



ANNUAL REPORT 2020 - 2021



THE FOUNDATION
at MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

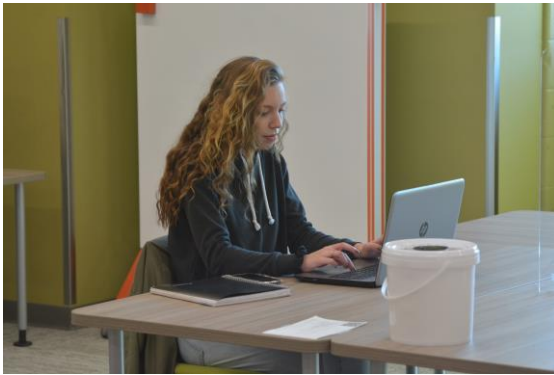
1555 S. Raisinville Road
Monroe, MI 48161

Tel: 734-384-4214
www.monroecc.edu/foundation

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
Strategic Highlights	4
Financial Highlights	4
Operating Highlights	4
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT	5
FINANCIAL SUMMARY	6
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	7
Statement of Financial Position	7
Figure 1: Net Position 1999-2021	7
YEAR IN REVIEW	8
Endowments Result in Record Revenues	8
Millage Projects Transform the MCCC Campus	8
COVID-19	9
Virtual Scholarship Award Ceremony	9
MCCC 2025	9
Bev Heck Memorial Endowment	9
ELIMINATING BARRIERS	10
Project Persist	10
Mental Health Support	10
MCCC Food Pantry	11
SUPPORTING EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION IN THE CLASSROOM	12
Highlights	12
Instructional Division Support	12
Enhancement Grants	13
Strategic Innovation Fund	13
Excellence and Innovation Award	13
ENDOWMENT REPORT	14
Scholarship Endowment	14
Cultural Enrichment Endowment	14
John D. Dingell Endowment	14

Title III Endowment _____	14
SCHOLARSHIP REPORT _____	15
Continued Growth in Scholarships _____	15
Figure 2: Scholarship Funds Comparison 2012-2022 _____	15
New Endowed Scholarships _____	15
ANNUAL FUND REPORT _____	16
Summary _____	16
Online Giving _____	16
OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND STAFF _____	17



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Strategic Highlights

Over the past year The Foundation has focused on a comprehensive assessment of existing programs through the lens of our strategic plan. This review resulted in the overhaul of the flagship Enhancement Grants program and the creation of new programs such as a new campus food bank, support for mental health and several new emergency support initiatives.

Financial Highlights

The Foundation set a new record in the 2020-2021 fiscal year with revenues nearing \$3 million at \$2,905,340. This eclipses our previous high water mark reached last year when revenues totaled over \$2,250,000, which significantly exceeded our best previous record of \$1.7 million (2005 and 2018). These revenues resulted in a trend of continued strong growth in The Foundation's net position, rising 19% above last year with an impressive cumulative increase of 75% over the past five years; and, for the first time ever The Foundation exceeded \$10,000,000 in net assets. The Foundation continues to realize strong year-over-year revenues from endowment performance thanks to favorable market conditions. It's important to note that the growth in net position has not come through a reduction in support to MCCC. During the 2020-2021 fiscal year The Foundation awarded over \$377,570 in program and capital support and disbursed over \$215,000 in scholarships to MCCC.

Operating Highlights

The Foundation's operating expenses declined slightly over the past year with cost savings resulting from the continued suspension of in-person events and fundraising meetings. The Board successfully transitioned to online meetings, which offered the ability to conduct regular business despite quarantine measures. Personnel remained the same from the previous year.

