ANNUAL REPORT

Enriching Lives

2022/2023
Report to the Community

MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MISSION: Monroe County Community College enriches lives in our community by providing opportunity through student-focused, affordable, quality higher education and other learning experiences. MCCC accomplishes its mission through: • Post-secondary pathways for students who plan to pursue further education • Occupational programs and certificates for students preparing for immediate employment upon completion • Curriculum that prepares students to effectively communicate, think critically, and be socially and culturally aware • Comprehensive student support services • A wealth of opportunities for intellectual, cultural, personal and career enhancement • Training and retraining to meet the needs of an evolving economy • Key partnerships to enhance educational services and opportunities

VISION: Monroe County Community College will be recognized for our student-focused service, academic excellence, affordability, innovation, community responsiveness and student success.

Enriching Lives

As our mission states, Monroe County Community College enriches lives. We do this every single day by being a student-focused institution that offers quality programs and services at an affordable price.

Being “student-focused” is not only a key component of our mission, it is also one of our core values that guides our attitudes and our behavior.

We make countless decisions as we manage the day-to-day operations of the college and as we shape – and secure – its immediate and long-term future. So, when we say we are “student-focused,” we get to the heart of how we enrich lives. We do it by ensuring that we are always keeping what is in the best interest of our students in mind with every decision we make.

For our annual report, we thought it would be fitting to select a number of stories from the past fiscal year that exemplify how the college enriched the lives of our students and, in turn, our community. Our student-focused mantra has resulted in so many key initiatives to help students, such as bringing mental health services to campus, starting a Veterans Center, helping students improve academic skills in preparation for college and acquiring $4.7 million in grants to implement programs to enhance student success.

I invite you to turn the page to learn about how our dedicated faculty and staff enrich the lives of our students each and every day. And, if you would like to hear more, just contact us. We love to talk about all the lives we enrich and all the opportunities we provide for those we serve!

Kojo A. Quartey, Ph.D.
President
In 2022-23, Monroe County Community College faculty and staff made significant progress in implementing the college’s 2020-25 Strategic Plan. The tactics completed by the college were geared toward meeting the college’s overall strategic goals of improving student access and success, providing relevant and innovative education, and creating a student-focused environment.

Some highlights of completed strategic planning activity include:

- The implementation of a 30-hour degree audit communication system, the offering of more “late start” courses, improved course scheduling via regular efficiency reporting and the promotion of the blended class modality.
- The offering of on-campus mental health services for students.
- Streamlined and expanded academic boot camp offerings, including the development of a reading and writing boot camp.
- The addition of an experiential learning coordinator position to create, organize and manage experiential learning opportunities.
- Completion of student experience process mapping, which resulted in the development of a constituent relationship management system, a new pathway-specific framework for MCC’s areas of study, a return-on-investment analysis of the college’s programming, improvement of the student onboarding processes for initial college scheduling/registration, a remapping of academic advising processes and installation of campus-wide external wayfinding signage.
- Improvement of the employee performance evaluation and professional development and training processes.

Regular updates on MCCC’s progress on its Strategic Plan can be found at monroeccc.edu/strategic-plan.
In fall 2022, MCCC and Monroe Community Mental Health Authority officials announced a partnership to provide mental health screenings and referrals to students on MCCC’s Main Campus.

The services are provided by MCHMA and include:
- Coordination of mental health screening, referrals, crisis prevention and intervention, and advocacy
- Linking to resources including counseling and therapy, health services, financial assistance, housing, social services, and other services and natural supports.

“Student access and success is a major goal in MCCC’s 2020-25 Strategic Plan, and one of the main objectives we have been focusing on is improving academic and non-academic support services,” said Dr. Kojo A. Quartey, MCCC president.

“A task force was formed to support and assist with college-wide and community assessment of mental health services and its implementation with on-going input. This was really the impetus for this innovative partnership to provide mental health services on campus for our students, and we are so grateful to MCMHA and the MCCC faculty and staff who made this happen.”

