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on the cover

Montcalm Community College celebrated the inauguration of Dr. Bradley J. Barrick as the institution's seventh president on Nov. 21.

inside front cover

Nearly 300 guests attended the inauguration and investiture celebration in the gymnasium on MCC's Sidney campus.

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Celebrating the inauguration and investiture of MCC's seventh president, Dr. Bradley J. Barrick

"MCC, it's time to dream big! We may be a somewhat small community college in rural Michigan, but we are going to make a big impact."

– Dr. Bradley J. Barrick

By Shelly Springborn

The Montcalm Community College Board of Trustees inaugurated Dr. Bradley J. Barrick as the college's seventh president during a celebration Nov. 21 at the college's Sidney campus.

"I am honored and humbled to have been selected as MCC's seventh president," Dr. Barrick said during his inauguration address to nearly 300 attendees.

"I am grateful to the Board of Trustees for your confidence and trust in me to lead this wonderful institution. It is a privilege to serve as your president, and I understand the responsibility that comes with it. One thing that I can promise you is that I will put in the work to ensure our success," Dr. Barrick said.

During his address, President Barrick celebrated the college's past by acknowledging its accomplishments and recognizing its former presidents. He also laid out plans for the college's future.

"During my first 90 days, I embarked on a Listen and Learn Tour, in order to build relationships with individuals on campus and also members in the community," he said. "During my Listen and Learn Tour, one of my favorite questions that I was asked was, 'What is your why?'"

"For me, my why is simple. At the age of eighteen, I enrolled at my local community college, and it changed my life. I did not grow up with a sense of entitlement; to employ a baseball analogy, I was not born on third base. Nothing was given to me. No, I had to hustle and put in the work. I like to say that growing up in our house, we had a lot of love and laughter, but not a lot of money," President Barrick said.

"The decision to attend my local community college offered me an affordable education," he said. "I gained confidence in my leadership abilities, and it granted me scholarships that enabled me to pursue further studies at a university. Four years later, I graduated from the University of Oklahoma (Boomer Sooner) debt-free. None of these achievements would have been possible without the foundational experience I obtained at a community college."

"Consequently, I have committed the remainder of my professional career to serving students at community colleges. Each day, I am motivated by the goal of helping students achieve success stories similar to my own. One student at a time, community colleges are still changing lives," President Barrick said.

presidential inauguration

Moving forward, President Barrick said MCC will adhere to its mission by focusing on creating opportunity through education in order to fulfill its vision of fostering an employed, educated and thriving community, living out its five core values:

1. MCC will be a place of belonging, where everyone has a seat at the table. Regardless of who you are or where you come from, we will welcome, believe in, and support you.
2. MCC will be a gateway of opportunity, actively seeking to eliminate barriers in order to provide our learners with an accessible, affordable, and empowering education.
3. MCC will value and grow our people by advocating for a healthy, meaningful, and safe work environment, where we cherish our employees by nurturing a culture of respect, collaboration, professional development, and fun.
4. At Montcalm Community College, we are proud that community is our middle name. We believe that our community and college simply go together. We need one another and make each other better. The college needs the community, and the community needs the college. The college makes the community better, and the community makes the college better.

5. At MCC, we will work on the institution, not just in it. We are committed to being responsible stewards of our resources, leading to economic viability, environmental sustainability, and continuous improvement.

“MCC, it’s time to dream big!” President Barrick said. “We may be a somewhat small community college in rural Michigan, but we are going to make a big impact.”

“I can’t do this alone, nor do I even want to try. So, to every single person in this room, I kindly ask for your support, your encouragement, your effort, your resources, your connections and your prayers,” he said.

During the ceremony, MCC Board of Trustees Chairperson Karen Carbonelli presented Dr. Barrick the college’s presidential medallion. The medallion is a formal symbol of the Office of President at the college. It features the MCC seal. The images on the seal reflect the area’s agricultural, industrial and educational heritage.



MCC Board Chairperson Karen Carbonelli presented the Presidential Medallion to Dr. Barrick.



Dr. Bradley J. Barrick, left, and his wife, Shayla.



Michigan Community College Association President Brandy Johnson presented Dr. Barrick a citation from the Governor’s Office during the inauguration ceremony.

presidential inauguration



In her remarks, Carbonelli said, “Dr. Barrick exhibits several qualities that make him an exceptional leader and the right person to guide our institution, including integrity, passion and fostering relationships.”

“Dr. Barrick’s passion for community colleges is evident in his actions,” Carbonelli said. “He approaches his work with purpose, enthusiasm and a vision for the future.”

Board Vice Chairperson Carol Deuling-Ravell assisted with the presentation of the presidential medallion.

“Thank you for joining us on such a momentous and significant day,” Carbonelli said. “In our college’s 59-year history, we have installed a president on only six previous occasions.

