Marilyn Pace, a WCCCD student who lacked sufficient funds to pay for dental hygiene studies, related her personal story to then, Senator Barack Obama at a meeting arranged by his aides.

Pace described the cost of supplies, course fees, and gas to get to and from classes, and her father’s disability, which keeps him from working. She was told by a WCCCD financial aid counselor that private loans should be able to close her financial gap. “You’re doing a good job,” Obama told Pace. “The key is just hanging in there, but you’re making good choices.”

Pace later introduced then Senator Obama to a small group of WCCCD students, to whom he described his proposal for a tax credit to help pay college costs and his plan to reform the federal student loan market. “I will make college affordable for every American. Period,” Obama promised the students.

President-elect Obama has proposed a $4,000 tax credit that would pay nearly all the annual expenses for community college students and two-thirds of costs at four-year institutions. In return, students would have to perform 100 hours of community service each year. He would also make changes to reduce administrative costs and bank subsidies in federal student loans, and simplify the financial aid application process.
Chancellor’s Message

Welcome to another edition of Dimensions

We welcome you back to another issue describing the numerous events occurring around the District. It comes as no surprise that we are producing leading scholars, and you will read about some of these outstanding students in this issue. Our 39th graduating class represented the largest number of graduating students in our history. While we can boast about the size of the class of 2008, we can also be proud of the individual achievements.

For this issue the article, “Our Pride is Showing,” features Dr. Ernest Retland, an outstanding educator who has been a part of our WCCCD team for decades. Other articles focus on exciting programs such as the Chancellor’s Reading Carnival, new innovations in learning, and the opening of two new outstanding WCCCD facilities at the Western Campus and the Grosse Pointe Harper Woods University Square.

As we guide students through the educational process, we also provide staff members with the opportunity to grow in their leadership roles. This year’s leadership conference was an outstanding event featuring nationally known author, Dr. Marshall Goldsmith. WCCCD also hosted presidential candidate Senator Barack Obama who spoke at the Downriver Campus and generously shared his time with students, promising to address educational financing issues if elected.

As I said in my commencement address, “This is a significant moment for the College. The many contributions of families, staff, and administrators have supported students and the mission of the College to fulfill dreams and hopes of citizens throughout Wayne County.” I hope that through reading of our successes, you will share in the success of the growing reputation of WCCCD.

Sincerely,

Curtis L. Ivery
Chancellor, WCCCD

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 313.496.2687 ext. 2025.
DYNAMIC LEARNING FACILITY PREPARING STUDENTS TO THRIVE IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

University Square, located on Vernier Road in Harper Woods (the former Beacon East Theatre site), is a partnership among universities and WCCCD to provide seamless articulated programs in a commonly shared facility using various modalities of distance learning technology. As a center of communication, University Square will become the educational hub of the region.

The partnership will make possible customized options for continuing education, professional studies, bachelor’s and master’s degree programs. University Square will build partnerships that are designed to encourage innovation and productive connections with the global learning community.

This plan will bring WCCCD, universities, businesses, and K-12 school systems together for a creative approach to provide education and enrich the future for the people of Wayne County. Classes will begin this spring.
Distance education, also known as e-learning, is the fastest growing trend in education. As one of the largest providers of distance education in the state of Michigan, WCCCD has expanded its reach to offer educational opportunities to additional communities through distance education. The Center for Distance Education has developed partnerships with Gatlin Education Services and The League for Innovation in the Community College to serve this region’s workforce and assist other institutions of higher education with high-tech innovation.

Meeting the continuing education, lifelong learning, and professional development needs of the community with online courses is the focus of the e-Learning Center within the Center for Distance Education. Professional-level courses in fields such as business, engineering, environmental issues, finance, healthcare, insurance, legal service, hospitality, and technology are available at www.wcccd.theelearningcenter.com. Through this new option, participants can engage in quality web-based learning to update specific skills, prepare for a new career, or earn continuing education credits that are approved by a professional agency. Courses are affordable and self-paced for the busy professional and available in these languages: Arabic, Chinese, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Norwegian, Portuguese, Spanish, and Spanish-Spain.

Since online continuing education for professionals was launched at WCCCD in January 2008, five courses have been especially popular: Bloodborne Pathogens, Best Practices in Preventing Workplace Violence, Advanced Techniques of Direct and Cross-Examination, Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and Fundamentals of Business Management Series.