The Foundation at Monroe County Community College is the charitable organization dedicated to enhancing the educational and cultural experience of our students and community.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Benjamin Disraeli said, “change is constant; change...is inevitable.” Leadership guru John Maxwell expanded the phrase by adding, “growth is optional.” There was much over the past year that we could not control, and there were many moments of hope that were quickly dashed by yet more change and uncertainty. I choose not to define this past year by the unpredictable effect of the global pandemic; rather, a quick look at our financial statement shows a year of extraordinary growth. More importantly, The Foundation grew in scope and service to our students and community. This was of course driven by the generosity of our donors, but we should not overlook the vision and strategic framework that the board adopted, which defines our priorities and guides our initiatives.

Prior to the pandemic the Board developed a five-year strategic plan, rooted in our recently updated mission documents, that established four pillars for giving. This renewed focus was intended to comprehensively support MCCC; however, it became evident that one pillar, Eliminating Barriers, was preeminent in the turbulent times our students found themselves in. The pandemic exposed the reality that many of the barriers students encounter exist well beyond the reach of our traditional aid programs. Moreover, it forced us to acknowledge that students who are hungry, have transportation issues, lack childcare, those unemployed or who are homeless, simply cannot succeed without help. These are not new problems for our students, but the pandemic created a new urgency and imperative that propelled us to act and intervene.

The creation of new emergency funds and the launch of “Project Persist” represented a significant philosophical shift in how we provide support to students. These programs were intentional in purpose and design. They were sensitive to the challenges our most vulnerable students face, including barriers inherent to the administration of our programs. Critically, our campus joined us to proactively identify struggling students, in many cases just before it was too late.

Our donors responded with tremendous support at a time of great uncertainty. Many donors searching for a way to help the community found our students a worthy beneficiary of their generosity. In many instances, donors who haven't given to us in over a decade once again made gifts. Our work is not done, but this year was an important start.

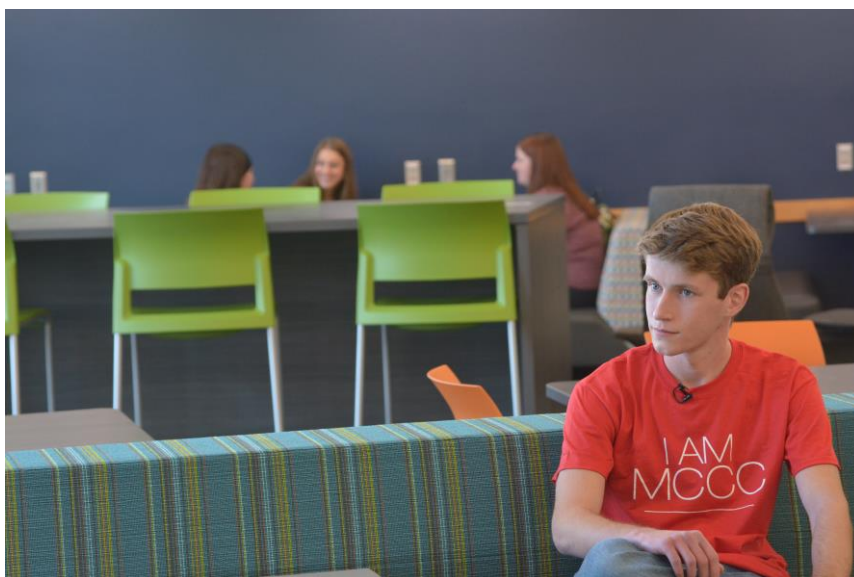
As we rolled out emergency support, The Foundation joined with MCCC staff to provide wrap-around assistance to students. We continue to develop additional mechanisms to refer struggling students to more sustainable means of support. This includes connecting students to public assistance, referring those in need to mental or emotional resources, and providing additional financial or academic counseling when appropriate. Community colleges used to be known as the “open door” to higher education, but access is no longer a sufficient goal. Ensuring students are successful and complete their studies is now the standard we must hold ourselves to. Our work over the past year has advanced that imperative, and the coming years will build on the foundation we have established.

