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Community College
Montcalm *Spring 2022*

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on the cover

MCC nursing students Zoe Helmer of Six Lakes, at right, and Alexandra Swanger of Greenville examine the Baby Luna simulated manikin.

inside front cover

The Donald C. Burns Administration/Library Building on MCC's Sidney campus.

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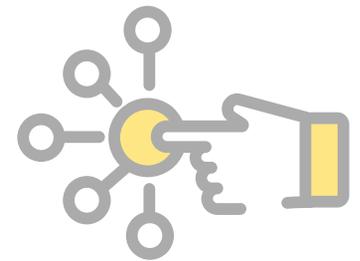


Montcalm Community College Biology Instructor Dr. Michelle Gibson, at right, works with MCC students Baleigh French of Grand Rapids and Tiffany Tammark of Belmont, at left, on the Anatomage 8.0 virtual cadaver table.



Interactive **technology**

MCC students dissect virtual cadaver at the touch of a finger



By Shelly Springborn

Tia Chambers was a little disappointed that Montcalm Community College's human cadaver was replaced with a virtual version, but the disappointment didn't last long.

"The advancement in technology is amazing!" exclaimed Chambers, who is a student in MCC's Anatomy and Physiology II class taught by Biology Instructor Michelle Gibson, Ph.D.

"The fact that you can easily manipulate it to look at specific systems such as seeing just the muscular system, nervous system or skeleton has been a unique experience that has been beneficial to utilize alongside lecture and other study materials," Chambers said.

The MCC Foundation funded the purchase of the Anatomage 8.0 table to provide more opportunities for students. It features life-sized, head-to-toe specimens of four cadavers, showing three-dimensional veins, muscles, arteries, organs and bones that are fully dissectible and ready to explore with just the touch of a finger. This virtual experience allows students to be one-on-one with all the intricacies found within the human body at the convenience of a digital tablet. In addition, there are hundreds of animal cadavers – such as reptiles, amphibians, birds and mammals – which will aid in instruction in a variety of other classes at the college.

Dr. Gibson said the addition of this technology this spring is the first time in history that MCC students have been able to explore such diverse bodies, with four specimens cataloged in the system. Two females and two males include one with a brain tumor who died from lethal injection, one with gastric cancer who was pregnant, one who died of leukemia and one who suffered a heart attack.

"We only had one cadaver before," Dr. Gibson said. "Most often, our cadavers were female, and often didn't have their reproductive organs. They were also older – age 59 was the youngest cadaver we have ever had.

"To have cadavers of different backgrounds and younger ages is invaluable," Dr. Gibson said. "We are able to see a lot of different features."

For example, Dr. Gibson explained that previous cadavers, due to age and lifestyle choices, often had very little muscle definition, while the muscles in the digital cadavers of younger, more fit individuals are more well defined.

"It's amazing the conclusions you can make regarding lifestyle and habits from the shape of a person's body," Dr. Gibson said.

Chambers said while she had looked forward to experiencing the feel of a real human cadaver, she finds a lot of value in the virtual version.

"At first, I did feel I may have missed out a bit by not getting the hands-on experience, but the virtual cadaver has allowed for new experiences that can be visited and revisited as well as offering visual aspects of different body types and ethnicities," she said. "I did not expect to have this experience at MCC."

Dr. Gibson said in addition to being able to explore the specimens in great detail, the virtual cadaver also features options that simply are unattainable with a human body specimen.

"The day we were studying hearts, we brought up the circulatory system. We could see the heart, dissect it in layers, look at the anatomy of all the blood vessels and we also could see the blood flow," Dr. Gibson said. "These real-life physiological recreations allow us to explore the individual body systems function in a way that we cannot recreate on a real cadaver.

"We can see how the heart contracts to pump blood throughout the body and how muscles contract and relax during running," Dr. Gibson said.

Dr. Gibson also explained that once a cut was made to explore a lesson on a real cadaver, it never could be duplicated. That meant not all students could experience every aspect of working on a real cadaver.

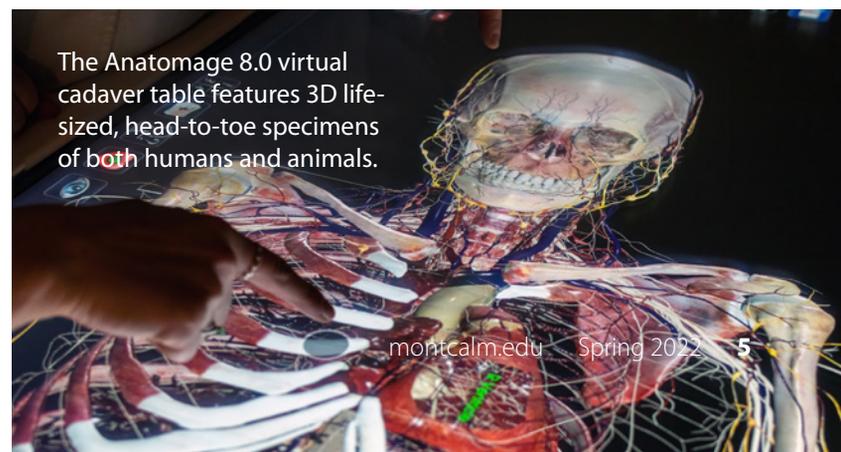
"We just don't have those limitations with the Anatomage cadaver," she said.

