Monroe Community College opens doors for hardworking students, employers, and community partners who invest their time and resources in order to create a stronger future for themselves, Greater Rochester, and the Finger Lakes region. In 2018, MCC once again made a remarkable difference in our community:

**EDUCATED** more than 29,000 students*, more than 80 percent of whom live in Monroe County;

**OFFERED** more than 100 degree and certificate programs, nearly half of which are available 50 to 100 percent online;

**INTEGRATED** labor market intelligence and employer feedback to guide program development;

**TRAINED** the first responders (law enforcement, fire and rescue, and emergency medical services professionals) who keep our community safe;

**LED** the State University of New York’s Guided Pathways Initiative to help improve college completion rates statewide;

**ATTRACTIONS** private philanthropy totaling $2.6 million to support student success and program innovation at MCC; and

**INSPIRED** student-entrepreneurs to start new businesses in Greater Rochester.

This *President’s Report to the Community* provides a glimpse of how MCC opened doors of opportunity during the past year. Your connection to and support of MCC’s mission of access and excellence empowers our College to respond to the changing needs of students, employers and industries, and, frankly, our world.

Thank you for helping keep MCC inspiring every day.

With warm regards,

Anne M. Kress
president, Monroe Community College

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*2017-18 credit and non-credit students*
Monroe Community College opens doors for students and creates opportunities to learn and experience different ideas. Our dedicated employees and community partners are focused on student success and regard MCC as an outstanding educational institution that encourages and supports all students.

When Avery Klauk began studying biology at MCC, she did not expect to collaborate with business and engineering students on a solar energy model to help impoverished women in Petronilas, Mexico. Avery’s determination and scholarship led to her selection for this extraordinary learning opportunity. Her biology professor, Laura Penman, in partnership with Instituto Tecnologico de la Laguna and with support from a 100,000 Strong in the Americas grant, made this learning experience a reality that will continue to influence Avery throughout her life.

Alumni Robin ’80 and Tim ’80 Wentworth created an inspiring moment at the College. In October, the couple returned to MCC to help the MCC Foundation launch its Every Bright Future Needs a Strong Foundation Campaign. The Wentworths’ historic $4 million gift to the campaign will provide scholarships for 100 students each year. The Wentworths achieved academically at MCC and today, through their philanthropy, inspire others to do the same.

Our newest alumni, the 2,210 members of the MCC Class of 2018, are educated and prepared to make a difference within our community and the world. We look forward to the doors they will open not only for themselves but for others. At Commencement, these graduates heard the uplifting words of Gladys Pedraza-Burgos ’91, a community leader and member of the MCC Alumni Hall of Fame. She shared how graduating from MCC motivated her to give back through her work at the Ibero-American Action League. Her story and the stories of Avery Klauk and the Wentworths clearly show MCC’s unique ability to inspire every day.

Thank you for believing in Monroe Community College and its students.

Sincerely,

Barbara P. Lovenheim, Ph.D.
Chair, Monroe Community College Board of Trustees and professor emerita, MCC (retired)
Monroe Community College and the MCC Foundation reached two milestones in 2018: the launch of a historic fundraising campaign and the receipt of the largest gift in the College’s history. The Foundation’s $50 million Every Bright Future Needs a Strong Foundation campaign, one of the largest ever pursued by a community college, engages alumni, corporate partners, private foundations and benefactors to help ensure all students have access to the scholarship support they need to earn an MCC certificate or associate degree.

In October, campaign honorary chairs Robin ’80 and Tim ’80 Wentworth (pictured above) announced their $4 million gift to the MCC Foundation. The gift expands the Wentworth Family Endowed Scholarship program to support 100 MCC students each year. The gift surpassed the Wentworths’ previous record-breaking gift of $2.25 million.

As Tim Wentworth said at the campaign’s public launch, “Robin and I are energized by the campaign’s $50 million goal—a goal which will be viewed throughout Rochester and our country as historic and incredibly significant when we achieve it.”