Joshua W. Myers, Ed.D.
Executive Director
October 11, 2020

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

For the fifth consecutive year The Foundation realized an increase in the overall net position over the previous fiscal year. The increase in net position largely stems from continued endowment growth as a result of positive market conditions and new contributions. Grants to MCCC increased by over \$100,000, while disbursed scholarships decreased slightly over the previous year.

- Administrative cost declined over last year by 5%.
- Total revenues exceeded \$1,000,000 for the fifth straight year.
- Investment gains increased significantly from the previous fiscal year. Net investment income exceeded \$1.7 million. Investment income has never exceeded \$500,000 in any prior fiscal year.
- The Foundation's net position topped \$10 million for the first time. Net assets have increased from \$3.7 million in 2011 to \$10.6 million this year.



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Financial Position

DURING THE FISCAL YEAR*	2020-2021	2019-2020
We received contributions totaling	\$731,813	\$1,576,962
Investment gains of	\$1,763,805	\$348,206
Special event revenues of	\$15,000	\$28,850
We received in-kind contributions for administrative services from MCCC and other in-kind support of	\$294,722	\$323,069
Corporate grants of	\$100,000	\$0
Which resulted in total revenues of	\$2,905,340	\$2,277,087
We distributed to MCCC for scholarships and program funds	(\$593,068)	(\$513,746)
And had administrative and fund raising expenses of	(\$279,722)	(\$296,955)
And had other expenses of	(\$1,580)	(\$1,547)
Which resulted in total expenditures of	(\$874,369)	(\$812,248)
Resulting in a total net asset increase of	\$2,030,971	\$1,464,839
When combined with our net assets of the previous fiscal year of	\$8,637,540	\$7,172,701
Resulted in new net assets at June 30*	\$10,668,510	\$8,637,540

*Summary represents pre-audited numbers for the fiscal year end on June 30, 2019 and are subject to change upon presentation of the final audit to the Board of Directors.

