President’s Report to the Community 2016
Inspiring Every Day:
“… like turning on a light switch.”

It was a powerful moment. Before an audience of educators and fellow students, Student Government Association President Blake Moore described the moment he truly connected with Monroe Community College. Blake was navigating college on his own when he walked into MCC’s Office of Student Life and Leadership Development. The staff’s interest in his personal success and the doors they opened for him changed his perspective on his education. It was “like turning on a light switch,” he said. Instead of feeling overwhelmed, he felt supported and inspired to lead. Instead of pursuing goals in isolation, Blake connected with professors, mentors, and fellow students. He became a light to others through his leadership and academic success.

During 2016, MCC realigned programs and services in hopes of “turning on the light” for more students, especially those for whom connecting with and asking for help is difficult. With the launch of MCC Schools in September (see page 4), more students are receiving the guidance and services they need to successfully navigate college and complete their programs in less time and with less debt. Through MCC Schools, students more easily connect with available resources and approach their studies with career and transfer goals in mind.

MCC’s innovative educational solutions for students also attract support from federal grants and private philanthropy. During 2016 alone, partnerships fueled new initiatives like Single Stop, expanded access through Save for Success and scholarships, and strengthened workforce education through accelerated degree programs and other programs informed by labor market data. Seeing the importance of early intervention, philanthropists are helping MCC reach into local K-12 schools, motivating younger students to set their sights on college and careers.

As MCC evolves in response to student and community needs, we thank you for your continued connection and support of our mission. The highlights within this Report to the Community reflect how MCC inspires every day and helps our community thrive.

With warm regards,
Anne M. Kress, Ph.D.
president, Monroe Community College

MCC’s Downtown Campus will open in September 2017.

Like never before, MCC will serve the educational needs of students and employers in Rochester and surrounding communities.

— John L. Bartolotta,
chair, Monroe Community College
Board of Trustees

TABLE OF CONTENTS

New Era of Opportunity 4
Outcomes, Sooner. 6
Rochester to the Core 8
Visionary Partnerships 10
Community Connections 12
Leadership 14

MCC Trustees (l to r) Carla M. Palumbo, Student Trustee Omran Omar, Vice Chair Grace S. Tillinghast, Chair John L. Bartolotta, Barbara P. Lovenheim, Ph.D., Allen K. Williams, Michael G. Barker, Ronald S. Ricotta and Kevin T. Stickles ’88. Missing from picture: Anthony J. Daniele.

MCC’s Next Chapter

While serving the educational needs of more than 31,400 students (credit and noncredit) in 2015-16, Monroe Community College pursued its vision for a new Downtown Campus that will provide exceptional learning experiences for students now and into the future. When the doors to the campus open on 321 State Street in September 2017, an exciting new era of public higher education will begin in downtown Rochester.

Nearly a quarter of Monroe County high school graduates, including 3,400 from city schools, enrolled at MCC in fall 2015. We see this opportunity growing as we introduce the new campus to the community and make it accessible and welcoming for students. More importantly, in conjunction with other initiatives, the new campus has the potential to help more local students earn the college degree or certificate that is necessary in today’s economy to enter the workforce and earn a better living wage. The campus will offer a full range of support services to help students select and stay on their chosen pathway to career success and overcome any barriers along the way. MCC looks forward to transforming the options for public higher education in downtown Rochester—and to transforming the lives of our students.

We thank our faculty and staff and our community partners and supporters for their significant contributions to keep this effort on track and on budget. Our community has much to look forward to in 2017 because of you.

Sincerely,

John L. Bartolotta
chair, Monroe Community College
Board of Trustees
In June, Tammy Quick (pictured left) graduated from MCC with an associate degree in liberal arts and sciences and a certificate in agriculture and food studies offered through MCC’s Agriculture & Life Sciences Institute. She says the degree and certificate opened the door to a plant protection and quarantine position with the U.S. Department of Agriculture last summer. She is proud to be the first of her siblings to graduate from college as well as a role model for her daughters, Lindsay and Abby.