Through partnerships such as the ones described above, The Center for Distance Education is realizing its vision of being a market-driven, entrepreneurial division. Dr. Stephanie Bulger, vice chancellor of The Center for Distance Education and Learning Technologies, explains that, “WCCCD’s Center for Distance Education uses the power of technology to ensure that people can pursue their educational endeavors in spite of their busy schedules and demanding lives. We are committed to innovation and excellence in our services and want everyone who desires a better life to engage in a quality educational experience without limitation.”
WCCCD has received confirmation of a five-year grant from the national Achieve the Dream (ATD) initiatives. The four criteria for selection were advising, retention, institutional effectiveness, and research capacity. One of 83 community colleges selected to receive the grant, WCCCD set models for student success by analyzing data to ensure that students will not only succeed but excel in their chosen academic field.

Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries (DRMM) and the Workforce Development Department began a culinary arts training program at a facility owned by DRMM. The program will use the nationally recognized curriculum of the American Culinary Institute and the American Culinary Federation. Training for citizens engaged in a pre-release program has begun at the Ryan Road Correctional Facility, in partnership with the Michigan Prisoner Re-entry Initiative.

The online Entrepreneurship Certificate Program will be featured in an upcoming National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE) newsletter. NACCE is the largest organization focused on stimulating entrepreneurship programs, courses, and business incubation efforts in community colleges. While this online program is one of several programs in community colleges, WCCCD will be featured as a member of Project Specialty Asynchronous Interactive Learning, which facilitates the sharing of curriculum with other community colleges through the League for Innovation in the Community College.

Faculty member Ann Wortinger has been granted specialty certification in Small Animal Internal Medicine through the Academy of Internal Medicine for Veterinary Technicians. This is one of four recognized specialties available to certified veterinary technicians and promotes greater interest and advanced skills in the disciplines of internal medicine.

The ability to solicit advice from members of our community who have expertise in the career disciplines we offer is important to assessment, program review and the process of continuous quality improvement. We had the opportunity to share ideas with the Advisory Breakfast sponsored by the Educational Affairs Division. Each of our career programs has an advisory council and the invitation to members of these groups to participate in discussions about workforce trends and areas for development was well received. More than 80 council members received updates about the District at large and met in subgroups to focus on specific discipline issues. As the challenges of preparing students to meet the needs of a global community continue to grow and expand, the engagement of content experts and professionals will enable the District to move constructively into the future.

Seniors line up for lunch.

Keynote Speaker Dave Bergman, former Detroit Tiger baseball star, spoke on the importance of the role grandparents play in shaping young people’s lives.

“Don’t just encourage your grandchildren to become the best they can be; encourage them to become better than you,” said Dave Bergman. The event was well attended and a variety of resources were made available to attendees.

We learned, we sang, we danced, we had lunch, and spent a wonderful day sharing,” said one Harper Woods resident.


T-shirts were favorite items.

Seniors line up for lunch.

Keynote Speaker Dave Bergman, former Detroit Tiger
INNOVATIONS IN LEARNING

USDA and Food Safety Interest

Today’s students have limited knowledge of and interest in food safety. We take for granted that our food is safe. When large-scale outbreaks caused by salmonella and E. coli contamination occur, we become more aware of the importance of food safety.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is responsible for protecting our food sources. As part of the regulatory medicine course, students are made aware of various jobs available through the USDA.

To engage the students in learning about the USDA, we utilize a ‘STAYIN’ ALIVE’ food science serenade - USDA inspired by the song “YMCA” by the Village People. Three student volunteers are asked to help the instructor with a special project. The students are responsible for choreographing and practicing the skit. When presented in front of the class, this humorous skit engages the students and has an impact on them. Envision the instructor and three student volunteers in white lab coats and hard hats decorated with the USDA symbol singing!

Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA)

The OT profession is emphasizing its ability to meet society’s occupational therapy needs at all levels. It is advocating involvement in health and wellness programs for OTs. Faculty have adopted a “Backpack Day” event at which they weigh student’s backpacks and advise them on weight, body mechanics, and how to avoid injury. More non-traditional sites for students to complete service learning and fieldwork experiences, such as group homes or mental health agencies are being developed.

Hotel and Restaurant Management

The Workforce Development Department (WDD) has partnered with several agencies to develop a career ladder program in hospitality. This is a growth industry for the area. Working with the Detroit Workforce Development Department, Goodwill Industries, CVS Pharmacy, and Greektown Casino, the District is providing entry-level training for several positions in retail and hospitality. The initial training provides third-party/industry certification upon successful completion of the 120-hour non-credit program. Several students from this program have enrolled in credit programs. Funding has also been secured to develop an approved apprenticeship training program for students in both hospitality and retail. The proposed curriculum will be built around the Business Administration degree programs. This program is being funded under the Community-Based Job Training grant, and approximately $400,000 will support this initiative.

