



MONROE COUNTY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

enriching lives

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**Press Release**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE FOUNDATION AT MCCC ANNOUNCES**  
**2015 ENHANCEMENT GRANT AWARDS**

MONROE, Mich. – The Foundation at Monroe County Community College has announced the recipients of the 2015 Enhancement Grants Program Awards.

The Enhancement Grants Program assists faculty, staff and students by providing funding for the development and implementation of innovative projects that support the MCCC mission and enrich or improve the quality of education for students. The Foundation launched the Enhancement Grants program in 2002. A total of \$22,500 was awarded to 20 projects.

The 20 funded grant projects for 2015 and their recipients include:

**Career & Opportunity Expo**, applicant Barry Kinsey, director of workforce development, for an award of \$750. This grant will be used to defray the cost of hosting the MCCC Career & Opportunity Expo. The Career & Opportunity Expo is a “job fair” for alumni, students and community members with an emphasis on veterans. This event is intended to assist unemployed and underemployed alumni, students, community members, and veterans in the search for meaningful employment. In 2015, this event attracted 300 job seekers, 78 employers and 5 educational/service organizations.

**Student Commons Seating**, applicant Jesiqua Hutchison/MCCC Service Club, for an award of \$2,000. This grant will help create an outdoor community seating area that will be available to all

students, faculty, and visitors, and will provide an area to work outside during the warm months, as well as a place to eat lunch and socialize with others. This project is designed with sustainable “green” materials to further the college’s initiative to be more environmentally friendly. The picnic tables will have the recycled plastic equivalent to 3,800 milk jugs – each individual milk jug would take 1 million years to decompose in a landfill. Additional funding from external sources is also being sought to fund a solar powered charging station to further improve this space.

**MCCC Prelude**, applicant Catherine Brodie, Agora Chorale director, for an award of \$1,500.

Prelude was started to provide young singers who excel in music with a chance to learn varied repertoire vocal exercises, rudiments of good breathing, posture, tone quality, diction, balance, and blend as well as being introduced to part singing, harmony, ear training, and shared vision of solid performance. Prelude has grown each year since it started in 2011. These funds will be used to acquire music literature and offer support to students in the form of need-based scholarships.

**The Agora, 2015 College Media Association National Convention**, applicant Dan Shaw, assistant professor of humanities and journalism, for an award of \$450. This funding will allow the members of *The Agora* staff to attend the 2015 National College Media Association National Convention in New York City. Featuring nationally recognized speakers and more than 275 workshops, the convention will expose members of The Agora staff to some of the best minds in journalism, introduce them to the media capital of the world, and give them training in both fundamental journalism skills and emerging new media. Journalism is changing so fast, with so many new ways to tell stories, it can be a confusing landscape. The National College Media Association prepares journalism students for a future that is already here. Students can slip in and out of hundreds of sessions, with topics ranging from mining social media to video editing – along with the basics of reporting and writing for print, broadcast, the web and mobile.

**Michigan Society for Respiratory Care's Annual Sputum Bowl Trivia Contest**, applicant Nicholas Prush, director of respiratory therapy, for an award of \$900. This grant will be used to sponsor teams from Monroe County Community College to compete in the annual Michigan Society for Respiratory Care's (MSRC) Sputum Bowl. In 2016 the meeting will be held in Dearborn, MI. Student teams compete in a college bowl trivia environment with buzzer system, time clock, moderator and judges. The winning student team would compete in the national American Association for Respiratory Care's Sputum Bowl. In 2013, the MCCC team went to Anaheim, California to represent Michigan. In 2014, a practitioner team of MCCC graduates who had competed as students, won the state and came in 3rd place representing Michigan at the 2014 meeting in Las Vegas.

**Heart and Lung Dissection Presentations to Monroe County Elementary and Middle School Children**, applicant Bonnie Boggs, former director of respiratory therapy, for an award of \$1,500. Funding from this award supports the Respiratory Therapy Program service learning project where faculty and students take heart/lung specimens, supplies and teaching models to over 1,600 Monroe County public, private and parochial school students in 5th through 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Included in the lesson are the anatomy and physiology of the heart and lungs, the effects of tobacco and other substances on these systems, health career information on respiratory therapy and encouragement to take math and sciences in high school.

**One Book One Community of Monroe County**, applicant Cheryl Johnston, assistant professor of reading and English, for an award of \$1,500. Each year, the One Book, One Community (OBOC) of Monroe County selection committee chooses a readily available and discussable book written by a major author, and invites Monroe County residents to read the same book at the same time, and discuss it through a series of free programs running approximately one month. Each year's events feature book discussions and free county-wide community activities related to the themes raised by provocative and

inspiring stories. One Book, One Community of Monroe County aims to enrich the experience of reading for everyone, regardless of race, gender, age, income or the neighborhood they call home. This grant funding will be used to enhance the programming being offered as part of the One Book, One Community reading initiative in 2016, which will commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> year of bringing our community together through a common read.