“Dr. Barrick, the Board of Trustees has selected you as President of Montcalm Community College. Yours will be the privilege and responsibility of leading the college to the fulfillment of its great promise and mission for years to come,” Carbonelli said. “Now, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Board of Trustees, I present to you the Montcalm Community College presidential medallion, the symbol of the distinguished office which you now hold.

“On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the employees and the greater community, I welcome you as the seventh president of Montcalm Community College. I assure you of our

confidence in you and pledge our support to you as you strive to continue the mission of this college,” Carbonelli said.

In addition to the formal investiture, seven speakers delivered remarks in support of President Barrick, including: Laura Montoye, Director of Community Investment with the Greenville Area Community Foundation; Penny Dora, Director of Communications with the Montcalm Area Intermediate School District; Kristie Smith, Chief Operating Officer with Corewell Health Greenville Hospital; Brandy Johnson, President of the Michigan Community College Association; Representative Pat Outman; MCC Emeritus Director of Workforce Development Leslie Anne Wood; and MCC Faculty Council President and Student Success Counselor Tore Skogseth.

A series of toasts to celebrate the occasion were delivered by: Senator Rick Outman; Rachel Gray, Executive Director of Hello West Michigan; Robert J. Byram, President and Chief Executive Officer of Sidney State Bank; Tracy Zamarron, Dean of Health and Human Services at Montcalm Community College; and Kurt Peterson, Treasurer of Montcalm Community College’s Board of Trustees.

MCC Emeritus Dean of Arts and Sciences Dr. Gary Hauck served as emcee, and retired pastor Bob Braman led attendees in the invocation. ■



about **Dr. Barrick**



Get to know

Dr. Bradley J. Barrick

Dr. Bradley J. Barrick joined Montcalm Community College on July 1, 2024, as the institution's seventh president.

With a spirit of humility, Dr. Barrick is a servant leader who has a deep appreciation and profound respect for the college's team of administrators, faculty, and support staff, who collectively demonstrate an unwavering commitment to serve our students, industry partners, and community members.

Dr. Barrick brings transformational leadership experience in higher education as an accomplished administrator and dedicated faculty member. Among his numerous capabilities, Dr. Barrick is relationally driven, values emotional intelligence, and brings an inordinate amount of energy, passion and joy to his work. His knowledge in higher education builds mutual trust across the educational and political landscapes, and his spirited leadership is highly inspirational and motivational both on campus and in the community.

Dr. Barrick is a proud product of the community college system. He began his education at Rose State College before earning a B.A. in Business Administration from the University of Oklahoma. Dr. Barrick also earned master's degrees in Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Central Oklahoma and Divinity (MDiv) from Oral Roberts University.

Dr. Barrick then earned his doctoral degree in Ministry (DMin) from Evangel University.

Before becoming part of the MCC family, Dr. Barrick held several administrative and faculty positions at Rose State College. In 2021, he was appointed as the Executive Director of Communications, overseeing the Marketing and Public Relations department. He also served in the role of Executive Director of Government and Military Relations. As a professor, he has taught both in-person and online courses in the business and humanities divisions.

A devoted public servant, Dr. Barrick is actively involved in community engagement. He serves on the Michigan Works! Workforce Development Board and is a member of both the Greenville Rotary Club and the Greenville Area Chamber of Commerce. Furthermore, he is a graduate of the Hello West Michigan Rapid Roots 2024 Cohort and a participant in the Leadership Montcalm class of XXV.

Dr. Barrick is supported by his wife and best friend, Shayla. Together, they have helped raise 27 foster children in their home. Additionally, Dr. Barrick is an officer in the Army National Guard. In 2023, he deployed on a combat mission to the Horn of Africa as command chaplain of Taskforce Tomahawk and received the Meritorious Service Medal for his exemplary leadership overseas. ■

Listen & Learn

the first 90 days **tour**

What is your why?

During my first 90 days, I embarked on a “Listen and Learn Tour,” in which I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to engage with so many individuals on campus and within the community. The intent was to build relationships, establish mutual respect, and ensure that people were seen, heard, and understood. Upon completing this journey, my key takeaway is that it is the people who make Montcalm Community College and Montcalm County a truly special place.

One of the most thought-provoking questions posed to me during this experience was “What is your why?” While one’s profession represents your “what,” the reason why you do

your job is an entirely different question. Your why is your purpose and your passion. It is what motivates you and keeps you going.

