

President's Report

October, 2009

MCC's RECORD ENROLLMENT

The Illinois Community College Board has released their official Fall enrollment report, and McHenry County College leads the state in terms of percentage increase in credit hour enrollment. Our official increase in credit hours from last Fall is 29.4%. Our official headcount this Fall is also a new MCC record, at 6,811 students. This is the first semester in the history of the institution where our headcount has exceeded 6,000 students.

For the full report, visit http://www.iccb.org/pdf/reports/Fall_Enroll_2009.pdf

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

On Tuesday, October 20, 350 of our full- and part-time employees participated in Professional Development Day, a highly successful and interactive day of information sharing and training. The MCC campus closes down for this annual day in October to invest in our faculty, staff, and administrators. The day kicked-off in the Conference Center with various presenters giving "State of the College" updates, and the remainder of the morning was devoted to an all-campus live emergency response drill.

Approximately 60 police and fire department personnel from across the county participated with us to practice responding to a fire in the Automotive Lab and two active shooters on-campus. The drill was a good test of our emergency communication systems and the response of our employees. The College would like to thank the Crystal Lake Police Department for their lead role in organizing the drill, along with the McHenry County Sheriff's Office, the Lake in the Hills Police Department, and the Crystal Lake Fire Department for participating in the drill.



The afternoon was packed with 26 mini-conference sessions in which MCC employees shared from their own areas of experience and expertise to provide important information to all of their colleagues on everything from assessment, services for our deaf students, customer service, culinary arts, wellness, ceramics, and much more. With so many new employees on board, this day was a great way for all of us to get to know each other, more about MCC, and the wide variety of our offerings.

TEMPORARY USE PERMIT

On October 20 the Crystal Lake City Council approved the College's request for a five-year Temporary Use Permit to construct a gravel parking lot north of Ring Road. While the College does not have any immediate plans to construct a gravel parking lot, this approval certainly provides peace of mind in that we could begin construction of a parking lot relatively quickly if we experience another surge in enrollment similar to what we saw this Fall. The College would like to thank the City staff who were extremely helpful in assisting us navigate the various approval processes.

AWARD WINNING TRAFFIC SAFETY PROGRAM

The National Safety Council has named the McHenry County College Traffic Safety School a Best Practice Award Winner. The program received the honor as a result of their exemplary 2008 Defensive Driving Course training. The award is presented to those training centers that lead the field in training safer motorists in their service area.

In addition, we are pleased to announce that MCC traffic safety instructor John Small has been selected as the 2008 Defensive Driving Courses DDC-8 Instructor of the Year. Mr. Small was selected from a field of nominees representing programs throughout the United States.

Congratulations to the Traffic Safety School team and the fine instructors associated with the program. The MCC Traffic Safety School is now located at the Shah Center in McHenry.

WINNING WOMAN AWARD

Pat Dieckhoff, Lou Marchi Institute Waste Reduction Assistant, has been selected by Melissa Bean's office for the Winning Woman Award. She is one of 8 women in the legislative district being honored for their contributions to the district.

CULINARY MANAGEMENT STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST

On October 17 and 18, pumpkins carved by MCC's Culinary Management students were on display at Countryside Flower Shop during their Open House, and customers were invited to vote for their favorite pumpkin.

Our students also featured pumpkin soup and held a bake sale featuring apple and pumpkin pie.



GRANTS OFFICE

In September and October to date, MCC received the following grant awards:

- The Adult Education Department received a total of \$395,841 from the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) and its Adult Education and Family Literacy Grant to support Adult Basic Education (ABE), GED, English as a Second Language (ESL), and civics instruction. The total grant award is comprised of four separate grants: the State Basic Grant (\$137,287), the State Performance Grant (\$114,390), the Federal Basic Grant (\$125,438), and the EL/Civics Grant (\$18,726). (Project directors: Rick Clute, Matt Huseby, and Marie Day)
- The Adult Education Department received a \$45,200 Adult Literacy Grant from the Office of the Secretary of State, which will fund training and support for volunteer literacy tutors. (Project director: Marie Day)
- MCC received a fully funded \$137,957 Perkins Postsecondary Grant to fund career and technical training. Areas benefitting from Perkins funding include: CAD/Drafting, Criminal Justice, Early Childhood Education, Nursing, Automotive, Culinary Arts, Digital Media, Fire Science, Administrative Office Management, CIS, and Special Needs. (Project director: Tony Capalbo)
- DCEO fully funded The Shah Center Small Business Development Center at \$72,000 to provide technical assistance to area small businesses in the subjects of start-up, expansion, and financing/loans. (Project director: Mary Margaret Maule)

