



« AUGUST 1, 1966 »

An election held in response to state and local studies citing a lack of vocational education and a need for an economical two-year transfer program is the first community-wide support for a community college.



MARCH 1, 1967 »

Dale B. Lake becomes the first president of Kalamazoo Valley Community College.



« MAY 9, 1967 »

A 185-acre site is chosen in Texas Township for the future campus. Much of the land had been used to grow corn for popcorn.



JANUARY 1968 »

The first 100 students attend classes in the earliest campus structure, the Redwood Building.



« SEPTEMBER 15 & 16, 1968 »

The opening ceremony is held with 1,518 students enrolled - 887 full time and 631 part time.



APRIL 15, 1969 »

As students protest the Vietnam War and other social issues on college campuses around the country, students do the reverse, calling Valley "the Cool School."



« JUNE 7, 1970 »

The first commencement ceremony is held and is attended by Michigan Gov. William Milliken.



JANUARY 1971 »

The Texas Township building, designed by renowned architect Alden Dow, opens for classes.



« JANUARY 1972 »

Operation Retiree Opportunity for Action and Development (ROAD) is established and allows senior citizens to take courses tuition-free.

MARCH 1972 »

Kalamazoo Valley receives full accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools in just three and a half years.





◀◀ JULY 1976

The college receives a 10-year accreditation from the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, which is an indicator of expanding enrollment, including 131 international students. Several technical programs such as dental hygiene and nursing are also nationally accredited.

SUMMER 1976 ▶▶

Celebrating the bicentennial, 24 students participate in a 32-day, 3,470-mile coast-to-coast bicycle trip.



◀◀ OCTOBER 23, 1978

Two campus publications, Faculty Focus and Valley News, merge into a single weekly publication, titled Valley Focus.



DECEMBER 1979 ▶▶

Sports become an integral part of the college experience and the Cougar Booster Club is created.



◀◀ FALL 1980

The KVCC Foundation is established as an independent 501 (c) (3) charitable organization for support and benefit of the college, its students, faculty, staff and affiliated entities.



WINTER 1981 ▶▶

The Texas Township Campus library acquires one electric typewriter for student use; the fee is 5 cents for 30 minutes.



◀◀ SUMMER 1981

The "On the Road" bicycle group makes its first foreign trip, biking in England, Scotland and Wales.



OCTOBER 1, 1982 ▶▶

Dr. Marilyn J. Schlack becomes Kalamazoo Valley's second president.



◀◀ NOVEMBER 22, 1983

As enrollment crests 9,000, the college establishes a downtown center and becomes part of a future revitalization of the community's core.



