

Kalamazoo Valley Community College Alumni

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2015



RON HIGGINBOTHAM
Alumni 1997 Liberal Arts

Ron Higginbotham **4**
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Coordinator's Column

Greetings Kalamazoo Valley alumni and friends!

Welcome to the Fall 2015 Alumni+ Newsletter. We appreciate you taking a few minutes to relax and enjoy this issue of the newsletter.

I always acknowledge students whose hard work and perseverance resulted in receiving their degree or certificate. The May 3, 2015 commencement ceremony honored 590 graduates that earned 708 degrees. Additionally, another 47 students were honored at the Groves Campus having completed the requirements of the Corrections Officer, Mechatronic Technician, Wind Turbine Technician, and Patient Care Academies. It is a pleasure to acknowledge the investment these students have made in themselves and their future. Accolades to all of you!

Thanks to the alumni and friends who took advantage of the Growlers voucher offer. Alumna Theresa Bell shared a photo and thank you (page 9). We are thrilled that the Alumni+ voucher offer enabled your family to enjoy a Growlers game. We hope to make a similar offer next year.

In the winter/spring issue of Alumni+, I shared the difficulty we experienced mailing to our alumni due to outdated or inaccurate address information. We are making efforts to bring the alumni database current so we can reach all of you. Initial efforts resulted in over 2,500 address corrections. Making these address corrections in the database, coupled with more research, I am finding that Kalamazoo Valley alumni are literally everywhere. Our spring 2015 Alumni+ Newsletter was sent to alumni in forty states! You are all doing exciting, interesting things. While trying to locate Kalamazoo Valley alumni, I found that you are all experiencing life after Kalamazoo Valley, both the good as well as events that build character. There have been marriages and births; some of you have experienced damage from storms; and I have read touching tributes for loved ones lost. Many have moved on to complete additional degrees and now hold jobs around the country and world.

We want to thank Brenda and Judi, who reached out to Alumni+ to provide their change of address. Join Brenda, Judi, and others, email alumni@kvcc.edu and update your information.

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ALUMNI+

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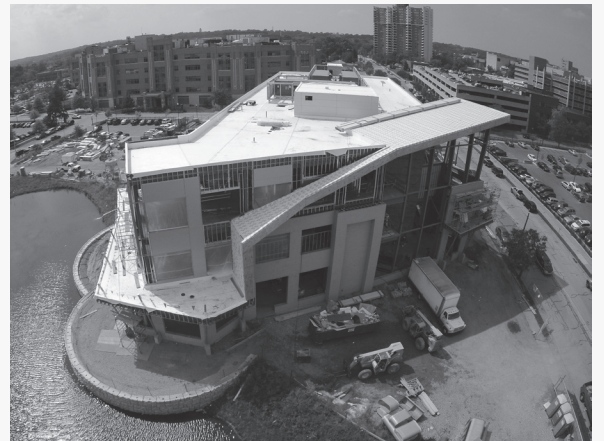
Questions about Kalamazoo Valley Alumni+ or this publication may be directed to the Alumni Relations Coordinator at: **269.488.4314** or at alumni@kvcc.edu.

PROGRESS CONTINUES

4th Campus Coming Along

The new Bronson Healthy Living Campus in downtown Kalamazoo will open during the winter 2016 semester. The newly constructed Culinary and Allied Health building houses a community education kitchen, a full service teaching restaurant and café, the Kalsec Center for Sustainable Brewing Education, and the college's Nursing, Respiratory Therapy and Emergency Technician programs.

The Food Innovation Center is a demonstration facility for urban food production, regional-scale food distribution and best practices in food safety. Kalamazoo Valley students and partners will explore new trends in growing food indoors and in reclaimed urban environments. The site will also host a "food hub" for utilizing foods from local farms to supply area hospitals, schools and other institutions.



Culinary and Allied Health building

A third building is being constructed at the new campus by Kalamazoo Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, one of the partners in the project.

The facility will house a patient-centered mental health clinic and pharmacy providing services for adults, youth, and families. The location on the campus will create opportunities to incorporate garden-based therapies in holistic patient care.

