Ophthalmic Assistants in Demand
See Page 6

A Love of Photography – A Burgeoning Business
See Page 8

MCCC to Offer Massage Therapy Training
See Page 9

MCCC, DTE Energy Partner on New Heavy and Industrial Construction Certificate
See Page 10

Color Your Career Green

MCCC Grads Join Companies Focused on Producing Environmentally Responsible Energy
See Pages 2-5
Explore the Opportunities

Monroe County Community College offers more than 100 credit program areas resulting in degrees, certificates and/or transfer options at four year institutions; the college also offers various other non-credit courses and certificates through its Office of Lifelong Learning.
The La-Z-Boy Center is accessible to those with disabilities. Assisted listening devices are available upon request.

**2009-10 Monroe County Community College Season Events Calendar**

Tickets will go on sale in August. Please stay tuned to the Web site for updates.

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<td>27 – Auto Show</td>
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<td>30 – Toledo Symphony Orchestra</td>
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<td>8 – Children’s Holiday Show</td>
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Keep Growing.
Education for the new economy.

You have the potential. We have the programs. Monroe County Community College offers the programs you need to advance your education. Your future. Your life. Whether you want to continue learning, enhance your job skills or take a new career direction, this is the place to start.

With dedicated faculty and staff, small class sizes, affordable tuition, and flexible schedules and locations, MCCC offers a practical, personal education that gives you a lifetime of value. To learn about programs and enrollment, call the Main Campus at 877-YES-MCCC or the Whitman Center in Temperance at 734-847-0559.

www.monroeccc.edu
Monroe County Community College Seeking Third-Party Comments

Monroe County Community College is seeking comments from the public in preparation for its comprehensive evaluation visit September 28-30, 2009, by a team representing The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (HLC-NCA). MCCC has been accredited by the Commission since 1972 and is seeking continued accreditation. The team will review the institution’s ongoing ability to meet the Commission’s Criteria for Accreditation.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding MCCC to:

Public Comment on Monroe County Community College
The Higher Learning Commission
30 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 2400
Chicago, IL 60602

Comments may also be submitted via an online comments form at www.ncahlc.org – File Third Party Comments.

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. The Commission cannot guarantee that comments received after the due date will be considered. Comments must be in writing and signed. They will not be treated as confidential and should include the name, address and telephone number of the person providing the comments.

Comments must be received by August 28, 2009.
Color your Career Green
Whatever your skills, you can make the world a better place

It's possible that soon we'll be looking back on the old days of petroleum-based energy. A shift away from coal and oil will most likely transform how we power our homes, what we drive, the food we eat and the products we buy.

It will probably transform what we do for a living, too. If you think that caring for the environment limits your career choices, you'd be surprised at all the ways people have found to combine their daily work and their desire to lighten the load on the planet.

Just to rattle off a few – scientists and engineers, business people, farmers, builders and architects, journalists and educators are all part of the effort to create a brighter future for the earth.

It Begins with Knowledge
Research into new sources of energy, renewable power and more efficient systems is taking off. Scientists and engineers put their brainpower to work for both private corporations and public research facilities to develop more efficient and better sources of green energy. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden Colo., for example, supports research into many alternative technologies, from solar and wind to hydrogen fuel cells and geothermal energy.

Sustainability Expert
Alicen Kandt, 29, is a mechanical engineer at NREL who helps federal agencies all over the country improve energy efficiency at their facilities. She's worked with the Department of Commerce, the Forest Service, the Department of Defense and others, developing strategies for improving energy efficiency and using renewable energy sources. Recently, she worked on a project to power a water treatment plant with methane generated by the wastewater itself.

Kandt chose her profession when she talked to reps from NREL at a job fair and she discovered she could combine engineering with her interest in the environment. "I've always been outdoorsy and conscious of our impact on the earth," she says. In high school in Nevada she started a recycling club and convinced her school to begin a program to recycle cans, bottles and paper. "That experience showed me that I could have an influence," she said.

She sees more positions like hers emerging in private corporations too. More big companies are starting to employ sustainability experts whose job it is to consider energy efficiency, environmental sustainability and waste reduction in all aspects of the business. Kandt says that her job has made her increasingly aware of the way her everyday actions impact the earth.

"My job has really opened my eyes to the status of the world – peak oil, the uncertainty of the future, global warming, drought, the impact of pollution on my local environment. Sometimes being exposed to all the facts is depressing," she acknowledges.

Spreading the word is an important part of changing ideas and attitudes about energy use. The job of educating others about the need for change often falls to teachers, writers and communicators.

Highlights from the 2009 Michigan Green Jobs Report
The 2009 Michigan Green Jobs Report, released in May by the Michigan Department of Energy Labor and Economic Growth, is the first effort of its kind for Michigan and makes it just the second state to release a scientific survey of green jobs. It covers private sector jobs in Michigan’s green economy, which is defined as being made up of five areas: 1) agriculture and natural resource conservation; 2) clean transportation and fuels; 3) increased energy efficiency; 4) pollution prevention or environmental cleanup; and 5) renewable energy production.

Below are some highlights from the report:
• Michigan boasts nearly 100,000 private sector green jobs and 12,300 green support jobs.
• Clean transportation and fuels is the largest green economy area in Michigan, comprising just over 40 percent of green jobs and reflecting the state’s automotive heritage.
• From 2005 to 2008, the green job market in Michigan showed an economic expansion rate of 7.7 percent compared the state average of -5.4 percent. Among the renewable energy production firms, the growth rate hit 30 percent.
• Green jobs tend to pay well. Thirteen of the top 15 sectors of green employment have weekly wages above the overall private sector weekly average.
• Green jobs encompass a wide range of occupations. Engineering and construction jobs are prominent, but many other jobs of all skill levels are required by the green economy.
• Education and training are key for green employers. In multiple focus groups, employers stressed the need for basics in math and reading with additional skills to be acquired on the job or in school, depending on the precise green job in question.

