

magazine
REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



Community College *Fall 2020*
Montcalm

contents

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on the cover

Jessica Johnson, left, and Kristine Temerowski received the 2020-2021 MCCF Nancy Steele Allen Edwards Memorial Nursing Scholarship.

inside front cover

MCC's Stanley & Blanche Ash Technology and Learning Center (Ash TLC) on the college's Greenville campus houses classrooms, a community conference room, computer and learning labs. It serves as the college's hub for business and industry training.

to read this publication or view videos online

go to montcalm.edu/publications

from the president

Dr. Stacy H. Young

It's hard to believe I'm wrapping up my first year at Montcalm Community College, and while some of the year's activities may not have been traditional, they have been memorable.

Just a couple of months after I joined MCC's team, we were faced with moving our classes online due to the coronavirus global pandemic. Since then, it has been a whirlwind of trying to stay on top of the latest data, and make decisions for the good of our students, our community members and the college as a whole, all while continuing to deliver the high-quality education our students and community deserve.

It's a time where I can honestly say that "size is our advantage."

We are fortunate to have an environment where we are able to react quickly in an ever-changing landscape. In March, we were faced with moving our classes from in-person to online in a matter of a few short days. As coronavirus picked up momentum, our faculty had been preparing for the shift, and we were successful in changing our delivery format. Our staff also worked to continue to provide student support services in the virtual environment, while everyone adapted to working remotely.

While navigating the pandemic, economic and community development continued to be a key area of focus. Through a variety of

industry partnerships, MCC's commitment to developing a more highly skilled workforce remains strong. We continue to collaborate with business and industry leaders, area K-12 educators, community members and others to further economic and workforce development throughout our area.

We have seen growth in both our dual enrollment and Early College programs this year. Both of these programs help high schoolers get ahead on their college education. And to make it even better, participation in these programs is free for eligible high schoolers!

With the coronavirus shut-down, we became creative in celebrating student successes this year. Unfortunately, we were unable to host our annual commencement ceremony in May. Instead, we celebrated on July 11 with a drive-thru celebration on our Sidney campus.

To help students persevere in the face of the pandemic, the MCC Foundation awarded an additional \$63,723 in student aid for those attending summer classes. With this generous support, we were able to help 271 students attend college classes over the summer.

Another amazing accomplishment is that we created an enrollment task force this year, comprised of individuals from every area of the college who are focusing on aligning



and integrating our recruiting efforts. Our team has been innovative and creative in its work, and we are poised for a strong future.

Futures for Frontliners provides another opportunity for students to get ahead on their college education. This statewide program offers tuition-free college for people who worked on the frontlines during the pandemic this spring. This is just one more way in which we are working to support our mission.

Speaking of the college's mission, our Strategic Planning Committee has worked tirelessly this year to gather input from a variety of college influencers and revise our Mission, Vision and Values statements, as well as develop a strategic plan to guide the college for the next three years. We plan to roll this out in January 2021.

When I came to Montcalm Community College in January, I felt like I was "coming home." Thank you for your continued support of the college, and for inspiring and empowering our community of learners. ■

MCC supports MICHIGAN'S FREE-TUITION PROGRAM FOR **frontline workers**



Dec. 31 is deadline to apply for Futures for Frontliners funding

By Shelly Springborn

Did you work in a hospital, nursing home, grocery store, retail business, sanitation or police department, or other essential industry this spring?

If so, you may be eligible for Futures for Frontliners tuition-free college at Montcalm Community College. For qualified applicants, the program pays your college tuition to allow you to attend college either full- or part time while you work.

“We believe strongly that those who were required to work during the state shutdown this past spring to allow others to isolate and stay safe are heroes,” said MCC President Dr. Stacy H. Young.

“Providing these frontline workers in essential industries with access to tuition-free community college – even if they don’t have their high school diploma or equivalency – to pursue their career and personal dreams supports MCC’s mission of creating a learning community,” Dr. Young said.

Futures for Frontliners offers Michigan adults without college degrees or high school diplomas, who provided essential services from April 1 through June 30, 2020, a tuition-free pathway to gaining the skills needed to obtain high-demand, high-wage careers. The funding is not only available to those in the medical field, but also essential workers in manufacturing, nursing homes, grocery stores, sanitation, delivery, retail and more. ■

To be eligible for the program, applicants must:

- Be a Michigan resident.
- Have worked in an essential industry at least part-time for 11 of the 13 weeks between April 1 through June 30, 2020.
- Have been required by their job to work outside the home at least some of the time between April 1 through June 30, 2020.
- Not have previously earned an associate or bachelor’s degree.
- Not be in default on a Federal student loan.
- Complete a Futures for Frontliners scholarship application by 11:59 p.m., Dec. 31, 2020.

Enrollment in classes is available beginning January 2021.

For more information

Visit montcalm.edu/frontliners for more information and a link to apply

Email futuresforfrontliners@montcalm.edu

Call (989) 328-1277

By Shelly Springborn

Statewide agreements offer MCC students more transfer options



The new MiTransfer Pathways simplify transferring to a four-year college or university

Transferring to a four-year college or university from Montcalm Community College (MCC) is even easier, thanks to several statewide agreements that offer seamless transfer pathways to other institutions.

MiTransfer Pathways, a partnership between the Michigan Community College Association (MCCA), the Michigan Associate of State Universities (MASU) and the Michigan Independent College and Universities (MICU), identified programs with high enrollment and/or high labor market demand to build multi-institutional transfer pathways so students can enroll at a participating community college, complete an associate degree, transfer to another institution, and complete a bachelor's degree in the identified program of study.

MCC Vice President for Academic Affairs Rob Spohr said MiTransfer Pathways provide a guaranteed transfer option for students. MCC offers these pathways in art, biology,

business, communication, criminal justice, exercise science and psychology.

"Most other states have a system where there is a higher education authority that governs the transfer of courses between colleges and universities, but Michigan does not have a system like that. That means our students can take classes with us and depending on where they go, the credits may or may not transfer," Spohr said. "The MiTransfer Pathways changes that, so students know if they follow the agreement, their credits will transfer to other participating institutions."

"What's nice for our students is that they can start with one of these seven program areas, complete the requirements, and transfer to any of the other participating institutions," said Counselor Brandy Bunting.

"It's peace of mind for students that as they move forward, they can go to any participating institution in Michigan and have their classes transfer," Spohr added.

The agreements specify major-specific courses that students should complete while enrolled at MCC that are common across all bachelor's programs in these areas in Michigan. Requirements of the Michigan Transfer Agreement are built into the pathways. (See sidebar for more information about the Michigan Transfer Agreement.) MCC academic counselors and advisors now have clearer details for students about which courses they should complete and how those courses apply to degree programs at participating colleges and universities across the state.

"We often have students who don't know what they want to study," said MCC Director of Student Success and Advising Lisa Gardner.

"These agreements take the pressure off students to have to decide early on which school they want to transfer to. They can have some flexibility to take some classes, figure out if they even like that pathway and then investigate the transfer schools."

MCC Student Success Counselor Tore Skogseth said participation with MiTransfer Pathways agreements prompted MCC to look at its offerings relative to the pathways and expand opportunities for students.

"The guides have helped us develop more classes that students can take here that will transfer for their majors including courses in psychology, communications and art history," Skogseth said. ■

For more information

Visit montcalm.edu/transfer

Email studentsuccess@montcalm.edu

Call 989-328-1264

"What's nice for our students is that they can start with one of these seven program areas, complete the requirements, and transfer to any of the other participating institutions,"

-- MCC Counselor Brandy Bunting

About the Michigan Transfer Agreement

The Michigan Transfer Agreement (MTA) allows students to complete general education requirements at one college or university, then transfer those courses to meet general education requirements at another college or university, without any special exceptions.

To fulfill the MTA, students must successfully complete at least 30 credits, with at least a 2.0 gpa in each course and at least one credit completed at the institution awarding the MTA. These credits should be met according to the following distribution:

- One course in English Composition
- A second course in English Composition or one course in Communications
- One course in Mathematics from one of three pathways: Pathway to Calculus (includes College Algebra), Statistics or Quantitative Reasoning
- Two courses in Social Sciences (from two disciplines)
- Two courses in Humanities and Fine Arts (from two disciplines, excluding studio and performance classes)
- Two courses in Natural Sciences including one with laboratory experience (from two disciplines)



MICHIGAN TRANSFER AGREEMENT saved MCC alumna time, money

By Shanika P. Carter

Making the decision to attend Montcalm Community College turned out to be the best choice for Elise Ensing and her pursuit of higher education.

Ensing, of Gowen, graduated from MCC with high honors in 2017, earning a Liberal Studies Certificate and Associate of Science and Arts. She also completed her basic educational requirements under the Michigan Transfer Agreement, which allows students to complete general education requirements at one college or university, then seamlessly transfer those courses to meet general education requirements at another college or university.

Transferring to Grand Valley State University (GVSU) the summer of 2017 to pursue a degree in Diagnostic Cardiovascular Sonography, the 23-year-old named many benefits that came with attending MCC first.

"It worked out pretty well with starting at MCC because I was able to knock off a handful of extra classes by transferring into Grand Valley with a degree," Ensing said, expressing her satisfaction with the MTA. She explained that the MTA saved her both time and money, as she was able to complete a year of general education coursework that she would have most likely had to take upon transferring if she had not attended MCC.