The partnership began as a Pilot program providing services on campus two days a week. That was expanded to four days a week via funding from the American Rescue Plan Act’s Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund. After-hours, on-call staff is available to respond to crises.
MCCC’s Associate of Applied Science in Nursing program, representing the Registered Nursing and Practical Nursing to Registered Nursing options, was granted continuing accreditation in 2022 for another eight years by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing Board of Commissioners.

Dr. Kim Lindquist, dean of the Health Sciences Division and director of the nursing programs at MCCC, said that no areas needed development, and this speaks to the commitment of the nursing faculty and staff who put forward a curriculum that meets the highest of standards and who continue to work collaboratively to provide high-quality instruction to nursing students at MCCC, benefiting not only our students, but the entire county and beyond.

The Associate of Applied Science in Nursing program continues to be one of the most highly regarded programs in the region, based on NCLEX-RN first-time pass rates. It prepares graduates to function as beginning registered nurse clinicians and members of a health care team in the care of acutely and chronically ill individuals. Registered nurses are qualified for employment in structured practice settings, including acute care hospitals, extended care facilities, nursing homes, clinics and physicians’ offices.
WalletHub, a personal finance website, ranked MCCC in the top 5 percent of community colleges throughout the U.S. and No.1 in Michigan for 2022.

The college ranked 37 out of 667 community colleges nationwide.

To determine the best community colleges in the U.S. and in each state, WalletHub selected schools from a list of member institutions in the American Association of Community Colleges. The community colleges were rated according to cost and financing, education outcomes and career outcomes.

WalletHub revealed the ones that are doing it best in its annual list by comparing community colleges across 19 different benchmarks, such as cost of attendance, overall quality of programs, faculty strength, and graduation and retention rates.

Data used to create this ranking were collected from the National Center for Education Statistics, Campaign for Free College Tuition, U.S. Department of Education and Council for Community and Economic Research.
In April, MCCC partnered with the Monroe County Intermediate School District to launch a dual-credit, two-semester Precision Machining Technology Program through which high school students can earn both high school career technology education credit and 12 college credits.

The program covers precision instruments and measurement, equipment setups and operations of machining processes. Lab projects and activities provide students the opportunity to apply and build upon many skills learned.

High school counselors registered the students through MCISD for this linked CTE program delivered entirely at MCCC and taught by a college instructor.

“Students who complete the program will be able to enter the workforce directly or continue to more advanced work at the college,” said Denise Teague, director of career and technical education at MCISD.

The program offers students the opportunity to use computers to design parts; program and operate high-tech, computer-controlled manufacturing equipment; discover how all kinds of things are made (from design to production); explore careers in advanced manufacturing; learn engineering principles, and design software. They can also obtain FANUC America’s CNC Basic Operation, Programming and Setup industry credentials. FANUC America Corporation is the leading supplier of robots, Computer Numerical Control systems and factory automation.
Monroe County Community College officials cut the ceremonial ribbon in fall 2022 on a new Veterans Center. The new center is a place where veterans can come to study, relax and find fellowship with other veterans. It is located in Room 141 in the recently renovated Founders Hall, right off the Vajcner Academic Commons. The college worked with the Monroe Veterans of Foreign Wars to make the Veterans Center a reality. La-Z-Boy Inc. donated the furniture for the center.

Members from the Monroe VFW are on the MCCC campus regularly to meet with veterans to answer questions, offer help, refer them to resources for benefits, assist them with obtaining military documents and records, and more.

“Monroe County Community College is dedicated to supporting our military veterans, and we welcome all of our veterans to utilize this inviting new space and access the services of our partners at the Monroe VFW,” MCCC President Dr. Kojo A. Quartey said at the ceremony.