ALUMNI SHARE MEMORIES

Support and Encouragement

At 57 years of age when most are thinking retirement, I am jobless, on unemployment benefits, unable to find work and living off of what little retirement savings I had. I would not have made the decision to come back to the classroom were it not for my daughters' insistence and encouragement. Encouragement also has come from unexpected sources: professors who see me as much as an equal as they do a student, someone from whom they can learn; fellow students who see me as much as a teacher as they do a classmate, someone who has earned the street cred in the world of journalism and beyond, and who is comfortable in both worlds, as mentor and student. That air of camaraderie has facilitated the give-and-take of learning so much for me, and I hope for them as well.

2012 International Studies graduate

A Note of Gratitude

I am very thankful to have been a part of the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Honors Program, the classmates and instructors I met in the program, and the valuable advising I received from you (Steve Louisell) throughout my time there. I believe that the Honors Program offers incredibly valuable opportunities and am grateful the ways it has influenced the course of my education and career. I must say I have the fondest memories of the Honors Teaching assistantship class that you taught, and my *McKeachie's Teaching Tips* holds an honorable spot on my bookshelf wherever I go.

2012 Science graduate

ART PRIZE ENTRIES

A Great Combination

Kalamazoo Valley Community College and Alumni+ watched closely the competition for ArtPrize 7 in Grand Rapids. Of particular interest were the Kalamazoo Valley Alumni and friends that were among the participating artists who entered over 1,500 works in this year's show. Alumni and friends of Kalamazoo Valley entered in ArtPrize 7 were: Gwen Taylor '11, Brittany Rudd '13, Jamie Simonds '15, Marsha Lucas '08, Chad Zentz '15, John Crookston '06, Dawn Hollister, Rene Meave, Paul Flickinger, Brian Koenigsknecht, Craig Simpson, Cynthia Plum, Patrick Hershberger, Paul Nehring, Sarah Spohn, Ty Peters, Arthur Braud, David Rivette, Maggie Flynn, Kelly Vander Kley, Shelly Weaver, Mary Whaley, Runali Patil, Sydney Peters, Beth Jarl, Joseph McAllister, William Heyd, and future alumna Ashlee Bachinski. Although you were not among the winners, we take pride in your talents and courage. Thank you for sharing your work with Michigan and the world!

RECOGNITION

Well Done

Kudos to Matt Moersch '02 whose Round Barn Winery, Distillery & Brewery in Baroda was among the Top 10 in John Gonzalez' MLive search for Michigan's Best Winery. Matt, together with his brother Chris and his wife, own The Round Barn Winery, Brewery and Distillery in Baroda. Matt was featured in the Spring 2014 Alumni+ Newsletter.



The Round Barn

Acknowledgment

Congratulations to Van Buren County Sheriff's Deputies and Kalamazoo Valley alumni Brian Matthews '00 and Eric Calhoun '11 who were honored by The Michigan Chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Drivers for their efforts in keeping their county safe. Deputy Matthews, a nine-year veteran of the department, was recognized for his expertise in the field of drug recognition at accident scenes. Deputy Calhoun, a two-year veteran, was praised for his efforts in traffic law enforcement, as well as misdemeanor and felony arrests.

Wild & Free, an 8'x5' acrylic painting by Brittany Rudd



ENGLISH INSTRUCTOR RON HIGGINBOTHAM

Ron Higginbotham is Genuinely Empathetic

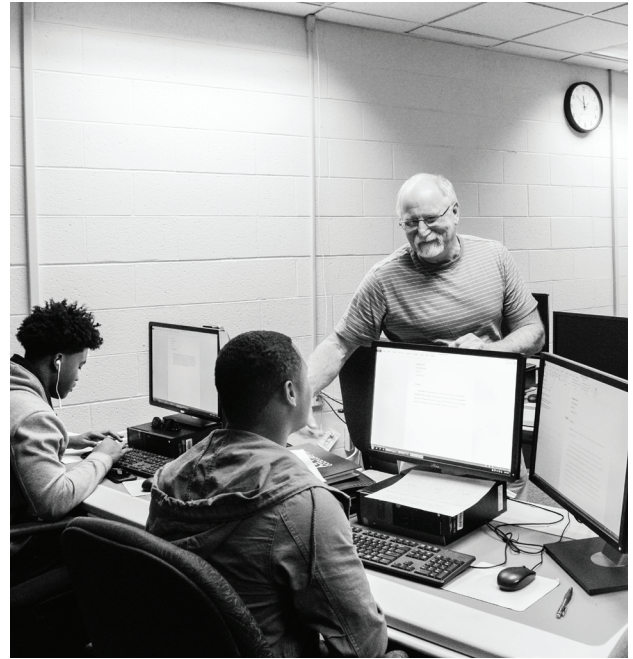
Ron Higginbotham recalls the shame of being forced to wear a dunce cap in front of his classmates. Humiliating experiences in grade school made the Opelousas, Louisiana native certain that his career options were bleak. He assumed “weak mind, strong back” was a motto that applied to him. His first job was harvesting sweet potatoes on his uncle’s farm as a boy. His family was poor and lived in a house with no electricity and no running water.

