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**SCCMH Authority to Host Foster Parenting & Zoo Event**

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**Health, Page 12**



**SVSU partners with K-12 schools**

**Education, Page 22**



**Gov. Rick Snyder signs legislation to help transform communities**

**Politics, Page 37**



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## Saginaw Career Complex Culinary Arts Team Honored by SISD Board



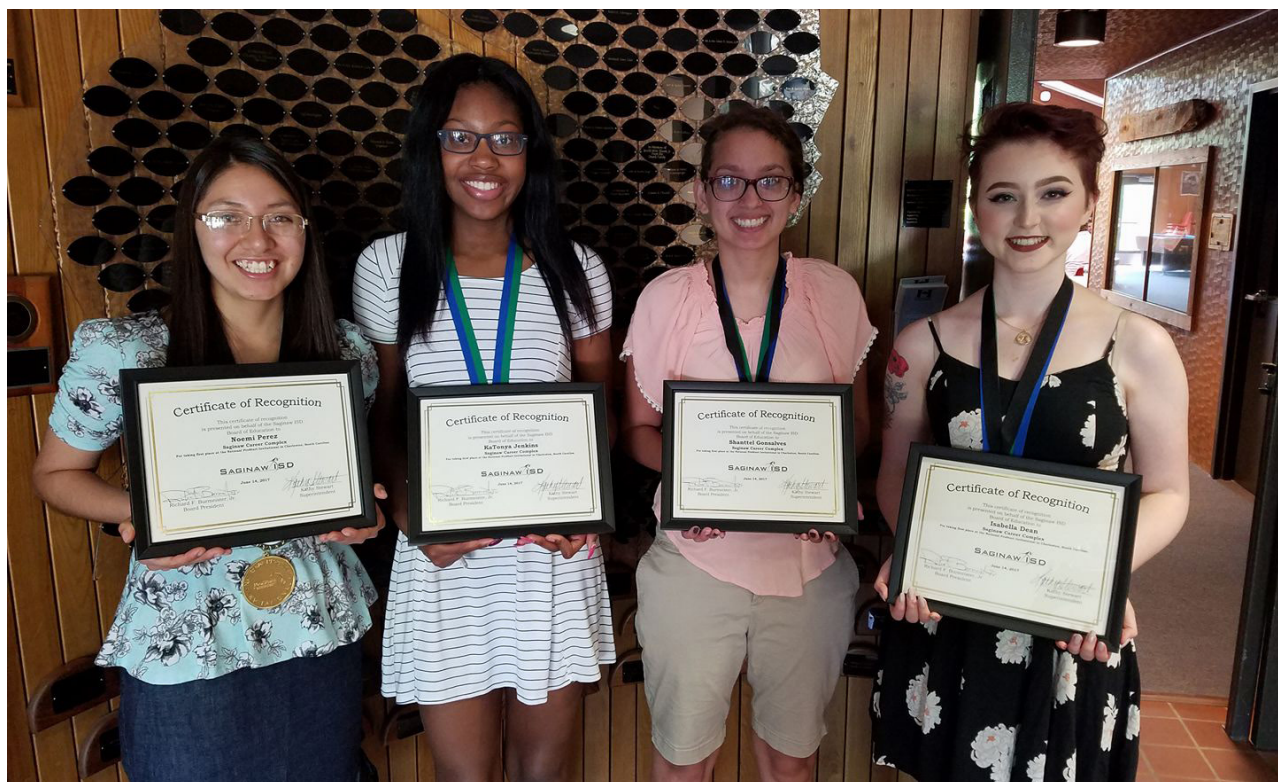
**Saginaw Public Schools Host 2nd Annual F.E.E.D**

**Community, Pg 30**



**University of Michigan's Derrick Walton, Heads Pistons Latest Draft Workout**

**Sports, Pg 43**



*Pictured left to right: Noemi Perez, Ka'Tonya Jenkins, Shanttel Gonsalves and Isabella Dean (facebook.com)*

Saginaw Career Complex Culinary Arts students Isabella Dean, Shanttel Gonsalves, KaTonya Jenkins and Noemi Perez along with their instructor, Julie Ivan, were honored at the June 14 SISD Board of Education meeting. The group took first place at the National ProStart Invitational in Charleston, South

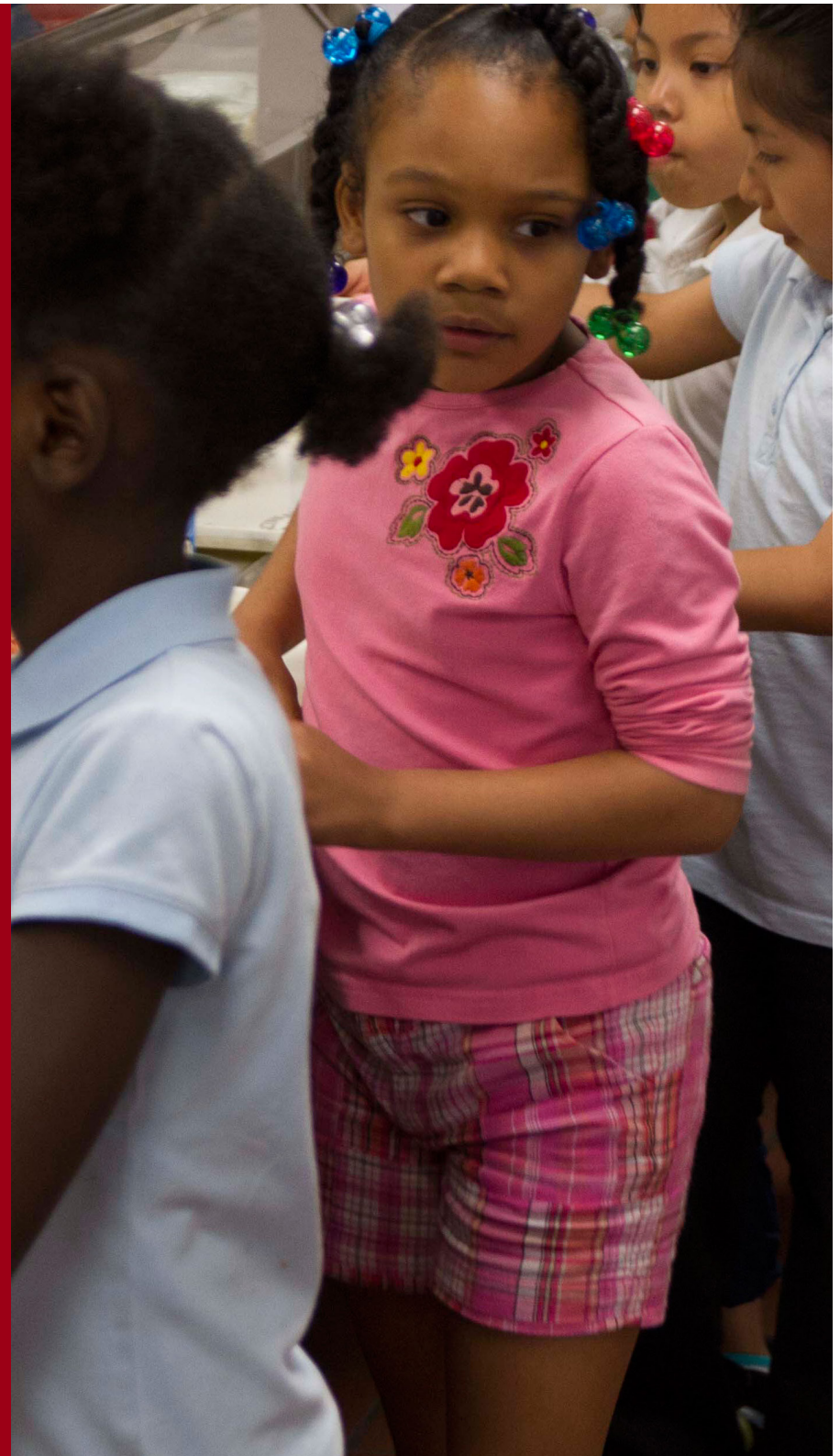
Carolina, winning over \$10,000 in scholarship from the National Restaurant Association (NRA) and Coca-Cola®. In addition, the winners have more than \$100,000 in college and university-specific scholarships available to them, should they choose to attend any of the sponsoring schools.

# Free Summer Meals for Local Kids

The federal Summer Food Program provides meals for children ages 18 and under (or up to age 26 for special needs) during the vacation break -- similar to school lunches -- beginning Monday, June 19. No payments or identifications are required. Parents are encouraged to join their children and to volunteer at their neighborhood sites. All serve lunches at or close to the noon hour, and some offer breakfast and/or afternoon snacks, with various weekday schedules.

