

2022-2023 **ANNUAL REPORT**



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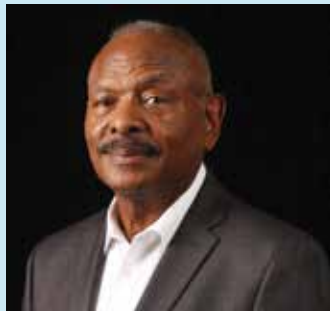
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VALUES

Caring & Respect

- Foster a safe, dynamic learning environment
- Demonstrate positive regard for self and others
- Give and receive praise graciously
- Honor civility, service, collegiality and social justice

Integrity

- Do the right things for the right reasons
- Ensure interactions are driven by our vision, mission and values
- Be responsible, accountable and ethical

Excellence and Quality

- Embrace change as an opportunity
- Pursue excellence and innovation
- Value learning and develop an environment of intellectual inquiry
- Share new ideas and expand the boundaries of knowledge

Humor and Well-Being

- Nurture creativity, humor and enjoyment of work and learning
- Promote a healthy environment for mind, body and spirit

Teamwork and Stewardship

- Work together to achieve our vision, mission and goals
- Commit to finding solutions
- Manage and protect our resources – human, fiscal and environmental
- Develop and foster community relationships based on mutual trust

August 2023

Greetings,

June 2023 marks the one-year anniversary of the adoption of the college's new mission statement: Kalamazoo Valley Community College creates innovative and equitable opportunities that empower all to learn, grow and thrive. The mission statement is the college's formal, public declaration of its purposes. It serves as a guide for institutional decision-making and provides the flexibility necessary to respond to the needs of the community. Since its adoption, I am pleased to note our mission is being woven into the very fabric of our organization. The mission statement informed the creation of the strategic plan, which drives our key performance indicators and ultimately our unit and department plans, programs and activities.



L. Marshall Washington, Ph.D.

Our strategic goals are to: forecast and prepare for future learners, holistically supporting their educational goals; embed diversity, equity and inclusivity in all processes across the college; and to leverage broad expertise and intentional partnerships to best serve the college community. These strategic goals provide clear direction for our work together. As we continue to anticipate and plan for the future, I invite you to focus on our mission and goals. We continue to strive to create innovative and equitable opportunities for all who choose to make Kalamazoo Valley their first choice in higher education. I anticipate a bright future for the college, our students and their families and the communities we serve. Join me in reviewing our past achievements with an eye to the future and even greater achievements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L. Marshall Washington". The signature is written in a cursive style.

L. Marshall Washington, Ph.D.
President

MISSION STATEMENT

Kalamazoo Valley
Community College creates
innovative and equitable
opportunities that empower
all to learn, grow and thrive.

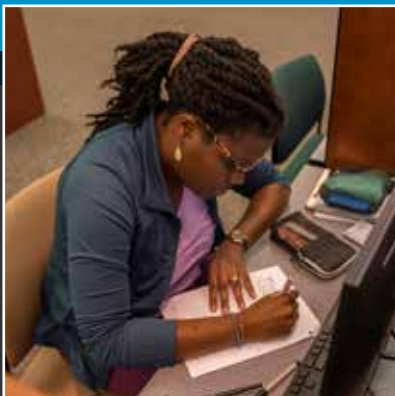
VISION

Over the next decade, Kalamazoo Valley
Community College will be a leader in
providing highly regarded relevant
and affordable services.

STRATEGIC GOAL *one*

Forecast and prepare for future learners, holistically supporting their educational goals.

Kalamazoo Valley will routinely utilize data as a tool for continuous improvement and informed decision making, allowing us to forecast and prepare for future learners. We will provide resources for the holistic needs of learners in order to support their educational goals with special attention to part-time learners. The college will utilize strategic resource decisions that are guided by the college mission and priorities while informed by learner needs, feedback, experiences, workforce/employee needs and trends. The college will be forward-thinking, highlighting the learner experience in regard to space utilization and ensuring course scheduling and course modalities meet the needs of learners, employees and expanded community partnerships.



Student in the Texas Township Campus library.

