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Celebrating 15 years of Positive News!



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President of AT&T Michigan**

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Links, Incorporated launches
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Leading in Diversity, Empowering Communities and Changing Lives

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Wakanda in Schools: The Black Panther Curriculum Makes Its Debut



Photo by Rich Polk/Getty Images for IMAX

Written by Shaima Shamdeen

From moviegoers showing up in traditional African garb to Black communities fundraising for private screenings and viewing parties, the release of Black Panther has demonstrated a political consciousness unlike other recent cinematic releases. So when Chicago sixth-grade teacher Tess Raser shared her Wakanda Curriculum on Twitter, it was no surprise that it, too, would be celebrated.

The film, which opened Feb. 16, offers a celebration of Black culture, empowerment, ingenuity and beauty in a fictional African nation unburdened with systemic racism and oppression.

Raser's two-part curriculum provides a creative opportunity for educators to leverage the film and discuss African colonialism and American racism separate from the Eurocentric history typically taught in American classrooms.

Continues on pg 4, Wakanda in Schools



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MISSION

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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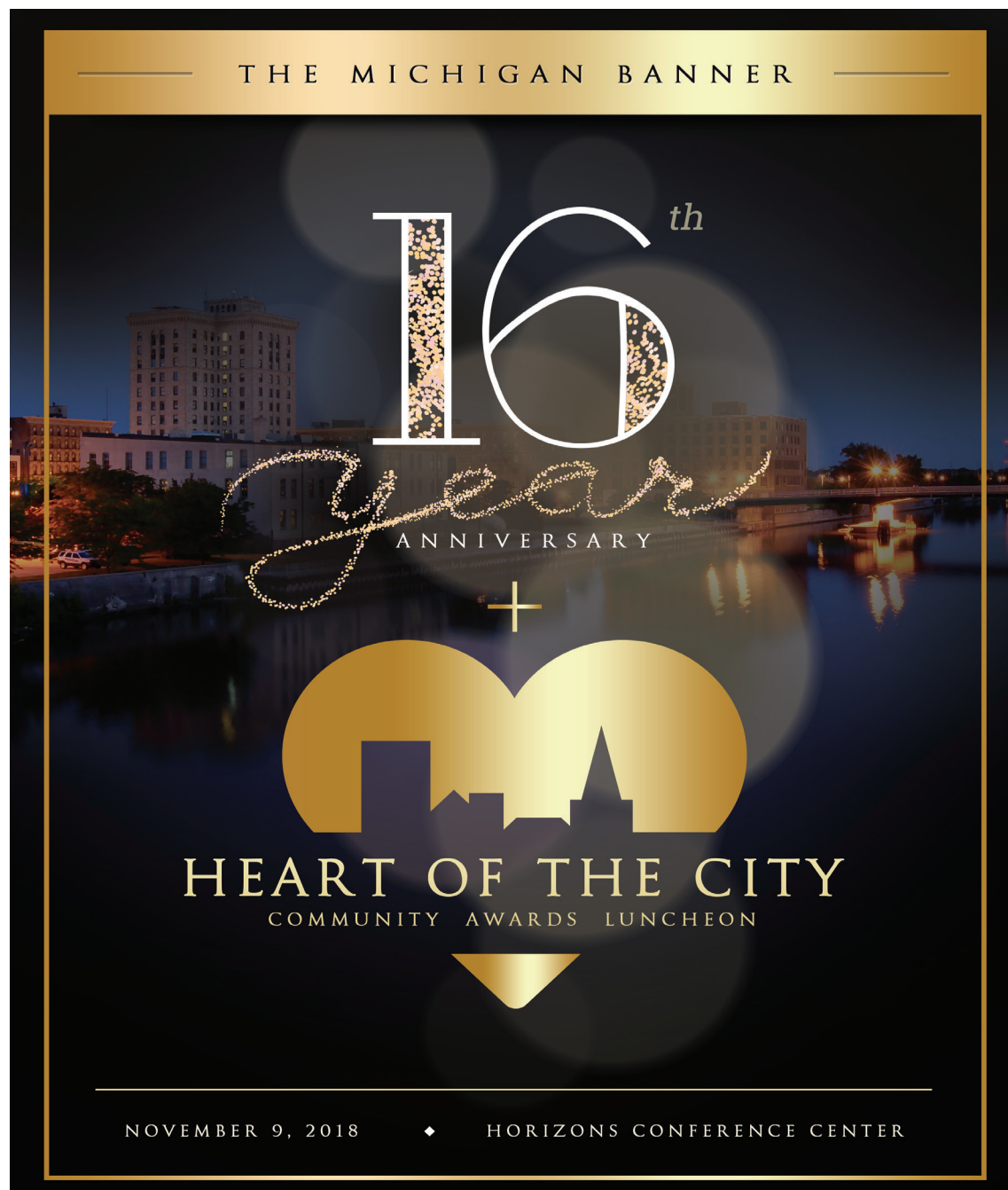
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Cover Story, Wakanda in Schools



Getty Images

Students are given the space to digest heavy topics, such as global anti-Blackness, and learn about the effects of colonialism through the experience of Wakanda, an African country that escaped the emotional, societal, and political trauma of White imperialism.

“After seeing Black Panther, I started to think about how students could analyze the movie as they would with a piece of literature,” Raser said. “It was a good way for them to make connections to their community and to prepare them to be change makers.”

Raser leads a classroom of 30 Black students at the Dulles School of Excellence on the South Side of Chicago, an area that she said is often referred to as “Chicago’s most violent block.”

“There’s just so much that teachers have to deal with,” she says. “I think the response I’ve received really highlights a need that teachers have for meaningful radical curriculum that’s created for Black children.”

Due to high-stakes standardized testing and district pressures to do well on math and reading assessments, many students in Chicago Public

Schools receive minimal exposure to social studies, she said. Many of her students over her five years in the district have had little to no preparation in these subjects.

On Feb. 28, The Chicago Sun-Times reported that the school board would be closing four high schools and one elementary school in the South Side Englewood neighborhood because of low test scores and lack of enrollment. The closures make way for a new \$85 million dollar Englewood High School set to open in 2019. The news comes just five years after the district voted to shut down 50 other schools for the same reason, a decision that intensified flight from affected neighborhoods, forcing more than 1,600 Englewood students to leave for other school districts.

To increase enrollment in these communities, CPS has distributed 73 percent of hundreds of millions of dollars in school construction dollars to neighborhoods where more than one-quarter of the student body is White, WBEZ reports. That amounts to just 12 percent of all schools in the district.

“The area is changing, and White people are moving in. They want a school for their kids. Meanwhile, our schools are fighting to stay alive. I don’t

know how much CPS would even care or value a curriculum like this because they’re focused more on test scores,” Raser said.

New opportunities have emerged for Raser since her Wakanda curriculum went viral. Despite the threat of school closures in her district, she remains committed as an educator and admits it’s hard to imagine a life outside of school. “These viral moments are like the movies where the teacher comes in and saves the day, and it’s always pleasant,” Raser said, “but there are so many times a week where that is not the case.”

In Dayton, Ohio, another teacher, Tina Bailey, was inspired to incorporate lessons from Black Panther into her fourth-grade classroom.

While wearing a Black Panther mask, Bailey greeted her students with the Wakandan salute as each entered the classroom to start the day—another video moment that went viral. For Bailey, the salute represented a society where people lived harmoniously with each other despite differences.

“No matter where you are from or what tribe you come from we can come together,” Bailey said. “We can grow together and change things together. We may not look the same, but when you enter into our classroom we become one.”

For both teachers, Black Panther offers a refreshing recentering of the Black narrative, one that unites the diverse cultures within the community and celebrates Blackness in the image of rulers of a kingdom and creators of an advanced world.

“The movie really touched on the relationships and tensions among the diaspora,” Raser said. “In my area, the kids had previously used the term ‘African’ as an insult for someone. That really bothered me, so I wanted to address their misconceptions, and this was a good moment to hook them into focusing on broader themes.”

This article was written by Shaima Shamdeen for Yes Magazine and has been re-published with permission.

Flint & Genesee Chamber to Hosts Annual Meeting



The Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce on March 22 will hold its 2018 Annual Meeting at the Holiday Inn Flint-Grand Blanc Area, 5353 Gateway Centre. Standing firm with last year's theme, "2020: Building the Future" will include a recap of the Chamber's accomplishments from the past year and update the progress toward the regional goals.

