



MONROE COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

enriching lives

Main Campus

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Press Release

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April 29, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MCCC TO HOLD 47TH COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY ON FRIDAY

Paul W. Smith to be Named Alumnus of the Year

MONROE, Mich. – Monroe County Community College graduates will be recognized during the 47th Annual Commencement Ceremony on Friday, May 2 at 7 p.m. in the Gerald Welch Health Education Building, located at 1555 S. Raisinville Rd.

In honor of MCCC 50th anniversary, commencement remarks will be made by Dr. Ronald Campbell, the college's first president, and Kathleen King Zibbell, a member of the college's first graduating class in 1968.

Vinnie Maltese, dean science/mathematics, 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 Boggs, director of respiratory therapy, 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 2014 Alumnus of the Year Award will be presented to Paul W. Smith.

To recognize and honor outstanding alumni who have made significant contributions to their career, community and the college, the MCCC Board of Trustees established the Alumnus of the Year Award in 1996.

A 1973 graduate of MCCC, Smith continued his education, earning a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan. He has been a host on the ABC Radio Network and the former Financial News Network in New York and has also hosted morning shows on both radio and television in Toledo, New York, Windsor, Philadelphia and Detroit.

Since 1996, he has hosted the morning show on WJR-AM 760 in Detroit.

In 2013 he was inducted into the National Radio Hall of Fame and was recently dubbed by the Wall Street Journal as “The King of Talk Radio in Detroit.”

Smith has been a generous supporter of MCCC, delivering the keynote address at the 1987 MCCC Commencement Ceremony, serving as the master of ceremonies at the Career Technology Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, and sharing his talent as the voice of the “Realizing the Vision Capital Campaign” video and the Shirley A. Meyer tribute video.

Since 2007, Smith has broadcast his award-winning show – The Paul W. Smith Show – live from MCCC's La-Z-Boy Center as part of his annual summer Pure Michigan Tour. This year he will host a special broadcast live from the La-Z-Boy Center on May 23 in celebration of the College's 50th Anniversary.

A tireless community volunteer, Smith gives his time and talent to the Think Detroit PAL, a partnership with the Detroit Police Department and community volunteers that works to build character

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in young people through athletic, academic and leadership development programs.

Degrees will be conferred by MCCC President Dr. Kojo A. Quartey as the candidates are presented by Yackee.

The Agora Chorale, conducted by Catherine Brodie and accompanied by Inger Oswald, will perform “The Prayer,” arranged by Tina Chinn, and “Impossible Dream,” arranged by Roy Ringwald. 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., Dr. James E. DeVries, Marjorie A. Kreps and Mary Kay Thayer.

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