In addition, the technology comes with a complete library of case studies which can be used as teaching tools to target instruction for students with varying interests.

"We have endless options to provide personalized learning for our students," Dr. Gibson said. "This really is the type of technology that is usually not available until a student moves on to the university level." ■

"We have endless options to provide personalized learning for our students."

– Dr. Michelle Gibson, MCC Biology Instructor



Simulated manikin allows illnesses on **command**

MCC nursing students get hands-on training in a no-risk setting

By Shelly Springborn

The use of a high-fidelity baby simulation manikin allows students in Montcalm Community College's nursing program to experience illnesses on command in a no-risk setting.

The Baby Luna simulated manikin provides a complete range of options for essential training in the care and medical treatment of babies. Built on a scalable platform to meet critical health care education objectives and compliance requirements in newborn nursing, Baby Luna enables students to practice and gain proficiency in newborn assessment, neonatal resuscitation, advanced life support and more.

Danielle Anderson, M.S.N., Dean of Nursing & Health Careers at MCC, said Baby Luna provides endless opportunities for learning.

"It's portable and it's realistic," Anderson said. "It gives a well-rounded experience for students to work with.

"The goal for any simulated manikin is for students to learn, make mistakes, and do it again so they are learning in that environment before they get out into the real world," she added.

Anderson said MCC is able to provide its nursing students up to 50 percent of overall clinical instruction using on-campus virtual simulation, and up to 100 percent in specialty areas such as mental health, OB and pediatrics.



MCC Nursing Instructor Tracy Zamarron uses the Baby Luna simulated manikin as a teaching tool.

In addition, she said the simulated manikin technology allows students to experience situations they may not experience in a clinical setting.

"We use the term low-volume, high-risk in the clinical setting. Health care professionals may see one or two real-life patients during their career that have something occur that is high risk. There are illnesses and conditions that just aren't seen very often," Anderson said.

"With Baby Luna, we can mimic symptomology as we want to. You can't do that with a real live baby. You're going to see a baby in a clinical setting as is. With the manikin, we can create the environment we want to create for the students to learn," she added.

The MCC Foundation funded the purchase of Baby Luna.

"The Foundation Board is committed to serving MCC's students and the community by supporting needs such as this that provide leading-edge opportunities for instruction," said MCC Foundation Executive Director Lisa Lund. "With changing needs in the workplace, and especially in health care, we are trying to ensure our students have the tools they need that provide unique opportunities for hands-on training." ■

living the **dream**

Beau Jensen brings video games to life through creative marketing

by Lexie Barnwell

Like many students coming out of high school, Beau Jensen had no idea what kind of career field he wanted to go into, but Montcalm Community College was there as a steppingstone toward his future.

Jensen took several dual enrollment classes at MCC while attending Lakeview High school, so his transition to the college was simple. He said the main reasons he chose to attend MCC were because he was already familiar with the college, he could take the same classes at lower prices than most other schools and it gave him time to figure out his next steps.

While at MCC, he completed many of his general education requirements, but was also able to take unique classes such as botany.

“People don’t realize the variety of classes that MCC offers. It’s a great place to explore different fields and find what you like before moving on to a four-year institution.”



After MCC, Jensen transferred to Ferris State University where he majored in Public Relations (PR). He said while he was still uncertain of his job path, he knew he was good at writing, talking and connecting with people, and PR seemed like a great choice with endless job opportunities.

Jensen tried his hand in sports PR as an intern for the Grand Rapids Griffins hockey team. After graduating from Ferris, he then went to work in agency PR. He said both positions provided valuable experience, but they weren’t the right fit for him.

“Do what you’re good at and what you love,” Jensen said. “I knew I was good at marketing and public relations; I just didn’t love the things I was marketing for.”

After this realization, Jensen discovered his dream career at Bethesda Softworks, a video game publisher based in Maryland, with games known around the world.

“I found people who worked for Bethesda on LinkedIn and Twitter and followed them, started liking and commenting on their posts, and then sent them my resume. I was thrilled when they contacted me to fly out for an interview,” he said.

Shortly thereafter, he began his dream career.

Now, four years later, Jensen has been promoted from Associate PR Manager to PR Manager and oversees marketing efforts for three different branches of the company in the United States and Europe. Among all his job duties, some of his favorites are playing the games so he knows how to properly market them and planning events all over the United States.

One of Jensen’s most exciting moments was the launch of the DEATHLOOP video game in September 2021 and watching the positive feedback roll in from players around the world. The success of the launch was made so incredible by hundreds of people at Bethesda, but Jensen’s team played a big role.

“Nothing is unattainable,” Jensen said. “What I get to do every day doesn’t even feel like a job because it’s something I love and I’m good at.” ■

summerregistration

Why summer classes?

Why not!

The MCC Foundation is offering more than \$65,000 in special summer scholarships

MCC Admissions Representative Juan Granados meets with student Zach Yonker of Saranac.

By Shelly Springborn

Do you want to graduate faster from college? Why not take a summer class or two at Montcalm Community College to get ahead?

MCC offers more than 75 classes this summer in a variety of formats to fit all learning styles.

Maybe you want to get some of your general education requirements done or get a prerequisite out of the way for a class you want to take in the fall?

