



MONROE COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PAUL W. SMITH TO HOST SHOW LIVE FROM MCCC, KICK OFF \$17-MILLION TECH CENTER CONSTRUCTION

MONROE, Mich. – On Friday, nationally known WJR-AM (760) radio anchor Paul W. Smith will broadcast a special edition of his morning news and talk show live from Monroe County Community College and then serve as master of ceremonies for the groundbreaking of the college's new Career Technology Center.

The live broadcast will originate from the La-Z-Boy Center and run from 6-9 a.m. The groundbreaking will begin at 9:30 a.m. in front of the construction site for the Career Technology Center, which will be built adjacent to the Life Sciences Building.

Both events are free and open to the public.

The special broadcast of The Paul W. Smith Show – which is being sponsored by Monroe County Community College, La-Z-Boy Incorporated, Mercy Memorial Hospital System, Monroe County Historical Society, Monroe County Intermediate School District, and Monroe Bank & Trust – will focus on happenings in Monroe County and kick off Smith's annual summer Pure Michigan Tour of live shows across Michigan.

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Smith will interview MCCC President David E. Nixon and Doug Chaffin, Monroe Bank and Trust president and CEO and Career Technology Center Capital Campaign chair, who will officially launch the second year of the Pure Monroe, Michigan campaign, as well as discuss the impact the Career Technology Center will have on the economy of Monroe County.

In addition to Nixon and Chaffin, the following community leaders will be interviewed: Scott Bentley, superintendent of the River Raisin National Battlefield; Annette Phillips, president and CEO of Mercy Memorial Hospital System; Dr. Donald Spencer, Monroe County Intermediate School District superintendent, and Susan Vanisacker, director of organizational effectiveness and community relations at La-Z-Boy Incorporated.

Approximately 30 minutes after his morning show ends, Smith, an MCCC alumnus, will kick off the construction phase of the \$17 million, 60,000-square foot Career Technology Center. The new facility will provide infrastructure to support state-of-the-art classrooms and lab space required to deliver instruction and skills necessary to secure high-growth, high-demand and high-paying jobs.

Additional speakers will include U.S. Representative John D. Dingell (D-Dearbon); State Representative Dale Zorn (R-Ida); LaMar Frederick, chairman of the Monroe County Board of Commissioners; William J. Bacarella Jr., chairman of the Monroe County Community College Board of Trustees; Nixon; Chaffin; Michael R. Meyer, chairman of The Foundation at MCCC Board of Directors and an MCCC trustee, and Dr. Grace Yackee, vice president of instruction at MCCC.

The Career Technology Center will allow for the updating and expansion of existing programs now housed in the East and West Technology buildings, which are inadequate to meet modern technology needs

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These include program areas such as nuclear engineering, welding, construction, computer-aided drafting and manufacturing, electronics, mechanical engineering and automation, quality assurance, and automotive engineering and service with an emphasis on hybrid and battery technology.

In addition, the Career Technology Center will provide facilities and equipment necessary for the development of programs in the emerging areas of advanced manufacturing; renewable energies such as wind, solar and fuel cell technology, and sustainable and green technologies.

A combination of sustainable systems has been integrated into the design of the facility that will be incorporated into the curriculum. The building will serve as a learning laboratory for students in industrial technology fields.

The total construction cost for the 60,000-square foot facility is \$17 million. The state of Michigan will finance half the cost of construction. MCCC's Board of Trustees voted in 2011 to match the other half – which was required to accept the state's contribution – out of college reserves until funding could be raised.

More information on the Career Technology Center at MCCC, including ways to support the new facility, is available www.monroeccc.edu/ctc.

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