Inspired by Tom Hanks’s opinion piece, “I Owe It All to Community College,” published by The New York Times last year, Monroe Community College alumnus Dale Atherton-Ely ’72 sent me a heartfelt letter. Dale shared that, at first, he approached college “halfheartedly,” without clear goals. After leaving our College and serving in the U.S. Army in Vietnam, he returned to MCC still unsure about the future, but with the realization that his life “wasn’t going anywhere without an education.”

His letter was filled with updates on friends he met at MCC and the stories of professors who helped him fall in love with learning. He credited our College with giving him another chance and making a profound difference in his life. According to Dale, MCC gave him “a quality education and brighter path to follow” that resulted in a successful and rewarding teaching career.

In May, we applauded the achievements of 2,600 new MCC graduates as they set off on their own journeys, ready to write their own success stories. After more than half a century of giving students a “brighter path to follow,” we know that the futures of our alumni hold amazing adventures and fulfilling careers. We look forward to the day when they will let us know how MCC inspired them—just as Dale did.

In the following pages, you will find a snapshot of the past year, an illustration of how Monroe Community College inspires every day. On behalf of our entire College community, I thank you for your friendship and support.

With warm regards,
Anne M. Kress, Ph.D.
President, Monroe Community College

”Monroe Community College helped make my friends, countless other students, and me what we are today. You gave us another chance, a quality education, and a brighter path to follow. In the words of Robert Frost’s famous poem, ‘And that has made all the difference.’”

– Dale Atherton-Ely ’72

Talented faculty and staff, dedicated to helping students achieve success, are the heartbeat of Monroe Community College. Their outstanding work results in inspired and skilled graduates who are ready to take the next step toward an exciting future.

Our faculty also inspire educators and communities in and beyond Greater Rochester. During the past year, MCC Associate Professor Paul Seeburger was honored for his internationally recognized work in calculus. As a New York Council for the Humanities’ Public Scholar, Assistant Professor Verdis Robinson travels across New York state to encourage collaborative learning and community dialogue about the humanities. Their passionate and innovative teaching personify the high-quality education MCC offers.

Today, MCC students are learning at our five physical locations and online through our Virtual Campus. With accessibility and quality in mind, MCC, Monroe County, and our community partners broke ground on a new downtown campus in October. Architectural renderings show how the campus will provide diverse students access to an exceptional learning and teaching environment. Our shared vision will be fulfilled when students and faculty members walk through the campus doors at the start of the fall 2017 semester.

On behalf of the Monroe Community College Board of Trustees, thank you for believing in MCC and our students. We are proud to serve a community that pursues excellence and is working toward a brighter future for us all.

Sincerely,
John L. Bartolotta
Chair, Monroe Community College
Board of Trustees

"A Brighter Path to Follow"
A young mother of two, Staci Williams knew a college degree was the key to having a career instead of just balancing three jobs. The Rochester city resident came to MCC to pursue her dream: a degree in human services. “I needed to be above average for my above-average children, who deserve more than I could offer,” she said.

At MCC’s Damon City Campus, Staci participated in the work-study program and served as a peer leader and as vice president of the Human Services Club. She also worked with children in the Horizons at MCC program over the summer. One of Staci’s brightest moments was when she received a 2015 SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Student Excellence. After earning her associate degree in human services in June 2016, Staci plans to explore the connection between social work and ministry in response to her personal calling to help fight poverty in Rochester. Inspired by her mother’s achievement, Staci’s daughter Amber is also a current student at MCC.

In one MCC moment, a student-veteran connects with a professor and begins to appreciate poetry. Another student seizes an opportunity to lead a team to a national championship. Down the hall, an adult student raises her hand for the first time and adds her perspective to the class discussion. Extraordinary learning moments like these happen daily at MCC. Our faculty help students make the connection between an enriching college experience and their future potential. In 2015, the College introduced online advising tools and a Virtual Campus to provide increased flexibility and support so that students stay engaged and on track towards graduation and transfer. Our work is paying off: MCC’s graduation/completion rate for full-time, first-time degree-seeking students increased by 2 percentage points during the past year.

