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McKissick Community College
Maple Woods

COMMUNITY UPDATE
SUMMER 2014
mcckc.edu/maplewoods
GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Since 1969, MCC-Maple Woods has been serving the Northland in preparing students, creating opportunities and serving communities. In keeping with our theme of being responsive and engaging with our Northland community, I am pleased to provide this update to keep you informed about the good things happening at MCC-Maple Woods.

I am fairly new to MCC-Maple Woods, having assumed the Presidency on July 1, 2013. I must say that I could not have landed at a better place. The partnership between MCC-Maple Woods and the community goes back a long way, and the institution is poised to become an important driver of growth and development in the Northland. Our faculty and staff are passionate about serving students and have started the process of asking the difficult questions as we position ourselves to innovate and evolve. It is also your institution, and I welcome the community taking ownership of the institution. We welcome your involvement with MCC-Maple Woods. Just drop us a note at MW.President@mcckc.edu. We would love to hear from you.

Utpal K. Goswami, Ph.D., President
MCC-Maple Woods

We have accomplished a lot during the past twelve months. Our primary goal is to see students through completion—and we are happy to report that MCC-Maple Woods will graduate 944 students this year. We were also very successful in expanding our dual credit program to serve the Northland CAPS program; in creating a 50 Forward College for seniors; forging partnerships with Northwest Missouri State University to establish their Kansas City Center at MCC-Maple Woods; and in taking the initial steps to open a center in St. Joseph to serve the A+ students.

MCC-Maple Woods is part of the five-campus Metropolitan Community College. From its humble beginning as Kansas City Polytechnic Institute in 1915, Metropolitan Community College has grown to serve over 20,000 students a year. As we make plans to celebrate the centennial we are reminded how much we owe the community for its continued support. For our part, we are reaffirming our commitment to delivering value worthy of the public trust. We look forward to serving the Northland for years to come. You will find stories about these and other Maple Woods successes in this magazine.

Utpal K. Goswami, Ph.D., President
MCC-Maple Woods

THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Going to college has always been about exploring subjects and learning about a broad range of topics. It was quite common for students to be undecided well into their junior year as they continued their exploration. Though it has not received much press yet, we would like to make you aware of recent changes in federal financial aid regulations which have the potential to dramatically impact how students navigate through college. Questions regarding federal regulations for financial aid can be answered by calling 816.604.3068

Federal regulations now require that in order to receive financial aid students must enroll in courses that lead to a degree or certificate. Since majority of students who receive financial aid also receive federal funds (at MCC-Maple Woods 45% of students receive financial aid), this change in regulation means students must come to college knowing their intended area of study. This concept is a sea of change from how previous generations have viewed going to college. It is therefore imperative that we prepare and educate the future generations of college students with this expectation in mind. For questions regarding class completion of your degree please call MW Academic Advising at 816.604.3679

As we look to the future, it is clear that higher education is undergoing significant change and that the pace of change will only accelerate. Our ability to create opportunities and serve communities depends largely on how we respond. Please let us know what is on your mind. Please alert us to potential opportunities. Please connect us with potential partners. We have created a special e-mail account so that you can keep in touch with us. Just drop us a note at MW.President@mcckc.edu.

SEASONAL EVENTS

Fall
• Homecoming: Medieval Monarchs Sept. 27 - Oct. 4, 2014
• 15th Annual KC Storytelling Celebration - kcstorytelling.org
• Men’s & Women’s Soccer – mcckc.edu

Winter
• MLK Day of Service - Jan. 19, 2015
• Brain Drain - Date TBA

Spring
• Story of the Arts of the Holocaust - Date TBA
• Baseball & Softball - mcckc.edu
• Maple Woods Student Art Exhibition - Date TBA
• Scholar Bowl - Date TBA
• MCC Maple Woods Community Celebration Spring 2015

Summer
• College for Kids – mcckc.edu/conmmed
• Motorcycle Safety Courses - mcckc.edu/mwcycle

For more information contact the Community Education department: 816.604.3011 or visit our website at mcckc.edu/mwcommed

RECENT CHANGES IN THE GENERAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM AND THE ASSOCIATE IN ARTS TRANSFER DEGREE

This year witnessed significant changes in the A.A. degree and basic curriculum. In order to prepare students better, the revised curriculum now includes requirements for computer and digital literacy for all students.

The new degree also addresses concerns that students complete their degrees, that required courses do not interfere with completion, and that students are prepared for the current job market. There is also a concern that often unnecessary courses. To accomplish these goals the new degree contains only courses that transfer and also eliminates a course which fails to achieve a majority of our transfer institutions. This is guaranteed either by our negotiated articulation agreements, or the presence of the courses in the newly created Missouri Core Transfer Library.