NEW SUSTAINABLE HORTICULTURE PROGRAM LAUNCHED FOR WINTER SEMESTER

Students interested in learning how to manage landscapes and greenhouses in a way that can improve environments and reduce the impacts of climate change now have the opportunity thanks to a new sustainable horticulture program that launched for the Winter 2023 semester. Through the new program, students can earn an associate of applied science degree in sustainable horticulture, a certificate in greenhouse management or landscape management as well as a certificate of achievement in sustainable horticulture. “We are launching this program at a time of great change and great opportunity in our world and the green industry,” said Sara Tanis, Ph.D., program director. “Green industry careers are safe, rewarding and critical for human and planetary health. We’re seeing great demand for skilled workers and there are multiple opportunities for entrepreneurship in greenhouse and landscape management fields.

If you love working with your hands and want to learn how to use plants and greenspaces to improve urban and rural environments, the sustainable horticulture program could be perfect for you.”



Hristina Petrovska prunes tomato plants in the greenhouse at the Food Innovation Center.

CAMPUS BAND RETURNED



The Campus Band performs during a holiday concert.

Kalamazoo Valley’s campus band returned for the Fall 2023 semester after a nearly four-year hiatus. Jim Roach, retired Loy Norrix High School band and orchestra director, serves as the director. Kalamazoo Valley students can enroll in MUS 110 and community members are welcome to participate on a drop-in basis without registering for the class. The band played at Kalamazoo Valley’s winter and spring commencement ceremonies and performed several holiday concerts.

BASKETBALL COACHES HONORED WITH AWARDS

Felicia Thomas, head women's basketball coach at Kalamazoo Valley Community College for three seasons, and Jim Horn, Valley's head men's basketball coach for eight seasons, were both named Coach of the Year for the Western Conference of the Michigan Community College Athletic Association in 2023.

The accolades came on the heels of both the women's and men's teams being declared Western conference champions for the 2022 - 23 season by finishing No. 1. The Lady Cougars ended with an overall record of 17 - 10, and 10 - 2 in the conference.

The men's team finished with an overall record of 23 - 7, and 10 - 2 in the conference as well.



The women's and men's basketball teams were both named Western Conference champions.



Kalamazoo Valley's student athletes excel on the court and in the classroom.

MICHIGAN VETERANS AFFAIRS AGENCY AWARDED COLLEGE GOLD-LEVEL STATUS SECOND YEAR IN A ROW

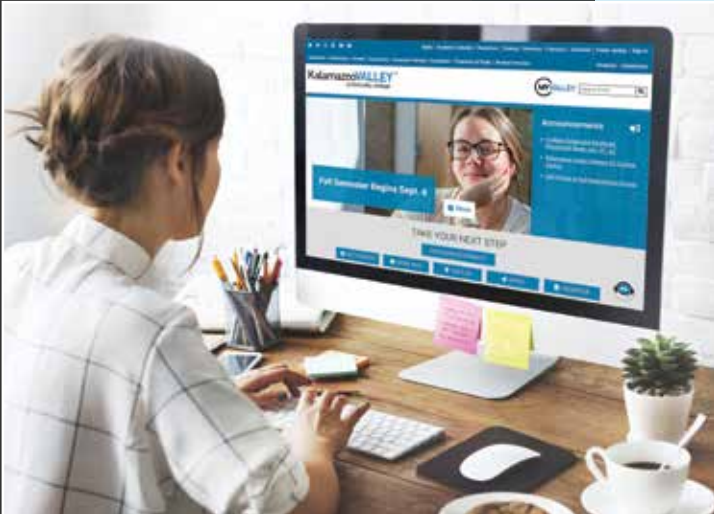
Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA) once again named Kalamazoo Valley Community College a Veteran Friendly School, with gold-level status and certified the college as an official Veteran Connector school, a program that connects veterans to benefits and resources in all areas of life, including education, employment and health care.

The Michigan Veteran-Friendly Schools Program recognizes academic institutions committed to supporting the needs of veterans and military-connected students. "Achieving gold-level status for the second year in a row is a real testament to the college's efforts to not just be veteran-friendly for our more than 250 student veterans, but veteran-embracing," said Veteran Services Coordinator Charles Heidelberg. "We work tirelessly to create a smooth transition from soldier to student, supporting these men and women every step of the way."