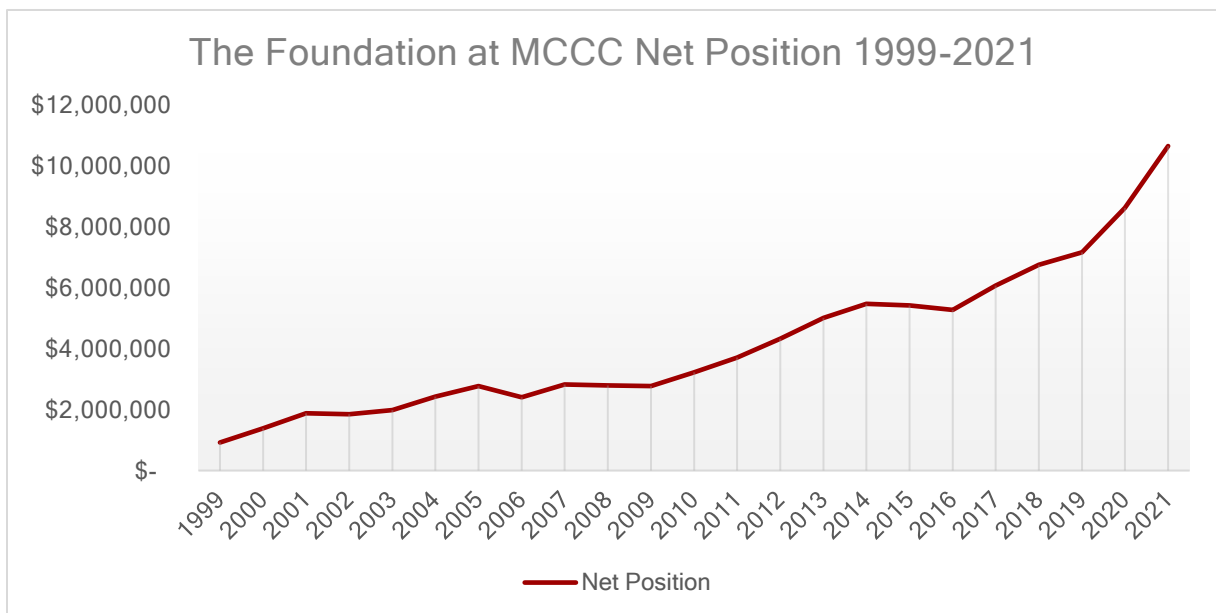


Figure 1: Net Position 1999-2021

YEAR IN REVIEW

Endowments Result in Record Revenues

Each year The Foundation adds new scholarship endowments to its portfolio thanks to generous donors. In a purposeful alignment with the strategic plan's Eliminating Barriers pillar, endowments benefitting emergency scholarships have become the most prevalent type of new scholarship endowment. In addition, program endowments represent a growth area. The Cultural Enrichment Endowment is not only our oldest programmatic endowment, but it is also the largest. Additional program endowments are Title III, Dingell, Heck, and several others that are nearing endowment stage. Existing endowments also benefit from continued donor gifts. This long-term giving strategy paid off over the past year with a scorching market driving historic growth. Over the past 20 years, the total investment income for all endowments slightly exceeded \$3 million. This past year alone, investment income exceeded \$1.7 million. 2020 will be remembered as the year COVID-19 changed our lives, but the biggest story from the fiscal year is the unprecedented growth in our investment portfolio.

Millage Projects Transform the MCCC Campus

Initiated by the Maintenance and Improvement Millage passed by voters in 2016, and continued by the successful five-year zero-increase renewal in 2020, the campus visibly transitioned to a more student-focused environment.

Student spaces were added to offer a more welcoming environment for students to study and interact. Accessibility and security across

campus saw dramatic investments. Importantly, technology upgrades, while not a visible improvement, were essential to the transition to an online environment. This investment in our technology infrastructure will continue to pay off in the coming years even with a return to in-person instruction. While The Foundation did not play a role in advocating for the ballot issues that funded these improvements, we have a critical stake in the success of these projects. Donors help us shape these investments, adding essential financial support to the projects to elevate their scope and strategically leverage this multimillion-dollar public investment to amplify these important projects to achieve even greater results.



COVID-19

The COVID-19 public health emergency continued to influence every aspect of our past year; however, despite an entire year of remote work The Foundation's donors responded with compassion and support for our students. The board and staff of The Foundation operated the entirety of the fiscal year in a virtual format. Despite the challenges of operating remotely, The Foundation maintained a high level of service and productivity thanks to enhancements in technology.

Virtual Scholarship Award Ceremony

The annual Scholarship Award Ceremony, a favorite event among donors and the unofficial traditional kickoff to the new academic year, was held in a virtual format. The event featured pre-recorded footage from Chairman Bellestri, President Quartey, and two students offered touching accounts of the impact their scholarships had on their educational experience.



MCCC 2025

The first year of The Foundation's five-year comprehensive campaign called "Hope, Inspiration, Empowerment - MCCC 2025" did not begin according to plan. Still, the core tenets of the strategy aptly guided the operations and fundraising initiatives over the past year. The framework of the plan began to take concrete shape through the launch of several new initiatives.

Bev Heck Memorial Endowment



Bev Heck was a well-known civic leader in the Monroe Community. She served as an educator for years, and ended her career as the director of the Arthur Lesow Community Center until her retirement. In her estate, Bev gave an unrestricted gift of \$280,748. In honor of her extraordinary trust in the mission of MCCC, the Board of Directors tasked the executive director with developing a recommendation for the purpose, management and administration of this fund as an endowment that would honor Bev's life and legacy in perpetuity.

