

RECONNECT PROGRAM

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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## **WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT ANNOUNCES PARTICIPATION IN MICHIGAN'S NEW RECONNECT PROGRAM**

### **Reconnect Program Offers Eligible Adults an Opportunity to Earn a Tuition-Free Degree**

DETROIT, Mich. – Feb. 2, 2021 – Wayne County Community College District will participate in the new Michigan Reconnect program announced Tuesday, Feb. 2, in Lansing by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in an effort to help address a widening skills gap within the state's workforce.

Designed for residents who are 25 years or older and have obtained a high school diploma or equivalent, Michigan Reconnect will help pay the costs of tuition or training for eligible adults who want to pursue an associate degree or technical degree. The program also offers skills scholarships to help cover the cost of tuition at more than 70 private training schools with 120 programs to earn certification in manufacturing, construction, information technology, health care or business management.

"Our mission has always been to provide pathways to better lives through higher education," said WCCCD Chancellor Dr. Curtis L. Ivery. "The Michigan Reconnect program only helps us advance that mission across the 36 cities and townships that we serve."

As of 2019, only 42 percent of Michigan's working-age residents had an associate degree or higher. Michiganders without a college degree or training credential often face economic challenges. A 2020 analysis by the American Association of Community Colleges reports the median earnings of full-time employees with a high school degree is \$40,510 annually, while those with an associate degree make \$50,079 per year, based on U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data. Michigan Reconnect will help address the dual challenges of the state's widening talent gap and aging workforce.

WCCCD offers more than 120 career and academic programs. To find out more, visit [www.wcccd.edu](http://www.wcccd.edu).

**About WCCCD:** WCCCD, the largest urban community college 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 new programs, workforce transformation, hosting community-based training sessions, and improving student facilities and services.  
[www.wcccd.edu](http://www.wcccd.edu).

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