Other incentives included scholarships, which Ensing said covered most of her books her first year at MCC. The location was also convenient so she could continue working her job and living at home, not having to worry about moving into a dormitory or renting an apartment.

Finally, MCC's class sizes made a difference in Ensing's learning experience.

"I believe I really benefited from the smaller class sizes, and yet do not feel as if I received any less education than those who went to universities to start with," she explained.

Ensing applied for the well-known Diagnostic Cardiovascular Sonography program at GVSU, adding that her interest in sonography began in her freshman year of high school after job shadowing her uncle.

"I applied, got a written interview, an in-person interview, and was accepted into the cardiovascular program. Come to find out, only about 16 students are accepted each year for the cardiac program," Ensing shared. In the end, she graduated Magna Cum Laude in April 2019.

When she is not "looking at people's hearts with an ultrasound all day" in her roles as Cardiovascular Sonographer or Echo Tech, Ensing spends her spare time working in her vegetable and herb garden, reading, road biking with her boyfriend (whom she met at MCC in her American Literature class), traveling, and spending time with her one-year-old nephew and two-year-old niece. ■



I wasn't **ready** to move away from home

By Shelly Springborn

Hazekamp, age 26, recently began working with the Montcalm Care Network as a home-based therapist.

"I work with kids who are at high risk for being removed from the home for things like residential treatment placement or CPS (child protective services)," she explained. "I just basically go in and do therapy with them and their families to help the parents learn skills to help their kids and to help the kids learn coping skills."

Of her educational journey, Hazekamp said the hardest part of the transfer puzzle was deciding which school to attend after MCC.

"At the time, I also applied to Calvin College, and I met with transfer representatives at both Calvin and Aquinas to see which of my MCC courses would transfer and other classes I should take at MCC," she said.

"I liked Aquinas' program a little better, and more of my classes transferred there. They also offered me a transfer scholarship," Hazekamp said. ■

"I would encourage students looking to transfer to sit down with an advisor at MCC and the transferring institution to make sure their classes will transfer."

-- Cat Hazekamp



When Cat Hazekamp first came to Montcalm Community College, she knew she would be transferring to another institution to finish her bachelor's degree.

"I wasn't ready to move away from home," said Hazekamp, who grew up in the Stanton area and now resides in Ionia. "My first two years were going to be taking classes to meet my general education requirements, so I thought I may as well save myself some money by starting off at the community college and figuring out what I wanted to do."

Hazekamp graduated with high honors from MCC in 2014 with an Associate of Arts and transferred to Aquinas College. She originally was pursuing a degree in education with plans to become a teacher. However, she decided to change majors and earned a bachelor's degree in psychology. From there, she earned a master's degree in social work at Michigan State University.

These decisions may have changed the course of her career, but she is still working with children, which is what she intended to do all along.

"When I started doing my field placements for teaching, I realized being in a classroom was not what I wanted to do," she said.

transferoptions

ONE COURSE

inspires transfer **student**



By Shelly Springborn

When Liz Hill started taking classes at Montcalm Community College, she thought she wanted to be a veterinarian. She had a plan – get her basics done at MCC and then transfer to Michigan State University.

But one class and one instructor changed it all and now she's on a path to her dream career.

The 28-year-old from Crystal said when she graduated from high school, she didn't know what she wanted to do, so she entered the workforce.

"It wasn't until a couple years after I graduated that I decided I wanted to start school, but I didn't know what for. I went to MCC. It was close. I knew the campus a little bit. It was familiar," she said.

Early on, she met with Academic Advisor Lisa Gardner.

"She set me up for my first semester and helped me decide what classes to take. I decided to work toward my Associate of Applied Science since I had a passion for science and was thinking of going to school to be a veterinarian," Hill said.

That summer, she took a Nature Study course taught by Biology Instructor Heather Wesp, and it changed her life.

"I just loved that class," Hill said. "I had taken biology, but this was another level of appreciation of ecosystems, endangered animals and conservation.

Hill started looking at conservation-type degrees. With a clearer vision of what she wanted to study, she knew she was going to finish her education at MCC and transfer to complete her bachelor's degree. While considering her options, she attended a transfer fair at MCC where she met with representatives from several other institutions.



"It can be overwhelming to compare schools. It was really convenient to be able to talk with representatives from a bunch of schools all in one day," she said.

With some knowledge from her visit, she did more research to determine how her MCC credits would transfer to other institutions and eventually chose Lake Superior State University (LSSU) in Sault Ste. Marie.

Hill graduated with honors from MCC in 2016 with an Associate of Applied Science, a Liberal Arts certificate and she completed all of her basic educational requirements under the Michigan Association of Collegiate Registrars & Admissions Officers (MACRAO) transfer agreement, now the Michigan Transfer Agreement (MTA). She went on to earn her bachelor's degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Management with a concentration in wildlife management from LSSU. She is now considering options to pursue a master's degree in secondary education, with the goal of eventually teaching at a community college or in an adult education program. Her decision stems back to the Nature Study course she took at MCC.

"Heather Wesp was a role model for me," she said. "I feel there's something very special about teaching people who want to be in your class." ■

MCC EARLY COLLEGE
alumna SHARES HER
'amazing'

transfer experience

By Shanika P. Carter



"A amazing" is one of the words that Andrea Gallagher used to describe her experience at Montcalm Community College (MCC) as an Early College student.

As part of the program, the 21-year-old from Carson City, earned her Associate of Science degree and Liberal Studies certificate in 2017, while completing her high school diploma. Her experience set the stage for her to transfer to Ferris State University.

"It is a program that takes time and dedication to your studies, but you will reap the rewards of an early head start throughout the rest of your college and career," Gallagher said of the Early College program, adding that she felt immersed in the college atmosphere right from the beginning.

Gallagher also appreciated the various skills she gained in the Early College Program, explaining how the soft skills taught her how to study, manage her time better, and be successful in her college coursework.

"After I graduated, I realized just how well the Early College program had prepared me when I witnessed my high school friends dropping out of college," Gallagher said. "They did not have the soft skills necessary to succeed in a university where professors have hundreds of students per class and no time for one-on-one work with each student."

With a strong support system, including regular meetings and interactions with her mentor and the Early College staff, Gallagher saw progress throughout her time in the program. She graduated with honors and was accepted into the Phi Theta Kappa honor society. Gallagher was also pleased that many of her MCC courses transferred to Ferris, which allowed her the time to work on a minor and still graduate in a timely manner.

Gallagher graduated Cum Laude from the Ferris State Honors Program in May with a bachelor's degree in biology, with a focus in pre-medicine and a minor in small business and entrepreneurship.

She is planning to return to college in fall 2021, and is currently applying to medical schools while taking a gap year to gain experience in the medical field working as a medical scribe.

In her spare time, Gallagher enjoys woodworking projects, hunting, and helping on her family farm. ■

"My goal is to become an orthopedic surgeon and someday own a practice of my own. It was Michelle Gibson's microbiology class that helped me to decide I wanted to be a doctor,"

-- Andrea Gallagher



It's time to fill out your **FAFSA**



By Shelly Springborn

Completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the first step to unlocking funding to support your college education.

FAFSA is the form that the federal government, states, colleges and other organizations use to award financial aid in the form of scholarships, grants and student loans. You must complete the FAFSA to qualify for federal aid programs such as Pell grants, Perkins loans, Stafford loans and work-study employment.

“Completing the FAFSA is one of the most important steps for anyone making college plans.”

– Jessica Herrick, MCC Director of Financial Aid

The FAFSA submission period opens on Oct. 1 each year. Filling out the application is easy, takes about 30 minutes, and it's free.

The FAFSA is available in several formats, including online, PDF and paper versions. Online is the simplest way to complete your application by visiting fafsa.gov.

For more information

Visit montcalm.edu/financial-aid

Email fnaid@montcalm.edu

Call 989-328-1205

About financial aid options

MCC Foundation scholarships

Montcalm Community College and the MCC Foundation award more than 200 endowed scholarships annually. More than \$388,000 in MCC Foundation scholarships and aid is available for the 2021-2022 academic year. The application period for most MCCF scholarships is Jan. 1 through April 15. Visit montcalm.edu/scholarships for details and to apply.

MCCF Ash 2+1 Scholarship

Under the Ash 2 + 1 Scholarship program, for every two contact hours purchased, scholarship recipients receive one free hour at the in-district rate, up to a \$600 value. The scholarship is available to students who are residents of the Belding, Carson City-Crystal, Central Montcalm, Greenville, Lakeview, Montabella, Tri County or Vestaburg public school districts. This scholarship is not available to students who receive other gift aid or grants covering, or whose employers pay, 60 percent or more of their semester bills. Scholarships are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Visit montcalm.edu/scholarships for details and to apply.

Grants and scholarships

Grants and scholarships do not need to be paid back, unless, for example, you withdraw from school and owe a refund. They are gift aid from the federal government, the State of Michigan, college aid programs or another private organization. They are often awarded based on need to those who qualify and apply for them.

Loans

Loans may be through the federal government, your college or another private lender.

Work study

Work study opportunities are part-time jobs on campus that are typically flexible around your class schedule, so you can earn steady income while you attend school.

Additional resources

For State of Michigan and federal student aid programs, visit michigan.gov/mistudentaid and studentaid.ed.gov.



student**success**

MCC alumna achieves her goal

Betty Marier graduated with honors from MCC earlier this year

By Shanika P. Carter

Betty Marier always regretted not going to college after high school.

