



## Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **COMMUNITY PARTY PLANNED FOR RETIRING MCCC PRESIDENT DR. DAVID NIXON**

### *Proceeds Will Go to Endowment to Help Needy Students*



MONROE, Mich. – A community tribute event in honor of retiring Monroe County Community College President Dr. David Nixon will be held on Friday, July 19 from 6-9 p.m. in the La-Z-Boy Center Atrium on the MCCC campus.

The cost is \$20 per person, and all proceeds will go directly to the Dave and Judy Nixon Endowment to help needy students to enter non-credit programs, such as GED preparation, certificate programs or other coursework.

Sponsor-level support is also available, and guests are encouraged to make additional contributions to the endowment fund that evening or by contacting The Foundation at MCCC at (734) 384-4206.

The format of the event will be a strolling reception with cash bar. Business attire is requested.

There will be brief recognitions of Nixon throughout the evening, in addition to a tribute program, which will begin at 7:30 p.m.

To RSVP, please contact Victoria McIntyre, executive assistant to the president and the

Board of Trustees, at (734) 384-4311 or [vmcintyre@monroecc.edu](mailto:vmcintyre@monroecc.edu).

Nixon is completing his tenth year as president of MCCC. He began his tenure on August 1, 2003; his last day will be July 31.

Prior to coming to MCCC, he served as executive dean of Iowa Lakes Community College in Estherville, Iowa, where he was chief administrative officer of the Emmertsburg (Iowa) Campus.

Nixon led MCCC through one of the most dynamic periods in the college's history – a period that included new facility construction, record enrollment, increasing endowments, new scholarships, and start-ups of new programs and business partnerships. This period also included many challenges caused by dwindling resources and Michigan's longest recession.

Last year, the college introduced a new structure of governance, a council model Nixon said is more inclusive, more transparent and more participatory. A pilot of that governance structure was completed during the 2011-12 academic year, and a second pilot year was approved by the Administrator, Faculty and Staff councils to begin in August.

“Dr. Nixon joined MCCC in 2003 while we were in the middle of a capital campaign for the facility we know proudly call the La-Z-Boy Center and Meyer Theater,” said MCCC Board Chair William J. Bacarella, Jr. in November when Nixon announced his upcoming retirement. “He embraced this opportunity to meet the community and expand the level of understanding and support for the college. In fact, under Dave's leadership, the college has reached new levels of visibility and embraced many new partnerships expanding educational opportunities for MCCC students.”

Nixon often shared the talents he gleaned as a professional broadcaster and communicator – his chosen career field prior to higher education. He served as official master of

ceremonies at many significant community milestones in Monroe during the past decade, such as the dedication of River Raisin National Battlefield Park, the dedication of the River Raisin Heritage Trail and the 100th anniversary ceremonies of the General George Armstrong Custer Statue, to name but a few.

Some of the signature MCCC accomplishments under Dr. Nixon's leadership include:

- The opening in 2004 of the La-Z-Boy Center, an instructional facility for business training and the performing arts that hosts thousands of visitors each year.
- Strategic initiatives that resulted in a new brand identity in 2005 and updated mission, vision, core values and educational objectives in 2008.
- The installation of wireless Internet capabilities across the entire campus in 2006.
- The establishment of an Upward Bound Program to support at-risk students at Monroe High School in 2007 via a five-year, \$1 million federal grant. The program was expanded this year to include Airport High School via new grants totaling \$2.5 million over five years.
- The addition of numerous credit programs from 2007 to 2012, including practical nursing, nurse aide, nuclear engineering technology, heavy and industrial technology, renewable energy, nondestructive testing, and information assurance and security, as well as new non-credit programs like ophthalmic assisting.
- Expansion of the registered nursing program from 40 to 60 students in 2009.
- Record enrollments that peaked in the late 2000s. MCCC consistently experienced more than 8,500 combined credit- and non-credit enrollments throughout Nixon's tenure.
- The establishment of a grants office in the mid 2000s that has since secured more

than \$8.3 million in awards.

- The opening of the Learning Bank Network of Monroe County in 2009, which increased opportunities for county residents to achieve basic skills needed for success in postsecondary education.
- The development in 2010 by DTE Energy of a 500-kilowatt solar array on three acres on the eastern side of campus.
- The opening of the MCCC Welding Center of expertise in Frenchtown Township at the former site of Pump Engineering, Inc. In 2010, the company donated the facility to MCCC, which used part of a \$1.7 million Department of Labor grant to convert the building into a cross-categorical welding skills lab.
- The construction of the \$17 million Career Technology Center, a 60-000 square-foot facility that will open in August and provide infrastructure required to deliver instruction and skills necessary to secure high-demand, high-paying jobs. The college secured half of the financing from the State of Michigan and is financing the other half through existing funds and a capital campaign in support of the facility.

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