

Kalamazoo Public Schools



EXCELSIOR

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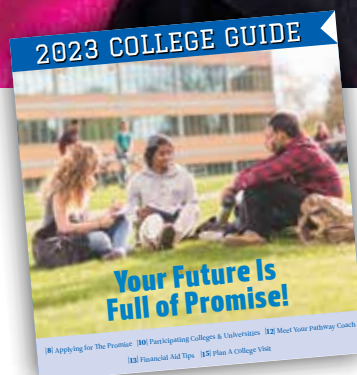
**Welcome
to the
Class of
2036!**

**Kindergarten, PEEP,
and Other Enrollment
Begin March 8**

(STORY AND PHOTOS ON PAGE 6-7)

**2023 College
Guide — Your
Future is Full
of Promise!**

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE



FREE MARCH 28 - APRIL 1

SPRING INTO THE MUSEUM!

Give your mind and body a TUNE-UP this week with lots of hands-on activities and special performers, all to help support your mind; because it matters!



UPCOMING EVENT FREE

THE 18th ANNUAL FRETBOARD FESTIVAL

Friday, March 3 | 5:30 - 9 p.m. Featuring a musical performance by Bahar Ensemble and "The History of the Oud" presentation by Beau Bothwell.

Saturday, March 4 | 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. Performances, vendors and workshops, including Joel Mabus, Dave Johnson, Crossroads Blues Band and many more!

NOTE: Saturday, April 1 | 6 p.m. at Kalamazoo Valley's Dale Lake Auditorium \$5 per person | Boomerang Concert and Pre-Concert Talk at 5 p.m. with Jake Blount, Laurel Premo and Nic Gareiss.

For more information and to preregister for virtual access, visit kalamazoomuseum.org.



MINI-EXHIBIT FREE

NOW - MARCH 19

KALAMAZOO THROUGH THE EYES OF MURPHY DARDEN

This pop-up mini-exhibit showcases Kalamazoo-related items collected by longtime resident Murphy Darden as well as highlights pieces created by Darden representing the people, places and events in Kalamazoo history.

EXHIBIT FEB. 18 - JUNE 18, 2023 | FREE

MENTAL HEALTH: MIND MATTERS

This exhibit creates a safe space for important conversations about mental illness. It was produced for North America by the Science Museum of Minnesota in collaboration with Heureka, The Finnish Science Centre.



PLANETARIUM EXPERIENCE

MARCH SHOWS | FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS | \$3

Magic Tree House: Space Mission | Grades 3 & up | 11 a.m. | 30 min.

Travel with brother-sister duo Jake and Annie in their Magic Tree House as they investigate six questions left behind for them in a mysterious note.

Earth, Moon and Sun | Grades 3 & up | 2 p.m. | 27 min.

Coyote is a little confused about what he sees in the sky in this amusing, fast-paced, fun full-dome show exploring lunar phases, eclipses and more.

SUNDAYS | \$3

The Sky Above Us | Grades 4 & up | 11 a.m. | 40 min.

Within this live, participatory program, learn about some of the "celestial wonders" that can be seen overhead here in Michigan.

PUBLIC HOURS: Tuesday - Saturday | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday | Noon - 4 p.m.

NOTE: The museum is closed March 14, 16 and 17 due to community programming for local schoolchildren and Kalamazoo Valley's spring recess.

FREE GENERAL ADMISSION

Note: Some areas of the museum may be closed due to exhibit changes, staffing needs, special programs or collections care. We thank you for your patience.

The Kalamazoo Valley Museum is operated by Kalamazoo Valley Community College and is governed by its Board of Trustees.



230 N. Rose St., Kalamazoo
kalamazoomuseum.org | 269.373.7990

Read a Book and Inspire a Child to Read More

IN HONOR of children's book author Dr. Seuss' birthday, March is designated National Reading Month, a month that encourages all Americans to read every day.

In Kalamazoo Public Schools, we celebrate it by holding Literacy Night celebrations in our elementary and middle schools.

This year the elementary schools will celebrate on March 1, while the middle schools hold their events on March 2.

Reading is fun and has many benefits, regardless of your age. It's a key component of education and professional development.

Time magazine recently published an article "8 Ways to Read More Books and Why You Should." Reading, the article says, is more than just entertaining. It helps keep the mind sharp, low-

ers anxiety, and can help improve your sleep quality when you read before bed. The author says research suggests that reading books, especially fiction, can help readers develop empathy and critical thinking by putting a reader in touch with a character's way of thinking and feeling.

But, according to a Pew Research Center study conducted in 2021, 23 percent of adults in the United States did not read any part of a book over the past 12 months.

Why do I find that particularly concerning? Well, as a reader, I would love for others to share my passion for the printed word. I find great pleasure losing myself in the imaginations of writers, exploring worlds and situations that I will never experience in real life.

As an educator, who works with children, I want young people to develop their language skills by reading, but mostly, I want our children to learn to love reading. All of the benefits listed

above for adults — they are the same for children. Reading opens up new worlds, sparks imagination, helps us accomplish our goals by learning new skills, enables us to become better writers, and helps us learn how to contribute to our communities.

One of the best ways for them to learn to love reading is to see the adults around them reading and excited about their reading. Children look to the adults in their lives for inspiration. And, if we as adults express an appreciation for and an interest in reading, that helps our children discover their own passion for reading.

One fun way to support reading is to attend your school's Literacy Night, they run between 4 and 7:30 p.m. depending on the school. Literacy Night is March 1 for elementary schools and March 2 for middle schools. It's exhilarating to see all of the ways our schools celebrate reading and books. Families can participate in activities together, exploring

themes such as STEM, sports, poetry, African American history, and outer space — as well as launching One Book events, in which entire schools share the experience of reading the same book and discussing its themes.

One thing we emphasize with our students is that there are no hard and fast rules about what is the "correct" kind of reading. It might be books, or magazines, or graphic novels that excites a young reader. The same for an older reader. There are many ways to enjoy the written word — you may even surprise yourself by picking up some of your children's books and enjoying them for their use of language or illustrations, or you may find yourself intrigued by a character in a young adult book.

Whatever it is, take the time to read and to share the experience with the children in your life. It will make reading more enjoyable and inspiring for both of you.

A Message from the Interim Superintendent



Cindy Green

NEED HOME REPAIRS? GIVE US A CALL!



Community Homeworks is here to offer no or low-cost support to income-eligible homeowners in the **City of Kalamazoo** to provide critical home repairs such as HVAC, electrical, plumbing, and other health and safety issues. Call or email us today to see if you are eligible at **(269) 998-3275 ext 203** or **info@communityhomeworks.org**.

Visit CommunityHomeworks.org for more information.

This activity is brought to you in partnership with the City of Kalamazoo and support from other grant funding partners.

