

New Downtown Campus

MCC Student Gains Hands-on Experience at Construction Site

As Monroe Community College's new downtown campus takes shape, MCC alumnus Carlos Hernandez is building not only invaluable real-world experience as an intern on the project but a career in construction management.

Carlos, 28, has been an intern with DiMarco Constructors since fall 2015 while attending MCC. DiMarco Constructors is the construction manager for the project.

Having graduated with an associate degree in construction technology in June 2016, Carlos plans to continue his internship until the project's completion in 2017. At the same time, he's pursuing a bachelor's degree in construction management at Alfred State College.

A typical work day for Carlos is spent handling a broad range of tasks.

During his rounds of the work site, he maintains a detailed record of construction activities and captures



Carlos Hernandez '16, right, who earned an associate degree in construction technology from MCC, regularly discusses construction plan details with Gregg Grates, DiMarco Constructor's project executive, as part of his internship.



Carlos Hernandez, a 2016 MCC graduate, works as an intern with DiMarco Constructors on MCC's downtown campus. Among his tasks are ensuring MCC's downtown campus project stays on track and taking digital photographs to document its progress.

photos of the interior progress. He also facilitates communication between DiMarco's project team and the different contractors and subcontractors, ensuring no discrepancies between the construction plans and the work being performed onsite.

"I'm understanding the construction field more. I have a better understanding of blueprints, and I'm able to share ideas and come up with different solutions to problems at the work site," said Carlos, who attended college and worked as a construction laborer in Rochester before enrolling in MCC's construction technology program.



"Everything that my professors taught me at MCC has prepared me to succeed on the job site. They also helped me to see what careers are out there," he said, adding that he aspires to be a construction project manager.

"I love what I do," he said, "and I love where I work."

This is the second project Carlos has worked on as an intern. His first internship with LeChase Construction allowed him to spend a year assisting in the construction of MCC's Public Safety and Facilities building in 2014.

MCC, Monroe County Officials Tour Campus Under Construction

Walls have been knocked down to create a welcoming environment that maximizes natural light. Steel supports outline where collaborative learning spaces will be located. Floor openings make room for a central stairway, connecting students and visitors to services and amenities on the first three floors.

For MCC President Anne M. Kress, the bones of MCC's downtown campus are starting to emerge as the project moves closer to realizing the college's vision for a 21st-century learning environment.

"Over the past six months, this site has progressed enormously," she said. "You can see the outlines of classes and science labs."

Kress joined Monroe County Executive Cheryl Dinolfo in May to tour the Downtown Campus for the first time since construction began to see firsthand the project's progress.

Phase II of construction began in November 2015. The campus at 321 State Street is anticipated to open for the 2017 fall semester.

The new campus contains 255,000 square feet on seven floors. Construction in this phase of the project includes the creation of flexible, innovative and high-tech learning spaces, such as simulation labs that allow for real-world applications; a library/learning commons; meeting/function space for hosting events; bookstore; fitness center; cafeteria; student activity areas; and green roofs.

After the tour, Kress and Dinolfo shared their impressions of the future campus.

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— Cheryl Dinolfo,
Monroe County Executive



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— Dr. Anne M. Kress,
President, Monroe Community College

I want to learn; this is where I want to complete my degree,'" Kress said. The new Downtown Campus provides "the opportunity for more flexible space so that we can really engage in more student life and leadership activities ... that are key to ensuring that students not only begin college but finish college successfully." Dinolfo said the future campus will benefit the local community and economy.

"I think you can see the great progress that's been made so far and I think you can see that this is truly a gem and an asset in our community and will certainly help drive the economic engine for the people here in Monroe County for generations to come," Dinolfo said.

Officials from the City of Rochester and the Rochester City School District have also toured the campus.

Links to follow project's progress:

MCC: <http://www.monroecc.edu/downtown> provides the college's vision for the campus, a timeline of key events in the project's life, news clippings, a photo gallery and an architectural animation.

DiMarco Constructors: <http://mccdowntown.dimarcoconstructors.com> features regular project updates and images showing interior work underway.

LaBella Associates: <http://www.labellapc.com/mcc/> shows latest images, a schematic design fly-through and project updates.

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