy Birthday” with a water gun and some pots and pans.
Noted jazz/pop singer and son of legendary jazz crooner, Mel Tormé, Steve March Tormé performed his father’s favorite standards in “Tormé Sings Tormé” at the Heinz C. Prechter Educational and Performing Arts Center in February 2011. Tormé, who records for a variety of independent labels, actively tours and performs with his jazz trio, big bands and symphony orchestras. Tormé’s romantic sounds had the crowd swooning at this pre-Valentine’s day concert.
Legendary New Orleans soul and R&B singer Aaron Neville warmed the holiday stage at the Heinz C. Prechter Educational and Performing Arts Center in December 2011 with a combination of fan favorites and holiday classics. The holiday performance featured Neville’s brother, Charles, on saxophone, and incorporated well-known holiday classics, as well as gospel, jazz and R&B favorites. The holiday performance was presented as part of Neville’s fifth-annual nationwide Christmas tour.
Seven-time Tony Award-winning Broadway musical DAMN YANKEES came to the Heinz C. Prechter Educational and Performing Arts Center in March 2012 – just in time for spring training! Based on Wallop’s novel The Year the Yankees Lost the Pennant, the musical tells the story of a middle-aged baseball fanatic who trades his soul to the Devil for a chance to lead his favorite team in the pennant race against The New York Yankees, only to realize the true worth of the life (and wife) he left behind. The Broadway musical was a comedy home run at the Performing Arts Center.
The internationally-renowned Giordano Dance Company performed at the Heinz C. Prechter Educational and Performing Arts Center in April 2013. Founded in 1963 in Chicago, the Giordano Dance Chicago pioneered American jazz dance, and continues to captivate audiences around the world with its dynamic performances and the diversity and wide appeal of its repertoire. In addition to the main performance, audience members were invited to a special pre-show performance, created by Giordano Dance Company and performed by local student dancers from Taylor Dance and Living Arts Youth Dance Ensemble. The Giordano Dance Company also hosted a public lecture on the history and evolution of American jazz dance at the Center.
PERFORMERS EXPO

Area performance artists took the stage at the Heinz C. Prechter Educational and Performing Arts Center in March 2012 to perform a showcase act with the hope of wowing judges from some of the area’s top venues.

A wide variety of talented vocal, instrumental, dance and variety performers attended the expo to present their on-stage showcases of up to five minutes for review of representatives from such venues as Campus Martius, Chene and New Center Parks, Music Hall’s Jazz Café, the Concert of Colors, Movement Electronic Music Festival and African World Festivals. This innovative event, which was free and open to the public, drew a large and energetic audience.
Beyond educational events and dazzling performances, Wayne County Community College District utilizes the Heinz C. Prechter Educational and Performing Arts Center for a number of District functions, including student recognition and convocation ceremonies, as well as professional development, training and seminars for WCCCD faculty and staff.
Hundreds gather at the Heinz C. Prechter Educational and Performing Arts Center each fall for the annual induction of Wayne County Community College District students into the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society’s Alpha Upsilon Zeta Chapter at WCCCD.

Established in 1918, Phi Theta Kappa is the only internationally acclaimed honor society serving two-year institutions. Phi Theta Kappa provides opportunities for the development of leadership and service, an intellectual climate to exchange ideas and ideals, lively fellowship for scholars, and stimulation of interest in continuing academic excellence.

This ceremony recognizes the hard work, diligence, and commitment Wayne County Community College District students exhibit on a daily basis – both inside the classroom and out.
The Nursing Program at Wayne County Community College District has a long history of promoting excellence in the nursing community, and twice each year (in May and December) Program graduates, their family and friends, come together at the Heinz C. Prechter Educational and Performing Arts Center for the Pinning Ceremony.

The Pinning Ceremony is an important occasion for nursing students. The pin is a distinctive mark of nursing excellence and service to others, and indicates that the nurse has successfully completed a nursing program and is fully qualified to enter the nursing profession. The Pinning Ceremony is an opportunity to honor WCCCD nursing graduates as they move on to the next step of their professional lives in a variety of health care settings.
From professional development opportunities to college-wide conferences and training seminars, Wayne County Community College District utilizes the space and capabilities of the Heinz C. Prechter Educational and Performing Arts Center to bring faculty and staff together for reflection, learning and growth several times each year.

District Conference Day is an annual event that encourages Wayne County Community College District faculty and staff to enhance communication, strengthen relationships, and share information. Focus group discussions and special interest sessions delve into topics related to student services, instruction and leadership. District Conference Day also provides an opportunity for District leadership to recognize faculty members and staff who have demonstrated outstanding service to WCCCD.

Other professional development and training opportunities held by Wayne County Community College District at the Performing Arts Center include computer literacy, leadership, communication, advising and retention. WCCCD is committed to the continual professional development and
THE WORLD AT YOUR DOORSTEP
CAMPUS LOCATIONS

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS
1001 W. Fort
Detroit, MI 48226
313-496-2758

DOWNRIVER CAMPUS
21000 Northline
Taylor, MI 48180
734-946-3500

EASTERN CAMPUS
5901 Conner
Detroit, MI 48213
313-922-3311

MARY ELLEN STEMPFLE UNIVERSITY CENTER/
CENTER FOR LEARNING TECHNOLOGY
19305 Vernier Road
Harper Woods, MI 48225
313-962-7150

NORTHWEST CAMPUS
8200 West Outer Drive
Detroit, MI 48219
313-943-4000

WESTERN CAMPUS
9555 Haggerty
Belleville, MI 48111
734-699-7008

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