Office of Corporate and Community Services: Reorganization

The last half of 2014 and very early 2015 was a time of major reorganization in the Office of Corporate and Community Services. The dean’s position was not filled, and the office now reports directly to the vice president of instruction. Annette Kiebler, administrative assistant to the dean of CCS, accepted the vacant position of administrative assistant position to the vice president of instruction. The vacant administrative assistant to the dean of CCS position was combined with the vacant part-time administrative assistant for workforce development position, resulting in the elimination of one part-time position. Renee Drouillard, former MCCC financial aid assistant, accepted that position. Tom Ryder, campus community events/student activities coordinator, now reports to the Office of Marketing and Communications. Mary Lyons, administrative assistant for events/reservations, Derek Arnold, temporary tech director, and part-time tech directors Jeremy Knoff and Donovan Tarjeft now report to Campus Planning and Facilities.

Highlights from the Office of Workforce Development

- Monroe County Community College participated in the Operation Serve Job Fair at Siena Heights University, Adrian.
- The office continues to present free “Resume and Interviewing” workshops that are open to students, alumni and the public. In addition, these are presented to credit classes when requested by instructors.
- Registered users of the Employment Services website as of February included 2,566 students, 1,027 employers, 969 alumni and 123 residents. Employment services website activity from September to December included 402 new registrations for services. There are now 4,378 total users.
- From September-December the office reviewed a total of 85 resumes from students, alumni and the community.


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Updates from the Applied Science and Engineering Technology Division

Assistant Professor of Construction Management Technology Alex Babycz’s Fall 2014 Renewable Energy class installed solar panels outside the Career Technology Center with the assistance of Babycz and DTE retiree and MCCC adjunct instructor Derrick Whitaker. The solar panels were donated by Patriot Solar. Babycz and Mike Reaume, Applied Science and Engineering Division technician/Perkins technical specialist, coordinated an exhibit at the “Just Build It” Expo at Eastern Michigan University in October. This construction career expo introduced students in grades 8-12 and young adults to architecture, engineering, project management, the skilled building trades and other careers in the construction industry.
• The president of the American Welding Society, Dean R. Wilson, visited welding technology and nondestructive testing students, as well as faculty and staff of the ASET Division, in September. The presentation provided information on AWS’s new online credentialing pathway for students.

• ASET Students, faculty and staff visited the International Machine Technology Show in September at McCormick Place in Chicago. This was made possible by an Enhancement Grant from The Foundation at MCCC and additional funding through a STEM grant.

• Professor of Mechanical Design Technology Dr. Dean Kerste’s SolidWorks users group meeting was held in October with more than 85 in attendance, including students, industry professionals and vendors at the CTC. Kerste also recently passed the Certified SolidWorks Professional Advanced Drawing Tools examination.

• The Trends in Occupational Studies Conference was held in October at the Grand Traverse Resort. ASET faculty members were in attendance, and a series of roundtables organized by Tom Harrill, assistant professor of electronics and computer technology, were held at the conference.

• In October, the ASET Division held X-TECH, its annual open house, in the Career Technology Center. Middle and high school students and their parents saw demonstrations of various pieces of equipment such as the Live Arc Welder, robots, CNC machines and CAD/Zspace.

• The ASET Division received acceptance into the Registered Apprenticeship-College Consortium on January 7.

• The division secured a booth at the North American International Auto Show in January and displayed the electric car built by faculty member Tom Harrill and students.

Updates from the Humanities/Social Sciences Division
• Dr. Joanna Sabo, professor of political science, recently attended a conference in Barcelona regarding sustainability of Study Abroad programs. The International Studies Club, which Sabo advises, recently hosted two performances of a hugely successful Collage Concert.

• Dr. Kojo A. Quartey also announced a new degree enhancement that has been implemented called the Global Studies Degree Designation. Students in all majors may now have this designation added to their transcript if they take certain electives from an internationalized curriculum. The Global Studies Orientation Course will be offered for the first time in Fall 2015. Sabo and seven students were hosted by MCCC alumnus Sarai Richter in Phoenix, Ariz. to learn about how the U.S. resettles refugees. Students learned what a refugee is and how both public and private agencies work together to assist those driven from their homeland. The trip was funded in part by the MCCC Foundation and the International Studies Club.