For more information, or to download the full report, go to http://www.milmi.org.
“It’s changed my values. For example I drive less. I educate others, starting small with my friends and family. These little steps matter.”

Building Green
An increasing number of builders, architects, landscape architects and urban planners are turning their attention to sustainable and energy efficient design. The NAHB’s Green Building Initiative and the U.S. Green Building Council are two established organizations that support builders who make green a priority.

One such builder is Larry Kinney, 45. His business, Harmony Home Construction in Traverse City, Mich., focuses not just on energy efficiency but on natural materials and environmentally-conscious methods. Many of his homes use straw bale, clay and timber construction, something that sounds too old-fashioned to be effective, but in fact creates remarkably strong and energy efficient houses that can last 300 years or more.

He carefully considers how each home is located relative to sun and wind to maximize its energy efficiency. Not every home he builds includes renewable energy sources, but he says, “We always design so that it’s easy to add alternative technologies like solar hot water collectors for radiant floor heating or solar photovoltaics later.”

“I think sustainable building will really take off when people start making the connection between how we live and what’s going on in the world. We’re beginning to see the limitations of petroleum-based products,” he says “And of course, cost is a big driver. People will make changes as energy prices go up and they realize it’s cheaper to invest in building well now to save on energy down the road.”

Educating Others
Spreading the word is an important part of changing ideas and attitudes about energy use. The job of educating others about the need for change often falls to teachers, writers and communicators.

Andrew Korfhage, 32, works in Washington D.C. for the non-profit organization Co-op America which provides information to consumers and investors about the environmental and social impact of corporations and businesses. Co-op America’s National Green Pages is an annual list of businesses, both large and small, that make sustainable practices a priority.

“I do think my job makes a difference, but the real props go to the business leaders we write about who are doing the hard work of building a more sustainable economy and therefore changing the world,” he says.

Meaningful Work
With a master’s degree in journalism, Korfhage began his career reporting for small newspapers and eventually found a job writing for a professional association. “It was a good job,” he says, “but not really what I wanted to spend my days working on and writing about.”

He decided to look for work that felt more meaningful and landed a job with Co-op America about three years ago. “I feel like I’m making a better and more important contribution now,” he says. His day-to-day work isn’t much different than it would be for any other journalist. He and the other three members of the publication department develop and write the contents for the Co-op America Web site and several print publications.

“One of our main missions at Co-op America is to grow the green economy and to support investors and consumers to use their dollars for positive change,” he explains. “There is more to consider in the purchases we make every day than what we pay in dollars.”

Job satisfaction is like that too, he says. What you do and how you do it is just as important as the paycheck. He says, “The best job is one that makes you feel like getting up in the morning and one that makes you feel good at the end of the day.”

If you think that caring for the environment limits your career choices, you’d be surprised at all the ways people have found to combine their daily work and their desire to lighten the load on the planet.

If you’d like to find out more about how you can find a career with a conscience, these Web sites will help you explore the possibilities.

Sustainable business.com
(www.sustainablebusiness.com)
This Web site includes a listing of “Green Dream jobs” in a broad range of career fields. You’ll also find news about the latest developments in green business practices, information about green investing and a resource directory of professional organizations and businesses that make sustainability a priority.

Environmental Careers Organization
(www.eco.org)
Find a wealth of information about paid internships and green careers.
Helping to Produce Environmentally Responsible Energy
By Laurie Wurth Pressel

Alumni Spotlight:
Amelia Church
Design Engineer, Alternative Fuel Technology, LLC

Amelia Church works in one of the most futuristic and speculative industries of our time. She’s developing fuel systems for engines that run on alternative fuels. “It’s a race to see which technology is going to take off and emerge as the best choice,” she says. “It’s an exciting place to be.”

A design engineer for Alternative Fuel Technology, LLC, in Redford, Mich., Church produces CAD drawings for fuel injection systems for cars and trucks that will run on Dimethyl Ether (DME). DME is an ultra clean alternative to diesel that is produced from stranded natural gas, coal and biomass (such as grasses and wood waste). While DME is just beginning to generate interest in the U.S., countries such as China, Japan, Korea, Sweden and Germany have been researching and investing in DME for many years. Volvo Truck Corp. in Sweden is one of several companies that test AFT’s fuel systems.

At AFT, Church has the chance to see the evolution of a product from conception to testing. She has to be flexible and creative, as she is sometimes given a rough idea from her boss, AFT founder and CEO Jim McCandless, and told to run with it. And precision is of utmost importance. “If I make a mistake, it is passed down the line, and we end up wasting our time on a prototype that doesn’t work.”

An avid traveler in her free time, Church also enjoys the chance to interact with AFT clients from all over the globe. “I’ve gained an appreciation for other cultures, other ways of doing things, other points of view,” she says.

The path to Church’s career at AFT began at Monroe County Community College. A lifelong resident of Monroe, Church enrolled at MCCC after high school because it was cost-effective and close to home. Looking back, she says, getting an associate degree was an ideal foray into the male-dominated field of mechanical engineering.

“The classes were small and gave me hands-on experience,” she said. “The teachers were top-notch. They never treated me differently because I was a woman in the program. I’ve formed lasting relationships with many of my instructors.”

After graduating from MCCC, Church received her bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from Eastern Michigan University. Her experiences at MCCC prepared her academically and socially for the transition to a larger campus.

Church maintains ties to MCCC by tutoring students in the CAD lab two nights a week. Interacting with students and faculty helps her stay fresh in her field, she says. Someday, she would like to teach. But for now, she plans to stay with Alternative Fuel Technology and ride out the wave to the future.