MCCC was designated a Silver-level Michigan Veteran-Friendly school by the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency for 2022-23. This program recognizes academic institutions committed to supporting the needs of veterans and military-connected students. This designation was based on the following criteria met by MCCC:

- Identification of military/veteran status
- Application fee waiver
- On-campus veterans coordinator
- Veteran-specific website
- Veterans lounge
- Graduation rate tracking
- Academic performance tracking
- Peer support/mentoring program
- Veteran-specific scholarships/grants
- Veteran graduation recognition
- Evaluation of military service for academic credit

In 2022, MCCC was awarded $4.7 million in grant funding for programming designed to enhance student success. The funding comes from two grants:

- **Preparing for Success – D3C3/Ralph Wilson Foundation:** $2,919,499. MCCC’s collaborative with Detroit Drives Degrees Community College Collaborative (D3C3) and received a $2,919,499 award from D3C3/ Ralph Wilson Foundation. This grant project is titled “Preparing for Success,” and MCCC has several programs in the works to increase equity among the college’s student population and improve retention from year to year, including a First Year Experience program to help with acclimation to college studies, redefine advising efforts and a heavier focus on occupational programs to reinforce the careers that drive and help sustain everyday life and the economy of Monroe County.

- **Title III: Strengthening Institutions Program:** $1,734,490. Title III is a federal grant that supports student engagement through improved, proactive student support services designed to increase retention and academic goal attainment. The MCCC Title III grant – dubbed the “Strengthening Institutions Program” – of $1,734,490 is being allocated to improve student retention, success and the overall educational experience. MCCC has several programs in place – and some new programs that just started – using the funds from this grant. Most notably, these funds will assist with implementation of the aforementioned First Year Experience program, as well as focus on educational programs that increase English proficiency and student academic achievement in core academic subjects. It will also allow for the development of programs focused on improving instruction and assessment efforts, enhancement of the understanding and implementation of curricula, and the broadening of instructional strategies.

MCCC Cuts Ribbon on New Veterans Center

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- Veteran graduation recognition
- Evaluation of military service for academic credit

MCCC Secures $4.7 Million in Grants to Increase Student Success

In 2022, MCCC was awarded $4.7 million in grant funding for programming designed to enhance student success. The funding comes from two grants:
MCCC’s Respiratory Therapy program received the Distinguished Registered Respiratory Therapist Credentialing Success Award in 2022 from the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC).

CoARC also reaffirmed 10-year continuing accreditation for the college’s Associate of Applied Science in Respiratory Therapy program through 2032.

The CoARC board uses objective criteria based on key accreditation metrics in selecting programs for the Credentialing Success Award.

MCCC’s Respiratory Therapy program exceeded the distinguished program standards in nearly every category, including:

- 100 percent (average for three years) passage of Certified Respiratory Therapist (80 percent threshold)
- 95 percent employer satisfaction (80 percent threshold)
- 94 percent retention rate (90 percent threshold)
- 100 percent (average for three years) graduate satisfaction (80 percent threshold)
- 98 percent job placement (10 percent threshold)
HUSKY-HYPE UP HELPS STUDENTS PREP FOR COLLEGE

**MCCC offered a free 8-week, in-person program over the summer to help students prepare for college.**

The program, Bridges to College – Husky Hype-Up, was open to recent high school graduates who were new or current MCCC students who placed into developmental courses for Summer or Fall semester. It was made possible with financial assistance via a grant from the Michigan Community College Association.

Bridges to College - Husky Hype-Up was focused on student learning through supporting reading, writing and math skills; a hybrid model of instruction that included online and in-person learning, and activities to get students ready to become an MCCC Husky and help them build a sense of belonging at the college.

In addition to improving their academic skills in core areas, students worked with college educational advocates to prepare for their higher education experience in the fall. They met with advisors, learned about financial aid opportunities and gained career readiness skills.

MCCC provided all of the learning materials and supplies, a free laptop and a $500 stipend based on attendance and participation, breakfast and lunch each day, student engagement activities, resource information, college navigation, access to the college’s Heck’s Market food pantry and a $25 Lyft card.