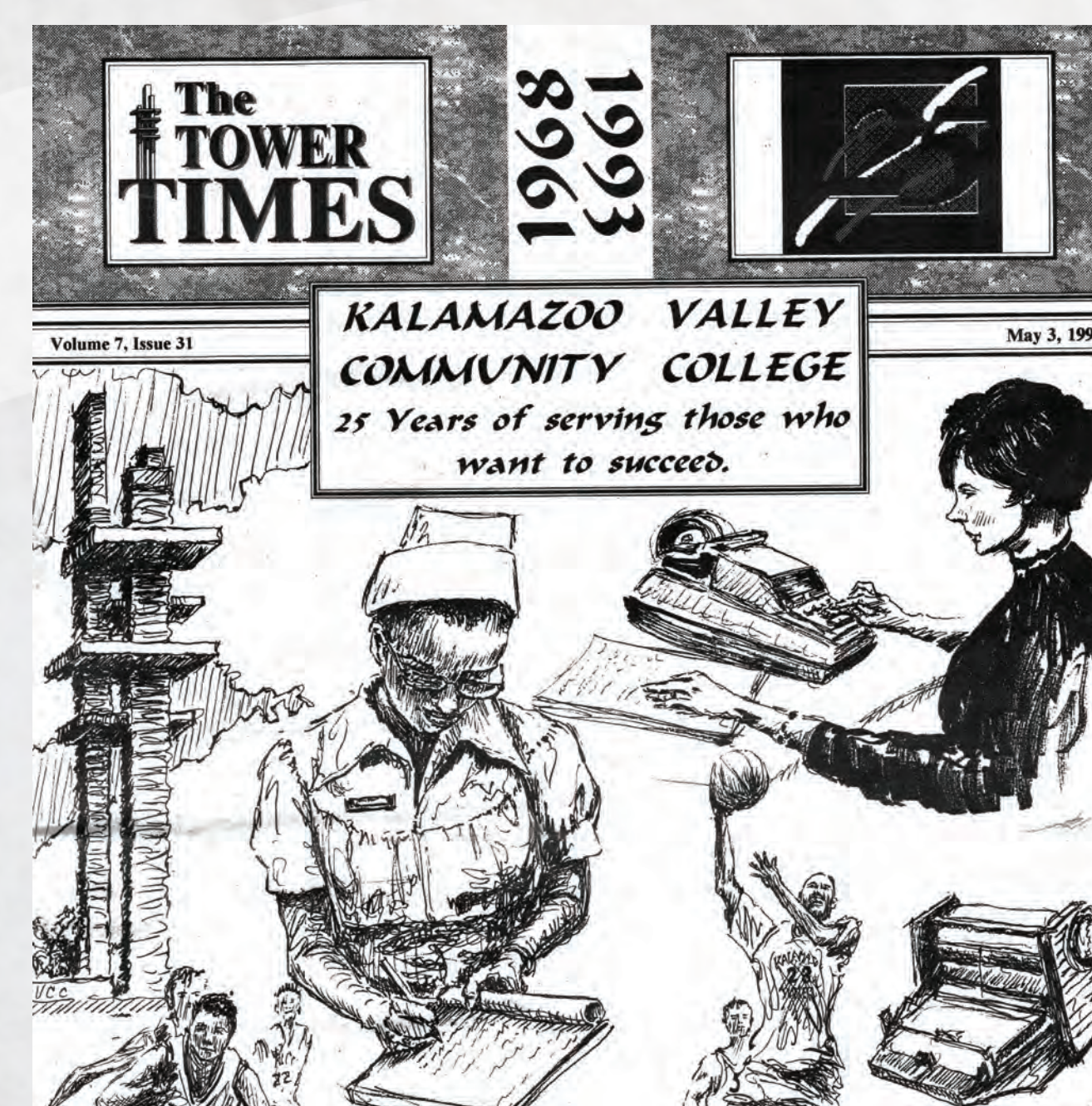
JUNE 1986 ▶▶

The college plays a leading role in the creation of the "Education for Employment" program that is cited for its ingenuity and innovation.



« DECEMBER 1986 »

The college holds its first December commencement ceremony.



SEPTEMBER 1987 »

The Tower Times student newspaper begins publication.