Updates from the Business Division
• Will Hilliker, assistant professor of computer information systems, represented MCCC at the National Colloquium for Information Systems Security Education, which provides a forum for dialogue among leading figures in government, industry and academia. The colloquium recognizes that the protection of information and infrastructures that are used to create, store, process and communicate information is vital to business continuity and security. Its goal is to work to define current and emerging requirements for information assurance education and to influence and encourage the development and expansion of information assurance curricula, especially at the graduate and undergraduate levels.

• In November, the Bacchus Society at MCCC hosted the 3rd annual Reds, Whites and Blues event in the Wine Lab. More than 120 Bacchus members and guests enjoyed tasting the fine wines and hard ciders from J. Trees Cellars. This annual “friend raising” event allowed the guests an opportunity to celebrate the successes of 2014 and to look forward to new adventures and projects coming in the near future. MCCC President Dr. Kojo A. Quartey provided words of support and encouragement for the efforts of the group and encouraged the continuation of efforts to explore academic programming in this field. In addition to enjoying the great beverages, the guests were treated to exquisite delicacies prepared by MCCC culinary arts students under the guidance of chefs Kevin Thomas and Vicki LaValle. This event was supported from funds raised by the Bacchus Society and provided through The Foundation at MCCC.

Updates from the Humanities/Social Sciences Division
• MCCC College/Community Symphony Band Director Mark Felder and MCCC Agora Chorale Director Cathie Brodie sponsored a Chinese Writing exhibit in conjunction with the MCCC Library during December and January. This was a professional exhibit rented from the Midwest Institute of International and Intercultural Studies. It was displayed in the foyer of the library. Sabo also announced a new degree enhancement that has been implemented called the Global Studies Degree Designation. Students in all majors may now have this designation added to their transcript if they take certain electives from an internationalized curriculum. The Global Studies Orientation Course will be offered for the first time in Fall 2015. Sabo and seven students were hosted by MCCC alumnus Sarai Richter in Phoenix, Ariz. to learn about how the U.S. resettles refugees. Students learned what a refugee is and how both public and private agencies work together to assist those driven from their homeland. The trip was funded in part by the MCCC Foundation and the International Studies Club.
• Adjunct instructor Scott McCloskey recently staged two performances of Activ8. More than 100 people were in attendance over two days.

• Dr. William McCloskey gave a lecture in early January on the topic of the Custer statue to members of The Civil War Roundtable. The talk was titled “A Short History of that Big Statue.” The venue was Ellis Library.

Updates from the Health Sciences Division

Associated Degree in Nursing Program (Registered Nursing)
• 26 new students started the NURS 103 course (Fundamental Nursing Care) this fall.
• The faculty is in the process of reviewing a proposal for a Licensed Practical Nursing to Registered Nursing program option. This option would allow licensed practical nurses to receive advanced standing in the RN program and, after completing a bridge course, enter the RN program in the third semester of study.
• The RN program piloted a new student survey system called EvaluationKit. This system allows students to complete student surveys electronically, saving the division considerable time in tabulation. The faculty uses this data for program improvement. The pilot semester featured a 94 percent response rate with favorable anecdotal feedback from students. The program will be continued in upcoming semesters.

Practical Nursing Program
• Ten students completed the practical nursing program in 2014. The program saw no further attrition after the spring/summer semester.
• Faculty members are meeting regularly with the program director and nursing program coordinator to discuss curriculum revision. The program will be implementing a Systematic Evaluation Plan similar to that used in the RN program, with a goal of achieving accreditation-ready status.

Respiratory Therapy Program
• MCCC’s respiratory therapy program faculty took third place at the national Respiratory Quiz Bowl competition sponsored by the American Association for Respiratory Care, which was held at in Las Vegas. The team of Nicholas Prush, Shane Spaulding and Christopher Culter competed against teams from other states. Spaulding (class of 2010) and Culter (class of 2009) both competed as MCCC students in the Michigan Society for Respiratory Care competition while in the RT program.
• While completing his master’s degree at Eastern Michigan University, Nicholas Prush was appointed to the EMU Health Administration Advisory Council as a student body representative and to represent the student body in the masters in health administration program on the Michigan Region II South Healthcare Coalition. He was also selected as one of two graduate students to present their master’s capstone research projects at the annual meeting for the Michigan Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters.

