



NEWS RELEASE

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LOCAL COLLEGE STUDENTS OFFER FREE TAX FILING ASSISTANCE

Many low- and middle- income families qualify for free filing

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., Jan. XX, 2011 – Student and faculty volunteers from Davenport University are excited to kick off free income tax preparation sessions, available to low- and middle- income tax-filers (less than \$50,000 in total family income) at several locations across West Michigan.

The volunteers are providing their assistance in conjunction with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, a cooperative effort of the Internal Revenue Service and organizations that train volunteers to prepare basic tax returns in communities across the country. As volunteers, students have been certified by the IRS to participate. Aquinas College, Cornerstone University and Grand Rapids Community College students also are participating in the program.

“This volunteer effort gives students a chance to have some real-world work experience with actual clients while also benefiting those who need assistance completing their tax returns,” said Deb Kiss, department coordinator for accounting and finance at Davenport University.

In 2011, the free tax preparation service will be available at eight different sites across West Michigan, including Davenport University’s W.A. Lettinga and Kalamazoo Campuses. For a complete list of locations and times, visit <http://taxhelp.davenport.edu>.

Tax assistance is offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Those wishing to take advantage of the free program should bring the following paperwork with them:

- Picture ID and social security card for filer, social security numbers for spouse and dependents.
- Birth dates for primary, secondary and dependents on the tax return.
- Wage and earning statement(s) Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, from all employers.
- Interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1099).
- A copy of last year’s federal and state returns if available.
- Bank routing numbers and account numbers for direct deposit.
- Everything saying “important tax document” on it.

- Rent information and landlord's name(s) or 2010 taxable value of their home and property taxes.

These free services are available at these locations and times:

Davenport University's W.A. Lettinga Campus

Fridays: 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Saturdays: 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Davenport University's Kalamazoo Campus

Wednesdays: 3 – 7 p.m.

ACSET Community Action Tax Center

Mondays: 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Tuesdays: 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Wednesdays: 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Thursdays: 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Fridays: 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

African Community Center

Wednesdays: 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Saturdays: 9 a.m. – Noon

Hastings Public Library

Fridays: 2 – 5 p.m.

Saturdays: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Kentwood Public Library

Saturdays: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The Source

Mondays: 6 – 9 p.m.

Thursdays: 1 – 7 p.m.

Saturdays: 9 a.m. – Noon

Spring View Elementary

Mondays: 6 – 9 p.m.

Saturdays: 9 a.m. – Noon

To schedule an appointment, call 616-871-6147 or visit <http://taxhelp.davenport.edu>.

About Davenport University

Davenport University – the only West Michigan-based private university specializing in business, technology and health professions – serves an enrollment of approximately 13,000 students at its W. A. Lettinga Campus in Grand Rapids, at campuses throughout Michigan and online. Davenport focuses on innovative, practical and affordable education and offers graduate and undergraduate programs. More information is available at www.davenport.edu.

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