ELIMINATING BARRIERS

Project Persist

68%
of students
**worry about having
enough money
to pay for school***



43%
of students show
**signs of housing
insecurity***
(struggling to pay
rent/utilities
or the need
to move
frequently)




Project Persist is a broad-based initiative that provides aid directly to vulnerable students facing an unexpected emergency. With the launch of Project Persist, The Foundation has established a ready source of funding help students persevere to continue their studies. The direct aid programs funded through Project Persist include:

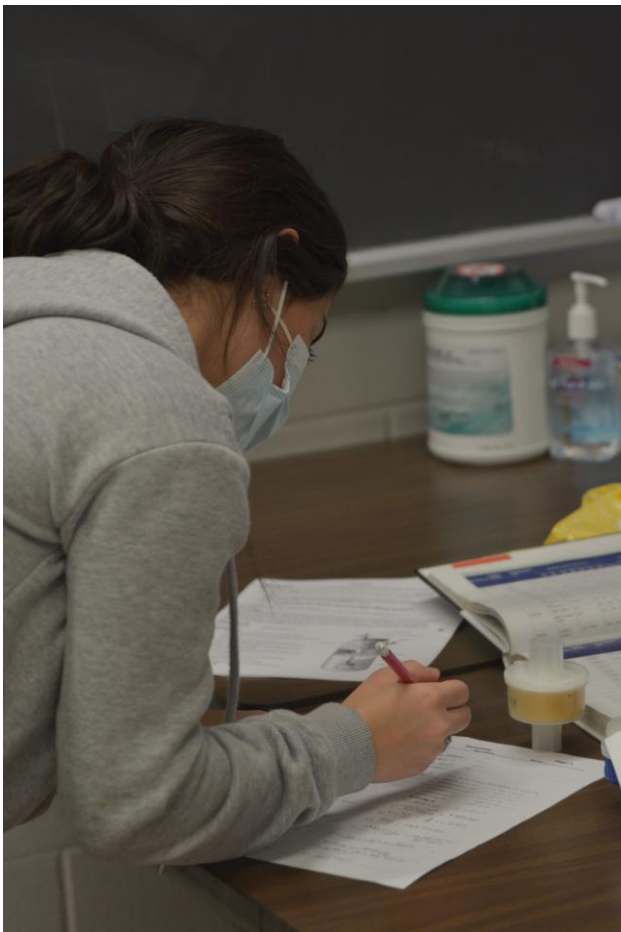
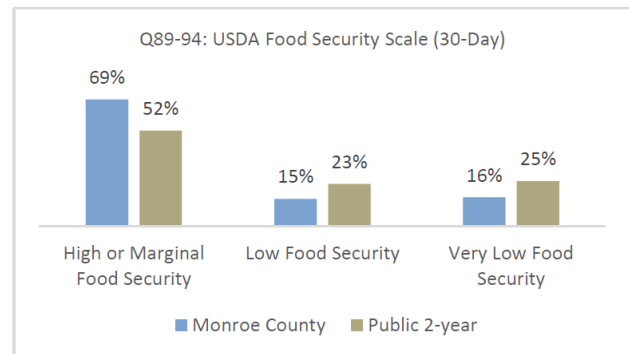
- *Student Emergency Fund* assists students with non-academic expenses by enabling MCCC to work with a vendor, utility provider or service provider to directly pay an outstanding or unexpected bill on behalf of the student.
- *Eliminating Barriers Scholarship* is awarded to students in crisis who need immediate assistance paying for academic expenses.
- *Completion Scholarships* help students nearing the end of their academic studies complete their degree.
- *Emergency Relief* helps students who require assistance with basic needs security and living expenses that may not be directly related to academic expenses.
- *FASSST* is a partnership between The Foundation and MCCC faculty and staff to provide more opportunities for students to access aid. Volunteers will be trained and given a budget to award to students they identify as in need.

Mental Health Support

The MCCC strategic plan identified mental and behavioral health as a significant barrier for students on campus. The Foundation worked collaboratively with a strategic planning task force to fund the “Healthy Minds Survey,” which will allow MCCC to collect data to better understand and address issues related to students’ mental health needs.