Manufacturing remains a major economic factor in the state and local economy. Popular opinion leads many individuals to believe that employment opportunities are very limited or non-existent. New advanced manufacturing continues to grow and expand in the region. The areas of instruction that must be upgraded to address this continued growth area are in the skilled trades arena, manufacturing technology, and industrial design. WDD has secured $275,000 to develop new curriculum and equipment to create rejuvenated programs in Manufacturing Technology and Design. This program is currently under way leading to faculty development strategies, partnerships with industry to employ our trainees/students, and new equipment and software that will strengthen the certificate and degree programs in these areas. The approach focuses upon the creation of a Career Center in Advanced Manufacturing that will create career ladders for high school students interested in pre-engineering. These programs will also lead to transfer programs in senior institutions through articulation agreements. Employers such as Visteon and Marathon Petroleum are collaborating in the development of the program.
With more than 27 years of systems and logistics (civil servant) experience in both the government and commercial sectors, DR. BELINDA J. MOSES currently functions as a lead System Analyst Collaborative Planning, Forecasting and Replenishment (CPFR) for the e-Business team serving the United States Department of the Army. Her educational background includes a bachelor's in Criminal Law from the University of Detroit, a master's in Technical Management from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, and a Ph.D. in Education Technology from Walden University. She is currently department chair of the Business and Computer Department at WCCCD.

DR. CHERI ANDERSON is a licensed professional counselor and a psychology instructor for WCCCD. Her company, Counselors and Creative Consultants, Inc., created a program called, “Moving from the Dream to the Reality of Academic Success.” Dr. Anderson consults with mental health agencies, schools, and governmental agencies, speaking to teens, adults, and senior citizens about the “Silent Addiction” that is gambling. Many clients have been ordered by the court to receive counseling for problem gambling and child neglect.

HARRIET A. SLOCUM, Ph.D., began her career in education as a public school teacher in Michigan City, Indiana, her hometown. She earned her doctoral degree at University of Michigan. Founder of Detroit’s African American Literary Guild, Dr. Slocum has had an insatiable passion for creative works by black writers for most of her life. Several years ago, she served as sponsor of Parnassus, a literary publication produced by students at WCCCD’s Northwest Campus. Dr. Slocum is the associate editor of ‘Jumá at de Sun,’ a literary work reflective of the unique cultural identities of students from the WCCCD English Department where she is currently teaching African-American literature and expository writing.

HARRIET A. SLOCUM, Ph.D., began her career in education as a public school teacher in Michigan City, Indiana, her hometown. She earned her doctoral degree at University of Michigan. Founder of Detroit’s African American Literary Guild, Dr. Slocum has had an insatiable passion for creative works by black writers for most of her life. Several years ago, she served as sponsor of Parnassus, a literary publication produced by students at WCCCD’s Northwest Campus. Dr. Slocum is the associate editor of ‘Jumá at de Sun,’ a literary work reflective of the unique cultural identities of students from the WCCCD English Department where she is currently teaching African-American literature and expository writing.

Dr. Ernest L. Retland is the former Technical Director of the Computer Service Department for WCCCD. He was responsible for the day-to-day operation of the College’s communication network that links all five campuses to the administration building. He is a full-time professor in Computer Information Systems and has also taught at Wayne State University and Marygrove College. He has served in the mentor program at Monier and Dossin elementary schools. As an active member of the National Federation of the Blind, he serves on many committees and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Detroit Association of Women’s Clubs, Inc.

Dr. Retland was recognized by WCCCD with an Outstanding Leadership Award for exceptional service to students and in 2002 received the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development Excellence Award at the University of Texas at Austin for classroom performance. He has been recognized in “Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers,” which honors our nation’s most respected teachers.

Dr. Retland holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science, with a concentration in computers for the blind, from The University of Texas at Austin; a master’s degree in Professional Management from Indiana Northern Graduate School; and a bachelor’s degree in Business Science from Detroit Institute of Technology. Dr. Retland is a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. He is a devoted husband and father.

MR. PAUL BRIDGEMASTER was the guest speaker in Washington, D.C., at the Administration on Aging (AOA) symposium on aging. He is the President and CEO of the Detroit Area Agency on Aging and gerontology instructor at WCCCD. As an advocate agency for older persons and their concerns, AOA works to heighten awareness among other federal agencies, organizations, groups, and the public about the valuable contributions of older Americans and alert them to the needs of vulnerable older people.