“I believe DME has what it takes to be the fuel of the future,” she says. “I hope to see it driving the world soon.”

“It’s a race to see which technology is going to take off and emerge as the best choice. It’s an exciting place to be.”
Once Kristie Everett plans a course of action, she lets nothing stand in her way. Sheer determination led this busy mom of three to Monroe County Community College to pursue the career of her dreams in mechanical engineering. “I haven’t gone about it the traditional way,” she says. “But once I decided on this path, I dove in head first.”

For many years, Everett put her career aspirations on hold while she raised her three children, now ages 16, 14 and 6. Motherhood, part-time jobs and volunteer work kept her hopping. “I was always looking for the right career,” she says. “But I put my needs on the back burner for awhile.”

The right moment came along when she visited her brother, a computer-animated designer, at work. “I was intrigued,” she says. “I researched this career and thought ‘I can do this.’”

Going back to college wasn’t easy, though. Everett discovered she was a bit rusty in subjects like algebra and physics. But the instructors and staff at MCCC were “pretty terrific,” she says. “But I put my needs on the back burner for awhile.”

Everett also relied on the encouragement and support of her kids. Setting a good example for them was an added incentive. “Seeing me go back to school and studying hard strengthened their desire to do well academically,” she says.

Everett is just two classes away from receiving her associate degree in applied science with a dual concentration in mechanical design technology and mechanical engineering technology. She is already working full-time at Detroit Stoker Company as a CAD drafter.

Detroit Stoker Company is a leading supplier of stokers and related combustion equipment for the production of steam used in heating, industrial processing and electric power generation around the world. In addition to providing dependable power, the company has taken a leadership role in the development of environmentally responsible systems that make power generating plants good neighbors in their communities.

DSC has led the way in unlocking the value of renewable energy sources. Every day, more than 125,000 tons of biomass and refuse are burned on the company’s stokers. Its combustion systems around the world generate power from such diverse waste products as bark, sugar cane, sawdust, sunflower hulls and poultry litter. These otherwise non-recyclable materials produce insignificant levels of acid gas compared to the fossil fuels they replace and are considered CO2-neutral because the carbon dioxide produced is used in the growth cycle of renewable fuel sources.

According to Everett, every day on the job is new and exciting at Detroit Stoker Company. Whether she’s producing CAD drawings for existing equipment or brand new products, she has to solve problems and be creative. “I’m given parameters to work with and I have to go for it,” she explains.

Everett recently had the fun experience of donning a hard hat and safety glasses to tour the inside of a stoker at the Genesee Power Plant in Flint. After crawling through a tight, 18-inch wide door, she walked around inside the massive stoker while it was being cleaned. “I’ve seen the stoker drawn on paper,” she explains, “but to actually see it firsthand was very cool.”

In the future, Everett plans to continue her education and obtain a bachelor’s degree. “My family and friends tell me that I do too much,” she says, listing her many activities such as a book club and volunteer work with her church, a neighborhood association and the Arthritis Foundation of Michigan. “But I am someone who knows what they want. I’m motivated, optimistic and slightly insane,” she adds, with a laugh.
MCCK Program Addresses High Demand for Ophthalmic Assistants in Michigan

For a number of Monroe County Community College students, an exciting, high-demand career is in sight. Literally.

The U.S. Department of Labor lists medical assistants and technicians in fields such as ophthalmology third on the list of the 30 fastest-growing occupations in the U.S., with an expected 36 percent increase in employment opportunities.

According to the state Bureau of Labor Market Information and Statistics, medical assisting is the second-fastest growing occupation in Michigan. With a 34 percent increase in job openings through 2014, it trails only computer network systems and data communications, which has a projected job growth rate of 43.8 percent.

In response to this demand, MCCC launched an ophthalmic assisting certificate program last fall in partnership with Monroe-based Reed Vision and Reed Medical Systems, which serves as the clinical site. The 10-week program is offered on a non-credit basis through the college’s Office of Lifelong Learning.

MCCC’s program prepares students for work in an ophthalmic practice where they will help care for patients by taking histories, performing various procedures and tests, and preparing patients to see the doctor. It also prepares them to take the certified ophthalmic assistant credentialing exam.

“We had an immediate need for trained ophthalmic assistants, but there was not an existing program in the area to which we could turn,” said Dr. Stephen Reed, president and CEO of Reed Vision and Reed Medical Systems. “The community college listened to our needs, understood the urgency of the situation and worked together with us to come up with a quick solution that helped our company, other area employers and displaced workers throughout the region.”

Jobs Await those Who Complete Program

Of the students who have completed the ophthalmic assisting program so far, nearly all have landed or are interviewing for jobs. They are finding work in areas of southeast Michigan that have been heavily hit by the recession and earning from $12-$16 per hour with benefits to start.

One of those graduates is Sal Cosentino of Monroe. At 19, Sal was unsure of the path his career training should follow. He also thought his job prospects in southeast Michigan were shaky, at best. But on the advice of a friend, he decided to sign up for the new MCCC program and try his hand at a career as an ophthalmic assistant.

“I didn’t go into the program thinking this was what I wanted to do with my life,” Cosentino said. “As a matter of fact, I was pretty much dragged into the program by a friend who had signed up for it. Even then, I didn’t realize how much I loved it until I started working with patients. That was the turning point. That was the point at which I knew this was exactly what I wanted to do.”

Although the program was only six weeks long at the time (it is now 10 weeks), Cosentino said it gave him the tools he needed to succeed in his field. “You aren’t going to be able to learn everything in this short amount of time,” he said, “Somebody once told me you have to test 1,000 sets of eyes before you master the techniques. But the skills you take away from this class are ones you need to get a head start on an ophthalmic assistant career, and they make the skills you learn on the job easier to pick up. However, the most important skill I learned from my MCCC training was how to do things the right way, both from an ethical and a procedural standpoint. This job involves patient care, and these patients will only ever have one set of eyes, so you have to be meticulous in what you do.

