



MONROE COUNTY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

enriching lives

**Main Campus**

1555 South Raisinville Road  
Monroe, MI 48161-9746

**Whitman Center**

7777 Lewis Avenue  
Temperance, MI 48182

[www.monroecc.edu](http://www.monroecc.edu)

**Press Release**

Contact:  
Joe Verkennes,  
Director of Marketing,  
(734) 384-4207

May 1, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SENIOR STATE AUTOMOTIVE ADVISER**  
**TO SPEAK AT MCCC TUESDAY**

*Michael R. Meyer to be named College Supporter of the Year*

MONROE, Mich. – Nigel Francis, senior automotive adviser to the State of Michigan and senior vice president of the Automotive Industry Office of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, will speak at Monroe County Community College on Tuesday, May 6.

Francis's presentation, which is free and open to the public, is entitled "Michigan's Automotive Future: What Can Happen When AUTO Meets Acceleration." It will begin at approximately 12:15 p.m. in the La-Z-Boy Center, Meyer Theater, which is located on the Main Campus at 1555 S. Raisinville Rd. in Monroe.

The speech is in conjunction with the college's Business and Industry Luncheon. The lunch portion of the program, which will be held in the La-Z-Boy Center Atrium immediately preceding the speech, is sold out.

Francis is charged with developing, implementing and executing a comprehensive strategic plan and road map to promote, retain and grow the automotive industry in Michigan. He serves as the state's

(more)

central connection point for automotive industry stakeholders and engages with them to drive action that supports the industry and Michigan's overall economic growth strategy.

Francis has 29 years of executive experience in the global automotive sector, encompassing both technical and technology management in North America, Europe and Asia.

He has spent a majority of his career in advanced design and engineering product development and has held executive level positions at OEM and Tier I companies in North America and Europe, including chief engineering and program management for Tata Technologies; COO and chief technology officer at Trexa LLC; executive vice president, Bright Automotive; vice president, vehicle engineering at Mercedes-Benz Technology, and several C-level positions in product development and technology.

Born and educated in the United Kingdom, Francis has lived and worked in the U.S. since 1998. He became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 2010 and currently resides in Clarkston. He holds a bachelor of science degree from Brunel University in London.

Prior to Francis's speech, Michael R. Meyer will be named MCCC's College Supporter of the Year for his strong support of MCCC and advocacy of the value and worth of higher education.

Meyer served three consecutive six-year terms as an elected trustee on the MCCC Board of Trustees, spanning the years 1994 to 2012, and served as vice chairman of the Board from 1996-2003.

As a college trustee, he championed the initiative to create The Foundation at MCCC, which is dedicated to the educational, cultural and financial enhancement of the college, and has served as its board chairman since its incorporation in 1998.

(more)

Meyer proceeded to lead The Foundation through two successful capital campaigns while growing resources to include a \$2.3 million endowed scholarship portfolio, a \$1.1 million cultural enrichment endowment and the development of the MCCC Grants Office, which has secured more than \$8.3 million.

Meyer was appointed to the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement Board and served as a designated representative of Michigan's community colleges from 1998-2006.

###