Updates from the Math/Science Division

• Dr. Melissa Grey, assistant professor of psychology, and Patrick Wise, associate professor of psychology, co-presented at the MCCC GSA’s Suicide Awareness and Prevention Vigil program in September. Grey also facilitated an invited workshop at Michigan State University in September, participated in an MCCC panel on Domestic Violence in November and published a commentary in Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity (Volume 1, Issue 4).
• Dr. James Vallade, professor of mathematics, Khadija Ahmed, assistant professor of mathematics, Kathleen Shepherd, professor of mathematics, and Vinnie Maltese, dean of science/mathematics, attended the 2014 Michigan Mathematical Association for Two Year Colleges Conference at Lake Michigan College in October. In addition, Maltese attended the TRENDS in Occupational Studies Conference in Traverse City in October and presided over the Michigan Liberal Arts Deans business meeting held in conjunction with that conference. That same month, he also attended the Michigan Engineering College – Community College Association Conference at Oakland University and was selected as the 2015 Conference Chair. Ahmed served as MCCC representative to the Michigan Mathematical Association for Two Year Colleges and liaison to the Mathematical Association of America.
• Dr. Mark Naber, professor of mathematics, reviewed the manuscript, “A Fractal Theory Based Fractional Diffusion Model (FFDModel) used for the Fast Desorption Process of Methane in Coal” by Haina Jiang, Yuanping Cheng, Yuan Liang, Fenghua An and Kan Jin for the Chaos Editorial Office of the American Institute of Physics.
Student and Information Services Area Highlights

- Fiscal Year 2011 3-Year Cohort Default Rates were released in September. When a borrower doesn’t make payments on a student loan for 270 days, the loan goes into a defaulted payment status. Each year the Department of Education releases cohort default rates to schools. The cohort default rate is the percentage of the school’s borrowers who enter repayment during the fiscal year and default. The rising national cohort default rate over the past several years has received a lot of coverage in the media. MCCC’s Fiscal Year 2011 3-Year cohort default rate was 15.8 percent. This is a drop from MCCC’s Fiscal Year 2010 3-Year cohort default rate, which was 18 percent. The overall national cohort default rate for Fiscal Year 2011 was 10 percent. For public schools that offer 2-3 year programs, the Fiscal Year 2011 sector cohort default rate was 15.0 percent. In Michigan, there are 20 community colleges with an Fiscal Year 2011 3-Year cohort default rate of 16 percent or higher.

- The auditors from Plante Moran were onsite at MCCC in the fall to complete the annual audit of federal student aid funds. For the third year in a row, there were no findings for MCCC’s A-133 audit for the financial student aid programs. MCCC also underwent an audit with the State of Michigan’s Office of Student Scholarships and Grants for the state financial aid funds it administers. There were no findings for the state audit.

- The Library’s new SirsiDynix Enterprise software, Enterprise, went live. The Library’s web presence now offers new services including remote access to full-text electronic books through EBSCO.

- The Disability Services counselors and coordinator participated in county “road shows” at Jefferson, Dundee, Monroe and Mason high schools. A “road show” is a presentation in which representatives from several community agencies travel to area high schools to present information regarding their services to juniors and seniors with disabilities.

- A pilot program was launched in August in which Special Populations funds were used to purchase Live Scribe pens and notebooks to loan to Special Populations students for the semester. Seven students have been issued Live Scribe Pens for the Fall semester. Students were instructed how to use the features of the Live Scribe Pen during a brief training session conducted by a counselor. Counselors also answer questions and provide ongoing support throughout the semester. This use of technology will enhance individual note-taking skills and promote retention of class material to allow for increased course mastery.

- The First Alert Monitoring program was merged with the Early Alert Program developed by the Retention Task Force for the start of the Winter 2015 semester. Students continue to receive both e-mail and phone contacts as part of retention outreach efforts. This collaboration provides a streamlined approach for student referrals.