“Another great thing about this program is the high level of instructor involvement, both during and after the course is completed. My instructor actively helps students find jobs in the field and always welcomes us back if we need to brush up on our skills.”

Cosentino’s job search was relatively quick and easy, he said, which reflects the high demand for ophthalmic assistants. He now works at the Rahmini Eye Institute in Brownstown and also works part time for Reed Medical Systems in Monroe and Toledo, Ohio. “The jobs in this field are there and there are plenty of them.

Annette Frebes examines the eyes of her classmate, Emily Piechofski.

By Mage Wynn and Joe Verkemnes

Summer/Fall 2009 | CareerFocus

Monroe County Community College | www.monroeccc.edu | 1-877-YES-MCCC
available," he said. "If you can’t find a job in this field, you’re just not looking hard enough.

**Help from Michigan Works!**

A number of students enrolled in the current ophthalmic assistant class came to MCCC by way of the local Michigan Works! office, including two – Annette Frebes and Emily Piechowski – who had their tuition paid by the state’s No Worker Left Behind program. The vision of this program is to accelerate worker transitions through learning, support Michigan’s employers and economic development needs, and align the use of existing training programs.

Frebes, a resident of Trenton, was laid off from a bank in Belleville that was closing. Although she did not want to collect unemployment, after nine months she decided that not doing so was no longer an option. Ultimately, that decision led her on the path to enroll in the ophthalmic assistant program at MCCC.

“When I was there [at Michigan Works!], they had seminars on training and retraining to guide people on how to find jobs," Frebes said. “The speaker was from the college and he was talking about ophthalmic assisting.”

Piechowski of Temperance was working at a fast food restaurant when she decided she wanted to go to college to further her career. While taking the placement test at MCCC, she noticed literature for the ophthalmic assistant certificate program in the packet she had received from the Office of Admissions and Guidance.

“I am really enjoying the program – I have learned a lot,” Piechowski said.

“I think it’s really worth it for someone who needs help to check with Michigan Works! – they are doing a good job,” Frebes said, adding that the knowledge she has gained from the program has been “phenomenal” and she looks forward to using it to help people.

Even though Frebes is only slightly more than halfway through the ophthalmic assistant program, she has already begun to focus on the end result. “I don’t want to be a general tech; I want to focus on a specialty,” she said, offering a number of examples she could pursue, such as pediatrics, low vision or Lasik.

“This is one more example of the health care job potential in Michigan,” said MCCC President Dr. David Nixon. “It is a good field of study, could lead the student up the health career ladder in the future and is helping to fill the need for ophthalmic assistants in this area and the nation. It is just what the state of Michigan is looking for to help individuals who may be recently unemployed because of the downturn in the economy. These jobs have a future.”

MCCC plans to offer more ophthalmic assistant programs this year beginning July 13 and October 5. Ultimately, the program will be slated to begin every 12 weeks. More information about the program can found in the Lifelong Learning section of the college’s Web site or by calling the MCCC Office of Lifelong Learning at (734) 384-4127. **CF**
Most people who get hooked on photography keep it a hobby. LeTourneau, however, took it to the next level and in a very short time transformed her talent and interest into a growing business, simply named Ashleymarie Photography.

LeTourneau graduated from MCCC in May with an associate of applied science degree in graphic arts. A month prior to graduation, she was selected to accompany MCCC President Dr. David Nixon, Director of Marketing Joe Verkennes and Mark Spenosio, MCCC’s photographer, to the State Capitol in Lansing to celebrate Community College Day in Michigan. LeTourneau mingled with legislators, telling them about how the community college experience helped her to hone her artistic and business skills. And, of course, she brought along her camera and took as many photos as she could.

She also works part time as an assistant in the college’s Financial Aid Office. But during her non-MCCC hours, LeTourneau takes her tools and talent on the road to view the world through a camera lens.

“I take pictures of all kinds of things – sometimes I just walk downtown and photograph whatever catches my eye,” she said, smiling as she thinks about the places she’s been and the places she’d like to be. “But professionally, I am a portrait photographer. I take senior pictures, wedding pictures, baby and child pictures – I love to do that – even pet portraits.”

LeTourneau is a location photographer, which means she travels to different venues to take portraits instead of shooting them in a studio. “I really enjoy taking pictures of people in beautiful or interesting places, or in places that they really feel comfortable in, like their home,” she said. “It adds an element to the photo that just wouldn’t be there in a formal studio shot.”

Behind some of her portraits, you’ll find the unexpected backdrop of a paint-chipped industrial wall. Still others forgo a color spectrum for the drama of a black-and-white palette. One particularly intriguing portrait features a smiling subject tightly curled between two pieces of her vibrant artwork. Around her are the remains of crumbling, almost dungeon-like brick walls. Definitely not your standard senior-portrait fare.

LeTourneau said that the formal art training she received at MCCC – both in traditional art mediums and graphic design – has helped her fine tune her photography skills. “The art classes were really challenging,” she said, “but they gave me a better eye for taking photos. Among other things, they really helped me develop a better sense of composition.”

After graduating with her four-year degree, LeTourneau hopes to find a full-time career where she can combine her photography and graphic skills with her business acumen. “I’m not sure exactly how I’m going to do that,” she said. “I guess I still have a little bit of time to think about it,” she added with a laugh.

Whatever she decides, you can bet that – like her photos – her career will never be ordinary.
This fall, Monroe County Community College will offer a new, non-credit therapeutic massage training program through the Office of Lifelong Learning.