Finally, to ensure the changes accomplish everything intended, and to make sure we meet the requirements of our accrediting body (the Higher Learning Commission), all of the general education courses identified in the A.A. degree will be regularly assessed by faculty. Each course must prove, in a measurable way, in addition to the discipline competency at least one of the following general education outcomes: critical thinking, information literacy and communication.

THE PRESIDENT’S BIOGRAPHY

Before joining MCC-Maple Woods in July Dr. Utpal Goswami logged more than 30 years of higher education experience as both a member of the faculty and administration at colleges in California, Arizona and Missouri. Most recently, he served as vice president of instruction at College of the Redwoods in Eureka, Calif. He also served as interim president and superintendent of the college in 2011-12, during which time he led the district in responding to accreditation challenges, development of a new mission/vision statement, development of the 2012-17 strategic plan and the 2012-17 education master plan, and implementation of major capital projects. Prior to his leadership at College of the Redwoods, Goswami served as vice president and provost at Yavapai College in Prescott, Ariz. Before that he spent several years as dean of business administration and instructional operations at St. Louis Community College – Meramec.

Goswami has been involved in many aspects of community college leadership, including program development, fostering shared governance, integrating technology into both the teaching and the learning environment, engaging community leaders and philanthropists, and meeting high accreditation standards.

He holds a master’s degree in development economics from Boston University and both a master’s degree and a doctoral degree in economics from Southern Methodist University. His board service includes the United Way, the Chamber of Commerce, the American Red Cross and Decade of Difference.

As MCC embarks on a targeted student success initiative, Goswami sees opportunities to build a campus culture of proactiveness, solving issues facing student learning, completion and workforce preparation. He also plans to connect to the Northland community and secure philanthropic support for MCC-Maple Woods’ mission of preparing students.
When considering going to college, a few things become apparent to students and their parents: grades are important, college is important and math is required. As high school juniors and seniors plan their schedules for the following year, taking advantage of dual credit will save a lot of time and money.

We think it’s a great deal – take an MCC dual credit course at your high school, (algebra, English composition, biology, etc.) and get college credit for it. MCC-Maple Woods develops the curriculum, develops a relationship with the teachers, and grants college credit at half the price of tuition. Two birds, meet stone.

Additionally, MCC-Maple Woods gained an opportunity to expand dual credit offerings by becoming a key partner of the Northland Center for Advanced Professional Studies (Northland CAPS), initiated by the North Kansas City School District. Through this initiative, students in the Kearney, Liberty, North Kansas City, Park Hill, Platte County R-III and Smithville school districts will be able to take dual credit courses through MCC-Maple Woods and get hands-on training experience in one of four career paths: engineering and advanced manufacturing; technology solutions; medicine and healthcare; and global business and entrepreneurship. Through this program, students will have the opportunity to get real hands on experience working for companies like Ford, Cerner, Holland 1916, and North Kansas City Hospital.

SERVING THE NEEDS OF A CHANGING POPULATION

As an institution of higher learning in the Northland, MCC-Maple Woods has reached out to embrace education for the aging population of the Northland. Baby Boomers are turning 65 at a rate of 10,000 per day, and will do so for 18 consecutive years. Keeping baby boomers and beyond in step with education and technology is an important undertaking, and it’s a service we owe to our community.

This year, MCC-Maple Woods, along with its partner Shepherd Center Central of Kansas City and several other Northland Partners, reached out to the 50+ community to offer opportunities for continued learning and activities. The 50 Forward College will provide a fun, interactive environment for participants to learn lifelong skills in advancing technology, health, spiritually and much more.

CEADD: COLLEGE EXPERIENCE FOR ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENT DISABILITIES

At MCC-Maple Woods, we believe everyone should have the opportunity to learn and connect with their fellow students, and this includes senior adults, children and those with learning or developmental disabilities. A College Experience for Adults with Developmental Disabilities (CEADD) creates opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate in a college environment, learning important social and practical skills.

For over 23 years, MCC-Maple Woods has been a partner with the Association of Retarded Citizens of Platte and Clay Counties, the Developmental Disabilities Board of Clay County, and the Platte County Board of Services for the Developmentally Disabled to provide these services to a group of community members who might otherwise have few options for engagement.

STAY A STEP AHEAD THROUGH THE MONARCHS COLLEGIATE ACADEMY

MCC-Maple Woods has developed a way for Northland students to get a jump-start on their college careers by offering the Monarchs Collegiate Academy. Students are able to earn a high school diploma and an associate’s degree side-by-side through a mix of high school dual credit and Advanced Placement courses, and MCC online and on-site courses.