## *Saginaw County locations include:*

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- Bridgeport High School, 4691 Bearcat
- Christ Image Church, 708 W. Genesee
- Center of Attraction Outreach, 4375 S. Washington
- Church of God, 2422 Fordney
- City of Light, 310 S. Jefferson
- Ephesus Church, 2115 Wadsworth
- First Ward CC, 1412 N. 12th
- Houghton-Jones, 1708 Johnson
- Greater Solid Rock Church, 605 Meade
- Mt. Olive Church, 1114 N. Sixth
- Neighborhood House, 3145 Russell
- New Heart Church, 1802 W. Michigan
- New Hope Church, 1721 Tuscola
- St. Paul Episcopal, 720 Tuscola
- Saginaw CAC, 2824 Perkins
- Sherwill Community, 2305 Williamson
- State Street Church, 3617 Mackinaw
- STM Clinic, 100 South Jefferson
- Tuscola Learn to Earn, 1000 Tuscola
- YMCA, 1915 Fordney



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The Michigan Banner operates and serves as a print and online media venue committed to educating, informing and enlightening our readership regarding events and news that directly and indirectly affect the communities regionally and globally. Furthermore, to serve as a catalyst and a link for cultivating young adults as entrepreneurial and business leaders for the future.

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**IN THIS ISSUE...**

Latino Banner .....	LB 1 - LB 4
Health .....	12
Business and Wealth .....	15
Education .....	22
Community .....	27
Politics and Public Policy .....	37
Sports .....	39

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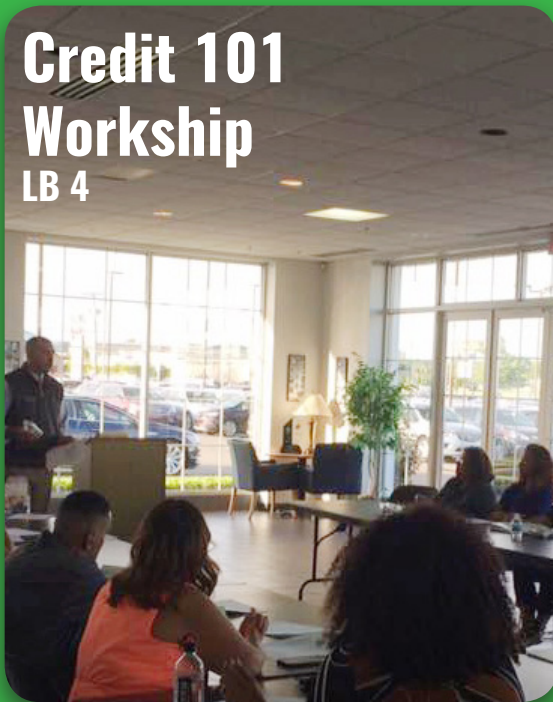
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## Save the Date for the 2017 Latino Loons Night!

**Credit 101  
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LB 4



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**2017 Latino Loons Night**  
Friday July 14, 2017 - 7 pm at the Dow Diamond in Midland

*Special Seating at the Game Mariachi's  
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Join the Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership Institute on July 14 at the Dow Diamond for Latino Loons Night! Enjoy a pre-game mariachi band, a post-game salsa dance party and other activities throughout the game.

For more information visit:  
[facebook.com/LatinoLoonsNight](https://facebook.com/LatinoLoonsNight)





Together Event with GLHBA  
Great Lakes Bay Health Centers - Janes Street, 1522 Janes in Saginaw

**Monday, June 26**, Meet and Greet at 5 pm (Tour 5:30-6:30 p.m.)  
Hosted by Ambassador Debbie Vasquez

Your one-hour tour will include personal stories from staff, patients and volunteers who illustrate the mission of nonprofit community-based Great Lakes Bay Health Centers.

Doors open before the tour for light refreshments and sign-in.

We will ask for your contact information so that we may call you after the event to get your feedback.

**\*For more information, contact Jill Armentrout, GLBHC Fund Development Coordinator, at 989-751-8866 or jarmentrout@glbhealth.org**

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We encourage readers to send letters, story ideas, comments and questions.

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# In the Community

On June 7, The Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Business Association partnered with Elvis Machul, Finance Director Garber Buick to bring important financial information to the Hispanic Business community.




Photos: facebook.com



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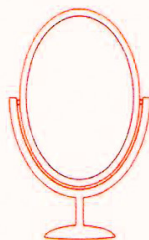


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## HEALTH

# Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority to Host Foster Parenting & Zoo Event

## Raise Hope & Foster Dreams Event

Join SCCMHA for the free RAISE HOPE EVENT to learn more about foster parenting and how you can help kids of all ages in Saginaw County. The event takes place on Tuesday, June 27 from 9:30 am – 3:00 pm. at Life Church Michigan located at 5200 Tittabawassee Road, Saginaw, MI. Dr. Thomas Haller, WNEM TV-5 Parenting Expert will present on The 6 Best Parenting Strategies. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Amanda Moran, MDHHS Licensing Worker, at 989-293-6561 by June 20.

# RAISE HOPE & FOSTER DREAMS

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## Zippity Zoo Da Day

SCCMHA is excited to announce the date of the fifth annual Zippity Zoo Da Day event is Thursday, July 27th from 10-4pm at the Saginaw Children's Zoo. Come join us for a free fun and food!

Some of the highlights of the day are magicians, jugglers, musical performances, puppet shows, caricature artists and Paleo Joe! We will have tents for crafts and face painting, even perhaps a few surprises! Free treats include hot dogs, hamburgers, pulled pork, popcorn, snow cones, cotton candy, and ice cream.

Last year we had over 3000 visitors from all over the state. Consumers and their families look forward to and plan for Zippity Zoo Da Day all year long and so do we! We appreciate your support in spreading the word, so even more consumers can take advantage of a free day of entertainment.

For more information on these upcoming events visit  
[www.sccmha.org](http://www.sccmha.org)

# MDHHS promotes awareness of Familial Adenomatous Polyposis to prevent colon cancer



*Courtesy Photo*

LANSING, Mich. – As part of efforts to increase awareness and reduce the incidence of colon cancer among Michigan residents, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is recognizing June 11-17, 2017 as Familial Adenomatous Polyposis Awareness Week.

Approximately 1,400 people in Michigan have Familial Adenomatous Polyposis (FAP), but many are not aware that they have the condition. FAP symptoms often begin as non-cancerous growths or polyps in the colon, sometimes numbering in the thousands and developing as early as the teenage years. These polyps become malignant, leading to colon cancer at much younger ages than in the general population.

FAP also increases the risk of developing cancers of the small intestine, liver, stomach, thyroid and brain. Other non-cancerous symptoms may result from FAP such as osteomas (bone growths), lipomas (fat-filled skin sacs) or fibromas (growths above the skin). FAP can be passed on from a parent to a child,

but it can also occur in people with no family history of the condition. It is usually diagnosed through colonoscopy or genetic testing.

“FAP is a serious condition that puts lives at risk if undetected. However, appropriate screening and health management can nearly greatly reduce the risk of colon cancer due to FAP,” said Dr. Eden Wells, chief medical executive of MDHHS. “We encourage everyone to talk to their health care provider about their family history. A physician will help determine the appropriate recommendations for genetic counseling and testing for FAP, and/or colonoscopy to check for polyps in the colon.”

Kevin Myers, a Michigan resident who has been diagnosed with FAP, is one of the coordinators of a Lynch Syndrome/FAP support group that meets monthly in Ann Arbor. “It is vitally important to be screened as early as possible – ideally by age 11-13, and possibly earlier,” said Myers. “This can prevent having to deal with many painful symptoms later on. Additionally, finding an FAP-knowledgeable

doctor will ensure consistent health care. Genetic counseling can be very beneficial with identifying a need for early screening. One can live a very full, long, and active life with FAP. My father is an excellent example of that at nearly 91 years of age.”

MDHHS is working with the Michigan Cancer Genetics Alliance, and patient support groups such as the Cancer Support Community of Greater Ann Arbor and Gilda’s Club Grand Rapids, to raise awareness of FAP and other hereditary cancer conditions. Funding for this program is made possible in part by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

To learn more about hereditary cancers, visit: [www.michigan.gov/hereditarycancer](http://www.michigan.gov/hereditarycancer). MCGA maintains a directory of cancer genetic counseling clinics in Michigan at: <https://migrc.org/Library/MCGA/MCGADirectory.html>.



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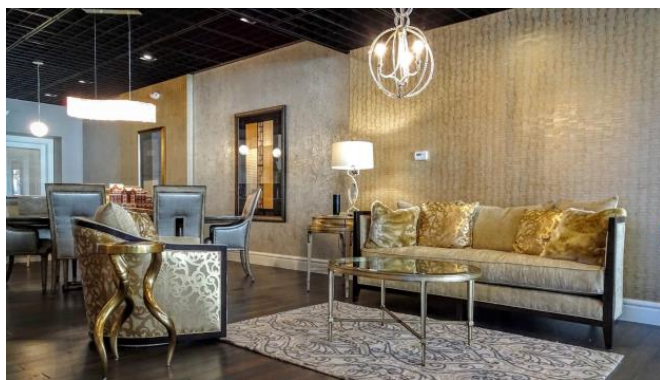


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## INTERSECTION OF BUSINESS &amp; WEALTH

## Great Lakes Bay Health Centers Gets New Mobile Dental Bus



*Courtesy Photo*

Great Lakes Bay Health Centers has been providing dental services in two different mobile buses for years, and now with a \$200,000 from the Delta Dental Foundation they have purchased a third. This allows even more mobile care for the entire Great Lakes Bay Region and beyond. On Tuesday, June 6th from 11:30am – 1:30pm Great Lakes Bay Health Centers held a presentation and ribbon cutting ceremony.