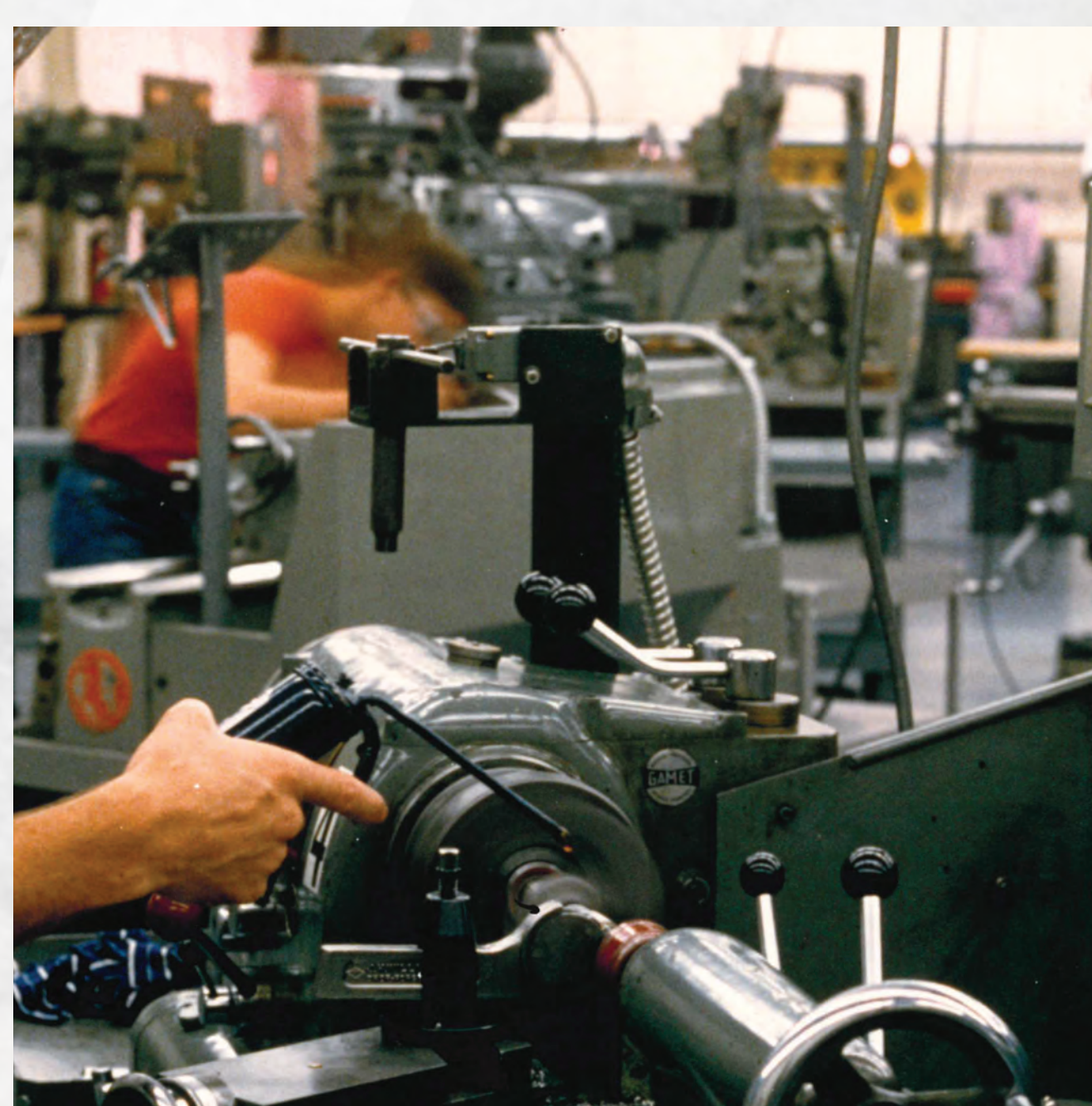
« MAY 1988 »

Planning begins for three building additions to the Texas Township Campus: the tower entrance expansion, technical wing and instructional wing.



SEPTEMBER 1989 »

Enrollment tops 10,500 students. Kalamazoo Valley partners with Western Michigan University to institute The FOCUS Program to help underrepresented students transfer with success to WMU.



« OCTOBER 1989 »

U.S. News & World Report praises the college for extending technical education offerings to students as young as the ninth grade.



APRIL 1, 1991 »

At the community's request, the college assumes the governance of the Kalamazoo Valley Museum and a charter millage to fund it is approved by voters.



« APRIL 28, 1991 »

A 100,000-square-foot addition to the Texas Township Campus is dedicated. This addition centralizes student services and adds an instructional wing for faculty offices, a computer lab and classrooms.



FALL 1991 »

The average age of students attending is 30.



« AUGUST 28, 1992 »

Groundbreaking is held for the downtown three-story, 55,000-square-foot Anna Whitten Hall located on the Arcadia Commons Campus.

FEBRUARY 17, 1996 »

\$20 million is raised to build the new Kalamazoo Valley Museum and is the largest such campaign in the community's history. The museum is located on the Arcadia Commons Campus.





« JANUARY 1997

Through an articulation agreement with Davenport College, students are able to complete a four-year degree in accounting and business with a flexible series of weekend courses.



