



MSP PARTNERSHIP

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MICHIGAN STATE POLICE PARTNERS WITH WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
ON COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND STRATEGIES CENTERED ON URBAN POLICING.**

LANSING, Mich. – May 18, 2022 – A new partnership between the Wayne County Community College District and the Michigan State Police (MSP) will create a structured series of programs aimed at forging greater understanding between the police and diverse communities in urban policing areas including Wayne County.

An independent study commissioned by the Michigan State Police (MSP) found racial and ethnic disparities in the frequency and outcomes of traffic stops conducted by troopers in 2020. In January of 2022, MSP Director Col. Joe Gasper released the report and announced a five-point response plan. Included in this plan is a commitment to evaluate policies, increase community engagement and expand educational opportunities for MSP members.

Beginning this summer, WCCCD will be hosting community focus groups on urban policing, as well as additional forums to engage community members and other stakeholders around community-focused policies and practices.

“Our mission has always been to create pathways to better lives through learning,” said WCCCD Chancellor Dr. Curtis L. Ivery. “This partnership is part of that mission, and our enduring focus on fostering equity and inclusion in education. We welcome the opportunity to create avenues of greater understanding and knowledge that can help to produce better policies and

experiences for the communities that we serve and allow every individual to live with dignity and peace.”

“In partnering with Wayne County Community College District, which has a significantly diverse racial and ethnic urban/suburban community and student population, we will benefit from the unique opportunity for direct collaboration with residents of urban areas, making WCCCD an ideal partner for this effort,” said Gasper. “The objective of this distinctive community-oriented approach to urban policing is to influence policies and increase awareness of biases, cultural competency and socio-economic factors in law enforcement to become more aware of the problems faced by urban residents.”

About WCCCD:

WCCCD, one of the largest urban community colleges in Michigan, is a multi-campus district with six campus locations and specialty campuses, including the Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center, the Heinz C. Prechter Educational and Performing Arts Center, the Michigan Institute for Public Safety Education (MIPSE), the Curtis L. Ivery Health and Wellness Education Center, and the Outdoor Careers Training Center. The District serves nearly 70,000 students annually across 36 cities and townships, and more than 500 square miles. WCCCD is committed to the continued development of innovative programs, workforce transformation, hosting community-based training sessions, and improving student facilities and services.

www.wcccd.edu.