"I married at 19, started our family at 23, was a stay-at-home mom to our four daughters for 20 years, and went back to work part-time when our youngest daughter graduated from high school," Marier said. "Soon the grandchildren began being born, so I took some time to be a grandma. Then it occurred to me I could go to college."

Marier prefers to use the term "goal" instead of dream, and achieving her goal was exactly what she set out to do when she enrolled at Montcalm Community College. She took an average of two classes at a time while working full-time and running her own small business, assisting other small businesses with various accounting tasks, primarily payroll tax reporting.

"Attending MCC was one of the best experiences of my life," Marier said. "It was the perfect setting for me at this point of my life and career. I found my studies very applicable to my life and work experiences."

She said she thoroughly enjoyed meeting students in all different stages of their education, from the dual-enrolled high school student to the self-proclaimed seasoned student like her. She described class discussions as "spirited" when combining the perspectives from different generations.

In addition, there were times she put school on hold to take a "grandma break" as more grandchildren were born into the family. In the end, and as hard as it was at times, Marier pushed ahead and completed her degree. She said without the support of her family and friends, she could have never finished.

The journey to graduation itself was one that Marier described as being difficult at times and a long road, due to a variety of reasons, including the adjustment to the online platform due to coronavirus.

Graduating from MCC with high honors in spring 2020 with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Accounting, Marier participated in the college's drive-thru commencement ceremony on July 11.

"It was early on in the pandemic. No one knew what was going to happen from one minute to the next. Things were changing daily, but MCC recognized the importance of validating the efforts of the students," Marier said.

Although she missed the usual pomp and circumstance that comes with the traditional graduation ceremony, the celebration was appreciated.

"Holding graduation outside was a great idea," she said.

Marier also expressed appreciation for the faculty, including Business Instructor Bill Bishop; Social Science Instructor Ken DeLong; Dual Enrollment English Instructor Ben Stancil; Economics Instructor Elizabeth Klooster; Mathematics Instructor Katey Johnson; and Student Success Counselor Tore Skogseth, for their contributions, time and effort in her journey and learning experience.

Marier said her college education is something she will never regret.

Now, nearing the end of her career, she said her college journey went from a lifelong goal to the first thing checked off her bucket list. ■



'It wasn't very **easy**'

Sarah Spohn achieves her college dream after taking a break to raise her family

By Jeanette Pizarro-Ahumada

From an early age, Sarah Spohn was a very driven student. During high school she decided to get an early start on college by enrolling in dual enrollment classes at Montcalm Community College.

"I loved the idea of getting credit for both high school and college in one class," she said.

After graduating from Lakeview High School in 1997, Spohn decided to work full-time and attend night classes. However, life had other plans as it took her down the different path of getting married and starting a family. Although Spohn loved attending classes, as a new parent, she decided to make her children her priority and became a full-time mom.

"Like many parents, there are things you give up or go without so your children can have what you find important," she said. "This put college on the back burner for many years but there was always a longing inside me that never went away, nagging at me to go back to school."

After 20 years of tending to her family, Spohn made the decision to go back to school and finish her degree. With the credits she had already earned, it was possible for her to begin where she left off and get back on track to finish college.

"MCC was able to apply the credits I had earned years ago, and the counselors were able to help me plan a schedule that worked for me," she said.

With five school-aged children, some of which were dual-enrolled at MCC, and her own packed schedule as a full-time student, Spohn's life became even more demanding. However, Spohn said MCC's online resources helped her find balance in her busy schedule.

"The technology now is amazing – you can create and change your own schedule online; drop and add classes; view time, teacher and day options; and even see what books are needed for each class," Spohn said. "This, along with online class options, made it much easier to work around the rest of my life."

Along with the help she received from MCC to work around her personal schedule, her husband was a big supporter in making her studies a priority.

"Fortunately, I have a very supportive husband who often made up the slack while I poured myself into my studies – I am so grateful for the love and support of my family," she said.

Although Spohn initially was working toward a business management degree at MCC, she decided to switch her track to accounting. This did not make the challenge any easier as classes got tougher and her life became more occupied. However, with her strong study ethic and motivation, Spohn was able to finish all her classes with A's.

In 2018, Spohn earned a Liberal Studies Certificate with high honors, an Associate of Science & Arts with high honors and she completed all her basic educational requirements under the Michigan Transfer Agreement. In 2019, she earned an Associate of Applied Science in



Sarah Spohn, of Sidney, took a break from college to raise her family, then returned to MCC to complete her degree.

Accounting with high honors.

"It wasn't very easy, and I did sacrifice a lot, but I did achieve that goal. I had waited so long to go back to school that I wanted to be the best student I could," she said.

Due to her hard work and outstanding achievements while at MCC, Spohn was selected for a summer internship at Sidney State Bank, working in the Bookkeeping and Operations Department. This internship developed into a full-time job and she began working as the Financial Analyst and Human Resource Generalist at the bank.

After graduating from MCC and continuing her work at Sidney State Bank, Spohn decided to go back to school once again and get her bachelor's degree in business management from Western Governors University.

Spohn recently joined the Peterson McGregor & Associates Insurance Company team as an account manager. With the experience she gained at Sidney State Bank and the skills she learned at MCC, the company's new expansion to Grand Rapids became a great opportunity for Spohn to embark on this new journey.

"This is a great opportunity for me to utilize all the knowledge and skills I acquired at MCC and Sidney State Bank," she said. "I look forward to bringing our clients a great experience in employee benefits."

Spohn said her foundation from MCC allowed her to discover more about herself and sparked a fire for her education and future.

For current students or anyone thinking about returning to school, Spohn has some words of encouragement.

"Although it may be a challenge and you might have to give up some things you enjoy, it will all be worth it in the end," she said. "Yes, there are times you have to do homework before bed instead of watching a television show but sacrifice always precedes success."

"It is easy to stay in your comfort zone and just accept what is, but that longing to do more, to be more, will always be there until you do something about it, and MCC is a great place to start."

-- Sarah Spohn

When she is not working, Spohn enjoys spending time with her family, playing cards with her grandmother and being very active outdoors. She also enjoys helping as the treasurer at her church, where she can apply her accounting skills.

Spohn's story is proof that no matter what stage of life you are in, there is always room for growth and room to make a better and wiser version of yourself.

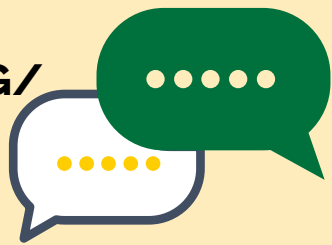
"A person can do anything they put their mind to – take the kids to school, complete your coursework, make dinner, and still make it to the band concert. Maybe I am not the only one who will be better because of my education," she said. ■

MCC **supports** student learning

montcalm.edu/student-resources

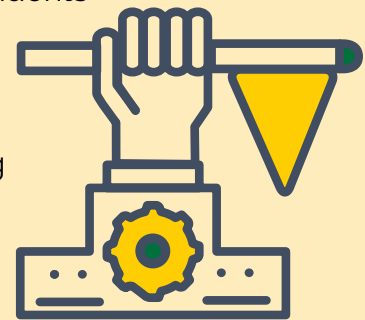
COUNSELING/ ADVISING

Helps students navigate the college experience, provides program guidance, and assists with concerns related to education.



CAREER ADVISING

Offers services for students who are undecided about a career path, looking for a job in their field, or anything in between.



TUTORING

Provides free one-on-one or group tutoring to enrolled students for any MCC class.



SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION LEADERS

Partners peer success-leaders within classrooms to provide support and assist students in gaining effective study skills.

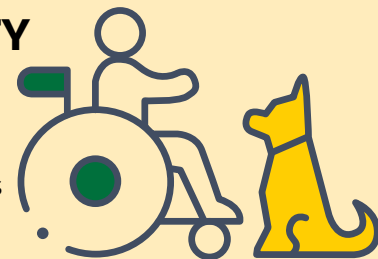
WRITING CENTER

Helps students understand assignments; generate, develop and organize ideas; engage with and document source material; revise and polish drafts; and more.



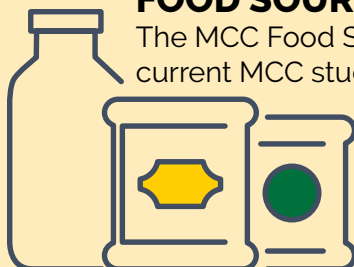
ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

Provides reasonable accommodations for students with barriers to learning.



FOOD SOURCE

The MCC Food Source provides current MCC students with nutritious food items while classes are in session.



MATH CENTER

Offers drop-in coaching that can be used as much as needed for students currently enrolled in an MCC math course.

I love seeing the 'aha' moment



By Jeanette Pizarro-Ahumada

Peter Murr believes in his students.

Just a little over a year into his career as a full-time Industrial Technology Instructor at Montcalm Community College, Murr said he has enjoyed getting to see his students gain knowledge in welding and the welding field. His love for welding and the trades is evident as he passionately teaches his courses at MCC's Greenville campus.

"I teach because I love seeing the 'aha' moment when a student understands and can apply their knowledge," Murr said. "I love watching them learn a concept and apply it."

Before joining the MCC family, Murr worked at a variety of companies as a welding engineer, robotics programmer and welding trainer. This well-rounded experience in welding and robotics helps him identify student needs and provide the training needed to support them in their coursework.