ARTISTS' CORNER

Fifth graders at Prairie Ridge Elementary used grid systems to draw birds from photographs. They worked to achieve accurate proportions in their drawings while they

enlarged the original images. Students blended oil pastels and tried to match the colors of their birds under the direction of art teacher Doug Duncan.



Sophie Hassan, "Fat Bird on a Twig," illustration of a kingfisher



Derek Minnema, "The Choose Mood," illustration of a crane



Alfajiri Nyamoga-Baradosa, "Delightful Blue Bird," illustration of a bluebird



Camron Turner, "Spirit Owl," illustration of an owl

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NOTICE

Kalamazoo Public Schools welcomes all students and staff of any religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy, gender identification, height, weight, familial status, marital status, sexual orientation, and disability.

The District will not tolerate or condone any act of bias or discrimination toward any person on the basis of religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy, gender identification, height, weight, familial status, marital status, sexual orientation, and disability in any of its activities, hiring practices, programs or services.

Inquiries by students and/or their parents/guardians should be directed to:

**Assistant Superintendent for
Instruction and Student Services**

Kalamazoo Public Schools
1220 Howard St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-0161

All other inquiries should be directed to:

**Assistant Superintendent of
Human Resources**

Kalamazoo Public Schools
1220 Howard St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-0177

District Directory at :

www.kalamazoopublicschools.com

Recipe

from the KPS Food Service, Chartwells

Kirsten Strong, registered dietician

Samuel Dunn, executive chef

Beef Birrrria Chili

EXECUTIVE Chef Samuel Dunn and the KPS Food Service/Chartwells' team brought home another trophy in the Downtown Kalamazoo Chili Cook-Off! Held the last weekend of January, the cook-off featured chilis from celebrity chefs around the community. This year, the team won the award for Best Retail Chili for Dunn's Birrrria Chili, inspired by birria tacos, which are served with a spicy broth. Thanks to The Spirit of Kalamazoo, which hosted the KPS team again.



Kalamazoo Public Schools Food Service won the trophy for the Best Retail Chili at the 2023 Downtown Kalamazoo Chili Cook-Off.

Kalamazoo Public Schools' award-winning chili team included, from left, Ray Gipson, director of dining services; Jennifer Grooten, food service administration; Matt Kusmack, marketing specialist; Samuel Dunn, executive chef; and Kirsten Strong, assistant director of dining services.

INGREDIENTS

2½ lbs beef short ribs
3 lbs beef brisket,
roasted and cut into
small cubes
3 lbs beef chuck roast,
cut into large cubes
6 cups water
Salt and pepper to taste
3 ancho peppers
6 guajillo peppers
1 ghost habanero pepper,
optional
3 14 oz cans tomatoes
2 whole cloves
½ teaspoon cumin seeds
½ teaspoon black
peppercorns
6 garlic cloves
1 teaspoon Mexican
oregano
1 bay leaf
½ medium white onion,
sliced

1-inch piece of fresh
ginger
½ cup Worcestershire
sauce
1 14 oz can pinto beans
1 14 oz can black beans
1 14 oz can navy beans
1 14 oz can hominy

DIRECTIONS

1. Prepare the peppers: Clean and devein the peppers. Soak peppers in a medium bowl of hot water for 20 minutes.
2. Roast and toast: Roast the onion and garlic in a 350 degree oven until softened. Toast whole cloves, cumin seeds, and black peppercorns in a skillet on the stove top until aromatic. This

does not take long. Place onion, garlic and toasted spices in a blender with tomatoes, other herbs, ginger and Worcheshire sauce and process until smooth. Add a few table-spoons of water if your blender has difficulty processing. Season with salt and pepper.

3. Place meat in a large baking dish, and pour the sauce evenly over the meat, making sure all of the meat is covered in the pepper and tomato sauce. Place in an oven heated to 350 degrees. Bake for about 4 hours until the meat is fork tender and reaches an internal temperature of 160 degrees.

4. Remove the baking dish or pot from the heat when the meat is cooked. Taste the birria sauce and adjust seasonings with salt and pepper to taste. Using two forks, shred the meat.

5. The chili: Drain and rinse the beans. Add them to the baking dish along with the hominy and bake at 300 degrees for one hour or until the chili reaches 165 degrees. Serve with shredded cheddar cheese, sour cream, and crackers or tortilla chips.

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Welcome to the Class of 2036! KPS Kindergarten Enrollment Begins March 8

PEEP and Other Enrollment Also Start

STUDENTS can take their first steps toward earning their Kalamazoo Promise at Kalamazoo Public Schools Kindergarten Orientation on March 8 at all 17 of the district's elementary schools.

Parents and students can attend either a 9:30 a.m. or 5:30 p.m. session to enroll for the 2023-24 school year and have fun sampling the kindergarten experience with a visit to the library, hands-on activities and question-and-answer sessions.

Orientation is a time to meet teachers, principals, and other school staff; tour buildings; and to complete the enrollment process. Find more information about kindergarten enrollment at www.kalamazoopublicschools.com/kindergarten.

Enrolling is easy.

Families can check their school attendance area using the district's interactive map and street directory on the district website at www.kalamazoopublicschools.com/maps, which will provide the names of all KPS schools associated with that location.

Incoming students, who will be 5 by Sept. 1, can enroll in kindergarten. Parents also may request kindergarten enrollment waivers for children who will be 5 years old no later than Dec. 1.

Parents need the incoming child's birth certificate, immunization record, proof of hearing and vision screening — if available — and two proofs of residency



Avery Harden and Kobe Arrington play alphabet tic-tac-toe at El Sol Elementary.



Kindergarteners Erick Santiago and Lissandro Sandoval-Godoy find some great books during a trip to the El Sol library.



Leonel Simbrón García is all smiles during a math lesson in Jennifer Greenman's kindergarten class at El Sol Elementary.

ON THE COVER:
El Sol kindergartener
Litzzy Hernandez-
Nonato takes a break
from her language
arts lesson on her
Chromebook.

(for example, a utility bill, lease agreement, or mortgage agreement). While the enrollment process can begin online starting March 8, families must visit their assigned school to complete the enrollment process by bringing the documents in for review.

This year's kindergarten students will be members of the Class of 2036! Students who enroll in KPS as kindergarteners, attend all 12 years of school in KPS, and graduate from KPS, while meeting all residency

Kindergarten, PEEP, and Other Enrollment Start (continued from page 6)



Kindergarten teacher Lindsay Homan and Usiyah Carter work on a language arts lesson.



Avah Sterling, center, and Toddrick Doles, left, work on counting to 100 on the 100th day of school in Amanda Brown’s kindergarten class at Woods Lake Elementary: A Magnet Center for the Arts.

and enrollment requirements, are eligible for The Kalamazoo Promise, a scholarship that covers up to 100 percent of mandatory tuition and fees at most Michigan colleges and universities.