Popular courses during the spring and fall semesters usually mean jam-packed classrooms. This can make it tough to get a good seat, pay attention to lectures, ask questions and have one-on-one discussions with your instructor. Because fewer students typically opt for summer sessions, it often means smaller class sizes and more one-on-one attention for summer students.

Plus, with in-person, online, hybrid and live online options, you'll be able to connect with your instructors and classmates in a way that's comfortable for you.

Another bonus is that summer classes are just eight weeks long instead of 16, so you'll still have lots of time to have fun with your friends and family.

If you want to take an online class, MCC has waived its prerequisite course GNST 115 - Effective Online Learning, to reduce barriers for you to get into the class you want.

To sweeten the deal, the MCC Foundation is offering more than \$65,000 in special scholarships to help students who continue their education at MCC this summer. Because awards will be made on a first-come, first-served basis, you should apply soon. The summer scholarship application is electronic and very easy to complete. Visit montcalm.edu/scholarships to apply and for more information.

"We are doing everything we can to support our students," said MCC Vice President for Academic Affairs Rob Spohr. "For summer, we have added several sections of general education courses and courses that are highly transferrable to other colleges and universities. We're trying to reduce barriers for students and offer the high-quality instruction they deserve."

For a complete list of MCC's summer course offerings and a link to register for classes, visit montcalm.edu/summer-2022. MCC's summer classes begin June 6 and end Aug. 1, unless otherwise noted. Registration is available now and will continue until summer classes begin.

For more information, Live Chat is available through MCC's website at montcalm.edu, email studentservices@montcalm.edu or call MCC's Student Services at **989-328-1277**. ■

It's time to register for fall classes at MCC

Don't wait to register for fall classes at Montcalm Community College if you want to get the classes you need, in the formats you prefer and at the times that work in your schedule.

For a complete list of MCC's fall course offerings and a link to register for classes, visit montcalm.edu/fall-2022.

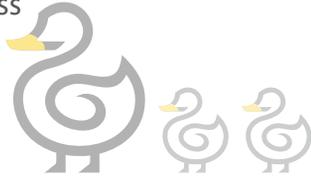
MCC's fall classes begin Aug. 20 and end Dec. 10, unless otherwise noted. Registration is available now and will continue until fall classes begin.

For more information, Live Chat is available through MCC's website at montcalm.edu, email studentservices@montcalm.edu or call MCC's Student Services at **989-328-1277**.



Find your **passion**

Jennifer Fike is studying business entrepreneurship at MCC to help her grow her business



By Shelly Springborn

Jennifer Fike didn't expect to find her passion as an agricultural entrepreneur, but the discovery leaves her "just ducky" most days.

The 27-year-old Sheridan-area resident, who had been dual-enrolled at Montcalm Community College when she attended Central Montcalm High School, found her way back to MCC in fall 2020.

"I started at MCC when I was in high school. Originally, I was going to go into teaching. I took some classes and realized that wasn't for me," Fike said. "I ended up taking a few classes, then I had some life events happen and I dropped out for a few years."

When COVID hit, the business she worked at was not open, leaving Fike wondering what she was going to do.

"I wanted to start a business, but I didn't really know where to start," she said. "So, I decided to go back to college."

At the time, she lived an hour from MCC, but the college's online classes were a perfect fit as she pursues an associate degree in business entrepreneurship.

"Everyone at MCC was really encouraging, which made my decision a lot easier," she said.

Although she eventually relocated to the Sheridan area, Fike said continuing her coursework online has given her the flexibility she needs to work while she builds her business.

In addition to working at a local restaurant, Fike owns and operates Vosika Farms, where she raises ducks, makes goat milk soap and natural skin care products and is getting started with vegetable production. She sells her products, which also includes eggs from her ducks, at local farm markets. Currently, she is working toward becoming licensed to sell her food products to a local restaurant that specializes in farm-to-table dining options.



Business and Accounting Instructor Bill Bishop, right, is one of Jennifer Fike's instructors at Montcalm Community College.

"I love being back in college. All the information I am learning has already helped me change my path on my business," Fike said.

Since establishing Vosika Farms in 2020, Fike has expanded her duck production.

"This whole thing started with four ducks that I bought at Tractor Supply Company because I was sad," Fike said. "This all started out as my hobby. It was sort of here's my ducks and here's my garden. I like having my own fresh eggs and vegetables."

When friends began asking her "when are you going to get cool ducks?" Fike realized she didn't know there were varieties other than the meat ducks she had purchased. She found a species of ducks that were more fitting for her – Call ducks are a bantam breed of domestic duck which look similar to other duck breeds, but are smaller in size. They

are very friendly and make excellent pets. In spring 2021, she hatched her first ducklings.

Now, Fike has about 40 ducks, and is researching how to become licensed to sell them nationwide through live shipments. She also has a dream of opening a duck “halfway house” where she would take in unwanted domestic ducks and provide a home for them. She also is pondering whether she could offer domestic duck owners a service where she would take their ducks over the winter to provide a safe and healthy environment for them, while their owners could take them back in the spring.

“One thing I have realized is that many people don’t have a place to keep their ducks over the winter, but they don’t want to get rid of them, either,” Fike said.

Accounting and Business Instructor Bill Bishop is one of Fike’s instructors at MCC.

“Owning your own business can be very rewarding, both personally and financially,” Bishop said. “We are blessed to live in such a great country with endless opportunities for entrepreneurs, and Jennifer is a perfect example of someone pursuing those dreams.”