Murr, who earned an associate degree in Applied Science Welding Technology from Grand Rapids Community College, teaches various welding classes, as well as a class in metallurgy and basic robotics. In these classes, students are taught not only how to weld, but how to weld with precision.

Murr said one of the most valuable skills he teaches is how to spot a defective weld and how to avoid making them. He said most students enter his classes with little knowledge about welding but leave as high-quality welders.



MCC Industrial Technology Instructor Peter Murr brings extensive industry experience to the classroom.

"My core philosophy is anyone can do anything if they put the time into it," Murr said.

Alongside his associate degree, Murr has certifications as a welding inspector and educator from the American Welding Society. He also has a certification in basic operations, arc tool and maintenance from FANUC North America.

"Each day, my goal is to get the students who need more help, the help that they need and get them to where they need to be," Murr said. "My goals for students are performance based, which is passing a standardized American Welding Society qualification test. This credential is industry-recognized proof of their welding skills to support them as they enter the job market." ■

"I love watching them learn a concept and apply it."

– Peter Murr

facultyfocus

my door
is **always**
open

By Shanika P. Carter

Beginning his higher education in a community college setting, Dr. Todd Adkins identifies with the experience he provides students in this same environment.

Dr. Adkins joined MCC in August as a social science instructor.

He said student success, as well as experiential learning, a component of student success, are goals he strives to achieve in the classroom, utilizing an engaging approach in a friendly, supportive, collaborative and exciting learning environment.

A Michigan native, Dr. Adkins teaches the “American Political System” course, which is an introduction to political science.

“Students know that my door is always open for one-on-one assistance in course planning, study strategizing, or overall academic advising,” said Adkins, who takes a proactive approach with his students who may be reluctant to ask for help. “I regularly hold small seminars on productive study methods, test-taking skills, and time-management approaches during my office hours, after class and through special appointments.”

Having earned his Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree from Western Michigan University and his Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree from the University of Iowa, Adkins then went on to the University of Notre Dame to earn both his Master of Arts (M.A.) degree and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.). Adkins taught at Southwestern Michigan College, eventually becoming director of the criminal justice program at the college, which is where he established an internship program for students to gain hands-on experience with law enforcement agencies in the community.

An adjunct instructor at the University of Notre Dame as well, Adkins’ previous professional background was in government relations and public affairs for national organizations and corporations for nearly two decades.



Social Science Instructor Dr. Todd Adkins enjoys interacting with students and encouraging them to listen and consider viewpoints beyond their own.

This experience, according to Adkins, equipped him for connecting theory with practice for students in first-hand detail. This has included collaborations in the classroom in which Adkins can guide student learning with real-world understanding of institutions and actors on the landscape.

Considering current academic challenges, Adkins strives for students to see beyond their own “echo chambers.”

“Political scientists have shown, quite clearly, that being exposed to cross cutting information is critical to developing tolerance, critical thinking and civic engagement more broadly. As the nation has grown hyper-partisan in recent years, the public’s tendency to retreat to their echo-chambers has increased as well,” explained Dr. Adkins, who encourages students to listen and carefully consider viewpoints beyond their own.

Although Dr. Adkins utilizes various instructional methods, he favors interactive lectures, which opens the door to promoting student understanding through exposure to diverse backgrounds and viewpoints. He said the diversity in teaching students at different institutions across a wide array of courses has also been beneficial in his instruction.

“This diversity of experience has served me well in developing a teaching style that is accessible to a range of students from assorted backgrounds and with varied levels of academic preparation,” Dr. Adkins said. “I have experienced, first-hand, how critically important it is to ‘meet my students where they are’ before I can help take them where they want to be.” ■



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MCC welcomes its first **female** president

By Shelly Springborn

During this unprecedented time, Montcalm Community College transitioned to a new top leader in 2020.

Dr. Stacy H. Young joined MCC Jan. 1 as the institution's sixth president and the first woman to hold the top leadership position at the college, succeeding Robert C. Ferrentino, J.D., who served as president for 10 years.

With extensive business experience and her doctoral degree in Leadership with an emphasis in Higher Education Administration, Dr. Young has served students in education for more than 22 years as adjunct faculty, faculty, chairperson, dean and now president.

During her first year, Dr. Young has navigated the college through the coronavirus pandemic; led a strategic planning process with a committee working on reviewing and revising the college's mission, vision and values statements and charting a course for the next three years; conducted student focus groups during the coronavirus shut-down to identify needs in an effort to better serve our students; tackled academic initiatives such as diversity, inclusion, equity, program reviews and part-time versus full-time students; enhanced college communications; collaborated with planners on needs for facilities improvements; all while working to build personal relationships with students, staff, faculty and community members.

Her expertise was quickly recognized as she took the helm and was immediately faced with a nearly decade-long decline in student enrollment.

At the beginning of the year, Dr. Young convened an Enrollment Task Force to focus on needs and strategies to grow student numbers. Comprised of representatives from all areas of the college, the group reviewed recruiting processes and worked together to devise a plan to enhance

student recruiting and retention initiatives. The group worked tirelessly throughout the spring – navigating the shutdown of the college due to the coronavirus pandemic – and ultimately increased summer enrollment by eight percent through creative recruiting and marketing initiatives. This was done remotely, without the usual in-person school visits and recruiting events traditionally used to attract students. In addition, college staff completed advanced training in July with Ruffalo Noel Levitz and continue to work with this organization to enhance recruiting practices.

Less than three months into her tenure, Dr. Young was faced with a quickly emerging global pandemic. With heightening concerns over coronavirus, on March 16 spring classes were moved to an online format. On March 19, the college's buildings were closed, and employees began working remotely. This continued through much of the summer, with small groups of employees returning to the college's campuses until all were back on site just a week before fall classes began on Aug. 22.

MCC's instructors and staff were prepared for the shift to online, and while the transition had some challenges, many students reported that they felt supported during the change. Although facilities were closed, all college support services – such as tutoring, advising, testing and others – were available online for the remainder of spring semester, throughout the summer and again during fall semester.

The college successfully returned to in-person instruction for fall semester, with some modifications, including four class formats – in-person, online, hybrid and live online.

"We heard from many students that they wanted to be back on campus, while others simply were not comfortable in the classroom setting, but still wanted face-to-face instruction," Young said.

MCC's new live online option provides both, offering in-person instruction from the comfort of another

location through a real-time online presentation. More than \$250,000 in technology investments were needed to implement this option in classrooms across both campuses. These upgrades were partially funded by the MCC Foundation as well as a grant through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which was enacted to provide direct economic assistance for American workers, families and small businesses during the coronavirus pandemic.

“We’re embracing options to reduce barriers for students and offer the level of instruction they want and deserve,” Young added.

As a precautionary measure, MCC finished its final month of fall semester online and is poised to resume in-person instruction with the start of spring classes on Jan. 16, 2021.

As the college continues to navigate a spike in coronavirus cases in Montcalm County and surrounding areas, Young said, “This virus demands that we remain alert and make

constant adjustments to our plans.”

Although the pandemic has occupied much of the year, other needs continue to be addressed.

With aging facilities, college leaders continue to look at building capacity for the future to support increasing demand for additional instruction in high-demand, high-wage program areas such as health care, business, skilled trades, advanced manufacturing and others.

“Needs for instruction have vastly changed since the college was established more than 50 years ago,” Dr. Young said. “We are considering our options for remodeling some instructional spaces to make them better suited to the advanced training we deliver.”

“Critical areas are the facilities used for classes in life sciences, health care and some of our general education coursework,” she said. “It is imperative that we are able to keep up with the leading-edge instruction needed to train workers in these high-demand, high-wage careers.”

A challenge for MCC and other institutions of higher education is to provide relevant hands-on training for health care professionals in the current coronavirus environment.

“More than ever, we are relying on classroom instruction as health care facilities are forced to limit in-person, hands-on training due to coronavirus,” Dr. Young said. “We have technology that allows us to deliver this instruction, but we do not have enough capacity to sustain the need for more trained workers.”

Moreover, as a champion for Futures for Frontliners, a statewide program that offers free tuition at a community college for qualified applicants who worked on the frontline during the pandemic, MCC continued to build capacity to meet the demand and deliver the quality instruction needed to retrain area workers through this program. ■



MCC President Dr. Stacy H. Young enjoys connecting with students, staff, faculty and community members.

Highlights of college and student achievements



By Shelly Springborn

MCC celebrated its 53rd Commencement on July 11 during a drive-thru ceremony. While it was not the traditional pomp and circumstance due to the coronavirus shutdown, the college celebrated the accomplishments of its graduates, who persevered during the final months of their education to complete their college credentials. A total of 212 associate degrees and 128 certificates were awarded to 265 students for the 2019-2020 academic year.

With the need to show off our campuses in the pandemic environment, MCC developed a new virtual tour this year so people can “visit” the college without making a trip to one of our campuses. This tour shows MCC’s Sidney and Greenville campuses, classrooms, instructional labs, service areas, outdoor facilities and more, and may be viewed on our website at montcalm.edu/virtual-tour.

Speaking of “going virtual,” MCC got creative in connecting with its community of learners as the pandemic progressed. Services such as counseling and advising,

tutoring, testing, Writing Center and Math Center support, library and others embraced students in the virtual environment; a series of student sessions was presented over the summer during which MCC staff provided an overview of various services and students could ask questions during real-time interaction; a series of program visits to learn about MCC’s offerings was presented throughout the fall in a live online format; and the college implemented a Live Chat feature on its website with highly trained staff available to answer questions almost instantly.

