





COMMENCEMENT





Dear Distinguished Guests,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 83rd commencement program at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, college administration, faculty and staff, I am proud to offer sincere congratulations to our graduates and their families.

For more than 52 years, the college has been instrumental in helping students achieve their educational goals. The region continues to benefit from the tenacity, skills and abilities of our graduates. We salute you and the thousands of Kalamazoo Valley alumni who make west Michigan a great place.

Kalamazoo Valley Community College stands steadfast in its support of students, past, present and future. We confidently look forward to the future.

Sincerely,

L. Marshall Wristight

L. Marshall Washington, Ph.D. President

April 2019 Graduation PROGRAM FOR COMMENCEMENT

PROCESSIONAL

"March" from Second Suite in F – Gustav Holst Kalamazoo Valley Community College Campus Band Chris Garrett, *Conductor*

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Kalamazoo Valley Community College Campus Band Chris Garrett, *Conductor*

WELCOME

L. Marshall Washington, Ph.D., *President* Kalamazoo Valley Community College

REMARKS

Jeffrey W. Patton, Chairperson Board of Trustees

Steve Ott, *Faculty Representative* COM

Brittany Gallagher, *Student Representative* AAS Dental Hygiene

MUSIC

"The Trombone King" – Karl King Kalamazoo Valley Community College Campus Band Chris Garrett, *Conductor*

ASSEMBLING OF GRADUATES

"Song Without Words" from Second Suite in F – Gustav Holst Kalamazoo Valley Community College Campus Band Chris Garrett, *Conductor*

FACULTY CERTIFICATION OF GRADUATES

Dr. Paige Eagan, Interim Vice President for Instructional and Student Services Kalamazoo Valley Community College

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

L. Marshall Washington, Ph.D., *President* Kalamazoo Valley Community College

RECESSIONAL

"Under the Double Eagle March" – J. F. Wagner Kalamazoo Valley Community College Campus Band Chris Garrett, *Conductor*

Jamie Rix - Sign Language Interpreter

Kalamazoo Valley Community College BOARD OF **TRUSTEES**

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* Denotes with Honors

* * Subject to final graduation audit

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* Denotes with Honors
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Imani Mournee Morrow Maria Blair Nelson Chloe Nicole Neumann Greaory Steven Nichols Berta Nonato Jackson K Norberg Paul Northrup Rachel Faye Nozicka Deanna Leona Ruth Oliver *Alexa M Parker Nicholas Wade Ploof *Richard Eugene Poffenberger *Emily Mary Pyne *Rhonda Lynn Rakowski Branden Ramsev Jessica Renee Rátkowski *Coreen Lynn Reed Jacob David Reicherts Angelo Vincent Rinna *Hailee Rose Uthman Ra' Sheen Ross *Mary Grace De Vela Ruivivar *Elisa Nicole Russell Leonard Thomas Russell Elaina Sachs-Berneis Catherine Salome *Veronica Schallhorn Tyler Robert Schiller Cody Schuiteboer Caitlyn Ruth Seelv Westin J Seifert *Benjamin Duane Sheppard *Kimberly Shuler *Aaron Patrick Siegler Chad Steven Smith **Emily Nicole Smith**

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CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

Ryan Kenneth Beeman Andrew Joseph Blodgett *Alan Wayne Browne *John Thomas Frantti Daniel James Garson *Jessica Rene Gibson Thomas Edmon Guess Grant Haynes *Sharjeel Karim Darek Joseph Kovach *Rebekah Anne Loedeman Tyler Moulds *Kyle Nally *Julie O'Donnell Robert L Owens *Gabrielle Rebecca Penn Sereno V Pittman Charles Arthur Powers *Sheri Chris Simpson *Kristen Michelle Steenhoven Valerie Stegall

> * Denotes with Honors ** Subject to final graduation audit

STUDENTS GRADUATING WITH HONORS

The students with asterisks (*) before their names and those wearing the distinctive white cords are graduating with honors. Honors graduates have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or better for all academic work attempted.

PHI THETA KAPPA

Academic excellence is the hallmark of the Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society. Membership is extended by invitation only. To be considered for membership, a KVCC student must be enrolled and have completed 12 credit hours; have achieved a 3.5 grade point average; have established a record of academic excellence as judged by the faculty; be of good moral character and possess recognized qualities of citizenship.