GLBHC has established an excellent record of providing high quality medical and dental over their almost 50-year history. The mobile dentistry program through its Smiles are Everywhere initiative is primarily geared to treat school aged children, but these buses are fully equipped to treat all patients including adults. With this new bus

GLBHC is planning on, hopefully, expanding care to assisted living facilities and/or other facilities that would welcome dental care. “There is a lack of access to dental care within the community for those who have no ability of transportation, especially those in wheelchairs, etc. Our new bus was specifically designed with a wheelchair lift to help reach those patients in need. We are thrilled that we can now help those patients,” said Dr. Crowley, Chief Dental Officer at GLBHC.

GLBHC is honored to have help from community partners and foundations allowing them to further their mission of quality healthcare. In this case the Delta Dental Foundation was instrumental in allowing GLBHC to purchase this new bus. “Tooth decay is the most common chronic childhood

disease today, and children miss 51 million hours of school every year due dental issues,” said Teri Battaglieri, director of the Delta Dental Foundation. “The Delta Dental Foundation’s grant to Great Lakes Bay Health Centers will help reach more underserved children and provide them with better access to the dental care they need to be healthy and show up for school pain free and ready to learn.”

“The Delta Dental Foundation saw the need for this increased access to care, and was a big reason we were able to get the funding for this new bus. We appreciate their assistance and the desire they have to help all patients within our communities to increase their oral health, added Crowley”

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# Affiliated Medical Billing Changes Name to Yeo & Yeo Medical Billing & Consulting; Kati Krueger Named President



*Courtesy Photo*

Affiliated Medical Billing has changed its name to Yeo & Yeo Medical Billing & Consulting, announced Thomas E. Hollerback, President & CEO of Yeo & Yeo CPAs & Business Consultants and its affiliates.

The name change leverages the strength and longstanding reputation of the Yeo & Yeo name, reflects the broader range of professional services the company offers and aligns the affiliate under a single Yeo & Yeo brand name. The name change will create a unified name for all three of the firm's affiliates: Yeo & Yeo Medical Billing & Consulting, Yeo & Yeo Computer Consulting, and Yeo & Yeo Financial Services. The new doing business as name is effective immediately and will be implemented throughout the calendar year 2017.

Announced in conjunction with the name change, Julia M. Lowe, CPC, former president of Affiliated Medical Billing, retired from the company after 19 years of providing medical billing and consulting

services for physicians and health care organizations, and more than 40 years dedicated to serving the health care profession. Under Lowe's leadership, Yeo & Yeo's medical billing affiliate started as a two-person team and grew to a highly successful organization with 18 professionals.

Kati Krueger was named president of Yeo & Yeo Medical Billing & Consulting effective May 1, 2017. She has an extensive background with the medical billing affiliate, having joined the company in 2002. Krueger held the position of billing manager and also served as marketing manager for nearly five years, overseeing client relations and business development opportunities. She has more than ten years' experience in medical billing and revenue cycle management, helping physicians and group practices throughout Michigan to be efficient and compliant. She has served as vice president since August 2016. Krueger is a member of the Medical Group Management Association, and holds a bachelor's degree from Saginaw Valley State University.

"During the past year, Yeo & Yeo CPAs implemented Lean Six Sigma methodologies that focus on greater efficiency and quality in our audit and tax practices – it is a process we refer to as YeoLEAN. Now, under Kati's leadership, Yeo & Yeo Medical Billing & Consulting is employing the YeoLEAN concepts that have allowed our medical billing professionals to streamline processes and focus on greater value for our clients," says Kimberlee Dahl, Director of Marketing for Yeo & Yeo.



"I am excited to lead the future advances at Yeo & Yeo Medical Billing & Consulting under its new name. Our YeoLEAN process improvements will be ongoing, and the process has already led to the implementation of new software capabilities and paperless technologies, more efficient insurance reimbursement processing, and timelier communication with our health care clients – all with the goal of helping them maximize their profitability," adds Krueger.

Yeo & Yeo Medical Billing & Consulting will continue its mission to be a leading provider of medical billing and practice management consulting services for the health care industry, as it has since 1998.

## Yeo & Yeo Medical Billing & Consulting

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**Wishing the Michigan Banner congratulations and continued success on your 14th anniversary.**

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## Wolgast Corporation Named Accredited Quality Contractor by ABC

Saginaw –Wolgast Corporation of Saginaw, Michigan announced that its status as an Accredited Quality Contractor (AQC) has been renewed by the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC).

“We are proud to be consistently recognized as an Accredited Quality Contractor over the past 24 years. Our efforts to maintain professional and quality service while supporting our staff and our community continues to be effective not only for us, but for the industry as a whole,” said Wolgast President and CEO, Brian Stadler.

“Associated Builders and Contractors is pleased to honor Wolgast Corporation with Accredited Quality Contractor status for its commitment to excellence in construction, its workforce and the communities it helps build,” said 2017 ABC National Chair Chuck Goodrich, president of Gaylor Electric, Indianapolis. “Wolgast Corporation earned this recognition for world-class safety performance, a strong record of investment in a talented and well-trained workforce, diversity leadership and community service.”

Launched in 1993, ABC’s AQC program provides recognition to world-class construction firms that have documented their commitment in five areas of corporate responsibility:

- Quality
- Safety (ABC Safety Training Evaluation Process (STEP) Gold, Platinum or Diamond level required)
- Employee benefits
- Training
- Community relations and diversity

In achieving AQC status, each member company takes the following pledge:

*As an Accredited Quality Contractor, our company is committed to providing our clients with the highest quality construction services and we care deeply about our employees and the communities in which we build. We are proud to be part of the construction industry and are dedicated to the principle of free enterprise. We commit ourselves to serve our communities and to provide our employees with the skills they need to work safely and productively in order to meet the needs of our clients*

## SAFETY PAYS: Participating Businesses Share Workers’ Compensation Group Dividend from Accident Fund Insurance Company of America

Fifty-seven Genesee County area businesses will share a \$47,446 premium dividend thanks to safe work practices and their participation in a workers compensation group dividend program available through the Associated Builder & Contractors of IN.

The dividend amount returned is based on each participant’s premium costs and have an average dividend of over \$832. However, one business received a dividend in excess \$4,000.

In addition to dividend opportunities, the GNGP Combined Chamber of Commerce group dividend program offers participating businesses a 5 percent discount on their workers’ compensation insurance premium rates.

While keeping people healthy and injury-free is vital in its own right, it is also an important factor in the ability to earn a dividend. Safety at work leads to fewer injuries and fewer workers’ compensation claims.

“It’s a fact – safety pays. A safe work environment is not only great for employees, it’s great for the bottom line,” said Laura Hall, Accident Fund’s group program consultant. “We’re proud to be able to present the Flint & Genesee Chamber with this dividend for members in this program.”

Accident Fund’s Loss prevention consultants work with policyholders on safe work practices and teach employee safety training. The company also offers an online “tool box” where policyholders can link to federal and state workplace safety websites.

“Encouraging safety in the workplace while offering a Chamber-only plan that can provide real money back is definitely a win-win situation,” said Heather Kale, Director of Member Services at the Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce. “The Accident Fund Workers Compensation Program is one of many innovative strategies we have put in place to help our members more effectively control their costs.”

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## FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

## Planned Confusion Solutions

Planned confusion can take you down. It's like a fog. It envelopes everything, but you can't pin it down. Nothing is moving forward, but everyone says "I'm on board." If you don't intervene you may find yourself – and your organization – strangled by exasperation and inertia. Here are five suggestions to keep you from a frightful future.

**Commitment.** Everyone may say they are committed, but the question is this: committed to what? Make sure that you, your staff, board members and volunteers know and understand the mission, goals and vision of the organization. Most importantly, find out if everyone is bought into these. Take the time to have challenging conversations re: mission, vision and goals. When people are silent, it doesn't mean they agree. But, silence without commitment can equal lack of follow through, absence at meetings and subtle sabotage.

**Roles and responsibilities.** Everybody should understand their role and responsibilities. For example, "raise \$100,000 by Friday" is not a reasonable responsibility. "Work with the fund development committee of the board to identify, cultivate and solicit major donors" is more reasonable. Add a date that answers the question "by when."