Early College at Montcalm Community College continued to grow. This year, the seventh class of Early College students graduated. All of the students earned a certificate or degree, 15 are pursuing additional education, four are working full-time jobs in their respective fields. Thirty-one Early College students are expected to graduate in May 2021, while 34 are in the class of 2022 and 31 are in the class of 2023. Participating schools include Belding, Carson City-Crystal,

Central Montcalm, Greenville, Ionia, Lakeview, Montabella, Saranac, Tri County and Vestaburg.

Dual enrollment also remained strong, with 392 students completing 3,044 credit hours. Dual enrollment at MCC allows students to take college-level courses while still in high school and receive both high school and college credit. Through dual enrollment, students can take up to 10 college classes, and their high school helps pay tuition and fees up to an approved dollar amount. Schools participating this fall include: Carson City-Crystal High School, Carson City-Crystal Alternative Education, Central Montcalm High School, Fellowship Baptist Academy, Fulton High School, Greenville High School, Gull Lake Community Schools, Ionia High School, Lakeview High School, Michigan Connections Academy, Michigan Great Lakes Virtual Academy, Montabella High School, Niles High School, Northridge High School, Saranac High School, Tri County High School and Vestaburg High School.

For the sixth year, MCC was honored

Highlights from 2019-2020

- 314 students earned 390 associate degrees, certificates and job training certificates of completion
- 1,945 students enrolled in credit classes
- The average age of MCC's credit students was 25
- MCC's average class size was 15 students
- 61 percent of the credit students were female
- 392 students were dual enrolled (high school students taking MCC classes for both high school and college credit) and completed 3,044 credit hours
- MCC offered 95 credit classes online and 63 hybrid (partially online and partially in the classroom) courses
- 34 veterans enrolled in credit classes

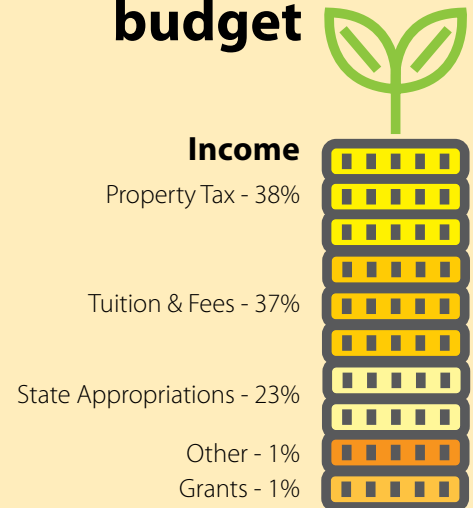
as a Michigan Veteran Friendly Affairs Agency (MVAA) certified Veteran-Friendly School at the gold level for its commitment to supporting the needs of student veterans and dependents as they work to achieve their educational goals.

Before the pandemic shut down in-person activities, six MCC students earned high honors during the Business Professionals of America (BPA) State Leadership Conference at Davenport University in February. While they qualified to attend the national Leadership Conference in May in Washington, D.C., the conference was cancelled. They included Gabriella Anderson, of Sidney; Jessi Osterman, of Carson City; Kristina Rousseau, of Stanwood; Steven Tripp, Jr., of Greenville; Steven Tripp, Sr., of Greenville; and Chrysti Velting, of Greenville.

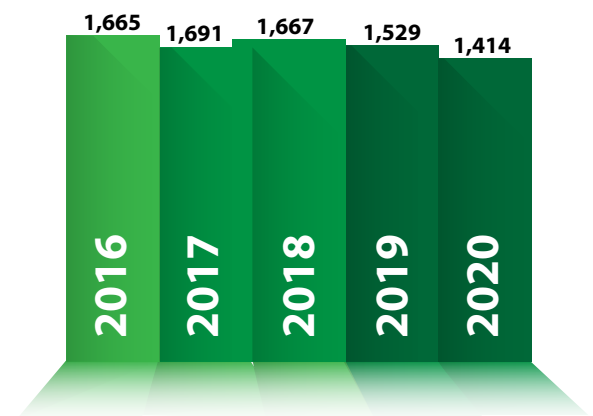
A total of 952 students were named to MCC's honors lists during the academic year, including 468 during the 2019 fall semester and 484 during the 2020 spring semester.

The college maintains accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission through its participation in the Open Pathway component, which affords institutions the opportunity to pursue improvement projects that meet their current needs and aspirations. In addition, MCC's nursing program maintains accreditation through the National League for Nursing Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation (NLN CNEA). ■

MCC's 2019-2020 budget



2016-2020 Fall Semester Credit Headcount





Developing the area's workforce

By Shelly Springborn



MCC student Scott Christensen prepares to test a program for the robotic arm.

Based on workplace demand and industry projections, a continued focus for Montcalm Community College this year was to maintain high-value programming tied to advancements in a variety of skilled trades career areas.

During this unprecedented pandemic year, MCC's workforce development team has continued to be outward-looking to respond to the needs of the changing labor market while companies sometimes simply struggled with basic operations due to the statewide shutdown, precautions to reduce the risk of workplace sickness and more.

As industry partners worked to maintain adequate staffing levels, the college remained flexible in its ability to provide necessary training through shifts to online instruction

and heightened precautions in its in-person lab and classroom settings. The college quickly addressed new social distancing requirements in labs and other areas to help ensure a safe instructional environment, as well as adjusting scheduling to accommodate student needs.

MCC also continued to partner with several area businesses to provide customized training through the Michigan New Jobs Training Program (MNJTP), which allows community colleges to provide free training for employers that are creating new jobs and/or expanding operations in Michigan. However, due to coronavirus, MCC Dean for Industrial Education and Workforce Training Susan Hatto said much of that training was placed on hold and is being revisited as the year ends.

That didn't stop the college from



Caleb Watson, of Ionia, learns how to make pneumatic connections.

continuing to plan for building capacity in key areas to serve industry needs as businesses came back online after the shutdown.

Hatto and her team have continued to assist companies in seeking funding for workforce training. The college has also devised a plan to enhance its equipment, curriculum development and tuition assistance through grants and other funding options.

“This will allow us to take our curriculum and training equipment to where we need to be to better serve area businesses as industry standards change,” Hatto said.

During the pandemic, MCC’s partnerships with local businesses to provide customized apprenticeship training remained strong. Today, 150 students are enrolled in

industry-related programs, with 124 of them attending classes under the sponsorship of their employers. A majority of these students are following a customized apprenticeship program, ultimately leading to “journey person” status and its associated career and earnings growth.

A challenge as the pandemic continues is to consider employers’ uncertainty over what skills their workers will need and how those will change as the economy recovers, potentially leading to additional realignment of the college’s offerings and delivery methods.

Because many occupational programs, such as welding, robotics

and others, rely on in-person, hands-on instruction, MCC is continuing to explore creative ways to support students and businesses as the pandemic continues and faculty adopt new ways of teaching.

“We are sensitive to the fact that training is important for area businesses, but mitigating COVID is also important,” Hatto said. “As the community’s training partner, we are committed to remaining flexible to meet evolving industry and employer needs for skilled workers.”

For more information

Visit montcalm.edu/workforce

Email susan.hatto@montcalm.edu

Call 989-328-1254



MCC Welding Instructor Andrew Naranjo, right, helps Peter Ricci, of Sumner, learn techniques using a cutting torch.



MCC's cultural offerings **continued** amid pandemic

By Shelly Springborn

At MCC, sustainable access to the arts, cultural offerings, recreation and enhanced educational opportunities are integral parts of our personal connections with people in the communities we serve.

Through a generous endowment, the MCCF Stanley and Blanche Ash Community College Enhancement Fund within the MCC Foundation provides funding to support a variety of endeavors.

While 2020 began with a variety of traditional, in-person presentations, the year's offerings quickly shifted as the college navigated the coronavirus pandemic. As the college, a variety of entertainment venues and non-essential businesses shut down in March, in-person events such as MCC's annual Chicago trip, Lifelong Learners presentations, musical performances and more were canceled.

However, the new pandemic environment was just a temporary setback, as college planners crafted new and

innovative programs and delivery methods to continue to provide opportunities in a virtual setting.

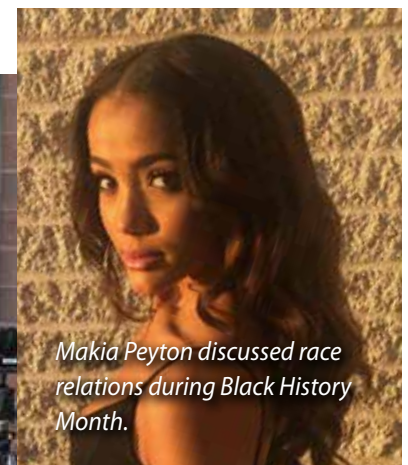
The MCC Alumni & Friends Choir has a long history of musical performances dating back to its establishment in the 1970s. The group's spring concert was one of many performances that was canceled due to the pandemic. However, Alumni & Friends Choir Director Val Vander Mark took the opportunity to do something different to engage the community.

Vander Mark worked with Duane Weed of DW Video and 26 musicians in nine groups to record a musical performance of MCC's Alma Mater and the song "Aquarius." The compilation video was recorded early in the summer in different local community spots, including both MCC campuses, as well as locations in Stanton, Sheridan and Greenville, over the course of a three-day period.

At the time, Vander Mark said, "It was a monumental task, but it's a work of love."



