



MONROE COUNTY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

enriching lives

**Main Campus**

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## Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **THE FOUNDATION AT MCCC ANNOUNCES WINTER 2012 ENHANCEMENT GRANT AWARDS**

MONROE, Mich. – The Foundation at Monroe County Community College has announced the recipients of the 2012 Enhancement Grants Program Awards.

The Enhancement Grants Program assists faculty, staff and students by providing funding for the development and implementation of innovative projects that support the MCCC mission and enrich or improve the quality of education for students. The Foundation launched the Enhancement Grants program in 2002. The awards were announced at a ceremony this past Thursday.

The 18 funded grant projects for 2012 and their recipients include:

**MCCC Family Fun Night**, applicant Tom Ryder, campus community events/student services coordinator, for an award of \$2,000. This award will help offset the cost of the MCCC Student Government's Family Fun Night. Family Fun Night is a carnival type event that offers games and activities for young children ages 3 – 10 years old. It includes games such as the duck pond, car race, golf, basketball free throw, etc. The night will also offer giant inflatable items, a magician, face painting, and other family activities. It is open to the entire community and an estimated 1,000 people usually attend.

**The Humanities Experience**, applicants Cheryl Johnston, assistant professor of reading and

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English and Dr. William McCloskey, professor of English, for an award of \$1,500. This award will help defray the cost for students to attend live theatre productions during the Fall 2012 semester. Students will attend two plays in Stratford, Ontario during a two-day field trip. Students enrolled in the Winter 2012 semester will attend Wayne State University's Hilberry Theatre or alternatively a theatre outing at another venue. Funds may also be used to defray the cost of guest performers invited to MCCC during the Fall and Winter semesters.

**Campus Sustainability Project - Outdoor Recycling**, applicant Kelly DeNunzio, administrative assistant to the director of the physical plant, for an award of \$640. This award will help defray the cost of outdoor weather-resistant recycling containers. These containers are double-units to recycle paper in one unit and bottles and cans in the other. Recycling is one of the components of the College's sustainability program. It is projected that MCCC produces nearly 1 million pounds of waste a year, which equates to 500 tons. Without recycling, all of that would go into landfills. Every ton of recycled waste saves approximately 3 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>.

**Campus Sustainability Project - Indoor Recycling**, applicant Kelly DeNunzio, administrative assistant to the director of the physical plant, for an award of \$910. This funding will allow the Maintenance Department to purchase paper recycling containers for every classroom, lab, and study area on campus. While there are recycling stations in hallways of every building, Maintenance has observed that students will not typically leave the room they are working in to recycle paper. As a result of the lack of recycling receptacles available in classrooms, labs, and study areas, paper is disposed of in the room's trash container. This recycling project will address this problem and provide the students a hands-on education of sustainability.

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**Michigan Nursing Student Association Annual Conference**, applicant Elizabeth Wright, nursing student, for an award of \$400. This award will help defray of the cost for nursing students attending the Michigan Nursing Student Association's Annual Conference in Ann Arbor. The Michigan Nursing Student Association is a networking opportunity and a way to stay current on what is happening in the nursing field. Students from all over the state attend the conference to work on shared goals and ideals as an organization. Guest speakers discuss their experiences as nurses, offering students an opportunity to get to know different forms of nursing that may not be explored through the regular program curriculum such as disaster relief nursing and burn unit nursing.

**Enrichment at the Whitman Center**, applicant Sandy Kosmyrna, director of the Whitman Center, for an award of \$1,000. This grant will support enrichment programs at the Whitman Center. These programs allow for speakers from within and outside the institution to provide "real life" experience and learning for MCCC students. Some of the topics focus on marginalized groups (the disabled, minorities, etc.) – providing learning opportunities that meet the needs of underserved students. The program intends to host three different displays each Fall and Winter Semester relating to a monthly theme.

**MCCC Viticulture and Enology Project**, applicant Chef Kevin Thomas, instructor of culinary skills, for an award of \$3,000. This grant will continue the culinary program's efforts to establish a viticulture and enology program at MCCC - including continued maintenance and expansion of campus' V1300 vineyard, curriculum research and development, and the purchase of additional winemaking equipment. Ultimately, this project hopes to establish MCCC as the first community college in Michigan to address the need for skilled workers in viticulture and enology through the establishment of both certificate and degree programs.

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**Sign for Success**, applicant Julie Billmaier, admissions assistant to the director of admissions and guidance services, for an award of \$550. This funding will allow the Admissions office to purchase and install a programmable LED motion sign in the main hallway of the Audrey M. Warrick Student Services/Administration Building. This sign will be used to inform students, faculty, support staff and guests of upcoming events and notable information that is currently posted on hand-made signs and taped to the Admissions' office windows.

**Michigan Society for Respiratory Care's Annual Sputum Bowl Trivia Contest**, applicant Bonnie Boggs, director of respiratory therapy, for an award of \$1,500. This funding will be used to sponsor four MCCC student teams to compete in the Michigan Society for Respiratory Care's Sputum Bowl being held this year in Grand Rapids, MI. Student teams compete in a college bowl trivia environment with buzzer system, time clock, moderator and judges similar to a college quiz bowl.