MR. RICHARD SIETZ is a member of the Detroit Area Council of Teachers of Mathematics (DACTM). He was president of DACTM from 1990-1991. For the last 17 years, he has served on DACTM Board of Directors and as the editor of the mathematics journal FACTORIAL. Sietz participated in the planning of DACTM’s fall conference. This is the largest regional K-12 mathematics conference for teachers and college students studying to become teachers. The conference is held each November. This year he will give a presentation on teaching ratios and percentages.

Dr. Anderson consults with mental health agencies, schools, and governmental agencies, speaking to teens, adults, and senior citizens about the “Silent Addiction” that is gambling. Many clients have been ordered by the court to receive counseling for problem gambling and child neglect.

HARRIET A. SLOCUM, Ph.D., began her career in education as a public school teacher in Michigan City, Indiana, her hometown. She earned her doctoral degree at University of Michigan. Founder of Detroit’s African American Literary Guild, Dr. Slocum has had an insatiable passion for creative works by black writers for most of her life. Several years ago, she served as sponsor of Parnassus, a literary publication produced by students at WCCCD’s Northwest Campus. Dr. Slocum is the associate editor of ‘Jumá at de Sun,’ a literary work reflective of the unique cultural identities of students from the WCCCD English Department where she is currently teaching African-American literature and expository writing.

Dr. Anderson consults with mental health agencies, schools, and governmental agencies, speaking to teens, adults, and senior citizens about the “Silent Addiction” that is gambling. Many clients have been ordered by the court to receive counseling for problem gambling and child neglect.

HARRIET A. SLOCUM, Ph.D., began her career in education as a public school teacher in Michigan City, Indiana, her hometown. She earned her doctoral degree at University of Michigan. Founder of Detroit’s African American Literary Guild, Dr. Slocum has had an insatiable passion for creative works by black writers for most of her life. Several years ago, she served as sponsor of Parnassus, a literary publication produced by students at WCCCD’s Northwest Campus. Dr. Slocum is the associate editor of ‘Jumá at de Sun,’ a literary work reflective of the unique cultural identities of students from the WCCCD English Department where she is currently teaching African-American literature and expository writing.

Dr. Anderson consults with mental health agencies, schools, and governmental agencies, speaking to teens, adults, and senior citizens about the “Silent Addiction” that is gambling. Many clients have been ordered by the court to receive counseling for problem gambling and child neglect.

HARRIET A. SLOCUM, Ph.D., began her career in education as a public school teacher in Michigan City, Indiana, her hometown. She earned her doctoral degree at University of Michigan. Founder of Detroit’s African American Literary Guild, Dr. Slocum has had an insatiable passion for creative works by black writers for most of her life. Several years ago, she served as sponsor of Parnassus, a literary publication produced by students at WCCCD’s Northwest Campus. Dr. Slocum is the associate editor of ‘Jumá at de Sun,’ a literary work reflective of the unique cultural identities of students from the WCCCD English Department where she is currently teaching African-American literature and expository writing.

Dr. Anderson consults with mental health agencies, schools, and governmental agencies, speaking to teens, adults, and senior citizens about the “Silent Addiction” that is gambling. Many clients have been ordered by the court to receive counseling for problem gambling and child neglect.
Nursing In London!

WCCCD nursing students traveled to London, England, for a service-learning curricular experience with the Guy’s and St. Thomas’ National Health Service Foundation Trust connected with two teaching hospitals located in central London. Studies show that service learning is essential to help future nursing students appreciate the nursing discipline and further their understanding and sense of personal responsibility. The trip provided an opportunity for travel outside the United States to study at two leading teaching hospitals in the United Kingdom (UK). Students were encouraged to compare the healthcare delivery systems in the United States and the UK.

Irv Jones, president of Escape Study International, in conjunction with staff at St. Thomas’ and Guy’s Hospitals in London, England, designed the format of the service-learning curriculum. Lecture topics included the structure of care and service delivery, the role of a chief nurse and the senior nursing team, caring for the elderly, working as a nurse in accident and emergency rooms, and a lecture by the Chief Nurse, Eileen Sills. The students also learned about pre-and post-registration training, the competencies and policies for nursing skills, the role of a nurse caring for children, and protecting patients’ rights.