The MCC Alumni & Friends Choir recorded a virtual performance to connect with the community amid the pandemic.



Makia Peyton discussed race relations during Black History Month.



Dr. Louis Moore explored societal injustices during an online presentation this fall.

The video was presented on the college's website and YouTube channel, as well as through its social media, receiving many positive reviews as viewers looked to remain engaged with the college and their local community.

Cultural Events Highlights

In January, a standing-room-only crowd of MCC students and staff experienced "The Meeting," a theatrical production of a theoretical but fictional meeting of two of the most important men of modern times: Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Performed by the Ebony Road Players, the two men debated their varying approaches to the same social problems as they differed in their philosophies.

MCC celebrated Black History Month on both of its campuses during the month of February. A timeline highlighting 60 key historical points that illustrated how black history has helped shape our nation was displayed.

On Feb. 10, the college hosted Makia Peyton, advocate for social justice and oratory speaker. Peyton, a 15-year-old advocate for social justice and oratory speaker, visited MCC in honor of the college's celebration of Black History Month, discussing her experiences with social injustice and race relations in today's world.

The MCC Library brought together its community of readers during its seventh MCC Reads program from January through March. MCC Reads aims to bring together students, staff, faculty and community friends to read the same book and enhance shared learning.

To celebrate Women's History Month in March, MCC Psychology Instructor Jessica Snyder presented "Gender Stereotypes in Advertising," during which she showed a variety of commercials that illustrated the progression of advertising over the past 80-plus years, prompting laughter and reflections about the changes in women's roles throughout history. In addition, the college showed the movie "Iron Jawed Angels." Prior to the movie showing, many employees dressed in clothing similar to suffragette attire to help raise awareness about the achievement of women's suffrage.

MCC partnered with the World Affairs Council to offer its lectures virtually. On March 16, the first day of online classes due to the pandemic shutdown, Lindsey Sheppard, a fellow with the International Security Program at Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS) presented "The Future is Now: Artificial Intelligence and National Security." The presentation was livestreamed, and participants were able to ask questions during the program. It was funded by the MCC Foundation Stanley and Blanche Ash Community College Enhancement Fund.

In September, MCC moved its annual Constitution Day program to a live online presentation with Social Science Instructor Dr. Todd Adkins.

As the nation continued to experience uncertainty amid the pandemic, the college livestreamed "Visible Injustice, A Talk with Dr. Louis Moore." From an academic perspective, Dr. Moore explored injustices that have long occurred but are recently more visible in society, including protests, civil unrest and calls for change.

In November, MCC celebrated Veterans Day with a moment of silence for all veterans, as well as a live online presentation by Jas Boothe, a former Army officer who shared her experiences to overcome a variety of obstacles in her life. The college also celebrated Native American Month. ■

For more information

Visit montcalm.edu/arts-and-culture

Email cultural-events@montcalm.edu

Call 989-328-1065

Getting started is **easy**

step1 Apply

Apply

Complete and submit the free Application for Admission online at montcalm.edu/apply-now

step2 Finances

Financial Aid

Students are encouraged to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) immediately after applying to college. Financial assistance may be provided in the form of grants, loans, or work study positions to those who qualify.

To start an application visit FAFSA.gov, MCC's school code is 002295.

MCC Financial Aid Office

Phone: 989-328-1205

Fax: 989-328-1203

Email: fnaid@montcalm.edu

step3 Technology & Transcripts

Access your MCC account

Go to montcalm.edu/login and follow the "First Time Password Request" process.

Once you have a password, access your account at login.montcalm.edu. Your username is your MCC email address.

Most important Apps

Outlook, MyMontcalm, Canvas
For assistance call the IT Help Desk at **989-328-1246**

Send transcripts

Contact your high school or GED location and any other colleges you have attended.

Have an **official** copy of your final high school/GED transcripts and college transcripts (if applicable) sent to the MCC Admissions Office at admissions@montcalm.edu.

step4 Placement Testing

Placement testing is needed in reading, writing and math

Schedule your Accuplacer placement test online or at one of the following locations.

Online studentsuccess@montcalm.edu

Sidney SSC: 989-328-1264

Greenville Ash TLC: 989-328-1012

You will need a photo ID and your MCC ID Number. Plan about 1½ hours to complete the entire test.

SAT scores may be used to waive all or some sections of the Accuplacer. Download your detailed SAT score report from collegeboard.org and email it to admissions@montcalm.edu.

SAT scores needed to waive testing

(Individual test sub scores)

Writing and language	25
Reading	25
Math	26

step5 Orientation & Advising

Attend a new student orientation

Complete orientation online at montcalm.edu/orientation.

If you have completed a degree, orientation can be waived.

Once you have these steps done you can meet with a counselor to make an academic plan and register for classes.

Meet with our Counselors/Advisors



Brandy



Tore



Lisa

Call the Student Success Center at **989-328-1264** to make an appointment to register for classes.

We recommend you meet with a counselor or advisor every semester to stay on track.



MCCF Board of Directors

- Richard Adgate
- Bridget Badder
- Jane Anderson Beach
- Dr. Donald Burns
- Robert J. Byram
- Robert Ferrentino
- Josh Gibbs
- Dr. Michelle Gibson
- Andrew Hurst
- Thomas Kohn
- Amy Laper
- Ransom Leppink
- Dallas Lincoln
- Cathy Mall
- Robert Marston
- Ken Rader
- Mike Williams
- Dr. Stacy H. Young

Mission Statement

To support MCC's efforts to anticipate and address community needs through relationship cultivation and resource stewardship.



HEROES OF



Words from our MCCF President

The Montcalm Community College Foundation (MCCF) works cooperatively with the college to envision brighter futures and develop funding to create enhanced opportunities for all in the surrounding area.

This year, the MCCF has continued to carry out the above mission even with the additional challenges COVID has presented. MCCF thanks and appreciates the many Heroes of Hope that have emerged during this time—students, staff, faculty, community members, and donors.

MCCF is pleased to offer a variety of scholarships for students across a wide curricular area. These scholarships are generally presented and celebrated at an Annual Scholarship Celebration held in the fall. Scholarship recipients will be celebrated differently this year due to COVID guidelines, but donors and recipients will be honored. The opportunity for donors to connect with the recipients of their scholarships has always been noted to be a special experience for both donor and recipient.

Our 2020 Annual Campaign is themed Heroes of Hope and seeks to increase scholarship funds specifically.

MCCF also helps fund unique learning opportunities and items that staff wish to provide for students and the community, but are not covered in the regular college budget.

Montcalm Community College Foundation is proud to be a partner with Montcalm Community College in continuing to look forward to creating the best tomorrows for all — students, staff and community members. That is especially true this year as MCCF works to provide opportunities for all — helping create a better future that is so especially important during these COVID-challenged times.

We hope you enjoy our year in review, and we encourage you to partner with us as a Hero of Hope.

Jane Anderson Beach

Endowed Scholarship Funds

The Foundation deeply appreciates the individuals and families that committed to provide lasting hope to our students through an endowed scholarship fund.

MCC Board of Trustees Scholarship
 MCCF Allen & Ellen Kohn Scholarship*
 MCCF Allen E. & Janet A. Kohn Scholarship
 MCCF Alumni & Friends Scholarship
 MCCF Anna Hertz-McCoy Memorial Scholarship
 MCCF Ardene (Diz) Oswald Memorial Scholarship
 MCCF Beatrice & Manfred Doser Memorial Scholarship-Chemistry/Engineering
 MCCF Beatrice & Manfred Doser Memorial Scholarship-Volunteerism
 MCCF Beth Anderson Memorial Current or Returning Student Scholarship
 MCCF Beth Anderson Memorial New Student Scholarship
 MCCF Camille Widdifield Memorial Scholarship
 MCCF Clifford J. Bedore Jr. Memorial Scholarship
 MCCF Copp Family Scholarship
 MCCF David W. Drake Scholarship*
 MCCF Don & Emma Goodell Scholarship
 MCCF Donald C. Burns Presidential Scholarship
 MCCF Doris M. Arntz Scholarship
 MCCF Dr. Gordon DeVries/Dr. Thomas Deurloo Scholarship
 MCCF Duane W. & Georgia A. Bohne Scholarship
 MCCF Edward Reddig Scholarship
 MCCF Erika A. Walters Scholarship
 MCCF Erin Kae Kitchenmaster Scholarship
 MCCF Family of Michelle Mater Gibson Agricultural Scholarship
 MCCF George & Janet Ravell Family Scholarship
 MCCF Grace Anne Hatto-Adler Memorial Scholarship
 MCCF Grace M. Sagendorf Scholarship
 MCCF Harold & Ruth Force Family Scholarship
 MCCF Herbert N. Stoutenburg Scholarship
 MCCF Jan and Mike McCrackin Family/Harvey Milling Agriculture Scholarship

MCCF Jan & Mike McCrackin Family/
 Irma McCrackin Memorial Nursing Scholarship
 MCCF Josh Fish Memorial Scholarship
 MCCF Judy K. DeVolder Nutt Scholarship
 MCCF Karen Hansen Nursing Scholarship
 MCCF Kenneth & Jacalyn Smith Scholarship
 MCCF Kenneth J. & Gail E. Lehman Scholarship
 MCCF Kenric Jones DeLong Service Scholarship: Kenny's
 Community Cash
 MCCF Kevin Carbonelli Memorial Scholarship
 MCCF Leslie K. Morford Scholarship
 MCCF Louise D. Buescher Scholarship
 MCCF Maureen Burns Scholarship
 MCCF MCC Education Support Personnel Association Scholarship
 MCCF MCC Employee Endowed Scholarship
 MCCF Merrill & Barbara Johnson Scholarship
 MCCF Michael J. Seaman Memorial Scholarship
 MCCF Mildred Farmer-Angwin Scholarship
 MCCF Montcalm Democrats for Community Scholarship
 MCCF Mr. & Mrs. John Hathaway Scholarship
 MCCF Nancy Fox Scholarship
 MCCF Nancy Steele Allen Edwards Memorial Nursing Scholarship
 MCCF Robert E. Campbell Memorial Scholarship
 MCCF Ruth Paddock Bedore Transfer Award
 MCCF Stafford Family Scholarship
 MCCF Stanley & Blanche Ash Scholarship
 MCCF Travis L. Bingaman Memorial Scholarship
 MCCF William & Harriette Cook Scholarship
 MCCF General Scholarship Fund

* *Established since last report*

To learn how to create an endowed scholarship, contact **Lisa Lund**, *MCCF Executive Director*

HEALTHCARE heroes

MCCF Scholarship Recipients Reflections

What inspired your career?

