



May 2015

Community colleges across the country, including MCC, have pledged to increase student completion rates by 50 percent by 2020. At MCC, our completion rates are increasing and the college regularly ranks among the top 2 percent of community colleges nationwide in terms of the number of graduates (source: Community College Week). Our graduates “complete to compete” and find that earning an associate degree or certificate is the clearest pathway to available jobs.

Why Completion Matters

- Local employers need a skilled workforce in order to compete.
- Nearly 60 percent of jobs in the Finger Lakes region are middle- and high-skill jobs, requiring postsecondary education.
- There are roughly 26,000 positions that are chronically difficult to fill in the Finger Lakes region.

MCC’s annual survey of graduates shows that 90 percent of career and certificate program graduates from the Class of 2013 are employed full time in jobs related to their MCC major. Of those graduates working full-time jobs, 90 percent are employed in Monroe County or an adjacent county.

Local employers value MCC graduates because they are prepared to contribute immediately to the success of businesses and organizations, especially in the fields of hospitality, health care, optical systems technology, HVAC/R, advanced manufacturing, automotive, business, information technology and human services.



Future Entrepreneur is Prepared to Transfer, Earn Bachelor’s Degree



As a student at Webster Schroeder High School in 2013, James Janowski, pictured at left, excelled in math and

history and worked two part-time jobs. Two years ago, the cost of a college education seemed out of reach until he became a Max and Marian Farash Charitable Foundation First in Family Scholar at MCC.

“The scholarship enabled me to focus 100 percent on my studies,” said James, who is the first in his family to attend college. James will graduate from MCC in May with an associate degree in business administration. He has been accepted at St. John Fisher College where his credits will transfer towards a marketing degree. James’ dream is to open a health and wellness facility in Greater Rochester. “Thanks to MCC, I know what I have to do to get where I want to go.”

MCC Helps Students Overcome Barriers to Completion

At MCC, we partner with students to help them succeed. Student support services, transitional studies and English for Speakers of Other Languages programs, as well as financial aid-related outreach help students overcome barriers and stay focused on their studies.

Joel Garcia, pictured at right, attends MCC because he considers it “the best environment” for students who want to improve academically while mastering English as a second language. “MCC has an excellent ESOL program. I love my professors and you make

connections with other students from around the world,” said Joel, a student leader and Phi Theta Kappa Honor



Society member who will graduate later this month. Prior to pursuing a bachelor’s degree in actuarial science, he will participate in a Bridges to Baccalaureate research project in mathematics at Rochester Institute of Technology.

Completion: More than Degrees Awarded


Measuring community college completion or graduation rates requires more than counting the number of degrees and certificates awarded each spring. Because approximately 20 percent of MCC students transfer to four-year colleges and universities without earning a degree or certificate, completion rates may appear low.


As covered by *Inside Higher Ed*, a new report from the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center shows that 46 percent of bachelor's degree graduates have at least some community college credits in their background. The majority of those students spent at least three semesters studying at a community college. The high number of community college students who transfer credits towards an advanced degree, without earning an associate-level credential, complements degree and certificate completion rates and provides a clearer picture of student success at community colleges.

**An estimated
2,600 students
will earn degrees
and certificates
from MCC
this year.**



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Essential Discussions: Conversations at MCC Black Male Achievement in Higher Education

MCC hosted its fifth in a series of *Essential Discussions: Conversations at MCC* on May 7. The discussion focused on community roles and responsibilities to help black males achieve academic success in higher education.

Keynote speaker Dr. Shaun R. Harper, associate professor and executive director of the Center for the Study of Race and Equity in Education at the University of Pennsylvania, kicked off the event. Harper is the author of over 90 peer-reviewed journal articles and academic publications.

Participants also heard from Dr. Shaun Nelms, deputy superintendent

of the Educational Partnership Organization for the University of Rochester, who is leading East High School. Response panels included some of Greater Rochester's leading educators, community and business leaders, and current and former MCC students who have successfully transferred to four-year colleges and universities.



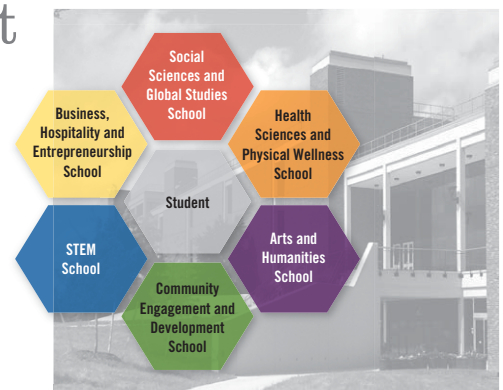
Dr. Shaun R. Harper



Dr. Shaun Nelms

Roadmap Project Comes to MCC

MCC is one of 10 community colleges selected by the Association of American Colleges and Universities for phase two of the AAC&U's Developing a Community College Student Roadmap Project, made possible by a grant from MetLife Foundation. With support from the grant, MCC is implementing a new student enrollment and retention model that groups students within "schools" and organizes their experience along clear, intentional



pathways to completion and success. The model provides for personalized support via cross-functional teams, firmly grounded in academic goal setting and achievement.