

Special population groups — including English-language learners, people with disabilities, and economically disadvantaged individuals — historically have lower college-going rates than the general population. In recent years, Monroe Community College has seen enrollment of special population students rise; we expect that trend to continue.

To better serve their needs and help them attain their individual goals, MCC is expanding services to support the college's commitment to students with diverse goals and backgrounds and to ensure quality services for all students.

Leveling the Playing Field for Students with Disabilities

MCC's Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office is seeing an increasing number of students who request accommodations due to a disability. The disabilities cover a broad range, from learning and attention difficulties to burn injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder to visual, hearing and mobility impairments.

Last year, more than 1,760 MCC students accessed various services and resources through SSD, an increase of 31 percent from 2010. Accommodations include assistive technologies such as screen magnifiers, special furniture and the SSD Testing Center, where students are able to take course exams with extended time in a setting with limited distractions. SSD also connects students to on-campus and community resources for additional support.

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, students have the right to request accommodations and higher education institutions are obligated to meet their requests as long as the college determines that the request is reasonable and does not compromise the integrity of its programs.

One of the students utilizing the services regularly is Michael, who is blind and is working toward a



Jessica Morelli, a counselor with MCC's Services for Students with Disabilities office, explains to James Sandle Jr., a liberal arts and sciences major, how software assists students in the reading process by scanning text, translating it into speech, then reading the text aloud.

certificate in office technology with the help of scribes, tutors and adaptive technologies. For example, Michael uses software that reads web pages, documents and emails to complete his assignments.

His aspiration is to become a transcriber for the visually impaired.

The community of support available to Michael is focused on helping him realize his educational goal, just as it did in 2005 when he earned a liberal arts associate degree from MCC.

Navigator Helps Ease Transition to College

The Navigator Program pairs students from the Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection program with a navigator when they arrive at MCC. The navigator assists students with transitioning into college as well as making best use of campus resources.

More than 135 students have participated in the program since its inception in 2010.

This spring, MCC and Hillside are taking steps to educate more Rochester-area high school seniors about the college application process and provide the support needed to complete students' enrollment and registration before summer.

"I know how big a difference this program makes in youths' lives," said Ashley Jackson, who graduated from the Hillside Work-Scholarship program in 2004, later returned to serve as a youth advocate and now works as a navigator at MCC. "These students in some cases don't have anyone to look up to, so that's what inspires me to work with them and help them move forward and succeed."

Benefits of Global Students to MCC, Economy

An increasing number of international students — from as many as 55 different countries — study at MCC each semester.

In fall 2013, MCC enrolled the most full-time international students in its history.

Global students not only bring incalculable academic and cultural value to MCC but make a significant contribution to the New York state

economy. In fall 2012, MCC was the school of choice for nearly 100 international students. Latest data¹ show that the economic contributions of these students and their families total \$2.7 million and generate or support 18 jobs in the Rochester area.

Binderiya Byambasuren traveled more than 6,000 miles from her home in Mongolia to embark on her college career at MCC. Since earning a liberal

arts associate degree with distinction and an advanced studies certificate from MCC in 2013, she is continuing her education at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Mass. She is confident she can make a difference with the skills she gained and the talents she honed at MCC.

¹Sources: Data from several federal agencies analyzed for NAFSA: Association of International Educators

Enrollment of Full- and Part-time International Students at MCC

Year	Total
2011-12	117
2012-13	122
2013-14	141*

*Unofficial; data reported before MCC spring census:

Top Places of Origin of International Students in 2013-14*

Rank	MCC
1	China
2	Canada, India
3	South Korea
4	Netherlands, United Kingdom, Brazil



Building Promising Futures



As a cross-cultural counselor, each year Don Beech helps more than 600 refugees and immigrants who come to MCC adjust to college and the Rochester region.

He helps them with whatever concerns they may have in their academic or personal lives so that they can reach their educational goals and more fully integrate into U.S. society.

The number of refugee students at MCC is expected to increase for the

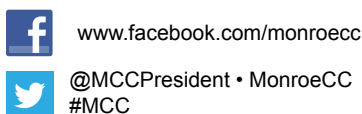
next several years as more refugees settle in the Rochester area and make MCC their first step toward a college education. Catholic Family Center, a Rochester refugee resettlement agency, projects between 700 and 750 refugees will be relocated to the area in 2013-14, compared with 658 émigrés a year ago. The agency says they will come from Nepal, Burma, Somalia, Iraq, Congo and Burundi.

Beech's commitment to working with refugees and immigrants spans nearly 35 years since completing his graduate studies in linguistics. In spring 2014, he is involved in a new college-wide

initiative to integrate global learning and intercultural competence into many areas within MCC, including academic and co-curricular programs.

“Our immigrant and refugee students continue to inspire me year after year by their respect for learning, their noble life aspirations, and their limitless resilience in the face of daily challenges crossing multiple cultural boundaries and constructing fresh identities as ‘new Americans,’” he said. “It’s a privilege to see them come to understand MCC as one of the very real promises of this ‘land of opportunity’.”

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