



MONROE COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

enriching lives

Main Campus

1555 South Raisinville Road
Monroe, MI 48161-9746

Whitman Center

7777 Lewis Avenue
Temperance, MI 48182

www.monroecc.edu

Press Release

Contact:
Joe Verkennes,
Director of Marketing,
(734) 384-4207

September 19, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CULINARY STUDENTS TO GATHER, PREPARE LOCAL ORGANIC FOOD FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVING EVENT

MONROE, Mich. – Monroe County Community College's sophomore culinary students will gather and prepare a bounty of organic food from local farmers and area markets for an Oct. 1 sustainable living event at the college that is being sponsored by the River Raisin Institute.

The event, "GATHERING: People, Their Minds and Their Fields," is a social, educational and fundraising opportunity for people interested in sustainability awareness, ecological restoration and sustainable living.

It will take place from 5-7:30 p.m. in the MCCC Dining Room, which is located in the Warrick Students Services/Administration Building.

GATHERING will feature a harvest-tasting of locally produced wine, beer, non-alcoholic beverages and locally grown food prepared by the culinary students. There will also be several presenters, a silent auction and the opportunity to tour MCCC's new vineyard.

The MCCC culinary students have been tasked with contacting farmers and local markets to gather donated food ingredients and preparing a buffet dinner for the event. Chef Kevin Thomas, instructor of culinary skills and management, said the sustainability efforts that will be highlighted by the GATHERING event are a nationwide trend in culinary arts that most of his students feel passionate about.

(more)

“The best thing about the GATHERING is that it gives the students an opportunity to show the community what the culinary program is all about,” he said. “Right now, the buzz is all about supporting local farmers, because they’re becoming few and far between and without them we only have large food corporations that aren’t organic.”

Tickets for GATHERING are \$25 and can be purchased by calling Sharon Venier of the River Raisin Institute at (734) 240-9754. Sponsorship opportunities are also available, and donations toward the silent auction are still being accepted.

The River Raisin Institute is a non-profit environmental education organization that works to inspire and support a sustainable community through transformational educational programs.

“One of the goals of the RRI is to inspire and support people in becoming active participants to create a sustainable community within the River Raisin watershed,” said Danielle Conroyd, executive director. “We hope that by bringing like-minded people together, we’ll be able to share information that will further collaboration to accomplish our goals.”

For more information on GATHERING or the River Raisin Institute, contact Danielle Conroyd at (734) 240-9750.

###