Keynote speaker Jason Scott, Global Vice President of Lear Corp.'s GM Seating Group, will discuss talent management as a business strategy. Scott's appearance comes amid considerable excitement surrounding Lear's decision to build a new manufacturing facility on the former site of Buick City. The plant, which is currently under construction, is the first major automotive supplier manufacturing facility built in Flint in more than 30 years. It will employ about 600 workers when it

reaches full production.

"There were so many outstanding redevelopment projects and new investments, including the Lear project, that helped to maintain positive momentum and keep Flint & Genesee moving forward in 2017," said Chamber CEO Tim Herman. "We are proud to have played a role in many of them, working alongside our great partners in private and public sectors and our community stakeholders."

Doors open at 11:30 a.m. Admission is \$15 for the luncheon program and open to the public. RSVP is required. The luncheon and program will begin at noon. To register, visit <https://flintandgenesee.chambermaster.com/eventregistration/register/6566>.

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day in Flint & Genesee County!

St. Patrick's Day is around the corner. Whether you celebrate with a corned beef dinner or a pint of Guinness, there are plenty of events happening in Flint & Genesee to fit your fancy. Deck yourself out in green (or orange) and celebrate the day with one of these upcoming events.

On Thursday, March 15 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Catholic Charities is hosting their annual St. Patrick's Day Box Lunch Sale. The box lunch includes a corned beef sandwich, chips, coleslaw, a pickle and a treat for \$7. You can pre-order your box lunch by going to catholiccharitiesflint.org/stpatricksday.

If you are looking for a place to go on Saturday, March 17, you can:

- Stop by the Davison Farmers Market in the morning and visit Lucky the Leprechaun who will be hiding coins around the market. If you

are lucky enough to find one, you can turn it in for a special prize. For more information, click [here](#).

- Visit Spicers Winery for a Rueben dip with Irish soda bread and a glass of green hard cider.
- Check out a local bar. Places such as Timothy's Pub, Bar Louie, Sherman's Lounge, The Agitated Grape and The Corner Bar have special menus, drink specials and entertainment for the night.
- Get active for St. Patrick's Day with the Pot O' Gold 4 mile run & walk downtown Flint. Or if you are feeling slightly less ambitious, participate in the Paddy's Day 1/2K Draft Dash and Beer Fest and run 1,640 feet instead of 4 miles. And follow that up with beer samples, food vendors and Irish entertainment.



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Ideal Contracting in Southwest Detroit Becomes Standalone Minority Business Enterprise, Acquires Barton Malow's Interest

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After 20 years of partnership, Frank Venegas, Jr., CEO of The Ideal Group in southwest Detroit, and Ryan Maibach, president and CEO of Barton Malow in Southfield, announced that Venegas is buying out Barton Malow's interest in Detroit-based Ideal Contracting, fulfilling the vision of its founding members.

In December of 1997, the partnership of Ideal Contracting, one of seven companies that make up The Ideal Group, and Barton Malow Co., formed as a 51 percent/49 percent Minority Business Enterprise self-performing construction company with a vision that one day it would evolve into a standalone 100 percent minority enterprise.

In 1998, its first year of business, Ideal Contracting had revenue of \$5.8 million with a staff of five people. Over the years, Ideal Contracting and Barton Malow worked together to build the company's leadership and talent base as well as cultivating an award-winning safety program and a customer service culture.

The Ideal Group is headquartered in southwest Detroit with additional locations in Howell and Lansing. The Ideal Group consists of seven companies with more than 600 employees and combined sales surpassing \$300 million.

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The Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership Institute is Now Recruiting for the 10th Anniversary Class



Established in 2009, the Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership Institute is a community leadership development training program in the Great Lakes Bay Region. The program provides individuals the opportunity to develop the skills and relationships to become effective leaders and provides a program that prepares and supports highly skillful visionary leaders who improve their lives and the community. The Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership Institute is now accepting applications for the 10th Anniversary cohort, 2018-19 training program.

For program information and class dates, please visit our web site at www.glbhispanicleadership.org or email glbhli@svsu.edu

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

DEADLINES

2 weeks before each publication date of the 1st and 16th of each month. Submission Procedure: Mailed or e-mailed to the latinobanner@gmail.com. Preferred format: Jpeg or PDF

United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce disappointed by no action on DACA



In response to Congress failing to pass a legislative fix for DACA before President Trump's March 5th deadline, United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Interim President and CEO Fernand Fernandez issued the following statement:

"DREAMers were promised a legislative solution by March 5th, but that deadline has now passed. Once again, despite bipartisan support for DACA recipients, our leaders in Congress have failed to pass legislation that would provide security for the 1.8 million DREAMers—the individuals that qualify for or are currently registered for the DACA program. DREAMers contribute \$40 billion to our nation's GDP each year. They pay \$2 billion in state and local taxes. Ninety-seven percent of DACA recipients are employed, in school, or in the United States military.

America needs DREAMers. While the courts have staved off the program's end for now, the USHCC remains committed to a legislative solution that will safeguard an American future for these individuals. The time to act is now. We ask that Speaker Ryan and Leader McConnell work for America's best interests and pass legislation that permanently solves this issue, ending the pattern of instability."

Offerwise Launches Hispanic Scholarship Program

Offerwise has announced the launch of the Offerwise Owls Hispanic Scholarship Program focused on supporting Hispanic students in pursuing their college education goals.

Offerwise is a research and sampling firm specializing in the U.S. Hispanic and Latin America markets. Since 2011, nearly 2.8 million Hispanics have joined Offerwise's QueOpinas.com survey community to share their opinions with corporations nationwide. During this time, it has paid over \$1.2 million in cash to survey takers to reward them for helping influence the products and services of tomorrow.

CEO, Andrew Lissak, stated "In appreciation of helping us grow the largest Hispanic research panel in our industry, we are giving back to the community by launching the Offerwise Owls Hispanic Scholarship Program. I look forward to congratulating the 4 lucky high school students who will become our first Offerwise Owls and awarding them their scholarships to further their education".

In 2018, four Hispanic scholarship recipients will receive \$2,500 to contribute toward tuition or school fees at an accredited institution. To qualify, students must be a high school senior, be at least one quarter Hispanic/Latino and be an undergraduate student in the fall of 2018. Applications will be accepted through April 5, 2018. Students can apply at <http://www.offerwiseowls.com/>

About Offerwise: Founded in 2001, Offerwise is a research and sampling firm specializing in the U.S. Hispanic and Latin America markets. It's home to the largest and most representative online US Hispanic panel and fastest growing Latin American panel in the industry. Its proprietary in-house recruitment method ensures the quality its clients demand.

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For more information, please contact Heaven Ocampo at (213)629-2512 xt. 143 or via email at hocampo@maldef.org

The 50 Most Powerful Latinas in Business

The Association of Latino Professionals for America (ALPFA) and Fortune.com announced its second annual list of the 50 Most Powerful Latina women in corporate America. This list gives a new spotlight to Latina women executives and amplifies their exposure across the country. These 50 Latina executives are running Fortune 500 companies, large private firms, and a few are entrepreneurs leading global companies. The four-criteria used were: the size and importance of the woman’s business in the global economy, the health and direction of the business, the arc of the woman’s career—résumé and runway ahead—and their social and cultural influence. Listed below are the top 6. For the complete list visit <http://fortune.com/2018/03/14/most-powerful-latinas-2018/>



Geisha Williams
CEO and President, PG&E



Grace Puma
Executive Vice President
Global Operations, PepsiCo



Maria Castañón Moats
Vice Chair – U.S. and Mexico
Assurance Leader, PwC



Sonia Dulá
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America, Bank of America



Gisel Ruiz
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Operating Officer, Sam’s Club



Maria Martinez
President, Salesforce Customer Success Group
and Success Cloud, General Manager, Salesforce
Latin America, Salesforce

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That's why we proudly support the Michigan Banner and congratulate its team on the occasion of the Banner's 15th anniversary!



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Hemlock Semiconductor offers Scholarships to students in the Great Lakes Bay for Engineering Summer Youth Program



mtu.edu

Hemlock Semiconductor (HSC) is offering thirty high school students in the Great Lakes Bay Region a full scholarship to attend Michigan Technological University's Engineering Scholars Summer Youth Program. Scholarship applications are currently being accepted for students in Saginaw, Midland and Bay counties until April 10, 2018.

Summer Youth Program Scholarships provide funding for high school students to attend a week-long program at Michigan Tech to fully immerse them in STEM subjects and explore careers in engineering and related disciplines. Selected participants will receive a scholarship that covers all tuition, classroom supplies, room, board and round trip charter bus transportation from the Great Lakes Bay Region.