A former journalist from Damascus, Syria, Hachiar Mohammed ‘15 took the advice of an MCC counselor who explained the potential value of having an information technology degree. Hachiar was a full-time student, working 45 hours per week at Wegmans and in MCC’s Math Learning Center. The Save for Success program—a partnership between ESL Federal Credit Union, PathStone Corporation, and the MCC Foundation—complemented his studies with sessions on financial literacy and other life skills, plus a $3,000 educational grant. Hachiar attended an MCC career fair and was hired as a technician with Kodak Alaris prior to graduating in May. Today, he balances work and family life while studying computer information technology at Rochester Institute of Technology. Hachiar and his wife are saving to buy their first home in Rochester.

In October, students immediately responded when they heard the news that MCC was the first college in Upstate New York to join Scholarship America’s Dreamkeepers®. The program helps students overcome unforeseen financial emergencies and continue their studies without interruption. Grants of up to $500 are awarded to help students cover unexpected expenses related to child care, food, housing, health care, program supplies, transportation, etc. MCC’s participation in Dreamkeepers was made possible by a lead gift from MCC alumni Timothy ’80 and Robin ’80 Wentworth to the Monroe Community College Foundation.

“The people who come to MCC are trying to improve their lives. My teachers were so supportive and the Save for Success program showed me how saving a little adds up. … As an immigrant, I needed the support I received from MCC.”

– Hachiar Mohammed ’15

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Extraordinary Moments

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– Hachiar Mohammed ’15
JPMorgan Chase’s New Skills at Work initiative is transforming lives and helping address skill gaps in communities like Rochester and around the world. In June, JPMorgan Chase representatives presented a $320,000 grant to the Monroe Community College Foundation to create a middle-skills bridge program at MCC especially for disadvantaged and underrepresented populations, including veterans and dislocated workers. The funding will also help MCC develop new accelerated certificate programs and expand the College’s labor market intelligence efforts. This investment in MCC students and programs will ultimately increase the pool of qualified workers for high-demand, middle-skills careers throughout our region. For example, with an MCC credential, optics manufacturing workers can look forward to earning $13.68 to $33.65 per hour (entry level to high level) and breaking the cycle of low-wage jobs to pursue rewarding careers. (Source: Measuring Middle-Skills Occupational Gaps within the Finger Lakes Regional Economy, 2015.)

At JPMorgan Chase, we believe we have a fundamental responsibility to use our resources and expertise to help the communities where we live and work. We are proud to be partnering with Monroe Community College to provide training to folks in Rochester who will fill important jobs within the advanced manufacturing sector.”

– Sandy Wolcott, managing director and vice chairman, JPMorgan Chase

Three years ago, MCC took the lead on a $14.6 million system-wide SUNY grant application to the U.S. Department of Labor: SUNY Training and Education in Advanced Manufacturing (TEAM). The proposal promised to train 3,000 dislocated workers and returning veterans across New York for careers in advanced manufacturing. To date, more than 3,200 students have enrolled in credit and noncredit programs related to advanced manufacturing; over 550 have already completed, including Patricio Siaca ’15 (pictured right).

Launching in December 2015, MCC’s Middle-Skills Bridge Program (MSBP) will extend educational and career pathways to Rochester’s urban poor. The 10-week program provides students with an accelerated developmental education experience prior to enrolling at MCC. Reading, writing and math are taught within neighborhood centers like Baden Street Settlement of Rochester and the Veterans Outreach Center. Upon completion of the MSBP, students are encouraged to enroll in one of MCC’s accelerated certificate programs on their way to rewarding and sustaining careers.
In November, the MCC Foundation presented its Salute to Excellence award to the Greater Rochester Health Foundation for its transformative work to improve the health of children, adults, and entire neighborhoods throughout the nine-county area. Under its community-wide childhood healthy weight initiative, the Health Foundation works in partnership with MCC and the Rochester City School District to make the Healthy Hero Summer Camp available to 450 deserving city children. The five-week summer camp, led by dedicated MCC faculty on the Brighton Campus, helps children and families reduce summer learning loss and increase the pursuit of healthy lifestyles.

Michelle Martebano (pictured above) is a surgical technology student and an MCC pioneer. Prior to the fall 2015 semester, she helped her professors and fellow students open the College’s new Wolk Surgical Technology and Nursing Collaborative Learning Laboratory. Michelle enjoyed previewing the technology and tools she would learn about as a member of the College’s first cohort of surgical technology students. The lab mirrors an actual hospital operating room and surgery center. This sophisticated learning laboratory and popular new degree program symbolize how MCC creates relevant educational opportunities through its deep connections to regional employers and community philanthropists. Encouragement from health care employers and generous funding from the Louis S. and Molly B. Wolk Foundation enabled the college to launch the degree program and open the lab in response to a change in New York state law requiring surgical technologists to have an associate degree.