KALAMAZOO VALLEY ADDED MEDICAL CANNABIS COURSES TO ITS CANNABIS EDUCATION PROGRAM

Expanding on its popular workforce cannabis training program, the college started offering an online medical cannabis education course in January of 2023. Through a unique partnership with Medical Cannabis Mentor, a leader in online medical cannabis education, Kalamazoo Valley is offering Cannabis Therapeutics 2022, an in-depth, self-paced course for healthcare providers, dispensary personnel and patients. Kalamazoo Valley is Medical Cannabis Mentor's first community college partner. "Through conversations with community members and patients, we learned there was a lack of formal and easily accessible education for understanding the various therapeutic components of cannabis," said Craig Jbara, vice president for strategic and business development at Kalamazoo Valley. "We believe it is important to promote accurate information and, if appropriate, provide an opportunity for improved quality of life in our community."



A student logs on to her computer for an online class.

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion began offering Mental Health First Aid for Higher Education in October of 2022. The training teaches people how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. This training - which focuses on the unique experiences and needs of college students - gives people the skills they need to reach out and provide initial support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem and help connect them to the appropriate care.



STRATEGIC GOAL

two

Embed diversity, equity and inclusivity in all processes across the college.

Kalamazoo Valley will create a collaborative and inclusive culture where all are welcomed. To accomplish this goal, the college will embody organizational self-awareness and acknowledge community perceptions. Building on the efforts to support students holistically, similarly we will cultivate an environment where employees are comfortable sharing well-informed ideas, thoughts and opinions, with an understanding that recommendations will be considered during decision making.



The cafeteria is a popular spot where students can eat, relax and study.



'MOTHER OF MODERN MEDICINE' HENRIETTA LACKS PLAY AND EXHIBIT DEBUTED

The Kalamazoo Valley Museum and Kalamazoo Valley Community College presented "A HeLa Story: Mother of Modern Medicine" play and exhibit to create public awareness about the underreported real-life story of Henrietta Lacks, the late great aunt of Kalamazoo resident Jermaine Jackson. It touched on medicine, ethics, history and race. The African-American woman's cells contributed to many of the world's biggest medical breakthroughs, including the polio and COVID-19 vaccines, cancer treatments and more, but Lacks never gave her consent. Cells were removed from Lacks in 1951 without her knowledge during a medical procedure in the U.S. and later used in experiments worldwide. Thanks to funding in part from the KVCC Foundation, the museum debuted the "HeLa" play, written by Kalamazoo playwright Buddy Hannah, to more than 400 people at three performances during the weekend of Sept. 30, 2022. Two screenings of the taped version of the play were later held. The companion exhibit ran through March 5, 2023. "It is our sincere hope that this project and others like it help to improve the understanding and respect for the contributions of all members of society," said L. Marshall Washington, Ph.D., president of Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

COMING SEPT. 30 – OCT. 1
to the Kalamazoo Valley Museum



A HeLa Story: MOTHER OF MODERN MEDICINE

THE PLAY. THE EXHIBIT.
How one woman's cells aided
science without her consent.

"Henrietta Lacks" by Jarran Taylor

Patrons browse the Latino Artists Exhibit.



LATINO ARTIST EXHIBIT OPENED

The Latino Artists Exhibit, an Art Hop and community art exhibit, showcased the fine artwork of local Latino artists in August of 2022 at the Center for New Media. A collaborative show between the Center for New Media and El Concilio, which is the Hispanic American Council of Kalamazoo, the exhibit opened the Aug. 5 Art Hop and was open on Aug. 6 to coincide with the Latino Summer Festival in Bronson Park in downtown Kalamazoo.

MUSEUM EVENTS TACKLED MENTAL HEALTH

Opportunities to help people tune up their minds and bodies were presented from February through May 2023 at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum “Mental Health: Mind Matters” traveling exhibit. Through highly interactive activity stations, visitors participated in empathy-building activities, learned about what it might be like to have a particular mental health issue and how to be kind to their minds, played games to help understand their own emotions and more. The exhibit was augmented by spring break programming promoting mind wellness from March 28 - April 1. In May, a mental health fair was held featuring three guest speakers, informational tables from nine vendors and the mental health exhibit, all to draw attention to resources for Mental Health Awareness Month.



ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT HOSTED FREE YOUTH BASKETBALL CLINICS AT THE DOUGLASS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Middle school-aged students participate in a basketball clinic at the Douglass Community Association building.