"HSC and Michigan Tech have a long and robust relationship – much of our engineering talent has come from MTU," said Mark Bassett, Chairman

and CEO of HSC. "We want to give students this experience to explore engineering and experience college life."

Students who are selected for this competitive scholarship program will:

- Explore engineering by constructing a building strong enough to withstand an earthquake, create an artificial intelligence army, and much more.
- Get inside information from role models working in engineering fields.
- Work in teams to solve engineering problems and complete group projects.
- Experience college life-stay in a residence hall, explore campus, and meet others with similar interests.
- Enjoy team competitions, a variety show, and many outdoor activities in Michigan's beautiful Keweenaw Peninsula.

"We have been running Summer Youth Programs at Michigan Tech since 1972 - we love giving students a chance to explore different fields of engineering in a hands-on way," said Amanda McConnon, Assistant Director of the Center for Pre-College Outreach at Michigan Tech. "It's also a great chance for high school students to meet other participants from all over the country who share their interests."

The Engineering Scholars Summer Youth Program runs from July 21-28, 2018. Program information and scholarship application can be found at: https://www.syp.mtu.edu/docs/Hemlock_Semiconductor_Booklet.pdf

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HEALTH

Saginaw County Department of Public Health Offers hepatitis A Vaccine Clinic

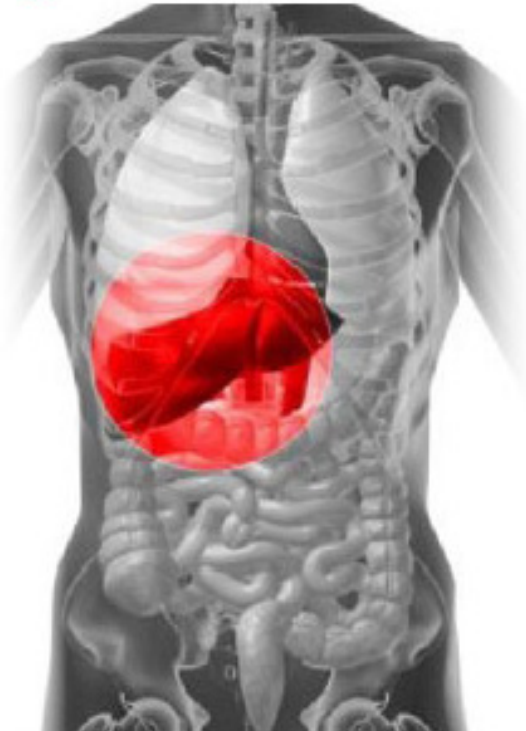
- 1** Is a viral infection of the liver spread when faecal matter enters the mouth



- 2** May last several weeks and be debilitating but most people recover completely

- 3** Preventable with careful hand washing, keeping toilets and bathrooms clean, avoiding infected water sources

Hepatitis A Facts



SYMPTOMS INCLUDE

NAUSEA



VOMITING



SPREAD BY



direct
contact



food &
beverages



cups &
spoons

and any other object handled by
the infected person

The Saginaw County Department of Public Health (SCDPH) announces a public hepatitis A vaccine clinic scheduled for Friday, March 9, 2018 from 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM at the East Side Soup Kitchen, 940 E. Genesee Ave., for persons 19 years of age and older.

It is currently recommended that those that are at highest risk of contracting hepatitis A receive the hepatitis A vaccine. High risk individuals include:

- Persons who use injection and non-injection illegal drugs
- Men who have sex with men
- Persons who are currently homeless or in transient living conditions
- Persons recently incarcerated

- Persons with chronic liver disease

Hepatitis A, a vaccine-preventable disease, is an infection of the liver caused by the hepatitis A virus (HAV). HAV is found in feces of people with hepatitis A and is most commonly spread by eating contaminated food or water, during sex, or just by living with an infected person. Symptoms of HAV infection include:

- Nausea and vomiting
- Stomach pain
- Feeling tired
- Fever
- Loss of appetite
- Yellowing of the skin and eyes
- Dark urine

- Pale-colored feces
- Joint pain

Persons with commercial insurance should bring their ID and insurance card to the clinic. Uninsured or underinsured persons may receive the vaccine at no cost through Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' Adult Vaccine Program.

Hepatitis A vaccine is also available during regularly scheduled immunization clinics. For more information on HAV or immunization clinic locations, please contact us at 989-758-3840 or visit our website at www.saginawpublichealth.org.

Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority, among 3 sites selected to coordinate physical and behavioral health services in Michigan

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) announced the pilot sites for the state's Section 298 Initiative.

The selected pilots are:

- Muskegon County Community Mental Health (HealthWest) and West Michigan Community Mental Health
- Genesee Health System
- Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority

Muskegon County Community Mental Health and West Michigan Community Mental Health, which are geographically contiguous, are conducting a joint pilot.

The Section 298 Initiative is a statewide effort to improve the coordination of physical health services and behavioral health services in Michigan. This initiative is based upon Section 298 in the Public Act 268 of 2016. The Michigan legislature approved a revised version of Section 298 as part of Public Act 107 of 2017.

Under the revised Section 298, the Michigan Legislature directed MDHHS to implement up to three pilot projects and a separate demonstration model in Kent County to test the integration of publicly-funded physical and behavioral health services. MDHHS has been working since August to develop the structure of the pilots, which focuses on payer-level integration of Medicaid-funded physical health and behavioral health services.

The department collected feedback and solicited input from representatives of the current system on specific issues pertaining to the development of the



courtesy photo

pilots. The department used this input to develop a white paper which describes the parameters for the pilots.

MDHHS issued a Request for Information (RFI) on Dec. 20, 2017 to select the Section 298 Initiative pilot sites. Proposals were due Feb. 20, 2018.

The RFI included the following mandatory minimum requirements:

- The applicant is a Community Mental Health Service Provider (CMHSP).
- The applicant has submitted a signed memorandum of support from at least half of the Medicaid Health Plans (MHP) within the proposed pilot region, which demonstrates their

engagement in pre-planning activities.

- The applicant has submitted a plan demonstrating full financial integration as required under Section 298 of Public Act 107 of 2017.

Contracts for implementation of the pilots will be between MDHHS and the MHPs operating in the pilot regions. In the coming months, MDHHS will work with the selected CMHSPs and MHPs to finalize the structure of the pilots. It is anticipated the pilots will be implemented by Oct. 1, 2018.

For more information about the Section 298 Initiative, visit Michigan.gov/stakeholder298.



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Shriners Hospitals for Children Chooses Covenant HealthCare for Launch of Telehealth Location in Saginaw: First in Michigan



courtesy photo

Officials with Shriners Hospitals for Children in both Chicago and Cincinnati have announced a new collaboration with Covenant HealthCare in Saginaw, Michigan to provide children and local families with increased access to their specialists at the two pediatric specialty care hospitals.

Shriners Hospitals for Children and Covenant HealthCare have opened a new telehealth location in Saginaw providing an opportunity for patients in the Great Lakes Bay Region and beyond to receive consultations from physicians and caregivers at both the Chicago and Cincinnati Shriners Hospitals, via new state-of-the-art telehealth equipment. The equipment is located at a Covenant HealthCare site allowing the caregivers and physicians of Shriners Hospitals to see patients and families in Michigan.

Shriners Hospitals for Children are known for their care in orthopaedics, cleft lip and palate, spinal cord injury rehabilitation and in burns and soft tissue conditions and the Covenant HealthCare location allows interaction via high-speed internet and HD cameras. In addition, medical information is transmitted electronically via digital stethoscopes, otoscopes, dermoscopes, and general exam handheld cameras providing great detail for physicians at the Shriners Hospitals.

“Shriners Hospitals for Children are committed to serving patients and families with more convenient and flexible care,” said Mark Niederpruem, administrator at Shriners Hospitals for Children — Chicago. “Our hospitals have been providing telehealth services throughout the country for

nearly a decade; however, this launch marks an advance in technology and the hospital’s agility in the continually changing delivery models for health care. It also launches the first telehealth clinic for the Chicago Shriners Hospital.”

As officials at Shriners Hospitals began digging into this project, they felt Covenant HealthCare was the right organization to partner with based on the organization’s established telemedicine service through Covenant VirtualCare and its vast array of regional obstetric and pediatric services. As the region’s leader in pediatric care, Covenant HealthCare provides quality medical services to children in Michigan’s northern lower peninsula and beyond.