During her studies at MCC, Tammy received an MCC Foundation scholarship and support from MCC Dreamkeepers to help her afford college and cover unexpected transportation costs. Financial support helped Tammy, a single mother, balance work and family life and stay on track to graduate. She plans to pursue a bachelor’s degree and, ultimately, a career that helps people better understand the connection between the environmental and medical sciences.

September 2016 marked a new era of educational opportunity at Monroe Community College. Students returned to a refreshed learning environment with clearly defined pathways to guide them toward academic success and a college credential.

With the launch of MCC Schools, the college is helping more students connect courses they take today with their career aspirations. Real-time support mechanisms are now in place to inform students of progress toward their goals, reducing the risk of straying off course. Students are encouraged to tap into centralized resources to help address and resolve issues that may distract them from their learning along the way.

MCC Schools are inspiring inside and out. Inside, Schools reflect MCC’s dedicated and knowledgeable faculty who work to transform student lives. Outside, they convey MCC’s commitment, and that of our sister community colleges nationwide, to increase student completion rates by 50 percent by 2020.

Throughout the year, leading voices visited MCC to share insights from the American Association of Community Colleges’ Pathways Project and their potential impact on student retention and completion rates. Pictured above: Tia Brown McNair, Ed.D., Association of American Colleges & Universities; Kristen Fragolini, Finger Lakes Community College; Sabrina Crawford, St. Petersburg College; Andrea S. Salis, Ph.D., Queensborough Community College; Thomas R. Bailey, Columbia University and Community College Research Center; and Anne M. Kress, Ph.D., Monroe Community College at MCC’s Essential Discussion Student Success at Scale in February 2016.

Research shows that the longer the path to a college degree, the less likely college students are to graduate. Armed with that knowledge, MCC redesigned its developmental education program to provide greater flexibility in course delivery and shorten program completion time.

MCC is ranked in the top 3% of U.S. community colleges for most associate degrees awarded. (Source: Community College Week)
MCC’s collaborations with industry, employers and other SUNY community colleges are closing skills gaps and bolstering the regional economy. In November, the U.S. Department of Labor recognized these visionary partnerships and awarded a $6 million grant to MCC under the America’s Promise initiative to increase tuition-free education and training opportunities in the fields of advanced manufacturing, information technology, and health care. The grant, combined with public-private support, will make it possible for hundreds of students to enter high-demand careers that provide family-sustaining wages. MCC is among nine U.S. community colleges to receive the grant.

The grant will fund Project Inspire: Advancing Finger Lakes Forward, providing higher education and training to 1,070 eligible participants across the Finger Lakes region. Project Inspire is an initiative of the Finger Lakes United for Success Consortium—a partnership of MCC, Finger Lakes Community College and Genesee Community College, workforce development boards, employer associations, and the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council.

Before earning an accelerated precision tooling certificate from MCC in 2016, Harvey Olds (pictured at left) held short-term, temporary jobs in machining. Today, Harvey works as a material handler and setup technician for Syntec Optics. MCC’s accelerated program enables low-income residents across our region to gain education and hands-on training in advanced manufacturing, earn a certificate in half the time, and find employment within a year. Forty-five individuals have completed the six-month training program since its inception in 2013.

Developed in response to local manufacturers’ immediate need for skilled workers, the training program serves unemployed or underemployed individuals, including military veterans, in collaboration with the Rochester Technology and Manufacturing Association. Graduates receive job placement assistance. The program has a 75 percent completion rate and an 82 percent job placement rate.

“I’ve always been interested in the profession,” said Harvey, who is the first in his family to earn a college credential. “Through the MCC program, I will be able to work full time, long term in a career that I want.”

