

MICHAEL B'S PARTNERS WITH WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

If you've heard of Michael B's, you know the vision is to be a gathering place to serve, connect, inspire and support the needs of all community members. With the strength of community collaboration, the café will provide a place where relationships can be built and lives changed — and not just within its walls.

The most recent development is an innovative partnership offering young adults with special needs the opportunity to pursue higher learning. This fall, working with Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD), Michael B's will offer two continuing education classes in the Pointes: The Art of Cake Decorating and Watercolor Painting. With a wraparound approach developed by community partners who understand the unique needs of our learners, even transportation has been taken into consideration with Pointe Area Assisted Transportation Services (PAATS).

"We believe in bringing wonderful opportunities to adults with special needs," says Dr. Suzanne Klein, founding member of Michael B's board and former Special Education Director and Superintendent of GPPSS. "As students come in, we will continue to develop programs in line with their interests and abilities."

Denis Karic, Associate Provost, University Center, has a passion for facilitating access to quality education for all. Having gotten to know Alicia Carlisle, Michael B's founder, through Healthy Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods, Karic shares, "I am committed to success for every student in degree attainment and this partnership with Michael B's is directly in line with WCCCD's vision. We are thrilled to roll out the continuing education classes this fall. In January, we will begin offering courses that lead to an associate's degree or certificate program, with plans to expand our offerings."


Chancellor of WCCCD, Dr. Curtis Ivery, says, "We are excited to embrace this partnership with Michael B's. We strive to do even more to make a real difference in the lives of people in Grosse Pointe, Harper Woods and beyond."

"The unique learning needs and student population within special education are continuing to grow at an incredible rate across our community," says Meaghan Post, Special Education Consultant.

"This is why it's critical to provide continuing education in their passion areas once they age

out of the public schools, and create a pathway to certification and associate degrees to increase opportunities for independence."

Carlisle adds, "We have a wonderful board comprised of Dr. Suzanne Klein, John and Terry Minnis, Patty Sims-Sunisloe, Jennifer Boettcher, Chris Fenton, Sue Banner, Mary Fodell, Terry Cramer, Allan Kochanski and we are in the process of creating an advisory council. This is just one of many enriching opportunities we will be bringing to the community."

For more information, contact Alicia Carlisle at MichaelBCafe@gmail.com. To enroll, call WCCCD at (313) 962-7150. Classes start at the end of September. 

Above, from left, Dr. Charmaine Hines, Associate Provost Denis Karic, Dr. Suzanne Klein, Alicia Carlisle and Dr. Harvey Dorrah in the office of WCCCD Chancellor Dr. Curtis Ivery; below, the future Michael B's Cafe