Kristine: "I was inspired to pursue a nursing career after witnessing firsthand just how much nurses can impact one's life for the better. In the winter of 2012, my father was diagnosed with brain cancer. Throughout his three-year battle I found myself wanting to be more like the nurses that were helping not only my dad, but my family, throughout the hardest years of our lives. I can't wait to work as a nurse, with hopes of making an impact on the families I help, just how the nurses who helped my father impacted me."

Jessica: "Over the past seven years, I worked as a social worker advocating for children who were victims of abuse and/or neglect. Seeing many of these children cared for by nurses, it fueled my passion and pursuit of the nursing profession. Nursing is a special career that allows you the opportunity to care for and support patients as they heal from illness and/or injury. I am excited to join this profession and continue serving others, specifically our most vulnerable or those who have experienced trauma."

How did this scholarship impact the pursuit of your dream?

Kristine: "This scholarship impacted the pursuit of my dream to become an RN tremendously. Through this



Kristine Temerowski, left, and Jessica Johnson, are the 2020-2021 MCCF Nancy Steele Allen Edwards Memorial Nursing Scholarship recipients.

scholarship, I was able to take away the financial burden of the nursing program. This has been a huge stress reliever and has given me the opportunity to focus more of my time on school, rather than working full-time to pay for school. With the help of this scholarship, I am proud to say I have earned myself a spot on MCC's honor's list throughout all my nursing program semesters thus far. I'll be working hard to do this again for my final two semesters in the program."

Jessica: "This scholarship greatly impacted my life. It provided an opportunity to focus more on school and work less. Without this opportunity, being successful in the nursing program would have been a constant source of stress and worry. I am grateful every day that this scholarship has offered me the opportunity to pursue my dream of becoming an RN."

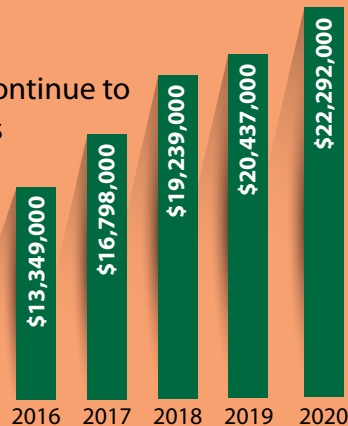
As an MCC student, how does "hope" help you?

Kristine: "Hope has helped guide me throughout not only my college career, but my life. Looking back three years ago, I would have never thought I would be where I'm at today. MCC and this scholarship have made a goal of mine, that seemed so impossible to reach, much easier to attain than I could have ever imagined. Hope has made me happy with where I am, and excited to see what I will continue to accomplish."

Jessica: "As a college student hope is very important to me. Hope is that feeling of optimism. Without it, I would not be pursuing this career. As a future nurse, I recognized that hope is also a vital part of the healing journey for patients. It is because of hope that I strive to be better, work harder and give more." ■

Assets

The MCC Foundation's assets continue to steadily increase. This growth is attributed to both donations and market performance. At right is a five-year data trend sourced from MCCF combined investment summaries, rounded to the nearest \$1,000.



By the Numbers
2019 - 2020

\$185,300
ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED



\$827
AVERAGE AWARDS AMOUNT



206
TOTAL AWARDS GIVEN

\$388,000

TOTAL AVAILABLE MCC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS AND AID (2019 - 2020)

Ellafrits Recognized for 25 Years of Service

MCC Foundation Directors extend their deep appreciation to Dick Ellafrits who in June stepped down from the Board at the conclusion of his elected term. Ellafrits became an MCCF Director in 2005 and served as treasurer since 2006. During his tenure, Ellafrits providing steadfast service leading to positive growth for the Foundation and its assets. Ellafrits was honored by his colleagues with MCCF Director Emeritus status. Succeeding Ellafrits is Josh Gibbs, who was elected as the incoming treasurer. Ellafrits and Gibbs worked closely together to create a smooth leadership transition.



Dick Ellafrits



Josh Gibbs

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Mail to: MCCF
2800 College Drive
Sidney, MI 48885

Ash Community College Enhancement Fund

Purpose: Help the college develop and enhance career training, educational opportunities, programs and services for the students, alumni and citizens of the college community; help the college maintain existing and future programs; develop and enhance those activities which shall benefit and enrich the lives of citizens through college programs; and support architectural improvements and beautification projects for the college campuses.



This fund supported several initiatives including the Early College program, new microscopes for classrooms, Creating Futures Consortium, and a new gymnasium sound system. Several in-person educational and cultural events were provided under the creative lead of college faculty as described on pages 26-27. These include Native American Month, Alumni and Friends Celtic Christmas Concert, "The Meeting," Historical Timeline Installations for Black History Month (February) and Women's History Month (March), and Women's History Month events.



This past spring, the Foundation provided \$5,000 in matching funds from the Ash Community College Enhancement Fund toward a Heritage Village project to install vinyl siding on the church building. The project was a great opportunity for the MCCF to collaborate to enhance this unique learning venue, as Heritage Village provides hands on education about Montcalm County's history and is located on the college's Sidney campus. Montcalm Heritage Village Committee President Shannon Kilduff said that the Foundation has supported similar Heritage Village preservation projects before. "Residing the church was determined to be a pressing need and this project will enable our community to enjoy and experience the building as part of the village experience for years to come," she said. ■

What's your legacy?

Have you ever thought about leaving a lasting legacy that will impact MCC and students for years to come? The MCC Foundation has a Legacy Society that recognizes individuals and families who have included MCC in their will or deferred giving plans. To learn more, visit montcalm.edu/legacy-society

General Fund

Purpose: Support MCC learning activities, strategic initiatives, and community outreach.

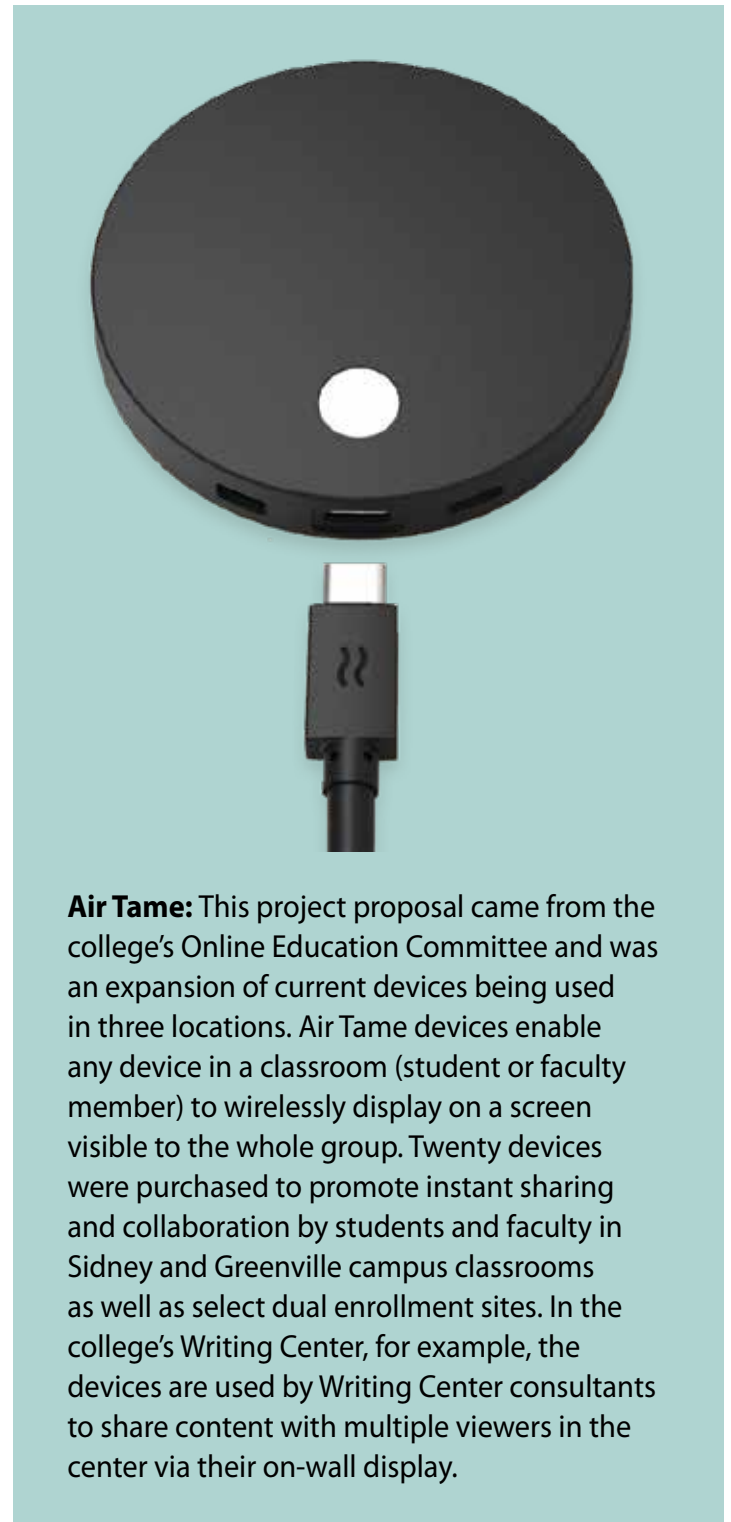
Making a Difference Grants

One general fund initiative is Making a Difference Grants. These grants support innovative teaching and learning as well as promote cultural, social, and economic programming. Five projects were funded in 2019-2020.