Because small businesses come from varying industries in all shapes and sizes, Bishop said MCC’s business entrepreneurship program purposefully allows flexibility for students regardless of their interests.

“Whether the student has an interest in agricultural products and services, owning a metal working or welding shop, personal service, food service, retail, or many other industries, the tools we deliver in the

program will make them a better operator and business owner,” Bishop said.

“Entrepreneurs often have a great idea doing something they love, yet have difficulty putting the pieces in place for a successful plan of action,” he said. “These issues may involve marketing, financing, developing contacts, effectively tracking the business activities, and creating an actual business plan that is realistic and will work.”

MCC’s entrepreneurship program addresses all these elements of starting a business, with the overall goal being to give students the skills and confidence needed to successfully follow their dreams.

“One day down the road, my work will pay off, even if I don’t make a profit,” Fike said. “It’s about starting my business and learning from it.”

“Through my coursework so far, I have learned that making one-on-one connections and providing excellent customer service is a key to success,” Fike said. “Of all the things I have learned from my journey, don’t get into business just to make a profit. Find your passion. When you start making a profit, you know you are doing well.” ■

For more information

Visit or LiveChat: montcalm.edu/academics

Email: studentservices@montcalm.edu

Call: 989-328-1277



Jennifer Fike raises Call ducks, which make excellent pets.



MCC students are “a major league talent”



By Shanika P. Carter

Dr. Lance Miller, adjunct instructor at Montcalm Community College (MCC), jokes about being the oldest person on staff, as well as the one with the least amount of hair.

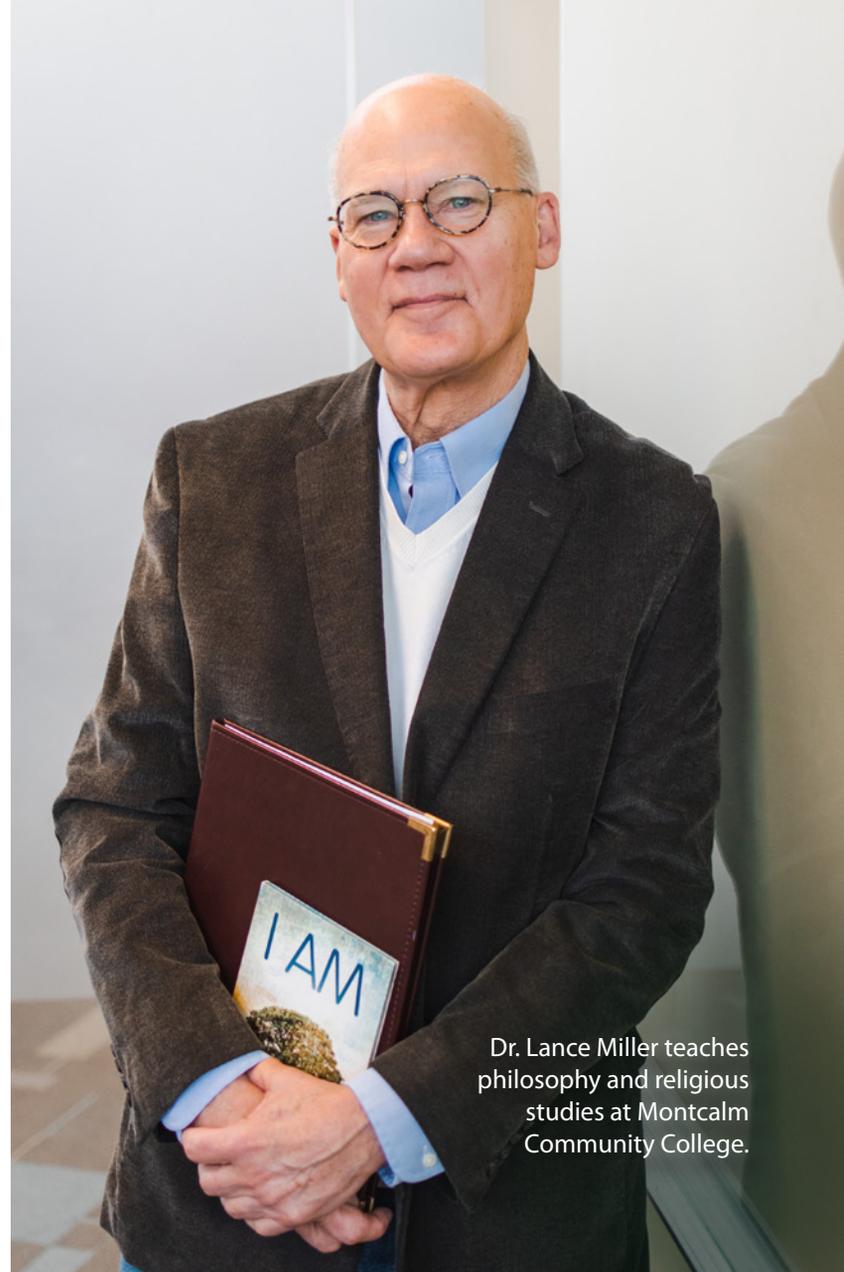
“I’ve been here at MCC since 1997 and have had students in classes that inform me that their mom or dad were in my classes years ago,” Dr. Miller said.