The partnership with Covenant HealthCare helps local Elf Khurafeh Shriners connect local families with the highly specialized care they need, while helping them save money on transportation costs to the Chicago and Cincinnati hospitals. These local Shriners raise funds year-round to provide transportation – via their own purchased vehicles with volunteer drivers – to families who would otherwise not be able to afford the trip. It is a cornerstone of the local Shriners’ purpose to connect children in their area who need the specialized, wrap-around care of Shriners Hospitals for Children.

“The opportunity to help even more children access care they need in a way that is convenient for families and help the local Shriners use their dollars effectively was something we wanted to support,” says Jaime Magness, Program Administrator for Covenant VirtualCare. “Covenant HealthCare is committed to providing Extraordinary Care for Every Generation and this is just another way to do so. It is such an honor to be able to serve the children and families of our community. The smiles and satisfaction expressed by our patients lets us know that we are making a difference.”

INTERSECTION OF BUSINESS & WEALTH

AT&T Names David Lewis President of AT&T Michigan



courtesy photo

AT&T has named David Lewis president of AT&T Michigan. Lewis is a near 10-year veteran of the company's external, government, and public affairs efforts.

A native of Indianapolis, Lewis joined AT&T Indiana in 2009 as the company's Director of External and Corporate Affairs. In addition to his service to AT&T, Lewis has been a member of the Board of Directors for the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce, the United Way of Central Indiana, the Hispanic Business Council, Fort Wayne Urban League, and the NAACP state education committee.

"We are absolutely thrilled to have someone of David's background and professional experience leading our team in Michigan," said Paul La Schiazza, AT&T North Central Region

President. "Michigan has an impressive track record of implementing forward-thinking public policy when it comes to communications and technology, and I am confident that David's leadership will continue to position AT&T as a leader in this effort."

AT&T has more than 6,000 employees working and 13,000 retirees living in Michigan, and the company has invested more than \$1.4 billion in its best-in-class wired and wireless networks in Michigan between 2014 and 2016.

"AT&T's reputation around the State Capitol and in communities across Michigan is strong, and the work we are doing is bringing greater investment and innovation to benefit everyone," Lewis said. "I am excited, honored, and eager to lead the AT&T Michigan team and to make Michigan my new home."

Lewis began his distinguished career in public service as an Indiana Governor's Fellow. Following his fellowship, David worked for the Indiana Department of Commerce in the Community Development Division before joining the Office of Lieutenant Governor as special assistant for legislative affairs.

In 2001, David joined U.S. Senator Evan Bayh's office as his Regional Director for Central Indiana, and in 2003, was appointed as Indiana's Clerk of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and Tax Court, making him the 4th African American in the history of Indiana to serve as a state-wide elected official and the 2nd African American to serve as Clerk.

Lewis is an undergraduate of Ball State University, with a Masters of Public Affairs from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

Yeo & Yeo Honors Kelly Smith



courtesy photo

Yeo & Yeo CPAs & Business Consultants is pleased to announce that Kelly Smith, was recently honored with the most prestigious award bestowed by the firm, the Spirit of Yeo award. The Spirit of Yeo award recognizes an individual within the firm who exemplifies the attributes of the firm's mission and core values.

"Kelly Smith is immeasurably dedicated to this organization and puts the needs of the employees before her own every day," said President and CEO Thomas Hollerback. "Kelly brings new and valuable programs to the firm that make Yeo & Yeo a great place to work," said one of her nominators.

Smith is based in the firm's Saginaw office and is the firm's Senior Human Resources Manager. She is a member of the Great Lakes Bay Chapter of the American Payroll Association.

In the award's fourth year, 23 nominations were submitted by Yeo & Yeo employees. The firm's Career Advocacy Team reviewed the submissions, and many individuals were nominated more than once.



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Jon Block Takes General Manager Position with SMG



courtesy photo

SMG is pleased to announce Jon Block has accepted a new role, within the company, as General Manager of The Dow Event Center and Huntington Event Park. In this new role, Jon will lead the overall daily management, operations and promotion of the facilities. The Dow Event Center and Huntington Event Park hosts over 250 events annually and includes live performances, conventions, banquets and sporting events as well as being home to the Saginaw Spirit OHL hockey team. Jon starts his new role on the 1st of March.

Jon joined SMG two years ago and most recently served as the Assistant General Manager of The Dow Event Center and Huntington Event Park in Saginaw. He previously worked at the Temple Theatre in Saginaw for seven years managing event booking, event & building operations and the box office.

“I am honored and humbled to be named as the General Manager. I look forward to building on the foundation that the SMG team & the previous General Managers have built. As a lifelong resident of the Great Lakes Bay Region and a longtime

supporter of arts and entertainment in our region, I have admired these facilities and the wonderful entertainment they have hosted throughout the years. I look forward to working with Saginaw County, the Saginaw Spirit, and all community stakeholders in growing the impact of the Dow Event Center & Huntington Event Park throughout the region in the coming years.” – Jon Block, General Manager – SMG/Dow Event Center & Huntington Event Park

While with SMG, Jon has led the implementation of new security standards and operations, contributed to the Saginaw Spirit lease extension, oversaw facility operations and led booking efforts in both the Heritage Theater & The Red Room. Jon also led the operations department in revamping the process of planning shows and ensuring the proper implementation of shows on the day of events.

“Jon has done a good job as the Assistant GM and the interim-GM and I look forward to seeing his leadership style continue to evolve into positive investments at The Dow Event Center and Huntington Event Park. I also look forward to working with Jon on advancing the mission of this leading entertainment venue in the Great Lakes Bay Region.” said Robert Belleman, Saginaw County Controller/CAO

“As the main tenant of the Dow Event Center, the Saginaw Spirit organization is thrilled that Rich MacKeigan and SMG have promoted Jon Block to be the GM of the Dow Event Center. Jon is a local guy that understands our market and is part of the fabric of Riverfront Saginaw. We have worked with Jon for many years, both at the Dow Event Center and when he was the GM of the Temple Theatre, and we have found him to be an honest, hard-working and talented professional manager. We wish Jon all the best and look forward to working together to continue to provide excellent customer service experiences to Saginaw Spirit fans as they come to the Dow.” – Craig Goslin, Managing Partner/President – Saginaw Spirit

“I am pleased Jon Block has agreed to be the SMG General Manager in Saginaw. Jon has done a great job with our SMG team as Assistant General Manager at The Dow Event Center and I am pleased he has agreed to take on the GM role. Jon is a long-time resident of the community with established relationships in the region and I am confident he will be able to sustain and grow our efforts in Saginaw.” said Richard MacKeigan, SMG Regional General Manager. “I look forward to working with Saginaw County Leadership, the Saginaw Spirit, and Jon as we continue the momentum established in the region.”



courtesy photo

Catholic Federal Credit Union Employees Celebrate Milestone Anniversaries



Catholic Federal Credit Union recently recognized the following staff members who are celebrating a milestone anniversary in 2018 with the credit union.

(Left to Right as shown in the picture)

Front Row:

Tiffany Watkins, 15 years; Kay Knippel, 40 years; Julie Thornton, 20 years; Lisa Ulicki, 25 years; Peggy LaDouce, 15 years; Elinor Ehlert, 5 years

Back Row:

Byron Weber, 15 years; Marsha Caylor, 5 years; Mallory Kosiara, 5 years; Amy Benkert, 10 years; Sara Schram, 5 years; Marsha Frank, 15 years; Rebecca Swanson, 20 years; Mindy Wolpert, 10 years

Missing from Photo:

Rachael Krenz, 10 years; Nadine Kapka, 5 years

Save the Date! SBAM's Annual Meeting & Small Business Summit



SBAM's Annual Meeting & Small Business Summit is the premier event for Michigan small business owners. Here's what we have planned this year!

- Expanded Exhibit Hall
- Silent Auction
- In-depth panel discussions on hot topics
- Luncheon featuring keynote with Michigan's gubernatorial candidates

Please mark June 21st on your calendar now and watch for special early bird ticket prices to be released when registration opens up in early April.

If you're interested in sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities, now is a great time to commit!

Contact Heather Hamilton, Director of Member Services, for more details at heather.hamilton@sbam.org or (517) 492-1230.

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EDUCATION

Tri-City (MI) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated launches Links Scholars Program



courtesy photo

individuals who are pursuing higher education through the distribution of a scholarship to high school students in the GLBR, and we regularly support HBCU's with financial donations.

