



NEWS RELEASE

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STUDENTS OFFER FREE TAX FILING ASSISTANCE FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., Jan. 22, 2015 – Student and faculty volunteers from Davenport University are trained and ready to kick off free income tax preparation sessions, available to low- and middle- income tax-filers (less than \$58,000 in total family income) at locations across West Michigan. Every year, millions of dollars in tax refunds and credits go unclaimed by those who need them the most. Taking advantage of free tax preparation services help West Michigan families receive tax refunds and credits that enable them to stay in their homes, feed their families, keep the lights on, and save for tomorrow.

Volunteers are providing assistance in conjunction with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, a cooperative effort of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and nonprofit groups that train volunteers to prepare basic tax returns in communities across the country. As volunteers, accounting students have been certified by the IRS to participate. Accounting students from Davenport University will be joined by their peers from Aquinas College, Cornerstone University and Grand Rapids Community College as well as members of the Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants (MACPA).

“Through the VITA program, Davenport’s accounting students gain valuable real-world experience,” said Judy Knapp, VITA Program Manager and Accounting Honors Program Coordinator at Davenport University. “At the same time, students are able to serve their community by helping low-income families receive the refunds they deserve. Our communities also benefit when these taxpayer refunds and credits are spent locally, helping to invigorate our economy.”

In 2014, 95 students and alumni participated in this program, logging more than 6,800 volunteer hours and totaling more than \$8.1 million in tax refunds and credits. In 2015, the free tax preparation service will be available at 16 different sites across West Michigan, including Davenport University’s Peter C. Cook Center in downtown Grand Rapids and its W.A. Lettinga and Holland campuses. Aquinas College Library also will serve as a tax preparation site this year. For a complete list of locations and times for VITA assistance, 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 and spouse, social security cards for dependents.
- Birth dates for primary, secondary and dependents on the tax return.
- Wage and earning statement(s) Forms W-2 from all employers.
- Other income statements (Forms 1099).

- Form 1095-A for the Affordable Health Care forms and healthcare info.
- 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 paid out-of-pocket, landlord's name(s) and address or 2014 property taxes and the home's taxable value.
- Home heating costs as reported on the December – March utility bills.

The program will also offer an alternative method to e-file for free. Taxpayers whose income does not exceed \$58,000 can prepare and e-file their own federal and state taxes for FREE using H&R Block software by visiting taxhelp.davenport.edu and connecting through the MyFreeTaxes.com link on the left side of the page.

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

These free services are available at these locations and times:

Davenport University W.A. Lettinga Campus (FSA site)

6191 Kraft Ave. SE, Rm 222
 Grand Rapids, MI 49512
 Jan. 23 – April 10, 2015
 Fridays: 5 – 9 p.m.
 Saturdays: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Davenport University Peter C. Cook Center (Downtown Grand Rapids-FSA site)

45 Ottawa Ave.
 Grand Rapids, MI 49503
 Jan. 23 – April 10, 2015
 Wednesdays: 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.
 Saturdays: 9 a.m. - Noon

ACSET Community Action Tax Center

121 Franklin St. SE
 Grand Rapids, MI 49507
 Jan. 20 – April 15, 2015
 Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Thursdays: 4 - 8 p.m.

Aquinas College Library

159 Woodward Ln, Library
 Grand Rapids, MI 49506
 Jan. 27 – April 8, 2015
 Tuesdays: 5 -8 p.m.
 Wednesdays: 5 -8 p.m.

The Source

1409 Buchanan SW
 Grand Rapids, MI 49507
 Jan. 26 – April 11, 2015
 Mondays: 6 - 9 p.m.

Saturdays: 9 a.m. - Noon

Kentwood Public Library

4950 Breton Rd SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49508
Jan. 24 – April 5, 2015
Saturdays: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Wyoming Public Library

3350 Michael Ave. SW
Wyoming, MI 49509
Jan. 31 – April 9, 2015
Thursdays: 2 -6 p.m.
Saturdays: 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Hope Network

775 36th St.
Wyoming, MI 49548
Jan. 30 – April 10, 2015
Friday: 9 a.m.-4p.m.

Lamont Christian School

5260 Leonard St.
Coopersville, MI 49404
Feb 1 – April 6, 2015
Mondays: 6 - 9 p.m.

Hastings Public Library

227 E State St.
Hastings, MI 49058
Saturdays: Feb 1, 21; Mar. 7, 21; Apr. 4, 11; 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
269-945-0526

Davenport University Holland Campus

643 S Waverly Rd, Rm 207
Holland, MI 49423
Feb. 1 – April 15, 2014
Saturdays: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Plainfield Senior Center

5255 Grand River Dr. NE
Plainfield Township, MI 49525
Feb. 5 – March 26, 2015
Thursday s: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

St. Alphonsus Parish

224 Carrier St. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Feb. 1 – April 10, 2014
Thursdays: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; 5-8 p.m.

Saturdays: 9 a.m.-Noon

Barry Community Foundation

231 S Broadway

Hastings, MI 49058

Feb. 5, 12; Mar 5, 12, 19; Apr 2,9 4-8 p.m.

269-945-0526

Putnam District Library

327 N. Maine

Nashville, MI 49073

Feb. 7, Mar 9 2-6 p.m.

Feb. 26; March 26: 4 -8 p.m.

269-945-0526

Delton District Library

330 N. Grove St.

Delton, MI 49046

Feb. 7 & 28: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

March 11: 3-7 p.m.

269-945-0526

About Davenport University

Founded in 1866, Davenport is a private, non-profit university serving about 9,000 students at campuses across Michigan and online. With tuition among the lowest of all private universities in the state, Davenport provides high academic quality, small class sizes, conveniently located campuses, faculty with real-world experience and more than 50 dynamic undergraduate and graduate programs addressing in-demand careers in business, technology and health professions. More information is available at www.davenport.edu.

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