Beginning his teaching career at the college level in 1987, Dr. Miller has worked in both full and part-time roles for several universities and colleges, which has further elevated his experience and wisdom. With MCC, he feels his time as an adjunct instructor has been one that gives him the opportunity to concentrate on providing a quality teaching experience to students who are just as academically prepared as students at bigger colleges.

Miller said that when he is asked about the differences between teaching students at other colleges versus students in a rural environment such as MCC, he responds to these questions by informing them of the students’ thirst to learn and their open-mindedness.

“There is an attitude out there in some high-brow academic circles that a small rural community college, such as MCC, consists of students who are learning how to learn on a rudimentary level,” Dr. Miller explained. “However, it is my experience comparing some reputable universities with MCC that students here have as much aptitude as anywhere else.”

A teacher of philosophy and religious studies, Dr. Miller’s courses embody a deep personal meaning and relate to life issues. His students bring their real-world experiences to



Dr. Lance Miller teaches philosophy and religious studies at Montcalm Community College.

the classroom, which end up making the courses personal for them too. Dr. Miller said his classes are delivered in a manner where he witnesses, and participates in, each individual feeding and learning from one another in the process.

Referring to MCC students as “major league talent,” he added, “I’ve learned as much from students as they have from me.”

Dr. Miller is fulfilled in what he does as an educator, with a teaching philosophy that applies to life.

“Following the inner guide is important – that is, finding what is most meaningful, what enhances life for oneself and others,” he said. “One needs to go deep to find that, though, and sometimes it’s the pain that takes us there.” ■

Tabitha Keiffer feels **'at home'** at MCC

By Shanika P. Carter

When Tabitha Keiffer first enrolled in classes at Montcalm Community College in 2006, she said she felt “at home.”

Keiffer, of Carson City, graduated from MCC in 2013 with an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN). Previously a certified pharmacy technician, Keiffer had the opportunity to work as a patient care tech on the medical surgical unit and the emergency department at Sparrow Carson Hospital in Carson City while in nursing school. Once she completed the ADN program, she began working as a registered nurse (RN) at the hospital, where she worked between the intensive care, pediatrics, and medical surgical units.

Completing her master’s degree in nursing education five years ago, Keiffer started teaching in clinical and simulation settings.

“This is what started it all for me,” she explained. “I did not realize I had such a passion for education until I started educating students.”

Keiffer said this was the drive for her to seek a full-time position as a nurse educator.

Four years ago, she began working at MCC as a part-time nursing instructor. In August 2021, she transitioned into a full-time faculty position, where she teaches in classroom, lab, and clinical settings and on a variety of nursing-related topics. Her courses include Nursing Care of the Adult Patient, Foundations in Nursing and Pharmacology for Allied Health.

Keiffer said she has always felt a positive connection with MCC, and she is thrilled to be sharing her passion for teaching with students at the institution where she started.

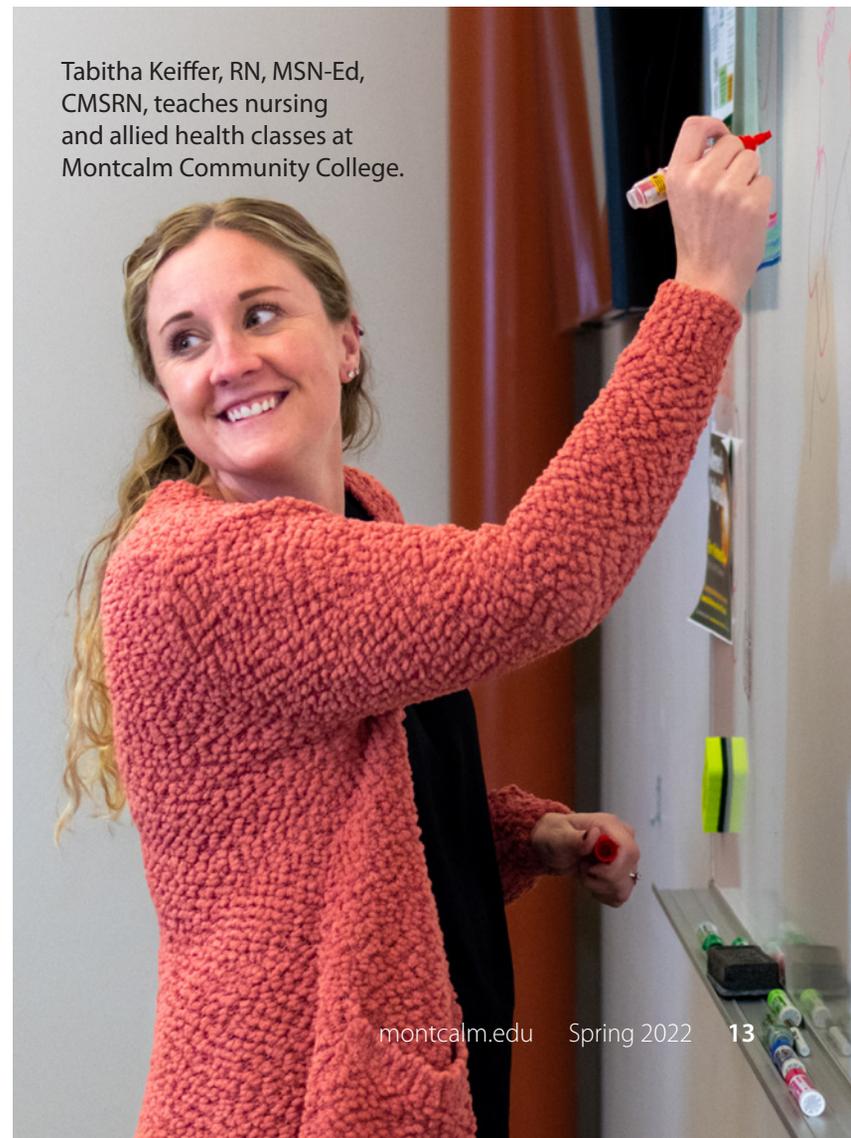
“It has been wonderful! It helps that I know most of my team already, and they really are like family. Everyone has been more than helpful and welcoming,” she said.