MARCH 1, 1997 »

The men's basketball team wins the Michigan Community College Athletic Association State Championship.

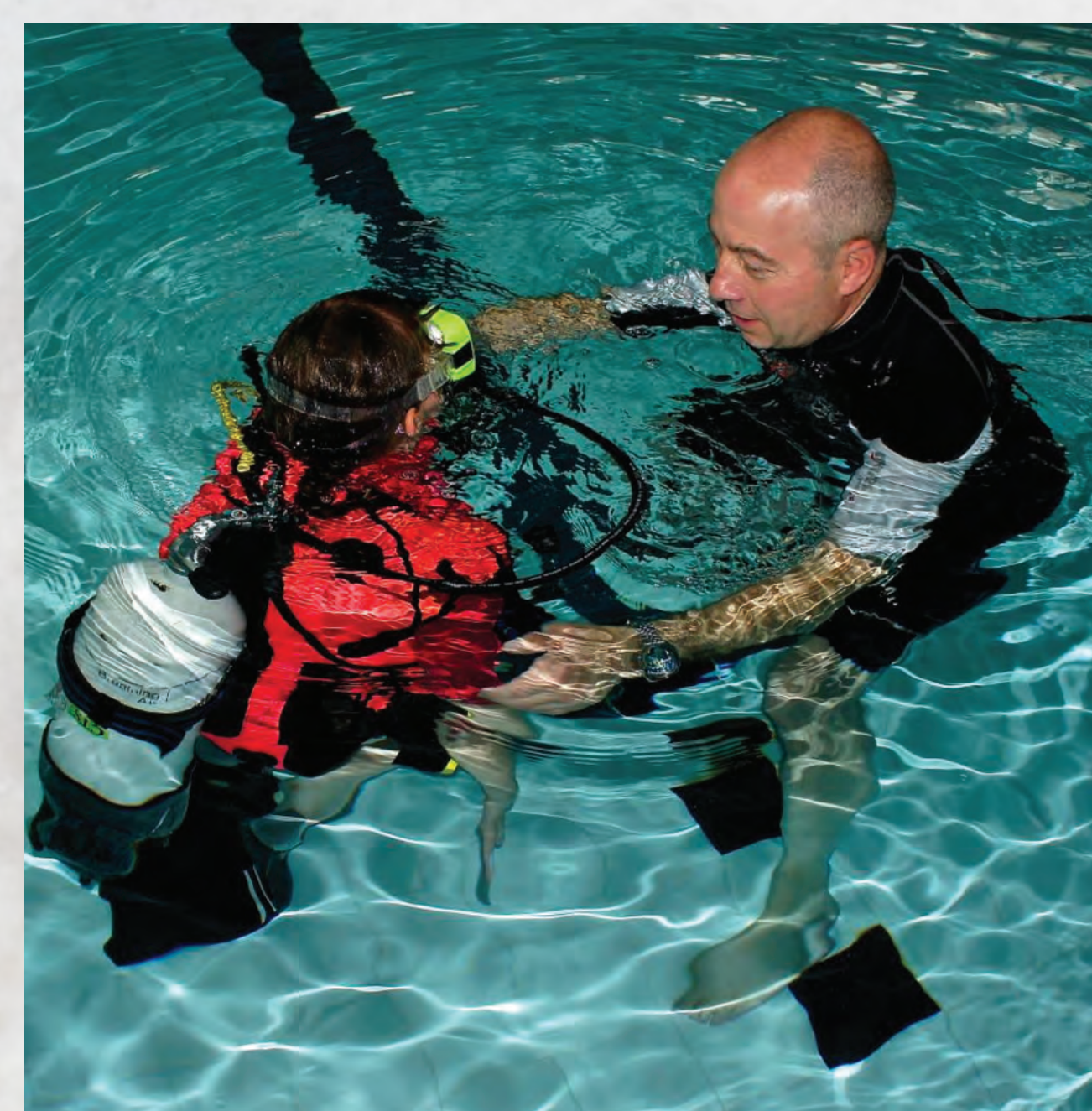


« FALL 1997

For the first time, class schedules and the college catalog are posted online.