For me, my why is simple. At the age of eighteen, I enrolled at my local community college, and it changed my life. I did not grow up with a sense of entitlement; rather, I had to exert considerable effort to achieve my goals. To employ a baseball analogy, I was not born on third base. My parents instilled in me the values of service and community—my mother was a teacher, and my father served as a pastor. In our house, we had a lot of love and laughter, but not a lot of money. The decision to attend my local community

Listen & Learn timeline

July 1

Took office as the seventh president of Montcalm Community College

July 9

Met with Cory Smith of The Daily News

July 10

Participated in an Alma College site visit

July 12

Attended the Ag Industry Breakfast at the Ionia Free Fair

July 16

Enjoyed a potluck lunch with facilities staff

July 18

Celebrated with students graduating from our Success Express summer program

July 24

Welcomed students during our new student orientation

July 25

Greeted guests at Greenville Rotary Club's Rhythm on the River concert series

Met with K-5 career exploration donor Blaine Jones

July 30

Met with Greenville Public Schools Superintendent Wayne Roedel and Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Al Cummings

July 31 - Aug. 2

Attended the Michigan Community College Association (MCCA) Summer Institute with our Board of Trustees

August 3

Joined with friends of the college at the MCC Foundation's annual pancake breakfast

Enjoyed participating in the 37th annual Montcalm Heritage Festival

August 6

Met with MCC's Phi Theta Kappa Club advisors

August 7

Dialogued with the Montcalm Human Services Coalition

August 8

Conversed with MCC Emeritus Dean Dr. Gary Hauck

Met with MCC Community Ambassador Roger Coles



A Place of Belonging

Over the past seven years, my wife and I have helped raise 27 foster children in our home. These kids have experienced poverty and a lot of trauma, and they come from very diverse backgrounds, most being African American, Native American, or Hispanic. We have enjoyed welcoming each of them into our family and providing them with a sense of belonging. We have learned so much about their cultures. But, in the process, we have also learned a lot about equity.

At MCC, we must ensure that anyone and everyone in our community has accessibility to an affordable and empowering education, regardless of socioeconomic status. I like to say that the community college must be the land of opportunity no matter who you are or where you come from.

"It's important to meet our students where they are at and support them in their educational journey."

college offered me an affordable education, bolstered my confidence in my leadership abilities, and granted me scholarships that enabled me to pursue further studies at a university. Four years later, I graduated from the University of Oklahoma debt-free. None of these achievements would have been possible without the foundational experience I obtained at a community college. Consequently, I have committed the remainder of my professional career to serving students at community colleges. Each day, I am motivated by the goal of facilitating success stories for students akin to my own. One student at a time, community colleges continue to change lives.

August 13

Hosted our Board of Trustees meeting in Greenville and interacted with industry and community partners

August 14

Engaged with faculty members at Faculty Days prior to the start of fall classes

August 17

Participated in the Danish Festival Parade

August 19

Presented at the Greenville Area Community Foundation (GACF) Board of Trustees meeting

August 20

Visited with Greenville Tool & Die personnel and toured facilities

August 21

Served lunch to students during Welcome Week

August 22

Had breakfast with retired pastor and community friend, Bob Braman

Enjoyed lunch with Sidney State Bank President & CEO, Bob Byram

August 23

Signed a Memorandum of Understanding between MCC and the Rural Pastors Institute and Training Program in Uganda

Enjoyed watching nursing students practice blood draws

August 24

Attended our first home volleyball game

August 26

Collaborated with area K-12 superintendents

September 4

Interacted with Kurt Murray from the Michigan Education Association (MEA)

September 5

Attended my first session of Hello West Michigan Rapid Roots 2024 Cohort

September 11

Met with Mathison Architects to discuss student housing

September 13

Attended my first session of Leadership Montcalm Class XXV



Emerging Themes

Three themes that emerged during my first 90 days of listening, learning and engagement are:

Communication

From students to faculty to support staff to administration to the Board of Trustees to our community partners, it is imperative that we continue to improve communication across all departments on campus, between campuses and within our community. Effective communication signifies respect, fosters trust, and leads to improved outcomes.

Culture

We must strive to enhance the culture among all MCC employees by promoting a healthy, meaningful, collaborative, and even enjoyable work environment. By boosting morale, we ensure that our team members feel valued, which in turn improves retention and overall job satisfaction.

Community

We must maintain and strengthen our community connections through service, partnerships, and campus events. In doing so, MCC will solidify its status as an invaluable and indispensable staple in our community.

September 17

Enjoyed a meet and greet with MCC's Men's and Women's Cross Country teams

September 18

Attended the Education Foundation of Greenville fundraising event

September 20

Traveled to West Shore CC for the Michigan Community College Association Board of Directors meeting

September 24

Enjoyed lunch with our Early College students

September 25

Met with Joe Ritter and toured Steeplechase Tool & Die in Lakeview
Enjoyed dinner with President Emeritus

Don Burns and his wife, Maureen

September 27

Provided a college update at Lifelong Learners

October 1

Collaborated with our Northern Ireland partnership for ag study abroad

Enjoyed meeting with nursing donor Byron Edwards

Celebrated MCC Scholarship Foundation Dinner

October 7

Attended MCC golf tournament at Egypt Valley

October 8

Met with Construction Simplified to discuss supervision of student housing project

October 9

Met with State Representative Pat Outman

October 10

Spoke at Stanton Rotary Club

October 11

Attended our first men's and women's home basketball games

October 17

Had lunch with Jacob Maas, Angie Barksdale and Abigail Stalker from West Michigan Works

Served as the guest presenter at the Coalition of Greater Greenville (COGG) meeting

October 18

Appeared on WOOD TV8's eightWest program



What's next?