**MCCC held a ceremony in May to induct 25 students into the college’s chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the national honor society for community colleges.**

Founded in 1918, PTK is a scholarly fellowship that embraces the best students of community colleges in the state of Michigan, the nation and the world. Since it began PTK has nearly 3 million members.

MCCC’s PTK chapter was chartered on January 14, 1969, with four members. Since that time, over 2000 MCCC students have become members of PTK. Students must have completed at least 12 hours of coursework toward an associate or bachelor’s degree or at least 6 hours of coursework toward a certificate credential and have a cumulative 3.5 grade point average or higher.
The Criminal Justice program at MCCC and the Michigan State Police teamed up to host a Monroe County Law Enforcement Career Academy in June for individuals aged 17-21.

The academy provided participants with the opportunity to experience the criminal justice system from the perspective of a police recruit and explore if a career as a police officer, deputy sheriff or state trooper is for them.

Participants were mentored by Michigan State Police troopers and officers from other local agencies.

They learned what it is like to be a law enforcement officer by getting hands-on experience through activities like moderate physical fitness, patrol activities, first aid and CPR training, defensive tactics and crime scene investigation.

MCCC’s Criminal Justice and Law pathway options prepare students for challenging careers in law enforcement, corrections, in the pathway examine the history and philosophy of criminal justice; the organization, management and operation of modern criminal justice agencies; the laws impacting criminal justice function, and more.
The Three R's - Recover, Reset and Resilience.

As we reflect on another year, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for the generous support of our donors. We know that the meaning of “normal” has changed for many of us. While some of our old routines have resumed, many students still face significant challenges that affect their academic success and well-being. Your donations made a tremendous difference in their lives and in our community. While much is different, one constant remains: we are unwaveringly student-focused in everything we do, always. In this annual report, we share some of the highlights and achievements from the past year.

Our students confront many barriers and difficulties in pursuing their education, such as homelessness, hunger, utility shutoffs, transportation issues, and more. Through Project Persist, funded by our Building Bridges of Hope campaign, we have helped our students recover and overcome these obstacles so they can focus on their studies. We have reset our campus to provide more collaborative spaces and classrooms infused with technology to meet the learning needs of today’s students. We have fostered a culture of inclusivity where all students feel welcomed and valued at MCCC. Moreover, we have offered new programs, such as free financial literacy courses, to help our students become more resilient and prepared for the future.

We are proud of the remarkable achievements and successes that we have witnessed thanks to your steadfast support and commitment. Below are some noteworthy highlights of the past year that illustrate how our donors have empowered us to fulfill our mission of enhancing the educational and cultural experience of our students and community:

• Launched the Building a Bridge of Hope campaign, raising over $100,000 to support instructional programs, scholarships and emergency support services for MCCC’s most vulnerable students.
• Made available over $350,000 in scholarships, helping 121 deserving students pursue their academic and career goals.
• Partnered with local businesses and community organizations to address the critical needs in high-demand areas such as health care, manufacturing, law enforcement and education through specialized support, workforce development and training.
• Received several grants and awards from national and regional funders to ensure programmatic relevance, excellence and innovation in our educational offerings.

We are immensely grateful for what we have accomplished together, and we look forward to continuing our partnership with you in the coming year. You are the reason why we succeed. You are our Bridge of Hope.

Sincerely,

Victor S. Bellestri
Chairman

Dr. Joshua W. Myers
Executive Director

STRATEGIC INNOVATION FUND – Creating a Safer Campus Environment

The Foundation’s Strategic Innovation Fund formally aligns with the College’s strategic goals to provide grants that improve mission connectivity and spur innovative thinking and acting on campus. The $16,000 inaugural grant from the Strategic Innovation Fund allowed for the creation of a Violence Prevention and Threat Management Training Video in response to growing concerns about the incidents of targeted violence that have occurred at schools and colleges around the state and the nation. The video is a valuable training resource available to all faculty, students, contractors, support staff and stakeholders who want to understand MCCC prevention resources and safety procedures.