This anonymous gift has awarded more than \$180 million in scholarships to more than 7,000 KPS graduates.

March 8 is also the orientation day for the KPS PreKindergarten Early Education Program for stu-

SCHOOL	PRINCIPAL	GRADES	PHONE	ADDRESS
Arcadia Elementary School	Meaghan Timmons	P-5	(269) 337-0530	932 Boswell Lane
Edison Academy	Julie McDonald	P-5	(269) 337-0550	3333 S. Westnedge Ave. (temporary location)
El Sol Elementary School	Natalie Wilson	K-5	(269) 337-0230	604 W. Vine St.
Greenwood Elementary School	Elizabeth Jackson-Spaner	P-3	(269) 337-0560	3501 Moreland St.
Indian Prairie Elementary School	Kelly Corrigan	P-3	(269) 337-0590	3546 Grand Prairie Ave.
King-Westwood Elementary School	Dwight Quinn	K-5	(269) 337-0610	1100 Nichols Road
Lincoln International Studies School	Jeremy Andrick	P-5	(269) 337-0640	912 N. Burdick St.
Milwood Elementary School	Craig LeSuer	K-5	(269) 337-0660	3400 Lovers Lane
Northeastern Elementary School	Sylvia Washington	P-5	(269) 337-0690	2433 Gertrude St.
Northglade Montessori Magnet School	ReQwal Duckworth	K-5	(269) 337-0700	1914 Cobb St.
Parkwood-Upjohn Elementary School	Jessica Rosecrans	P-5	(269) 337-0720	2321 Park St.
Prairie Ridge Elementary School	Joletta Drake	K-5	(269) 337-0630	2294 S. 9th St.
Spring Valley Center for Exploration	Heather Misner	P-5	(269) 337-0750	3530 Mt. Olivet Road
Washington Writers’ Academy	Lanisha Hannah	P-5	(269) 337-0770	1919 Portage Road
Winchell Elementary School	Judy D’Arcangelis (Interim)	P-5	(269) 337-0780	2316 Winchell Ave.
Woods Lake Elementary: A Magnet School for the Arts	Linda Mitchell	K-5	(269) 337-0790	3215 Oakland Dr.
Woodward School for Technology and Research	Frank Rocco	P-5	(269) 337-0810	606 Stuart Ave.

dents who will turn 4 by Dec. 1. PEEP enrollment info is found at www.kalamazoopublicschools.com/PEEP.

PEEP is open to families that meet state financial eligibility requirements.

Applications for PEEP are taken at all schools, but the program operates only in: Arcadia, Edison, Greenwood, Lincoln, Northeastern, Parkwood-Upjohn, Prairie Ridge, Spring Valley, Washington, Winchell, and Woodward elementary schools.

PEEP is part of the state’s Great Start Readiness initiative. The program offers half-day or full-day pre-kindergarten classes with highly trained teachers and two support paraprofessionals per classroom. Meals are provided, and transportation is provided for students who live more than a mile from the school in their attendance district or for students who attend magnet schools that are outside their attendance district.

Children who need immunizations to complete the kindergarten or PEEP application process can visit the Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services Immunization Clinic, 311 E. Alcott St. The walk-in clinic is open 8:30-11 a.m. Monday-Friday, and 1-4 p.m. Monday-Thursday. Masks are not required to enter the building, but clients are asked to wear masks when in the exam room with KCHCS staff. For more information and to schedule appointments, call KCHCS at (269) 373-5203.

All KPS online enrollment portals for all grade levels open March 8. They can be found at www.kalamazoopublicschools.com/enrollment.



For more information on KPS enrollment, call Student Services at (269) 337-0190.

For information on PEEP call (269) 337-0095.

KPS Student Artwork on Display at KVCC

VISITORS who stop by Kalamazoo Valley Community College's Anna Whitten Hall in downtown Kalamazoo will notice some colorful additions to the walls courtesy of students from Washington Writers' Academy, Woodward School for Technology and Research, and King-Westwood and Winchell elementary schools.

Their works will remain up at KVCC for about six months in this new collaboration between KPS and

Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Students, families and teachers attended a fun opening reception in January.

Congratulations to the student artists and their teachers: Todd Patrick, Washington Writers' Academy and Woodward School for Technology and Research; Misty DeNoon, King-Westwood Elementary School; and Mandy Clearwaters, Winchell Elementary School and the lead art teacher for the district.



Joy Green, Woodward



Margo Freestone, Winchell



Bryan Rose, Washington



Maeleesa Wagner, Washington



Antoine Jackson, Woodward



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2023 COLLEGE GUIDE



**Your Future Is
Full of Promise!**

|10| Applying for The Promise **|12|** Participating Colleges & Universities **|14|** Meet Your Pathway Coach

|15| Financial Aid Tips **|17|** Plan A College Visit

How to Access and Utilize Your Kalamazoo Promise

So, you’ve narrowed down the colleges and programs you are interested in, you have considered taking or have taken the SAT or ACT, and you have researched or visited campuses that fit your needs and wants. Time to take the next steps to utilize The Kalamazoo Promise.

The Kalamazoo Promise is a scholarship that covers tuition and mandatory fees at all Michigan public universities and colleges, community colleges, Michigan College Alliance (MCA) private colleges and some institutions that provide industry recognized certificates for graduates of Kalamazoo Public Schools. (For a list of these, see “The Choices Are Endless,” page 12).

How much of The Promise am I eligible for?

The Kalamazoo Promise covers tuition and mandatory fees based on how many continuous years you attended and lived in the KPS district:

Grades you attended & lived in KPS	How much benefit you’ll get
K-12	100%
1-12	95%
2-12	95%
3-12	95%
4-12	90%
5-12	85%
6-12	80%
7-12	75%
8-12	70%
9-12	65%
10-11-12	None

Apply for and activate your Kalamazoo Promise in 3 easy steps:

The Promise has made it accessible for KPS seniors to apply for and get the tuition and mandatory fee funds credited to their college accounts.

1 Apply for The Promise in the fall of your senior year

Students apply for The Kalamazoo Promise at the beginning of their senior year of high school. The Kalamazoo Promise has Pathway Coaches at each high school who work in collaboration with guidance office staff to help students navigate the scholarship process. (See “Meet Your Pathway Coach” on page 14)

2 Register for your Kalamazoo Promise account through the online portal:

<https://portal.KalamazooPromise.com/signup>

You will simply need your KPS ID number and to provide a personal email address (please do not use your Kalamazoo Public Schools email because it will end after you graduate). If you do not have another email account, you can create one for free with many services including Google, Yahoo, Microsoft Outlook and others. You will complete your Kalamazoo Promise application through the online portal and this form is used to determine and confirm your percentage of eligibility.