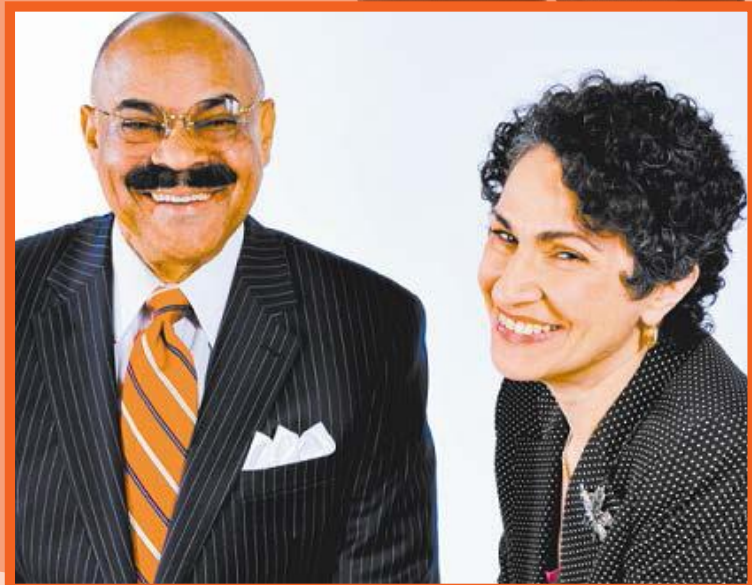
**End meeting confusion.** Develop standards for how meetings will be conducted, including who will lead each meeting. If you are chairing an upcoming meeting, schedule pre-meeting discussions with each person who will be attending. Share the proposed agenda and discuss agenda items in order to surface disagreements or alternative solutions so that you won't be surprised in the larger meeting. Talk through disagreements and alternatives, and use the information gained to find a "third way." When meeting participants will be presenting

information or reports, speak with each beforehand to ensure they are prepared. Momentum is easily killed by participants who report, "we didn't have time to complete the project."

**Stay with the agenda.** Officially distribute a meeting agenda prior to each meeting. Where possible, include suggested timeframes for specific items. Start each meeting by communicating expected outcomes; end with agreed upon next steps and due dates with a person responsible for each. Don't let any one person dominate the meeting; solicit engagement by those who don't actively participate. Quickly identify and where possible resolve issues as they come up. Stay with the defined agenda – keep the focus on the purpose of the meeting. At the end of each meeting use an evaluation form to learn what's working and what's not. Be open to criticism and change.

**Create a culture of clarity, accountability and transparency.** Do what you say. Say what you mean. Don't obfuscate. Hold yourself accountable, and encourage others to hold you – and themselves – accountable. Establish meeting norms, and create expectations regarding related to timeliness, participation and being prepared. Develop meeting norms and processes that are a fit for your organization's culture and that will engage and energize meeting participants. Consider using a consultant to help.

You and your organization deserve the best. Put steps in place to prevent "planned confusion."



Mel and Pearl Shaw | Courtesy Photo

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Mel and Pearl Shaw are authors of four books on fundraising available on Amazon.com. For help growing your fundraising visit [www.saadandshaw.com](http://www.saadandshaw.com) or call (901) 522-8727.

## EDUCATION

# SVSU partners with K-12 schools to prepare 'chief science officers,' thanks to grant from The Dow Chemical Co.

Saginaw Valley State University hopes to send students back to their K-12 schools to serve as leaders and "chief science officers" when the new school year begins in the fall.

Modeled after a similar program that has proven successful in Arizona, middle and high school students are elected by their peers to be a "chief science officer" and then are empowered to influence a wide range of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) opportunities in their schools and communities. The goal is to have students take an active role in increasing student interest in the STEM fields and ultimately create a diverse pipeline of STEM leaders.

SVSU received a \$40,000 grant from The Dow Chemical Company Foundation to run the community-minded pilot program at middle schools and high schools in Bay, Midland and Saginaw counties for the 2017-18 school year.

"We are proud to collaborate with our longtime partner SVSU to bring the chief science officer program to the Great Lakes Bay Region," said Rob Vallentine, president of The Dow Chemical Company Foundation.

"This program will empower students and educators to be local STEM leaders, who by sharing their knowledge in our community will create a multiplier effect of more young people getting excited about and prepared in STEM subjects, and hopefully interested in pursuing STEM careers."

The funds will support up to two students and a teacher mentor from each participating school to attend a two-day summer institute that will bring middle school and high school students to SVSU August 22-23. Around 50 students are expected to participate for the upcoming year.



*svsu.edu*

Money from the grant also is set aside to provide mini-grants of up to \$250 to support the "chief science officers" who develop plans for STEM projects to serve their school or community. Adrienne Cole, STEM Program Manager at SVSU, will oversee the program in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

Several local schools already have registered to participate:

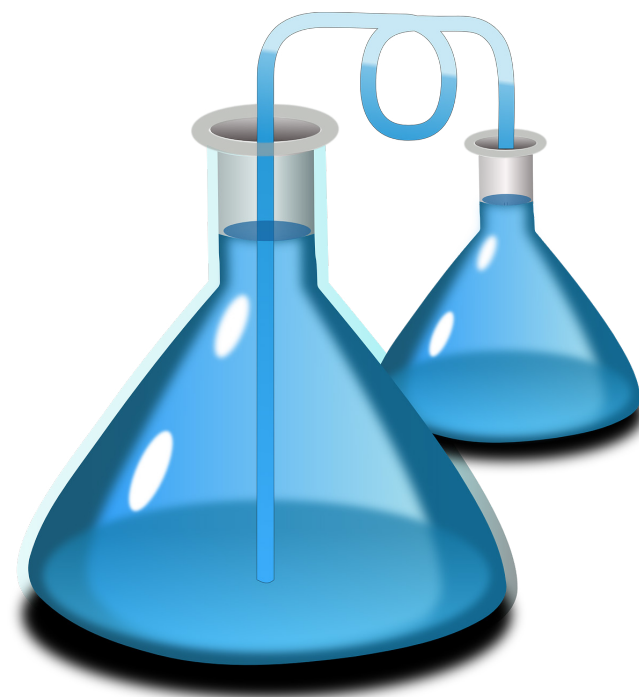
- Bay City Public Schools (Handy and Western middle schools; Central and Western high schools)
- Bridgeport-Spaulding Community Schools (Atkins Middle School and Bridgeport High School)
- Bangor Township Schools (John Glenn High School)
- Carrollton Public Schools (middle school and high school)
- Freeland Community Schools (middle school and high school)
- Midland Public Schools (Jefferson and Northeast middle schools; H.H. Dow and Midland high schools)
- Swan Valley Schools (high school)

- Saginaw Township Community Schools (Heritage High School and White Pine Middle School)
- Valley Lutheran High School

Additional schools who are interested in joining the program should contact Cole at (989) 964-4058, or [acole@svsu.edu](mailto:acole@svsu.edu).

The Chief Science Officer Initiative is supported by the U.S. Department of Technology; it was created and is overseen by Jeremy Babendure, Ph.D., executive director of the Arizona Technology Council Foundation. For more on the program, visit <https://chiefscienceofficers.org/>.

The Great Lakes Bay Region pilot program through SVSU is one of several being started across the country in connection with the National STEM Ecosystem Project.



# After bullying, mentors make a difference

## CMU faculty find close relationships prevent future problems

Want to help someone who's been hurt by bullying? Be a mentor.

More than one in three middle and high school students say they are victims of bullying, but people can help such victims when they reach out and connect as mentors.

Two Central Michigan University researchers have published research showing how mentoring relationships can help victims overcome related mental health difficulties and other interpersonal problems later in life.

Such mentoring relationships are low-cost interventions that can help prevent negative outcomes of bullying, said Stephanie Fredrick, one of the researchers. They often provide a sense of escape from daily stresses of life.

"Not only is bullying related to mental health problems of high school students, but the problems persist into college," she said. "Having that warm, supportive relationship is a step toward alleviating mental health problems."

It isn't like victims of bullying outright ask for a mentor, and this is why it is important for potential mentors to be perceptive and cognizant of students' actions and well-being, she said. Students dealing with bullying-related concerns are more likely to confide in a person they feel close to.

"If the student feels they are being bullied, I want them to know that I am one adult they can tell that to," Fredrick said. "We want students to just tell somebody who can then help them find the help they need."

### How everyone silently is a mentor

The study specifically looked at what researchers considered "natural mentoring relationships," meaning connections bullying victims had with people beyond their immediate family and professional mentors such as a Big Brother or Big Sister.



*cmich.edu*

Fredrick and fellow school psychology faculty member Daniel Drevon examined the connection between past victimization, the presence of mentors and whether the effects of bullying persist in college. Their research was published in the *Journal of School Violence*.

"What we were looking at is how the mentoring relationships in early adulthood protect against the development of future problems," said Drevon, who began the project during his postdoctoral teaching at CMU in 2013. "Victims of bullying who reported having natural mentors reported fewer interpersonal problems than those without a natural mentor."

Natural mentors include people such as coaches, teachers, school psychologists, supervisors and neighbors, Drevon said — people who provide opportunities for closer and more long-term relationships.

The research showed that mentoring relationships provided protection from interpersonal problems, but they did not help overcome senses of depression. Drevon said this shows that mentoring isn't the only solution, but there are further treatments to help overcome depression.