**One Book One Community of Monroe County – Guest Speaker and Author Harriet Reisen**, applicants Cheryl Johnston, assistant professor of reading and English, and Carrie Nartker, assistant professor of English, for an award of \$1,500. This grant will enhance programming being offered as part of our One Book One Community read of Geraldine Brooks' historical novel, "March." This funding will assist in paying the expenses to bring acclaimed biographer Harriet Reisen, screenwriter of the PBS award-winning documentary "The Woman Behind Little Women," to campus to complement to the reading of "March," a historical Civil War novel about the absent father figure in the "Little Women" story. In Reisen's documentary film, Geraldine Brooks is featured and speaks about her interest in Louisa May Alcott and her influence on her novel.

**International Relations Class Trip to the UN and Ground Zero Memorial**, applicant Dr. Joanna Sabo, professor of political science, for an award of \$1,500. This grant will help offset student travel

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expenses for the International Relations Class students to travel to New York City to tour the United Nations Headquarters and receive a special briefing from a UN official. Students will gain understanding of the United Nations as an intergovernmental organization and the seat of international law and will be exposed to a detailed political topic presented by a UN delegate from a culture outside the United States. Students will also visit the newly opened Ground Zero Memorial and Museum to better understand the international ramifications of the events of September 11, 2001.

**National College Media Spring Convention**, applicant Dan Shaw, assistant professor of humanities and journalism, for an award of \$1,500. This award will help defray the cost for Agora student newspaper students to attend the National College Media Spring Convention. This year's convention is designed to help students prepare for that future with a variety of hands-on workshops on topics ranging from mining social media to video editing – along with the basics of reporting and writing for print, broadcast, the web and mobile. There will be a day of pre-convention workshops, followed by three days of sessions on topics at the cutting edge of journalism, speeches from nationally recognized media leaders, opportunities to share with other students from across the country (and world), and a chance to explore the world's media capital.

**Explore the Geology and Ecology of the Northern Coast of California**, applicant Lori Bean, associate professor of biology and chemistry, for an award of \$1,500. This award will help defray the cost for the Math and Science Society (MASS) members to visit the geological and ecological aspects of North Central California. MASS students selected Northern California because it offers an educational experience and unique attractions in settings unlike anything in this region – including visits to a rain forest, National Parks, and other unique geological and ecological sites.

**National Student Day**, applicants Jean Ford, director of auxiliary services and purchasing, and Kelli

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Plumb, administrative assistant to the director of auxiliary services and purchasing, for an award of \$1,500. This funding will offset the costs of hosting National Student Day events on the MCCC campus. National Student Day was started by the National Association of College Stores (NACS), and is designed to promote student volunteerism and social responsibility through a variety of exciting store events. This day gives the MCCC bookstore an opportunity to reinforce the MCCC bookstore's activities as a socially responsible business, build a sense of community on campus, and help students explore ways in which they can volunteer their time to important causes.

**Tour of International Machine Tool Show**, applicants Marin Dubois, assistant professor of mechanical engineering technology, and Peter Coomar, dean of industrial technology division, for an award of \$1,500. This grant will help defray the cost for MCCC students in the Industrial Technology Division to attend the International Machine Tool and Automation show in Chicago (IMTS), Illinois in the Fall of 2012. The tour will encompass students from multiple program areas and disciplines of study in the Industrial Technology Division. Programs represented will be, but not limited to, Electronics, Mechanical Engineering Technology, Manufacturing, Materials and Welding.

**ETHOS Week Reception and Luncheon for Outstanding Business Students**, applicant, Dr. Patrick J. Nedry, professor of business, for an award of \$1,000. This funding will be used to sponsor a table for ETHOS week at Eastern Michigan University. This Silver Level sponsorship makes it possible for MCCC's Business Division to recognize eight Outstanding Business Students by inviting them to participate in and attend the event's final Reception and Luncheon. Students will also have the opportunity to visit the EMU College of Business downtown Ypsilanti, and meet with former MCCC business students who have transferred to EMU.

**Gay/Straight Alliance – Ally “lunchboxes”**, applicant Amanda Bennett, coordinator of annual

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giving and alumni affairs, for an award of \$500. This funding will be used by the MCCC Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) to purchase three Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network “Lunchboxes.” These Lunchboxes include comprehensive training materials that will give GSA background knowledge, skills, and tools to ensure MCCC remains a safe and affirming place for LGBTQ students, staff, and faculty.

The Foundation Enhancement Grants Committee includes John Joy, dean of corporate and community services; Susan R.S. Miller, Foundation director; Jean Guyor, Foundation director; Dr. Maris Fonseca, associate professor of biology; and Dan Hamman, computer programmer in data processing.

To donate to The Foundation at MCCC Enhancement Grants Program, contact Suzanne Wetzel, at (734) 384-4206 or visit <http://www.monroeccc.edu/foundation/>.

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