



June 2018

At \$2,140 per semester, Monroe Community College is one of the best academic values in New York, but many students still struggle to find the financial resources they need to complete their studies. In 2016-17, more than 40 percent of matriculated MCC students received a federal Pell grant to afford college. Scholarships funded by private philanthropy have become an essential complement to federal and state aid programs designed to keep high quality education accessible and affordable for students.*

MCC Helps Adult Student Navigate Financial Resources

At its Commencement ceremony on June 2, MCC bestowed an information technology degree with distinction on Honors student Brian Witherspoon (pictured below). Connecting with MCC's Financial Aid Office and applying for scholarships enabled Brian, an adult student, to graduate debt-free.



Before returning to Rochester in 2015, Brian attended another community college part time and worked in fine dining establishments in New York City. When he decided to attend MCC and pursue a career in cybersecurity and information technology, he discovered his past earnings disqualified him from state and federal grant programs.

"I felt penalized for working after high school," Brian said. "The chunk of money reported on my tax form didn't take into account the high cost of living downstate." Despite earning a high grade point average, he was repeatedly denied federal and state grants.

MCC's Financial Aid Office and the MCC Foundation helped Brian overcome financial obstacles. By applying for support through Scholarships Online (<https://monroecc.academicworks.com>), Brian received a Wentworth Family Endowed Scholarship which filled his financial gap and enabled him to graduate from MCC with distinction.

"Without advocacy, I may not have gotten it done. Today, I am a college graduate without any loans." Brian's next step is to pursue a bachelor's degree in information technology at Rochester Institute of Technology, University at Buffalo or SUNY Polytechnic.

Did you know...

Accurate enrollment predictions, coupled with strong fiscal management, help MCC contain costs and keep tuition low for students and families. Looking forward to the 2018-19 academic year, MCC has reduced budgeted contractual expenses by \$940,674.

Part-time Students Benefit from New State Award Program

At the start of the 2017-18 academic year, the New York State Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) launched the NYS Part-time Scholarship Award program. The program provides tuition awards for in-state resident students attending a SUNY or CUNY community college who are taking at least six but less than 12 credits per semester. Eligible recipients receive an award that covers the cost of six credit hours.

Approximately 40 percent (5,000+) of MCC students attend part time. Eligibility requirements and an online application are available on



A part-time student may be eligible for federal and state grant support but tends to receive less than if attending college full time.

the HESC website (<https://www.hesc.ny.gov/>). The application deadline for 2018-19 awards is July 27.

MCC Foundation Awards More Than \$1 Million in Scholarships for Fourth Consecutive Year

Scholarship dollars can make a significant difference in the lives of MCC students, especially for those who have exhausted personal financial resources and face the difficult decision of postponing their pursuit of a college credential or taking out a loan.

For the fourth consecutive year, the MCC Foundation awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships to MCC students in 2017-18. Fueled by its *Every Bright Future Needs a Strong Foundation* campaign, the Foundation prioritizes the funding of



student scholarships in response to growing student need.

In 2016-17, 3,376 scholarship applications were submitted through the Foundation's Scholarship Online application process — an increase of 61 percent over the previous year.

Dental hygiene student Jennifer

Baker (pictured at right with her parents, John and Sheryl) received multiple scholarship awards for academic excellence, leadership and professionalism which helped her



finance her degree and start her career. Her proud parents joined MCC in applauding Jennifer and her fellow students' accomplishments at MCC's recent Scholarship and Academic Awards Ceremony. Jennifer began her career as a pediatric hygienist in the Rochester area in June.

MCC Guarantee Keeps Tuition Flat

During the 2017-18 academic year, approximately 350 MCC students benefited from the Excelsior Scholarship. Some students who did not qualify for the Excelsior Scholarship turned to the MCC Guarantee to help manage the cost of college.

Under the MCC Guarantee program, qualifying students—those with a family income of less than \$125,000 annually—will see no

tuition increase if they complete their studies in two years. The MCC Guarantee provides students and their families with the ability to predict the cost of college and incentivizes students to complete their degrees in a timely manner. During its first year, approximately 150 students benefited from the program. MCC Foundation benefactors contribute private dollars to support the program.

Estimated Cost of an MCC Education

Depending on a student's housing choice, the actual cost of an MCC education is approximately \$13,000 to \$17,600 per year for New York state residents. The breakdown below reflects the estimated annual cost of attending MCC:


Tuition*	\$4,280
Fees	\$692
Books/Supplies	\$1,200
Transportation	\$1,500
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$1,200
Housing & Food	\$2,600-\$7,150

*2017-18 full-time, in-state rate

Contact MCC

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Anne M. Kress, Ph.D.
President
(585) 292-2100

Clayton W. Jones
Assistant to the President,
Government Relations
(585) 292-2192