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An Iraq War veteran whose mentor is a professor who once served in the military. A music student who receives an emergency grant to pay for an unexpected car repair. An aspiring dental hygienist who is able to stay in college thanks to a matched college-savings program. Monroe Community College has a growing array of supports that help students stay on track to graduate. Together with two- and four-year institutions across the U.S., MCC has pledged to increase student completion rates. Here are several initiatives aimed at helping students achieve their higher education goals and raising completion rates.

Expansion of MCC Guided Pathways Continues

MCC is building on the strengths of The Schools @ MCC initiative to provide students with more guidance toward academic success and a college credential.

The Schools put students on structured educational pathways so they more clearly connect to the college, their academic program and their chosen career. In addition to academic resources, The Schools surround students with



support services and co-curricular opportunities so students connect with peers and faculty who share their interests.

Through the Schools, students are shown how their classes connect to each other and to their careers. Rather than struggling to find their way, students can now focus on learning.

The intended result is more students successfully navigating their college experience in pursuit of their career goals. www.monroecc.edu/schools

Updated MCC Scorecard

The MCC Scorecard is designed to provide information students and parents need as they consider colleges. Launched in 2016, the Scorecard shows MCC's graduation, retention and course completion rates, both for the previous year and the past three years. It also reports retention and graduation rates broken down by students' level of college readiness and academic risk. To access the data, go to www.monroecc.edu/go/scorecard.

Single Stop, Dreamkeepers Benefit Hundreds of Students, Families

Dreamkeepers and Single Stop at MCC capture MCC's commitment to remove the financial barriers that prevent students from persisting toward their dreams of college degrees. Both programs are supported by the generosity of donors to the MCC Foundation.

Dreamkeepers provides micro-grants of less than \$500 to qualifying students facing unforeseen expenses related to housing, health care, transportation and more. Since the program's inception in fall 2015, MCC has received nearly 290 applications

for aid and awarded over \$42,000 in grants. Of the Dreamkeepers recipients, an average 87 percent completed the term and returned to MCC the following semester.



Single Stop connects students and their families to a host of free and low-cost community resources and wraparound services, including assistance with food benefits, child care subsidies and medical care. Since the program's launch in fall 2016, over 200 students have received personal services and/or referrals.

With Team Behind Him, Adult Student Thrives

Returning to college at age 25 after working in a string of dead-end jobs, Daniel Skerritt (pictured right) was eager for a fresh start and to make the most of his on-campus experience.

He became active in student government. He took advantage of free tutoring and other support services. He sought advice from faculty and staff members and developed a rapport with a few of them who played a major role in his academic success and personal growth.



“Ann in the Integrated Learning Center helped me organize my thoughts and ideas around a difficult

question a professor gave me. Lisa helped me get acclimated to SEGA (Student Events and Governance Association) and be able to deal with different types of people,” he said. “I wanted to take any knowledge I gained and apply it to life and pass that information on to other MCC students that need help.”

Now a second-year student pursuing a nursing career, Daniel is president-elect of SEGA and belongs to the honor society. Through both organizations, he said, he’s participated in workshops that enhanced his leadership, communication and time-management skills.

“I’ve learned how to advise students,” Daniel said. “I have a couple of people that I check in to make sure they’re still doing well in school and staying with it and their home life is fine. If it’s not right at home, you’re not going to be able to go to school. That’s been my personal experience.”

Accelerated Program Aims to Increase Student Success in Half the Time

MCC’s English and Transitional Studies departments are collaborating on a pilot that enables students to take college-level composition while they are concurrently enrolled in a developmental writing course.

Launched in spring 2017, the Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) is designed to shorten student time in noncredit developmental courses by at least a semester, allowing students to practice and retain more of what they have learned and increasing their likelihood of staying in school.

In the conventional model, students take a semester or two of developmental education before enrolling in English 101.

With the ALP, upper-level developmental writing students take both courses consecutively in the same classroom and receive extra academic support in the developmental course. Any gaps in students’ understanding of concepts in English 101 are immediately filled in the developmental class.

By integrating “just-in-time” intervention into the curriculum and having students complete the classes together, students are more



apt to show higher levels of academic performance and greater satisfaction than similar students in traditional courses, said Matthew Fox, associate professor and faculty lead in the ALP.

“Community College of Baltimore County has been using this time-tested model and has had great success with retention,” Fox said.

Both courses in the ALP are also offered online.

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