I am enthusiastic about the future of our institution as we endeavor to create opportunity through education. Our aspiration is to foster an educated, employed, and thriving community. To do this, we will concentrate on five core values.

You Belong Here – MCC is a place of belonging, where everyone has a seat at the table. Regardless of who you are or where you come from, we will welcome, believe in, and support you.

We are a Gateway of Opportunity – MCC is a place of opportunity, actively seeking to eliminate barriers to provide our learners with an accessible, affordable, and empowering education.

We Value and Grow Our People – We advocate for a healthy, meaningful, and safe work environment, where we cherish our employees by nurturing a culture of respect, collaboration, professional development, and fun. Community is our middle name – we believe that our community and college simply go together. We need one another and make each other better.

We Work on the Institution, Not Just in It – We are committed to being responsible stewards of our resources, leading to economic viability, environmental sustainability, and continuous improvement. ■

October 22-26

Attended the ACCT conference in Seattle with our Board of Trustees

October 28

Toured MCC with new MAISD superintendent, Katie Flynn

Met with Congressman John Moolenaar

October 30

Enjoyed spending time with MCC influencers Linda Stafford and Julie Stafford

November 1

Attended the MCC fall open house

Joined West Michigan Works! as a member of the Board of Directors

November 4

Met with Ionia County Economic Alliance Executive Director Ryan Wilson

November 5

Welcomed MCC student government future leaders

November 8

Toured Corewell Health Greenville Hospital with COO, Kristie Smith

November 8-9

Attended the Ferris State University Foundation Gala and football game as a distinguished guest of President Bill Pink

November 11

Spoke at Per Gradus Club

Served as the keynote speaker for MCC's Veterans Day event

November 15-16

Attended the Michigan Community College Association President's Committee meeting

November 18

Served as an honorary speaker at Greenville Lions Club meeting

November 21

Presidential Inauguration and Investiture

December 4

Met with Corewell Health regional market leader Drew Dostal

December 10

Connected with MCC retirees during holiday breakfast

'It is really rewarding'

Dual enrollment helps Central Montcalm senior Anna Minnick get a jump on college

By Shelly Springborn

When Anna Minnick graduates from Central Montcalm High School next spring, she will have completed nearly a year of college courses, too.

Minnick started taking dual-enrollment classes through Montcalm Community College last year when she was a junior in high school. She completed coursework in communication and psychology. This fall, the 17-year-old high school senior is enrolled in biology, bioethics and English 100 – all online. She plans to take more college courses in the spring.

"At my school, we have time allotted during our second and third periods that I use to do my college classes," she said.

Along with dual enrollment, Minnick is a cheerleader. She also participates in band and color guard and is a member of her high school's National Honor Society and student council.

"I keep myself busy," she said. "I appreciate the flexibility of having my dual enrollment classes online. It allows me to do the work around other things in my schedule."

Minnick said she finds college classes to be more difficult than high school classes, but she enjoys the challenge.

"They are harder, so I have to put more time and effort into them than high school classes," she said. "It's preparing me for transfer."



"The fact that I'm earning college credits for free, and those credits will transfer make it worth it. It's helping me get ahead in college."

– Anna Minnick

Minnick plans to continue her undergraduate work at Grand Valley State University where she intends to study kinesiology.

"I would like to become an athletic trainer or physical therapist," she said. "I really like sports and I think it would be rewarding to work with athletes. It would allow me to be involved with sports and also to be helping people."

Minnick encourages other high schoolers to take advantage of the opportunities of dual-enrolling in college classes.

"I think you have to have the mindset that this is serious, and you have to apply yourself to your coursework," she said.

"It is really rewarding. The fact that I'm earning college credits for free, and those credits will transfer make it worth it," she said. "It's helping me get ahead in college." ■

For more information:

Visit montcalm.edu/dual-enrollment

Call **989-328-1277**

Email dualenrollment@montcalm.edu

'It's a big opportunity'

Early College at Montcalm Community College provides Greenville student an early start to physics education

By Alex Freeman

For half of his life, Zafar Abduvokhidov has acclimated to the rural setting of Greenville.

It was quite the adjustment, however, from the first half of his life journey.

Abduvokhidov was born and raised in Uzbekistan, where he lived in the capital city of Tashkent. Although it's a city comprised of almost three million people, the communities are tight-knit and lively with action.

"We formed communities throughout our building complex, and we knew everybody, so whenever you need anything, you could ask your neighbors," Abduvokhidov said. "It's not very much like rural Michigan, it's very city-like, kids are running around everywhere."

Life changed for Abduvokhidov when his stepfather met his mother. Shortly after, the family moved to the United States, landing in Greenville. Abduvokhidov enrolled at Lincoln Heights Elementary where, for the first few months of second grade, it was an absolute headache. Growing up speaking Uzbek, Abduvokhidov had no prior knowledge of the English language.