As the second class of the Monarchs Collegiate Academy prepares to get underway in the fall of 2014, a special group of 17 high school sophomores will be participating this summer as part of a pilot 100 course. These students will participate in the MCC-Maple Woods campus experience to prepare for enrollment in the Monarchs Collegiate Academy when they enter their junior year.

TRANSITIONING FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE IS EASY WITH DUAL CREDIT

STUDY ABROAD

For over a decade, MCC-Maple Woods has offered students an opportunity to study abroad in a number of different Spanish-speaking countries. This past May, Spanish instructor Chad Montuori took a group of 11 MCC students to San Jose, Costa Rica, where they studied Spanish at the Costa Rican Language Academy, lived with a host family, and visited Volcano Irazu and Manuel Antonio National Park. With small class sizes, students are able to rapidly develop their oral and writing skills through total immersion in a multicultural environment. All classes (beginning to advanced) are taught in Spanish by native Spanish speakers. To help students practice what they learn, living arrangements are provided and this is an important factor of the cultural immersion process. The families provide breakfast and dinner for the duration of the program. In addition, we arrange weekend tours to various sites throughout the country. These tours are designed to enrich the student’s understanding of Costa Rican history and culture and are an excellent way to become acquainted with the splendors of the region.

To participate in a future study abroad trip to Costa Rica, please contact Chad Montuori at 816.604.3394.

GROWING PARTNERSHIPS IN THE COMMUNITY

SERVING A BROAD SPECTRUM OF CONTINUING EDUCATION NEEDS

MCC-Maple Woods is always looking for innovative ways to connect with and support the Northland communities, and one way to achieve that goal is to build strong relationships with other community partners.

Earlier this year, MCC-Maple Woods responded to the need to train Northland educators and postgraduate students, forming a partnership with Northwest Missouri State University to provide continuing education courses for up to 20 graduate degree and certificate programs through the Kansas City Center, located in the MCC-Maple Woods Computing-Business Building. Since the program began in January 2014, more than 300 students have enrolled.

In addition to professional and post-graduate students, MCC-Maple Woods was able to expand their partnership with NWMSU, offering courses for the Associate in Arts degree to A+ students at the MCC St. Joseph Center, located in the Historic Green Acres building in St. Joseph, Mo. This allows MCC to serve students who would otherwise not be able to use their A+ benefits at a convenient location.

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MCC RECEIVES SUBSTANTIAL ENDOwMENT TO ASSIST MAPLE WOODS STUDENTS

John and Anna Neeland, who both passed away in 2012 at the age of 92, were married 67 years, and were both longtime supporters of MCC-Maple Woods. Mr. Neeland worked at the Phillips Petroleum Refinery laboratory from 1941 until 1981, when the refinery closed and he retired. After retiring from Phillips, Mr. Neeland enrolled in computer classes at MCC-Maple Woods and was soon recruited to teach hydraulics and pneumatics classes. Later, he volunteered as a chemistry tutor, a role he enthusiastically continued until the age of 87. He served on the MCC Foundation’s board of directors as well as the MCC-Maple Woods Advisory Council.

Mr. and Mrs. Neeland left approximately $1.5 million to the MCC Foundation to be used in support of current and future Maple Woods students. Neeland Scholarship funds are available for students who face unexpected financial hardships that would prevent them from meeting their education goals.
HIGHLIGHTING STUDENT SUCCESS
The MCC-Maple Woods veterinary technology program was recently awarded the Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. The award, which is presented by the Missouri Community College Association at a ceremony in Jefferson City, is given to top community college programs in the state each year.

During 2013, students assisted the Heart of America Kennel Club with microchipping and CERF clinics. In addition, they hosted a booth at the annual Gladstone Walk and Wag, and helped out with vet lables at the Central Veterinary Conference (CVC) Kansas City.

James Harrelson, a biology student at Maple Woods and a member of the Tri-Beta Club, was recently awarded Best Presentation in the Collegiate Division at the Missouri Academy of Science annual meeting in Warrensburg, Mo. Harrelson's presentation, called "The Role of Wind in Long Distance Tardigrade Dispersal" was a biology project for MCC, worked on with the help of mentor and Maple Woods instructor Ken Snell.

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Dr. Chris Morrow, DVM and veterinary technology instructor at Maple Woods, was awarded the Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. The award, which was presented by the Missouri Community College Association at a ceremony in Jefferson City, is given to top community college programs in the state each year. The Excellence in Teaching Award includes a proclamation from Missouri Governor Jay Nixon.