“My students know I came from nothing,” he said. “I like to start by telling them where I came from. That’s why he’s so happy to be an instructor at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. I have a special attachment to the college because this is where I came to save myself,” Higginbotham said. “I feel very fortunate that I got hired. Sometimes I pinch myself. I can’t believe what I’m doing. I fell in the right place with the right group of people.”

Higginbotham was hired full-time in 2010 to teach English and developmental education classes. “I love it. I love these students,” he said. “In a way, I see myself in them.” He remembers sitting in class and feeling like an outsider. “I can’t do what other people have done to me,” he vowed. He shares his story with his students and assures them that he believes in them. “It gives me a different perspective,” Higginbotham said. “When I say I empathize, I really do.”

He admits that he used to be “a pretty rough edged character.” After a four-year stint in the Marine Corps, he worked for a machine and ironworks business, at an electrical company, and moving heavy machinery and operating a forklift before spending nearly 19 years at Checker Motors in Kalamazoo. That work provided a decent living, but it was highly unstable and there was always the threat of a company shut down. In 1992 at the age of 42, Higginbotham finally told his wife Denise, “I have to do something different. I’m going to try college.”

When the late English instructor Ron Miazga let him sign up for an empty seat in his class, everything began to change for Higginbotham. “I hadn’t written anything but a book report in high school,” Higginbotham recalls. For his first assignment with Miazga, he wrote an essay about the day his high school was desegregated.



Ron Higginbotham in class session

Miazga told Higginbotham that the first draft of his essay was written like a finished piece of work. Those words of encouragement meant the world to Higginbotham. “Up until then, I didn’t think I could, so therefore, I couldn’t,” he said. Miazga died in January of 2009, at age 68, after a six-year battle with melanoma. Higginbotham is still grateful for his encouragement and chokes up when remembering his beloved mentor.

Higginbotham kept taking classes and working. He eventually went to work as a materials handler for Stryker, working his way up to a metrology position.

“I was doing okay there, but I’d decided English was my thing and I was going to have to get my master’s degree,” Higginbotham said. He changed his major to English and continued to build his resume, all while continuing to work 40 to 60 hours a week.

Higginbotham says Miazga and Kalamazoo Valley changed his life. “For the first time in my life, I feel like I’m doing something that matters,” he said. “I think it’s important to reach down and pull someone else up and I feel very fortunate to be able to do that.”

OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION

Annual Dinner Funds Student Scholarships

Each spring, the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Foundation hosts the Opportunities for Education Scholarship Fundraising Dinner, (OFE). This event provides scholarships for Kalamazoo Valley Community College students who need help financially. In 2014-15, Kalamazoo Valley Community College processed 15,803 requests for financial aid. Of those requests, only 41.1%, or 6,502 students, received some form of financial aid. The number of financial aid applications continues to increase each year.

“The scholarship is one of this nation’s oldest examples of collaboration and partnership,” said Steve Doherty, Executive Director of the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Foundation. “Students who seek this assistance show their appreciation with outstanding performance in the classroom, the lab and in the workplace. Those who provide this assistance demonstrate the wisdom of investing in the community’s most important resource – our people.”

Dinner attendees hear from scholarship recipients selected to speak, as well as a guest speaker. Walter Bond, Accountability Leader, was the guest speaker for 2015. Bond shared with the audience that “his father and his father’s brothers made a commitment to get educated,” and went on to say “I might be a city kid, but I came from educated people.” Bond encouraged those present to be a blessing to somebody else and write a check if they could, because there was “nothing more important they could do than upgrade education at Kalamazoo Valley.”

This year 458 attended the OFE Dinner. The event raised \$47,285 which will help scholarships continue to provide financial aid to Kalamazoo Valley students.

