



Inspiring every day.

Paths to Completion and Transfer

May 2016

Together with community colleges across the U.S., MCC has pledged to increase student completion rates by 50 percent by 2020. Financial challenges often derail academic journeys; MCC has a growing array of financial supports that help students stay on track. Here are several other initiatives aimed at helping students achieve their higher education goals and raising completion rates.

Bridging the Achievement Gap

Davon Jackson excelled as a liberal arts student and athlete at MCC before graduating in 2015. He attributes his success in college partly to his basketball coach, who mentored him and his peers.



“He stayed on top of our grades,” Davon said. “If you ever needed to come talk to him about something or needed a tutor, he was there for you.”

To improve the success rates of African-American male students like Davon, MCC has expanded its efforts to address persistent achievement gaps faced by young men of color.

MCC is one of only two New York schools partnering with the Minority Male Community College Collaborative, a national center aimed at improving college access and success among minority male community college students. The center provides schools with training, research and resources to strengthen institutional practices and assess outcomes.

In addition, MCC has participated in White House initiatives—My Brother’s Keeper and Reach Higher—and in discussions hosted by the New York State Board of Regents focused on



A poster series highlights African-American male students and their pledges—“I will transfer to a 4-year school,” “I will motivate others,” “I will graduate with a degree in engineering”—in hopes that their words will inspire their peers. Nationally, African-American male students earn college degrees at lower rates than other cohorts.

increasing the retention and graduation rates of minority male students.

An invaluable asset to MCC, a group of African-American male employees regularly meets to develop strategies for increasing the likelihood of success and graduation among African-American male students.

Clearer Academic Pathways Aim to Improve Student Success

As one of the first U.S. colleges selected to participate in the Association of American Colleges and Universities’ Roadmap Project, MCC is implementing structured academic and career pathways for students.

Under this guided pathways model, in fall 2016 MCC’s 100-plus degree and certificate programs will be organized within six MCC Schools.

Each School will give students customized pathways to help them

stay on track to meet their goals, more clearly connected resources for support (from academic advisement to career and transfer), and opportunities to make deeper connections to faculty and student peers.

The six Schools are Health Sciences & Physical Wellness; Business, Hospitality & Entrepreneurism; Arts & Humanities; Community Engagement & Development; Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM); and Social Sciences & Global Studies.

This guided pathways model was the focus of a daylong colloquium MCC hosted in February. The event—featuring national leaders in higher education research, community college educators, and MCC students—explored how colleges are rethinking their organizational structures and implementing clearer academic pathways to improve academic outcomes for students. Almost 200 educators from throughout the region attended.



Monroe Community College

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Students' Campaign Strives to Boost College Completion

Students are more apt to stay in school, succeed and graduate when they feel connected to their college. The "My College of Choice" initiative, led by MCC honor society members, aims to strengthen student connectedness and school spirit, ultimately inspiring more of their peers to complete their MCC education.

Since launching the initiative in fall 2015, the Phi Theta Kappa honor society chapter in collaboration with other campus groups has provided several opportunities for students from all walks of life to share their viewpoints on different topics and join in college-wide, student-centered activities:

- A recent rally inspired nearly 475 students to sign a pledge to earn an associate degree or certificate before transferring to a four-year institution or entering the job market.
- Surveys were conducted in fall 2015 to gauge students' perceptions of MCC. About 65 percent of respondents said they frequently talk to their friends about opportunities at MCC; about



65 percent also said they are proud to attend MCC. The survey project was a collaboration of the honor society and MCC's Institutional Research Office.

MCC Unveils Scorecard



The first MCC Scorecard has launched. Designed to provide information students and parents need as they consider MCC, it shows MCC's graduation, retention, and course completion rates, both for the previous year and over a three-year period.

To access the data, go to www.monroecc.edu/go/scorecard.

Online Tools Keep Students on Track



As a full-time MCC student raising two girls on her own, Kristal White needs to graduate on time and begin the next step toward

achieving a career in social work.

Her plans are to earn an associate degree in human services in June 2016 and continue her studies at a SUNY college this fall.

With the help of an MCC advisor and two online tools — SUNY Transfer Paths and Degree Works — Kristal is on track to fulfilling her goals.

- Using **SUNY Transfer Paths** early in her MCC career, Kristal mapped her first two years of MCC coursework that is guaranteed to transfer to any SUNY four-year school offering her major.

(Students who transfer to MCC from a SUNY four-year school also benefit from this resource.)

- **Degree Works** made it easy for Kristal to follow her progress toward completing degree requirements at MCC. When she changed her major from business administration, it allowed her to see how the coursework she had completed would apply to the human services program.

"I was able to see that when I changed my major, I only had to do an extra semester instead of an extra year. If I didn't know this tool was available, I would have been taking classes that I didn't really need," Kristal said. "These tools have helped me to stay on top of my grades and stay on the right path to meeting my academic goals."

As an MCC peer advisor, Kristal tells fellow students every day about these resources and how they have kept her on track to achieving her goals.

Contact MCC

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