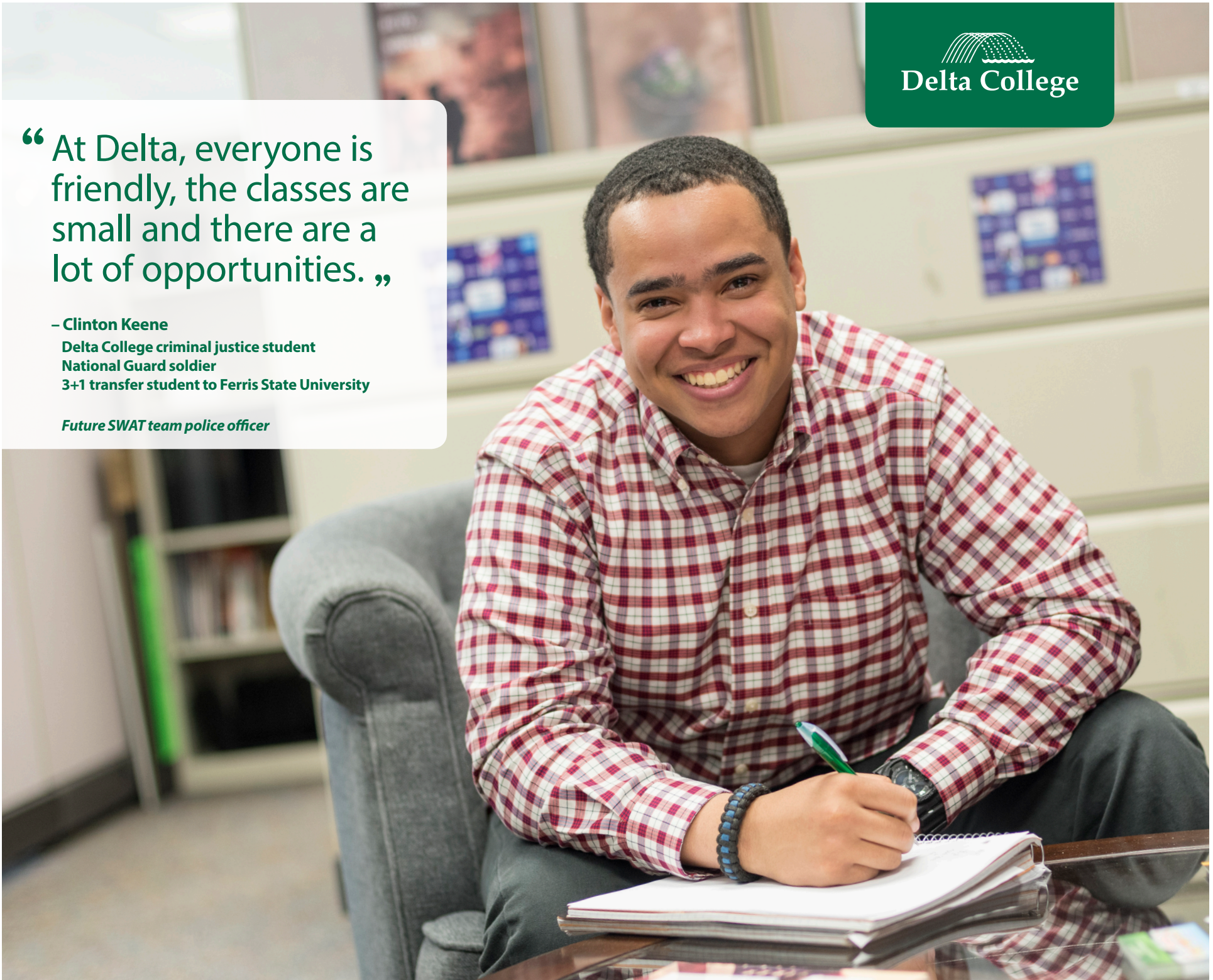
"That's a problem, but encouragingly there are things that are potentially identifiable that we can change in order to reduce some of the negative impact associated with bullying victimization," he said. "The research is needed because we need to know how to intervene, and we need to know how to prevent bullying."



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– Clinton Keene  
Delta College criminal justice student  
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His ultimate goal is to join a SWAT team – an elite group of police officers called in for special situations. It’s not easy to get into, but he’s up for the challenge.

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## MCC Receives Federal Funding for Upward Bound Program

Mott Community College (MCC) has been awarded a \$378,361 Upward Bound grant by the U.S. Department of Education for Fiscal Year 2017. Upward Bound is a Federally funded education program aimed at increasing academic and motivational levels of low income and First Generation high school students so that they will graduate and successfully pursue a college education.

'We are pleased to receive the Upward Bound funding again this year,' said MCC President, Dr. Beverly Walker-Griffea. 'It is a critical component in our efforts to offer local students a pathway to academic and career success'.

Through early intervention, Upward Bound serves low income, and/or first generation high school students in grades nine through twelve, helping them prepare for college. Students must be planning to attend or be currently attending a Flint High School (Southwestern Academy, Northwestern), Beecher or Hamady High School.

There are two components to the MCC Upward Bound program, including an intensive six-week academic summer program and an after-school program during the K-12 academic year.

### Why is Upward Bound important for students from low-income households and first generation college students?

Research suggests that participation in dual enrollment programs such as Upward Bound can lead to improved academic performance in high school, increased enrollment in college following high school, greater college credit accumulation, and higher rates of persistence in college.

## SVSU Community Writing Center to be introduced at Wirt Public Library in Bay City

Saginaw Valley State University has received grant funding to establish the Bay Area Community Writing Center, which will open in September at the Alice and Jack Wirt Public Library in Bay City.

SVSU received \$16,500 from the Community Initiative Fund and the Youth Advisory Endowment Fund at the Bay Area Community Foundation. The funds will cover two years of support for student tutors from SVSU's Writing Center; they will offer workshops as well as individual tutoring sessions for members of the Bay County community.

"We are delighted to partner with SVSU and the Wirt Library to provide this service to community residents," said Eileen Curtis, president and CEO of the Bay Area Community Foundation. "The skills the writing tutors will share with individuals to help them become more effective writers will be of great benefit to our community."

An opening for the Bay Area Community Writing Center is planned for Tuesday, Sept. 19. It will join the Saginaw Community Writing Center, hosted at the Butman-Fish Library in Saginaw, which began in September 2015.

Helen Raica-Klotz, director of the Writing Center at SVSU, said the Saginaw Community Writing Center is the first of its kind in Michigan. The new center in Bay City will become the second.

"We are excited to bring the expertise of our SVSU student tutors to Bay County to help all the members of this community develop their writing, whether it be polishing a resume, crafting a scholarship application, or writing a short story," she said.

"At our Saginaw location, over 250 community members have participated in our individual tutoring sessions and writing workshops."



*svsu.edu*

The Bay Area Community Writing Center will be open from 4 to 8 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of each month at the Wirt Public Library in downtown Bay City.

"We are pleased to be able to host the center and collaborate with SVSU with the support of the Bay Area Community Foundation," said Trish Burns, director of the Bay County Library System.

"As libraries continue evolving to meet diverse community needs, centers like this will become more important. The tutoring and workshops that take place in the center are another tool for patrons to use to continue building a better life."

**For more information about the Bay Area Community Writing Center, contact the SVSU Writing Center at (989) 964-2829.**



**Sabrina Beeman-Jackson**  
Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

**About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS**

Established in 1965, Head Start promotes school readiness for children, ages three to five, in low-income families by offering educational, nutritional, health, social and other services.

Head Start programs promote school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and families.

Early Head Start, launched in 1995, provides support to low-income infants, toddlers, pregnant women and their families.

EHS programs enhance children’s physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development; assist pregnant women to access comprehensive prenatal and postpartum care; support parents’ efforts to fulfill their parental roles; and help parents move toward self-sufficiency.

Together Head Start and Early Head Start have served tens of millions of children and their families.

At Saginaw ISD Head Start our attentive staff is available Monday through Friday to answer all your questions and make every effort to ensure you are 100 percent satisfied.

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Saturday: 8 AM - 4:30 PM  
Sunday: 8 AM - 4:30 PM

For additional information concerning Saginaw ISD Head Start visit: [www.saginawheadstart.org](http://www.saginawheadstart.org)

Source: [www.saginawheadstart.org](http://www.saginawheadstart.org)

“Head Start graduates are more likely to graduate from high school and less likely to need special education, repeat a grade, or commit crimes in adolescence.”  
*Joe Baca, former Dem. Calif. Congrsmn., Dist. 43.*

**“Our mission is to provide high quality services, developing school readiness and family empowerment for prenatal to age five children and families by working in partnership with parents and the community.”**  
**-Saginaw ISD HE/EHS**

## COMMUNITY

## Greater Michigan Construction Academy awards scholarships to local students

Midland, Michigan, June 2017 – Greater Michigan Construction Academy (GMCA) has awarded four scholarships to area students pursuing post-secondary skilled trades education and training. Each scholarship will cover the cost of tuition, books, and fees for the students first year of an available craft training program (2 semesters). Scholarship recipients will begin their classes in the 2017 fall semester beginning in August.