The students toured the Florence Nightingale Museum, named after the “mother of modern nursing.” They participated in an excursion tour of the City of London and visited such notable places as Trafalgar Square, Buckingham Palace, the London Eye, Big Ben, Parliament Square, Westminster Abbey, and Madame Tussaud’s Wax Museum. The students also visited the historic Old Operating Theatre, located in the Herb Garret of St. Thomas’ Church. The students observed how surgeons performed surgery in the 1800s before the use of antiseptics, depending only on techniques and alcohol to dull the patient’s senses.

“There is a strong momentum in London to catch up with the United States, and yet their organizational and procedural policies and actions sometimes exceed our own,” nursing student Kimberly Lynne Sexton said. “We were able to see nursing practices put into action. As a soon-to-be graduate nurse, I am hoping to use what I have learned to make a difference here at home. If we could combine the two healthcare systems, what a difference we could make.”

Rosellen Burkart, director of the WCCCD’s Nursing Program, could not have been more pleased with the opportunity provided the students to travel to England. “Today’s nurses need an array of approaches to the profession, and service learning offers those critical thinking skills, the ability to communicate with their patients across cultures and national boundaries, and the ability to make informed judgments regarding patients’ care.”
Along with some top administrators, Dr. Curtis L. Ivery instituted Project MEN to recruit and retain more African-American male students by providing them with mentors and academic support. The Michigan education system is failing many of the young men in the Wayne County community and throughout the state. According to the Detroit Free Press, Michigan is one of only four states that spends more on prisons than higher education. Community colleges, with open-door policies, can serve as a bridge to good jobs and four-year degrees for young men who enter college with poor academic skills, prison records, or long periods of unemployment.

ANTHONY T. ARMINIAK, Downriver Campus president, started his career in 1978 by enrolling in the District’s Basic Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) program. Over the next three years he continued his advancement as a EMT specialist, paramedic and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) instructor/coordinator. Mr. Arminiak worked as a paramedic in Michigan and Connecticut for over six years before pursuing a degree in Respiratory Therapy. In 1994 he joined WCCCD as the District’s EMT program director and held other positions including Dean of Instruction; District Associate Vice Chancellor, Career Programs, Downriver Campus Executive Vice President; and Provost, Michigan Institute for Public Safety Education (MIPSE).

PATRICK J. MCNALLY, Western Campus president, started as a Basic EMT working for a private EMS service in Wayne and Oakland counties. He eventually advanced to an EMT specialist, paramedic, and EMS instructor coordinator while at the same time taking various positions in management for the company. Mr. McNally started teaching EMS courses for WCCCD in 1996 and became the EMT Clinical Coordinator in 2001.

Mr. McNally is currently pursuing a doctorate in educational leadership.

Both campus presidents continue to share their EMS professional background by hosting community safety fairs at their campuses each year, these events are open to the public at no cost. These continuing education safety fairs provide the community with an opportunity to meet representatives of various public safety agencies and learn valuable safety skills.

Nationally Known Homeland Security Veteran Joins WCCCD

Former FBI and CIA Operations Agent to “Demystify” Homeland Security to Improve College District, Community and Businesses

JAMES MARCINKOWSKI, a nationally known veteran of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), U.S. Navy Intelligence Operations and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), has joined WCCCD. Marcinowski will develop a new emergency operations plan for the District’s five campuses. In addition, he will also teach homeland security courses at the District’s Michigan Institute for Public Safety Education (MIPSE) at the Downriver Campus in Taylor.

“We’re excited to welcome Jim to the District,” said Chancellor Dr. Curtis L. Ivery. “Bringing someone of his caliber and expertise is just one example of how we are bringing valuable resources and programs to the community. We know that Jim’s expertise will not only be an asset to the District but will also be of great benefit to our county’s first responders and business leaders.”

“I’m thrilled to join the District in this very important work,” said Marcinkowski. “I see my work as an opportunity to demystify homeland security and educate the community about how it works,” he said. “When you make homeland security accessible, you empower communities to use the knowledge they have to engage in issues that directly affect them.”

Marcinkowski’s new emergency operations plan for the District’s five campuses will help safeguard against any potential threat, including natural disasters and cyber-hacking. His new programs at MIPSE will engage local first responders and other community leaders to share best practices and coordinate security efforts. This program will also educate business leaders on the best ways to safeguard their employees and organizations against potential threats.

Marcinkowski, a Clinton Township native, started working with the FBI in 1974 in the computer systems division. He served in shipboard operations with the U.S. Navy before joining the CIA as an operations officer in 1985. He also served in a special prosecution unit for the Oakland County Prosecutor’s Office and as the Deputy City Attorney for the Royal Oak City Attorney’s Office.

