

Civic-engagement opportunities come in many forms at MCC: in degree programs, service-learning courses, co-curricular activities, and collaborations with communities locally and globally. Through education and example, MCC strives to foster a lifelong commitment to volunteerism that strengthens communities, transforms lives and empowers fellow citizens.



“The classroom and real-world learning experience that I got at Monroe Community College and the civic-engagement activities that I did through programs like The Democracy Commitment really kept me going. It was an integral part of my development as a person.”

Christopher Morris, a 2013 MCC graduate currently attending Columbia University

MCC Embraces The Democracy Commitment

The Democracy Commitment is a national initiative aimed at promoting participation in civic education and the democratic practice among community college students. MCC was one of the first community colleges to sign the commitment. Among MCC's efforts within the past year:

- More than 400 individuals registered to vote or obtained a voter registration form as a result of student-led drives.
- The Jury Ambassador Project began this fall to expose 32 MCC students to the court process and jury system with the objective that they in turn educate inner-city high school students on the importance of minority participation in jury service. In collaboration with the



Jury ambassadors receive lessons in the courtroom and the classroom.

Rochester City School District and the New York State Unified Court System, the project supports statewide efforts to achieve more diverse jury pools.

Simple Acts Create Better College Community

Helping make MCC a better place is a strong part of the MCC culture. For example, within the past year, Phi Theta Kappa honor society members have collected more than 150 food items to ensure disadvantaged MCC students don't go hungry. They also assisted in the retention of more than a dozen MCC students by providing individual tutoring in English. In fall 2013, art students created a mural at the Damon City Campus to honor the thousands of service members and military veterans who have studied or worked at MCC. Through their talents and collaborations with veterans, the art students inspire conversation and greater awareness of the veterans' sacrifice, their struggle and their profound impact on the college community.

National Honor

The Corporation for National and Community Service has recognized MCC's commitment to service three times with inclusion on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

Community Engagement Without Borders

Whether it's creating science kits for area preschoolers or providing educational supplies to schools in South Sudan, MCC students are passionate about making a difference in communities here and afar.

- MCC's Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Project is implementing a project that was one of only 200 worldwide to receive recognition from the Clinton Global Initiative in spring 2013. The student-led Brighten a Child's Future in South Sudan aims to provide school supplies to help children there complete their education.
- In fall 2013, 26 education majors made math and science kits linked to children's literature for preschoolers in area child care centers. They helped youngsters learn about outer space, weather, numbers, and simple addition and subtraction. Other education students developed physical science lessons that they taught to elementary school students in the Rochester City School District.



Provided

About 30 MCC students joined 500 residents in a Housing as a Human Rights march from Washington Square Park to City Hall in fall 2012 to draw attention to homelessness and substandard housing.

- Also in fall 2013, more than 60 sociology students addressed issues they studied in class through activities in collaboration with Metro Justice, a Rochester grassroots organization. One group of students focused on housing inequality and empowering Rochester residents to proactively improve their neighborhoods, such as by cleaning up abandoned lots.

A Blend of Hands-on Learning and Service

In the fall 2013 semester, 75 service-learning students captured the oral histories of a Rochester neighborhood where a three-day race riot erupted in 1964.

Their videotaped interviews with former

and current residents will eventually become part of a book that will be added to the Rochester Public Library collections. The book and video will be given to Rochester elected officials and community action groups as resources for urban revitalization efforts.

Inspiring Citizens

Verdis Robinson, an MCC history instructor, often tells his students that being productive members of society doesn't mean just making a living but acting as catalysts for change.




He drove home this point one semester for students in his Contemporary African-American Experience classes, which at the time were studying different perspectives of the 2008 presidential race. His remarks made a profound impact on his students, many of whom came from underprivileged backgrounds and felt hopeless and powerless in shaping their community and country.

After engaging in discussions on black America, students took a greater interest in the political process and became inspired to participate in the elections. Out of his 200 students, a majority of them — some in their 50s and 60s — became registered voters in fall 2008. On Election Day, they voted for the first time.

"Through my example, I want my students to feel they are American citizens and that they are a part of this democracy," said Robinson. "I want them to take ownership of democracy by learning about it, acting on it and becoming agents of social change."

His classroom experience inspired him to do more in promoting civic education and participation. Since 2011, Robinson has served as coordinator of The Democracy Commitment at MCC.

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