Building 4 on the Brighton Campus was named the Robin and Tim Wentworth Arts Building in honor of the couple’s leadership and generosity.
In 2018, more than 150 students resumed their studies through MCC’s Return to Complete program. Launched in August, the program defers payments on debt owed to the College until students complete their certificates or degrees. Full- and part-time returning students who have been away from MCC for at least three years are eligible to apply. Additional supports, such as personalized academic advisement and financial literacy education, are built into the program to ensure students successfully reengage with their studies and achieve their goals.

After a decade away from MCC, James Simpson (pictured at right) deferred his debt of $900 and is on his way to earning an associate in applied science degree in criminal justice: police science in June. He plans to transfer to the College at Brockport to continue his studies and is interested in a career as a parole officer.

“The program is actually great,” James says. “It’s going to inspire a lot of people who are at home thinking they can’t finish because of what they owe. … The opportunity is there now. The door is open.”

In June, MCC celebrated the first LadderzUp graduates to complete the Office Technology: Medical Office Assistant certificate program. Based at MCC’s Downtown Campus, the program provides accelerated training and placement services in a cohort format so that students take classes together and support each other’s success. Students also benefit from tailored services, including tutoring and supports to overcome financial challenges.

Made possible thanks to Imagine Monroe grants awarded to MCC in 2017 and 2018, LadderzUp provides “career ladders,” accelerated training and placement services, for in-demand career fields, such as precision tooling, mechatronics, health care, and optics and photonics.
In October, MCC hosted its first diversity conference, entitled *The Resegregation of Higher Education: How Diverse Are Our Spaces?* Championed by newly-hired MCC Chief Diversity Officer Calvin Gantt, Ed.D., the conference challenged educators to create inclusive, effective learning spaces that provide students what they need to be successful.

Featured keynote speakers Sarita Brown, *Excelencia* in Education, and Fred Bonner, Ed.D., Prairie View A&M University (pictured at left), led thought- and action-provoking discussions centered on the Latinx and millennial student experience. The conference underscored the importance of using data-informed strategies to improve student achievement at MCC and beyond.
Student Events and Governance Association (SEGA) President and MCC Foundation scholarship recipient Kimberly Statt (pictured at right) used to describe herself as a “struggling single mother of five children.” Today, she is one semester away from earning an MCC addictions counseling degree.

In November, Kimberly shared her success story at the MCC Foundation’s Salute to Excellence dinner. She credited a professor for referring her to Single Stop at MCC where she connected with campus and community resources that helped her overcome challenges and remain focused on earning her degree.

Made possible with funding from Rochester Gas & Electric and the Avangrid Foundation, Single Stop at MCC responds to students’ growing needs for transportation, housing, child care, and food. Single Stop also provides access to health care, legal assistance and credit counseling. To date, more than 650 students have applied for assistance through the program and are forging pathways to self-sufficiency. The majority (62 percent) of students served by Single Stop at MCC are the first in their families to attend college.

“Ms. Peggy Harvey-Lee [Single Stop at MCC director], as well as many others, assisted me so I could stay in school and push forward for myself and my family. When I graduate from this amazing school, I am going to SUNY Brockport for my bachelor’s in social work as well as my master’s.”

– Kimberly Statt

In March, more than 140 educators and administrators participated in an “essential discussion” on non-academic barriers to student achievement. The discussion helped identify ways to transform students with developmental needs into more confident, focused learners for life.

Recent research shows how student success is driven by a host of non-cognitive factors, including the positive and negative feedback students receive during their formative years from family, educators, peers and society. Keynote speakers Jacquie Beaubien, Ed.D. (former senior program manager for the Project for Education Research That Scales [PERTS] at Stanford University) and Kevin Li (dean of arts and sciences at Triton College) emphasized the importance of inspiring students to be lifelong learners and shared research that proves how growth mindset interventions can help students close college-readiness gaps.

“If we want to do the best by our students, then we need to take the time to do the best by our students.”

– Thomas Chew, The College at Brockport, panelist at the March 2018 Essential Discussions: Conversations at MCC
Access to reliable, affordable transportation is a significant challenge for many community college students and can be the difference in whether a student attends or stays in college.

In August, MCC and Regional Transit Service (RTS) announced a new transportation program to provide MCC students with unlimited, fare-free access to all RTS bus routes in Monroe County. The Universal Pass (U-Pass) provides convenient transportation for MCC students who struggle to find transportation to campus, work, medical appointments, and anywhere they need to be within the RTS service area. MCC is the first college in the Finger Lakes Region to have a U-Pass arrangement with RTS.