In June of 2017 the Tri-City (MI) Chapter of the Links, Incorporated participated in a retreat designed to get the members of the Tri-City area, Midland, Saginaw and Bay City, thinking about what could be done in our communities to improve the area. There was considerable conversation about education, income, and other needs of the region. It was decided that The Tri-City (MI) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated would continue their 37-year legacy of serving the community through 'Transformational Programming' by working with 7th and 8th grade girls at Thompson Middle school. In January 2018, the chapter launched the Links Scholars Program in partnership with Saginaw Public School District (SPSD) and The Willie Thompson Middle School.

To that end, the Tri-City (MI) Links have designed a 6-year program that will lead students on a journey of learning and discovery and with the assistance of the SPSP, have identified twenty 7th and 8th grade students from Thompson Middle School to mentor and assist with college preparation through self-discovery and self-development. The Tri-City (MI) Links have chosen to reference these young people as 'Link Scholars' and want the young ladies to start thinking of themselves as intellectuals who have the ability to effectuate positive change in their lives.

The focus of the 2017-2018 academic year for this multi-year project is Literacy. The plan is to improve the literacy skills of the students and to expose students to their heritage under the overall theme of "Sankofa: Visiting My Past to Prepare for My Future." This exposure is intended to assist the "Link Scholars" in identifying their heritage and to recognize the potential impact it can have on their current and future life experiences. This year, a

number of methods will be explored in an effort to show the Link Scholars what is possible, including: exposure to literary projects by African-American authors, support as they explore their African Ancestry, assistance in gathering information about information literacy and cyber stalking/bullying, stimulate their creativity in the production of new and meaningful ways of exploring their worlds, provide information and knowledge on how to use food to live better and healthier lives, and encourage the development of positive self-esteem.

The Tri-City (MI) Links understands that it takes a village to raise a child and we are willing to help create the change we want to see in the world. None of the above would be possible without the help of those in our communities. We are asking for the support of the Great Lakes Bay Region in doing this important work and would like to invite you to attend our yearly fundraiser. All of the programming done by the Tri-City (MI) Links is funded by our Jeans, Jewels and Jazz Champagne Brunch fundraiser, which will be held on Saturday, April 7, 2018 at the Horizon Conference Center. This event will start at 10:30 am and will go until 1 pm. We invite all in the Saginaw, Bay City and Midland area to support this event. Those interested in attending can purchase tickets by going to Eventbrite.com and searching for Jeans, Jewels & Jazz Champagne Brunch Fundraiser, or by contacting the Tri-City (MI) Links at tricitylinks@gmail.com

The Tri-City (MI) Links has a 37-year long history of service to the Great Lakes Bay Community. This service has taken the form of service to improve the educational experiences of those in the GLBR. We collaborated with the United Way of Saginaw County to bring the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to the area. The Imagination Library provides books each month to children age 0 – 5 throughout Saginaw County. We implemented "Links to Success" Signature program at Coulter Elementary school. We have also supported



SVSU forensics team captures multiple awards at state tournament



courtesy photo

The Saginaw Valley State University forensic team continued to reap the rewards of its hard work, winning several honors at the Michigan Intercollegiate Speech League State Tournament at Eastern Michigan University Saturday, March 10.

SVSU students claimed four of the 11 top novice awards, given to the student who places highest in an event and has participated in fewer than six competitions. SVSU was one of eight Michigan colleges and universities who competed at the event.

Darius Henry, a communication major from Chesterfield Township, earned second place in prose speaking, along with being the top novice in that event.

Jrew Brickel, a criminal justice major from Midland, finished in sixth place and took home the top novice honor in the extemporaneous speaking event.

Jayla Gaskins, a communication major from Detroit, earned sixth place in dramatic interpretation along and was named top novice for the competition.

Jill Castle, a communication major from Standish, earned the top novice award in the after dinner speaking event.

Gina Kearly, a communication major from Midland, earned seventh place award in the poetry category.

Due to their previous success in the fall, three SVSU students, Brickel, Castle, and Tiler Jewell, a creative writing major from Essexville qualified for the National Forensic Association National Championship tournament at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh that will be held from April 19-23.

Amy Pierce, SVSU associate professor of communication, serves as the team's faculty adviser.

For more information regarding the Michigan Intercollegiate Speech League State Forensics Tournament, please visit michiganspeech.wordpress.com/events.

Students, faculty and staff invited to meet candidates for CMU's VP/Chief Diversity Officer

Students, faculty and staff are invited to meet four candidates for the university's new vice president and chief diversity officer.

The candidates, selected by a search committee led by Title IX coordinator Katherine Lasher, will each attend an open forum and special student forum in the evening during their campus visit.

In November 2017, the university launched a national search to fill the new role. This new administrative position will lead campuswide efforts to define, create and promote diversity, inclusion and cultural competency. Reporting to the university president, this individual will be responsible for developing and implementing a strategic plan to further diversity across campus and leading efforts to create a diverse, inclusive and welcoming environment for all students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members. The role provides strategic leadership and management in policy development for the operation of programs, training and engagement to achieve institutional diversity and cultural competency goals.

During upcoming campus visits, members of the campus community are invited to attend open forums from 2 to 3 p.m. or 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Bovee University Center Auditorium. In the evenings, students are invited to engage with candidates over pizza from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Bovee UC lobby.

Those who are unable to attend may view the 2 p.m. or 4:30 p.m. open forums online via livestream. A CMU global ID and password will be required to access the event.

Monday, March 19 Carmen Suarez

Suarez is vice president of global diversity and inclusion at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon. Her previous roles include chief diversity officer and assistant vice provost for student affairs at the University of Idaho; director of human rights,

access and inclusion at the University of Idaho; and director of the office of diversity and equality at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. She received a Ph.D. from Southern Illinois University Carbondale, where she also received a master's degree in medieval history and a bachelor's degree in history.

Tuesday, March 20 Brian Corpening

Corpening is assistant provost for diversity and community partnerships at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. His previous roles include dean of student development at St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley in Missouri and chief of staff to the president of Bunker Hill Community College in Boston. Prior to those positions, he served as director of the multicultural center at Illinois State University. Corpening holds a doctorate in educational studies from the University of Oklahoma, a master's degree in management sciences with specialization in human resource management from Binghamton University in New York, and a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Central Florida.

Wednesday, March 28 A.T. Miller

Miller is assistant vice provost of academic diversity at Cornell University. His previous experience includes several roles at the University of Michigan, including faculty director of the Center for Global and Intercultural Study and chair of the Council on Global Engagement, director of global intercultural experience for undergraduates, and coordinator of multicultural teaching and learning. He holds a doctorate in American civilization with an emphasis on African and African-American cultural studies and social science history from the University of Pennsylvania, a master's degree in American civilization from Davidson College in North Carolina, and a bachelor's degree in American studies.



istock.com

Thursday, March 29 Cecil Howard

Howard is interim associate vice president, chief diversity officer and Title IX coordinator for the University of South Florida system. He also is the chief diversity officer at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg and an adjunct instructor at Santa Fe College in Gainesville, Florida. His previous roles include executive director of social equity and Title IX coordinator at Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania, and chief diversity officer for the city of Gainesville, Florida. He holds a juris doctorate from Texas Southern University and a bachelor's degree in government from Florida State University.

SVSU seeks to inspire future teachers in “Heart of Teaching” event



Getty Images

Saginaw Valley State University will welcome leading educators from the Great Lakes Bay Region to provide insight and motivation for students and others seeking education careers during “The Heart of Teaching” forum Friday, March 16 at 1:30 p.m. in Gilbertson Hall.

“Now is a great time to become a teacher, in terms of job prospects. There is a shortage of candidates reported all over Michigan,” said Craig Douglas, dean of SVSU’s College of Education. “We hope hearing from current educators will inspire and motivate individuals considering a teaching career.”

The event will feature a panel discussion in Ott Auditorium designed to share the motivation and challenges behind becoming a teacher. The following educators are scheduled to appear:

- Adele Martin, superintendent of Frankenmuth Public Schools

- Will McDonald, an elementary teacher at Frances Reh Academy in Saginaw
- Rebecca Meredith, a special education resident teacher in Saginaw Public Schools
- Mike Newman, a principal for Saginaw Township Community Schools
- Jesse Place, a high school teacher for Saginaw Township Community Schools
- Matt Schmidt, superintendent of Bangor Township Schools

Prior to the panel discussion, SVSU will present the 2018 Harold W. Peterson Award for Excellence in Teaching to Jenna Perez, a second grade teacher at Loomis Math, Science and Technology Academy in the Saginaw Public School District.

