



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