In October, the following grant proposals have been developed and/or submitted:

- MCC requested \$19,500 from the Illinois Violence Prevention Authority/Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Councils (IVPA/IFVCC) to renew its work with the 22nd Circuit Court to prevent domestic violence through education. (Project director: Bev Thomas)
- MCC requested \$6,000 from the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) through its Career and Technical Education (CTE) Regional Collaboration Grant. A collaborative effort with Kishwaukee College, Rock Valley College, and all three institutions' K-12 CTE partners, this grant will allow consortia members to learn from each other and disseminate best practices to enhance career and technical education programs at the secondary and postsecondary levels. (Project director: Tony Capalbo)
- MCC will request up to \$50,000 from the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) through its Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program (ICWS), which provides 50 percent funding to area employers willing to hire students as paid interns in their academic fields. MCC's automotive and nursing programs plan to submit a joint proposal. (Project directors: Mike Albamonte/Jim Falco (automotive) and Joan Flanagan (nursing))
- MCC will host a site visit from the McCormick Foundation on Thursday, October 21, as a follow-up to a \$21,400 request to its Chicago Tribune Charities Fund. The grant would allow the Adult Education Department to hire a part-time English as a Second Language (ESL) clerk and to upgrade software used by ESL students to practice language skills at on- and off-campus libraries. (Project directors: Rick Clute, Matt Huseby, and Marie Day)
- MCC will also submit renewal requests for its Perkins funding and its Career and Technical Education (CTE) Innovation Grant to the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB). Discussions are currently underway to prioritize technical education needs on campus and to identify where grant funds would best be applied. (Project directors: Tony Capalbo/Jim Falco)

ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY WEEK

The United States Congress declared the week of October 18-24, 2009 as Adult Education and Family Literacy Week. Adult Education at MCC held an open house to recognize its staff, students, and teachers on Wednesday 21 October from 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 6:30-8:30 p.m. State Representative Mike Tryon attended the open house along with numerous MCC administrators. Adult Education provides classes in basic literacy skills, GED preparation, English as a Second Language, and citizenship.

IMPACT OF PROMISE SERVICE HOURS

To date, MCC Promise students have completed and reported more than 2,000 community service hours. Students have completed service activities in Alden, Algonquin, Cary, Crystal Lake, Greenwood, Harvard, Hebron, Huntley, Johnsburg, Lake in the Hills, Lakewood, Marengo, McHenry, Prairie Grove, Richmond, Ringwood, Spring Grove, Union, Wonder Lake, and Woodstock at organizations such as the Salvation Army, McHenry County Animal Control and Adoption Center, McHenry County Conservation District, Home of the Sparrow, Crystal Lake Public Library, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and the Algonquin/LITH Interfaith Food Pantry.

UPCOMING EVENTS @ MCC

OCTOBER 28

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan will join the 22nd Judicial Circuit Family Violence Coordinating Council Stalking Symposium coordinated by MCC staff member, Bev Thomas, on October 28 at the MCC Conference Center. This state-wide symposium will focus on implementation of multidisciplinary community approach to combat stalking.

NOVEMBER 7

The Lou Marchi Institute is sponsoring the second annual Bioneers Symposium November 7 at the MCC Conference Center to educate and promote environmentally friendly practices.

NOVEMBER 11

MCC will honor veterans at the annual Veteran's Day ceremony on November 11 at 8:30 am. This program is open to the public and will include the newly formed MCC Student Veteran's Group. Keynote speaker is Diann Jabusch whose military career includes enlistments in both the Marine Corps and the Illinois Air National Guard.