An expert commentator for CNN’s American Morning, CBS 60 Minutes, NBC’s Meet the Press, National Public Radio, MSNBC, and Fox News, he has continued to provide information about national safety issues. Marcinkowski received his bachelor’s degree in political science from Michigan State University and a law degree from the University Of Detroit Mercy School of Law.
SHERIFF EVANS REPORTS TO THE COMMUNITY
The Downriver Campus hosted Wayne County Sheriff Warren C. Evans, who gave an annual report to the community detailing current initiatives including Internet crime, auto theft, narcotics, and fugitive apprehension.

CONGRESSMAN DINGELL RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING ARTISTS
The Downriver Campus hosted the 15th Congressional District Arts Competition titled “Any Artistic Discovery.” The event, sponsored by Congressman John D. Dingell, brought students together from around the 15th Congressional District. Congressman Dingell recognized the award winners and presented all the participants with certificates.

BUCKLE UP
The Michigan Institute for Public Safety Education hosted Children’s Hospital of Michigan program, “Safe Kids Buckle Up,” at the Downriver Emergency Training Complex. Children’s Hospital provided low-cost car and booster seats and representatives demonstrated the proper method to install and place children into them. Volunteers from Kohl’s and the Wayne County Sheriff’s Department assisted.

UPWARD BOUND PROGRAM
The Western Campus hosts the Inkster Upward Bound Program for the second year. Students participating in the program take college-level courses in science and math. Dr. Thelma McCullum is the educational coordinator. She came to the Western Campus last year in search of programming and a location.

Dr. McCullum states, “Of the 34 students enrolled in the program in its first year (2007), more than 97% are currently enrolled and participating in the Upward Bound Program at Inkster High School. This year 41 students registered for the summer program. Students, parents, and staff are excited about the program and the potential for these students.”

Students are on campus four days a week for a total of six weeks and meet with a science and math instructor and with a personal skills coach. Christina Swazey teaches personal skills to the students. She believes that the students responding to the hands-on lessons and enjoy being on campus to experience college first hand. “They really learn better when they do hands-on lessons. For example, in one exercise, a student had to send out college applications, design a three-class schedule, and fill out registration forms. They realized how hard it can be, but how easy it is if you practice.”
Best-selling Detroit author Elizabeth Atkins is educating and entertaining students at the Downtown Campus. As the WCCCD faculty liaison for Toastmasters International, she continues to coach and mentor students through Success Talkers so that they learn how to express themselves with clarity and charisma.

“Studies show that excellent communications skills are the number one factor for success,” Atkins says. “That translates into better grades, better jobs, higher incomes, and even better relationships in one’s personal life. And it’s amazing to watch our students transform from shy and quiet to taking command of the room during a speech.”

Atkin’s hosted her popular “How To Write A Book And Get Published” seminar at the Power Networking Conference, hosted by networking guru George Fraser, in Atlanta, Georgia. Entrepreneurs from across America packed the meeting room to hear how they, too, can become published authors.

At the same time, Atkins is working on several fiction and nonfiction books. She does much of her writing at her family’s cottage in historic Idlewild, Michigan.

Ms. Atkin’s passion for literary productivity in Idlewild inspired Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm to appoint her to the Centennial Commission, which is planning a year-long celebration of Idlewild’s creation. Parades, historical events and celebrations will highlight 2012, the hundred-year anniversary of this lakeside community that, during its heyday during the 1940s and 1950s, was considered the “Black Eden,” a place for African-Americans to escape a segregated world and celebrate with glamorous music, dancing and socializing. The Motown greats and boxer Joe Louis joined the festivities.

During the Centennial celebration in 2012, Ms. Atkins will host a writer’s retreat to teach people how to write novels, nonfiction, film scripts, poetry, and music.

“I am so grateful to Dr. Ivery for allowing me to share my passion for writing and speaking,” says Ms. Atkins. “It’s an honor to contribute, and it’s even more thrilling to watch people learn and grow.”
More than 1,600 students—half of them honor students—graduated, and according to Dr. George Swan, vice chancellor of campus operations, it was a fantastic experience. He said, “We were cited in the Community College Times as one of the fastest growing colleges. The number of people completing certificates and degrees is growing, which is important for the region and the economy.”

Stating the need for quality programs enabling people to stay in this region, Dr. Swan added, “Many could be changing careers, but many are also looking for further opportunities for themselves. People are taking a serious look at the needs in this area.”

