



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

February 1, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NUMBER OF STUDENTS AT MCCC USING VETERANS' BENEFITS SPIKES

MONROE, Mich. – As more and more veterans return home to the area, many are electing to continue their education at Monroe County Community College.

According to MCCC Registrar Tracy Vogt, the number of students using veterans' benefits at the college has increased by 67 percent over the last two years, with 61 enrolled during the Winter Semester.

Winter Semester began Jan.6.

Vogt said that number is expected to continue to rise in the next several years, a trend she attributes to an increasing number of veterans returning home and changes to the Post 911 GI Bill since August.

For veterans and their transferees, one of the key changes to the bill is the simplification of the tuition and fee rates for those attending a public school and the creation of a national maximum for those enrolled in a private or foreign school. The bill pays all public school in-state tuition and fees, but private and foreign school costs are capped at \$17,500 annually.

(more)

Press Release

According to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, more than 30 percent of veterans age 18-24 were unemployed in October, up nearly 12 percent from last year. For non-veterans of the same age group, the unemployment rate was 15.3. For black veterans aged 18-24, the unemployment rate in October was nearly 50 percent.

According to MCCC President Dr. David Nixon, MCCC is actively looking for additional ways to assist veterans in continuing their education and finding employment.

In March, several college administrators will attend a conference on best practices for serving veterans returning to college. A veterans club is being formed at MCCC to provide a strong, supportive community on campus for veterans, and the college is actively searching for funding to provide additional services.

Last fall, Colonel David W. Sutherland, special assistant to the Joint Chiefs of Staff with principle focus on Wounded Warrior and Family Programs at the Pentagon, was the keynote speaker at a day of programming at MCCC for veterans and the health care and social services professionals who serve them.

The program, "Serving Those Who Serve," was presented by Mercy Memorial Hospice of Monroe and sponsored by MCCC, Hospice of Northwest Ohio and the Hospice Education Institute. It was supported, in part, by a grant from HEI.

"I salute the veterans for the sacrifices they made for our country, and now it's our turn to serve them as they look for new careers to resume their lives," Nixon said.

###