Delta College Announces Saginaw Center Groundbreaking



courtesy photo

A groundbreaking ceremony, celebrating the launch of construction of the new Delta College Saginaw Center, will be held on Monday, March 26 at 3pm. The learning center will be located at 319 East Genesee Avenue in downtown Saginaw.

The \$12.2 million capital construction project is made possible through partial funding from the state of Michigan, as well as Delta College’s Plant Fund reserves. The property for the new Saginaw Center was purchased from the City of Saginaw.

Construction will begin immediately with the new three story, 35,000 square foot building anticipated to be occupied by June 2019, with the first classes being offered in the fall 2019 semester.

The construction project manager is Spence Brothers Construction and the architectural firm is WTA Architects. Both firms are headquartered in Saginaw, Michigan.



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

For additional information concerning Saginaw ISD Head Start visit: www.saginawheadstart.org

Source: 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

FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

Does class bias blind our decision making?

Recently we had the opportunity to participate in a workshop called A Framework for Understanding Socio-Economic Differences facilitated by Ruby K. Payne, Ph.D. It was an eye-opening session. Here's just a little of what we learned.

A community needs all of its members. We – as residents, community leaders, elected officials, and government employees – have to value the needs and aspirations of all our members. That means keeping a focus on the needs of people living in poverty, those who are middle class, and those who are wealthy.

Access to resources contributes to stability, and the differences between those who are resourced and those who are under-resourced play out in all aspects of life. According to Dr. Payne there are nine different types of resources, the most recognized being financial resources. The others are equally important and include emotional, mental, and spiritual resources; physical health; and our support systems, relationships and role models.

Two other resources are “knowledge of the hidden rules” and ability to use “formal register.” Each social and economic class has hidden rules. We usually learn them when we break them! Formal register refers to the ability to speak and write in language that is typically used in work situations and school.

When people don't use “formal register” in these situations they can be misunderstood – and sometimes suffer dire consequences – due to preconceptions that middle class people may have about how people speak and what that means.

Stability and access to knowledge are the bedrock of today's middle class. Achieving and sustaining stability makes us “middle class.” All of us – regardless of our class – manipulate time and money in an attempt to achieve stability. How we manage our time and life is now a form of knowledge, and access to that knowledge is a new form of privilege.

Race and class are not synonymous. African Americans are not by definition poor, or from poor families. White people are not by definition middle class or wealthy. Yes, there are

distinct correlations between race and class, but if we don't recognize the distinctions we cannot see ourselves and our community.

Even though you might be African American, you cannot assume you understand the culture of poverty and how people living in poverty today make decisions and why. You may think you know, but you may have forgotten. Middle class assumptions are exactly that – assumptions.

Learn more about Dr. Payne's work at www.ahaprocess.com



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 or call (901) 522-8727.

COMMUNITY

Dr. Reva Curry to Receive PTK College Administrator Award



courtesy photo

Dr. Reva Curry, Delta College Vice President of Instruction & Learning Services will be recognized by Phi Theta Kappa along with 26 other college administrators for the Distinguished College Administrator Awards during PTK Catalyst 2018.

The Society's annual convention will take place in Kansas City, Missouri on April 19-21. The Distinguished College Administrator Awards are presented to college vice presidents, deans, or directors serving at postsecondary institutions who have demonstrated a strong level of support for the PTK chapters on their campuses.

"Dr. Curry's longterm vision and support of our local Phi Theta Kappa chapter, XI Delta, has been unmatched," said Crystal Starkey, Ph.D., Associate Professor of English and Delta College PTK Advisor.

Phi Theta Kappa is the premier honor society recognizing the academic achievement of students at associate degree-granting colleges and helps members to grow as scholars and leaders. The Society is made up of more than 3.5 million members and nearly 1,300 chapters. Delta College's PTK chapter has 251 members.

Curry has been with Delta College since 2014. She earned her Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from the University of Pennsylvania and was formerly Vice President of Student Services at Salem Community College and Executive Director of the new Center for Community Engagement at Stockton College. Before transitioning to administration, Dr. Curry was a full-time faculty member at the Medical College of Georgia, Thomas Jefferson University and Harrisburg Area Community College.

Mid-Michigan Children's Museum will host its 6th annual Indoor Tooth-Friendly Egg Hunt



SAGINAW, MI – March 5, 2018: The Mid-Michigan Children's Museum will host its 6th annual Indoor Tooth-Friendly Egg Hunt 9:30am – 4:00pm on Saturday, March 24th. With support from numerous dentists and orthodontists, including presenting sponsor Thomas Orthodontics PC, children will enjoy a fun, healthy egg hunt along with a day of engaging gallery-play! Proceeds from the event enhance the Mid-Michigan Children's Museum galleries and help create museum access for all Great Lakes Bay Region children.

General admission or membership to the Mid-Michigan Children's Museum provides entry into the Egg Hunt. Children will scour gallery exhibits in search of hundreds of plastic eggs. In exchange for their find, they'll receive a tooth-friendly gift bag including all the essentials for healthy smiles as well as some fun!

The Mid-Michigan Children's Museum is the only hands-on museum in our Great Lakes Bay Region designed solely for children ages newborn through 10 years old. Each gallery was designed by children's museum specialists and educators to ensure that children are educationally engaged as they play.

To learn more about the event, please call (989) 399-6626.



Get ready!! It is time to mark your calendar for the premier cooking event of the year....These Men Can Cook! We are rolling out a brand new name for this signature event with a brand new look and logo too. The name may be new, but the event stays as great and fun as it has always been. Now is the time to start planning your recipe, saving the date and telling your family and friends.

EVENT DETAILS

Date:	Thursday, April 19, 2018
Location:	Apple Mountain Resort
Time:	5:30 p.m. Cocktails and Conversation 6:00 p.m. Parade of Chefs 6:15 p.m. Food Tasting and Festivities 7:45 p.m. Announcement of Winners

As one of our chefs, you prepare one of your favorite dishes and then share sample servings with the guests attending the night of the event. We draw a large crowd, but you are only responsible for providing 30-40 sample size servings. You and the other chefs will have stations all set up in the main room and then the fun really begins. It is an event like no other in Saginaw and we know you will want to be a part of this year's festivities.

Proceeds from this event benefit the programs of the Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to: Ashley Lister, Chairperson at alister@wildfirecu.org or call 989-249-8292 or Kristina Kukla, Co-Chair at marketing@saginawbayorchestra.com or call 989-755-6471.



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GLB Health Centers and SPSD to host 8th Annual REALTALK Event

On Thursday, March 29, 2018 from 10:00am-6:00pm, at Saginaw High School (3100 Webber St. Saginaw, MI 48601), Great Lakes Bay Health Centers along with SPSD Safe Schools Healthy Students Initiative, will be presenting the 8th Annual REALTALK 2018 youth event. In conjunction with the youth event, they will also be hosting the “Real Families of Saginaw” Parent Empowerment Day.

During REAL TALK, there will be workshops designed to teach young people how to prevent HIV, other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and unplanned pregnancies. There will also be workshops focused on bullying prevention, how to respectfully interact with law enforcement, sexting and the law, self-esteem, human trafficking prevention, and much more. The information will be presented by several community leaders, and some youth leaders. Abstinence – choosing not to have sex—will be emphasized as the SAFEST choice. In addition, accurate information about other protection methods will also be provided. Students will learn and practice ways to resist pressure to have sex, and will also learn some decision-making and communication skills. In addition to the workshops, a special performance will be done by the Corner Health Center Theater Troupe of Ypsilanti, MI.

Parents are also asked to be part of prevention. The “Real Families of Saginaw” event will empower parents with information and skills to help their students make healthy life choices. Featured in the workshop will be the “Talk Early, Talk Often” parent training. This will equip parents with tools and resources needed to talk to their kids about sex.

In addition to the workshops, there will be several activities for the youth to participate in, including open gym activities and a talent show featuring some of Saginaw’s best youth talent. Youth MUST have parental consent to attend this youth event! Space is LIMITED! Registration is limited to the first 200 youth!