Despite the downturn in the economy – or perhaps, because of it – massage therapy has become a growing field and an intriguing option for those looking toward a career change.

Offered in coordination with the Medical Massage Institute, MCCC’s massage therapy program will provide the training now mandated to become a certified massage therapist in the state of Michigan.

“We have seen a dramatic increase in the number of people interested in massage therapy as a career,” said Krista Jenkins, co-owner of the Medical Massage Institute of Southeast Michigan. “People need to relieve stress – and there is definitely a lot of stress right now. They’re looking for alternative ways to do it, and massage therapy is becoming more and more popular. So that means there is a definite need for massage therapists.”

The MCCC program is tentatively slated to run four days per week for 22 weeks and will be limited to 25 students. Upon successful completion of the program, students are required to pass a professional exam in order to obtain their state license.

The massage therapy program will focus on the medical aspects of massage. It will provide an in-depth study of anatomy and physiology and specialized massage topics such as deep-tissue, shiatsu, pregnancy and seated massage. Office procedure and professional ethics training will also be covered.

In addition to lecture and coursework, students will be required to provide 100 hours of community outreach in their field. To do this, students will offer free public seated massages in a supervised setting.

According to Jenkins, the traditional massage therapy student used to be female and in her 40s. But that is not the case anymore. “Students run the age gamut, from 18 to 65,” she said. “And it’s not primarily women any more. In fact, for the first time since we’ve been providing massage therapy training, male students outnumber females.”

Two massage therapists who work at the Medical Massage Institute who represent the changing demographics of these professionals are Cynthia Calkins and Fernando Gandara.

Calkins, 65, was raised in Helsinki, Finland, where massage is a common source of relaxation. Though she long considered a career as a massage therapist, she opted to work as an office manager and executive assistant. However, she still felt drawn to the therapeutic massage profession.

“I actually enrolled in two different therapeutic massage schools in Michigan, but could not attend at that time,” she said. “It wasn’t until I was 60 that I was able to train for the career I had always wanted.”

Calkins now works as a massage therapist at the Medical Massage Institute and as a chiropractic assistant to Dr. Tim Cartwright, who is a co-owner of the institute.

Gandara had similar plans to pursue a career in therapeutic massage after high school. But, like Calkins, he was not able to train for that career until later in life. “I had planned to attend massage school, but my wife and I had the first of our three children on the way,” Gandara said. “I worked numerous factory jobs over the next 10 years, but then last year decided it was time for a change and time to do something to better my life and the future for my family.”

Gandara – among other duties at the Medical Massage Institute – now provides a traveling massage therapy program for area school employees. “No more jobs for me,” Gandara said. “I have a career now. I have found my calling.”

For more information about the new MCCC massage therapy program, contact the MCCC Office of Lifelong Learning at (734) 384-4127.
Heavy and Industrial Construction Certificate Now Available

Result of Monroe County Community College, DTE Energy Partnership

By Joe Verkennes

Through the collaborative efforts of Monroe County Community College and DTE Energy, a new construction management technology certificate program with a specialization in heavy and industrial construction is now available to area students.

The certificate program is designed for experienced construction personnel who wish to upgrade skills to gain management positions with large industrial employers, as well as new entrants in the field. The goal of the program is to standardize and enhance the skills and knowledge students need for heavy and industrial construction career success.

The idea for the new certificate program was initiated in 2008 when DTE officials approached MCCC’s Industrial Technology Division about creating a heavy and industrial construction track that would leverage the college’s existing construction management program – which focuses more on residential and commercial construction applications – and enhance topics that were more specific to heavy/industrial construction applications.

Initial heavy and industrial construction coursework was provided to DTE Energy employees last year in a pilot offering. Beginning this Fall Semester, the new certificate program will be open to all prospective students.

The curriculum for the heavy and industrial construction management certificate program option was developed by Alex Babycz, assistant professor of construction management technology, with input from other members of the Industrial Technology Division faculty, DTE Energy officials and industry partners. Continued enhancement of the curriculum offerings is being addressed as the program matures.

DTE Energy was an active partner in helping to evaluate the viability and value of the certificate program and in its implementation, and the company will continue to serve as a vital colleague on the advisory committee that will evaluate its success.

Primavera Systems, Inc., the largest provider of collaborative project, resource and portfolio management solutions, made a software donation valued at $340,000 in support of the new certificate program.

According to Bill Terrasi, director of enterprise project management at DTE Energy, there is a growing movement toward certification of construction managers. In addition, there is a growing trend among those who bid major construction projects to ask bidders to provide documentation of construction management certifications, he said.

Such a certificate also serves as an excellent stepping stone toward two- and four-year construction management degrees.

Roads and bridges need repair, infrastructure requires an overhaul, power plants are aging and new power generation has to be built. “We believe that this type of certification program is needed in Michigan and across the nation because all of these things require major construction, and we need the most qualified individuals to build the next cycle of the construction boom in America,” Terrasi said.

“Certification creates a broader perspective and a common ‘body of knowledge’ of construction management applications that technicians may miss if they only follow the lead of other practitioners,” he added. “Many have come to the realization that certification fosters greater recognition from peers and can provide a critical edge for individuals and firms within the industry.”

The construction management technology program at MCCC recently became a member of the Associated General Contractors of America, the largest and oldest national construction trade association in the U.S. Its mission is to serve “our nation’s construction professionals by promoting the skill, integrity and responsibility of those who build America.”