**National Student Day**, applicant Jean Ford, director of auxiliary services and purchasing, for an award of \$600. This funding will offset the costs of hosting National Student Day events on the MCCC campus. National Student Day was started by the National Association of College Stores (NACS) in 2011, and is designed to promote student volunteerism and social responsibility through a variety of exciting store events. This day gives the MCCC bookstore a chance to foster a more positive relationship with students by reinforcing the bookstore's activities as a socially responsible business, building a sense of community on campus, and helping students explore ways in which they can volunteer their time to important causes. Activities for the day will include games to promote participation in the event, special pricing on clothing items in the bookstore during the event, entertainment and food.

**Southeast Michigan and Northwest Ohio SolidWorks User Group**, applicant Dr. Dean Kerste, associate professor of mechanical design technology, for an award of \$1,600. The Southeast Michigan and Northwest Ohio SolidWorks User Group was formed during the summer of 2013 as a result of The Foundation's 2013 Enhancement Grants Program. The Solid Works User Group Network (SWUGN) provides a national forum where local chapters can share information related to mechanical design. While there are over 2 million SolidWorks users and 232 SolidWorks User Group chapters worldwide, the nearest user group was previously well over an hour drive from MCCC. Funding from this grant will support SWUGN meetings in MCCC's new Career Technology Center. Students will be

able to network with peers, industries, and companies while gaining insight into valuable, real-world techniques, and methodologies. User group members will share experiences and technical presentations.

**VEX Robotics Event**, applicant Michael Mohn, adjunct professor for manufacturing technology, for an award of \$1,600. The MCCC Robotics Team 3547 will host a Vex Robotics Event at the Monroe County Fair and roll out the VEX IQ program into the Monroe community in support of the STEM initiative embraced by MCCC. Both the VEX Robotics/Monroe County Fair event and the VEX IQ roll-out are distinctive in their applications and are new initiatives for Monroe County. The VEX Robotics Design System offers students an exciting platform for learning about areas rich with career opportunities spanning science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Beyond science and engineering principles, a VEX Robotics project encourages teamwork, leadership and problem solving among groups. It also allows educators to easily customize projects to meet the level of students' abilities. VEX IQ is a robotics platform designed to transform STEM learning for young students. Students can jump right in and snap robots together using this intuitive toolless system.

**Pride Prom**, applicant MCCC Gay Gay/Straight Alliance and Dr. Melissa Grey, assistant professor of psychology, for an award of \$750. This grant will fund a community-wide diversity-friendly dance hosted by the Monroe County Community College Gay-Straight Alliance. The dance will provide individuals the opportunity to express themselves in a fun social setting, and will be offered to area high school students and college students. Many of those in the surrounding area in non-traditional relationships feel judged and put on display in dances that are noticeably heteronormative. This dance hopes to foster a unique LGBTQ-friendly environment where all are welcome and not judged.

**Bacchus Society and Construction Technology Management Micro-Barn Project**, applicants: chef Kevin Thomas, instructor of culinary skills; Alex Babycz, assistant professor of construction management technology; and Mark Spenoso, MCCC Bacchus Society chairman, for an

award of \$2,000. The Bacchus Society, in partnership with the MCCC Construction Technology Management and the Renewable Energy classes, plan to build a 10' x 10' micro barn in the V1300 Vineyard on the MCCC main campus. The Construction Technology Management and the Renewable Energy classes will design and fabricate a micro barn timber frame. A professional barnwright will be working with the class. The micro barn's roof system will also be designed as a rainwater collector. A small above ground reservoir will store water for a drip irrigation system for the vineyard. Additionally, Introduction to Solar Energy students will design and install a photovoltaic energy system. Workshops will be held to showcase the Micro Barn Project to our 125-member Bacchus Society, campus community, and other interested community members. In light of the heightened concern for prudent water management, the vineyard could serve as a laboratory and classroom to demonstrate a practical, sustainable water management systems.

**Micro-Entrepreneurship – Starting a Small Business**, applicant David Reiman, assistant professor of business, for an award of \$800. This grant will fund an assignment for students in BUSAD 170, Small Business and Entrepreneurship. Students will be given \$10 as startup capital to simulate the planning process required to generate a profit using small business and entrepreneurial principles. This project will serve as a first year pilot program for the class. Students will have four weeks to develop a strategy and write a business plan. Students can access their startup funds at any time, but once it is accessed they will have two weeks to start their business and generate profits.