"I did not understand a singular word, so every single day, I would show up to school and it sounded like people were just making random noises," Abduvokhidov said. "It got to my head, and it gave me a headache because I just didn't understand what was happening."

Despite the rough start, it only took Abduvokhidov two months to learn English and be able to speak it at a comfortable fluency. Although it may seem quick, when thrust into the environment, "You have no choice but to learn it," he said.

From there, Abduvokhidov excelled in school, taking a particular liking to his science classes. Abduvokhidov aspires to study either astrophysics or nuclear physics at Michigan State University — that's what made a visit from Montcalm

Community College Early College Director, Shannon Tripp, especially intriguing.

MCC's Early College program gives high school students the opportunity to enroll in classes at MCC starting in their junior year of high school. Early College students benefit from an innovative on-campus curriculum which allows them to earn their high school diploma while also earning up to 60 college credits, tuition free. Students in the Early College program can earn their associate degree in just one year of post-secondary education.

Given his lofty educational goals, Abduvokhidov saw an opportunity to get started on his lengthy college education and decided that Early College was the right choice for him.

"It's a big opportunity that I couldn't miss, so I had to take it," he said. "People were signing up, there were about 10 kids from Greenville and it was a raffle-type deal. The worse-case scenario was that I would still be in high school, but I got picked and now we're here."

Now in his first semester on campus taking classes at MCC, Abduvokhidov is still cherishing one aspect of his high school career — loudly cheering on his Yellow Jackets from the student section.

"I'm painted every single game and every single theme I go all-out on," he said. "It's awesome." ■

For more information:

Visit montcalm.edu/early-college

Email shannon.tripp@montcalm.edu

Ryleigh Shoen, left, and Zafar Abduvokhidov are Early College students.



Living on campus

Student housing coming to MCC by fall 2026

By Shelly Springborn

Student housing is coming to Montcalm Community College's Sidney campus.

After more than two years of planning, the groundbreaking for an 84-bed, three-story dormitory is slated for spring 2025. It is expected to open fall semester 2026. The facility will be built on the southeastern part of the campus where the college's tennis courts are currently located.

The design features double-occupancy bedrooms in a share apartment-style housing unit, a mini kitchen, bedrooms, bathrooms and a living room. Amenities such as wireless internet, study spaces, on-site trash removal and laundry, electric, water, heat and air conditioning are all included. For safety, the building boasts a secured main entrance and live-in residence staff, as well as surveillance cameras and security.

MCC's Vice President for Administrative Services and Chief Operating Officer Connie Stewart said completion of this project aims to support the need for affordable student housing.

"Access to high-quality, affordable local housing is a long-standing topic in Montcalm County," Stewart said. "Our goal is to support our students and student-athletes and to support overall enrollment growth at the college."

With an estimated \$8.5 million cost, Stewart said, "This is a significant investment in our students and community and supports us as we strive to fulfill our mission to enhance lives through quality education."

The addition of student housing is part of the college's 2019 Master Plan and was listed as a priority project in the



college's 2021-2024 strategic plan to support increasing the number of full-time students and to address student retention.

"Student housing supports local students who want the full college experience as well as those out-of-district students who choose to attend MCC," said MCC President Dr. Bradley J. Barrick.

"Bringing student housing to campus offers a richer, more community-oriented academic environment," Dr. Barrick said.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2022, 13.1% of the population in Montcalm County was living with severe housing issues.

In 2022, a survey was conducted by MCC of current and potential students. Of high school students considering attending MCC, 56.06% of respondents said they would be more likely to attend MCC if student housing were available, while 42.86% of high school students not considering attending MCC said if housing were available, they would be more likely to attend.

Stewart said data from the ALICE reports provided by United Way of Montcalm-Ionia Counties supports the need.

"We've seen that in ALICE reports, we have students that are couch surfing or on occasion, students living out of their cars," she said. "Hopefully this would open up an affordable opportunity for them to find a quality place to stay and earn a great education." ■



STUDENTS ARE COMING TO MCC FROM

123

CITIES AND VILLAGES (LAST 5 YEARS)

\$22,000

THE AVERAGE AMOUNT PER YEAR AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE HOLDER EARNS OVER A PERSON WITH A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

\$2 million

A NURSING GRANT PROVIDES FUNDING FOR RN TO BSN TRAINING THROUGH A PARTNERSHIP WITH SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY (SVSU). MONTCALM.EDU/SVSU-BSN

170+

TRANSFER AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS

During the 2023-2024 academic year:

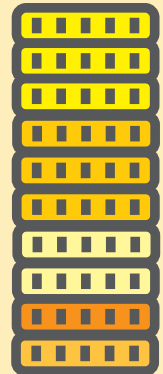
- 232 students earned 190 associate degrees, 111 certificates
- 2,056 students enrolled in credit classes
- The median age of MCC credit students was 20
- MCC's average class size was 15 students
- 68% of course sections offered were online, live online or hybrid delivery; 32% were in-person