- As part of the multi-year project to migrate Colleague data to a newer database technology (Microsoft SQL), another significant milestone was reached in September when the college licensed the SQL database from the Ellucian Corporation. This license will enable Data Processing to begin to set up its new SQL database to begin migration testing. Data Processing also began regular meetings in October with an Ellucian project manager to map out and assign target dates for each step to be completed for this mid-to-long term migration project. One such step is a systematic evaluation of the existing database – housing student and financial records – for its suitability with the new database.

- In collaboration with the academic deans, a series of reports has been developed by Data Processing to assist in the ongoing review process of the college’s academic programs. The new reports supply data that the deans use to profile various performance metrics for each of the programs, including graduation rates, enrollments, and the various core indicators, such as retention, placement and non-traditional enrollments.

- The Information Systems staff continues its work to transition computers on campus to Windows 8.1. At this time, the staff is working with individuals and their office computers. Windows 8.1 workshops continued through December. Adjustments to the Windows 8.1 installations have been made to accommodate various applications and application changes including; video playback, WIDS, databases, and imaging to mention a few.

- Information Systems staff is working on a number of upgrades and new installations to the network and
servers. These include a new multi-server and storage solution configured and deployed to support the Whitman Center. A new multi-server and storage solution VRTX has also been configured and installed to support a security camera system. Work continues on projects related to the network core switch and firewall. These items have been installed and configurations continue in preparation for implementation and change over.

• Approximately four weeks after the start of the Fall semester, outreach calls were made by the Admissions and Guidance Office and volunteers from other offices to all students attending MCC for the first time. The purpose is to check on students, make referrals, and answer any questions. The feedback from call recipients was excellent.

• MCCC hosted a county-wide College Night in October. The event brought over 75 colleges and universities to campus. The event was well attended by Monroe County high school students and parents. There was also excellent attendance by MCC students.

• The Admissions and Guidance Office covered the following organized recruiting events in the fall: Lenawee Vo-Tech College Night, Siena Heights Career and Education Fair, Tecumseh High School College Fair and Riverview High School College Night.

• In November, Kelly Scheer (then a member of the Financial Aid Office but now administrative assistant to the Dean of Business) represented MCC at the Michigan Student Financial Aid Association’s annual community college sector meeting for financial aid professionals. The day-long meeting was held at Lansing Community College.

• Kris Gerlach attended the TRENDS in Occupational Studies Conference in Traverse City in October. During the meeting she completed a training session provided by the National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity.

• LAL faculty specialists Beth Kamprath and Colleen Baker attended the annual meeting of the Michigan Tutorial Association in Bay City, Michigan in October. Over 125 tutors from across the state attended.

• LAL specialist Barbara Mauter attended the following professional development activities: “Understanding Competency-Based Education and Assessment” and “Meet Generation NeXt: Understanding Today’s Learners,” both at the University of Toledo in October, and “On Course Users Summit” at Jackson Community College in November.

• Dr. Terri Kovach, professor, reference/technical services librarian, and Stacy Goin, technical services assistant in the Learning Resources Center, attended online training entitled “AACR2 Meet RDA” in October. RDA stands for Resource Description and Access, which is a new cataloging record format which is replacing AACR2 in libraries world-wide.

• Barbara McNamee, director of learning resources, attended several webinars in the fall provided by the American Library Association: “Demystifying Ebooks,” “User Experience and Homepage Design,” “Supercharge Your Collection” and “Designing the Library Learning Commons.”

• Cindy Yonovich, reference/public services librarian, attended the fall Southeast Michigan League of Libraries meeting in November.

• Mark Hall, director of admissions/guidance services, and Dr. Randy Daniels, vice president of student and information services, attended the 2014 Michigan Community College Student Services College Success Conference and MCCSSA conference. The focus of these conferences was strategies to insure student success and a positive first year experience.

Administration Area Highlights

• In October, the MCCC Bookstore hosted the 4th annual National Student Day. This day was organized by the National Association of College Stores and was meant to recognize and encourage student volunteerism and social responsibility among the students we serve. It was an opportunity for the bookstore to give back while promoting a sense of community on campus.

• The Bookstore offered an in-store book rental program for the first time this fall. The program is a partnership with Follett Campus Resources. Students were receptive of the program and rented a total of 331 textbooks—both new and used— which provided a savings of $14,000 to the students.

• The number of online book orders placed in the fall was 110, up 30 percent from the previous Fall Semester, with 16 students placing Whitman Center pre-orders. Online rentals offered through a third party vendor were down, since most students who rented books took advantage of the in-store rental program.