The next Opportunities for Education Dinner is planned for May 19, 2016.



Thank you gift for supporting the Foundation dinner



Guests, OFE dinner 2015

For more information about the event and the KVCC Foundation, contact Executive Director Stephen Doherty, 269.488.4442 or email: sdoherty@kvcc.edu.

Guests enjoying the OFE dinner at the Radisson in downtown Kalamazoo



KALAMAZOO VALLEY ALUMNI JEREMY HOWE MAKES A BIG BANG IN HOLLYWOOD

From Kalamazoo to Los Angeles

Kalamazoo native and Kalamazoo Valley alumni Jeremy Howe was never a class clown, but now he's a writer on one of television's most popular comedies, *The Big Bang Theory*. "I didn't come out to write comedy," Howe said. "I intended to write drama, but once I got into working on a sitcom, I realized that I enjoyed them."

Howe graduated from Kalamazoo Christian High School in 1997 and went on to earn a Liberal Arts degree from Kalamazoo Valley. He moved to Los Angeles nearly 14 years ago when he took a job as an intern for the CBS daytime drama, *The Young and the Restless*. He was completing his film and video production degree at Grand Valley State University when a fellow GVSU grad alerted him to the internship opportunity. "I didn't want to move without something lined up because there are so many people trying to get started and it's so competitive," Howe said, explaining that he was happy for the opportunity.

Because Howe was undecided about his career aspirations when he first started college, Kalamazoo Valley turned out to be a great fit. He took general education classes at Kalamazoo Valley for two and a half years before transferring to GVSU. He said all of his KVCC credits transferred and he was able to complete his film studies at GVSU in less than a year. Even with a solid education and writing skills, Howe quickly discovered that making connections with others in the television business was essential. "You pretty much keep bouncing around based on relationships," Howe said of the business.

After his internship at CBS, he went to work in the mailroom. Then he became a production assistant, followed by an assistant writer position, and then Howe landed a writing position during season four of *The Big Bang Theory*. The show premiered in 2007. It centers around socially awkward post-doctoral scientists Leonard Hofstadter and Sheldon Cooper and their equally geeky friends and co-workers, except for former neighbor Penny, who recently married Leonard. At the end of last season, *The Big Bang Theory* was ranked the number one comedy with 18.6 viewers and a 6.2 rating in the age 18-49 demographic.

Howe lives in Los Angeles with his wife Lily and their two children. Many of his friends and family members still live in West Michigan and he returns to Michigan about twice a year. Howe's siblings and parents have all visited the set. "They were elated even when I was an assistant," he said of his proud family. Imagine their joy when one of Howe's jokes makes it into a script!

The show is now in its ninth season and Howe is in the second year of a three-year contract. "It's nice to have some stability," he said. Howe is one of ten writers for the show.



Alumni Jeremy Howe

When the show's creators, Bill Prady and Chuck Lorre, are in town, all 12 writers collaborate on script development. "We are always writing," Howe said. "We write everything together. It's really fun and laid back. We start in June and we work for two months writing five or six scripts. In August, we start taping." First the main story, or A story, is developed. The characters who aren't a part of the A story are the focus of the B story, which is developed as a secondary piece.

Howe said the team has a five-day work week. On Wednesdays the cast reads through the script and the writers go back and make adjustments. Thursday's rehearsal is based on Wednesday's rewrites. Another rehearsal is held on Friday and on Monday, the scenes are shot with a blue screen and no audience. On Tuesday, filming begins with a live audience. Before the final taping, jokes that don't elicit laughter are quickly rewritten.

Howe acknowledged that the show seems to have universal appeal. "It's a rare show when high schoolers love it and also grandparents love it," Howe said. "You never know what's going to stick, but the characters are all fun to watch and people just like to tune in." Howe said the show's popularity really skyrocketed after it went to syndication. "I've seen that happen on a couple of shows," he said. "But this grew in a way no one expected."

Kalamazoo VALLEY Alumni+ Distinguished Alumni

Kalamazoo Valley Community College is proud to recognize its many alumni and chooses to award public honor annually to an alumni of distinction for use of his/her education toward personal achievement and contribution to the betterment of the community.

We invite nominations for this distinctive award.