MCC's 2024-2025 budget



Income

- Property Tax - 44%
- Tuition & Fees - 32%
- State Appropriations - 22%
- Other - 1%
- Grants - 1%

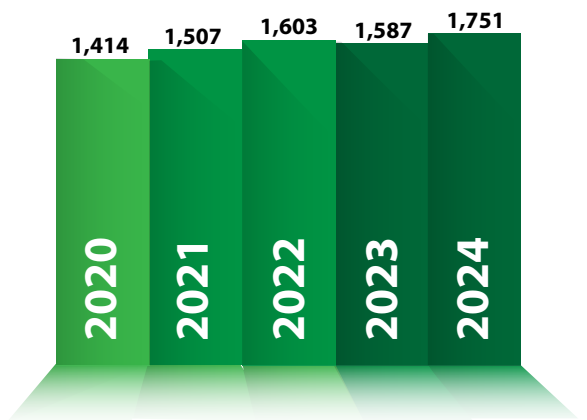


Expenditures

- Instruction - 33%
- Institutional Administration - 19%
- Physical Plant - 13%
- Student Services - 13%
- Instructional Support - 10%
- Debt Services & Other - 8%
- Public Service - 4%



2020-2024 Fall Semester Credit Headcount



MCC Athletics brings 'a different type of energy' to campus



By Alex Freeman

The Montcalm Community College Centurions took their first foray into basketball this season in year No. 2 of the return to athletic competition for the college.

With volleyball dominating last year as the only true team spectator sport that the college hosted, basketball extended the efforts of the MCC Athletic Department this year. So far, it's been a pleasant transition.

"It's just nice to continue providing athletic events during the winter hours," said MCC Athletic Director Hunter Redman. "Last year, it all ended in November and that was it, so it's kind of nice that we can get another team sport to progress into February and March."

Both the men's and women's basketball teams have seen their fair share of successes and bumps in the road in their inaugural season, but it's a learning process for all involved — coaches, players and staff members. The one thing that has been a welcomed mark of consistency is the attendance and community support of the Centurion basketball teams in their first season of play. Redman said he's been pleased to see spectators show up to the games and the events they tie into them.

"This year, we implemented more game day sponsorship opportunities," Redman said. "We hosted a high school

night, heroes day, adopt-a-family day, alumni day, green out, hunger games, MCC faculty and staff appreciation night and more to help add excitement around our games."

Basketball will go through March while bowling will continue through February. The lone spring sport, men's golf, is set to tee off on April 4 as the Centurions travel to the Ancilla College Invitational.

The men's golf team has lofty expectations after a strong start to their fall season. Competing in 10 tournaments, the Centurions won six of them and finished second in two tournaments. In fact, the only two tournaments where the Centurions did not finish in the top two were tournaments featuring four-year universities.

"I think it's expected, we're looking at nationals, for sure," Redman said. "Last year, we would have gone if we were eligible to. I don't think we're hoping to go, I think it's an expectation at this point."

From their fall season, the Centurions are currently ranked as the No. 31 team in NJCAA Division II and ranked first in their region. Each region is guaranteed to send two teams to the national tournament.

If the golf team can secure a trip to nationals, it would certainly be a great ending to a successful second year

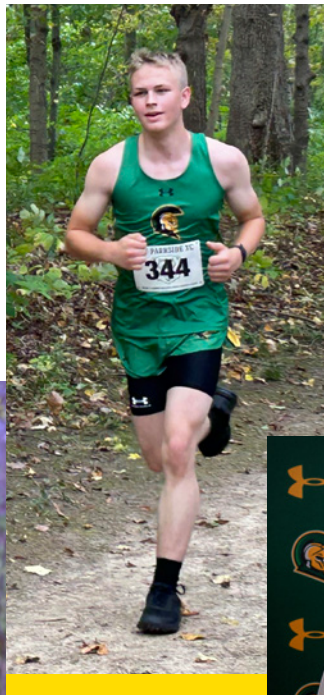
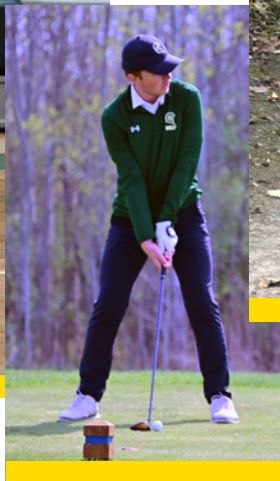
of athletics. Redman has seen athletics make more of a positive impact on campus life in year No. 2.

"Even from the beginning of the fall semester, I think we've noticed a different type of energy on campus, especially when we've had a lot more students here in person," Redman said. "There are more students hanging out at the Woodside Café and our athletes usually hang out before and after practice and they intermingle with the other students. I think the culture that (sports are) bringing, people recognize themselves more as a Centurion instead of just being an MCC student. That's been a lot of fun to see that change." ■

For more information:

Visit montcalm.edu/athletics

Email athletics@montcalm.edu



Words from our MCCF President



We want to thank you for the generous investments you have entrusted to us and show you the great impact being made.