• The MCCC Marketing Department was renamed the Office of Marketing and Communications with the addition of Tom Ryder, events and student activities coordinator, to the staff due to the reorganization of
the Corporate and Community Services Division. The rationale for the name change was the added breadth of services that now include graphic design, integrated marketing communications campaigns, media relations, campus and community events, Web design and development, duplicating/printing, advertising, social media marketing, mailing services, e-mail marketing, video production and MCCC-branded premium items.

- **MCCC’s new “I Got My Start at MCCC” advertising campaign** was launched by the Office of Marketing and Communications in late fall. The campaign, which was developed mostly in-house, features numerous MCCC alumni now working in high-profile careers and continues to run in cable, digital, print and outdoor mediums. It has received very positive word-of-mouth feedback from employees and community members and generated thousands of social media hits. The production cost of the campaign this year will be around $6,500, which is extremely low – about 20 percent of what it would have cost using an outside firm.

- **MCCC won three Medallion Awards for outstanding achievement in community college communications in November at the District 3 Conference of the National Council for (Community College) Marketing and Public Relations,** which was held in Green Bay, Wisc. MCCC’s awards included a gold for “Tech Update,” the electronic newsletter of the Applied Science and Engineering Technology Division and two silvers: one for the 2013 Annual Fund Campaign for The Foundation at MCCC, and the other for Magazine-style Video Program for MCCC’s monthly cable access television show, “Education Matters.”

- **Completion of the Life Sciences Building Tuck-pointing/Masonry Repair Project** occurred in the last quarter of 2014. This work started in late August and was completed in early November at a total cost of $119,690. The architectural package was developed by Jim Jacobs Architects and the mason work was contracted to DRV Contractors. The project consisted of new through wall masonry flashing along the entire north and south sides of the mechanical penthouse where it meets the second floor roof. This new flashing included installing new brick as needed and the cleaning and painting of all exposed structural steel that was corroded where the new flashing was installed. The masonry mechanical well walls all had flashing added and were painted to help seal them off. All framed openings, including doors, on the mechanical penthouse received new headers. All doors and frames that were rusted out and failing on the penthouse were replaced and the brick veneer on the entire building was cleaned and sealed.

- **The Cellar Water Remediation Project** was completed in early November, and the total cost of the project was $158,000. The architectural package was designed by **Jack Burns**, director of campus planning and facilities. The water remediation contractor was Davison Construction, and the finish work was done by Lakeside Interior Contractors. The project consisted of removing all the existing floor finishes and trenching around the entire perimeter of the space, including the Cellar, emergency exit corridor, stair lobby, Student Government room and the storage space. After the trenching was completed, new drainage tile and a sump pump were installed. After the floor slab was repaired, a new liquid vapor barrier was installed over the entire project area, and new floor finishes were installed. Additionally, all the walls were painted and the soft furniture in the Cellar area was re-upholstered.

- **Career Technology Center Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment Funds were spent to construct a new canopy roof over the welding gas tank storage area.** The cost of this project was $41,380. The need for the canopy became apparent in winter 2013, as large snow piles accumulated in the gas tank storage area. The drawings were completed by Jim Jacobs Architects, and the general contractor was Gratton Construction. The project consisted of the installation of two new steel columns and associated footings, new steel support framing, pre-finished metal fascia and gutters/downspouts, standing-seam metal roofing and the installation of a new light. The project also consisted of some reworking of the existing metal fencing and gate and the addition of filler slats to act as a second barrier for wind-driven snow. The project was completed in October.

- **The Whitman Center Structural Remediation Project** has progressed, though the project timeline has been extended after some consultation with the structural engineer for the project. With no apparent risk of life-threatening damage caused by the continued settling of the building due to the extremely poor soil conditions on the site, the project has been postponed at least another year (unless conditions dictate otherwise) while continuing to monitor the situation. The structural engineer, the Mannik and Smith Group, will continue to regularly take readings of the settlement and advise the college of its findings.
• The request for Proposal for **Energy Performance Contracting** was completed, and five submissions were reviewed by the task force. **Ameresco** was chosen to serve as the college’s energy services contractor. **Building audits have already been completed campus-wide on the lighting, HVAC systems and plumbing.** **Design of the new systems has already begun and should be completed very soon.** The Career Technology Center will be used as the benchmark building for the college’s new HVAC and lighting systems, continuing the MCCC’s **emphasis on sustainable and renewable systems.** The original buildings on campus will all be **switched over to geothermal systems for heating and cooling,** and the entire campus lighting system will be **upgraded to LED to maximize energy savings.** Construction of the new HVAC and electrical systems is set to begin in late April and/or early May.