MCCC Food Pantry

A recent study of MCCC students concluded that 31% of MCCC students showed signs of low to very low food security according to the USDA Food Security Scale. Moreover, hunger is very clearly a barrier to students' success. As a result, The Foundation led an initiative to establish a food pantry on campus. The pantry will be launched as a partnership with MCOP to provide a variety of healthy food and quick grab and go items for students. The pantry will emphasize healthy specialty items like protein bars, whole grain snacks etc. to support good health and choices while keeping in mind that students are often on the move. Seasonal fresh produce will also be offered.



SUPPORTING EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION IN THE CLASSROOM

Highlights

- Over 52 programs and initiatives representing every instructional area on campus spent funds through The Foundation in 20/21. Total available funding dedicated to improving instruction in the classroom neared \$400,000.
- The Enhancement Grants program was replaced with a pilot program called the Strategic Innovation Fund.
- At the end of the fiscal year, over \$163,000 was raised benefitting these campus projects.
- COVID-19 canceled many planned activities. In most cases, extensions were granted to allow the funds to carry over to next budget year.



Instructional Division Support

The Foundation acts as the fiduciary for many smaller projects and groups across campus. These funds are typically established by faculty or staff to address an outstanding need in a division, department or service area. In addition to benefitting specific needs, these projects engage additional partners and expose new donors to the work of The Foundation.

Division	Programs and Projects Supported	19/20 Balances	20/21 Balances
Humanities	8	\$44,148	\$56,595
Business	4	\$22,082	\$22,082
ASET	16	\$92,735	\$103,090
Science/Math	4	\$16,220	\$16,220
Health Science	3	\$107,350	\$8,831
Misc	17	\$62,572	\$184,303
TOTAL	52	\$345,107	\$391,121

Enhancement Grants

The Enhancement Grants program has been a staple initiative since 2002. It was created to support the development and implementation of innovative projects that support the mission and was funded through unrestricted and restricted gifts. Over the period of 2002 to 2020, The Foundation funded 251 projects, awarding \$329,000. While the program continued to fund worthwhile projects, the Grants Program Committee concluded that due to a cumbersome application process, trend toward cyclical funding over innovation, and limited strategic or mission connectivity, it was time to reevaluate the program.

Strategic Innovation Fund

The Grants Program Committee recommended to the Board of Directors a pilot program called the Strategic Innovation Fund. This fund aims to improve mission-connectivity, formally align grants with the strategic goals of both MCCC and The Foundation, and spur innovative thinking and acting. Rather than solicit general applications from across campus, projects will be vetted and requested by the new MCCC Strategic Planning Task Force.

Excellence and Innovation Award

With the transition from the Enhancement Grants to the Strategic Innovation Fund, one cherished aspect of the old program was lost: the opportunity to publicly recognize individual MCCC staff. To that end, the Board of Directors created the Excellence and Innovation Award, which is intended 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 will be granted \$2,500 to support their program.



ENDOWMENT REPORT

The Foundation currently has four endowments combined totaling over \$8.63 million. These endowments capitalized on a strong market in the past year with net investment income exceeding \$1.7 million.

Scholarship Endowment

The scholarship endowment is a pooled fund of true and quasi endowments managed together but tracked individually for the purpose of awarding student scholarships as directed and governed by each individual donor agreement. The scholarship endowment grew to \$5,639,878, up from \$4,603,358 in the previous year.

Cultural Enrichment Endowment

The Cultural Enrichment Endowment was created to support programs, equipment, events, operational expenses, and other activities deemed by The Foundation Board of Directors as benefitting, commemorating, or contributing to the cultural enrichment of the students of Monroe County Community College and its community. The Cultural Enrichment Endowment rose from \$1,740,538 last year to \$2,056,824 this year.



John D. Dingell Endowment

The John D. Dingell Endowment was created to benefit innovative projects and creative efforts designed to foster a corps of supporters to advance and sustain the optimal development of the River Raisin National Battlefield Park and Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. The Dingell Endowment rose from just under \$36,000 last year to \$44,577 this year.