3 Complete the Kalamazoo Scholarship acceptance form and start survey

The second online form needed is The Kalamazoo Scholarship acceptance form, which lets The Promise know which college you will be attending so the scholarship can be applied to your account at that school. Students submit this form once they have been accepted to the college or university that they wish to attend and must include the student identification number assigned to them by the college. (When you are accepted, colleges will assign you a student ID number for that specific campus; this is the College Student Identification Number that should be placed on this form.)

You will have to complete this form only once, unless you attend summer school at a different institution or if you decide to transfer to another college or university that meets The Promise criteria.

For more information, scan this QR code to go to www.kalamazoopromise.com. ■

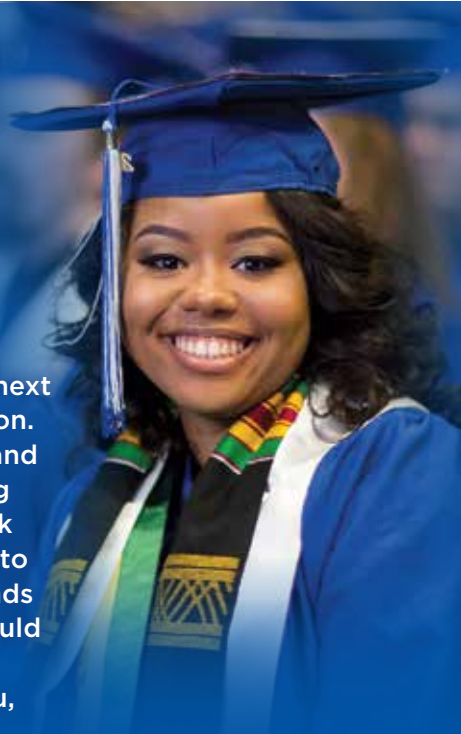


WHATEVER IS NEXT

For Grand Valley students, next is opportunity and innovation. Next is global, connecting and uniting us. It’s local, shaping the spaces in which we work and live. It’s a commitment to progress. Next is where minds are free to imagine what could be. At GVSU, next is now. And whatever’s next for you, we will help you get there.

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Matthew 5:16



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arbor.edu

The Choices Are Endless

Colleges & universities that participate in The Promise

There are more than 60 colleges and universities across Michigan that you can attend as a Kalamazoo Promise Scholar. From the very large to the very small, private and public, community college, technical and vocational, your educational options are expansive and exciting.

These are the participating colleges and universities, the city they are located in, and their websites:

Adrian College (MCA), Adrian, www.adrian.edu

Albion College (MCA), Albion, www.albion.edu

Alma College (MCA), Alma, www.alma.edu

Alpena Community College, Alpena, www.alpenacc.edu

Andrews University (MCA), Berrien Springs, www.andrews.edu

Aquinas College (MCA), Grand Rapids, www.aquinas.edu (See ad, page 14)

Bay College, Escanaba, www.baycollege.edu

Bay Mills Community College, Brimley, www.bmcc.edu

Calvin College (MCA), Grand Rapids, www.calvin.edu (See ad, page 15)

Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, www.go.cmich.edu

Delta College, University Center, www.delta.edu

Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, www.emich.edu (See ad, page 13)

What is an MCA School?

The colleges and universities listed with (MCA) next to their names are part of a partnership between The Kalamazoo Promise and the Michigan Colleges Alliance, an alliance of 14 private liberal-arts colleges in Michigan.

Through this partnership, Kalamazoo Promise scholars can attend these liberal arts colleges and enjoy the same tuition and fee benefit they would at Michigan public universities and community colleges. The MCA institutions have agreed to fund the difference in costs between their institutions' tuitions and attending a public university for Kalamazoo Promise scholars.

Ferris State University, Big Rapids, www.ferris.edu

Glen Oaks Community College, Centreville, www.glenoaks.edu

Gogebic Community College, Ironwood, www.gogebic.edu

Grand Rapids Community College, Grand Rapids, www.grcc.edu

Grand Valley State University, Allendale, www.gvsu.edu (See ad, page 10)

Great Lakes Maritime Academy, Traverse City, www.nmc.edu/maritime

Henry Ford College, Dearborn, www.hfcc.edu

Hillsdale College (MCA), Hillsdale, www.hillsdale.edu

Hope College (MCA), Holland, www.hope.edu

Jackson College, Jackson, www.jccmi.edu

Kalamazoo College (MCA), Kalamazoo, www.kzoo.edu (See ad, page 19)

Kalamazoo Electrical JATC (Apprenticeship), Kalamazoo, www.kalamazoojatc.com

Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Kalamazoo, www.kvcc.edu (See ad, page 20)

THE KALAMAZOO PROMISE

YOUR PATH. YOUR PROMISE

A vision for *community transformation* and a national model for *changing the human condition*

www.kalamazoopromise.com

Kellogg Community College, Battle Creek, www.kellogg.edu
(See ad, page 17)

Kendall College of Art & Design of Ferris State University, Grand Rapids, www.kcad.edu (See ad, page 19)

Kirtland Community College, Roscommon, www.kirtland.edu

Lake Superior State University, Sault Ste. Marie, www.lssu.edu

Lansing Community College, Lansing, www.lcc.edu

Macomb Community College, Warren, www.macomb.edu

Madonna University (MCA), Livonia, www.madonna.edu

Michigan Career and Technical Institute, Plainwell, www.michigan.gov/mdhhs

Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights, Detroit,

Reno, Saginaw, Wayland, Grayling, Negunee, www.hammer9.com

Michigan State University, East Lansing, www.msu.edu

Michigan Technological University, Houghton, www.mtu.edu

Mid Michigan Community College, Harrison, www.midmich.edu

Monroe County Community College, Monroe, www.monroeccc.edu

Montcalm Community College, Sidney, www.montcalm.edu

Mott Community College, Flint, www.mcc.edu

Muskegon Community College, Muskegon, www.muskegoncc.edu

North Central Michigan College, Petoskey, www.ncmich.edu

Northern Michigan University, Marquette, www.nmu.edu

Northwestern Michigan College, Traverse City, www.nmc.edu

Oakland Community College, Bloomfield Hills, www.oaklandcc.edu

Oakland University, Rochester Hills, www.oakland.edu

Olivet College (MCA), Olivet, www.olivetcollege.edu
(See ad, page 18)

Saginaw Valley State University, University Center, www.svsu.edu
(See ad, page 16)

Schoolcraft College, Livonia, www.schoolcraft.edu

Siena Heights University (MCA), Adrian, www.sienaheights.edu

Southwestern Michigan College, Dowagiac, www.swmich.edu

Spring Arbor University (MCA), Spring Arbor, www.arbor.edu (See ad, page 10)

St. Clair County Community College, Port Huron, www.sc4.edu

University of Detroit Mercy (MCA), Detroit, www.udmercy.edu

University of Michigan Dearborn, Dearborn, www.umdearborn.edu

University of Michigan Flint, Flint, www.flint.umich.edu

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, www.umich.edu

Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor, www.wccnet.edu

Wayne County Community College, Detroit, www.wcccd.edu

Wayne State University, Detroit, www.wayne.edu

West Shore Community College, Scottsville, www.westshore.edu

Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, www.wmich.edu ■



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<< **ADIA BROWN**, EMU graduate (B.S. - Psychology) and Kalamazoo Central graduate



Meet Your Pathway Coach

Kalamazoo Promise Pathway Coaches are available to all students at each Kalamazoo Public Schools high school and work in collaboration with the guidance office staff to help students navigate The Kalamazoo Promise scholarship application process. The coaches are available at the high schools on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. They have weekly in-person and virtual office hours and can assist seniors and their parents/guardians in the completion of Promise-related forms, filing appeals, and providing resources to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and applying for other scholarships.