Graduates of Phi Theta Kappa are: Bayan Aljarabah, Toni Anderson, Austin Atkinson, Nathan Bakker, John Bongers, Takoda Bostwick, Emily Cameron-Hesson, Wade Clawson, Evan Collins, George Collins, Rachel Cotter, Chris Crabtree, Breanna Crawford, Sophia Cunningham, Derick Daniels, Isaac Dean, Sedona Dobson, Caitlyn Drumm, Levi Durham, Emily Fall, Matthew Farmer, Kara Fassbender, Juanita Feaster, Jason Feddema, Taylor Fifer, Haley Fleck, Christine Forrest, Tajah Frazier, Jeremy Frey, Diana Galindo, Brittany Gallagher, Charles Garrison, Daniel Garson, Jessica Gibson, Angela Hamilton, Ian Haves, Elizabeth Heimann, Caitlin Herrera, John Higgins, Michael Higgins, Lydia Huitt, Jessica Isaacs, Tristin Janson, Jorge Jaramillo, Alexzandriah Jerry, Morgan Kamrowski, Karley Kane-Maystead, Erin Kash, Calista Kaufman, Hope Kline, Brian Koss, Zosha Kuiper, Christina Kuntzman-DeRyke, Destiny Lewis, Karson Linders, Rebekah Loedeman, Carolina Lumetta, Tesius Majcher, Kayla McCaig, Colin McHugh, Allan Medwick, Travis Mikel, Deshea Neal, Madison Nichols, Malia Nichols, Samuel Ohland, Gabrielle Penn, Abdelrahman Radwan, Hailee Rose, James Ross, Elisa Russell, Austin Ryder, Mikaela Santek, Philip Schichtel, Caitlyn Seely, Aaron Siegler, Victoria Simmerman, Abigail Solis-Almaguer, Ryan Stearns, Kristen Steenhoven, Sessili Sazrafinski, Megan Throp, Jonathan Tule, Madissen Vacha, William Vandermay, Samantha Veltrie, Jacob Vermeulen, Kayla Watson, Preston Weatherwax, Nicholas Whitman, Anna Wolfe and Jamie Zayac.

THE HONORS PROGRAM

The Honors Program was started in 1986 with the realization that a growing number of students of high academic standing were attending the College. The Honors Program recognizes students, selected on a portfolio of grade point average, test scores, essays, community service, character, leadership and recommendations. The Honors Program emphasizes studies that deepen and broaden student knowledge in and across disciplines.

Graduates of the Honors College are: Nathan Bakker and Carolina Lumetta.

THE FOCUS PROGRAM

The Focus Program is a collaborative effort between Kalamazoo Valley Community College and Western Michigan University designed to increase the number of Kalamazoo Valley students who successfully complete an associate degree and transfer to WMU to complete a baccalaureate degree.

Graduates of the Focus Program are: Juliet Anderson, Lowell Bouchard, Cameron Branson, Olga Gakodi, Paige Jaskolski, Hayley Johnson, Darek Kovach, Peter J Morris, TraOnna Nelson, Tiffany Rich and Kimberly Shields.

EARLY/MIDDLE COLLEGE

The Early/Middle College program allows students to earn an associate degree or certificate for little or no cost by completing a fifth year of high school. Students delay high school graduation for one year while they take college courses at Kalamazoo Valley. Tuition and fees are paid by the local school district up to the state maximum allowed.

Graduates of Early/Middle College are: Joshua Applegren, Joshua Bailly, Bonnie Balkema, Sedona Dobson, Zoey Dubuisson, Austin Edwards, Joseph Elms, Stephanie Fee, Dallas Fuller, Thomas Guess, Lauren Heaney, Madison Homer, Evan Johns, Mackenzie Jonas, Zosha Kuiper, Audrey Ledvina, Karson Linders, Stephanie Norris, Bridgette Pernie, Andrew Slager, Nicholas Slater, William Swalwell, Tristyn TerAvest and Spencer Waterman.

KALAMAZOO PROMISE SERVICES

Kalamazoo Promise Services offers student support to Kalamazoo Promise eligible students. Through a series of appointments students are assisted in successfully completing their academic goals at Kalamazoo Valley. Students can schedule recurring appointments to stay updated on their academic progress which can help ensure successful goal completion.

Graduates of the Kalamazoo Promise Services are: Camille Ayers-Key, Andrew Blodgett, Stephen Boley-Kutsche, Takoda Bostwick, Kyle DeYoung, Kyle Doherty, Kaelan Firth, Morgan French, Kezia Garrett, Maywan Garrett, Laikeya Greene, Duvon Hallowell, Stephen Hunter, Alexzandriah Jerry, Austin Kiewiet, Gregory King, Destiny Lewis, Vanessa Maldonado, Nicholas Morrison, Jackson Norberg, Jasmine Outlaw, Madeline Richman, Sunny Singh, Matthew Smith, Stephen Smoker, Baileigh Strong, Alex Thompson-Westfal, Branden VanZile, Ashley Wesseling and Takia Willis.

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

The music for this afternoon's commencement ceremony is provided by the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Campus Band. The band is directed by Mr. Chris Garrett.

Building emergencies will be indicated by the flashing of exit lights and sounding of chimes within the seating area. In an emergency, walk, do not run, to the nearest exit.

ACADEMIC REGALIA

The wearing of academic regalia is an ancient and impressive custom. The use of the cap and gown comes from costumes used in the 14th and 15th centuries, particularly at Cambridge and Oxford in England. The English love of tradition and pageantry created the distinctive academic dresses which have been maintained in English universities for centuries and which have been used in the United States since colonial times.