WINTER 2001 »

The Tower Times student newspaper touts unusual course offerings for winter semester, including SCUBA, private pilot ground school, horsemanship, snowboarding and the study of love.



« MARCH 23, 2001

The college establishes what will become The Groves Campus, which serves as the home of the internationally recognized Wind Turbine Technician Academy.

SEPTEMBER 24, 2001 »

The Wellness and Fitness Center, part of the Student Commons, opens for student, faculty and staff use. The unique Student Commons leads the way to other innovative approaches to help students reach their potential.



« FALL 2002

Funded by a two-year \$150,000 grant, the "Brother2Brother" program is established to support and retain male African American students.

JANUARY 2004 »

Greenleaf Companies, owner of the historic S.W. Dewing Building, and the college agree on a \$9.6 million development project that will renovate, expand and technologically update the building to house the college's Center for New Media.



« SEPTEMBER 2004

Ten years after the opening of the Arcadia Commons Campus, the Board of Trustees renames the original building Anna Whitten Hall in honor of longtime trustee Anna Whitten.



The Kalamazoo Promise

« MAY 11, 2006 »

The Kalamazoo Gazette reports that 90 Kalamazoo Public School high school seniors plan to use the newly announced Kalamazoo Promise scholarship to attend Kalamazoo Valley.

» JUNE 20, 2006 «

The college switches from Social Security numbers to newly-assigned "Valley Numbers" for student and employee identification; new employee ID cards are issued.