To earn the certificate specializing in heavy and industrial construction, students must complete a total of 31 credit hours in the following courses:

• Construction Blueprint Reading
• Construction Safety
• Planning and Scheduling with Primavera
• Construction Estimating
• Statics and Strength of Materials
• Construction Documents and Law
• Case Studies in Construction
• Surveying
• Mechanical Drafting and CAD I or Intro to AutoCAD for Architecture
• Intermediate Algebra

“The innovative educational collaboration to make this happen was spurred by the needs of industry,” said Parmeshwar (Peter) Coomar, dean of MCCC’s Industrial Technology Division. “MCCC and DTE Energy are addressing these needs by focusing on educating and training both new and incumbent workers.”

For additional information about the program, please contact Coomar at (734) 384-4209 or pcoomar@monroeccc.edu. CF
### Accounting

**Certificate**
- Prepares you for: Entry-level accounting positions with accounting and tax services, CPA firms and small businesses.
- Also gives you: Credits that can be used toward MCCC’s associate of science degree.

**Associate in Applied Science Degree**
- Prepares you for: Jobs with duties assigned to a beginning accountant, such as verifying additions; checking audits, postings and vouchers; and preparing financial statements.
- Also gives you: Credits that transfer to select four-year accounting degree programs. See an MCCC advisor.

**Average Yearly Earnings***
- Billing Clerk - $34,104
- Accounting Clerk - $30,681

### Accounting/CIS

**Associate in Applied Science Degree**
- Prepares you for: Entry-level employment as a junior accountant, cost estimator, accounting clerk and information systems specialist.

**Average Yearly Earnings***
- Accounts Payable Supervisor - $45,620

### Administrative Professional

**One Semester Certificate – Administrative Office Assistant**
- Prepares you for: Entry-level employment as an administrative office assistant. 
- Also gives you: Credits that can be used toward MCCC’s associate degree.

**Average Yearly Earnings***
- Administrative Assistant - $34,845

**One Year Certificate Administrative – Administrative Office Specialist**
- Prepares you for: Entry-level employment in an administrative office specialist.
- Also gives you: Credits that can be used toward MCCC’s associate degree.

### Anthropology

MCCC offers a transferable course in cultural anthropology.

*Figures from salary.com unless otherwise noted.*

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Monroe County Community College offers the personal attention, instructional expertise and practical experience to help you reach your career goals and enrich your life.

Whether you want to polish your skills, start a new career or climb to new heights, MCCC is the place for you! With programs in everything from accounting to welding, along with great facilities, support services and learning relationships with caring instructors, MCCC has what you need.

So dream big – and then contact us at 1-877-YES-MCCC to help make your dreams a reality!
Business Management

Associate of Applied Science Degree
Prepares you for: Entry-level management opportunities in retailing, financial management, office management or small business.
Average Yearly Earnings*
Retail Store Manager - $49,372
Product Marketing - Analyst - $51,262

Chemistry

Associate of Applied Science Degree
Prepares you for: Transfer to a four-year college or university in chemistry, other natural sciences or the pre-professional study of medicine and related fields.
Also gives you: Preparation for an entry-level laboratory technician career.
Average Yearly Earnings*
Chemical Technician - $38,401

Communication

MCCC offers courses in radio and television communications.

Computer Information Systems: End-user Support Specialist
Certificate
Prepares you for: The Help Desk Analyst (HDA) exam.
Also gives you: Credits that can be used toward an associate of applied science degree.

Associate of Applied Science Degree
Prepares you for: Entry-level employment in Help Desk services within an organization.
Average Yearly Earnings*
Help Desk Support - $44,754

Computer Information Systems: System Administration Specialist
Certificate
Prepares you for: Positions that require knowledge and skills that are essential for those specializing in network software.

Associate of Applied Science Degree
Prepares you for: Opportunities for positions in system administration including network operating systems specialist, network administration specialist and system administrator.
Average Yearly Earnings*
Network Administrator 1 - $48,850

Computer Programming

Associate of Applied Science Degree
Prepares you for: Positions that require skills in writing and updating computer programs using C++, Visual Basic and Java.
Also gives you: Excellent opportunities to transfer to a four-year college or university with transfer credit or via established articulation agreements.
Average Yearly Earnings*
Client/Server Programmer - $54,023

Computer Science

Associate of Applied Science Degree
Prepares you for: Entry-level positions as programmers and systems analysts.
Also gives you: Courses that can transfer to a four-year college or university.
Average Yearly Earnings*
Software Engineer - $55,799

Construction Management Technology

Certificate
Prepares you for: Entry-level positions in the construction industry or upgrading of skills for more experienced construction personnel.
Also gives you: Courses that can transfer to a four-year college or university.
Average Yearly Earnings*
Construction and Building Inspector - $49,448

Criminal Justice

Associate of Applied Science Degree
Prepares you for: Entry-level law enforcement careers.
Also gives you: Entry into an academy for police officer training. For their fourth semester, if qualified and accepted, MCCC students can enroll in the police academy at Schoolcraft College in Livonia, Mich., as part of the law enforcement option of this program.
Average Yearly Earnings*
Police Patrol Officer - $49,802

Culinary Skills and Management

Certificate
Prepares you for: Jobs requiring skills in food production.
Also gives you: Credits that can be applied to an associate of applied science degree.

Associate of Applied Science Degree
Prepares you for: Opportunities for numerous positions in the food service/hospitality industry including sous chef, bakery chef or restaurant management.
Also gives you: Preparation for testing to become a Certified Sous Chef and a foundation for continued studies in the culinary arts.
Average Yearly Earnings*
Food Service Manager - $61,021
Executive Sous Chef - $59,339

*Figures from salary.com unless otherwise noted.
Dance
MCCC offers courses in dance and dance history that transfer to four-year institutions.

