

Iowa Valley Community College Grinnell is making connections in the classroom and now their efforts are recognized nationally through the Community College Survey of Student Engagement's "Making Connections: Dimensions of Student Engagement 2009 Findings." IVCC Grinnell was featured for its "Year of the Team" initiative. Provost Robin Shaffer Lilienthal said all faculty and staff used the last academic year to focus on collaborative learning both in and out of the classroom. The goal was to have all students involved in teamwork in their classes. To accomplish this goal, group projects were either introduced to course curriculum or expanded in courses where group work had been used before. IVCC Grinnell faculty were surveyed about their team initiative experiences and indicated that their classes had more active discussions, more interaction among classmates during class and increased interaction among classmates to help each other understand course concepts.

Visitors to Monroe Community College in New York admired a Persian rug on display April 15 as part of "Along the Silk Road," a three-hour educational and entertainment program showcasing examples of art and culture of nations linked to the Silk Road. The event on the Brighton Campus drew people from throughout the Rochester, N.Y., area. Attendees enjoyed exhibits of textile, musical instruments and artwork by local residents celebrating their



Members of the Montreal's Khorshid Khanoom dance troupe and the Rochester, N.Y.-based Phoenix Dance Studio perform together as part of "Along the Silk Road," a three-hour educational and entertainment program showcasing examples of art and culture of nations linked to the Silk Road.



At Iowa Valley Community College Grinnell, a satellite location for Marshalltown Community College, students learn to work together, communicate ideas, solve problems, access resources and think critically.

culture; a lecture by Fatemeh Keshavarz, an author and poet who teaches at Washington University, Mo.; musical performanc-



The Randolph Community College Student Leadership Academy graduates are (front, from left) Yoselin Perez Vallejo, Quyen Du, Kristine Beck, Tiffany Lucas, Sarah Cooper, and (back, from left) Daniel Billings, Ashley Taylor, Roman Bogdanov and Greg Sumner.

sponsored by the college's Diversity Council in collaboration with MCC's Global Education Project, Center for Service-Learning, Chi-

nese Cultural Club, Music Department and Student Music Association; Rochester Institute of Technology's Kazakh Students Association; Turkish Society of Rochester; School Without Walls in Rochester; and members of Rochester's Iranian-American, Afghan-American and Pakistani-American communities.

Nine students graduated from Randolph Community College's third annual Student Leadership Academy in April. The students were chosen based on a competitive process that considered leadership experience, leadership potential and a letter of reference from a faculty member. Kennon Briggs, executive vice president and chief of staff for the North Carolina Community College System, was the keynote speaker at the graduation ceremony held in the R. Alton Cox Learning Resources Center auditorium. The Student Leadership Academy was revamped this year from a one-day spring event to four evening sessions throughout the academic year and offered students the opportunity to learn about leadership from local and regional leaders. Participants had the chance to identify their own leadership styles and learn how to use these styles effectively. Students created a personal portfolio, which was reviewed by human resource professionals, who then gave constructive feedback. One evening was devoted to leadership and ethics, and, new this year, students were involved in a Student Leadership Project.