



May 2018

*At MCC, educating our students means more than preparing them for transfer and career. We understand the significance of introducing them to the civic responsibilities that enhance the Rochester community and, ultimately, our entire nation.*

## MCC Introduces COVE: The Center for Outreach & Volunteer Engagement

MCC is committed to the success of our students. This means providing an educational experience that enhances their personal and professional growth. The College’s new Center for Outreach & Volunteer Engagement (COVE) is the first point of contact for students interested in service opportunities in the Rochester region—opportunities that can build their skill sets and confidence, develop their civic responsibility, enhance their resume

and make them aware of their individual power to improve the lives of others.

COVE coordinates and facilitates service opportunities worldwide and acts as a hub for students wanting to track their service hours and build a service transcript while enrolled at MCC. The Center is also home to DWIGHT (Doing What Is Good & Healthy Together), MCC’s food pantry initiative.



**MCC’s COVE partners include:**  
The Salvation Army, Sojourner House, Hillside Alternatives for Independent Youth, Lollypop Farm, Literacy Volunteers of America, Camp Good Days, Habitat for Humanity, Golisano Children’s Hospital, and others.

## Student Leader Finds Direction at MCC

In 2013, Zack Graham graduated from Hilton High School and started working. “It was just a job — not a career



or anything,” he said. Zack hadn’t earned particularly good grades in high school – hadn’t even bothered to take the SATs. But eventually, he started to take a few MCC courses—and soon became enthralled with political science and law.

During the 2016-17 academic year, Zack was elected secretary of MCC’s

political science club, *Politicos*, and is now serving as the club’s president. He has been an active volunteer for veteran outreach programs, presented research at MCC’s Scholars’ Day, and has worked with The League of Women Voters on several voter registration initiatives.

Earlier this spring, Zack became one of 14 MCC students who participated in the week-long Model UN program in New York City where they discussed world issues with 4,000 other college students from throughout the world. “I’m very grateful to MCC for the opportunities I’ve had here,” said Zack. “This entire experience has

been so formative. Not only have I become a better student, I’ve improved my organizational abilities and public speaking skills. I’ve really broken out of my shell.”

After Zack graduates in June, he will attend the University of Buffalo or the University of Rochester and plans to become a lawyer specializing in international relations. “MCC is really what you make of it,” he said. “You’ve got to put in the hard work, reach out to professors and make learning and growth your priorities. You’ve got to challenge yourself.”

## MCC Addresses Student Hunger with More Than a BandAid Fix

In helping our students develop as responsible citizens, MCC is leading by example. The College has a wagon that's used to distribute quick, healthy snacks to students all over campus. Each of these snacks is wrapped with a simple one-sided handout that provides information on available college and community resources. That wagon is part of the College's effort to tackle hunger, homelessness and other real life challenges that hinder completion and better ensure student success.

MCC students are not unlike college students nationwide. A recent national survey assessing the basic needs security of university students was released in April 2018. The Wisconsin HOPE Lab survey found that of community college students:

- 36% of students were housing insecure in the last year. Housing insecurity affected 46% of students in this year's study.
- 42% of students were food insecure in the 30 days preceding the survey.
- 12% of students were homeless in this year's survey.

According to a recent *Washington Post* article, on-campus food pantries are a growing trend. MCC has also developed other programs that help students with unforeseen financial emergencies and direct them to free and low-cost community services.

NYS Governor Andrew M. Cuomo recently announced a comprehensive program to provide all students with access to healthy, locally-sourced meals from kindergarten to college. In response, SUNY has launched a Food Insecurity Task Force, co-chaired by MCC President Anne M. Kress, to build resources for the state-wide initiative.

*“The traditional student today is older with other obligations. A lot of them are living in a very narrow margin between financial security and insecurity. What’s going to connect them to financial security is a college degree.”*

**MCC President Anne Kress,**  
quoted in the April 18, 2018  
*Washington Post* article, “Free food for thought: Campus food pantries proliferate”

## MCC's Prism Center: An Evolving Haven for All

When MCC's Prism Center opened in 2016, Shirley Batistta-Provost, assistant director, Student Life & Leadership Development Office, envisioned a hive of activity. “Oh, I thought we'd be bustling all day long,” she said. “I thought it'd be crowded all the time.” But the Center is more quietly thriving. “It's a safe place—a place to debate respectfully, to speak your truth and listen—really listen.”

This semester's activities have included a Black History Month series, a presentation on the opioid addiction crisis, and discussions over free coffee or tea on how voter ID laws discriminate, the socioeconomic impact of climate change, and preventing mass shootings in our communities.



“I'm encouraged by how many faculty and staff have embraced the vision,” said Shirley. “They stop in, they encourage students to drop by, they want to bring their classes. We're committed to providing a warm, welcoming, supportive environment for everyone.”

Coming in ...  
June

It's all for naught if the education isn't affordable. We wrap up the academic year looking at ways to keep an MCC education within reach.

### Contact MCC

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