Preparing to celebrate her 13th wedding anniversary this fall, Keiffer has two daughters, ages five and seven, so she stays busy. That doesn’t change her goal of becoming certified in education and potentially advancing her degree.

Keiffer has specific goals for the classroom, with the primary goal of bringing a clinical judgement to the classroom. She strives for hands-on learning, wishing to tie in the whole picture of clinical, lab and classroom learning. While meeting these goals in the classroom, she will continue to progress in her career in education – something that she sees happening as she continues with MCC.

“I truly feel like I am home now in my full-time position and plan to stay here for many years to come!” she said. ■

Tabitha Keiffer, RN, MSN-Ed, CMSRN, teaches nursing and allied health classes at Montcalm Community College.



MCC offers students a variety of transfer options



By Shelly Springborn

You can literally go just about anywhere from here.

At Montcalm Community College, we're committed to helping you achieve academic success, and that means we're here to support you every step of the way.

Transfer Articulation Agreements

More than 125 transfer agreements provide options for seamless transfer into a variety of advanced-degree programs at other institutions. We have a variety of agreements in a traditional 2+1 or 3+1 format. That means, you can either take two years of coursework at MCC and finish two more years at your transferring institution, or you can take three years of coursework at MCC and just one year at your transferring institution.

Michigan Transfer Network

Transferring to a four-year college or university from MCC is even easier, thanks to several statewide agreements that offer seamless transfer pathways.

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. A pathway in social work will be available beginning fall 2022.

“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.”

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. 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.”

“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.

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)

Reverse Transfer

Reverse transfer allows former students, who have continued their education at other accredited institutions, to transfer classes back to MCC to apply toward a degree, certificate or job training credential.

You must arrange for an official transcript to be sent to MCC from the other institution you attended with an indication that it is a reverse transfer. Your file will be audited for degree completion, and if requirements for a degree are met with the transferred classes, a degree will be awarded. ■

For more information

Visit montcalm.edu/transfer

Email studentsuccess@montcalm.edu

Call 989-328-1264

“These agreements take the pressure off students to have to decide early on which school they want to transfer to.”

– Lisa Gardner, MCC Director of Student Success and Advising

MCC is

'Transforming Lives, Empowering People'

The MCC Foundation pledges \$1 million toward the college's major gifts campaign

By Shelly Springborn

The Montcalm Community College Foundation has pledged a lead gift of \$1 million in support of the college's "Transforming Lives, Empowering People" campaign, which is under way at the lead gifts level.

The "Transforming Lives, Empowering People" campaign is designed to allocate \$7 million to developing programs to help students gain access and be successful at MCC.

MCC Foundation President Jane Anderson Beach said the Foundation is pleased to support the campaign at this level.

"The general consensus of the Foundation Board members was that we want to show how much the Foundation believes in and works with the college in supporting its mission of transforming lives through quality education. The Foundation's pledge is a great way to demonstrate our support," Anderson Beach said.

In addition to building needs, Anderson Beach said there is great support at the Foundation level for the student success and scholarship initiatives also included in the campaign.

"Foundation Board members really want students to be successful and are supportive of additional measures to help them," Anderson Beach said.

The "Transforming Lives, Empowering People" campaign includes six major initiatives that will enhance and expand student access, MCC's Sidney campus and positively impact our community.

The lead initiative is a \$5 million renovation of the Kenneth J. Smith Instructional Building. The Smith Building is a major campus destination as it holds more than half of the college's Sidney campus classroom space, its flagship nursing program, and courses in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

As one of the college's original buildings, the Smith Building opened in 1966 and includes classrooms, laboratories and instructors' offices. Last updated in 1999, the building was quickly approaching a point where it either needed to be renovated or it would deteriorate beyond usefulness.

“Foundation Board members really want students to be successful and are supportive of additional measures to help them.”

*– MCC Foundation President
Jane Anderson Beach*

Upon completion, the Smith Building will be transformed into the college’s Center for Nursing & Health Careers and the Center for STEM Learning. Specialized spaces will include clinical simulation labs, preparation and debriefing rooms, treatment rooms, a clinical testing and training apartment lab, science and biology labs, phlebotomy labs and specialized student learning spaces, as well as the addition of specialized equipment and technology.

MCC President Stacy H. Young, Ph.D., said investments made through the “Transforming Lives, Empowering People” campaign will benefit the community for years to come.

“It is our belief that investing in Montcalm Community College improves the entire community. Educating the students of this county grows the economy of this community and the region,” Dr. Young said.

