

Kalamazoo Valley Technical Trades Renovation and Expansion Capital Campaign

Building the next generation of technical trades workers



Invest Today for Tomorrow's Future

Over the past 10 years, Kalamazoo Valley trained nearly 6,000 students in the technical trades. The college is ready to increase its capacity to meet the anticipated workforce needs of the future. Every skilled trade is in urgent need of trained workers. Michigan's Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity predicts that approximately 45,000 new job openings in the trades are expected in the state over the next five years. Kalamazoo Valley is readying to educate the next generation in automotive technology; computer aided design and manufacturing (CAD/CAM); construction and maintenance; electrical technology; energy systems technology; heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC); machine tool engineering/design/manufacturing technology and welding.

Why we need to expand our technical trades workforce:

- Local construction, manufacturing and automotive industries need a pipeline of employees
- The region will be prepared to support new and current businesses because the skilled workforce will be in place to build and maintain facilities and the housing for employees
- Career opportunities will increase for families who would benefit from good jobs in the trades
- Residents will be able to hire local tradespeople and multiple levels of training will be available within the community



Transforming Lives and Communities through the Trades

PROMOTING WORKFORCE READINESS

Kalamazoo Valley takes the “community” in community college seriously. Our passionate and industry-connected instructors work with an **advisory board of 110 specialists from local industries** to ensure our graduates are prepared. We work with **560 apprentices employed by 137 employers in 66 customized technical programs**. Kalamazoo Valley, with its robust industry connections and flexible faculty, can nimbly adapt to advances in technology.

OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERYONE

Careers in the technical trades change lives. These good-paying careers lift people out of low-paying jobs and help close equity gaps in our community. Expanding opportunities in the technical trades is a key part of Kalamazoo Valley’s inclusive mission.

MAKING MICHIGAN A TALENT LEADER

The state is investing \$19.5 million into Kalamazoo Valley’s renovation and expansion of our technical trades facilities to help position Michigan as a talent leader. The state of Michigan’s Sixty by 30 initiative to increase education attainment in our state has set a goal that, by 2030, 60% of working-age Michiganders will have a certificate or college degree. This investment in our renovation and expansion, combined with the state’s recent budget line for free tuition for many full-time students who attend community college, will remove financial barriers to training for good-paying jobs.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Southwest Michigan First reported that \$5.8 billion+ in capital has been invested for recent and underway industrial projects in our region. Any **new growth in our region will need to be supported by talented technical tradespeople** with advanced training who can troubleshoot and adapt to new trends. Every new business will need someone to build it, staff it and maintain it. Every employee of new businesses will need a home built and repaired by skilled workers. Simply put, economic growth can’t happen without a skilled workforce.

Blueprint for Success

The Technical Trades Wing at the Texas Township campus is set for a major renovation, empowering Kalamazoo Valley to meet the evolving demands of technology and the growing need for skilled professionals. This expansion is not just a renovation, but a commitment to excellence in technical education and workforce readiness. With your support, the college will:

- Renovate the existing 68,000-square-feet of our current space in our Advanced Technology Center Wing at our Texas Township Campus, creating **increased flexibility to adapt** our classrooms and labs to teach future technical skills. This renovation will help us integrate instruction across disciplines and keep our classrooms relevant and responsive to our region’s training needs.
- Build a new 20,000-square-foot Automotive Technology space. The new space will **train the next generation of technicians** and better equip Kalamazoo Valley to offer customized training for automotive employers who are looking to provide industry-recognized credentials for their staff.

This new auto lab will feature more training bays for traditional vehicles and also provide opportunities for new programs in:

- Hybrid and electric vehicle technology training
- Renewable energy storage systems, including charging stations
- Autonomous vehicle safety features diagnostics and repair

Kalamazoo Valley Community College has received a state appropriation of \$19.5 million for this project. **We need your help to raise the additional \$19.5 million match for this multi-million dollar renovation and expansion.**

PARTNER WITH US TO TRAIN OUR NEXT GENERATION OF SKILLED WORKERS

For information, contact Alisha Siebers, Associate Vice President for College Advancement and Executive Director of the KVCC Foundation.

asiebers@kvcc.edu, 269.488.4821 • www.kvcc.edu/technicaltrades