AWARD CRITERIA INCLUDE

- The nominee shall have earned a minimum of 30 credit hours from Kalamazoo Valley Community College.
- The nominee shall have earned distinction in his/her career through continued education, certifications, professional development, training, professional recognition and/or outstanding contributions to the field. Or, the nominee shall have modeled personal growth and accomplishment that reflects a transformed life or lifestyle.
- The nominee shall be recognized by peers or mentors for their participation and contributions to their community.
- The nominee shall be available to receive the award at the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Opportunities for Education Dinner, held in the spring.

We invite you to nominate distinguished alumni by completing the brief nomination form provided on the reverse side.

Send the nomination form and accompanying documentation to:

Denise Thomas, Coordinator of Alumni Relations

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

PO Box 4070

Kalamazoo, MI 49003-4070

Or email alumni@kvcc.edu

Deadline April 5, 2016

Kalamazoo VALLEY
Alumni+
Distinguished Alumni

Kalamazoo VALLEY Alumni+ Distinguished Alumni

NOMINEE INFORMATION

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

Email Address _____

Degree(s) Earned/Area of Study at Kalamazoo Valley _____

Year Graduated _____ Last Year Attended _____

Degree(s) Earned from Other Institutions _____

NOMINATOR INFORMATION

Name _____

Relationship to Nominee _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Kalamazoo VALLEY
Alumni+
Distinguished Alumni

Alumni+ Art Show Winners

Correction



The page 7 photo caption in the spring 2015 Alumni+ Newsletter was incorrect. The photo is shown above is with corrected information: (left to right) alumna artist Jan Lucking, Kalamazoo Valley art instructor Aubrey Hardaway, and alumni artist Jake Andrews

We apologize to Jan and Jake and congratulate them for their success. Jan and Jake both received Honorable Mention in last year's Alumni+ Art Show.

Artist Alert

Alumni Art Show Returns in April

Kalamazoo Valley alumni artists, it's time to prepare for the fifth annual Alumni+ Art Show!

Show date: Friday April 1, 2016, 5:30 p.m.

Why participate? This is an opportunity for Kalamazoo Valley alumni to showcase their work. Each year, this show is held at Kalamazoo Valley's Center for New Media in conjunction with Art Hop. This is a juried art show, at which six awards are presented to artists. Show judges are area professionals from a variety of artistic disciplines. Their diversity enables them to deliver expert, but impartial, determinations.

The 2014 Alumni+ Art Show welcomed 17 first-time entrants. You do not have to have studied art to enter. Previous show entrants have come from a variety of backgrounds including law enforcement, accounting, and medical coding. For an alumni artist to enter the show, they must have successfully completed at least one class at Kalamazoo Valley and not be currently enrolled in any course (Winter 2016).

If you are a Kalamazoo Valley Community College alumni, this is YOUR show. Take a minute and look into your portfolio. Is there a piece that could be entered in the show? If not, now is the time to begin preparing. There is no artist entry fee. As you work to ready your piece(s) for the show, please visit <https://www.kvcc.edu/alumni/artshow/> for show details, and the links to the Call for Entry Form, Show Guidelines, and Exhibition Loan Agreement.

pottery by alumna Annie Burch



Nominate Now For the 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award

Submit by April 5, 2016

Kalamazoo Valley and Alumni+ will be announcing the 2015 Distinguished Alumni in the coming months. Watch for the announcement at <https://www.kvcc.edu/>. This will be Kalamazoo Valley's third Distinguished Alumni. In 2014, a perpetual plaque that commemorates each Distinguished Alumni was purchased and now hangs outside the president's office at the Texas Township campus.

Nominations are being accepted for 2016 Distinguished Alumni. Do you know a Kalamazoo Valley alumni whose life is marked by distinction and worthy of acknowledgement and honor? We invite members of the Kalamazoo Valley community: students, alumni, family, faculty, staff, and friends to share the names and accomplishments of outstanding Kalamazoo Valley Community College alumnus who you believe should be considered for this award. Award criteria and nomination form can be found on line at https://www.kvcc.edu/pdfs/DistinguishedAlumniAward_NominationForm.pdf or complete the form in this newsletter. Submissions will be accepted electronically or by mail through April 5, 2016.

Growlers Game

Thank You

Hello, on behalf of my family we wanted to thank you and the Kalamazoo Valley Alumni Foundation for the opportunity to purchase vouchers for the Growlers game. We really enjoyed the experience and may not have been able to attend a game without the voucher invitation.