By the time Daimyn Gonzalez graduated from Pittsford Sutherland High School in June 2015, she had earned 22 college credits through MCC’s Dual Enrollment program. “The classes weren’t just lectures, note-taking and tests,” she said. “We did a lot of hands-on projects, and they were fun.” She said that the broad selection of courses allowed her to learn about different career paths. Daimyn is now a freshman at MCC pursuing a degree in liberal arts and sciences-general studies.

In 2014-15, MCC’s Dual Enrollment program served a record 4,675 students, like Daimyn, from 45 schools and BOCES locations and offered more than 80 different courses. Courses are taught by high school teachers who work with MCC faculty members. To complement the program, MCC offers Inspiring Every Day scholarships to high school students who qualify for free or reduced school lunches. Since 2014, more than 1,100 high school students have benefited from the scholarship.

“We continue to invest in MCC because of the quality programs the college offers and the prepared graduates it contributes to our community.”

– Jeremy J. Wolk, Trustee, Louis S. and Molly B. Wolk Foundation

“My girls come home tired. … Jomailey loves to swim and Jomarys loves math and literacy class. I found [the Healthy Hero Summer Camp] offered more than play. The kids learn here.”

– Jeannette Acosta, parent of two Healthy Heroes

“Here in Rochester, we are lucky to have such incredible community support to put on programs like the Healthy Hero Summer Camp, which will help our children learn to eat right, stay active and grow up to be strong, healthy adults.”

– Rochester Mayor Lovely Warren

Daimyn Gonzalez
MCC is recognized as one of the top 28 community colleges in the United States based on associate degrees awarded (Source: Community College Week). Our more than 100 degree and certificate programs prepare students for an advanced degree at a four-year college or provide them with the skills they need to enter the workforce right after college.

With support from Title III federal funding, MCC has launched integrated retention and completion initiatives to fortify its culture of engagement and success. The following initiatives will help the Title III grant program meet its goal of increasing student success by 2017:

- Redesigned developmental education experience that engages students in their degree or certificate program of interest while building their reading and math skills.
- New online early alert system that helps track student progress and identifies the need for support services earlier to increase successful course and program completion.
- Revitalized Orientation and new First Year Experience programs.
- Revamped college success course that emphasizes project-based active learning, collaboration and technology in the classroom as well as critical thinking skills, study skills and navigating college.

In April, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author Nicholas Kristof came to MCC and shared his firsthand accounts of the world’s most pressing social problems, including illiteracy, poverty, and sex trafficking. By highlighting the people and organizations that are creating solutions to these problems, Mr. Kristof provided inspiration to students and community members with a roadmap to becoming conscientious global citizens. Presented by ESL Charitable Foundation, Mr. Kristof’s appearance was the culmination of the college’s seventh annual Scholars’ Day, a showcase of student and faculty research from a variety of academic disciplines. Student presenters enjoyed lunch with Mr. Kristof and top presenters received scholarships made possible by MCC Foundation supporters.

Associate Professor Alexis Vogt (pictured above) introduces students to growing career opportunities in the highly technical optics field. She leads MCC’s optical systems technology program that offers both an associate in applied science degree and certificate option so that students are prepared to immediately enter the workforce upon graduation. MCC was one of the first schools in the nation to offer a two-year degree in optics in 1972.

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Associate Professor of Mathematics Paul Seeburger (pictured left) says helping his students learn calculus is a matter of practice and play. A series of applets he helped design with support from the National Science Foundation makes calculus and differential equations visible to his students in the classroom and while doing their homework. In 2015, Paul received an Outstanding Contributions to Mathematics Education award from the New York State Mathematics Association of Two Year Colleges for his contributions in the area of dynamic visualization tools for univariate and multivariate single variable and multivariable calculus. He has shared his innovative approach with students and fellow educators in both the United States and Mexico. “It’s important to help students see the relationship between concepts,” he says. “Some students understand the concept already so they get verification, a ‘moment of coolness’, from the visualization tools. The tools are most beneficial to students who don’t quite understand a concept without visualization, but with the motion and 3D images presented by this software, they often have an ‘aha moment.’ ”