The field of mechatronics—a specialty within advanced manufacturing that incorporates engineering, mechanics, electronics and other technical work—is rapidly growing in the Finger Lakes region. To prepare more qualified candidates for regional employers, MCC has developed a mechatronics certificate program in collaboration with four SUNY community colleges and industry partners throughout the state. Graduates can immediately begin their careers as equipment maintenance technicians and industrial equipment maintenance technicians, electro-mechanical technicians and robotics technicians. The consortium’s efforts are supported by the SUNY TEAM Project, funded by a U.S. Department of Labor $14.6 million Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grant. The college is awaiting state approval to offer mechatronics certificate programs at Eastman Business Park.

“Outcomes. Sooner.”

In November, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced the awarding of nearly $16 million in support of three poverty reduction initiatives in Rochester, including funding for the Finger Lakes Workforce Development Center at Eastman Business Park. The center is a partnership between MCC and Eastman Business Park to train skilled workers for a variety of manufacturing sectors and technical occupations.

“...I am no longer chasing my dream; I am surely living it.”

– Michael J. Gray II ’12, speaker at the MCC Foundation’s 27th Salute to Excellence in November
“If you help students recognize early on the value of work, they will benefit from that for a lifetime. The value and earning potential of those with a college degree, in today’s world, is light years away from those not having a degree.”

– Joe Wesley ’83

As Director of Strategic Workforce Development for Wegmans, MCC alumnus Joe Wesley ’83 values Rochester’s diverse workforce and opportunities to help our community reduce poverty. Joe is the lead Wegmans representative on the Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative (RMAPI) at the United Way of Greater Rochester, an unprecedented community-wide effort to reduce poverty in the Rochester and Monroe County region. While he admits the volunteers are not going to solve poverty overnight, he says the effort is focused and moving in the right direction.

A Rochester native, Joe remembers the diversity of the students he met while earning his accounting degree at MCC. “There were all sorts of folks, not just kids, from every walk of life. MCC for me was a melting pot. My MCC experience has paid dividends ever since,” he said.

Joe went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in accounting from St. John Fisher College and began his career at Wegmans. His ability to communicate and interact with different people at work also inspired him to take an active role in the community, matching people with the skills that lead to good jobs. He believes MCC gives students the tools and experience they need to be successful—just like his professors did for him.

According to the National Children’s Oral Health Foundation, children in the United States are estimated to annually lose 51 million school hours due to absences attributed to dental problems. Tooth decay in children and affordable access to dental care are issues MCC’s Dental Studies program, the Eastman Institute for Oral Health, and the Rochester City School District are confronting together in an effort to improve the oral health of underserved children in our community. During the fall 2016 semester, more than 400 students in grades pre-K through third were screened. Caregivers of students in need of dental care were notified; those without a primary dentist were referred to the Eastman Institute.

The work of this innovative partnership is supported by a grant from the MCC Foundation and will continue through 2017.

“Rochester to the Core

MCC looks forward to welcoming the community to its new Downtown Campus at 321 State Street in fall 2017. The new campus encompasses 255,000 square feet on seven floors. Learning spaces and community activity areas within the campus are emerging as the project moves closer to realizing the college’s vision for a 21st-century learning environment. In addition to high-tech classrooms and labs, the campus will provide more flexible spaces so that more students engage in student life and leadership activities and finish college successfully. The campus will also be home to MCC’s Economic and Workforce Development Center, including MCC Corporate College. Within this new location, the center will serve the needs of employers and professionals, ultimately benefiting the local community and economy.

We are very proud of the swift progress made so far at MCC’s new downtown campus. Our community is fortunate to establish a downtown campus that will not only open doors for our students, but also for our economy. This innovative facility will be an economic engine here in Monroe County for generations to come.”

– Cheryl Dinolfo,
Monroe County Executive

MCC dental hygiene students educate children about oral health at six Rochester city elementary schools.