The MCC Foundation is stewarding your donations to provide meaningful scholarships, modern learning environments and curriculum, and vital programming.

It has been an exciting year for the college. The college's increasing enrollment indicates more students in our communities are taking advantage of educational opportunities. In July, we welcomed Dr. Bradley J. Barrick as MCC's seventh President. Dr. Barrick will work closely with

the Foundation, serving on the MCC Foundation Board, ensuring alignment with the college's mission.

As we move into 2025, the Foundation is excited to further collaborate when the college unveils its new strategic plan.

Together, we can ensure that MCC is best preparing students for the workforce and making their dreams reality. We want our students to **"Believe Big"** and we should too!

Jane Anderson Beach
President, MCC Foundation

For more information about the MCC Foundation, please contact us:

Montcalm Community College Foundation

2800 College Drive • Sidney, MI 48885

Find us online: montcalm.edu/mccf
Give online: montcalm.edu/give
Federal Tax ID Number: **38-2371295**



Mission Statement

To support MCC's efforts to anticipate and address community needs through relationship cultivation and resource stewardship.

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Scholarship Funds

The MCC Foundation deeply appreciates the individuals, families, and businesses that have committed to providing lasting support to our students through scholarships.

MCCF Allen & Ellen Kohn Scholarship
 MCCF Allen E. & Janet A. Kohn Scholarship
 MCCF Alumni & Friends Scholarship
 MCCF Anna Hertz-McCoy Memorial Scholarship
 MCCF Ardene (Diz) Oswald Memorial Scholarship
 MCCF Beatrice & Manfred Doser Memorial Scholarship-Chemistry/Engineering
 MCCF Beatrice & Manfred Doser Memorial Scholarship-Volunteerism
 MCCF Ben and Linda Chapman Nursing Scholarship*
 MCCF Beth Anderson Memorial Current or Returning Student Scholarship
 MCCF Beth Anderson Memorial New Student Scholarship
 MCCF Camille Widdifield Memorial Scholarship
 MCCF Centurion Athletics Scholarship*
 MCCF Chuck and Pat Strautz Memorial Scholarship*
 MCCF Clifford J. Bedore Jr. Memorial Scholarship
 MCCF Copp Family Scholarship
 MCCF Corewell Health Nursing Scholarship
 MCCF CW4 Larry L. Lofts Scholarship
 MCCF David W. Drake Scholarship
 MCCF Diana M. Kennedy-Jones Memorial Scholarship*
 MCCF Don & Emma Goodell Scholarship
 MCCF Donald C. Burns Presidential Scholarship
 MCCF Doris M. Arntz Scholarship
 MCCF Dr. Gordon DeVries/Dr. Thomas Deurloo Scholarship
 MCCF Dr. Stacy Horner Young Presidential Scholarship
 MCCF Duane W. & Georgia A. Bohne Scholarship
 MCCF Edward Reddig Scholarship
 MCCF Erika A. Walters Scholarship
 MCCF Erin Kae Kitchenmaster Scholarship
 MCCF Faber Family Scholarship
 MCCF Family of Michelle Mater Gibson Agricultural Scholarship
 MCCF George & Janet Ravell Family Scholarship
 MCCF Grace Anne Hatto-Adler Memorial Scholarship
 MCCF Grace M. Sagendorf Scholarship
 MCCF Harold & Ruth Force Family Scholarship
 MCCF Herbert N. Stoutenburg Scholarship
 MCCF Hungerford Accounting Scholarship*
 MCCF Isabella Bank Scholarship

MCCF Jan & Mike McCrackin Family/Harvey Milling Agriculture Scholarship
 MCCF Jan & Mike McCrackin Family/ Irma McCrackin Memorial Nursing Scholarship
 MCCF Josh Fish Memorial Scholarship
 MCCF Judy K. DeVolder Nutt Scholarship
 MCCF Karen Hansen Nursing Scholarship
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 MCCF Kenneth J. & Gail E. Lehman Scholarship
 MCCF Kenric Jones DeLong Service Scholarship: Kenny's Community Cash
 MCCF Kevin Carbonelli Memorial Scholarship
 MCCF Leslie K. Morford Scholarship
 MCCF Linda Mae Chapman CSW Scholarship*
 MCCF Louise D. Buescher Scholarship
 MCCF Mall Family Foundation Nursing Scholarship
 MCCF Martin L. Lund Memorial Scholarship
 MCCF Maureen Burns Scholarship
 MCCF MCC Education Support Personnel Association Scholarship
 MCCF MCC Employee Endowed Scholarship
 MCCF "MCC Made Me" Scholarship
 MCCF Merrill & Barbara Johnson Scholarship
 MCCF Merry Kim Meyers Agriculture Scholarship
 MCCF Michael J. Seaman Memorial Scholarship
 MCCF Mildred Farmer-Angwin Scholarship
 MCCF Montcalm Democrats for Community Scholarship
 MCCF Mr. & Mrs. John Hathaway Scholarship
 MCCF Nancy Fox Scholarship
 MCCF Nancy Steele Allen Edwards Memorial Nursing Scholarship
 MCCF Orville Trebian Scholarship
 MCCF Patricia Ann Hinrichs Scholarship
 MCCF Robert E. Campbell Memorial Scholarship
 MCCF Robert Ferrentino Presidential Scholarship
 MCCF Roger Higginson Memorial Scholarship
 MCCF Ruth Paddock Bedore Transfer Award
 MCCF Sue Ann Aagaard Scholarship*
 MCCF Stafford Family Scholarship
 MCCF Stanley & Blanche Ash Scholarship
 MCCF Travis L. Bingaman Memorial Scholarship
 MCCF William & Harriette Cook Scholarship
 MCCF General Scholarship Fund

