



Civic-engagement opportunities come in many forms at MCC: in degree programs, service-learning courses, co-curricular activities, and collaborations with communities locally and globally. Through education and example, MCC strives to foster a lifelong commitment to volunteerism that strengthens communities, transforms lives and empowers fellow citizens.



“Service-learning has carved a path for me and helped me discover my career goal. Every semester I got to work with a different community organization and develop new skills. Through service-learning, MCC gave me the opportunity to develop my own voice.”

John-Paul Pelletier, a human services major

A Blend of Hands-on Learning and Service

Service-learning is implemented in many disciplines at MCC. Students engage in meaningful service that strengthens our community while building skills and developing knowledge that will help them succeed in their career fields.

For example, in 2013-14 more than 60 students of Verdis Robinson, an MCC assistant professor of history, created a guidebook and a self-guided walking tour of one of the neighborhoods where the 1964 Rochester race riots began.

The purpose of the tour and guidebook



is to show how the Joseph Avenue neighborhood has changed, explore the effects of racism, and engage the community in improving the

neighborhood.

“The Rochester Riots of 1964: A Walking Tour of Joseph Avenue” follows in the footsteps of rioters and takes readers to eight stops along Joseph Avenue. The guidebook contains historical photos and provides a brief history of race relations in Rochester as well as the economic and political landscape of Rochester and the nation in the decade leading up to the riots.

In July 2014, more than 130 area residents attended four tours led by Robinson and several of his students.

MCC Embraces The Democracy Commitment

Launched in 2011 by a group of U.S. community college leaders, The Democracy Commitment is a national initiative aimed at promoting participation in civic education and the democratic practice. Its goal is to ensure an education in democracy for every community college student. MCC was one of the first community colleges to sign the commitment. Among MCC’s efforts within the past year:

- In spring 2014, MCC hosted a naturalization ceremony in which 46 individuals from Western New York,

including MCC alumni, became U.S. citizens. MCC students in the English for Speakers of Other Languages program also attended the event, connecting their experiences to their lessons in civic responsibilities and citizenship.

- In collaboration with the New York state Commissioner of Jurors Office and to achieve more diverse jury pools in Monroe County, MCC students are participating in a yearlong awareness campaign and recruitment efforts to encourage their peers to serve

as jurors. In spring 2015, the Jury Ambassador Project will be launched to expose MCC students to the court process and jury system with the objective that they in turn educate Rochester City School 12th-graders on the importance of minority participation in jury service.



Monroe Community College
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Community Engagement Without Borders

Whether it's creating science kits for area preschoolers or empowering citizens to transform lives, MCC students are passionate about making a lasting difference in communities here and afar.

- In fall 2014, 22 students in an education class are creating hands-on science and math kits for area child care centers to provide children ages 3 to 5 with a basic foundation in these topics. Activities include learning about time, moon and stars, numbers, and simple addition and subtraction. Another group of education students is developing physical science lessons that they will teach to children in an elementary school in the Rochester City School District. Last year, children learned about various weather-related concepts.
- In October 2014, MCC's Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Project engaged 1,200 middle schoolers, teachers and community members



Salva Dut greets middle school students.

in Greater Rochester and thousands more in 23 states and three countries in a conversation about South Sudan and human rights. MCC Alumni Hall of Fame member Salva Dut and local author Linda Sue Park, who wrote a book about Dut's experiences as a Sudanese "Lost Boy" and his work as founder of the nonprofit Water for South Sudan, brought the book to life for audiences on the Brighton Campus and across the world via live video feed.

Simple Acts Create Better College Community

Helping make MCC a better place is a strong part of the MCC culture.

Over the past four years, art students have made beautiful and visible contributions to the campus by painting murals while gaining invaluable practical experience. Their artwork is displayed outside the Brighton Campus greenhouse and in the Richard M. Guon Child Care Center.

The most recent mural was created in fall 2013 at the Damon City Campus to honor the thousands of service members and military veterans who have studied or worked at MCC. Through their talents and collaborations with veterans, the art students inspire conversation and greater awareness of the veterans' sacrifices, their struggles and their profound impact on the college community.

Inspiring Future Teachers

Tracy Wyant, who teaches lesson planning in one of her education classes, is always seeking experiential learning opportunities in the local community for her students. Among her efforts is creating an innovative collaboration between her Performance and Presentation Skills for Educators class and the World of Inquiry School in Rochester.



Since 2010, MCC students have collaborated with the school's first- and second-graders to create more than 85 children's books on different themes. Their project culminates with a performance of their stories.

The service-learning project, aimed at promoting literacy in Rochester and supporting the growth of future teachers, inspires MCC students to achieve excellence as they help children develop their potential.

"It's exciting to watch because they realize that what they're learning in my class is meaningful," said Wyant, an associate professor of education who joined MCC in 2003. "I tell my students we can write lesson plans all day long in class but until we put them into practice with children, we don't know for sure if they really work. So in a service-learning environment, they have the opportunity to learn the skills in class, then apply them in the community and make a positive impact."

Her classroom experiences inspired her to do more in promoting service-learning. Since 2011, she has served as coordinator of the MCC Service-Learning program, working with faculty to design projects.

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