Kalamazoo Valley Community College’s Athletics Department held free sports clinics for middle-school-aged boys and girls at the Douglass Community Association in Kalamazoo during Summer 2022. They were run by the coaches and players from the college’s men’s and women’s basketball programs. The hope is that the pilot program grows and that even more students join these half-day Saturday events. The basketball clinics are in addition to the college’s popular, multi-day youth volleyball, softball and boys and girls basketball sports camps at the Texas Township Campus serving grades 6 - 12.

COLLEGE WELCOMED VISITING WRITERS

Kalamazoo Valley's "About Writing" Visiting Writers series offers students the opportunity to talk with professional writers and listen to their work.

The lineup for the 2022-2023 Visiting Writers Series:

Tom Montgomery Fate | memoir | "The Long Way Home & Cabin Fever: A Suburban Father's Search for the Wild" | Thursday, Oct. 6

Nancy Eimers | poetry | new chapbook: "Human Figures" | Thursday, Nov. 3

Ada Limón | poetry | "The Hurting Kind" | Wednesday, Jan. 25

Angeline Bouley | fiction | "The Firekeeper's Daughter" | Tuesday, April 4



Tom Montgomery Fate



Nancy Eimers



Ada Limón



Angeline Bouley

OCTOBER ART HOP AND PANEL DISCUSSION FEATURED ARTIST AUSTIN ROUNDS

The October art exhibit at the Center for New Media featured the Marvelously Creative and Unbridled Art of Austin Rounds. Rounds is a 20-year-old artist who has used his art as an outlet and a way to express himself when the world around him may feel off kilter, beautiful and even challenging.

Being autistic has not always been easy, but it is a part of who Rounds is, and it adds to his creativity. He recently finished working as the sole illustrator for author Jerrod S. Smelker's book of scary short stories, "Wicked Harvest: Michigan Monsters & Macabre - 2," which was published in August 2022 by Wicked Harvest Books.

Artwork by Austin Rounds.



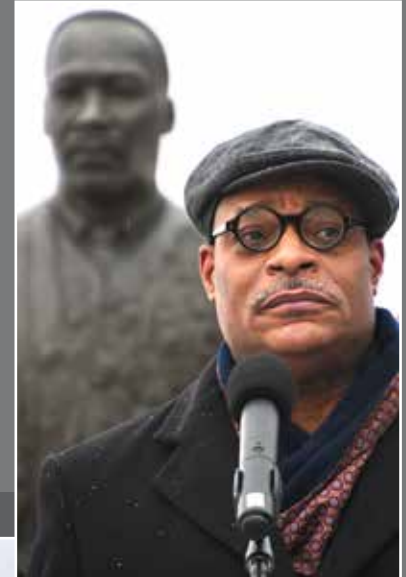
LOCAL HISTORIAN MURPHY DARDEN'S POP-UP EXHIBIT

Art by local historian Murphy Darden was displayed at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum.



In celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the Kalamazoo Valley Museum opened a new pop-up mini-exhibit that showcased Kalamazoo-related items collected by longtime local civil rights historian Murphy Darden, Sr. The "Kalamazoo Through the Eyes of Murphy Darden" exhibit was on display through March 19. It also highlighted pieces Murphy created representing people, places and events in Kalamazoo history.

L. Marshall Washington, Ph.D. at an MLK Day event.



MLK - BEYOND THE DREAM

Kalamazoo Valley Community College hosted the "MLK - Beyond the Dream" convening. The 2023 theme was Beloved Community, modeled after Dr. King's vision of a community absent of poverty, hunger and hate. Attendees were invited to collectively reflect upon what a beloved community truly means, our roles in building beloved community and the work that must be done in order to achieve beloved community.



KALAMAZOO VALLEY CELEBRATED WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

In celebration of Women's History Month, the college hosted a luncheon for faculty, staff, students and community members. Four noteworthy women - Director of Criminal Justice/ Law Enforcement and Fire Science Programs at Kalamazoo Valley Community College Karen Rivard; Kalamazoo Valley alumna and Executive Director of Read and Write Kalamazoo Kandace Lavender, E.D.; community philanthropist Lynn Zhang, CEO of Zhang Financial; and the Hon. Carolyn Williams - were honored at the luncheon. Honorees were asked to speak about what a day set aside to honor women meant to them during a panel discussion.



Women's History Month panelists (L to R) Karen Rivard, Lynn Zhang, Kandace Lavender and Carolyn Williams.