Title III Endowment

This endowment was created from unrestricted gifts and a one-to-one match from a federal grant. The fund is being managed for growth. The fund increased from \$476,249 last year to \$585,198 this year. The Foundation Board of Directors will assume full control over all income and disposition of the corpus without restriction at maturity.

SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

Continued Growth in Scholarships

Scholarships remain one of the most popular giving options for donors. The Foundation continues to see overall growth in scholarship giving. This year we saw both annual and endowed scholarships increase to total over \$300,000 in traditional scholarship support for students, and The Foundation added another \$35,000 in emergency scholarship to assist students affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and other emergency situations.

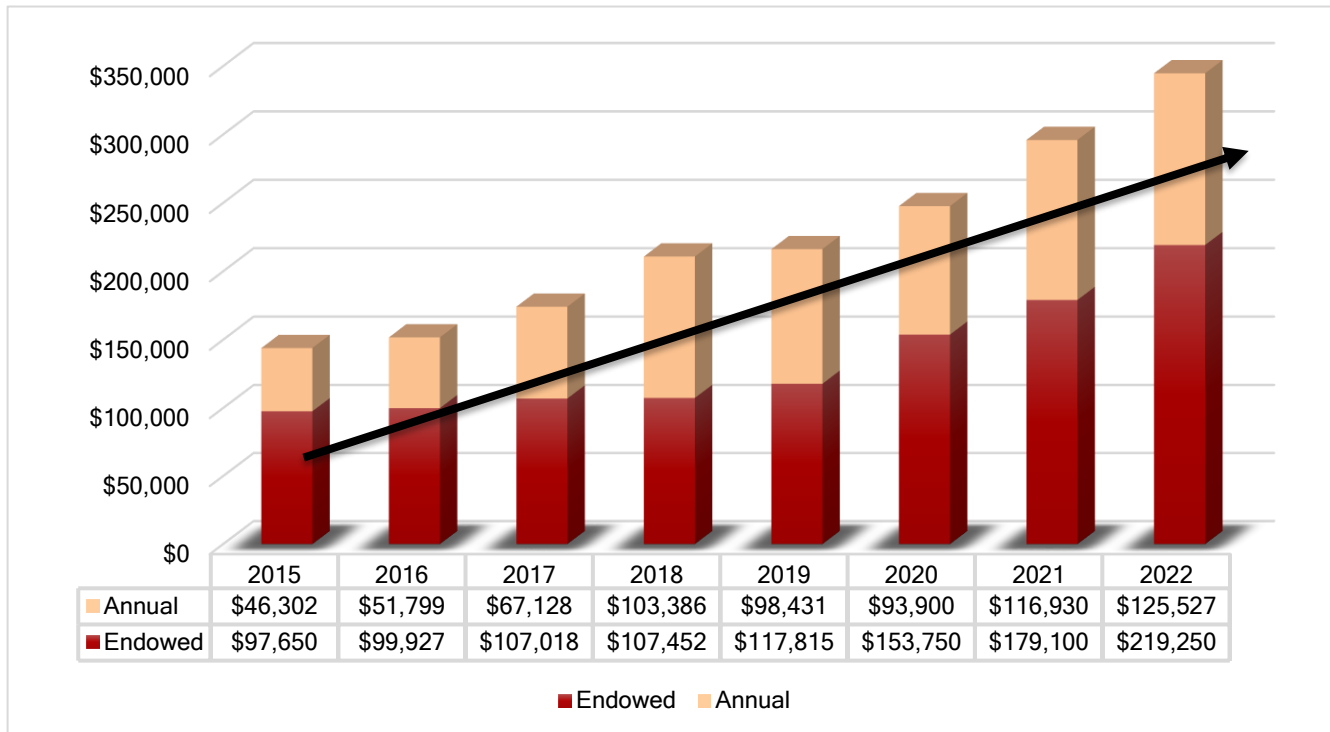


Figure 2: Scholarship Funds Comparison 2012-2022

New Endowed Scholarships

Four new endowed scholarships were established in 2020-2021. Endowed scholarships must reach \$20,000 before becoming true endowments. Once endowed, the funds are pooled and invested according to The Foundation's investment policies, which guide the management of the fund with the intent to maintain the principle permanently. The Foundation now has 67 endowed scholarships. The new endowed scholarships are:

- Johnson Estate Endowed Scholarship
- Lakewood Machine Products Co./Howard Morrin Memorial Welding Scholarship
- Kurt and Renee Darrow Endowed Scholarship
- Victor and Bonnie Bellestri Family Scholarship

ANNUAL FUND REPORT

Summary

This year's annual fund continued our focus on the Eliminating Barriers pillar of our new comprehensive campaign. In total, we had another successful year, raising over \$71,000. We did see a decline over last year's revenues. Annual fund gifts are defined as gifts given in response to an annual fund solicitation, or a gift given at the end of the calendar year. In addition to the main mailer that is sent out to over 13,000 households, we launched Project Persist at the end of the fiscal year. This mailing went to previous emergency fund donors and lapsed donors and raised nearly \$29,000.



Online Giving



As in past years, we emphasized online giving, as more donors are using credit cards as their preferred mode of giving. We kicked off the annual fund campaign once again with #GivingTuesday, which is always the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. This year's #GivingTuesday raised nearly \$8,000.



The Foundation at MCCC's GivingTuesday Fundraiser

Fundraiser by The Foundation at Monroe County Community College ·

Donate

OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND STAFF

OFFICERS		
Victor S. Bellestri Board Chair	Dr. Ronald Campbell First Vice Chair	Dr. Kojo A. Quartey Second Vice Chair
William J. Bacarella, Jr. Treasurer	Marjorie McIntyre Evans Secretary	Michael R. Meyer Chairman Emeritus
BOARD OF DIRECTORS		
William T. Bruck MCCC Trustee	Krista Lambrix MCCC Trustee	Aaron Mason MCCC Trustee
Emily Hodge Alumni Board Chair	Dr. Melissa Grey MCCC Rep	Lisa Schendel MCCC Rep.
Alan G. Barron	William H. Braunlich	Carol Lenox Carlton
H. Douglas Chaffin	Ignazio Cuccia	Renee Darrow
Julie Edwards	Jean Guyor	Annette Sabo Johnson
Marjorie A. Krepes	Irma "Mima" Kubiske	Molly Luempert-Coy
Keith P. Masserant	Susan R. S. Miller	James G. Petrangelo
Richard Sieb	Neal E. Thurber	Rosemarie Walker
Laurence W. Wilson	Suzanne M. Wetzel Executive Director Emeritus	
HONORARY MEMBERS		
Helen M. Beach (1913-2000)	Shirley A. Meyer (1922-2013)	Paul Whitman (1922-2012)
STAFF		
Dr. Joshua W. Myers Executive Director	Janel Boss Administrative Assistant	Michelle Gaynier Communications Specialist
Daniel Schwab Foundation Accountant		

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

Presented to The Foundation Board of Directors
During The Foundation at MCCC Annual Meeting
October 11, 2021



THE FOUNDATION
at MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Foundation is organized as an instrumentality exclusively for the benefit of the educational, literary, and scientific activities of Monroe County Community College.

Article III, Foundation Bylaws

Vision:

The Foundation at Monroe County Community College will inspire donors to create an economically and culturally vibrant community through philanthropy in education.

We strive to:

- ❖ Eliminate financial need as a barrier for students seeking to earn an education
- ❖ Ensure MCCC can respond to the emergent workforce needs of our community
- ❖ Bring world-class cultural programming at an affordable price to Monroe County
- ❖ Act as an agent of change within MCCC as it transforms to meet the most pressing needs of our students and community