



ROCKET2WORK

May 23, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT LAUNCHES TUITION-FREE
TRAINING FOR
SKILLED TRADES PROGRAMS WITH ROCKET2WORK™ INITIATIVE**

**Initiative Tailors Programs to Hiring Employers Openings with Minimum Starting Wage
of \$15 an Hour**

DETROIT, Mich. – May 23, 2022 – Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) today launched its Rocket2Work™ initiative, which provides tuition-free training for skilled trades programs, connecting students and hiring employers/jobs with a minimum starting wage of \$15/hour or more. The announcement was made by WCCCD Chancellor Dr. Curtis L. Ivery.

Programs included in the Rocket2Work initiative involve careers in CDL licensed professional truck driving, skilled construction, advanced manufacturing and mechatronics, and technology and technical careers, and more. All programs included in the initiative are in high demand with thousands of open positions across the region.

“Our mission is completely focused on helping people create better lives through higher education,” said Chancellor Ivery. “Our Rocket2Work initiative is aimed at removing the friction points in connecting students with the skills and knowledge they need to grow a well-paying career with employers that have open opportunities.

“We know that if we can make that connection successfully, the student will benefit, the organization will benefit, and our region will benefit and thrive,” Ivery said.

Unemployment numbers in southeast Michigan are nearly double the national average of 3.6 percent, with many workers in need of learning stackable skills that allow them to transfer to new, in-demand careers, or to work at a higher level in the jobs that they have.

Ivery stated further: “This powerful initiative will encourage more southeast Michigan residents to take the leap and fast-track their start to a new, high paying career, while building the skilled labor force that we have in our own backyard. It is a win-win initiative”

About Wayne County Community College District

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 32 cities and townships, and more than 500 square miles. WCCCD is committed to the continued development of new programs, workforce transformation, hosting community-based training sessions, and improving student facilities and services. www.wcccd.edu.

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