Again thank you so much!

Best regards,

Theresa Bell,
2014 Liberal Arts



Theresa Bell's son and nephew at their first baseball game

2015 Faculty Instructional Award Recipients Announced

Students and Peers Make Selections

Kalamazoo Valley's 2015 Faculty Instructional Awards were announced during Faculty Seminar Days on September 3. This year's winners were Samantha Reidenbach, dental hygiene; Michael Sinclair, physics; Theo Sypris, history and economics; Richard West, biology; Jack Bley, biology; and Ron Higginbotham, English.

The awards are part of an effort to recognize and honor individual teaching excellence. Students and staff nominate candidates. "It is the hope that in honoring our most excellent colleagues, we will all be uplifted, inspired and further dedicated to our own teaching success," said 2015 Faculty Instructional Awards Committee member Jenny Ott.

One of Reidenbach's nominators said she "makes the stress of the dental hygiene program a little bit less stressful. She treats us as equals and will take time out of her busy life to help you understand the material fully."

Sinclair was nominated by a student who admitted that the word physics "strikes fear into mortal hearts." Sinclair challenges his students to think outside of the box and to live a life of science. "You could tell that he truly loved what he was doing and that was contagious so it made me love doing and learning Physics," one of his nominators said.

Sypris "is the kindly professor, the brilliant educator and the dragon who can breathe fire—a fire that does not burn. No, it is a fire he and his program lit inside this student" his nominator said. "He taught me how to be a student."

West was credited with being passionate about his subject matter and about helping students succeed. "He takes it personally that each student gets the best education out of his class and will go above and beyond to help anyone if they don't understand." West's nominator said his "real world experience" enhances his ability to relay knowledge to his students.

Bley "always goes out of his way to make the student's experience a positive one," his nominator said. "I have been in and out of college for many years and I have never had an instructor who was so passionate, caring, and genuine with his students as Dr. Bley has been. He is very knowledgeable and will do whatever it takes to help his students understand the world of human physiology, even if that means taking time out of his busy schedule to

do a study session on a Saturday!"

This is the fifth year that the awards have been presented to instructors who actively encourage students' intellectual curiosity, engage them in the enterprise of learning, and have life-long impact. After the nomination period ends, a committee of instructional staff reviews each submission and determines the award winners.

Brewing Scholarship Announced

Gonzo's BiggDogg Brewery

Beginning with the winter 2016 semester, a new scholarship will be available to students in the Sustainable Brewing program at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Gonzo's BiggDogg Brewing Scholarship was created in September 2015 and will award \$500 annually to a student in the Sustainable Brewing program.



Greg "Gonzo" Haner, owner of Gonzo's BiggDogg Brewing, said he's proud to support Kalamazoo Valley's sustainable brewing program. Haner has worked in the brewing business for 24 years and runs a 15-barrel brew house. "I feel good about helping someone go to the brewing school," Haner said. "This is an exciting project for the community."

Haner said he's hopeful that students from the new school will eventually seek jobs in local breweries. "There's so much to learn about how a lab works and so many parts of the process," he said. "A brew school education will make hiring much easier."

The Sustainable Brewing program is accredited and teaches all aspects of brewing science. Classroom work is reinforced through hands-on experience. Students participate in a practicum class environment designing a beer recipe, monitoring and analyzing the brew throughout the entire brewing process, and assessing the final brew using tests and sensory evaluation.

The brewery has the comprehensive functionality of industry equipment and the program facilities demonstrate sustainable brewing practices. Students who complete an Associate degree can transfer coursework toward a Bachelor of Science degree in Sustainable Craft Brewing at Western Michigan University.

Gonzo's scholarship is the first fully funded scholarship offered specifically to brewing students. "We appreciate Gonzo's support and we're looking forward to awarding the first scholarship to a deserving student," said Stephen Doherty, Executive Director of the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Foundation.

CCSTEP Grant Provided Funding

Equipment Upgrades Enhance Advanced Technical Training

New advanced technology equipment at Kalamazoo Valley Community College has instructors pinching themselves.