Mobile Teaching Station: This is an expansion of technology already being utilized successfully at the Sidney campus and dual enrollment locations. This grant purchased a mobile teaching station to provide virtual classes where students do not need to be present in the classroom. Remote learning experiences can reduce student learning barriers such as transportation or child care. "I am thankful that we got the mobile teaching station because it made it possible to still have my class when we had to move to a more spacious room for social distancing," said MCC Mathematics Instructor Brianne Lodholtz.



MCC Language Arts Instructor Ben Stancil stands in front of a mobile teaching station purchased through a Making a Difference Grant. Its success has led to the expansion of several units.



Air Tame: This project proposal came from the college's Online Education Committee and was an expansion of current devices being used in three locations. Air Tame devices enable any device in a classroom (student or faculty member) to wirelessly display on a screen visible to the whole group. Twenty devices were purchased to promote instant sharing and collaboration by students and faculty in Sidney and Greenville campus classrooms as well as select dual enrollment sites. In the college's Writing Center, for example, the devices are used by Writing Center consultants to share content with multiple viewers in the center via their on-wall display.



MCC Instructional Technology Consultant Kevin Wagenmaker demonstrates the technology used to deliver live online instruction remotely. The MCCF provided a Making a Difference Grant to help purchase this needed classroom equipment.

Saving Summer: Funds from this grant were used to enhance MCC funds to purchase systems to broadcast classes online so students can attend face-to-face classes from home. While intended to support Summer 2020 courses during the pandemic, this technology is now fundamental to how we envision the delivery of many courses moving forward. The technology allows visual and audio broadcast of a class in real time to students at locations off-site and moreover, providing an interactive, true live online experience.



Improv for Better Communication: MCC Career Services is partnering with MCC's Speech and Communications Department to bring a fun and engaging communication/public speaking workshop to our students. Research shows that Improv techniques can significantly enhance listening, communication, and public speaking skills. Working with presenter Julie Ostrow, we have scheduled this into three different workshops. Two sessions were presented virtually in Leslie Neal's Communications classes in October. The third presentation will be a virtual campus visit.



Koru Mindfulness Training: MCC employee Kire Wierda received training as a certified Koru teacher. This project will help create a learning community that is better equipped to manage stress, focus their minds and provide opportunities to broaden their perspectives on issues and challenges they may be facing. She began delivering this programming virtually this fall to students, staff, and community members. This curriculum is designed specifically for college students and other young adults.

Developing Talent Fund

Purpose: Addressing critical shortages in the region's workforce and providing mechanisms for increasing the number of students pursuing careers in high-wage, high-skill, in-demand occupations.

EXPLORE Student Pathfinder Technology Promotes Student Program and Transfer Research

EXPLORE (with its Program, Inform, and Navigate modules) is a new resource integrated with our website content. Anyone can access this tool directly from our college website home page and can request additional information based on what they are learning. EXPLORE enables individuals to easily explore and compare careers, review academic programs, consider program costs, and consider current MCC transfer arrangements with four- year institutions. Someone using the program is also able to request additional information. College counselors and advisors now have another tool to support students with their plans.

MCC Career Advisor Amy Zdanowski uses EXPLORE Student Pathfinder to discuss career and program options with a student . This MCCF funded tool can be accessed by anyone through the college's website.



MCC Industrial Technology Lab Coordinator Tim Rogers demonstrates the new FANUC Robot. The MCCF provided funds to attain this technology to support cutting-edge training.

FANUC Robot Trains Highly Skilled Workforce

The MCCF has purchased multiple robots for its automation programs. This year, the MCCF purchased a FANUC robot. These robots have enabled the industrial faculty to use National Science Foundation (NSF) funding to advance MCC's automation curriculum. As manufacturing continues to move toward Industry 4.0, the advanced curriculum and hands-on robotic training will create a highly skilled workforce. The robotic hands-on skills cannot be simulated. Each semester 10 to 20 students work with the robots as they prepare to complete the automation program. To further their value, we have aligned a national certification to the curriculum. We are also working to share Industry 4.0 with local businesses, while also improving the trailer curriculum to increase recruitment and awareness through demonstrations and camps. This work has allowed us to partner with Grand Rapids Community College, Muskegon Community College, and Michigan Works to write a Department of Labor (DOL) grant focusing on increasing the automation workforce as DOL plans to decrease the number of H1 visas. The grant will increase program enrollment and increase Industry 4.0 awareness. The total DOL grant will be \$7 million and we can use the funds to pay for tuition or discounted tuition. ■

We **appreciate** the continued support of our MCC Foundation donors

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Associate degree programs

Accounting, A.A.S.
Agribusiness, A.A.S. (Michigan State University)
Agricultural Operations, A.A.S.
(Michigan State University)
Associate of Science & Arts
Business Entrepreneurship, A.A.S.
Business Management, A.A.S.
Business Marketing, A.A.S.
Computer Network Administration
Cosmetology Management, A.A.S.
Criminal Justice A.A.S.
Digital Arts A.A.S.
Early Childhood Education, A.A.S.
Education Support, A.A.S.
Engineering Technology, A.A.S.
Industrial Automation Maintenance A.A.S.
Medical Office Administration, A.A.S.
MiTransfer Pathway
Arts Associate of Arts
Biology Associate of Science
Business Associate of Science
Communication Associate of Arts
Criminal Justice Associate of Science
Exercise Science Associate of Science
Psychology Associate of Arts

Office Administration, A.A.S.
Pre-Animal Health Technology A.S. (Leading to all Vet Tech programs at Michigan State University)
Registered Nursing (ADN), A.A.S.
Skilled Trades, A.A.S.
Technical Design in Manufacturing, A.A.S.
Web Developer & Programming, A.A.S.
Welding, A.A.S.

Certificate programs

Apprenticeship Training
Business Management Certificate
Computer Technology Certificate
Criminal Justice/Corrections Certificate
Digital Arts Certificate
Early Childhood Development Certificate
Industrial Automation Maintenance Certificate
Information Processing Assistant Certificate
Liberal Studies Certificate
(Michigan Transfer Agreement)
Medical Assistant Certificate
Pre-Animal Health Technology Certificate
(Leading to Vet Tech Bachelor's Degree at Michigan State University)
Preveterinary Certificate
Skilled Trades-Machinist Certificate
Skilled Trades-Maintenance Mechanic Certificate
Skilled Trades-Tool & Die Maker/Designer Certificate
Web Developer & Programming, Certificate
Welding Technology Certificate

Bachelor's degrees through articulation

Business Administration Professional Track, A.A.S.
(Leading to B.S. at Ferris State University)

Nursing Professional Track, A.A.S.
(Leading to B.S.N. Through Articulation to Partner Institutions)

Job training programs

Business Management Job Training Program

Child Development Associate Job Training Program

Digital Arts Job Training Program

Long-Term Care Nurse Assistant

Michigan Corrections Officer Training

Office Applications Job Training Program

Pre-Animal Health Technology Job Training
(Leading to Certificate of Completion in Vet Tech at Michigan State University)

Programming Job Training Program

Web Developer Job Training Program

Welding Job Training Program

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The MiTransfer Pathway degrees are intended to set students up to transfer for a bachelor's degree to a participating college or university through the MiTransfer Pathways Project agreement. Students interested in pursuing this program are strongly encouraged to meet with an MCC counselor in addition to a counselor from the college or university they intend to transfer to determine their plan.

MiTransfer Pathway Arts Associate of Arts

Visit montcalm.edu/mitransfer-art for more information.

MiTransfer Pathway Biology Associate of Science

Visit montcalm.edu/mitransfer-biology for more information.

MiTransfer Pathway Business Associate of Science

Visit montcalm.edu/mitransfer-business for more information.

MiTransfer Pathway Communication Associate of Arts

Visit montcalm.edu/mitransfer-communication for more information.

MiTransfer Pathway Criminal Justice Associate of Science

Visit montcalm.edu/mitransfer-criminal-justice for more information.

MiTransfer Pathway Exercise Science Associate of Science

Visit montcalm.edu/mitransfer-exercise-science for more information.

MiTransfer Pathway Psychology Associate of Arts

Visit montcalm.edu/mitransfer-psychology for more information.



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