“_It’s something you dream about as a kid and then when that dream turns into reality, it’s unbelievable._”

– Danny Mendick, as reported by the Democrat and Chronicle, June 10, 2015

A standout shortstop for the MCC Tribunes baseball team, Danny Mendick ’13 (pictured left) earned a degree in business administration and transferred to the University of Massachusetts-Lowell where he continued his education and further developed his baseball skills. In June, the Chicago White Sox selected Mendick in the Major League Baseball draft. He now plays as a member of the Arizona League White Sox.
In October, our community marked the start of construction on MCC’s Downtown Campus at 321 State Street. The opening of this new, innovative learning environment in the fall 2017 semester will ensure higher education remains accessible in the heart of Rochester—offering the quality of services and programs for which MCC is known.

This significant milestone was reached with the collaboration of many individuals, including Monroe County leadership, the Monroe County Legislature, the City of Rochester along with project partners DiMarco Constructors and LaBella Associates. MCC is committed to meeting the needs and expectations of our community, and to completing this project within budget.

The campus will offer programs such as law and criminal justice, human services and education as well as pre-collegiate programs aimed at guiding young people through high school and into college. Additionally, MCC’s nationally recognized Division of Economic Development and Innovative Workforce Services’ labor market intelligence efforts and MCC Corporate College will be centralized within the campus.

Energy conservation and efficiency are among the ways MCC is environmentally responsible—today and in the future. For example, MCC’s Downtown Campus is designed to be 22 percent more energy efficient than the existing buildings as a result of incorporating additional insulation, energy-efficient lighting, and upgraded HVAC systems into the campus. In addition, three buildings will be retrofitted with green roofs that will provide water quality protection and energy savings; one of the roofs will offer learning opportunities for students. The Downtown Campus will also use 40 percent less water than a standard building through the use of low-flow plumbing fixtures and water-efficient landscaping.

“We’re excited for MCC to get up and running. Our door is open for students looking to make food service their career. They can come here as interns and learn about the business from the bottom up.”

– Jim Staffieri, owner of The Pizza Stop
College and MCC Foundation Leaders

Monroe Community College

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Statement on Non-Discrimination

Monroe Community College is committed to fostering a diverse community of outstanding faculty, staff and students, as well as ensuring equal educational opportunity, employment and access to services, programs and activities, without regard to an individual’s race, color, national origin, religion, creed, age, disability, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, familial status, pregnancy, predisposing genetic characteristics, military status, domestic violence victim status, criminal conviction or other protected category. Employees, students, applicants or other members of the College community (including but not limited to vendors, visitors and guests) may not be subjected to harassment that is prohibited by law, or treated adversely or retaliated against based upon a protected characteristic.

A Brief of the State University of New York

The State University of New York is the largest comprehensive public university system in the United States. Our impact in New York state and across the globe includes more than 64 institutions, including research universities, academic medical centers, liberal arts colleges, community colleges, colleges of technology and an online learning network. We educate approximately 463,000 students in more than 4,500 degree and certificate programs, and nearly 2 million in workforce and professional development programs. Our nearly 3 million SUNY alumni are located around the globe, each making their own unique impact. www.suny.edu.

Accreditation

Monroe Community College is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, 3624 Market St., Philadelphia, PA 19104, (610) 355-6000. 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.

2015-16 OPERATING BUDGET

REVENUE:

Tuition and Fees $59,406,000
Other Sponsored Programs $2,316,000
State Aid $36,915,396
Monroe County Aid $19,130,000
Charges to Other Counties $4,233,670
Other Sources $1,097,000
Allocated Fund Balance $623,158
TOTAL REVENUES $124,221,234

COSTS BY FUNCTION

Instruction $49,856,204
Other Sponsored Programs $2,725,753
Public Services $372,753
Academic Support $11,246,696
Libraries $2,064,839
Student Services $14,394,493
Maintenance & Operation of Plant $22,819,613
General Administration $8,617,535
General Institutional $12,111,822
TOTAL EXPENDITURES $124,221,234
As a member of the League for Innovation in the Community College's Board of Directors, MCC is recognized among the best community colleges in the United States and Canada. MCC President Anne M. Kress serves as board chair.