MCCC Trustees Select Foundation Chair Victor Bellestri as Supporter of the Year

Foundation Chair Victor S. Bellestri was unanimously selected by the MCCC Board of Trustees as the 2022 Supporter of the Year. Victor and his wife Bonnie have been donors to The Foundation every year since its inception in 1999. The Bellestri family has supported capital campaigns with major gifts recognized by the naming of the La-Z-Boy Center Main Entry Vestibule, Career Technology Center Internet Café and most recently the endowment of a scholarship dedicated to assist students facing a financial emergency. Victor distinguished himself by more than financial generosity alone. He joined The Foundation Board of Directors as both an inaugural director and the board’s first elected treasurer, and rose to lead The Foundation as chair in 2017, becoming only the second person to lead the board of directors. His tenure as chair included some of the most challenging moments in the college’s history and yet in the face of adversity he represents everything a chair should be: supportive, visionary, flexible and capable, and through his empowering leadership The Foundation thrived and grew.
Excellence and Innovation Award – Dr. Quri Wygonik Recognized

The Excellence and Innovation Award was established to recognize an MCCC faculty or staff member each year who excelled in service to students by creating or adapting an innovative program on campus. In addition to an award, the recipient receives $2,500 to support their program. The campus community was invited to nominate an individual for this award, and the Grants Program Committee selected Dr. Quri Wygonik as the inaugural recipient. According to the nomination:

“Quri is doing the most important work she can do at MCCC by providing and sharing her expertise as support to help students turn their ideas into fruition. Using her expertise to help students develop a project which addresses a student need not being addressed within the community propels MCCC forward by demonstrating where community resources are not able to fulfill.”

Four new endowed scholarships were established in 2022-2023. This year the Board of Directors voted to amend Policy 3.02 to increase the minimum required to establish an endowment from $20,000 to $25,000. Once endowed, the funds are pooled and invested according to The Foundation’s investment policies. The Foundation now has 77 endowed scholarships. The new endowed scholarships are:

- Hector and Pauline (Elsie) LeBrun Family Scholarship
- Donna Brett Memorial Scholarship
- Dannielle Lambert Memorial Scholarship
- Mieden Farms Endowed Agriculture Scholarship

Scholarships – 2015-2024

CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Whispers on the 41st Latitude

Generously funded with a grant from The Foundation’s Cultural Enrichment Endowment, “Whispers on the 41st Latitude” was a collaborative community art project launched in the fall of 2022. International visiting artist Beatrix Reinhardt led a month-long pop-up artist workshop, which also featured an auditory accompaniment composed by Dr. Gordon Marsh. Whispers introduced participants to the early photographic method of cyanotype, a photographic printing process invented by the astronomer and scientist Sir John Herschel in 1842 using sunlight. Individual pieces were scanned and returned to community members, and the collective art installation was dedicated during a community event and now resides in the soaring West Stairwell and Student Commons Area of the Campbell Academic Center.

BUILDING A BRIDGE OF HOPE

ELIMINATING BARRIERS – Providing Holistic, Intrusive and Proactive Support

This past year, The Foundation received the single largest request for emergency support for students in our history, ultimately awarding over $33,000 in emergency support. The Project Persist initiative has provided a holistic, intrusive and proactive approach that has helped students address food insecurity, avoid evictions and utility shutoffs, afford car repairs, and persevere through homelessness. In partnership with financial aid and the MCCC Student Success Center, numerous students crossed the stage during the 2023 commencement ceremony because The Foundation eliminated barriers that otherwise would have forced them to drop out.

“Less than a year ago, I was homeless, living in my car, and trying to keep up with my classes. Today, I’m moving forward, graduating in May, and pursuing my degree at the University of Miami in August. I am so grateful for the financial support and encouragement provided by The Foundation, which has helped me reach my goals and live the life I was meant to live.”