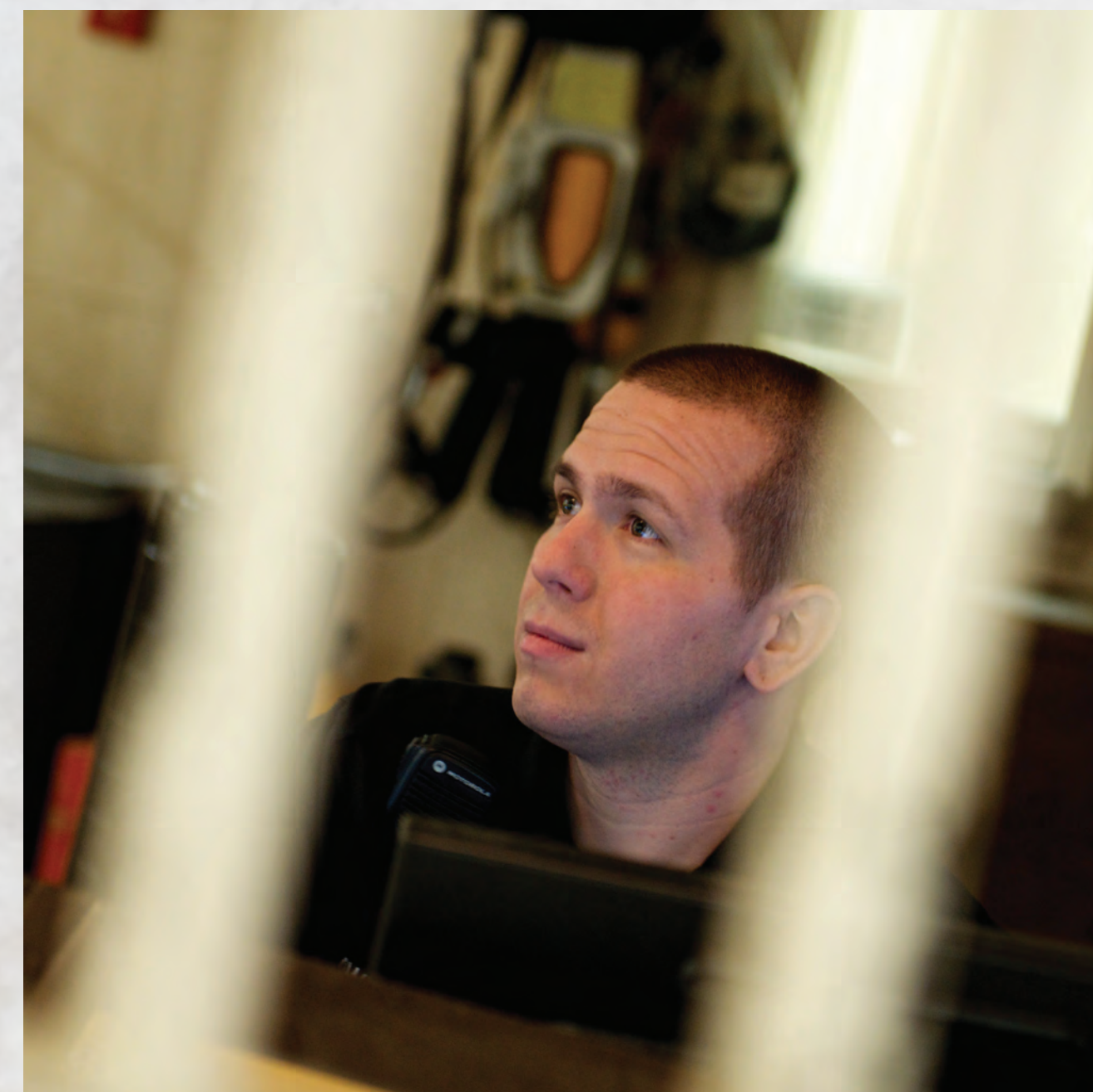


« SEPTEMBER 4, 2007 »

In response to requests from auto dealerships and shops, the college launches the Automotive Technician Academy; the non-degree program takes 42 weeks to complete.

» JANUARY 7, 2008 «

Under the auspices of the Kalamazoo Law Enforcement Training Center at the Texas Township Campus, the college launches the 160-hour Corrections Officer Training Academy to prepare people for jobs in county jails and other facilities operated by municipalities.



« NOVEMBER 28, 2008 »

Work begins on the construction of a \$250,000 50-kilowatt wind turbine with a 120-foot tower and three 25-foot blades at the Texas Township Campus.

» FALL 2009 «

The women's volleyball team wins conference and state regional titles.



« OCTOBER 2010 »

In 2010, Alumni+ is established to keep alumni connected with the college.

» OCTOBER 19, 2012 «

Dale B. Lake, college president from 1967-1982, passes away at his home in Winter Haven, Florida. The auditorium at Texas Township is named in his honor.



« JULY 29, 2013 »

In cooperation with Bronson Healthcare and Integrated Services of Kalamazoo (formerly Kalamazoo Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services), the college announces the downtown location for its Bronson Healthy Living Campus.

» AUGUST 2015 «

High school students can now earn an associate degree or certificate at little or no cost by completing a fifth year of high school through the college's Early/Middle College program.