**Math and Science Society (MASS) Field Trip to Explore Science, Math, and History in Washington D.C.**, applicant Lori Bean, associate professor of biology and chemistry, for an award of \$650. MASS will travel to Washington D.C. to visit the Smithsonian Institution and the National Zoo. This trip will offer learning opportunities through educational exhibits that support the concepts discussed in the MCCC math and science courses. Students as well as faculty involved will learn about

historical development of scientific and mathematical fields. Information taken away from a trip will be used by the faculty in future classroom discussions. The students will be exposed to fields of study and applications of math and science that they otherwise may never know, and the experience of our nation's capital will enhance our students' memories of their time at MCCC.

**MIAEYC Early Childhood Conference**, applicant Felice Moorman, assistant professor of early childhood education, for an award of \$900. This award will support the travel of second-year MCCC Early Childhood Education Students to the Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children (MiAEYC) Annual Early Childhood Conference in Grand Rapids. The conference provides multiple sessions in which various early childhood experts and practitioners discuss and engage participants in various topics of importance in early childhood education. The topics address care and competency areas including child development and learning, family and community collaboration, child communication and guidance, health and safety, and professionalism. The conference will enhance students' knowledge obtained traditionally through didactic instruction and field experiences. The benefits include the opportunity to expand students' knowledge of early childhood education acquired through classroom instruction and field experiences, through participation in an interactive forum with early childhood practitioners and experts.

**Marketing Pizazz for Global Studies**, applicant Dr. Joanna Sabo, professor of political science, for an award of \$1,000. Funding will be used to initiate a unique marketing campaign for the new Global Studies Degree Designation and the MCCC Study Abroad Program. With some extra special marketing materials, these programs can be used for student recruitment and retention by outlining the new degree enhancement open to all students. With a cadre of specially designed marketing materials, MCCC can showcase its global programs to potential students, community members, and donors.

**Constitution Day Show**, applicant Deminique Heiks, instructor of criminal justice, for an award of \$650. Newsweek asked 1,000 citizens in 2013 to answer the question “What is the supreme law of the land?” and 70 percent could not correctly respond. The answer: the United States Constitution! The importance of this document to each and every citizen is the reason the federal government requires educational institutions that receive federal funds to hold an educational program about the U.S. Constitution for its students. The Humanities and Social Sciences Department has led Constitution Day efforts on the campus for the past few years, and with this funding the division hopes to double attendance by hosting a Constitution Day exhibition. The program, hosted by a professional speaker, will connect student groups from around campus to demonstrate the Constitution in action through a series of vignettes. During three scripted performances students and staff will demonstrate the power of the Constitution. After each performance, the audience will have a chance to ask questions to a panel of scholars. Each participant will also receive a copy of the Constitution.

**Grand Rapids Art Festival Field Trip**, applicants Cheryl Johnston, assistant professor of reading and English; and Dr. William McCloskey, professor of English, for an award of \$1,000. This grant will help defray the costs of attending one of the major art events in the State of Michigan. In addition to the enrichment experience from this unique event, the applicants hope it will also serve as a catalyst for return trips to Grand Rapids or to other art fairs around the state. The trip will be offered to HUMAN 151 students (Intro to Humanities), art students, and any students taking American History or Political Science.

**EmpowerMent**, applicants Vuncia Council, Learning Bank coordinator; and Dr. Joyce Haver, professor of counseling, for an award of \$750. EmpowerMent is a community mentoring initiative to work with and mentor not only MCCC students, but also community members from The Learning Bank. For the pilot program, students who do not pass MCCC’s COMPASS test (reading, writing, math) will



be served. Currently, students who face remedial academic assistance are “referred out” to The Learning Bank and area adult education programs for tutoring in the areas of reading, writing, and math. Mentors and mentees will be located on MCCC’s campus, which will provide students with an ongoing orientation to MCCC, help students connect with other students, offer greater support mechanisms, and ultimately facilitate a greater chance for academic success.

**MCCC Family Fun Night**, applicant Tom Ryder, campus community events/student services coordinator, for an award of \$1,500. This award will help defray the cost of the MCCC Family Fun Night. Family Fun Night is a Student Government sponsored event that is open to the community, MCCC students, staff, faculty and their families. It is a carnival type event that offers games and activities for young children ages 3 – 10 years old. It includes games such as the duck pond, car race, golf, basketball free throw, etc. The night will also offer giant inflatables, a magician, face painting, and other family activities. Cost to enter the event is only \$1.00 per person, making it affordable to everyone.

The Foundation Enhancement Grants Committee includes Sarah Briggs, financial aid assistant; Randell Daniels, vice president of student and information services; Jean Guyor, Foundation director; Susan R.S. Miller, Foundation director; and Lana Shryock, professor of computer information systems.

To donate to The Foundation at MCCC Enhancement Grants Program, contact Joshua Myers, at (734) 384-4214 or visit <http://www.monroecc.edu/foundation/>.

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