Students can set up appointments with their Pathway Coach by email or in person. The Kalamazoo Promise Pathway Coaches assigned to each high school and their email addresses are:

Phoenix, KILP, & KFLEx



Melissa Nesbitt
Pathway Coach Manager
mnesbitt@kalamazoopromise.com

Kalamazoo Central



Trenae Dunigan
tdunigan@kalamazoopromise.com

Loy Norrix



De'Tavia Moore
dmoore@kalamazoopromise.com

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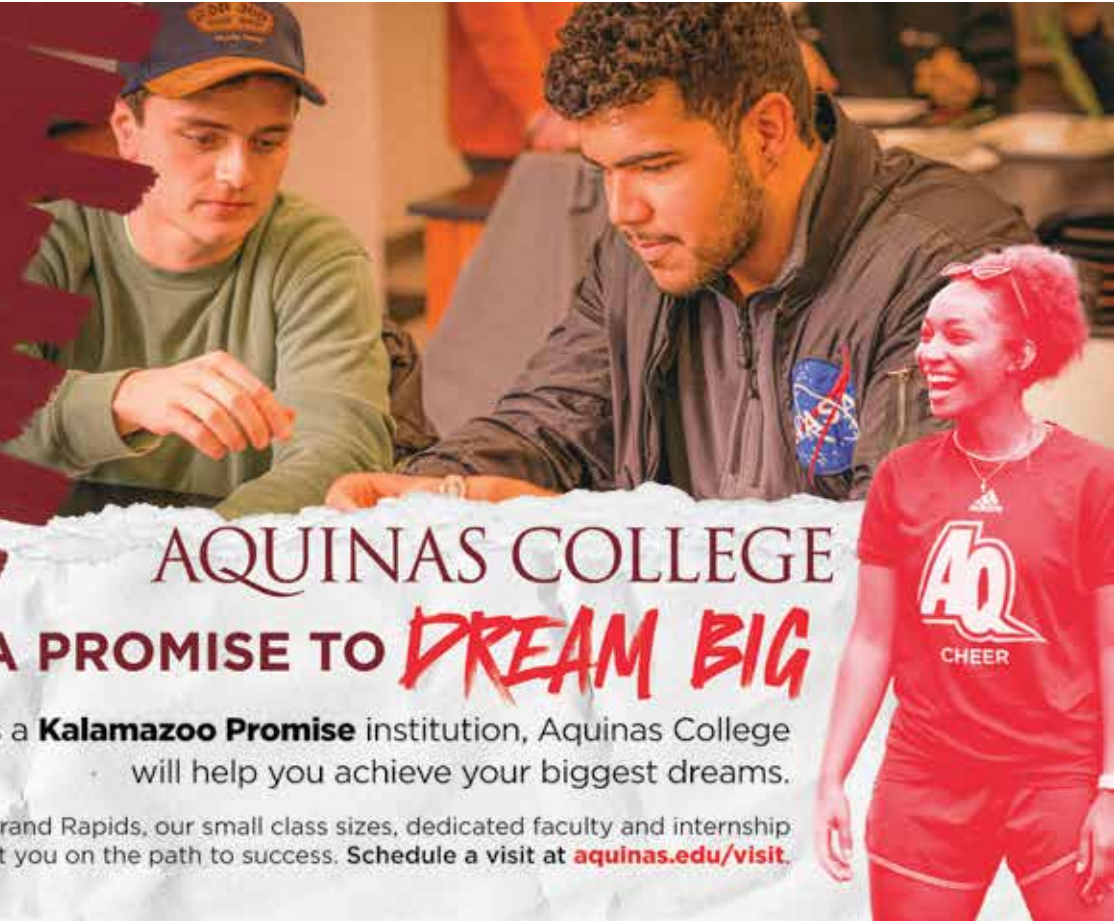
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There are three main categories of federal student aid:

- **Grant** — Grant money usually doesn't have to be repaid. Most U.S. Department of Education grants are based on a student's financial need.

- **Work-study** — Work-study money is earned by a student through a job on or near campus while attending school and does not have to be repaid.

- **Loan** — Loan money must be repaid with interest. Federal student loans offer low, fixed-interest rates and income-based repayment plans.

For more information on types of aid, visit StudentAid.gov/types.

How to apply for federal student aid

You must complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to apply for federal student aid. College and universities use FAFSA information to determine whether you are eligible to receive federal grants, loans, or work-study funds. States and schools use FAFSA information to determine whether you qualify for additional aid, including merit scholarships.

So be sure to fill out a FAFSA even if you think you won't qualify for federal aid.

Pay attention to deadlines

The FAFSA becomes available on Oct. 1 for the next school year. If you want to be considered for aid from your state or college, you must meet their FAFSA deadlines.

State deadlines: Michigan's FAFSA deadline is March 1, though you should submit your FAFSA as soon as possible after Oct. 1.

College deadlines: College financial aid deadlines may be as early as February. For a college's deadline, check the school's website or contact its financial aid office.

You can complete the FAFSA two ways:

- Apply online (the fastest and easiest way) at fafsa.gov.

- Download a PDF version of the FAFSA at fafsa.gov. Fill out the PDF and mail it to the address on the form. (You also can visit www.edpubs.gov or call 1-800-4-FEDAID to request a print-out of the PDF FAFSA.)

Need help?

You can get free information and help from your school counselor, the financial aid office at the college you plan to attend, or the U.S. Department of Education at fafsa.gov or 1-800-4-FEDAID (1-800-433-3243).