A spring 2018 student-led survey of over 200 MCC residence hall students found limited access to transportation is a barrier to accessing off-campus food sources, employment opportunities, health care services, tours at four-year colleges, and volunteer and social opportunities.

“As we continue reimagining public transit in our community, the MCC-RTS U-Pass program will help lay the groundwork for the kind of innovative partnerships that will help our organizations thrive for many years to come.”

– RTS CEO Bill Carpenter

In January, the first cohort of ESL/MCC Scholars began paid internships at local branches and received $1,000 scholarships. The program offers full-time students interested in banking and financial services careers an “earn-and-learn experience,” including mentoring and professional skill development opportunities. The ESL/MCC Scholars also helps build a pipeline of diverse talent for the local financial services industry. Participating students have the option to obtain academic credit for their work experience.
In June, Grow with Google announced MCC was among the over 25 community college partners selected to participate in the company’s new IT Support Professional Certificate program. Designed to “create more economic opportunities for Americans,” the program supports the success of learners in seven states (California, Illinois, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Texas and Wisconsin) and connects graduates to employers, such as Bank of America, Walmart, Sprint and Google itself, who are looking to hire IT support talent.

Google’s IT Support Professional Certificate trains learners with no prior experience to be IT support professionals in about eight months. According to MCC Career Coach, there are 305 annual job openings for computer user support specialists in the Finger Lakes Region. New workers annually earn around $30,767; highly experienced workers can earn up to $72,612.

In June, KeyBank Foundation invested $120,000 in MCC’s new Early College Career Pathway program through the MCC Foundation. The program puts high school seniors from local neighborhoods impacted by poverty on the path to in-demand, high-tech careers before they graduate from high school. KeyBank’s support also helps ensure students graduate with job-ready credentials that are linked to meaningful and sustaining careers.

Through the program, participating students can earn 15 credit hours—the equivalent of one full college semester—by the time they graduate from high school. Students also receive personalized advisement and an accelerated college orientation to support their transition to post-secondary education.

“ This program will help put young people on a pathway to career success and help employers and industries in the Rochester area fill a large void.”

– KeyBank Rochester Market President James Barger
Outstanding Students

In December, Roosa Ariyo of Helsinki, Finland (pictured at left and below) was nationally recognized as the United Soccer Coaches’ Junior College Division I Women’s Soccer National Player of the Year. The NJCAA All-American star forward rewrote the record books at MCC in 2018, setting new marks for goals in a game (8), goals in a season (55), and goals in a career (79). Roosa also helped guide the Tribunes to a 15-5-0 record and an appearance at the NJCAA Division I national tournament in 2018. A Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society member, Roosa earned her associate degree in computer information systems in December. She plans to earn an advanced degree in data or business analytics and continue to play soccer in the United States.

“[MCC] has prepared me well for my career interests. It opened a lot of offers for me to go forward.”

– Roosa Ariyo

A majority of MCC graduates stay and work in the Greater Rochester region, adding approximately $737.9 million in income to Monroe County each year. With a focus on local needs and through public-private partnerships, MCC fuels workforce and economic development throughout the Finger Lakes Region.
In November, MCC celebrated its first-ever Entrepreneurship Day. Part of the college’s new Launch Your Business! initiative, the event featured a community resource expo, networking opportunities and presentations from successful entrepreneurs. At the event, five student-entrepreneurs were awarded a total of nearly $50,000 in venture funding to start or grow businesses in Greater Rochester, including (pictured l to r) Mary McCormack, Francine Burks, Wayne Howard, Oushawndra Chavers, and Patricia Drumright.

The three-year Launch Your Business! initiative is made possible by a $250,000 grant from the Everyday Entrepreneur Venture Fund and philanthropists Chip and Stuart Weismiller, supporters of the MCC Foundation. The initiative and Entrepreneurship Day are the result of a successful partnership between the MCC Foundation, MCC’s School of Business & Entrepreneurial Studies, MCC’s Economic & Workforce Development Center and MCC Corporate College.

