



ANNUAL INNOVATION OF THE YEAR AWARD 2011

Every year the League honors outstanding innovations which have been recognized by member institutions as Innovations of the Year. These innovations represent capstone achievements and the continuing renewal of the spirit of innovation and experimentation upon which the League was founded.

MCC'S INNOVATION OF THE YEAR AWARD

LEAGUE FOR INNOVATION IN THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE INNOVATION OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Innovation of the Year Award is designed to recognize League college staff members who have designed and implemented a significant innovation. Each year the League recognizes "Innovations of the Year."

Employees from all employee groups (faculty, including part-time; administrators; and support personnel) are eligible for nomination.

PAST RECIPIENTS

- 1995 Computer Assisted Language Learning for ESOL Students
Suzanne El Rayess, Elizabeth Neureiter-Seely, Pilar Vilar-Glasow
- 1996 The Integrated Technical Training System
Carol Burritt, Terry Keys, Joan Smith, Robert Teague
- 1997 Faculty Advisor Workshop Series
Susan Baker, Mary Eshenour, Denise Klein, Susan Salvador
- 1998 Teaching Online: Asynchronous Learning and the SUNY Learning Network
Michelle Bartell, Elizabeth Fell-Kelly, Marlene Ledbetter, Dale Mallory, Lorraine McHugh,
Thomas McHugh, Marion Miller, Chris Otero-Piersante, Craig Rand, Cathryn Smith
- 1999 Liberal Arts Advisor/Advisee Mentor Program
Kathy O'Shea, Holly Wynn-Preische
- 2000 MCC Student E-Mail Project
Rob Cordeiro, Joe Gerardi, Terry Keys, Dale Mallory, Donna Pogroszewski, Richard Ryther,
Brett Thompson, Tony Wagahoff
- 2001 Leadership Institute
Shirley Batistta-Provost, Douglas Brown, Jodi Oriel, Karen Ross, Elizabeth Stewart, Pamela Weidel
- 2002 Rochester Parent Network
James Coffey
- 2003 Curriculum Forms Data Base
Robert Bertram, Charlotte Downing, Ernest Mellas
- 2004 Workshops Initiated Towards Needs of Students (WINS) Program
Anne Hughes, Betty Smith
- 2005 Computerized Assessment System
Audrey J. Bopp, Martha Kendall, Pamela D. Korte
- 2006 A Comprehensive Approach to Classroom Technology Support
Stephanie Allen, Yvonne Betts-Gamble, Diane DeHond, Delovis Olaode, Jeff Thompson, Paul Tracy,
Sharron Waide
- 2007 Distance Dental Hygiene Project: A Partnership to Extend the MCC Dental Hygiene Program
to Cuba, Dunkirk, and Watertown
David Lawrence, (Program Director); Susan Forsyth, (Department Chair), Charlene Blanchard,
Marsha Bower, Nancy Rivaldo, and Saroj Viswanathan
- 2008 Women on the Move
Ivan Matthew, Jessica Miller, Corinne Mulhall, Julie White, Patricia Williams
- 2009 The Sixth Act
Maria Brandt, Gail Bouk, Jeffery Jones, Caren Pita, Paul D'Alessandris, Heather Fox,
Jim Simmonds, Midge Marshall, Ann Tippet, and Robert Kashmer
- 2010 Scholars' Day
Matthew Fox, Matthew Hachee, Jeffrey Kiggins, Michael Ofsowitz, Jodi Oriel, Scott Rudd, and
Christine Schwartzott

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2011 RECIPIENTS SAFE ZONE PROJECT

JULIE WHITE, MARLENE FINE, DON BEECH, BESS WATTS



The *Safe Zone Project* at Monroe Community College (MCC) is a training program for any interested students, faculty, and staff wishing to learn more about gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer (GLBTQ) concerns and issues. The training is based on the theoretical frameworks of ally identity development (Hardiman & Jackson, 1997) and social norms theory (Berkowitz, 2003; see also Smolinsky, 2008), and includes: definitions of terms commonly used when discussing GLBTQ issues; definitions and examples of homophobia and heterosexism; discussions of identity development and student development models for GLBTQ students; discussion and skills-building activities for being an ally to GLBTQ students; and a discussion of campus and community resources for GLBTQ students, staff, and faculty.

The objectives of the *Safe Zone Project* are:

- to identify and mobilize a group of people empathetic and informed about gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer (GLBTQ) issues who are willing to provide support, information, and a safe haven;
- to provide visibility of the support of GLBTQ persons within the MCC community and of MCC's commitment to promoting pluralism; and
- to provide resources to GLBTQ persons within the MCC community.

MCC'S INNOVATION OF THE YEAR AWARD

CRITERIA

An innovation should meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. **Quality**—Students and/or staff agree that the innovation increases quality in the course, program, office, or institution. Evidence of quality may include student ratings or letters of support from colleagues. Quality is difficult to measure, so the committees may want to identify characteristics that together help define “quality” at their institution.
2. **Efficiency**—Meaningful evidence indicates that the innovation contributes to more efficient practices, processes, functions, or other ways of working or participating in college activity. Student ratings, perceptions of outside consultants, and pre- and post-comparison of time involved are examples of evidence.
3. **Cost Effectiveness**—Meaningful evidence indicates that the innovation adds a value to the institution while containing or reducing costs. Cost data will serve as evidence.
4. **Replication**—The innovation selected can be replicated in or adapted by other institutions with a minimum of difficulty.
5. **Creativity**—The innovation is based on an original concept or is a creative adaptation of existing practices, processes, etc. A description of the program or letters from experts are examples of evidence.
6. **Timeliness**—The innovation should not be more than five years old in the institution, but it should have been in place long enough to meet the selection criteria.

Each of the League members will announce the Innovation of the Year program. It is recommended that each League member create a committee to establish criteria and select the award winner. Applications should be encouraged from all areas of the college: faculty (including part-time), administrators, and support personnel; the range of participation is to be determined by each college.