MCC alumni Joe Wesley ’83, director of strategic workforce development, Wegmans.
In October, University Preparatory Charter School For Young Men (UPrep) introduced its new Career & Technical Education Center to the community. The center provides focused educational and career pathways for young men interested in careers in machining, facilities management, culinary and information technology. Its ties to MCC and the MCC Foundation are strong. During the unveiling of the center, philanthropists Sandy Parker and John “Dutch” Summers announced the Summers UPrep Scholarship, established with a $300,000 pledge to the MCC Foundation. The scholarship inspires UPrep graduates to continue their education in tooling and machining and construction technology at MCC, and provides funds to bridge the gap between the total amount of financial aid for which a family qualifies and the final cost of attending college. The Summers UPrep Scholarship will support up to six UPrep graduates each year at MCC.

According to Mr. Summers, “Our hope is that these impressive young men realize how important they are to the future of our community. By investing in their educations at MCC, Sandy and I are empowering students to pursue college degrees and certificates that will get them what they ultimately want: meaningful, rewarding careers that make them happy. We hope others will join us in making college possible for even more of these kids.”

In August, MCC and the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences partnered to provide MCC’s first 2+4 undergraduate/professional school agreement leading to a doctor of pharmacy degree. Through this unique pathway, students earn an associate degree in biology at MCC and then, after meeting requirements, transfer to the university to complete the four-year doctor of pharmacy program. Each year, two seats in the pharmacy program are guaranteed for MCC students.

In November, the Monroe Community College Foundation presented its 2016 Salute to Excellence award to JPMorgan Chase & Co., recognizing the firm’s partnership and $320,000 investment in MCC to accelerate demand-driven skills training. The grant is part of the firm’s New Skills at Work initiative, a $250 million commitment to address skill gaps in communities around the world. The firm’s partnership with MCC is increasing job-training opportunities and providing options for individuals to earn a college credential in less than a year in pursuit of high-demand careers in fields like advanced manufacturing and mechatronics.

Each year, the majority of MCC students, approximately 70 percent, are enrolled in transfer programs. Because of MCC’s transfer and dual enrollment agreements, students who make MCC the first stop towards earning a bachelor’s degree can save up to 80 percent of the cost.

MCC is one of five SUNY community colleges chosen to develop open educational resources (OER) to reduce costs to students and raise college completion rates. MCC, Clinton Community College, Herkimer County Community College, Mohawk Valley Community College and Tompkins-Cortland Community College have received a $400,000 grant from a consortium of national investors to create new degree programs using high-quality open educational resources. In one year, OER alternatives have already saved MCC students approximately $300,000 in textbook costs.
Launched in September, Single Stop at MCC helps students overcome challenges that would otherwise derail their education. Housed at the Damon City Campus, the program connects students and their families to a range of free and low-cost community resources and wraparound services, including assistance with food benefits, transportation, child care subsidies, medical care and tax preparation. As its name implies, Single Stop at MCC allows for access to an array of social, financial and legal services through a single office, ensuring that students become aware of the many resources available throughout Greater Rochester to support them. MCC is one of only two colleges in Upstate New York to house a Single Stop program. Support from the Avangrid Foundation through the MCC Foundation makes MCC’s program possible through 2020. To date, 105 MCC students have benefited from the program.

In June 2016, MCC celebrated the success of its more than 90 Save for Success scholars (some of whom are pictured above). The Save for Success program—a partnership of MCC, Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection, PathStone Corporation and ESL Federal Credit Union—makes higher education more affordable for low-income students. In November, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services awarded MCC a second $200,000 grant to expand the program.

The RIT/MCC/RCSD Transfer Connection initiative invites RIT applicants to begin their college experience at MCC for one year before transferring to RIT to continue their studies. Supported by MCC Foundation scholarships, this innovative pilot program helps students strengthen their academic skills and acclimate to college life by living on campus at MCC and learning in a cohort-based model. It also complements RIT’s Rochester City Scholars program that offers full scholarships to RCSD graduates. The program focuses on a select group of academic programs: business, hospitality, liberal arts (criminal justice, journalism, communications, psychology, advertising and public relations, and others), engineering technology, information technology/networking, and science.