~ Autumn, 2023 MCCC Graduate
The Foundation at MCCC

2022-2023 Cumulative Donors

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- DTE Energy Foundation
- Lt. Gov. Foundation
- Mrs. Shirley A. Meyer
- Mr. Gary J. and Mrs. Patricia A. Vigneron

Gold $500,000+
- Mrs. Ethel K. Foundation
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Millennium Society $30,000+
- Dr. Florence Atter
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- Holly H. Billeme Trust
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- Mr. and Mrs. Victor Bellesi
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- The Honorable and Mrs. Joseph A. Costello, Jr.
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- Exchange Club of Monroe
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- The A. Lin Sok Foundation Inc.
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- Mrs. Nancy J. Kienitz and Mr. M. Jane Karau
- La-Z-Boy, Inc.
- MCCC Alumni Association
- Michigan Gas Utilities/Willow Public Service Foundation
- Monroe County Community Credit Union
- Mr. and Mrs. John R. Muller
- National Endowment for the Arts
- Nexus Gas Transmission, LLC
- Dr. David E. Nixon and Mrs. Judy Nixon
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Ewing
- Ms. Nancy M. Thompson

Legacy Society $20,000+
- Mr. William J. Baccarella and Mrs. Jamie E. Baccarella
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- Community Foundation of Monroe County
- Education Foundation of Monroe High School
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Listed here are the individuals, corporations and organizations who have given annual gifts to The Foundation at Monroe County Community College between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023.

All gifts are recognized for this specific financial year in the appropriate giving level. Cumulative gifts – a total of all gifts given over time – are recognized separately according to giving level, beginning with the Trustee’s Society.

We are pleased to recognize the support of each of our donors. We have made a great effort to ensure the accuracy of this list; therefore, we regret any omissions or errors. Please notify us in writing of any concerns.

2022-2023 Cumulative Donors

To view this information online, please visit www.mccfoundation.com and click on the Giving to The Foundation link.
The MCCC community was deeply saddened by the passing of President Emeritus Dr. David E. Nixon on January 18, 2023.

Nixon, who served as MCCC’s president from 2003-2013, was a visionary leader who dramatically expanded the level of support and awareness of the college’s mission and educational opportunities for students and citizens.

He led MCCC through a dynamic period in the college’s history — a period that included major new facility construction, record enrollment, increasing endowments, new scholarships, and start-up of new programs and business partnerships. This period also included many challenges caused by dwindling resources and Michigan’s longest recession.

When Nixon took the helm, MCCC was in the middle of a capital campaign for the facility we now proudly call the La-Z-Boy Center and Meyer Theater. He fully embraced the opportunity the campaign offered for him to embed himself into the community and expanded the level of understanding and support for the college.

While president, Nixon often shared the talents he gleaned as a professional broadcaster and communicator — his chosen career field prior to higher education. He served as official master of ceremonies at dozens of significant community milestones in Monroe County, such as the dedication of River Raisin National Battlefield Park and the River Raisin Heritage Trail. But, more than a polished public communicator, he served in a critical leadership capacity on all of those major community projects.

Upon his retirement in 2013, Nixon expressed his gratitude for the contributions of MCCC’s employees and appreciation for the opportunity given to him by the Board to serve as MCCC’s fourth president.

“MCCC’s faculty and staff persisted in academic excellence, developing new jobs and career programs [and] expanding community partnerships that reach beyond geographic boundaries,” he said, adding that he was profoundly appreciative for the “opportunity to lead, learn and grow in a community of hard working people and generous donors who helped build campus landmarks like the La-Z-Boy Center/Meyer Theater and the new state-of-the-art Career Technology Center for the job seekers of the 21st Century.”

Nixon left a legacy of leadership that propelled MCCC to reach new levels of service to the community by embracing many new partnerships that expanded educational opportunities for MCCC students, all during extremely difficult economic times. He was energetic, passionate, entrepreneurial, thoughtful and so very student-focused. MCCC is forever grateful for his dedication to the community and the college and the indelible impression he left on all of us.