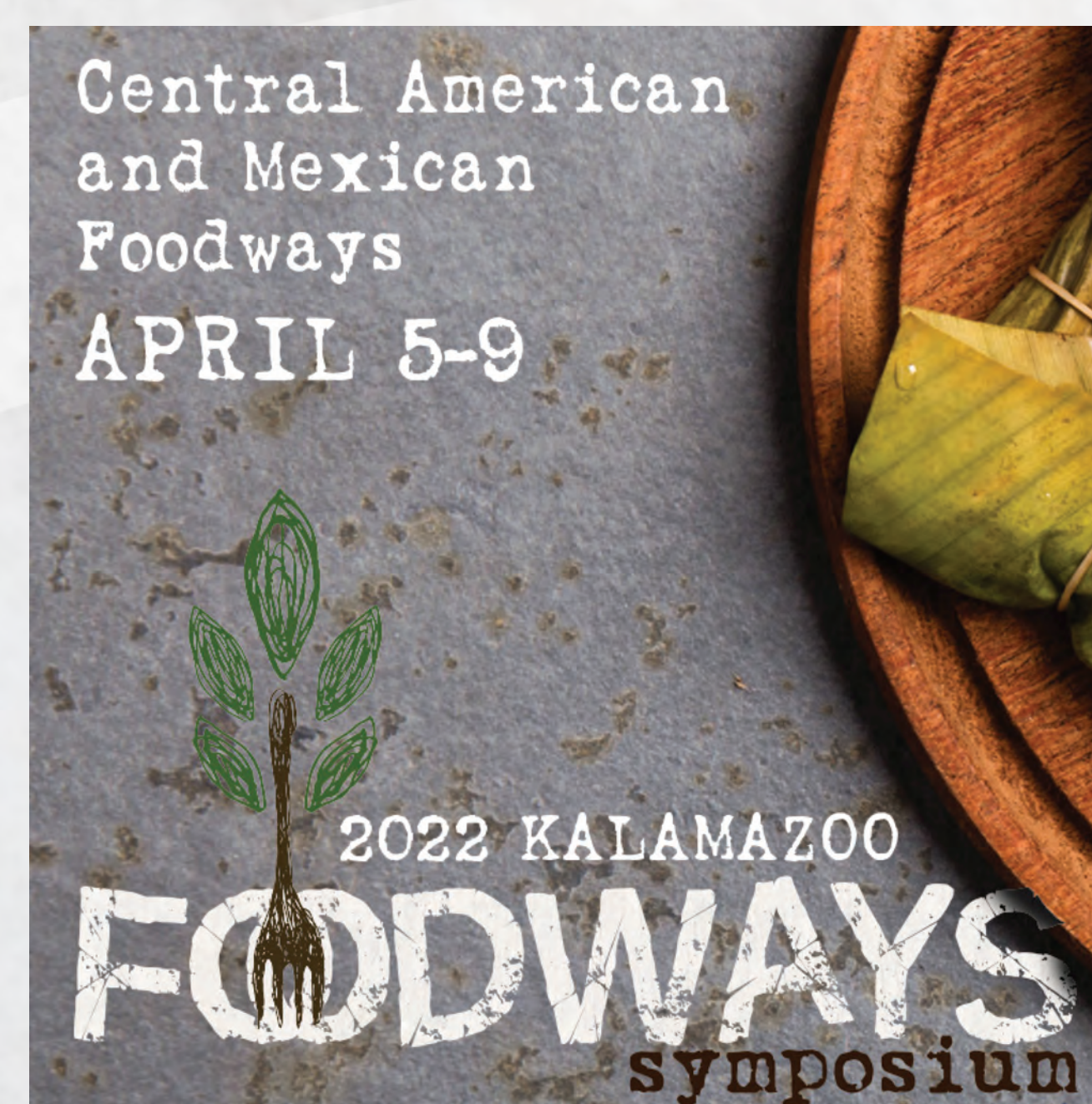


« JANUARY 2017 »

Student-run restaurants, featuring award-winning student-crafted beers, open in the Culinary and Allied Health Building.

APRIL 2017 »

The first Foodways Symposium is launched to honor Kalamazoo's agricultural history and celebrate cultures from around the world.