Students awarded were:

- Andrew Simpson, Freeland High School – awarded the Eric Kozakiewicz Memorial Scholarship.
- Andrew plans to study HVAC at GMCA in the fall.
- Eric Masley, Alma High School – awarded the Daniel Babcock Scholarship.
- Eric plans to study Electrical at GMCA in the fall.
- Kole Kehr, Beaverton High School – awarded the GMCA Scholarship (sponsored by Chemical Bank),
- Kole plans to study Electrical in the fall.
- Zeth Caudill, Springport High School – awarded the GMCA Lansing Scholarship.
- Zeth plans to study Electrical in the fall.

At the GMCA Graduation Celebration held on May 18th, Dan Kozakiewicz, President of Three Rivers Corporation announced a generous contribution on behalf of the Kozakiewicz family to the scholarship fund in the amount of \$30,000. These funds will be used to support skilled trades training expenses for students at GMCA.

GMCA has been teaching skilled trades for over 20 years with over 300 students currently enrolled in the Academy.

GMCA is an accredited member of NCCER as well as a licensed Michigan Proprietary School and provides training that is approved by the Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship (DOL/OA). GMCA is also the first vocational school of its kind to go through the process and receive ACCET accreditation.

As a result, each student is entered into a national teaching program that can be easily transferred among accredited sponsors and throughout the industry.

For more information and class descriptions, fees, and registration contact GMCA at (989) 832-8879. Email Director of Education, Bridget Sadenwater at bsadenwater@gmca.edu or you can visit our web site at [www.gmca.edu](http://www.gmca.edu)

## Beating Summer Boredom: Kid Friendly Fun in Flint



*flintandgenesee.org*

School may be out for summer, but there's no need to cry boredom just yet. After all, Flint is home to several venues and organizations that offer a variety of creative and engaging activities for youth of all ages.

Here are a few ideas for those of you on the lookout for some family friendly fun:

- Check out the Flint Handmade Summer Art & Craft Fair. Held every Saturday from June 17 through Aug. 12 at the Flint Farmers' Market, this weekly fair offers fun for the whole family: local artisans, live music, face painting and make-and-takes!
- Get wrapped up in a story. In addition to music and book signings on the weekends, Totem Books offers story time for children every Saturday from 11 a.m. to noon. The Flint Public Library also provides a variety of youth-focused fun, ranging from "Lunch on the Lawn" story time to writer's workshops for tweens and teens.
- Grow their love for learning through hands-on play. With a focus on visitors ages 2-10, the Flint Children's Museum (pictured above) is home to more than 50 exhibits that get kids thinking. The revolving Discovery Zone exhibit currently features a "Busy Builders" theme, with extra-large building materials, including arm's-length Lincoln Logs!
- Go star-gazing at the largest planetarium in Michigan. Flint's Longway Planetarium offers a variety of engaging shows that give audience members of all ages a unique perspective on the world (and galaxy) around them.
- Visit Genesee County's most famous treehouse, located in the For-Mar Nature Preserve and Arboretum. The new facility was featured on Animal Planet's Treehouse Masters show and is home to Nature's Superheroes: The Preservers.

# YouthQuest One of 18 Afterschool Programs in U.S. to Win Competitive Grant from New York Life Foundation

(FLINT, Mich. – June 12, 2017) – The Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce today announced that YouthQuest is one of 18 afterschool programs in the United States to receive an “Aim High” grant award from the New York Life Foundation.

More than 450 applications were submitted for this competitive program, which awarded a total of \$750,000 in Aim High grants this year. YouthQuest – which serves about 2,000 students in Flint and Genesee County each year – is one of four programs to receive the top prize of \$100,000 over two years.

The Aim High grant awards are part of a national partnership between the Afterschool Alliance and the New York Life Foundation that will provide \$1.95 million to middle school out-of-school time programs nationwide over the next three years.

This year’s awardees were chosen based on their efforts to help underserved eighth-graders reach ninth grade on time – a key indicator for students’ future success.

“We are thrilled to receive such generous support from the New York Life Foundation,” said Rhett Hunyady, Vice President of Education & Training, Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce. “Middle school can be a challenging time, so one of our goals is to help prepare these students for success in high school and beyond. We take that work very seriously, and we’re delighted to see our efforts recognized with this award.”

Aim High recipients are all afterschool, summer and expanded learning programs, selected as part of a nationwide competitive application process. The Afterschool Alliance convened a panel of reviewers, including leaders in the out-of-school time field, researchers, program directors and experts on quality programming to assess applicants and recommend grant awards.



[flintandgenesee.org](http://flintandgenesee.org)

“YouthQuest is doing vital work in the community,” said Marlyn Torres, Senior Program Officer, New York Life Foundation. “We’re delighted to help them provide badly needed support to help our next generation succeed in school and in life. Out-of-school time programs can make a world of difference for students facing the challenging transition to 9th grade, and it’s our privilege to help them do what they do best.”

“Across the nation, afterschool, summer and expanded learning programs are changing lives and creating opportunities for students and their families,” said Jodi Grant, Afterschool Alliance Executive Director. “As with all 18 recipients, YouthQuest is doing inspiring work meeting the needs of the community by keeping students safe, inspiring them to learn, and helping working families.”

Research has shown that high-quality afterschool, expanded-day and summer programs leads to greater academic achievement, better school attendance, and more engaged students.

YouthQuest currently serves more than 350 middle school youth after school and during the summer each year. These students regularly engage in high-quality activities that encourage the exploration of new interests in the areas of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math), and promote academic achievement, physical fitness, youth leadership and volunteerism.


Looking forward, YouthQuest will use its Aim High funds to reach more youth, as well as increase and enhance its enrichment offerings and academic support for middle school students.

Since 2013, the New York Life Foundation has invested more than \$24 million in national middle school OST efforts, supporting organizations that provide nearly 500,000 middle school youth with afterschool and summer programming. Foundation grants have supported an additional 6 million hours of OST programming.



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# Saginaw Public Schools Host 2nd Annual F.E.E.D (Family Engagement Empowerment Day)

Saginaw Public Schools' 2nd Annual F.E.E.D (Family Engagement Empowerment Day) was a success. The event, which was open to all Pre-K - 12th grade families and the community was held at Jessie Rouse Elementary. The event had 210 participants, which included families throughout the district, staff, community partners, and more. There were 25 vendors who shared resources and information with families, 10 additional student and community volunteers, and 4 breakout sessions. The breakout sessions included STEM activities for all grades, Banking, Early Childhood Family activities, and a Community Forum hosted by Saginaw Valley State University.



photos: facebook.com



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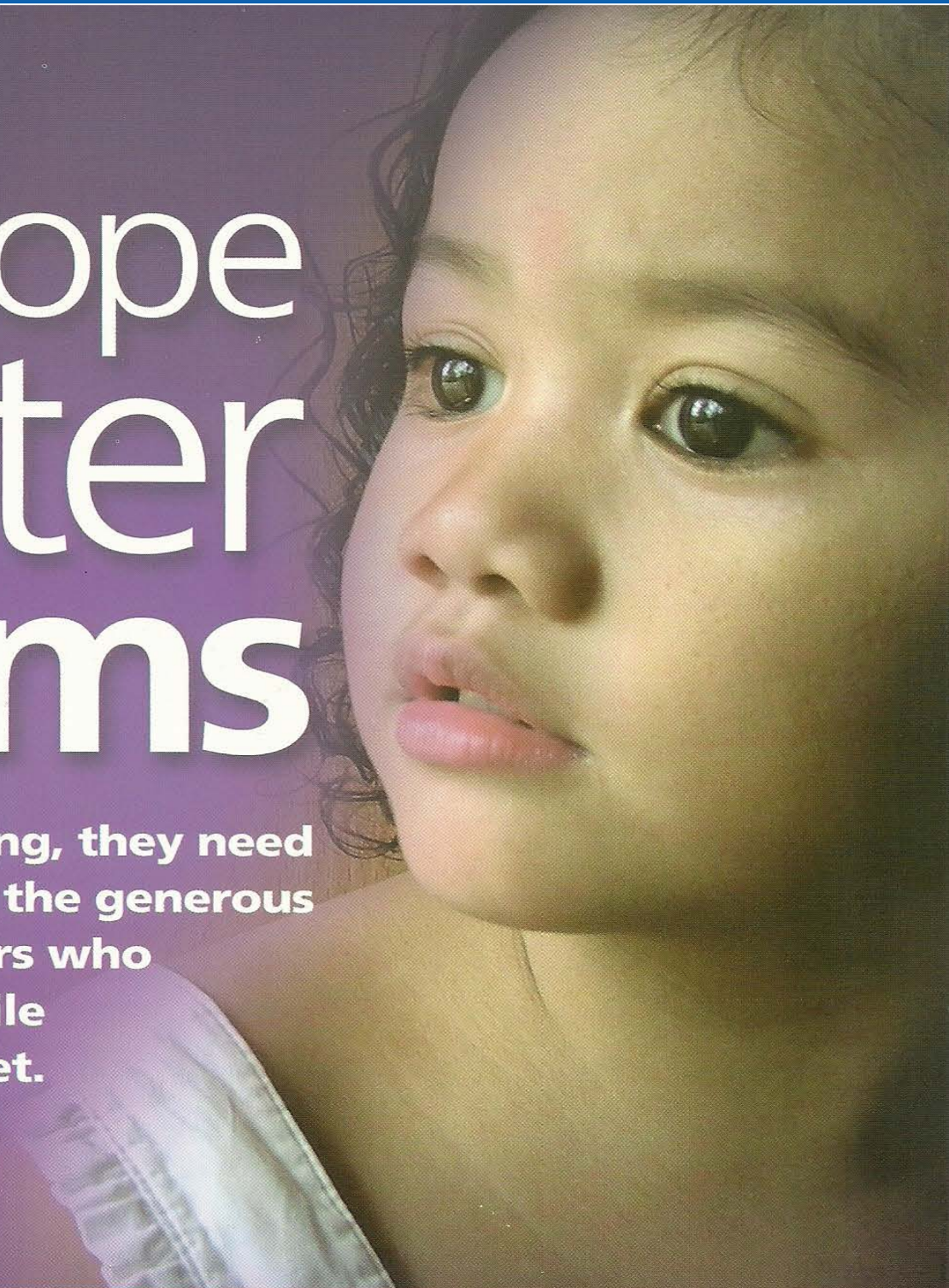
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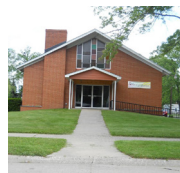
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## POLITICS &amp; PUBLIC POLICY