In September, Instituto Tecnologico de la Laguna Professor Maria Luisa Lopez Segura (pictured second from left) and her students traveled to Rochester where both MCC and TEC Laguna students co-presented their research and findings regarding a new business model to help rural Mexican communities overcome food poverty using solar energy. The experience was funded by a 100,000 Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund grant and supported by project leader and MCC Assistant Professor of Biology Laura Penman (pictured at far left). The Innovation Fund is a collaborative led by the U.S. Department of State, Partners of the Americas, and NAFSA: Association of International Educators.

In the 2017-18 academic year, MCC offered 120 different service-learning courses in which students completed more than 80,000 hours of community service at home and abroad.
In August, nearly a year after Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico, six MCC students traded two weeks of their summer vacation for hammers and work gloves to help the All Hands & Hearts organization build roofs in Toa Baja, Puerto Rico. The students traveled with Assistant Professor of World Languages and Cultures Marisol Galarza-Ruiz as part of Governor Cuomo’s NY Stands with Puerto Rico Recovery and Rebuilding Initiative. MCC was the only community college to be considered a hub in this initiative. MCC offered the trip as part of a five-week, three-credit service-learning course.

The diversity of MCC’s student population was well represented in the service-learning course. Among the students were a 22-year-old Eagle Scout, an anthropology major with experience in plumbing and masonry, a former Spanish teacher and interpreter, a future environmental geologist interested in a career in disaster prevention and relief, a volunteer firefighter, and a young woman who was once homeless.
In January, under the leadership of Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences Michael Jacobs, D.Arts., MCC established its Institute for the Humanities. The institute provides the community with accessible and culturally relevant humanities programming and celebrates the rich cultural tapestry of Greater Rochester area. The initiative received a $5,000 Humanities New York grant and a $3,000 grant from the MCC Foundation to fund a fall symposium on social justice activism, entitled *Rochester Remembers the 1960s: The Legacy of Social Justice Activism*. The two-day forum featured a photo exhibition; a panel of faculty addressing the intersections of politics and culture in 1968; a screening of Carvin Eison’s movie *July '64* and post-show dialogue with the film’s director; and a keynote address by the Rev. Marvin McMickle, Ph.D., president of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School (pictured above). More than 100 members of the College and Greater Rochester community attended the two-day symposium.

In September, the NYS GIS Association presented MCC Associate Professor of Chemistry and Geosciences Jonathon Little (pictured at right) with its Individual Achievement in GIS award for developing a “virtual intern” program with the NYS Tug Hill Commission. According to Associate Professor Little, the concept of a virtual internship is “progressive,” especially in the Geospatial Information Systems Technology field.

During the spring 2018 semester, Kelsey Hurley pursued the internship opportunity as a capstone project under the advisement of Adjunct Instructor Justin Cole. While a virtual intern, Kelsey developed an online community resource map to benefit many municipalities in the Tug Hill area and inform community leaders and residents about environmental issues. Kelsey presented her work to the NYS GIS Association Board in May 2018. The internship program will be expanded to benefit two students during the spring 2019 semester.

In November, the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) reported that MCC’s most recent cohort of surgical technology graduates achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the national certification exam. The achievement resulted in MCC receiving a certificate of merit from NBSTSA, recognizing the college’s leadership in the field of surgical technology education.

MCC opened the door for Jake Fike ’17 to start his career as a surgical technologist at the University of Rochester Medical Center.
Leadership

At MCC’s Commencement in June, Ibero-American Action League COO and MCC Alumni Hall of Fame member Gladys Pedraza-Burgos ’91 saluted members of Class of 2018, noting how “education gives people an opportunity to live a full, rich and prosperous life.”

“At MCC took what seemed impossible and made it possible.”
– Gladys Pedraza-Burgos ’91

Monroe Community College

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To learn more about how SUNY creates opportunity, visit www.suny.edu.

Accreditation

Monroe Community College is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, 3624 Market St., Philadelphia, PA 19104, (267) 284-5000. The Commission on Higher Education is an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation.
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During 2018, MCC educated 29,000 learners and opened doors of opportunity for graduates and their families.

MCC’s women’s lacrosse team captured its sixth straight NCAA title in 2018.