



MONROE COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Main Campus

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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGORA CANDIDATE FORUM SCHEDULED FOR OCT. 15

MONROE, Mich. – Six candidates for Monroe County Community College’s Board of Trustees will face off Oct. 15 in a candidate forum sponsored by The Agora, the college’s student newspaper.

There are three open positions on the seven-member board, with two incumbents running for re-election to the six-year terms. Board member Linda Lauer, who was elected in 2008, will not be on the ballot.

Board members William H. Braunlich and Mary Kay Thayer are seeking re-election. They will be joined by Ignazio Cuccia, Lynette Dowler, Jack Schwab and Barbara Verran.

The forum will start at 7 p.m. in the atrium of the La-Z-Boy Center. Agora editors Shelby Spencer and Mariah Tevepaugh will be co-moderators. Questions will come from the Agora staff and from the audience.

Braunlich is vice chair of the MCCC Board of Trustees and has been a member since 2003. He’s also chairman of the River Raisin National Battlefield Park Foundation and past president of the Monroe County Historical Society. He is a partner in the Monroe law firm, Braunlich Russow & Braunlich, and has a law degree from Washington and Lee University.

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Cuccia owns a Monroe insurance agency and has been a member of the MCCC Foundation Board and president of the MCCC Alumni Board. He was recognized as the Alumnus of the Year at MCCC in 2010. A graduate of MCCC, he has a bachelor's degree from Siena Heights University.

Dowler is an executive at DTE Energy who has been plant manager of the River Rouge and Trenton Channel plants, and currently is responsible for the company's safety program. She has a master's degree from the University of Toledo, and earned her associate degree from MCCC. She is a member of the board of The Foundation at MCCC and was recognized as Alumnus of the Year by MCCC in 2013.

Schwab was the executive director of the Monroe County Opportunity Program for 12 years, and currently is an executive at Flagstar Bank coordinating community development programs. He was a student at MCCC before going on earning a master's degree in urban planning at Wayne State University.

Thayer has been a member of the MCCC Board of Trustees since 1990. Before that, she was a Monroe County Commissioner, a Bedford Township Trustee and a Bedford Park District commissioner. She is CEO of Thayer Consulting, Inc., and current member and past chair of the Michigan Community College Association Board of Directors. She attended Jackson Community College.

Verran retired from the position of director of Michigan Works! Monroe County Employment and Training Department in 2010. She has a master's degree in guidance and counseling from Eastern Michigan University, and received her associate of science degree from MCCC. She also has been chair of the Monroe County Human Services Collaborative Network and a member of the board of the Monroe County Economic Development Corporation.

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