BLACK ARTISTS EXHIBIT DEBUTED

In collaboration with the Black Arts & Cultural Center, the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts and the Metropolitan Kalamazoo branch of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), Kalamazoo

Valley's Center for New Media hosted its fourth annual Black Artists Exhibit in February. The event, held in observance of Black History Month, highlighted the works of local Black artists and provided a shared connection to the rich Black cultural heritage in the Kalamazoo area.

Black Artists Exhibit at the Center for New Media.



STRATEGIC GOAL *three*

Leverage broad expertise and intentional partnerships to best serve the college community.

Kalamazoo Valley will collaborate with secondary, community, other higher education institutions and business partners with a focus on creating and maintaining intentional relationships and being true to the college mission. This includes providing resources for the mental health needs of all learners and employees. Enhancing collaboration will also support facility goals, such as pursuing opportunities in renewable energy, sustainability programs and initiatives, and innovative recycling programs. Internal, cross-institutional collaboration will be highlighted to support enhanced learning experiences and curriculum development (non-credit and credit programs).



Herbs in the Food Innovation Center.



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE REPRESENTATIVES TOURED VALLEYHUB

In July of 2022, representatives from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), formerly the Department of Agriculture, visited Kalamazoo Valley's Food Innovation Center and Marilyn J. Schlack Culinary and Allied Health Building to learn about the creative ways the college is working to make healthy foods accessible.



Rachel Bair (right) with MDARD Director Gary McDowell.

APPRENTICESHIP CREDITS AVAILABLE TO CARPENTERS AND MILLWRIGHTS

In late 2022, the Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights (MRCC) and Kalamazoo Valley Community College signed an innovative articulation agreement that provides college credit toward Kalamazoo Valley's welding certificates or the occupational technical studies associate of

an applied science degree to apprentices who successfully complete journeyman certification training with the MRCC.



A student uses machine tool equipment.



Welding student in the lab.

VIETNAMESE COMPANY TAPPED WIND ACADEMY FOR EXPERTISE

In late 2022, four Vietnamese employees from Ho Chi Minh City-based organization EVNGENCO 3, traveled to Kalamazoo to train with instructors in Kalamazoo Valley's Wind Turbine Technician Academy (WTTA). EVNGENCO 3 specializes in electricity production and electric power engineering. The company aims to become one of the leading units in the energy sector, in both investment and development of wind power, in Vietnam and in Southeast Asia. The trainees were provided with 32 days of instruction, including one-week training in the field at Stoney Corners Wind Farm in northern Michigan.



Tom Sutton, left, and Lief Doezema, far right, with EVNGENCO employees who came from Vietnam for wind turbine technician training.

FOOD AND MEDIA EXPLORED AT 2023 FOODWAYS SYMPOSIUM

Foodways Symposium participants planted seedlings to take home.



This annual community celebration of the history and heritage of food and food systems in Southwest Michigan, sponsored by Kalamazoo Valley Community College, took place April 10 and April 15, 2022. This year's theme was "Food and Media." Festivities opened with a virtual keynote address delivered by food media authority Emily Contois, Ph.D., assistant professor of media studies at The University of Tulsa. The symposium culminated with an outdoor festival on April 15 at the College's Food Innovation Center and featured food vendors, community organizations, art displays, youth workshops, planting activities, live music and a special foraging session.

ADVISORY BOARDS CONTRIBUTE TO STUDENT SUCCESS

Area business owners and leaders came together to collectively support Kalamazoo Valley Community College's students and its programs at the college's advisory board meetings in March 2023. More than 150 people, representing businesses from throughout Southwest Michigan, attended the meetings to provide employer-based information related to the marketplace and the relevance of the college's training programs and courses. Attendees, representing such companies as Bronson Health Care, Stryker Corporation, Zoetis, Robert Half, Zeigler Auto Group, Pfizer, Eaton Corporation and TEKsystems, discussed industry trends, labor needs and employee skill requirements with faculty and staff. The advisory boards meet twice per year and welcomes new members annually.



Business leaders and community officials provided input on college training programs during annual advisory board meetings.

KALAMAZOO VALLEY HOSTED FIRST VALLEYHUB SUMMIT

More than 70 farmers, food producers, food service directors and buyers, community and state partners and stakeholders gathered at Kalamazoo Valley's Texas Township Campus to connect, learn and share during the ValleyHUB Summit on Jan. 12, 2023. The event created an opportunity for ValleyHUB staff to share about the state of the food hub and engage in meaningful discussions around food safety, crop planning, institutional food procurement and more. Farms, producers and buyers from across Southwest Michigan were represented, including some of the farms instrumental in the development of ValleyHUB.



