



Contact:

Joe Verkennes
Director of Marketing
Monroe County Community College
(734) 384-4207

June 2, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEARNING BANK NETWORK TO HONOR CLASS OF 2011

MONROE, Mich. – The Monroe County Learning Bank Network will honor the Class of 2011 during the second annual graduation celebration on Thursday, June 9 at Monroe County Community College.

The ceremony is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. in the dining room of the Audrey M. Warrick Student Services/Administration Building, which is located on the college's Main Campus at 1555 S. Raisinville Rd. The event is sponsored by Mason High School.

The Learning Bank Network provides adult basic education and GED preparation and a host of related services, including group and individual tutoring; career counseling and advising; skill-building seminars in college and career success; courses in financial literacy, parenting and other life skills; and direct access to employers for internships, career exploration and possible jobs.

The ceremony will include students from Bedford Adult Education and Orchard Center High School's Adult Education, for a total of 62 graduates. Each student will receive a certificate and a memento.

There will be two student speakers, one from the Learning Bank Network and one from Bedford Adult Education. MCCC President Dr. David Nixon will moderate the ceremony.

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Much like the Learning Bank itself, the ceremony is part of a community-wide effort. The gowns, which will be in a rainbow of colors, were donated from community members Vuncia Council, coordinator of the Learning Bank, said that the variety and non-traditionalism of the color palette of the gowns reflects the variety and non-traditionalism of the Learning Bank graduates, who range in age from 18 to 52, are ethnically diverse and have had many different life experiences.

“It reminds me of a quilt,” Council said. “Different people, just like different fabrics and pattern pieces, coming together to create something new – something good for themselves, their families and the community. I know how hard the students work. Many of them have put in the time and have sacrificed. They have great aspirations and goals.”

The Learning Bank Network partners include Monroe County Community College, Monroe Bank & Trust, Bedford Adult Education, Monroe Adult Education, Southeast Michigan Community Alliance (SEMCA)/Michigan Works!, Monroe County Intermediate School District, Monroe County Opportunity Program, City of Hope CDC, Arthur Lesow Community Center, City of Monroe, Monroe County Library System and United Way of Monroe County.

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