MCC and the Rochester Institute of Technology are working together to increase the number of Rochester City School District (RCSD) graduates who succeed in college and earn a bachelor’s degree. The RIT/MCC/RCSD Transfer Connection initiative invites RIT applicants to begin their college experience at MCC for one year before transferring to RIT to continue their studies. Supported by MCC Foundation scholarships, this innovative pilot program helps students strengthen their academic skills and acclimate to college life by living on campus at MCC and learning in a cohort-based model. It also complements RIT’s Rochester City Scholars program that offers full scholarships to RCSD graduates. The program focuses on a select group of academic programs: business, hospitality, liberal arts (criminal justice, journalism, communications, psychology, advertising and public relations, and others), engineering technology, information technology/networking, and science.

In partnership with The College at Brockport, MCC participates in the Rochester Integrated SUNY Excels (RISE) Network. The RISE Network delivers one-stop college preparation services to underprepared and at-risk individuals in Greater Rochester, including academic workshops, counseling and family support, tutoring and financial literacy education.

In April, three out of the four presidential primary candidates visited MCC at the invitation of student leaders.

“ In my time here at MCC, I’ve made friends with people from vastly different backgrounds, ages and experiences. I am humbled to have shared an educational experience with them.”

– Keidai Lee ’16
Leadership

Monroe Community College

Board of Trustees
John L. Bartolotta, chair
John J. Boland, vice chair
Grace S. Tiltingham
Michael G. Barker
Anthony J. Daniele
Barbara P. Lovenheim, Ph.D.
Omran Omar, student trustee
Carla M. Palumbo
Ronald S. Ricotta, president
Kevin T. Stickles
Allen K. Williams, director of special projects, Mayor’s Office

Honorary Trustees
Ilene L. Flaim
Wayne K. Gilman
Howard Konar
Robert N. Latella, Esq.
Richard F. Mackey
Claire S. Montgomery
Nathan J. Robbegel, Esq.
Lois R. Tucker
Richard S. Warshof ‘68
Alice Holloway Young, Ed.D.

Officers of the College
Anne M. Kress, Ph.D., president
Andrea C. Wade, Ph.D., provost and vice president, Academic Services
Lloyd A. Holmes, Ph.D., vice president, Student Services
Todd M. Oldham, MBA, vice president, Economic Development and Innovative Workforce Services
Herkeiah N. Simmons, MBA, chief financial officer and vice president, Administrative Services

2016-2017 MCC Foundation Board of Directors

Jeremy J. Wolk, chair, partner, Nixon Peabody LLP
Diane L. Shoget, executive director, Monroe Community College Foundation

Executive Committee
Martin K. Birmingham, audit chair, president and chief executive officer, Five Star Bank
Daniel J. Burns, immediate past chair, president, Rochester Region, M&T Bank
Lauren Dixon, chair-elect, chief executive officer, Dixon Schwabl
Sergio Esteban, governance chair, chief executive officer, Labella Associates, D.P.C.
Emerson U. Fullwood, secretary, corporate vice president, chief executive officer and marketing officer, Xerox Corporation (retired)
Kenneth L. Hines, investment chair, senior vice president, Merrill Lynch
Scott M. Koger, CPA, treasurer and finance chair, Dave Kaplan, CPA, PC

Notice of Non-Discrimination
Monroe Community College prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, pregnancy, familial status, gender identity or expression, age, genetic information, national or ethnic origin, physical or mental disability, marital status, veteran status, domestic violence victim status, unemployment status, criminal conviction, or any other characteristic or status protected by state or federal law or College policy in admissions, employment, and treatment of students and employees, or in any aspect of the business of the College. Inquiries regarding the application of Title IX and other laws, regulations and policies prohibiting discrimination may be directed to Kristine Lowes, Esq., Title IX coordinator, Monroe Community College, 1000 East Henrietta Road, Rochester, NY 14623, (585) 292-3202, Kristine.Lowes@monroecc.edu; or Melissa Fingar, Esq., assistant Title IX coordinator, Monroe Community College, 1000 East Henrietta Road, Rochester, NY 14623, (585) 292-3202, Melissa.Fingar@monroecc.edu.