To pre-register for both the youth and parent event, please call or email Amanda Forsmark at 989-399-6125 or aforsmark@glbhealth.org

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MARCH 29, 2018

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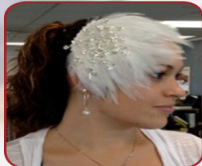
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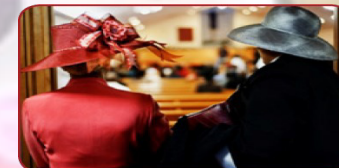
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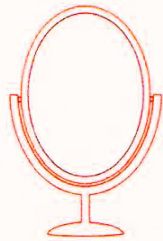
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Faith Harvest Church to present free Good Friday Drama in celebration of Easter



Faith Harvest Church located at 1734 N. Mason in Saginaw will host "Change Your Tune". Show times are March 30 at 3:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. and free tickets are available at the church or at www.faithharvestministry.org

This family-friendly drama focuses on the five contestants who appear on a popular television show called 'Change Your Tune.' Each contestant has a theme song that over the years, has defined his or her life and character. The song has ultimately become their signature become their signature. The host of the show attempts to get each contestant to examine his or her life regarding the song they have chosen to define it. Each contestant enters the TV show stage from the dark side with an invitation to leave from the light side. Their choice is to stay the same (leave through the dark) or change their tune (leave through the light). Follow along each contestant's journey, filled with humor and intrigue and just try to imagine if he or she will be one of the contestants to 'Change Your Tune.'

Faith Harvest Church is a multi-ethnic, non-denominational ministry that provides practical teaching for everyday living. Its vision is to significantly impact the Great Lakes Bay Region and touch the world. Since 1999, Faith Harvest Church has provided free dramas for the community on Good Friday.

Chippewa Nature Center to Host Annual Maple Syrup Day March 17



courtesy photo

The woods and sugarhouse come to life as Chippewa Nature Center hosts Maple Syrup Day on Saturday, March 17 from 10 am to 4 pm with food and fun for all ages throughout the day! Admission is free for members and kids under 18 and \$4 for nonmembers 18 and up.

Visitors can also enjoy a pancake meal from 10 am-2 pm for \$7 for ages 13 and up, \$5 for ages 3-12 and free to children under age 3. Members receive reduced rates of \$6 (ages 13 and up) and \$5 (ages 3-12), and are offered an additional seating time of 9-10 am.

Crafts and hands-on activities in the Visitor Center will engage children of all ages as they discover the magic of maple syrup season. Visitors can watch the Midland Woodcarvers create their amazing projects and join traditional skills expert Jim Miller as he shares how Native Americans lived in our area many years ago. There will be hands-on activities and demonstrations just outside the Visitor Center at the Wigwam. Sweet treats and other nature-based items can be found in the Nature Center Store.

When attendees are ready to see the process of making maple syrup, they can take a wagon ride to the Sugarhouse where sap will be boiled into

pure maple syrup. There will be an 1870s sap boiling demonstration, instruction on how to make syrup at home in small batches, guided tours of the sugarbush. Visitors can practice tapping a tree and will enjoy a scavenger hunt in the Sugarbush with a St. Patrick's Day twist as they search for the elusive bucket containing green sap!

In the Schoolhouse, there will be a maple puppet play on the hour from 10 am to 3 pm and a maple syrup story time on the half-hour from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm. In the Homestead Cabin, visitors can enjoy the smell of maple recipes cooking on the wood stove, then swing by the Timber Frame Barn for a taste of "sugar on snow" as we make old fashioned maple syrup taffy.

Learn more at www.chippewanaturecenter.org. To volunteer, contact Cathy Devendorf at cdevendorf@chippewanaturecenter.org or (989) 631-0830.

Maple Syrup Day is generously sponsored by Warner Norcross & Judd LLP (signature sponsor); Ace; Carey Plumbing & Heating, Inc.; Gambrell Milster and Associates PLC; Veterans Alarm Incorporated and Dr. Marianne and Frederick McKelvy.

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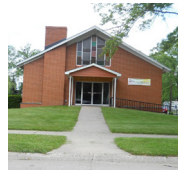
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POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

Congressman Dan Kildee, Senator Debbie Stabenow and Senator Gary Peters ask EPA Inspector for Update on Flint Investigation



cnn.com

Congressman Dan Kildee (MI-05), Senator Debbie Stabenow and Senator Gary Peters today sent a letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Inspector General Arthur Elkins asking for an update on when their investigation of the Flint water crisis will be completed and released to the public.

On January 21, 2016, the Office of Inspector General for the EPA announced that it commenced an investigation into the causes of the Flint water crisis to ensure that a similar tragedy does not happen elsewhere. A full report has yet to be released, over two years after the investigation began.

Congressman Kildee, Senator Stabenow and Senator Peters have worked together to bring much needed relief to Flint families. Because of their bipartisan work with Republicans and Democrats, in December 2016, Congress passed \$170 million in federal aid directed at helping Flint recover. The

aid included \$100 million to help Flint replace lead pipes and make much-needed improvements to its infrastructure, \$50 million for expanded health care for Flint families and resources to create a lead exposure registry, and funding to activate at least \$200 million for federal loans available to communities across the country to address lead and other water contamination issues. The legislation was signed into law by President Obama in December 2016.

Below is the full text of the letter to the Inspector General Elkins.

Inspector General Elkins:

As you know, on January 21, 2016, the Office of Inspector General for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) notified officials that it would begin an investigation into the causes of the Flint water crisis. This information will

be very helpful in ensuring that a similar crisis never happens again, either in Flint or any other community across America. Equally important, it will also help to bring justice to the thousands of families in Flint who are still living with the effects of this ongoing crisis.

Seeing as how this investigation began over two years ago, we write to seek an update as to when you anticipate this investigation will be completed and released to the public.

We would appreciate a written response by March 9th.

Sincerely,

Dan Kildee

Debbie Stabenow

Gary Peters

Michigan is compliant with REAL ID



Secretary of State Ruth Johnson announced on Jan. 24 that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has officially confirmed that Michigan fully complies with the federal REAL ID Act.

The state's full compliance status means all Michigan driver's licenses and ID cards will be accepted until Oct. 1, 2020, to board domestic flights, or enter federal buildings, nuclear plants or military bases.

On Oct. 1, 2020, Michigan residents will need REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses or ID cards or another accepted identification document to board flights or enter federal sites.

"To help people avoid the headache and cost of getting another approved ID document just to fly for business or to visit loved ones, we now offer Michigan residents a REAL ID-compliant license and ID card," Johnson said. "We still have a standard license for all other identification purposes for residents who don't want one when they renew."

Compliant cards are marked with a star inside a

gold circle on the upper right. There is no extra fee for a REAL ID-compliant card unless people apply for one outside of their normal renewal cycle. The cards do not contain Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) technology.

To obtain a compliant card, residents will need to bring a certified birth certificate or another legal-presence document to any Secretary of State office. People whose names have changed since birth also must bring in name-change documents, such as a marriage license or court order along with their birth certificate. Residents who have a valid passport with their current name may bring that in instead of a birth certificate and name-change document.

People who do not apply for a REAL ID-compliant license or ID card when they renew will receive a standard one with "NOT FOR FEDERAL IDENTIFICATION" printed on it. Having a noncompliant card does not affect a Michigan resident's ability to vote, drive, purchase firearms, buy age-restricted items or apply for federal benefits.

Horn, O'Brien host Saginaw press conference to discuss sexual assault legislation



Courtesy Photo | State Sen. Ken Horn, R-Frankenmuth, stands with Sen. Margaret O'Brien, R-Portage; Judge Patrick McGraw; CAN Council President Suzanne Greenberg; Margaret Bach of Child and Family Services; and Mark Gaertner of the Saginaw County Prosecutor's office as they discuss important updates to the state's sexual assault laws.

LANSING, Mich. — State Sen. Ken Horn, R-Frankenmuth, joined Sen. Margaret O'Brien, R-Portage, and Saginaw-area leaders on Monday, March 12 to discuss the recently introduced package of bills aimed at combatting sexual assault.

Senate Bills 871-880 would update and expand numerous existing laws and also create new protections in statute. The bills would update current law to allow prosecutors to bring charges of second-degree criminal sexual conduct (CSC) against a minor at any time after the act occurs, while also allowing charges of third-degree CSC against a minor up to the survivor's 48th birthday, or within 30 years of an accuser being identified by DNA evidence.

The bills would also allow victims of childhood sexual abuse to remain publicly anonymous when bringing a claim in the Michigan Court of Claims and eliminate the current time limit for filing a claim.

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The Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame's press conference to announce its Class of 2018



courtesy photos

The Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame's press conference to announce its Class of 2018 inductees will be held Wednesday, April 18, 2018, at the Castle Museum of Saginaw County History, 500 Federal Avenue in Downtown Saginaw.

A social hour will start at 5:30 p.m. with the press conference starting immediately at 6 p.m.

The press conference is open to the public. While at the Castle Museum, the Hall of Fame room will be open for people to view the current exhibits.