• The continued **integration of Rooms/Reservations and Theater staff into Campus Planning and Facilities** has progressed. Several needed maintenance items for the theater have been addressed, and the items have now been incorporated into the routine preventative maintenance program. Several other projects are being planned for this spring and summer that include **cleaning and fire-retardant treatment of the stage curtains, refinishing of the stage floor, and painting of the back wall of the theater.** Currently, work is being done with The Foundation at MCCC to utilize funding from the Cultural Enrichment Endowment to replace/upgrade the sound board in the theater.

• The **2014-2015 Budget** was approved by the Board of Trustees in June and took effect July 1. Due to the nature of the college’s finances, close monitoring continues on all accounts to make necessary adjustments in keeping with fluctuations in tuition and fee revenues.

• As approved by the Board of Trustees, proposals were solicited for **Tax Anticipation Note borrowing** for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. The college borrowed $3,000,000 in October to assist in financing current operations before property tax revenues are received. When the college collects the property tax revenues, the majority being collected in January and February, the proceeds are used to retire the short-term debt.

• The college’s **Five Year Capital Outlay Plan was completed,** approved by the Board of Trustees and submitted to the State Budget Office. The Capital Outlay Plan is intended to provide state policymakers with the most current information available on MCCC’s priorities and needs. Community colleges were instructed to submit only their top priority capital outlay request. MCCC’s request is for $12 million to renovate the East and West Technology Buildings.

• Substantial work was done to insure that MCCC has **complied with all of the sections and various reporting requirements in the FY 2014-2015 community college budget (PA 196 of 2014).** Community colleges receiving funding under Section 201 are required to submit and post information as prescribed by the act. The college meets these obligations through a variety of activities and reports (e.g., JCos Use and Finance reporting, tuition and fee reporting, Annual Audit, ACS and CEPI reporting and certification of local strategic value) and its posting of information on the transparency web page located at http://www.monroeccc.edu/finance.

• The **2013-2014 fiscal year was closed and the Annual Financial Audits were completed for the college, including the Federal Awards audit (A-133 Audit) and The Foundation at MCCC.** The college received a “clean” or unqualified opinion stating that the financial statements presented a fair and accurate picture, in all material respects, of the college and its discretely presented component unit (The Foundation at MCCC) as of June 30, 2014 and 2013 and that changes in its financial position and cash flows for the years then ended comply with generally accepted accounting principles.

• **Personnel changes in the Administration Area** in fall and winter included the following: Boiler Operator **Tony Paolino** retired, and **Paul LaRoy** was hired to replace him. Custodian **Keith Gerweck** retired, and **George Welter** was hired to replace him. In addition, Boiler Operator **Rob Stawkey** completed his training and is preparing to take his state endorsement test for a licensed boiler operator. **Kim Letasse** joined the college staff as the new full-time receptionist, replacing **Patsy Servey,** who retired. **Patricia Mabardy** joined the college staff as a part-time receptionist, replacing **Amy Duvall.** **Vicki Voyantzis** joined the MCCC staff as the new payroll accountant. She replaced **Annette Russell** who resigned. **Doug Richter** joined the college staff as the new graphic designer, replacing **Sean McDonald,** who resigned. **Abigail Anteau** accepted the position of administrative assistant to the director of purchasing and auxiliary services, replacing **Kelli Plumb,** who resigned. As a result of the reorganization of the Office of Corporate and Community Services, the following moves were made: **Tom Ryder,** campus community events/student activities coordinator, now reports to the Office of Marketing and Communications. **Mary Lyons,** administrative assistant for events/reservations, **Derek Arnold,** temporary tech director, and part-time tech directors **Jeremy Knoff** and **Donovan Tareff** now report to Campus Planning and Facilities.