The new equipment, which will be used by students in the CNC, drafting and design, welding, maintenance mechanics, mechatronics, engineering design, and advanced electrical programs, was funded by a \$4.8 million Community College Skilled Trades Equipment Program (CCSTEP) grant. CCSTEP funding is meant to enable community colleges to purchase state-of-the-art equipment to enhance educational programs in high-wage, high-skill, and high-demand occupations. Kalamazoo Valley was one of 18 community colleges to receive a CCSTEP grant last winter. Funds from the CCSTEP grant were used to upgrade and expand training labs with state-of-the-art technology at the Texas Township and Groves Campus facilities.

At the Texas Township Campus, the new equipment includes 3-D printers with the capability to create products with 14 types of materials, a three-axis CNC machine, a four-axis lathe, a five-axis CNC machine, a wire EDM machine, injection molding equipment, grinder polishers and a high powered microscope for the metallurgy lab, state-of-the-art welding trainers and CAD/CAM lab upgrades.

At the Groves Campus, upgrades include the addition of FANUC Robodrill 5-axis mills, HAAS CNC lathes with Y-axis and bar stock feeder, a production 3-dimensional printer that prints in 12 materials from plastics to metals and produces parts that are ready to install; CAD/CAM lab with the latest 3-D CAD modeling software; 3-D scanner equipment which converts a scan of an object directly into 3 dimensional CAD software, information technology equipment to support wi-fi systems, fiber optics and structured cable system installation and maintenance.

Student Gloria Lampton with instructor Bill Kring



Kalamazoo Valley Launches University Center

Complete a Bachelor's Degree on Campus

A lack of time isn't the only issue that prevents community college students from transferring to four-year institutions. Many students have unique circumstances that prompt them to attend a community college initially. One higher education model that can help them overcome their challenges is a university center, which combines the degree completion opportunities of four-year schools with the local convenience and services offered at a community college campus. To simplify the degree completion process for its students, Kalamazoo Valley Community College has announced the creation of a university center.

"The economic development of the region has been shown to be related to the proportion of residents with advanced educational degrees. The university center will expand post-secondary education options for students in southwest Michigan," said Kalamazoo Valley Community College President Marilyn Schlack. "Kalamazoo Valley will cooperate with four-year colleges and universities to provide students a variety of options that are not readily available in today's market."

After completing an associate degree, students will be able to seamlessly continue their education in the same buildings with the same services with which they have grown accustomed. Kalamazoo Valley's university center is expected to partner with a number of four-year colleges offering non-competing degree-completion programs and launched with Davenport University courses currently being offered at its Texas Township Campus.

"We think the university center concept is a logical solution to the degree-completion challenges that many of our students face by providing new and unique opportunities," noted Schlack.

While each teaching center is unique, all of these centers have the goal of bringing education to underserved areas. Schlack said the university center furthers Kalamazoo Valley's commitment to ensuring student success.

For more information about Kalamazoo Valley's University Center, contact Craig Jbara, Vice President for Strategic and Economic Development at Kalamazoo Valley Community College, 269.353.1263 or email cjbara@kvcc.edu.

KALAMAZOO LITERACY COUNCIL **NEEDS ALUMNI VOLUNTEERS**

A staggering 13% of Kalamazoo's adult population—31,000 adults—are functionally illiterate. Join the project, become a tutor and change someone's life, and yours, for the better.

Every time someone becomes a tutor for the KLC, Kalamazoo County gets closer to becoming 100 percent literate.

So, let's get started. Take a look at the Tutor Orientation schedule and find a time that's convenient for you. It's the first and most important step in your commitment to making Kalamazoo a better place, now and in the future.

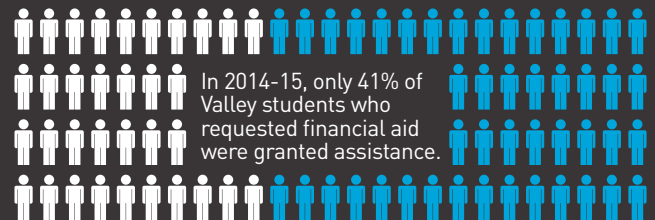
Located at Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

For details go to kalamazooliteracy.org
or email alumni@kvcc.edu.



EVERY STUDENT DESERVES A **CHANCE.**

Many students **can't afford** a college education.



THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO **MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

Make a difference in a student's life; visit kvcc.edu/foundation to donate. Their future is our future.

Kalamazoo Valley Community College
FOUNDATION

