

Connecting with **community** through cultural offerings

By Shelly Springborn

At Montcalm Community College, 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.

This year, MCC set a goal to achieve 10,000 hours of community service. We have achieved about 90 percent of our goal, with the most up-to-date information posted on our website at montcalm.edu/volunteer.

"We challenged our employees and students to work toward achieving 10,000 volunteer hours to help make a difference in our community," said MCC President Stacy H. Young, Ph.D. "We find that a community thrives when more people are invested in the community. Volunteering is a great way to give back and help build a more vibrant area."

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.



MCC planners continue to craft new and innovative programs and delivery methods to provide opportunities in-person and virtually. Highlights of this year's cultural offerings include:

- The MCC Library brought together its community of readers during its ninth MCC Reads program from January through March.
- In February, the college celebrated Black History Month with a timeline on both of its campuses depicting key historical events and highlighting people who made significant contributions to black history from 1619 through the present.
- MCC hosted a bus trip to see "Stinney: An American Execution" opera rehearsal in February.
- The college supported a virtual tour of Ferris State University's Jim Crow Exhibit in February.
- MCC partnered with the World Affairs Council to host a virtual talk on global demographic changes "People in Transition: Examining Global Demographic Changes" presented by Dr. Mark Hugo Lopez, director of race and ethnicity research with the Pew Research Center.
- MCC brought to campus "Magic in March" by Preston Lyford, who was on Season 16 of America's Got Talent.
- MCC got "Styled for Success: A Workwear Fashion Show and Event" in April where models and speakers shared their expertise on a variety of career-related topics.
- In April, the MCC Alumni & Friends Choir presented Händel's Messiah Parts 2&3, Lent and Easter portion.
- In April, MCC hosted "Preparing4Success," an event aimed at preparing young adults in our community who are undergoing relocation efforts in their lives.





- To celebrate Women’s History Month in March, the college displayed a timeline highlighting key historical points that look back at barriers women have overcome to be accepted as equals to men in society and in the workplace.
- To support Women’s History Month, MCC hosted “Life Experiences,” a virtual presentation by Mrs. America 2022 Jackie Green, during which she discussed how life experiences shape our confidence as well as her intersex conditions and the ramifications of uninformed doctors.
- In April, the college celebrated World Health Day with “The Crack Chronicles, Dissection of a Demon,” presented by Syreeta Drake.
- In partnership with the public libraries in Montcalm County, the MCC Library participated in One Book One County Montcalm programming from May through September.
- In celebration of Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage (AAPI) Month, posters depicting key historical events and highlighting people who made significant contributions to AAPI heritage were on display on MCC’s Sidney campus during the month of May.
- Beginning in June, MCC hosted more than 30 summer camps for youths featuring topics such as science, welding, fine arts, dinner theater, health careers, computer aided design, fishing, music, LEGO®, K’NEX® and more.
- In June, MCC celebrated Pride Month with a timeline featuring key historical events, people and activities on display on its Sidney campus.

- To celebrate Pride Month, Montcalm Community College Psychology Instructor Jessica Snyder presented “The Science of Sex and Gender” on June 14, with a live presentation as well as an option to participate virtually.
- In September, MCC hosted its annual Constitution Day program in-person and live online with Social Science Instructor Andrea Puskas.
- From mid-September through mid-October, MCC celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with activities including a presentation on Hispanic culture by Elizabeth Hickel from the Grand Rapids Hispanic Center, Latin American Flag Scavenger Hunt, and the showing of the documentary “Our America: Todos Unidos.”
- In November, MCC celebrated Veterans Day with a virtual program that included a moment of silence for all veterans, a veterans roll call and a live online presentation.
- The college also celebrated Indigenous Peoples Month in November with activities including Anishinaabemowin Word-of-the-Week, a virtual tour of the “Native Truths: Our Voices, Our Stories” exhibit at the Chicago Field Museum, and Seth Sutton’s Teaching Thanksgiving presentation. ■

For more information

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