



MONROE COUNTY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

enriching lives

**Main Campus**

1555 South Raisinville Road  
Monroe, MI 48161-9746

**Whitman Center**

7777 Lewis Avenue  
Temperance, MI 48182

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**Press Release**

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April 25, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **MCCC TO HOLD 45<sup>TH</sup> COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY ON FRIDAY**

### ***Barron to be Named Alumnus of the Year; Ceremony to be Broadcast Live***

MONROE, Mich. – Monroe County Community College graduates will be recognized during the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Commencement Ceremony on Friday at 7 p.m. in the Gerald Welch Health Education Building, located at 1555 S. Raisinville Rd.

Two graduation candidates have been selected to make commencement remarks – one transfer program student, Damien Weaver, and one occupational program student, Rhonda Haener. Weaver will be introduced by faculty mentor Lisa Scarpelli, assistant professor of geosciences, and Haener will be introduced by faculty mentor Randell Daniels, vice president of student and information services.

Justin Schmidt, instructor of welding technology, has been awarded the position of honorary grand marshal for the ceremony. This traditional honor is peer-awarded and bestowed upon a full-time faculty member who is held in high academic and personal esteem for his or her contributions to the institution.

Other ceremony officials include Bonnie Welniak, assistant professor of nursing, as faculty marshal; Randell Daniels as student marshal; and Dr. Grace Yackee, vice president of instruction, as platform party marshal and mistress of ceremonies.

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At the ceremony, the 2012 Alumnus of the Year Award will be presented to Alan Barron. He was selected for the award by the MCCC Board of Trustees based on his outstanding community leadership, exemplary service to the college and distinction in his chosen field.

A 1976 graduate of Monroe County Community College, Barron continued his education earning a bachelor of science degree from Western Michigan University in 1978 and a master of arts degree from Michigan State University in 1987. He has served on the MCCC Alumni Association Board of Directors since 2008, and has been its chair for the past three years. He is currently a member of The Foundation at Monroe County Community College Board of Directors and volunteers his time and talent in support of the college and its activities and events.

Barron has served for 34 years as a teacher for Monroe Public Schools and for 30 years as a mentor, coach, umpire and director of the Custer Baseball and Softball leagues.

In addition, he serves as the Monroe Charter Township supervisor and volunteers his time as the secretary/treasurer of the Monroe County Township Association.

A tireless community volunteer, Barron donates his time and talent to the Monroe County Homelessness Association, Relay for Life, Walk for Warmth and the Salvation Army.

He has received the Michigan Minuteman Award, Hero for the Homeless Award and the Prom Gala Leading by Example Award.

Degrees will be conferred by MCCC President Dr. David Nixon as the candidates are presented by Yackee.

The Agora Chorale, conducted by Catherine Brodie and accompanied by Jane Kruger, will perform “Al Shlosa D’avarim” by Allen Naplen and “Choose Something Like a Star” by Randall

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Thompson. The College/Community Symphony Band, conducted by Mark Felder, will open the ceremony with Edward Elgar's "Fanfare and Processional" (also known as "Pomp and Circumstance") and conclude the program with "Fanfare and Recessional" by James Ployhar.

MCCC's Board of Trustees includes: Chair William J. Bacarella Jr., Vice Chair William H. Braunlich, Secretary Mary Kay Thayer and trustees Joseph N. Bellino Jr., Marjorie A. Kreps, Linda S. Lauer and Michael R. Meyer.

### **Ceremony to Broadcast Live on Cable TV and in the La-Z-Boy Center**

The Commencement Ceremony will be broadcast live in the La-Z-Boy Center, Meyer Theater, as well as on several cable channels that serve Monroe County.

The broadcast will be handled by the Monroe County Intermediate School District's Professional Development Center. Jeremy Knoff – who is the instructional technology specialist/multimedia and video production for the ISD, as well as a part-time technical assistant at MCCC – will serve as producer.

It will be carried by Charter Communications on Channel 98, Comcast on Channel 22, D & P Communications on Channel 22 and Buckeye CableSystem on Channel 69.

According to Registrar Tracy Vogt, the idea to broadcast the ceremony came about in an effort to accommodate graduation candidates who wished to acquire more than their allotment of four tickets to the ceremony. The four-ticket allotment is due to a limited capacity in the Gerald Welch Health Education Building, which can accommodate about 1,400.

Anyone who does not have a ticket is invited to watch the ceremony in the Meyer Theater, which can accommodate any overflow crowd of up to 475 people.

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