The caps are known as "mortar boards," and some believe the name was derived from the master workman's mortar board. The tassel, which was added in the 18th century, is worn over the left front quadrant of the cap.

The major distinguishing characteristics of the gowns are the sleeves, styled in the following fashion: associate and bachelors, long pointed; master, oblong; doctor, bellshaped. The doctor's gown has a velvet collar and three bars on the sleeves.

Masters and doctors wear hoods which vary in size and shape and indicate the several degrees. Hoods are lined with the official colors of the university from which the degree is granted while the color of the velvet edging denotes the field of learning. The distinctive gold cords worn by some graduates represent participation in the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Honors Program. Students wearing gold tassels and stoles are members of the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Alpha Rho Nu Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society; medallions represent officers.

The distinctive white cords are worn by students who are graduating with honors.

The red, white and blue veteran cords designate those individuals who have served, or who are currently serving, in one of the five branches of the United States Armed Forces: Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard, including the Armed Forces Guard and Reserve Members.

The use of academic regalia is a custom which lends both color and dignity to the graduation ceremony.



COLLEGE SEAL

The symbols as a part of the Kalamazoo Valley Community College seal represent the college as a shining tower of light illuminating the path forward through the pursuit of technical and academic education. The year 1966 represents the establishment of the college by area voters

on August 1, 1966. The tower represents the 85-foottall light tower erected in 1970. The seal symbolizes the critical role the college plays in replacing the darkness of fear and ignorance with the light of truth, learning and understanding.

ABOUT KALAMAZOO VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Kalamazoo Valley Community College was established in 1966 by the overwhelming approval of voters in nine local school districts. It is a comprehensive, fully accredited, public, two-year college with enrollment of nearly 9,000 students.

Currently, the college has four campuses: Texas Township, Arcadia Commons, Groves and Bronson Healthy Living.

Designed by Alden B. Dow, a student of Frank Lloyd Wright, the Texas Township Campus is located near the I-94 and U.S. 131 interchange on 185 acres of rolling woodland west of Kalamazoo. Expanded several times over the last 50 years, the 430,000-square-foot complex features modern classrooms, comprehensive library and computer labs, two gymnasiums, ball fields, tennis courts, a running track, two auditoriums, food services, free parking in expansive lots and fully equipped labs for science, industrial and manufacturing technologies.

Located in downtown Kalamazoo, the Arcadia Commons Campus includes Anna Whitten Hall (built in 1994), the Kalamazoo Valley Museum and the Center for New Media. The campus serves as a hub for a community, business and education partnership that renovated and revitalized a significant portion of the historic downtown area.

Creating an educated workforce skilled to meet the demands of a changing economy is the focus at the Groves Center on Kalamazoo Valley Community College's third campus. Originally opened in 2001 as one of 18 M-TEC facilities across the state, the campus was financed by a \$5 million grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, plus \$6 million in matching funds provided by area companies and foundations.

The Groves also offers customized workforce development training for area employers. The college works closely with area businesses to ensure that services align with the employment needs of the region. Business and community leaders turn to the college for state-of-the-art education and training.

In cooperation with Bronson Healthcare and Kalamazoo Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Kalamazoo Valley developed the Bronson Healthy Living Campus in downtown Kalamazoo in 2014. It is located on 13.3 acres of land donated by Bronson Healthcare where Kalamazoo Valley has expanded its curriculum to include brewing and training in culinary arts, sustainable food production and safety.

Many student services and programs are available on all of the college's campuses including a thriving Honors Program, comprehensive learning, tutoring and testing centers that offer one-on-one assistance and the International Studies Program that includes more than 130 courses emphasizing the global aspects of everything from accounting to wellness.

In collaboration with K-12 partners and the KalamazooRESA, the college provides Early College programming for hundreds of area students. With its four-year university partners, students can complete a bachelor's degree in the college's University Center.

Kalamazoo Valley offers certificate programs in more than 20 areas of study and associate degrees in 25 others. In addition to associate degree and certificate programs in business, health care, human and public service, technical occupations and industry, the college also provides a quality experience for students preparing to transfer to four-year institutions following graduation.

TEXAS TOWNSHIP CAMPUS



Texas Township

GROVES CAMPUS



Groves Center

BRONSON HEALTHY LIVING CAMPUS



Marilyn J. Schlack Culinary and Allied Health



Food Innovation Center

ARCADIA COMMONS CAMPUS



Anna Whitten Hall



Center for New Media



Kalamazoo Valley Museum



www.kvcc.edu

Bronson Healthy Living Campus PO Box 4070 Kalamazoo, MI 49003-4070 269.548.3200

Texas Township Campus 6767 West O Avenue PO Box 4070 Kalamazoo, MI 49003-4070 269.488.4400

Arcadia Commons Campus 202 North Rose Street PO Box 4070 Kalamazoo, MI 49003-4070 269.373.7800 **Groves Campus** 7107 Elm Valley Drive PO Box 4070 Kalamazoo, MI 49003-4070 269.353.1253