Guest speaker Dr. John Roueche, Jr. from the University of Texas at Austin, who is the grand dean of community colleges, along with special recognition students Sharif AliDinar, Susan La France, Markia Hughes, Keenan Penn, Sr., Hassan Hammoud, Tawanda Williams, Laura Stephens, Hellen Kinyanjui, and Janice Lossing spoke about the difference WCCCD has made in many lives both professionally and personally.

“My work attitude became more positive, and my education was of interest to both my coworkers and my customers. I have been told that I’ve inspired other people to return to school and pursue their dreams,” said La France.

“I was not quite sure which direction I wanted to go in with my studies,” said Marika Hughes. “As I walked around the eastern campus and observed all the facilities and employees and how eager they were to help me, I became more and more convinced that I was in the right place.”

“This college has transformed my way of thinking about my family, my community and, most of all, myself,” said Keenan Penn. “It is because of WCCCD that I have had success in my educational endeavors, and this college has opened many doors for me.”

The District has upgraded facilities and programs in science and health to meet students’ needs. The programs are serving the increasing demand, particularly in fields such as health and technology, which are the fastest growing for the future, officials said.
Sharif AliDinar belongs to numerous student and community organizations, serving as public relations officer in Phi Theta Kappa, vice president in the Northwest Campus student government, editor of the student government newsletter, and disaster volunteer with the American Red Cross. Sharif says WCCCD has made a difference in both his academic achievement and his personal life. He is a transfer student from Spain. “WCCCD enabled me to build a solid academic foundation at minimal cost, and it allowed me to strengthen my leadership skills through participation in various organizations.” He is currently a student at Wayne State University’s School of Business and is a recent inductee in the Beta Gamma Sigma International Honors Society.

Susan Ann La France says that change is always difficult, but WCCCD has made her educational journey smooth. Having received an associate’s degree, she has been accepted into the education program at Madonna University. She said enrolling at WCCCD was a great step forward after she decided to change careers.

Those who know Markia Hughes say she is committed not only to achieving her educational goals but also to her community. She is a frequent volunteer at the Lenox Center for the Handicapped, where she helped the mentally and physically challenged, and hopes to become a community nurse caring for the elderly. “I was not quite sure which direction I wanted to go in with my studies and as I walked around the Eastern Campus observing all the faculty and employees and how eager they were to help me, I became more and more convinced that I was in the right place,” she said. She plans to continue her education at Baker College.

Keenan Penn, Sr., says he is off to a great start. He is heading to the University of Michigan-Dearborn to pursue a bachelor of science degree in healthcare management with an emphasis on sports medicine. He said, “WCCCD has transformed my way of thinking about my family, my community and, most of all, myself.”

Tawanda Williams will continue her education at Wayne State University to pursue a degree in nursing. Her goal is to one day contribute to medical research to find treatments and cures for diseases and disorders, which, she said, have debilitated her family, friends, and others of her heritage. She said all of her instructors gave her hope. “I was approached by instructors when I was uncertain about lecture or materials, I was never rushed or pushed out of the way. WCCCD has proven to me that you are never too old to be all that you can be.”

Hellen Kinyanjui is a native of Kenya. She said that enrolling at WCCCD has completely changed her perception of life and increased her yearning for higher education. Although Hellen is thousands of miles from her home village in Kenya, her heart is still with her people, especially those without the means for education. She and her husband David, who is also a graduate of WCCCD, have collected computers from well-wishers and have shipped these computers to Kenya where Hellen and David operate a Computer Education. She and her husband David, who is also a graduate of WCCCD, have collected computers from well-wishers and have shipped these computers to Kenya where Hellen and David operate a computer education. They hope to one day turn this into a Computer Technology Institute where children who don’t have the means to pay for computer technology can take classes. She plans to pursue a higher degree in management with emphasis on Human Resources either at Wayne State University or Northwood University.

Janice K. Lossing received advice from a WCCCD alumnus that has changed her life. “She suggested that I needed something positive to do with my life if I were to recover from 30 years of addiction to alcohol and a lifestyle that was devoid of any direction.” Although fearful of the unknown, she took the advice and earned an associate’s degree at WCCCD. She enrolled at the age of 46 after completing substance abuse treatment and completed work for the associate’s degree. Janice’s goal is to attend Wayne State University to pursue a degree in Social Work.

Hassan Hammoud (Not pictured) is prepared for the diverse global society. He said that attending WCCCD has given him the opportunity to expand his horizons. “I enjoy the culturally diverse learning atmosphere and the unique style of learning that WCCCD offers.” Hammoud will pursue higher studies at Thomas Jefferson University where he plans to major in pharmacology.