The purpose of the Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame is to foster amateur sports competition by recognizing present and former area athletes, coaches and others who have distinguished themselves in the field of athletics, either individually or by virtue of their performance on or in connection with athletic teams representing

their high school, community college, four-year college, university or professional team or sport: or by meritorious effort on behalf of athletics. The corporation will annually nominate, elect, honor and award truly outstanding Saginaw County male and female athletes.

Any questions can be directed to Hall of Fame President Jack B. Tany at (989) 737-4725.



MSU Spartans extend their Big Ten record with 21st consecutive NCAA Tournament Appearance



msuspartans.com

EAST LANSING, Mich. -- Michigan State extended its Big Ten record by earning a bid to the NCAA Tournament for the 21st consecutive season, receiving a No. 3 seed in the Midwest Region.

The Big Ten Champion Spartans (29-4) will face No. 14 seed Bucknell (25-9) in the first round on Friday, March 16 at 7:10 p.m. in Detroit at Little Caesars Arena. The game will be broadcast on CBS with Ian Eagle, Jim Spanarkel and Allie LaForce on the call.

Michigan State's streak of 21 straight NCAA Tournaments is not only the longest in Big Ten

history, it's also the fourth longest in NCAA history (Kansas, 29; North Carolina, 28; Duke, 23). In addition, MSU's streak is the third-longest active streak in the nation (Kansas, 29; Duke, 23).

Bucknell won both the Patriot League regular season and tournament championship. The Bison won the regular-season title by four games with a 16-2 league record, and went on to win the tournament championship with wins over Loyola, Boston and Colgate. Bucknell enters the NCAA Tournament with an eight-game winning streak.

Friday's game will mark the second-ever meeting

between Michigan State and Bucknell. The Spartans defeated the Bison, 64-52, on Nov. 21, 2003, in East Lansing.

No. 6 seed TCU will face the winner of No. 11 seeds Arizona State and Syracuse.

The Midwest Regional is set for March 23 and March 25 (Friday, Sunday) at the CenturyLink Center in Omaha, Nebraska. The 2018 Final Four will be held at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas, on March 31 and April 2 (Saturday, Monday).

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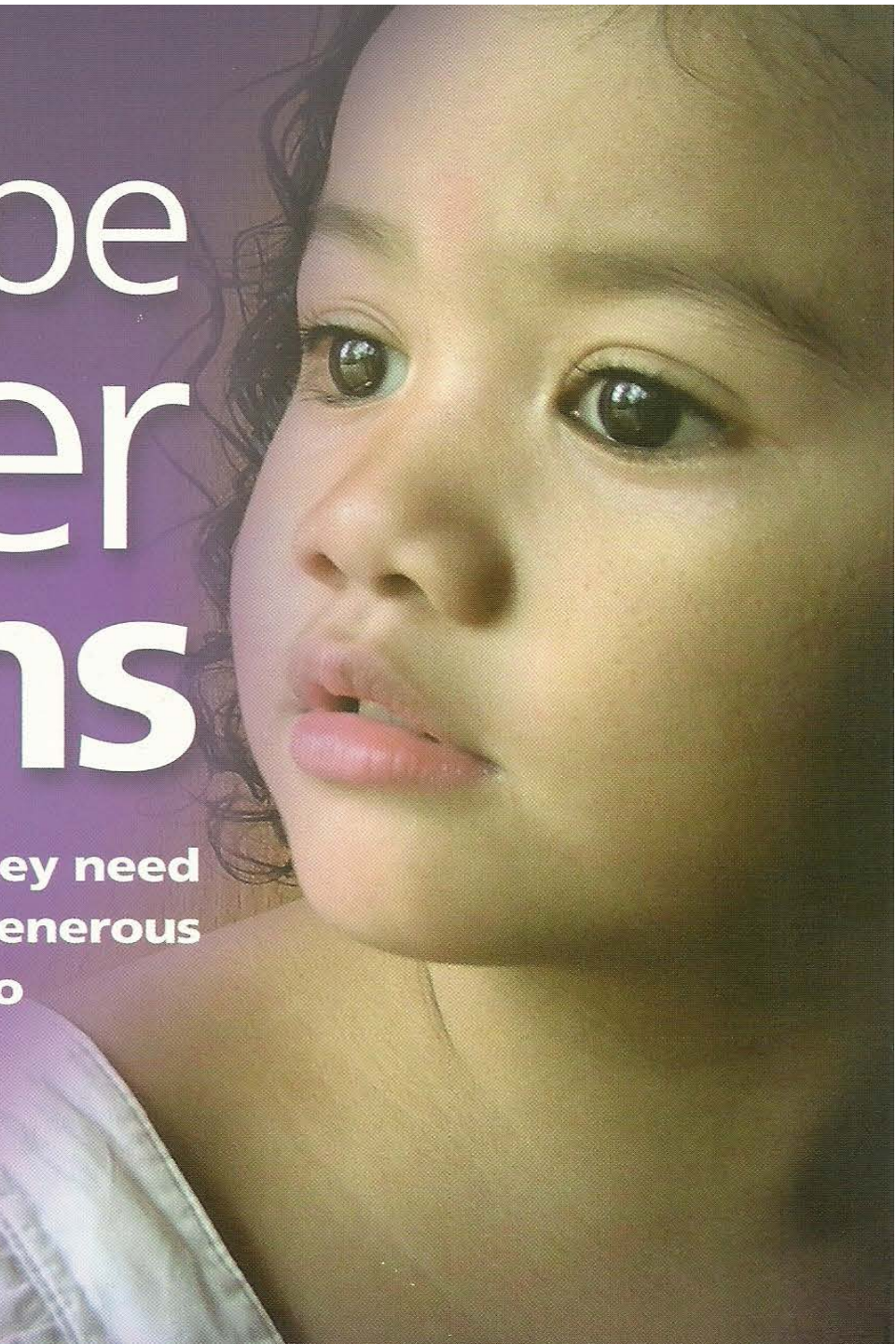
Every family with which Habitat works must perform Sweat Equity hours. Sweat Equity is volunteerism done on the home the family will purchase, on the homes of others, in the Habitat office, or in any other manner in which the family is able to help the affiliate.



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CHANGES TO OUR NEW ROUTES

START DECEMBER 31, 2017

Route 1:

Was: (INBOUND) Congress > Mason > State
Change to: (INBOUND) Congress > Bay > State

Route 211 becomes Route 112:

Was: Perkins > Outer > Woodbridge
Change to: Woodbrige > Outer > Perkins
Adding: Ricker Center

Route 3:

Stays on Michigan to Superior - No bridge crossing
Drops: YMCA (YMCA on Route 7)

Route 54:

Drops Ricker Center (Ricker Center added to Route 112)

Route 6 changes to Fashion Sq and SVSU Express:

Was: Weiss > Bay > SVSU > Tittabawassee > I-675
Change to: I-675 > Fashion Sq > SVSU > Fashion Sq > I-675
Adds: Fresnius Dialysis Center

Route 7:

Adds: Ruffin Clinic, YMCA, MI Works, DaVita Dialysis
Drops: Michigan Ave (added to Route 3)

Route 82:

Was: Vets > Jefferson > Warren
Change to: Jefferson > Warren > Vets
Will take Jefferson to Williamson (Drop Holland, Weber, Hess)

Route 9:

Drops inbound WalMart stop (Route 6 adds a WalMart stop)

Route 106 - Big Changes!:

Will now Depart at top of hour (:55) instead of bottom (:25)
Was: I-675 > Tittabawassee > Fashion Sq > Bay > Weiss
Change to: Weiss > Covenant Mackinaw > Fashion Sq > Tittabawassee > I-675
Adds: Covenant Mackinaw
Drops: Bay Pointe Apts, Southbound Bay (Route 9 Adds Southbound Bay)



PIC OF THE WEEK

Todd Jeffery "T. J." Duckett , who played football at MSU and was drafted by the Atlanta Falcons in the 2002 NFL Draft sins pictures and memorabilia the Saginaw Sports Collectors Show on March 10, 2018 at Kochville Veterans Hall.





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Brittany Saunders is ready to pay it forward. The Chicago native enrolled at SVSU with ambitions to pursue a teaching career. Brittany was encouraged and invigorated by other passionate educators who worked closely with her to ensure she would accomplish her goals. And she is. Even before she was set to graduate, Brittany could boast a résumé with a paid internship in a school district along with K-12 classroom experience. **Now she can't wait to begin a professional career, inspiring students with the same kind of one-on-one attention she received from her professors at SVSU.**



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