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Today's college degree needs to be supplemented with a range of abilities, experiences and personal attributes so students can thrive in any environment in a global society. Employers generally look for employees who possess intercultural and teamwork skills, ethical judgment, effective communication styles, and an interest in their community's well-being. At MCC, our goal is for students to gain the knowledge, skills and confidence necessary to become successful on campus, in their communities and eventually in their careers. A number of MCC programs — including dozens of clubs and organizations as well as intercollegiate sports — prepare our students to take their place in society as productive, well-rounded citizens.

Scholars' Day Showcases Talents

On April 25-26, MCC students across a wide spectrum of academic disciplines will present their independent and mentored research as part of Scholars' Day.

The annual event celebrates academic innovation and excellence while promoting scholarship among MCC students and faculty. It inspires students in their scholarly pursuits to tap the skills and knowledge they gained at MCC and to engage in intellectual discussions on their discoveries with their peers and other community members.

Students who participate in undergraduate research gain valuable skills that increase their likelihood of future success. They develop well-rounded, work-ready skills — such as the ability to work in a team, communicate effectively, and solve complex problems — that employers value.



This year, student presentations will include a study on high-impact teaching practices and research on the use of LED technology to improve the effectiveness of the handheld flashlight.

Living, Learning on Campus

More than 770 students live in residence halls on MCC's Brighton Campus, learning life lessons and gaining life skills within a community environment.

In each of the four residence halls, students have ample opportunities to enhance their intellectual and personal growth. For example, they are invited to participate in workshops covering a broad range of topics, such as interpersonal communication, civility, healthy lifestyles, and paths to personal success, where students are encouraged



“Being a resident assistant for the past year has made me realize how much I value building a community. It has given me so much confidence and allowed me to meet other students and become the person I want to be.”

– Jesse Moses, 20, who aspires to a career in student affairs in higher education

to exchange ideas and experiences. Many students later become inspired to engage in a leadership role as

residence hall assistants, using the skills they developed to educate and mentor residents and foster an inclusive community.

Student-Athlete Inspired to do More



Michael Finazzo made the most of his final year at MCC. Besides being a member of the men's swimming and diving team and excelling as an honors student, he helped

launch and led the Student-Athlete Council, a campus organization that represents student-athletes across 12 sports teams.

He graduated in 2013 with two associate degrees — in criminal justice and in liberal arts and sciences — and an advanced studies certificate. He

also earned academic honors from the National Junior College Athletic Association.

Now a junior at Le Moyne College in Syracuse, Michael says his total MCC experience has improved his employability and enhanced his personal awareness, leadership and time-management skills. While pursuing a bachelor's degree in criminology, he holds two part-time jobs and is trying to help start a campus club.

"The role I played in the MCC Student-Athlete Council was one of the reasons

I was able to get these two jobs because it shows leadership and responsibility," Michael said. "In addition, all my interactions on the swim team and on MCC's Damon City Campus have made me a much better person because my experiences broadened my social interactions with a more diverse group of people than I was ever used to. Those interactions changed me into a person who is more open and welcoming of other people's perspectives and opinions."

Studying Abroad Enriches Lives

Through study-abroad programs, MCC students develop an understanding of world cultures and events, appreciate cultural differences, and apply their knowledge in their work and community.

In recent years, students have studied around the globe, including Canada, England, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Mexico and Spain.

In spring 2014, an MCC Hospitality Management integrated studies course, open to all students, starts on the college's Brighton Campus and is completed in Italy over three weeks in the summer. There, students will experience culture, art, history and international cuisine as they visit museums and markets, tour food factories and towns, and interact with the locals.



"The experience in Italy two years ago still relates to my life in my work with clients," said Stephanie Miesch, a business owner who has earned degrees in entrepreneurial studies and business administration from MCC. "It has made me more open-minded about how other people live and helped me better connect with my clients, thereby making my work more successful and enjoyable."

Freshmen Build Strong Foundation

Through MCC's First Year Experience program, freshmen develop personal networks, become engaged in our local community, and receive the support services they need to adjust successfully to college.

They participate in courses and activities focusing on skills relevant to college, workplace and personal success: leadership, team building, communication and civic engagement. Each new student is paired with a peer mentor who serves as a resource and a role model. By the end of their first year, program graduates earn an MCC leadership certificate.

Jonathan Roman, a 2012 MCC graduate currently attending the Rochester Institute of Technology, said the First Year Experience program has "instilled many positive qualities in me that help with my success in school and in life after MCC."

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