The ValleyHUB Summit brought food producers and buyers together to discuss relevant topics.

COLLEGE PARTICIPATED IN BEYOND THE BACKPACK

On Aug. 13, 2022, the Beyond the Backpack School Readiness Fair took place at Bronson Park. The fair was hosted by Collaboration Kalamazoo. Kalamazoo Valley is among the organizations that make up Collaboration Kalamazoo. Other organizations include Charlie's P.L.A.C.E., Communities In Schools of Kalamazoo, Read and Write Kalamazoo, the YMCA and The Kalamazoo Promise.



The Beyond the Backpack School Readiness Fair draws crowds every year.

GIRLS ON THE RUN HOSTED 5K AT KALAMAZOO VALLEY

The Texas Township Campus was the site of the Girls on the Run in 2023.



Photo credit to Girls on the Run of Greater Kalamazoo.



On May 20, 2023, Girls on the Run hosted their celebratory 5K run at Kalamazoo Valley Community College's Texas Township Campus. Girls on the Run offers programs that are designed to inspire girls of all abilities to recognize and embrace their inner strength and make meaningful connections with others. Trained coaches use physical activity and dynamic discussions to build social, emotional and physical skills while encouraging healthy habits for life.

KALAMAZOO VALLEY, WMU SIGNED AGREEMENT LEADING TO SMOOTHER DEGREE PATH FOR STUDENTS



*Signing ceremony for new the transfer agreement
between Kalamazoo Valley and WMU.*

On Jan. 23, 2023, Kalamazoo Valley Community College and Western Michigan University signed a new agreement, paving the way for students to transfer more efficiently from Kalamazoo Valley to WMU. The signing ceremony with the presidents and provosts from each institution was held at Kalamazoo Valley's Texas Township Campus. The institutional articulation agreement is designed to help minimize credit loss and duplication of coursework – saving students time and money – as they transition from completing an associate degree at Kalamazoo Valley to completing a bachelor's degree at Western.

COLLEGE HOSTED NATURALIZATION CEREMONY

On Feb. 24, 2023, the college hosted a Naturalization Ceremony for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Department. The hour-long ceremony began at noon in the Dale B. Lake Auditorium and was the culmination of the naturalization process for more than 100 new U.S. citizens.



*College's Dale B. Lake Auditorium was the
site of a Naturalization Ceremony.*

Kalamazoo Valley Community College
FOUNDATION 

ABOUT THE KVCC FOUNDATION

Established in 1980, the Foundation accepts both unrestricted contributions and those designated for specific purposes, such as student scholarships, the purchase of necessary equipment to improve instruction and construction of new facilities.

The Kalamazoo Valley Community College Foundation serves as an independent 501(c)(3) charitable organization for support of and benefit for the college, its students, faculty, staff and affiliated entities such as the Kalamazoo Valley Museum.



Chef Leshieka Williams at the 2022 Opportunities For Education dinner.

FACULTY AND STAFF RAISE FUNDS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

On April 5 and 6, 2023, more than \$10,000 was raised for student scholarships during the college's Days of Giving. More than 150 members of the college community made pledges which we were complemented by a \$5,000 matching gift. Staff and faculty, who work daily with students, know firsthand about the difference that a scholarship can make in the life of a student. Plans are underway for a similar event in 2024.

WHY GIFTS ARE NEEDED

With your help, Kalamazoo Valley is able to provide the highest level of educational opportunities for students in the greater Southwest Michigan area. Generous donors, through gifts to the KVCC Foundation, help to make a college education possible for more than 500 students annually.

TO MAKE A GIFT OR FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact the KVCC Foundation at 269.488.4256 or visit www.kvcc.edu/foundation.

MISSION

The KVCC Foundation advocates for and financially supports Kalamazoo Valley Community College students and programs.

VISION

To remove financial barriers for all Kalamazoo Valley Community College students.

VALUES

The KVCC Foundation adheres to ethical and effective stewardship of our current and future resources.