# Gov. Rick Snyder signs legislation to help transform communities and benefit Michigan's economic future

Saginaw, Mich. – Gov. Rick Snyder today signed into law a package of bipartisan bills aimed at revitalizing communities across Michigan by allowing transformational projects to capture state sales and income taxes to redevelop challenging brownfield sites into new, vibrant developments that bring jobs and economic growth.

Joined by a group of bipartisan lawmakers, Saginaw Future President and Michigan Thrive Coalition member JoAnn Crary, Saginaw City Manager Tim Morales, and other city officials and business leaders, the governor spoke about how the Michigan Thrive legislation will help revitalize communities across the state.

"As part of Michigan's reinvention, it's important that we continue to revitalize our downtowns, waterfronts and main streets to attract and keep talent and business continually growing in our great state," Gov. Snyder said. "This legislation is key to closing existing funding gaps surrounding brownfield sites and creating vibrant communities where Michiganders can live, work and play."

The Michigan Thrive Coalition, comprised of leading economic development organizations, cities, and chambers of commerce supported the legislation led by Sen. Horn to revitalize and redevelop brownfield sites into thriving economic development engines in Michigan communities.

The five-bill package includes:

SB 111, sponsored by Sen. Ken Horn, outlines the key elements of the proposal. The three kinds of income tax capture allowed under the package include construction period tax capture revenues, withholding tax capture revenues, and income tax capture revenues, in addition to property tax increments. The purchase of certain tangible



*twitter.com*

personal property used in eligible brownfield redevelopment activities would be exempt from sales and use taxes.

SB 113, sponsored by Sen. Tom Casperson, amends the General Sales Tax Act to exempt from sales taxes the sale of tangible personal property for use in eligible brownfield redevelopment activities on eligible property included in a TBP, to the extent that the tangible personal property will be affixed and made a structural part of the real property or infrastructure improvements included within the TBP.

SB 114, sponsored by Sen. Peter MacGregor, amends the Use Tax Act to exempt from use taxes tangible personal property acquired by a person engaged in the business of altering, repairing, or improving real estate for others, or to the

manufacturing of a specific product if the property or product is to be affixed or made a structural part of improvements to real property included within a TBP, to the extent that those improvements are eligible activities on eligible property within a TBP.

SB 115, sponsored by Sen. Steve Bieda, amends the Michigan Renaissance Zone Act to provide that, where a renaissance zone overlapped with a TBP, the property owner and local government unit may request that exemptions from the Income Tax Act and City Income Tax Act not apply within the overlapping portion of the renaissance zone. The Michigan Strategic Fund and city levying the income tax would decide whether to approve the request.

For more information on this and other legislation, please visit [www.legislature.mi.gov](http://www.legislature.mi.gov).

# Dan Kildee Helps Introduce New Legislation to Improve Access to College and Make College More Affordable

Congressman Dan Kildee (MI-05), Congressman Bobby Scott (VA-03), ranking member of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, Susan Davis (CA-53), ranking member of the House Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development and Reps. Adriano Espaillat (NY-13) introduced the Jumpstart on College Act. Reps. Scott and Davis also joined Rep. Jared Polis (CO-02), ranking member of the House Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education, to introduce the Advancing Competency-Based Education Act of 2017. The bills are part of House Democrats' #AimHigher initiative, which would make quality higher education accessible and affordable to empower America's working families to succeed in our economy.

"Unfortunately, many Americans face crushing student debt and numerous hurdles in attending and completing college. That's why this legislation to support successful early college programs in Michigan and around the country is so important," said Rep. Kildee. "We must reduce the burden of student debt and increase access to higher education to give Americans the skills they need to be ready for the jobs of the twenty-first century."

"While the percentage of individuals enrolling in college is higher than ever before, traditionally underserved students continue to access college at lower rates than their peers," said Ranking Member Scott. "The prospect of paying for college and succeeding in rigorous courses can be daunting, particularly for students who would be the first in their families to attend a postsecondary institution. Democrats are committed to increasing the number of students who attend college, lowering the cost to enroll, and helping students complete a degree on time that will have value in the job market."

The Jumpstart on College Act would improve student access to college, increase affordability, and lead to higher degree completion rates by expanding dual enrollment and early college high school programs.

"A college education is the most powerful tool

for upward socioeconomic mobility," said Rep. Espaillat. "That is why I am introducing the Jumpstart on College Act to close the higher education gap and help students achieve and aim for educational success. This bill makes investments in critical dual enrollment and early college programs, through which low-income and underserved students can get a jump start on academic success, educational attainment and college achievement."

The Jumpstart on College Act would:

- Invest \$250 million in year one – with more in subsequent years – to support dual enrollment and early college high schools that primarily serve low-income students;
- Create a competitive grant program for colleges and universities to partner with school districts to support the development of these programs;
- Provide financial support to states in order to develop and implement a state-wide strategy for increasing access to dual enrollment programs for underrepresented students;
- Improve college affordability by ensuring students pay nothing to earn college credit while in high school and allowing students to get a jumpstart on college; and
- Improve the likelihood of degree and credential attainment.

Dual enrollment and early college high school programs are one part of the solution to increasing access to higher education, tackling college costs, and improving graduation rates – particularly for the students who need the most help. These programs allow high school juniors and seniors to enroll in college courses and earn credits upon course completion at low or no cost, simultaneously promoting a college-going culture and reducing costs families face.

Another way to improve our country's completion rates is to ensure that our adult students are succeeding. Competency-based education is an innovative model used by colleges and universities where credits are awarded based on students' demonstrable knowledge.

This education approach allows many of today's students who may be juggling work and kids to enroll and succeed in college. Recent research shows that nearly 60 percent of college students are working while taking classes, almost 40 percent are older than the age of 25, and 25 percent are raising children while enrolled in school. At the same time, the cost of a degree continues to rise, forcing students to borrow more each year.

The Advancing Competency-Based Education Act of 2017:

- Promotes innovation in higher education by allowing competency-based education programs in the demonstration project to request additional flexibility from current statutory and regulatory requirements that are current barriers to implementation.
- Increases transparency by requiring an annual evaluation of each competency-based education program in the demonstration project to determine program quality, the progress of participating students towards earning a degree, and a students' ability to pay off their loans and find employment upon graduation.
- Provides new information about the students being served in competency-based education programs and how their success compares to similar students in traditional programs.
- Creates new accountability for competency-based education programs by requiring an institution's accreditation agency to set standards for competency-based education programs.
- Establishes a Competency-Based Education Council to continue studying the ongoing innovation and development of competency-based education.

To learn more visit: [www.dankildee.house.gov/media/press-releases/democrats-introduce-new-legislation-improve-access-college-make-college-more](http://www.dankildee.house.gov/media/press-releases/democrats-introduce-new-legislation-improve-access-college-make-college-more)

## SPORTS

## SVSU Disc Golf Team Wins Collegiate Cup Championship



*svsu.edu*

The disc golf team at Saginaw Valley State University won the inaugural Collegiate Cup Sunday, June 11 at Flip City Disc Golf Course in Shelby, Michigan.

SVSU competed against some of the best teams in the country, including two teams from Ferris State University who won national championships last year. Central Michigan University, Grand Valley State University and Hendrix College from Arkansas also competed.

“The championship was a tremendous accomplishment,” said Kenneth Mize, a social work major from Flint and member of SVSU’s disc golf team. “We took home \$2,000, which goes to our club fund so it will help us out tremendously.”

Disc golf is one of 27 club sports offered at SVSU where students compete against other collegiate club programs. Club teams receive some administrative and financial support from the university, but they also learn valuable skills through fundraising, making travel arrangements and the like. A total of 387 SVSU students competed in club sports during the 2016-17 academic year.