You can also watch videos with step-by-step instructions on how to apply for financial aid at www.YouTube.com/FederalStudentAid (visit the "FAFSA: Apply for Aid" playlist) and at StudentAid.gov/fafsa. ■



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Plan a College Visit

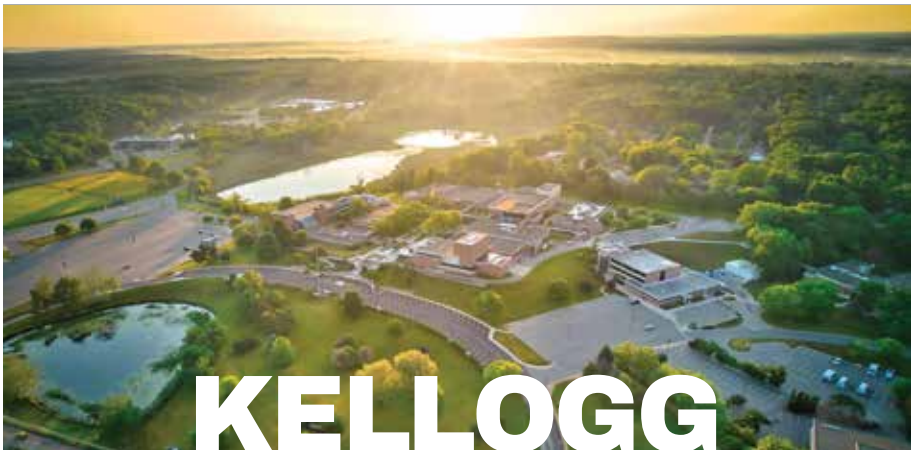
Why should you visit a college?

One of the most important things to do when deciding where to go to college, is to visit the colleges you are interested in. College visits are easy to schedule; just reach out the college or university's Admissions or Enrollment Management Office. Some colleges will set up weekends or other days for groups of students to visit which will include tours and the opportunity to experience college life.

Visiting a college campus will tell you so much more than a brochure or website can. You can learn how diverse the college is and what the physical campus is like, and see the buildings you'll be taking classes in. It also gives you an opportunity to ask questions and meet the faculty that could be teaching you in the future.

Here's how to have a successful campus visit:

- Consider the best time to visit. If possible, try to visit on a weekday when classes are in session. You're not as likely to get a true feel of the institution if there aren't any classes for you to attend. It will also give you a feel for how busy the campus is.
- Phone the college to schedule an appointment for a guided tour, information session, or both. Be sure to ask for recommendations on what to wear for the visit. If the institution is farther away, ask about hotels in the area and parking passes.



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- Once you get to the college, pick up brochures, financial aid forms and a campus map. Try to sit in a classroom, if possible, and get a feel for the environment. Talk to students about campus life and faculty about courses you are interested in. Gather contact information from professors and admissions faculty in order to ask follow-up questions, if needed.
- Be sure to take your own tour of the campus, as the guided tour probably won't show the less attractive features of the institution. It will also give you an idea of how close or far away your classes will be to where you live.
- Save the schools you're really interested in to visit last. By the time you get to these picks, you will have figured out what is most important to you and how you can better gauge campus life.

Get an understanding of campus life by:

- Visiting dorms, dining halls, libraries, student union and other campus facilities.
- Talking to current students at the college about their transition from high school to college, college courses, how they get home for breaks and whether there is campus transportation.
- Learning about campus services for students, including mental health counseling, academic advising, IT support, financial aid, medical care, academic support and religious services.
- Finding out what's happening on campus and what students are thinking about by looking at the institution's social media accounts, student-run publications and the campus radio station.

Ask lots of questions, such as:

- Why did you choose this institution?
- What do you do in your free time or on the weekends?
- Do graduate students, juniors, seniors or professors mentor students?
- What is the graduation rate?
- What does the campus do to promote volunteering, student involvement in campus groups and extracurricular activities?
- What are housing options and are first-years required to live on campus?
- Am I allowed to have my own transportation or can I bring my own car on campus?
- Are there work-studies or part-time jobs available?

2023 COLLEGE GUIDE

For Parents/Caregivers:

If a parent or caregiver is planning to visit campus with you, here are some questions they can ask:

About Financial Aid

- What are the financial aid options available?
- What is the year-to-year tuition increase? When is the next increase expected?
- What percentage of students were awarded financial aid in the past academic year?
- What additional costs should we anticipate?
- What are the work-study opportunities?

About career and employment opportunities

- What opportunities exist for undergrad internships?
- How many job fairs and recruiters are scheduled for each department?
- Are there mentorship programs? Are they free?
- Is academic counseling available? Is it easily accessible?

About health and campus safety

- What kind of counseling and support groups are available? What is the student-counselor ratio?

- What are the campus health and counseling services? What does the college health insurance cover?
- How is communication between faculty, students, parents and counselors facilitated and encouraged?
- How are roommates chosen? Can a student switch roommates due to compatibility issues?

About campus life

- Is the level of competition — social and academic — manageable?
- Are there any campus role models or student organizations to guide my student?
- If you belong in a minority community, are there minority community organizations? What is their presence?
- Is the cafeteria menu diverse enough to serve students from different ethnicities? What are other dining options?
- Is the campus population mostly local or out-of-state? Is campus populated on weekends?
- Is there a strong Greek-culture or other group dominance? How easy is it to fit in? ■

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Concentration: environmental studies
Study abroad plan: Thailand

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Maple Street Coin Drive Raises More than \$2,500 for Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes

MAPLE STREET Magnet School for the Arts donated \$2,531.44 to Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes after the completion of its Fourth Annual Coin Drive in late 2022. The PTSO coordinated the annual fund drive competition between the school's six teams of students and teachers. This year, the Endeavor team pulled out the win, raising an impressive \$935.45. The Discovery team came in second with \$701.93. The PTSO treated the Endeavor team to a pizza party and the Discovery team to a donut hole party in January.

Maple Street launched its coin drive in 2018 as a way to give back to the community. The school chose Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes as the recipient for its donations, because of the work the food bank does for families in Kalamazoo. Set between Thanksgiving

and winter break, the competition helps keep students engaged and excited before the break. Since 2018, the school has contributed \$11,583.98 to Loaves & Fishes. The school community hopes to continue the tradition for many years. Thanks to the Kalamazoo Drake Road branch of Mercantile Bank and the Centre Office of Consumers Credit Union for generously allowing the school to use their coin counters for the project.



Maple Street Magnet School Principal Dr. Jeff Bogan presents the school's coin drive proceeds to Greta Faworski, associate director at Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes.



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Helping Build the Ranks of Black Male Social Workers

THREE black male social workers with ties to Kalamazoo say that encouraging more black men to join the field is key to social justice and increasing access to mental health care in the community.

“To have growth in acceptance of therapy and counseling and other services, you have to increase representation because that is one of the biggest gaps,” said Dr. Ed-Dee Williams, a postdoctoral fellow in social work at the University of Michigan. “As a Black male I may want to talk to somebody, but I don’t have the energy or time to educate them about my background, on my racial identity and what that means for me and then talk about what my issue is or whatever help I need.”

