



MONROE COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

enriching lives

Main Campus

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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MCCC TO HOLD 46TH COMMENCEMENT
CEREMONY ON FRIDAY**

Dowler to be Named Alumnus of the Year; Nixon to Receive President Emeritus Status

MONROE, Mich. – Monroe County Community College graduates will be recognized during the 46th 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, Natasha Wickenheiser, and one occupational program student, Melissa Birr.

Wickenheiser will be introduced by faculty mentor Mark Bergmooser, assistant professor of speech, journalism and tae kwon do, and Birr will be introduced by faculty mentor Penelope Dunn, assistant professor of criminal justice.

Dr. John Holladay, professor of English and philosophy, 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 Alex Babycz, assistant professor of construction management technology, as faculty marshal; Randell Daniels as student marshal; and Dr. Grace Yackee, vice

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president of instruction, as platform party marshal and mistress of ceremonies.

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

Dowler graduated from MCCC in 1983 MCCC and went on to earn a bachelor of science degree from the University of Toledo in 1986 and a master of science degree from UT in 1997.

She has been employed by DTE Energy for 30 years, currently serving as plant director.

Dowler is in an elite group of women who have become directors in a male-dominated profession while holding numerous positions of increasing authority within fossil generation at DTE Energy. She is also a champion for diversity in the workplace, earning the respect of her co-workers while serving as past co-chair on the Women's Leadership Forum and as current Safety Champion for Fossil Generation.

She serves on The Foundation at Monroe County Community College Board of Directors and has taken an active role in the Career Technology Center Capital Campaign, playing a key role in securing a \$1 million grant in support of the project from the DTE Energy Foundation.

Dowler is a tireless college and community volunteer who gives generously of her time and talent to the Monroe County Opportunity Program Lord's Harvest and Elevate Ladies 1132 Group and Support, as well as performing mission work in Moldova, Eastern Europe. She currently serves on the Presidential Search Advisory Committee at MCCC.

She been recognized for her dedication and leadership through the Trailblazer Award /Women of Power Generation and the Michigan Business and Professional Women Young Careerist Award, as well as providing leadership for her team to receive several prestigious community awards, including the

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SCWC Corporate Citizen of the Year Award, the Clean Corporation Citizen Award from the MDEQ, the Keeping Michigan Beautiful Award (Trenton Channel Power Plant) and the Neighborhood Partner Award (River Rouge Power Plant).

MCCC Board Chair William J. Bacarella will confer the status of president emeritus upon Dr. David E. Nixon, who will retire at the end of July.

Degrees will be conferred by Nixon as the candidates are presented by Yackee.

The Agora Chorale, conducted by Catherine Brodie and accompanied by Alyce Sangster, will perform “And the Night Shall be Filled with Music” by Greg Gilpin and “Homeland,” arranged by Z. Randall Stroope. 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 Linda S. Lauer and trustees Joseph N. Bellino Jr., James E. DeVries and Marjorie A. Kreps and Mary Kay Thayer.

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