In disc golf, players toss flying discs toward targets; scoring is similar to golf. For the Collegiate Cup, the SVSU team played seven rounds of 24 holes.

“Personally I love the competition and seeing people fall in love with the sport” Mize said.

Other members of the winning SVSU team were:

- Mitchell Kloc of Freeland, who graduated in May with a degree in professional and technical writing
- Matthew Murdock, a physical education major from Montrose
- Alex Villanueva, a criminal justice major from Davison

## Saginaw Spirit Alumni Win Calder Cup with Grand Rapids



*saginawspirit.com*

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. – Three proud Saginaw Spirit alumni are waking up champions this morning after securing the American Hockey League’s Calder Cup Championship last night.

Eddie Pasquale (2008-10), Dylan Sadowy (2012-16), and Filip Hronek (2016-17) are all members of the Grand Rapids Griffins, the AHL affiliate of the Detroit Red Wings. The Griffins knocked off the Syracuse Crunch, AHL affiliate of the Tampa Bay Lightning by a score of 4-3 on Tuesday night to win the best-of-seven series, four games to two.



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# Midwest League All-Star Game Home Run Derby Lineup Announced

MIDLAND, Mich. - The Great Lakes Loons and the Midwest League are pleased to announce the participants for the 2017 Midwest League Home Run Derby, presented by Chemical Bank, at Dow Diamond on June 19th.

They include: Carlos Rincon (Great Lakes), Vladimir Guerrero, Jr. (Lansing), Bo Bichette (Lansing), Fernando Tatis, Jr. (Fort Wayne), Blaise Salter (West Michigan), Jesus Sanchez (Bowling Green), Marcus Wilson (Kane County), and Andy Young (Peoria).

Rincon is the only non-All-Star participating in the Derby. The Midwest League has granted him participation in serving as a representative for the hosting Great Lakes Loons. The 19-year-old Dominican outfielder has 11 home runs this season and leads the Midwest League in frequency of home runs with one every 15.7 at bats.

Guerrero, Jr. is the son of former Major League MVP, Vladimir Guerrero. The 18-year-old Guerrero, Jr. was the second youngest player on an opening day roster in the Midwest League this season and is considered one of the top prospects in all of baseball. Paired with the second highest batting average in the league currently, Guerrero, Jr. has four total home runs this season.

Bichette is the second of three legacy players participating in the Derby this year. Bo is the son of former Major Leaguer, Dante Bichette. Leading the Midwest League in batting average by over 50 points, the 19-year-old from Orlando, FL currently has six home runs on the year.

Tatis, Jr. is the offspring of another former Major Leaguer, Fernando Tatis. Tatis, Jr. is also another teenager at just 18 years old. After having just four home runs in his first season as a professional last year, the Dominican infielder has eight already this season in 61 games.

Salter is the state of Michigan through and through. He grew up in Bloomfield Hills and graduated High School from Orchard Lake St. Mary's, then went on



*courtesy photo*

to play college baseball for Michigan State before being drafted by the Detroit Tigers in the 31st round of the 2015 MLB draft. The grandson of Bill Freehan, who was an 11-time Major League All-Star and won the 1968 World Series with the Tigers, has five home runs this year for the Eastern Division leading West Michigan Whitecaps.

Sanchez is the most recent winner of the Midwest League's Player of the Week honor after crushing two home runs and hitting .522 in his last five games. A top-10 prospect for the Tampa Bay Rays, Sanchez is one of five teenagers in the Home Run Derby. This season, the Dominican left-hander has nine home runs.

Wilson was the 69th overall pick in the 2014 MLB draft out of Junipero Serra High School in Gardena, CA. The 20-year-old outfielder is having, by far, his best season as a professional hitting over .300 and totaling seven home runs. Wilson was the hottest slugger to start the 2017 Midwest League season bopping five home runs in his first 13 games.

Young is from West Fargo, ND and went to Indiana State before being drafted last year in the 37th

round by the St. Louis Cardinals. The righty infielder is currently tied for third in the Western Division with 10 home runs this year.

The Midwest League Home Run Derby is slated to start at 7:05 p.m. ET on Monday, June 19th. The format for the derby will follow a shot clock system that will have timed rounds through the finals. Following the Home Run Derby, Nashville recording artist and 2015 MusicRow Independent Artist of the Year, the Chris Weaver Band, will headline a free concert on Dow Diamond's front lawn. The concert is slated to start at 8:30, and will feature food trucks and a selection of beers available for purchase. The concert is free and open to the general public.

**The 2016 Midwest League Champions and hosts of the 2017 MWL All-Star Game presented by GoGreat.com have been a Single-A partner of the Los Angeles Dodgers since the team's inception in 2007. For tickets and more information about the Great Lakes Loons, call 989-837-BALL or visit Loons.com.**

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## The Evolution of The Piston's Logo

Since moving to Detroit in 1957, the Pistons brand has undergone numerous changes — some subtle and some not so — and this latest evolution represents a return to the team's roots with modern twists to drive ahead into the future.



1957-1971



1971-1975



1975-1979



1979-1996



1996-2001



2001-2005



2005-2017



2017

# University of Michigan's Derrick Walton, Heads Pistons Latest Draft Workout

AUBURN HILLS – No surprise that the Pistons player 9-year-old Derrick Walton gravitated to was Chauncey Billups. Walton's a point guard first, last and always, so of course Mr. Big Shot was the player he identified with as a kid growing up in Detroit in the heart of the Goin' to Work Pistons heyday.

"I was an avid fan. Chauncey was a guy that I liked a lot," Walton said after taking part in Tuesday's draft workout for the Pistons. "Being from the city, being 45 minutes away, it's always knowledge of this program, this organization. They've done great things. The banner speaks for itself."

But ask what NBA player he thinks he most closely resembles and Walton goes off the grid and names the guy who, ironically enough, was a significant part of the reason Billups became a Piston in the first place.

In the 2001-02 season, the Minnesota Timberwolves – a team built around a dynamic 25-year-old Kevin Garnett – had a highly respected veteran point guard in Terrell Brandon blocking Billups' path to the starting lineup. But Brandon got hurt during the season, allowing Billups to start 54 games and convincing the Pistons that he was the free agent they should target as their point guard.

Had Minnesota been at a different stage of development, the Timberwolves probably would have chosen to go with the 25-year-old Billups over Brandon, 31. But Brandon's superb playmaking ability – he averaged 12.4 points, nearly identical to Billups' 12.5 that season, but had a superb 8.3:1.3 assists-to-turnovers ratio – was viewed as critical to a team coming off a 50-win season under Flip Saunders and eyeing a challenge to the Los Angeles Lakers in the Western Conference.

That's the guy, Brandon, Walton sees himself emulating – an efficient scorer who can stretch the floor but more known as a consummate orchestrator and leader.

"You know what I bring," said Walton, who was Michigan's starting point guard for four seasons but put himself more squarely on the radar of NBA teams with a phenomenal second half of his season year, capped by leading Michigan to the Big Ten tournament title and into the NCAA Sweet 16.

"I can shoot it. I can run a team. I compete. I can rebound. I lead. Just a lot of things (NBA teams) say they like about me."

Walton's challenge – not unlike the player he succeeded as Michigan's point guard, Trey Burke – will be to convince teams his lack of elite burst and size won't ultimately limit his ability to succeed in the NBA by the same means he thrived in the Big Ten.

Walton, who has worked out for nearly a third of NBA teams and has more lined up, is still probably less than 50-50 to be drafted. He's currently ranked 73rd by DraftExpress.com and 71st by ESPN.com in a draft with two rounds and 60 spots. The odds grow a little longer if teams drafting in the 50s follow the trend of drafting international players with no intention of bringing them to the NBA immediately to save roster spots and gamble on upside.

That explains the Pistons interest in having him work out for them in a six-player group that had only one likely first-round prospect, North Carolina's 6-foot-11 Tony Bradley. Others in the group were Maryland's Melo Trimble, Miami's Davon Reed, Iowa's Peter Jok and Marquette's Luke Fischer. It's possible none of them will be drafted. The Pistons, without a second-round pick, are on the lookout for players to fill out their Summer League roster who could be candidates for their D-League team, the Grand Rapids Drive.

"I've got a really good feeling about it all," Walton said. "People that represent me tell me anything is open from anywhere. A lot of teams with picks or looking to get picks is all in the cards for me. Pretty much finishing the process up as strong as possible,



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taking each and every day and doing what I can and not worry about what I can't control."

Walton's dream of playing in the NBA, like those harbored by tens of thousands of 2004 9-year-olds, wasn't quite so audacious as to envision himself playing for the Pistons. But he got to wear that jersey – OK, just a practice jersey, but it said "Pistons" on the chest – for a day on Tuesday and, well, you never know.

"Oh, man. It would be an extreme honor," he said. "A dream come true to play for my hometown team."



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## PIC OF THE WEEK

**The Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce graduated the 31st Leadership Saginaw Class on June 8. Congratulations class of 2017!**



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Leadership Saginaw County, a personal and community leadership development program, was formed by the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce out of a recognized need that Saginaw County must develop and strengthen its own leaders.





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