Williams, a 2008 Kalamazoo Central High School graduate; Dr. Christopher Robinson, a 2002 graduate of Loy Norrix High School; and University of Houston doctoral student Andre Harris, who was born in Kalamazoo, recently delivered a workshop about “Black Men in Social Work” at the Society for Social Work and Research Conference in Phoenix, Ariz., in January.

The three connected through a Facebook group called Black Men in Social Work, which Harris started as an undergraduate student. “I wanted to highlight the voices of Black men in the field but to also highlight the importance of representation. I wanted to work as collaborators and to amplify each other’s voices,” in a field that is often dominated by white, and specifically white female, perspectives.

All three were drawn to social work as a way to strengthen and expand therapeutic opportunities in their communities.

Robinson, who is an assistant professor of social work at Penn State University - Greater Allegheny, said he was first exposed to the world of social work as a high school student. He worked as a peer educator for the Healthy Babies, Healthy Start initiative, addressing issues such as teen pregnancy rates, STDs and the high infant mortality rate in Kalamazoo County.

As he worked with social work professionals, like his godfather Ronald Peterson, a social worker at Borgess Medical Center and the Douglass Community Association, he learned about the breadth of experiences that social work can lead to.

“I began to understand that social workers are directors. They run programs and community centers,” he said. “They manage grants and those grants are



Dr. Ed-Dee Williams, Kalamazoo Central Class of 2008, is a post doctoral fellow at the University of Michigan.



Dr. Christopher Robinson, Loy Norrix Class of 2002, is an associate professor of social work at Penn State University - Greater Allegheny.



Andre Harris is a doctoral student at the University of Houston.

designed to be mission-driven to improve the community, improve families and improve individuals.”

Williams also had an early introduction to social work through work as a teenager with the Kalamazoo County Abstinence Initiative, but when he was growing up social work was equated with “the people who came and took kids away. It was the CPS (Child Protective Service) worker and the negative image of social work — which is what it tends to be for a lot of Black families. We don’t have a sense of the better parts of it.”

In college, he was drawn to discussions about mental health, masculinity and Blackness in a sociology class, and then a graduate program in social work, where he learned how social work could lead to work on social policy and clinical work as a therapist.

Williams, who begins his tenure as an assistant professor of social work at Boston College this summer, has studied the mental health diagnosis of incarcerated juveniles, in particular Black boys and diagnostic differences based on race, class and societal options.

He worked at a boarding school where half of the students were from lower incomes and had been involved with the juvenile justice system and the other half were from upper middle class homes, where parents were paying to send struggling students to the school.

“The diagnoses were decidedly different,” Williams said. “If the student got arrested and went to

court and he saw a therapist for the first time, the diagnosis this kid got was different than the kid who got in trouble at school and his parents took him to a counselor they knew.

“A lot of parents who have money can shop around for diagnosis. They went to this therapist and didn’t like what they said, and went to another therapist and didn’t like that diagnosis, and went to a third therapist and finally got this label. For kids who are incarcerated they might get a diagnosis of oppositional defiant disorder but there wasn’t a lot of conversation around depression or anxiety or PTSD.”

THE NEED FOR MORE BLACK MALE SOCIAL WORKERS

The three social workers hope to attract more students to the field to help address issues of equity and understanding.

Harris said there are a number of social and cultural barriers to Black males entering social work. Social work is often perceived as a role for females, and, in the Black community, many of their interactions with social workers may be tied to the criminal justice system or some other negative institutional interaction. In those situations “many of the clients are Black and brown people, and many of the professionals are white women.”

Harris said he understands that no group is monolithic — not everyone in the Black community has the same issues or perspectives — but by getting more Blacks, and especially Black men, into the field

(continued on page 23)

Social Workers (continued from page 22)

is a first step to ensuring there are providers who are better prepared to address the needs of the African American community.

“Bringing more people within these spaces guarantees you may find someone who understands your lived experience,” Harris said.

There is also a cultural distrust of mental health services, which is reasonable given the history of mental health treatment of Black people, Williams said. But, increasing representation in the field is key to improving services, he said.

“When you increase the number of Black men in the field doing this work, you get a unique perspective, unique understanding — and you get unique access to a new population of Black men and Black boys who want to talk to other Black men,” he said. “They want to feel supported.

“There’s a sense of collectivism that shows up in the research. Among Black males, when you have more Black men doing this work, you’re going to get more voices of Black males speaking to their experiences.”

Williams said in many ways it is just a shift in perspective about this kind of work. Many professionals already practice the skills of social work, but it’s done by people such as caseworkers, or in school, security guards — like the ones he encountered as a student

at Kalamazoo Central. He’d love to see some of those men move from enforcement to support.

“What if you were the nurturer, the supportive staff member?” Williams said. “What if you were the person they came to not when they were fighting but when there was an emotional issue that they needed to deal with? What if you were the person they could come and talk to in an official capacity — not just because you were around the way — but because that was your job?

Robinson wants students to understand that social work provides a way to promote concepts of social justice. Improving representation and providing social work services attacks issues of equity, diversity and inclusion. Social work allows students to better understand and advocate for the needs of their community.

Robinson said that the three are sharing their stories to inspire other men of color to consider social work as a profession. It is fulfilling and vital to the health of the communities they hope to better serve.

“Social work is life work,” Robinson said.



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2023 Social Justice Youth Awards Honor Six KPS Students for Volunteerism, Activism

Story and photos courtesy of the City of Kalamazoo.

THE KALAMAZOO City Commission awarded the Social Justice Youth Awards to area youth for community service and volunteerism that exemplifies the life of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The awards were bestowed on Jan. 17 as part of the city's MLK Day celebrations and recognized the students' achievements and leadership in improving racial equity and social justice in Kalamazoo.

This year's awards were sponsored by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Consumers Energy, Fifth Third Bank, Kalamazoo Non-Violent Opponents of War, Life EMS, Lodge-Dennis family, and Schupan & Sons. Additionally, one award this year was sponsored by the CSM Group and presented by Dr. Lewis Walker, a trailblazer for the progression of racial equity in Kalamazoo.

A recording of the awards presentation is available on the City of Kalamazoo's YouTube Channel.

The Kalamazoo Public Schools students honored were:

Jayla Harris is an eighth grader at Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts. Jayla's community service is motivated by a strong sense of social justice, which she informs through a nuanced and sophisticated understanding of historical trends and events. She shows



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority representative Vanessa Coakley presented an award to Jayla Harris.

leadership through her willingness to put herself out there and be relatable and reliable to her peers.

Her kind, friendly and tenacious attitude are some of the great attributes that make her an excellent leader. Jayla mentors youth transitioning into middle school and has volunteered with Kairos Dwelling for the terminally ill, Mt. Zion Baptist Church and the Douglass Community Association.

She embraces all the ways that someone is unique, the diversity that is seen and not seen, said and un-



Consumers Energy's Derek Nofz presented Adrian Ryan's award.

said. She reflects on her own experiences and uses them to empathize and relate to others. She never retreats to simple answers or explanations but is comfortable dealing with ambiguity.