“In addition to creating modern, professional spaces for teaching and learning, the campaign will help fund educational resources, leading-edge equipment and scholarships to support our students,” Dr. Young added.

Other campaign initiatives include:

- \$500,000 toward a STEM Program Development and Technology Fund for equipment, technology and curriculum to support teaching and learning.
- \$500,000 toward First-Generation Scholarships to benefit students who are the first in their family to go to college.
- \$250,000 toward Mid-Career Scholarships to benefit middle-income students who do not qualify for financial aid, but also do not have the means to pay cash for college.
- \$450,000 toward Program-Specific Scholarships to benefit students in specific program pathways.
- \$300,000 toward the MCC Express Conductor Program to provide a point of contact (conductor) to work with students from their first point of contact with the college to the time they enter classes and throughout their time at MCC. ■



Renovation of the Kenneth J. Smith Instructional Building on MCC’s Sidney campus will include creation of specialized classrooms, labs and student learning spaces.



For more information

Visit montcalm.edu/mccf

or contact MCCF Executive Director Lisa Lund at

Email lisal@montcalm.edu

Call **989-328-1284**

Dual enrollment, transfer help Maddie Homich **get ahead on college**

By Lexie Barnwell

Maddie Homich got a jump start on college while she was in high school.

During her senior year at Greenville High School, Homich decided to take advantage of Montcalm Community College's dual enrollment program, which allows students to take college-level courses while still in high school and receive both high school and college credit.

During fall 2020 and spring 2021 semesters, she completed coursework in freshman English, speech, bioethics,

psychology and medical terminology, earning a total of 18 credits by the time she graduated from high school in spring 2021.

In retrospect, Homich wishes she would have started taking classes her junior year so she could have had a full year of college credits complete and ready for transfer before graduating.

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.

"I was glad to start at MCC," Homich said. "It was comfortable for me to be in a smaller setting and it saved my family a lot of money."

Today, Homich attends Saginaw Valley State University and is a semester ahead because of the credits she transferred from MCC. She is currently in the pre-nursing program and is on track to apply to the nursing program in fall 2022. She hopes to complete her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and then get a job to gain some nursing experience. She then plans to continue her education to become a nurse practitioner.

It is Homich's dream to specialize in pediatric oncology and work at Helen Devos Children's Hospital. As a toddler, Homich was diagnosed with leukemia and spent much of her childhood with the kind of nurses she hopes to become one day.

Without MCC, Homich feels that her transition to SVSU would have been a shock.

"MCC really sets students up for success with their small class sizes and personable and helpful instructors," Homich said.

She also said she valued that the college uses much of the same technology that larger universities use.

"I cannot encourage high school students enough to start taking college classes at MCC while in high school," Homich said. "It makes you feel so much more prepared and excited to take on life at a university!" ■



Maddie Homich transferred her credits from Montcalm Community College to Saginaw Valley State University where she is pursuing a degree in nursing.

fast facts

During the 2020-2021 academic year:



949

NUMBER OF JOBS IN THIS COMMUNITY SUPPORTED BY MCC

↑↑↑ 5%

OVERALL SPRING ENROLLMENT IS UP AT MCC

653

NEW STUDENTS ENROLLED AT MCC THIS SPRING

\$15,066

THE AMOUNT PER YEAR AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE EARNS OVER A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

12

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE AT MCC

7.7 million

STUDENTS WERE ENROLLED IN COMMUNITY COLLEGES ACROSS THE U.S.

MCC introduces Montcalm **Excellence** Awards



By Shelly Springborn

Montcalm Excellence Awards is bringing a new approach to scholarships at Montcalm Community College.

Under the program, full-time students will be eligible for \$1,100 and part-time students will be eligible for \$500 annually to help with the cost of tuition and fees. Once awarded, they will be renewable for a second year by maintaining good academic standing.

MCC President Stacy H. Young, Ph.D., said Montcalm Excellence Awards aim to strengthen the college's recruitment and retention efforts by providing funding students can count on early in their college decision-making process and for the long haul.

"As we build this program, we are awarding Montcalm Excellence funding three times per year. That means those who apply early will have an answer early," Dr. Young said. "It is critical for students and their families to have a full financial picture early in the year as they consider options for which college to attend."

With nearly \$400,000 in scholarships available through the MCC Foundation, there is strong financial support for students. This new process is intended to take that support to a higher level.

"We realize that students and their families need all the help they can get paying for college," Dr. Young said.

Results of a recent economic impact study conducted by an independent firm on behalf of the college showed that MCC influences both the lives of its students and the regional economy through higher education. During the study year, MCC added \$53.7 million in impact to the college's service area economy. This impact supported 949 regional jobs. Ultimately, one out of every 88 jobs in the MCC service area



MCC Director of Financial Aid Rebekah Schaub, at right, assists a student.

is supported by the activities of MCC and its students.

"When we consider the immense economic impact MCC has on our local and regional economy, we recognize the critical need to continue to be able to provide high-quality, affordable education to those in the communities we serve," Dr. Young said.

Traditionally, MCC has accepted scholarship applications from January through April and has announced scholarship awards early in May.

"As we continue to focus on growing our enrollments as part of our mission of transforming lives through quality education, we realized that many students were making their college selection before we awarded our scholarships," Dr. Young said. "We are hopeful that the change in our award cycle will be beneficial to MCC as students and their families make their college selection."