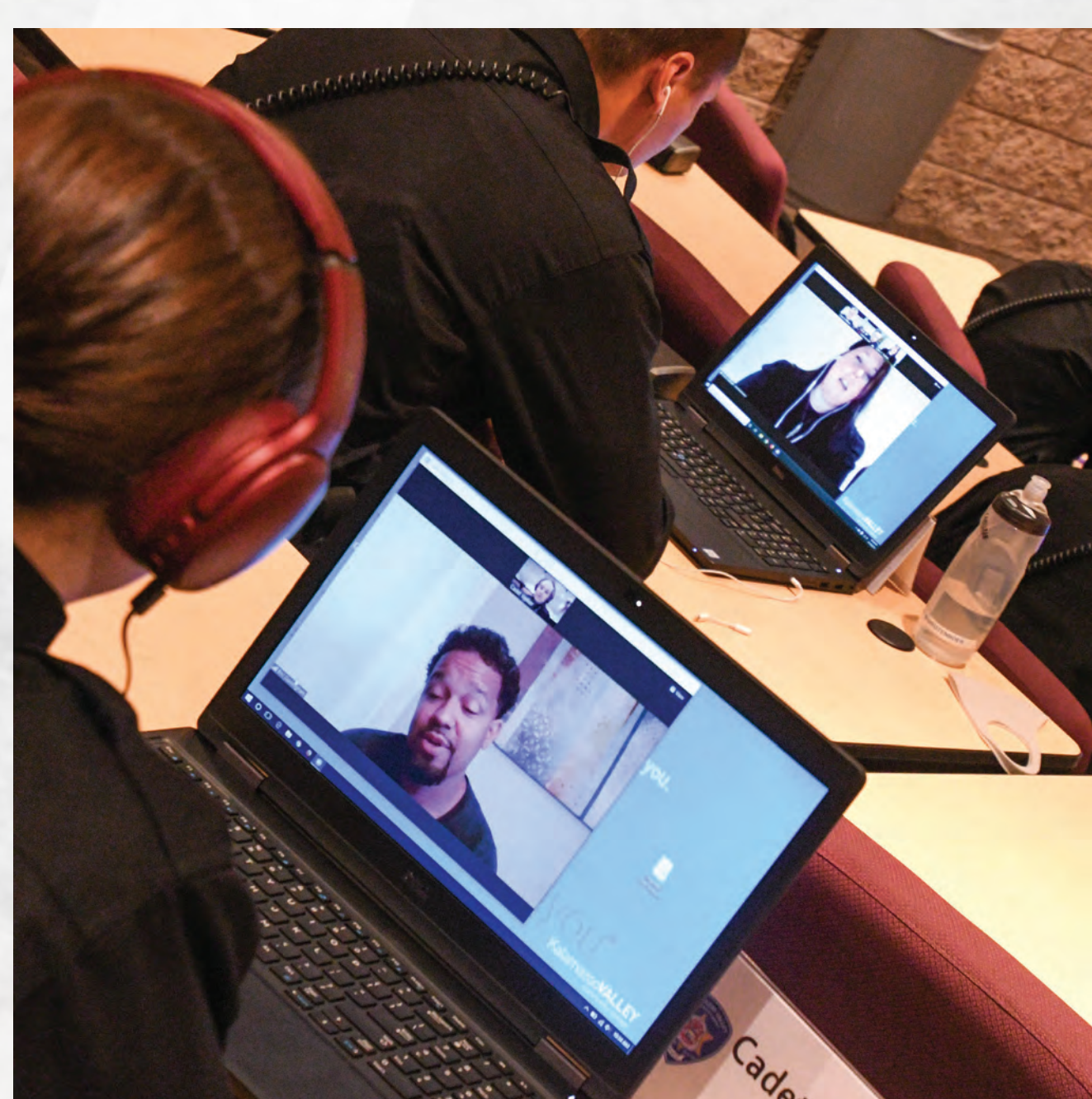


« JUNE 30, 2018 »

Longtime college president Marilyn J. Schlack, Ph.D., retires after more than 40 years of service. The Culinary and Allied Health building is renamed the Marilyn J. Schlack Culinary and Allied Health Building. She passes away in June 2021.

JULY 1, 2018 »

L. Marshall Washington, Ph.D. begins service as the college's third president.



« JULY 2019 »

Police Officer Training Academy garners national attention for its "Expanding Our Horizons: A Cultural Awareness Experience" diversity training.

MARCH 2019 »

Valley Food Share, an initiative designed to meet the immediate food needs of Kalamazoo Valley students, is launched. Through the program, students pick up a box or "share" of fresh fruits and vegetables, canned and boxed goods and other food products each week.



« OCTOBER 12, 2019 »

"Filling The Gaps: The Art of Murphy Darden" exhibit opens for a 15-month run at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum.

MARCH 2020 »

The college responds to the COVID-19 pandemic by creating a Pandemic Response Plan which includes moving instruction and student services online.



« APRIL 2020 »

Michigan Reconnect and Futures for Frontliners tuition assistance programs inspire hundreds of learners to return to Kalamazoo Valley.

MAY 2, 2021 »

In response to the pandemic, the college hosts a Drive-Thru Commencement at the Texas Township Campus. More than 150 graduates participate.