CRONENWETT FAMILY ESTABLISHED SCHOLARSHIP IN MEMORY OF BROTHER BILL

Bryan Cronenwett describes his brother Bill Cronenwett Jr. as an entrepreneur who was always willing to help others. That's why Bryan and his sisters Sue Harris and Kay Walters had no qualms about donating \$100,000 to the KVCC Foundation for the establishment of the William S. Cronenwett Jr. Memorial Scholarship. The siblings were in charge of carrying out their brother's wish to make a lasting contribution to a worthy cause.

The endowed scholarship will be awarded annually to eligible Kalamazoo Valley students enrolled in the Emergency Medical Services program including EMS, EMT and paramedics. The first three awards were given during the Fall 2023 Semester.

Bill Cronenwett, who died in May 2021 at the age of 70, was a lifelong resident of Lawton. After graduating from Lawton High School, he served in the U.S. Air Force. In 1980, he earned an associate of science degree in business administration from Kalamazoo Valley.

He served for many years on the community's Quick Response Team and the Lawton Fire Department and was one of the towns original first responders. He owned and operated the Village Party Store in Lawton and later opened a construction and landscaping business called Hilltop Construction.



Bill Cronenwett Jr.'s siblings Sue Harris, Bryan Cronenwett and Kay Walters.

"He was always willing to help people out who were willing to help themselves," Bryan Cronenwett said. "He was very committed to giving back to the community. That's why we felt that establishing a scholarship to help students get started with a career in EMS made sense. Bill wanted to put money toward helping other people get started."

Cronenwett said he and his sisters were impressed that there are no administrative fees associated with creating a scholarship through the KVCC Foundation. "We're happy that the scholarship will help multiple people over a long period of time and that the money goes directly to students," he said.

Cronenwett is certain that his brother would be pleased. "There's a real need for EMTs and community support of people who want to get started in meaningful careers," he said. "This will have a lasting impact that will continue to help the community."

JANET AND SCOTT NYKAZA ESTABLISHED THE KALSEC SCHOLARSHIP IN 2022

Janet and Scott Nykaza established the Kalsec Scholarship in 2022 to honor the vision and philanthropy of the Paul H. Todd family and to assist Kalamazoo Valley students with financial needs.

Scott Nykaza was born in the Chicago suburbs and grew up on a farm in Wisconsin. He went to Kansas State University for undergraduate and master's degrees, and Colorado State for his doctorate in plant breeding and genetics. While working, he also returned to college to get an MBA from Michigan State University.

Janet was raised in the Toronto area. She went to the Ontario Agricultural College at the University of Guelph for her undergraduate and master's degrees and came to the U.S. to attend Purdue University for her doctorate, also in plant breeding and genetics.

Scott retired recently as CEO of Kalsec, a local food ingredient company founded by Paul H. Todd, Jr. Janet retired from a small education company.

While they both started their careers in plant research, they both ended up doing many different jobs and working in very different fields. "The value of college is that it gives you some basic tools and strategies so that you can continue to learn and adapt throughout your career. It also teaches you that you can do things that you may have thought impossible. It signals to prospective employers that you persevered and that you have gained skills and knowledge from that experience," Janet Nykaza said.

Scholarship donors Janet and Scott Nykaza.



One of Scott's graduate professor's motto was "the harder you work, the luckier you get" and that became his motto throughout college and employment. But to be able to put in the study required at college you need time, which may be in short supply if you have children and/or have to work a lot to pay bills. "When we went to college in the 70s, it was affordable, but that is not the case today," Janet Nykaza said. "We want to give students the same opportunity we had. Their best chance to succeed is by taking away some of the financial stress and allow them to focus on their studies and maybe take part in some extracurricular activities. By providing financial support, we can give students the time and space to succeed. Their success at Valley could change the trajectory of their lives; we want to be a tiny part of unlocking that student's full potential."

NYKAZA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT IRIS EVERETT

As a non-binary single parent with a disability, Iris Everette has worked hard to provide for their children. That's one of the reasons they're grateful to have received the Janet and Scott Nykaza Scholarship.

"My entire experience at Kalamazoo Valley Community College has been positive," Everette said. "We used to be homeless. We were on our own and moved to Michigan to start over. I'm 35 with a GED. That makes it hard to provide for two children with special needs."



Scholarship recipient
Gerard Dumond.

Haiti native Gerard Dumond graduated last June from the college's Wind Turbine Technician Academy (WTTA) and overcame many challenges during his time at Kalamazoo Valley.