Another perk is that unclaimed scholarship dollars will be reawarded. Students will need to register for fall classes by June 1 to keep their scholarship. Those who do not will forfeit their award and it will be reawarded to another potential student.

"This will really allow us to ensure all of the scholarship dollars so generously endowed through the MCC Foundation are used according to the donors' wishes," said MCC Foundation Executive Director Lisa Lund.

"Scholarships are one of the many ways in which the MCC Foundation supports our students as they work to achieve their academic dreams. Through their stewardship of the Foundation's resources, the MCCF Board continues to illustrate their long-term commitment to MCC and its students," Lund added. ■

By Shelly Springborn

When Valerie Flynn learned she was eligible to return to college through the state's Futures for Frontliners program, she was ecstatic.

What made the difference for her actually being able to follow through on her college dream was receiving a \$1,000 Beth Anderson New Student Scholarship from the Montcalm Community College Foundation to help pay for books, materials, tuition and fees that weren't covered under the state program.

"I was so excited when the state announced the Futures for Frontliners program. I knew it was my opportunity to go to college," Flynn said.

As a resident of the Sand Lake area, when Flynn applied to MCC, she realized that she was an out-of-district student. Futures for Frontliners would pay tuition and fees for classes at in-district rates, but she would have to pay the difference between the in-district and out-of-district tuition rates out of her own pocket, as well as expenses for books and materials.

Flynn is a first-time college student and the first in her family to attend college.

MCC Foundation scholarship helps Sand Lake woman **achieve** her dream

"I am excited to set an example for my two daughters," she said. "I want them to know it's never too late to achieve your dreams."

Flynn nearly had to forego college, though, when her husband was injured and off work for several months.

"Without the scholarship, I would not have been able to go to college," she said. "We just didn't have the extra money at the time to cover the out-of-pocket college costs. The scholarship really helped us a lot.

"During my first semester, I didn't have to pay for anything. This semester, I had to pay for a book," she said. "Receiving the scholarship allowed me to focus on my schoolwork."

Flynn enrolled at MCC in fall 2021 and is pursuing an Associate Degree in Business Management. She works full-time in patient access services with Spectrum Health.

"I have a lead role that I love," she said. "My goal is to gain more education so I can hopefully move up within the organization."

Flynn encourages others not to be afraid to follow their dreams.

"Trust the process and don't be afraid to reach out," she said. "I just applied for the scholarships on a whim and wasn't sure I would qualify. I was surprised and excited when I was awarded the scholarship." ■

For more information

Visit montcalm.edu/scholarships

Montcalm Community College student Valerie Flynn, of Sand Lake, received an MCCF Beth Anderson New Student Scholarship, which helped her achieve her dream of attending college.



Montcalm Community College prepares students for great careers in high-demand, high-wage fields. We offer small class sizes and class times that fit students' schedules on our campuses in Sidney and Greenville. For more information, visit montcalm.edu or call 989-328-1277.

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

Associate through Articulation

Cyber Defense transfer program (Leading to
an associate degree at Davenport University)

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)
Sports Management, A.A.S (Leading to B.S. in Sports
Management at Davenport University)

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



MCC Board of Trustees

Pictured from left to right. *Front row:* Chairperson Karen Carbonelli and Trustee Carol Deuling-Ravell

Back row: Vice Chairperson Robert Marston, Treasurer Kurt Peterson, Trustee Josh Stump and Trustee Esther Combs, Ph.D.

Not pictured: Secretary Joyce Kitchenmaster.

Highlighted Programs

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MiTransfer Pathway Social Work Associate of Arts (effective Fall 2022)

The MiTransfer Pathway Social Work Associate of Arts program is intended to set students up to transfer for a bachelor's degree to a participating college or university through the MiTransfer Pathways Project agreement. Upon completion of this program, graduates should be able to understand social work as a career, understand the role of social work in communities and demonstrate effective social work practice, meet general education core requirements and successfully transfer to a bachelor's degree program.

Education Support (A.A.S. and certificate)

This program is for students who desire training that satisfies state requirements for the Child Development Associate (CDA), Head Start programs, day care centers, home day care and related areas. Students who earn an associate of applied science degree in early childhood education will be prepared to be childcare professionals in a licensed childcare center where they are expected to organize and lead activities for young children.

Education Support (A.A.S.)

This program prepares students to be qualified educational paraprofessionals in Title I schools and other school districts complying with the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, and it offers students a solid foundation in general education courses, as well as education-related courses. Students who earn an associate of applied science degree in education support will be prepared to assist, instruct and supervise students in primary, secondary and other childcare centers; this job is most commonly known as a teacher's assistant.

Criminal Justice (A.A.S. and certificate)

The associate of applied science degree program prepares students for careers in the criminal justice field. It is designed to provide an understanding of criminal justice, while allowing students to obtain special work-related skills necessary for work in a variety of criminal justice positions with police, courts and corrections. This degree provides the foundation for continued study at the bachelor's degree level. The Criminal Justice/Corrections Certificate prepares students for careers with state, county or city correctional agencies. It meets the Michigan Corrections Officer Training Council employment guidelines. Coursework is transferrable to most colleges and universities offering degrees in corrections.



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of summer camps for
youths of all ages. Visit
montcalm.edu/camps
for all the details and a
link to register.



Questions? Contact MCC's Greenville campus at
community@montcalm.edu or **989-328-1210**.

