



MONROE COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

enriching lives

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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MCCC AWARDED \$2.5 MILLION TO ASSIST AT-RISK STUDENTS

Upward Bound Program Partnership to Continue with Monroe High School, Expand to Airport High School

MONROE, Mich. – Monroe County Community College received notification today from the Department of Education that it has been awarded two Upward Bound Program grants totaling \$2.5 million over five years to provide fundamental support to at-risk students from Monroe High School and Airport High School in their preparation for college entrance, Anthony Quinn, director of the college's Upward Bound program, has announced.

The grant allocations to MCCC are \$1.25 million for each high school partnership.

The federal Upward Bound Program provides opportunities for participants to succeed in their pre-college performance and ultimately in their higher education pursuits. The program serves high school students from low-income families and from families in which neither parent holds a bachelor's degree. The goal of Upward Bound is to increase the rate at which participants complete secondary education and enroll in and graduate from institutions of postsecondary education.

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Upward Bound is classified as a federal TRIO program. These are outreach and student services programs designed to identify and provide services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds.

MCCC will receive an allocation of \$500,000 each year for five years, which will be used to serve 110 students per year. Half of the grant dollars will be allocated to continuing MCCC's already-established Upward Bound Program partnership at Monroe High School, which began in 2007 and has a participation of 50 students annually. The other half will be utilized to establish and administer an Upward Bound Program partnership with Airport High School in Carleton that will serve 60 students per year.

“The lower the family income, the less likelihood a student will be successful at college,” said MCCC President Dr. David Nixon. “And if a student is from a low-income family and no one in their family has graduated from college, the chances for failure increase even more. These two grants will change the lives of hundreds of students in Monroe County.”

The MCCC Upward Bound program provides educational, social and cultural enrichment for at-risk students through tutorial services, admissions workshops, financial aid workshops, scholarship research assistance, cultural enrichment, social activities; Michigan Merit Exam and ACT preparatory workshops, financial planning classes, college and local business tours, and a six-week summer program on campus.

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“Upward Bound is 100 percent federally funded by the U.S. Department of Education,” said Quinn. “The MCCC Upward Bound Program staff is delighted that the Department of Education has awarded Monroe County Community College the necessary funding to double the reach of this program. We look forward to helping even more students in Monroe County to achieve their full potential and realize their dreams.”

According to Quinn, the federal Upward Bound Program tracks participants six years beyond graduation from high school and monitors their progress. In the past three years, 90 percent of the graduates of MCCC’s program have gone on to college.

“The MCCC Upward Bound Program is one of the many ways Monroe County Community College is investing in our youth today to help insure they have a brighter tomorrow,” Quinn said.

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