Her award was sponsored by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Iota Sigma Omega.

Adrian Ryan is a senior at Kalamazoo Central High School. Adrian is an inspiring young leader in our community. He excels in academics, athletics, and the arts, while also volunteering and tutoring peers.

He has stood out as a leader on his athletic teams, community service projects and volunteer opportunities such as, the Action Matters Northside Community Clean Up; Counting to One Ministries; the PEEP Summer Book Program; Kalamazoo Gospel Mission; Kalamazoo YMCA; Kalamazoo Black Arts Festival; water drives for Flint, Jackson and Benton Harbor; various Flint-Jackson-Benton Harbor Water Drives, and on several community fund-raising walk. He has served as a peer mentor and tutor and has been on the Galilee Baptist Church media team and Men and Youth Ministries.

Adrian was a part of the NAACP Collaboration March for the John Lewis Voters Rights Act, working to end voter suppression, stating he "realized how important the vote is. Everyone must exercise the right to vote, individuals died for voting rights because they saw the importance of voting to implement change in the world." In October 2022, he was named the recipient of the Metro Kalamazoo Branch of the NAACP Dr. Warfield Youth Community Service award.

His award was presented by Consumers Energy.

(continued on page 25)

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Social Justice *(continued from page 24)*



Ron Foor of Fifth Third Bank presented Thomas (Tom) Clark's award.

Thomas Clark is a senior at Loy Norrix High School. Tom stands out with his commitment to youth mentorship. His leadership within the Link Leader program at Loy Norrix has been instrumental in assisting freshmen during their transition to the high school environment. Being a positive role model and mentor for younger students demonstrates Tom's dedication to helping others.

He is a stand out for his ability to balance the challenges of athletic participation in tennis and basketball, academic excellence, and youth volunteerism. Each of these areas of focus presents challenges for students, but he has successfully negotiated each.

After a negative racial experience on the basketball court last year, Tom's response was something we can all be proud of. Rather than responding with aggression and anger, he sent a well-written communication to the appropriate leadership of those involved which led to positive change.

His award was presented by Fifth Third Bank.

Amady Mboup is a senior at Loy Norrix High School. Amady is a definite leader in his school and our community. He is a part of Loy Norrix's Student Advisory Committee, the Executive Board for the Class of 2023, and a member of the Loy Norrix marching and symphonic bands.

He is a founding member of the Loy Norrix Black Student Union, serves on the KPS Equity Task Force and the Loy Norrix High School School Improvement Team. He is also active in several groups including: the Loy Norrix National Honor Society, volunteering for its blood drive and blanket drive; the Loy Norrix

(continued on page 26)

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Social Justice Youth Awards *(continued from page 25)*



Amady Mboup poses with Tony and Betty Dennis.

DECA Chapter, and Loy Norrix Student Senate, where he serves as the co-chair and ensures that all of the voices in the school are heard and represented.

Amady also serves as the drum major for the Loy Norrix Marching Band.

His award was presented by the Lodge-Dennis Family.

Aija Hodges is a senior at Kalamazoo Central High School. Aija is a youth ambassador in our community and works hard at being a champion for different events in Kalamazoo. She is an active participant in



Schupan & Sons' Kendra Townsend presented an award to Aija Hodges.

the Turn 2 Foundation meetings and discussions, working well with her peers and adults alike. Her leadership skills are highlighted during these interactions and she is respected by her peers.

Creative by nature, Aija writes poetry and plays with social justice themes. She speaks out against injustices that she observes in the Kalamazoo area and the world. Aija keeps herself informed about different opportunities and events so she and her peers can attend and grow.

Aija was a State of Michigan finalist and national



2023 Kalamazoo Social Justice Award winner Percy Gordon received his honor from Dr. Lewis Walker.

competitor in the True Colors Monologue Competition and also performed in the Kalamazoo Valley Museum play about Henrietta Lacks.

Her award was presented by Schupan & Sons.

Percy Gordon is a senior at Loy Norrix High School. His accomplishments demonstrate that he has a vision of a world in which everyone, including those with disabilities, can thrive under the ideals of equity, justice, and liberation.

Percy is an authentic advocate for youth and the marginalized, and he is committed to anti-racism. He is well-known throughout the Kalamazoo community as a person who doesn't just talk about inequities, he takes action with passion, grace, integrity, optimism, and commitment.

As a volunteer, Percy helped to create the Youth Mobility Program/Ambassadors to advocate for a transportation program to support KPS high school students who have unmet transportation needs. He participated in the Youth Leadership Affinity Group retreat, which identified mental health as the most pressing issue facing Kalamazoo youth and helped craft an action plan to address the issue. Percy was one of 10 local youth chosen to participate in Powered by Youth, a Mott Foundation effort, which is looking at ways to create youth-driven programs for the out-of-school time sector.

He is the host of "In-Person by Percy Podcast," which streams live on YouTube every other Monday from The Kalamazoo Promise podcast room. He interviews other young people about ways to create a community where all youth can thrive.

He was given the Dr. Lewis Walker Award, which was sponsored by CSM Group.



**ZEIGLER
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MARATHON**
CREATING A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

KIDS RUN FREE!

**Arcadia Creek Festival Place
Saturday, April 22, 10:00 AM**

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Entry is **FREE** and each entrant will receive a T-shirt and medal.



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WOMEN'S



History Month

Series

Month of March 2023

Central & Oshtemo | Children | Join us during Women's History Month for a great line-up of programs celebrating iconic women!



Hip Hop Art Performance and History With Speak it Forward

March 10, 17, 24 | Powell | 3:30–5 pm | Teen
Join Speak it Forward for this multi-part deep dive into hip hop at 50.

Check out these fun KPL events this spring!
Visit kpl.gov to learn more.



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MyCITY

[Ages 14-21]

June 19–August 4

- ✓ Open to city of Kalamazoo residents
- ✓ Ages 14-15: career exploration, project-based learning and career pathway planning
- ✓ Ages 16-21: paid internships and professional development
- ✓ 15-20 hours per week at \$10.50/hour

MyCITY 2Gen

[Families]

June 13–August 15

- ✓ Open to city of Kalamazoo residents
- ✓ 9-week career exploration and family enrichment program
- ✓ 2-3 hours per week with a monetary stipend awarded at completion of the program

CareerNOW

[Ages 18-24]:

Dates Vary by Training Type

- ✓ Open to residents of Kalamazoo County
- ✓ Free Short-Term Training/Credential Opportunities:
 - Certified Nurse Assistant
 - Phlebotomy
 - Patient Care Aide
 - Emergency Medical Technician
 - Welding/Skilled Trades
 - Early Childhood Education
 - Pre-Apprenticeships/Apprenticeships



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