Early Childhood Development
Child Development Associate
Preparations you for: The CDA credential granted by the Council for Early Childhood Professional Recognition by providing specialized coursework.
Certificate
Preparations you for: The state licensing requirements for providing child care in the home or other facilities.
Also gives you: Credits that can be used toward an associate of applied science degree.
Associate of Applied Science Degree
Preparations you for: Providing child care in a manner that fosters the development of young children from birth through age eight.

Earth Science
MCCC offers earth science coursework that transfers to four-year institutions.

Economics
MCCC offers courses in micro and macro economics that transfer to four-year institutions.

Education
MCCC has transfer agreements with several colleges and universities. Students complete the first two years of their program and then transfer.

Electrocardiography (ECG) Technician
One Semester Certificate–Summer Semester
Preparations you for: Employment in physician offices, clinics and hospitals.
Average Yearly Earnings*
Electrocardiography (ECG) Technician - $31,257
Lifelong Learning (non-credit) Certificate
Preparations you for: Functioning as an EKG Technician and taking national exams.

Electronics and Computer Technology
Associate of Applied Science Degree
Preparations you for: Employment as an engineering aide, a laboratory technician or field service technician.
Average Yearly Earnings*
Engineering Aide - $48,890

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
Lifelong Learning (non-credit)
Preparations you for: Employment with fire departments, ambulance service providers or emergency room positions.
Also gives you: Preparation for EMT National Registry Exam.
Average Yearly Earnings*
EMT $29,121

Engineering
MCCC provides the coursework for the first two years of a bachelor's degree in engineering.

English
Preparations you for: MCCC offers a variety of English courses, including basic writing, composition, literature, business and technical writing, speech and journalism.
Also gives you: Transfer to a four-year college or university.

Fine Arts
Associate of Fine Arts Degree
Preparations you for: Building a profession or an avocation in 2-dimensional or 3-dimensional art.
Also gives you: Courses that can transfer to a four-year college or university.

French
MCCC offers coursework in first- and second-year French.

General Technology
Associate of Applied Science Degree
Preparations you for: A career change or advancement within an industrial setting.

Geography
MCCC offers courses in physical and world regional geography.

German
MCCC offers coursework in first- and second-year German.

Graphic Design (Digital Media or Illustration)
Certificate
Preparations you for: Jobs requiring skill in graphic design.
Associate of Applied Science Degree
Preparations you for: Entry-level employment in graphic design combining computer skills and artistic ability.
Average Yearly Earnings*
Designer - $47,229

Health and Physical Education
MCCC offers a variety of courses in recreation and leisure, sports, health education, safety and physical fitness that can transfer to fulfill requirements at four-year institutions for health education, sports/exercise sciences, etc.

*Figures from salary.com unless otherwise noted.
History
MCCC offers a variety of courses, including U.S. from 1607 to present, Civil War history, history of East Asia, African-American history and Western Civilization.

Humanities
MCCC offers individual courses that can transfer to four-year institutions or fulfill requirements for an associate degree.

Industrial Electricity/ Electronics Technology
**Associate of Applied Science Degree**
Prepares you for: Entry-level employment as a technician in a modern industrial environment.
Average Yearly Earnings*
Electric/Electronics - Technician $39,901

Industrial Management – Plant
**Associate of Applied Science Degree**
Prepares you for: Entry-level employment as an estimator or production supervisor.

International Business
This course will give business students a global perspective of multinational businesses and international trade and market relations.

Journalism
MCCC offers coursework in journalism ranging from an introductory class to Journalism Workshop III.
Also gives you: The production of a college newspaper.

Marketing
MCCC offers a marketing course which covers fundamental marketing principles.

Mathematics
MCCC offers several courses in mathematics that support students working toward a career or transfer degree.

Mechanical Design Technology
**Certificate**
Prepares you for: Entry-level employment as a drafter or CAD/CAM operator.
Also gives you: Courses that can be applied to the associate of applied science degree.
Average Yearly Earnings*
 Drafter - $41,276

**Associate of Applied Science Degree**
Prepares you for: Jobs as a computer aided design technician, where you will prepare clear, complete and accurate detail drawings.

Mechanical Engineering Technology
**Associate of Applied Science Degree**
Prepares you for: Jobs in which you support technical and engineering activities in business and industry.
Average Yearly Earnings*
Mechanical Engineering Technician - $50,252

Medical Billing
**Lifelong Learning (non-credit)**
Prepares you for: Entry-level position in a doctor’s office, hospital or clinical setting.
Also gives you: CEUs (Continuing Education Units)
Average Yearly Earnings*
Medical Billing and Coding - $31,058

Medical Massage Therapy
**Lifelong Learning (non-credit)**
Prepares you for: Becoming a licensed massage therapist to work in doctors’ offices and spas or to operate independently and run your own business.

Medical Office Coordinator
**Associate of Applied Science Degree**
Prepares you for: Jobs within medical office settings which focus on administrative skills rather than patient care.

Metrology Technology
**Certificate**
Prepares you for: Entry-level employment in quality assurance and control.
Average Yearly Earnings*
Quality Assurance Specialist - $48,683

**Associate of Applied Science Degree**
Prepares you for: Jobs which require skills in dimensional metrology for the manufacturing industry.

Music
MCCC offers several courses in music that transfer to a four-year university.

*Figures from salary.com unless otherwise noted.*
Nuclear Engineering Technology

Associate of Applied Science Degree in conjunction with Lakeland Community College via distance learning – LLC is the degree-granting institution.

Prepares you for: Work as a technician in operations, mechanical maintenance, electrical maintenance, chemical laboratory, health physics and instrumentation and control maintenance.

Also gives you: Preparation for employment as maintenance technician in any manufacturing or production facility.

Nurse’s Aide

MCCC offers a Nurse Aide Practice course which teaches basic care for health care settings. Any student who completes this course is eligible to take the clinical and written exams to become certified by state standards to work as a nurse's aide.