**Scholarship funds marked with an asterisk (*) have been established since last year's MCCF report.*

Please contact us to establish a new scholarship to support an interest or honor your loved one.



Believe Big

By joining together, we can do even more to transform the lives of students and transform our community. Give online now or contact us for more information on how you can help meet critical needs.



Make a safe, easy, secure online donation at montcalm.edu/give or scan the QR code. For more information, or to discuss planned giving, please contact Lisa Lund, MCCF Executive Director at lisal@montcalm.edu or (989) 328-1284.

Estate Planning

Find information on planned giving, including sample bequest language, by visiting montcalm.edu/planned-giving.

If you have a resolution for 2025 to get your affairs in order, we can help! Join us on April 16, 2025, as MCC offers an "Estate Planning Basics" workshop in partnership with local legal and financial professionals. For more event information and to register, visit montcalm.edu/events.



Emily Petersen Receives MCC Distinguished Alumni Award

Montcalm Community College awarded its annual Distinguished Alumni Award during MCC's 57th Annual Commencement Ceremony on May 3, 2024. Above, MCC Senior Vice President for Administrative Services and COO Connie Stewart, left, presented the award to Esther Hansen, who accepted the award on behalf of her sister, Emily Petersen.



Visit montcalm.edu/meet-our-alumni to read the full story.

By the Numbers
2024 - 2025

\$1,999,250
ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP DOLLARS AWARDED 

185

STUDENTS AWARDED



197

TOTAL AWARDS GIVEN

\$407,773

TOTAL AVAILABLE MCC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS AND AID (2024 - 2025)

Ash College Community Enhancement Fund Highlight

MCC Foundation funds played a critical role in launching the innovative Sugar Bush at MCC.

MCC is one of four colleges in Michigan and one of just 27 colleges in the U.S. to run a Sugar Bush operation. During its inaugural season in spring 2024, the Sugar Bush boiled down sap tapped from 10 maple trees on the Sidney campus.



Seth Sutton, MCC Arts and Humanities Instructor and Department Chair, "Sugar Captain" and head of the college's Sugar Council is thrilled to see this dream come to fruition. Sutton has been a part of sugar bush operations most of his life but hasn't had the chance to oversee the process from start to finish until now.

"The Sugar Bush really is a multidisciplinary project. Several of the degrees and programs we offer here can utilize the sugar bush in their course work," said Sutton. "History, anthropology, chemistry, agriculture, business, marketing and environmental sciences are just a handful of the courses that can take advantage of the sugar bush and related operations in their coursework."

In the future, there are plans to run educational programs for K-12 students, offer noncredit courses, create a syrup making co-op and maybe even have a syrup festival.

"We're all excited to see what the future holds for The Sugar Bush at MCC," Sutton said.

Scholarship Highlight

MCCF scholarships are essential to student success.

Helping students achieve their academic goals is MCC's number one priority, and finances can be a barrier when achieving those goals.



Helping students achieve their academic goals is MCC's number one priority, and finances can be a barrier when achieving those goals. With generous donations to the MCC Foundation's scholarship funds from people like you, we can help students believe big!

MCC Student-Athlete, Tiana Whitacre, is just one of many students who received life changing scholarships this year. Tiana said, "Receiving this scholarship has allowed me to focus more on my studies and playing volleyball, which has been a blessing! The scholarship was able to help relieve some of the financial stress and allow me to enjoy my time at MCC. I am so grateful to have been chosen as a recipient and am very thankful for all of the support from the staff/faculty, fellow students, coaches and community."

We **appreciate** the continued support of our MCC Foundation donors

(Recognizing gifts received from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024)

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Community College Guarantee

Eligible high school students who graduated as part of the Class of 2023 or later can pursue an associate degree or skill certificate at their local community college tuition-free.

The Community College Guarantee covers:

- The total cost of in-district tuition and mandatory fees
- An additional \$1,000 Michigan Achievement Bonus award for Pell-eligible students to use toward additional college costs

All eligible students have to do to qualify is fill out the latest Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at studentaid.gov.



Questions? Contact MCC's Student Services Department at StudentServices@montcalm.edu or **989-328-1277**.

