



Inspiring every day.

Success at MCC: Academic Support

December 2017

At MCC, ensuring the academic success of our students means providing an array of supports. Schools, learning centers, free tutoring services and other initiatives help our students remain engaged and on track to achieve their long-term goals.

Schools @ MCC Impact Student Retention Rate

The Schools @ MCC are helping students navigate college and focus on their unique pathways to graduation and/or transfer.

Schools connect students to an academic “home” and school specialists who help them set academic goals and track achievement. Specialists also provide early interventions that empower students to recognize and address issues before they affect their progress.

Since the launch of the Schools in September 2016, more students have chosen to take more courses and earn more relevant college credits. Working in conjunction with the Community College Research Center and the



Meet and greet events hosted by the Schools @ MCC help students connect with faculty and peers with similar academic and career interests.

American Association of Community College’s Pathways Project, MCC is helping students select courses that will lead to achieving their end goal in less time.

Special events, such as meet and greet receptions and guest lecturer presentations on specific career fields, are reinforcing student connections to their major of study while building a sense of community within each School. As students connect to their Schools, they also connect to faculty, resources and fellow students with similar career interests.

For more information on MCC’s Schools, visit www.monroecc.edu/schools

Men of Excellence Build Community, Leadership Skills

In September, Leon Harvey decided it was time to focus on more than academics. The biology major wanted to build additional skills and make community connections before completing his studies at MCC. Today, Harvey complements his coursework with membership in the Men of Excellence, a leadership program that supports the success of male students of color at the Brighton and Downtown campuses.



Leon Harvey balances his biology studies with membership in the Men of Excellence.

“Men of Excellence is important to me,” said Harvey, a graduate of the Rochester Early College International High School. “People in my ethnic group need a reminder that going to college and getting an education is something worth striving towards.”

The program provides advising, coaching and leadership development opportunities through collaborative initiatives within and outside of the college. Harvey has already noticed a difference in himself, in terms of being more outgoing and engaging

more in discussions. He is especially interested in helping shape the future of the Men of Excellence program and speaking to high school students about their trajectories. “I want to steer students away from the negative.”

Harvey encourages students to ask for help and take advantage of MCC learning centers. “I reached out for help in calculus and made visits to the Math Learning Center part of my routine,” he says. “The tutors are passionate about what they’re doing. I did well in calculus and made a new friend.”

Harvey plans to earn his associate degree in biology in spring ’17 and transfer to study biochemistry.

When Going to Class Just Isn't Enough

If an MCC student is taking college seriously, chances are good they'll find the experience challenging. But what happens when conquering that challenge becomes an imposing obstacle that threatens their success?



counseling (limited English proficient students can receive help with employment and immigration issues, and advocacy services); academic, financial aid and transfer advisement; college-survival workshops; testing accommodations; and mentoring.

MCC's Academic Support Services Department provides a full complement of academic support services to strengthen academic weaknesses, reduce barriers to academic excellence, and develop strategies for learning. The department offers specific high-quality support systems to enrich the educational opportunities of MCC students and promote retention and completion rates that subscribe to the College's highest priority: student success.

Services provided by the Academic Support Services Department include: personal counseling; cross-cultural

In addition, any currently enrolled MCC student is eligible to receive free tutorials upon request. "Every day, MCC students benefit from numerous resources offered by the Academic Support Services Department as well as the support offered by MCC's learning centers and offices college-wide," said Patricia Kennedy, Academic Support Services director. "These services are free, readily accessible, and designed to work in conjunction with MCC faculty instruction to position our students for success."

MCC Student Support Services Introduces New Interactive Student Workshop

You're in College—Now What?

During the fall 2017 semester, the TRIO-funded Student Support Services program, in conjunction with faculty and other college departments offered a 50-minute, interactive workshop called, "You're in College—Now What?" The sessions targeted 229 first-semester, Transitional Studies students enrolled in Integrated Reading and Writing classes at both the Brighton and Downtown campuses.

The workshop is a retention strategy, providing new students with an overview of available college services while reinforcing the reality that their own dedication and persistence play an equally important role in determining their success.

During the workshop, students talked about MCC's policies and procedures and had an opportunity to discuss ways to avoid the pitfalls of academic probation, suspension, or dropping out of MCC before completing a degree or certificate. Additionally, emphasis was placed on classroom etiquette, faculty expectations, college resources, and the availability of free tutorial services.



MCC's **Natural Science Education Center** is where students form peer-led study groups and meet with professors and tutors who specialize in geology, biology, physics, chemistry, and mathematics. In 2016-2017, students used the center more than 4,700 times and met with tutors for an average of 77 minutes per visit.

Contact MCC

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