Nursing

Nursing, Practical

Certificate

Prepares you for: Practical nursing (LPN) licensure exam (NCLEX-RN).

Also gives you: Coursework that applies toward an associate degree in nursing.

Average Yearly Earnings*

Staff practical nurse – LPN – $39,393

Nursing, Registered

Associate of Applied Science Degree

Prepares you for: Nursing (RN) licensure exam (NCLEX-RN).

Also gives you: Coursework that applies toward a BSN

Average Yearly Earnings*

Staff Nurse - RN - $61,575

Nursing, RN from LPN/LVN (Online Program)

Associate of Applied Science Degree

Prepares you for: Nursing (RN) licensure exam (NCLEX-RN).

Also gives you: Coursework that applies to a BSN

Paralegal Studies

Lifelong Learning (non-credit)

Prepares you for: Entry-level positions as a paralegal.

Also gives you: Enhanced job skills for legal secretaries, file clerks, etc.

Average Yearly Earnings*

Paralegal - $45,864

PC Support Technician

Certificate

Prepares you for: Hardware maintenance and preparation for taking the A+ certification exam.

Also gives you: Credits that can be used toward an associate of applied science degree.

Associate of Applied Science Degree

Prepares you for: Entry-level employment in positions that require knowledge in hardware maintenance and PC operating systems. Preparation for taking the A+ certification exam.

Average Yearly Earnings*

PC Maintenance Technician - $41,494

Pharmacy Technician

Lifelong Learning (non-credit) Certificate

Prepares you for: Entry-level position in the pharmacy field and prep for Board exam.

Also gives you: CEUs (Continuing Education Credits).

Phlebotomy Technician

Two-course Certificate – Spring/Summer Semester; Winter/Spring Semester.

Prepares you for: Entry-level employment in a health care facility offering on-site blood drawing, such as a hospital or clinic.

Average Yearly Earnings*

Phlebotomist - $28,378

Philosophy

MCCC offers individual courses in logic, Western philosophy and the philosophy of religion.

Physical Fitness/Training, Fitness Trainer, Aerobics Instructor

Lifelong Learning (non-credit)

Prepares you for: Entry-level positions in health clubs, gyms, YMCAs and corporate wellness programs.

Also gives you: Preparation for certification license. CEU’s (Continuing Education Units).

Physical Science

MCCC offers a lab course in physical science.

Physics

MCCC offers courses in technical, general and engineering physics. These courses can be the foundation for studies in many professional engineering careers.

Political Science

MCCC offers introductory courses in political science, criminal justice and international relations.

Psychology

MCCC offers several courses in psychology that transfer to a four-year university.

Quality Systems Technology

Basic Certificate

Prepares you for: Entry-level positions in the field of quality control.

Also gives you: Courses that can be applied to the associate of applied science degree.

Average Yearly Earnings*

Quality Assurance Specialist - $48,683

Certificate

Prepares you for: Jobs which require skills in quality assurance and production management

Also gives you: Courses that can be applied to the associate of applied science degree.

Associate of Applied Science Degree

Prepares you for: Jobs in industry which require a variety of technical and management skills.

*Figures from salary.com unless otherwise noted.

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Real Estate
Lifelong Learning (non-credit)
Prepares you for: Careers in real estate sales.
Also gives you: Licensure exam preparation.
CEU’s (Continuing Education Units).
Average Yearly Earnings*
Real Estate Agent - $40,055

Web Design/ Web Development
Certificate
Prepares you for: Jobs requiring knowledge in Web page design.
Also gives you: Credits that can be used toward an associate of applied science degree.
Associate of Applied Science Degree
Prepares you for: Positions in Web programming where computer skills and program development are critical.
Average Yearly Earnings*
Technical Producer I - Web - $51,987

Respiratory Therapy
Associate of Applied Science Degree
Prepares you for: Employment in hospitals, home care and extended care facilities as a certified respiratory therapist.
Also gives you: The certified respiratory therapist credential exam.
Associate of Applied Science Degree
Prepares you for: Employment in hospitals, home care and extended care facilities as a registered respiratory therapist.
Also gives you: The registered respiratory therapist credential exam.
Average Yearly Earnings*
Certified Respiratory Therapist - $46,523
Registered Respiratory Therapist - $56,012

Sociology
MCCC offers several courses in sociology that transfer to a four-year university.

Spanish
MCCC offers first-and second-year coursework in Spanish.

Teacher Paraprofessional
Associate of Applied Science Degree
Prepares you for: Paraprofessional position in the K-12 school districts.
Also gives you: Credits that may transfer to a four-year institution.
Average Yearly Earnings*
Teacher’s Aide - $20,537

Truck Driver Training
Lifelong Learning
Prepares you for: A career in truck driving.
Average Yearly Earnings*
Truck Driver - $44,258

Average Yearly Earnings*
Real Estate Agent - $40,055
Certified Respiratory Therapist - $46,523
Registered Respiratory Therapist - $56,012
Teacher’s Aide - $20,537
Truck Driver - $44,258

Word Processing
MCCC offers word processing courses that teach Microsoft Word.
Prepares you for: Jobs requiring proficiency in word processing.
Also gives you: Courses that apply to the associate of applied science degree.

Welding Technology
Basic Certificate
Prepares you for: Entry-level employment as a welder or fabricator.
Also gives you: Courses that can be applied to the associate of applied science degree.
Average Yearly Earnings*
Welder - $41,630
Advanced Certificate
Prepares you for: Jobs that require the use of a variety of welding techniques.
Also gives you: Courses that can be applied to the associate of applied science degree.
Associate of Applied Science Degree
Prepares you for: Jobs that require knowledge of material properties and a variety of welding skills.

*Figures from salary.com unless otherwise noted.