Dumond, 46, moved to New York City in 2016 when his uncle enrolled him in the Haitian Family Reunification Program. He took high school equivalency classes and attended Molloy College in Long Island. "Since I was here, I wanted to learn English," he said. "I knew I wanted to study something here and I knew English was the way."

During class, he heard a presentation about green energy and became intrigued with wind energy. He was impressed with the reputation of Kalamazoo Valley's WTTA and, after passing the admittance exam, made the 10-hour drive to Kalamazoo by himself.

In addition to the scholarship, Everette was hired as a work-study employee in the college's Financial Aid office. "I love my work study in the financial aid office," they said. "For so many people, finances are such a big issue. I help them understand how they can get help and that there is help available."



Scholarship recipient Iris Everette.

Everette graduated from Kalamazoo Valley at the end of the Fall 2023 semester and transferred to Western Michigan University.

PERSISTENCE PAID OFF FOR HAITIAN WIND TURBINE TECHNICIAN

Dumond, whose native language is French, struggled at times to understand his instructors. "It wasn't easy," he said. Class met from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays for six months. "Everybody gave me a hand to make sure I finished. It was hard, but the pressure was good."

After class, he would watch YouTube videos that further explained the classroom lessons. His diligence paid off. Before the academy ended, Dumond was offered a job as a wind turbine technician with NextEra Energy in Indiana.

College officials, including President L. Marshall Washington, helped him connect with community resources. He also received the Long Scholarship and Schlack Student Assistance funds. Dumond had no doubt that he would graduate from the WTTA program and find a job in his field. "Keep your faith and keep on going. Don't limit yourself," is his advice for anyone facing adversity.

GIVING LEVELS

The Kalamazoo Valley Community College Foundation's Giving Levels recognize the amazing generosity of our donors and the tremendous impact these gifts have on our students.

Annual gifts are reflected from July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023.



Layla Law with her painting, "Fresh Blueberries," Best of Show winner in the Student Celebration Exhibit 2023.

BENEFACTOR \$10,000 - PLUS

Avangrid Foundation
 The Burdick-Thorne Foundation
 Robert and Rhea Corrion
 Bryan Cronenwett
 Gary Sisters Foundation
 Marlin and Barbara Gerber
 Havirmill Foundation
 Kalamazoo Community Foundation
 Kalsec, Inc.
 Scott and Janet Nykaza
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The 1966 Legacy Society recognizes individuals who have included a gift to the KVCC Foundation in their will or named the Foundation as a beneficiary of their retirement plan assets, insurance policies or donor advised fund.

The name reflects our history. Since 1966, Kalamazoo Valley Community College has been providing life-changing experiences for students and their families. Members of the 1966 Society will be creating a legacy for future generations by helping students achieve their educational goals.

Alan and Nancy Burbano
Robert and Rhea Corrion
Daniel and Linda Depta
JoAnn Lynch

FACTS AT A GLANCE



STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

AVERAGE AGE	24
<25	67%
25 OR OLDER	33%
WOMEN	56%
MEN	44%
WHITE	67%
BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	11%
HISPANIC/LATINO	8%
2 OR MORE RACES	5%
ALL OTHER/ UNKNOWN	9%



REVENUE OF \$86.5 MILLION

LOCAL FUNDS	30%
TUITION AND FEES	18%
STATE FUNDS	21%
FEDERAL FUNDS	28%
OTHER	3%

Net of Capital



CREDIT PROGRAMS 2021-22

12-MONTH ENROLLMENT	9,547
FULL TIME	27%
PART TIME	73%



STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

STUDENTS RECEIVING FINANCIAL AID	49%
RECEIVING FEDERAL GRANTS	26%
RECEIVING FEDERAL LOANS	15%
PELL GRANT	\$7,461,988
CAMPUS-BASED AID	\$433,202
KVCC FOUNDATION	\$520,000



ANNUAL TUITION AND FEES

KALAMAZOO VALLEY (in District)	\$3,916
MICHIGAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AVERAGE	\$4,662
4-YEAR COLLEGE AVERAGE	\$10,250

National Public In-State Average



DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES

ASSOCIATE DEGREES	875
CERTIFICATES	56
CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT	40
3-YEAR GRADUATION & TRANSFER RATE	40%
6-YEAR GRADUATION & TRANSFER RATE	49%

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