Since the fourth grade, Laura Stephens (Not pictured) knew that she wanted to be a lawyer when she grew up. As a single mother of four, she never gave up her childhood dream for higher education. Laura is heading to Madonna University where she will pursue a degree in psychology and sociology with a minor in criminal justice. She has set her eyes on one day attending law school and becoming a judge in the juvenile system.
International Book Fair

AWARD-WINNING AUTHORS HAVE BEEN FEATURED IN THE INITIAL YEAR OF WCCCD’S INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR.

JACQUELINE WOODSON has written many children’s books, including Miracle Boys (recently produced for television). Her other publications include Behind You, The House You Pass On The Way, On The Other Side, Feathers and I Never Meant to Tell You This. As a young child, Woodson dreamed of becoming a teacher, lawyer, or hairdresser, but writing was in her soul. “I wrote on everything and everywhere. I wrote on paper bags, my shoes, and denim binders. I loved and still love watching words flower into sentences that blossom into stories.” She has won many awards, including the Caldecott Medal, the Coretta Scott King Book Award, the Margaret A. Edwards Award, the Newbery Medal, the National Book Award, and the Parents’ Choice Awards.

CHRISTOPHER ABANI, internationally acclaimed novelist, first wrote a book at age 16. A professor at the University of California, Riverside, he is the recipient of the Prince Claus Award, Lananan Literary Fellowship, California Book Award, Hurston/Wright Legacy Award, and the PEN Hemingsway Book Prize. Among his books and plays are Do, Woman My Heart is Unending, Daphne’s Lot, Kalakuta Republic, GraceLand, Masters of the Board, The Poet, The Soldier, The Lover, The Paper-Kite Maker, Song of a Broken Flute, and Room at the Top.

ELIZABETH ATKINS writes and speaks as the daughter of an African-American judge and a former Catholic priest who was English, French Canadian and Cherokee. With books, screenplays, poems, and lectures, Atkins entertains and educates by using her unique appearance and perspective to explore provocative issues such as “What is Race?” She writes pioneering bold, new voices in novels and screenplays with mixed-race characters: White Chocolate, Dark Secret and Twilight (written with Billy Dee Williams). She has also written two hip-hop novels for Urban Books, both featured in Black Expressions Book Club.

STEVEN CLIMER has been writing horror/fantasy for most of his life. There is rarely a time when he’s not working on something — even if it is just staring out the window. His novels include Dream Thieves, BearWalker, Soul Temple, and M, and his short stories have appeared in over a dozen magazines, including Implosion, The Midnight Gallery, Into the Darkness, Altered Perceptions, and FrightNet.
Discovering the wonderful world of books at WCCCD’s Downtown Campus was the focus for pre-K, elementary and middle-school students at the Chancellor’s Reading Carnival for Children. In partnership with the Detroit Public Schools, the College offered this educational program, which also honored Detroit Free Press Columnist, Rochelle Riley, for her efforts in promoting literacy. The day long event included workshops for parents, teachers, and caregivers to help them learn to encourage children to read.

“Literacy and education are the cornerstones of success,” said Chancellor Dr. Curtis L. Ivery. “At WCCCD, we believe that helping children and young adults cultivate a love of books and reading sets the foundation for an education and a stronger future. This special event will effectively further our commitment to erase illiteracy and encourage people to pursue educational goals.”

Dr. Connie Calloway, superintendent of the Detroit Public Schools, said, “I am delighted to partner with WCCCD to bring this important program to the community. Our children are our future, and we have the collective responsibility to do all we can to instill in them the love of reading and the desire for education.”
Wouldn’t you like to be a part of this exceptional group?

Della Burton-Slater
Nurse

Jerry Hill
Nurse

Artina Tinsley-Hardman
Politician

Patricia Kukula-Chylinski
Hospital Administrator

Melody Light
Lawyer

Nina Bernard
Nurse

Delbert A. Davis
Dentist

Terry E. Packer
Chrysler Executive

Carol Ann Owens
Clown

John H. Sheard
Bishop

Raymond Basham
Senator

Jonathon Edison
Inspirational Speaker

Saadiah Ahmed
Doctor

Sean Ryan
Firefighter

Bette Misuraca
Civic Activist

Joseph Mendrysa
Firefighter

Wayne County Community College District

Where learning leads to a better life

WCCCD has received a check in the amount of $5,000 to establish a general scholarship fund in memory of Daniel R. Droz. This is a true indication that WCCCD is impacting the lives of citizens. An institution’s ability to build an endowment fund is largely based upon its efforts to stay connected to its alumni and constituents in order to create a culture of giving back.