FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MCCC SEEKS HOST FAMILIES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

MONROE, Mich. — Monroe County Community College’s Youth For Understanding international exchange student program is seeking Monroe County residents willing to serve as host families for international students.

YFU is one of the world’s oldest, largest and most respected international exchange student programs. Since 1951, YFU has exchanged approximately 200,000 students around the world.

Families participating in the YFU program may choose to serve as an arrival family for one month or as a permanent placement family for one or two semesters. Host families receive a $200 stipend per month to assist with the cost of hosting. In addition, host families with teenagers automatically become eligible for a host-family discount if those teens wish to travel abroad with the YFU program. A host family may consist of a traditional two-parent home, single-parent home, “empty nesters” and couples with or without children.

“The YFU exchange program is a great and enriching opportunity for the students, host families and the community as a whole,” said Megan McCaffery-Bezeau, MCCC’s YFU coordinator. “MCCC is very fortunate to be a part of this successful program. International travel is not necessarily a priority for people right now, so this is a great way to get a little ‘taste’ of it right at home.”

(more)
This year, the international students will include:

• Patrick, an 18-year-old from the Netherlands. While in the U.S. he hopes to fine-tune his English skills and immerse himself in the American culture, learning about customs both similar and disparate to his own. He wants to major in engineering, in either the automotive or aerospace industries. He enjoys staying active and cycles eight miles a day to and from school.

• Weicheng, an 18-year-old from China. After spending a year of high school in Florida, he wants to learn more about the U.S. and share Chinese culture and traditions. Weicheng describes himself as very sociable and friendly, and he enjoys having the chance to make new friends. While at MCCC he wants to study business and improve his English skills. He enjoys playing soccer and the piano, and hopes to do both during his stay in the U.S.

• EunJung from South Korea is the third student who will be at MCCC this year. She arrived in January and is already settled with a host family. EunJung will be staying until December. The deadline for host family signup is July 30. The two new international students are expected to arrive in Monroe the week of August 15.

For more information on the YFU program at MCCC or to learn about becoming a host family, contact McCaffery-Bezeau at (734) 384-4258 or mmccaffery-bezeau@monroeccc.edu. Also, visit MCCC’s YFU international exchange student program Web site at www.monroeccc.edu/yfu.

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