MCC-Maple Woods provides student athletes – many from the local area, some from as far away as Europe and South America – a way to excel at both their sports and academic careers. Many of MCC-Maple Woods' student athletes are attending the college on scholarship. All the athletes maintain the high academic standards of both the college, nutrition and the National Junior College Athletics Association (NJCAA).

The baseball program, coached by six-time regional Coach of the Year Marty Kilgore, has more than 10 years of experience in the NJCAA's Division I, Region XVI, including eight years as regional champions and securing a place in the NJCAA World Series in 1998. All players have signed professional contracts and more than 100 players have gone on to continue their education and athletic careers at four-year institutions. This year, the team finished third in the regional tournament after an impressive mid-season surge. Known for developing solid fundamentals around existing talent, Monarchs players continue to be nominated for National Junior College Athletics Association (NJCAA) honors: this year, Nate Winfrey and Trent Hill were named to the all-region team, with Hill being a unanimous decision.

FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Jim Murray, music instructor at MCC-Maple Woods and conductor of the Northland Symphony Orchestra, was recently recognized for his efforts at the Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce's annual Excellence in Education banquet. The banquet honors outstanding teachers and students who contribute to education in the Northland each year.

Murray, who has been at MCC for more than a decade, can be found most days teaching musical appreciation and other courses in the Student Center. In addition to his campus teaching duties, he also conducts the Northland Symphony Orchestra, in which MCC orchestra students play, and has organized the Day of Remembrance concert, which honors the music and art of the Holocaust, for the past 11 years.

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Joan Gorman, a 1994 graduate of the MCC-Maple Woods vet tech program, was awarded Advisor of the Year by the National Association of Veterinary Technicians of America. She was nominated by students in the program and was chosen based not only on her skills, but also on her dedication to both students and the program's many animal residents.

MONARCH PRIDE – ON AND OFF THE FIELD
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FITNESS CENTER
Learning isn't limited to time in a classroom: the MCC-Maple Woods Fitness Center helps athletes, community members, staff and students learn to take care of their bodies and hone their athletic skills. Whether you're looking for a comprehensive gym, a personalized fitness program, nutrition counseling or fun fitness classes, the MCC-Maple Woods Fitness Center can offer all of that to students and the community.

The Northland Human Services Building on the MCC-Maple Woods campus, the Fitness Center has everything needed to get in shape and stay there.

Trained staff members are available to talk to you about your fitness goals, create a personalized program for you and set up nutrition guidelines for healthy eating. Facilities include machine and free weights, cardio equipment and a variety of other exercise equipment. Traditional workouts not your thing? You can try a number of fun and interesting classes like Zumba, Bodypump and step aerobics to keep you at peak performance.

Want more information? Call 816.604.3555 or mccc.edu/services/fitnesscenters/maplewoods/welcome.asp

NOTABLE MONARCHS
• Corey Embree (Los Angeles Dodgers)
• Ashton Goudeau (Kansas City Royals)
• Logan Morrison (Seattle Mariners)
• Austin Norris (Philadelphia Phillies)
• Albert Pujols (Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim)
• Chris Thomas (St. Louis Cardinals)

The men's and women's soccer teams have performed at local and regional levels at consistently high levels since their inaugural season in 2007, and bring an international element to MCC-Maple Woods' athletics department, with players and coaches from England, Kenya, Brazil, Mexico and Togo, among others. The men's soccer team has advanced deep into the regional tournament, and has been home to some of Missouri's best players, including this year's All-American contender, Daniel Jackson. The women's team continues to focus on building solid fundamentals and recruiting team players after a slow season last fall.

The softball team specializes in recruiting strong individuals from local schools to compete for the Monarchs. Playing at Happy Rock Park, the team continues to develop team chemistry after a building year, build solid skills both on and off the field, and achieve the athletics programs' highest grade point average, as well as participate in community service opportunities like Project Warmth.

CONNECTING TO THE COMMUNITY
At MCC-Maple Woods, learning isn’t restricted to any age, nor is it confined to a classroom filled with textbooks. We are committed to providing life-long learning experiences for every community member, from elementary on up.

College for Kids, a summer program designed to keep kids engaged and learning through the summer months, offers classes focusing on art, robotics, science and even computer animation. We also offer opportunities for adults to pick up some new information: computer training for a variety of the most-used programs allows participants to obtain valuable job skills.

For more information on all activities contact: 816.604.3011

The arts are a good way to connect the diverse communities of the Kansas City area, and MCC-Maple Woods sponsors several events throughout the year, aimed at fostering a dialogue between community members of all ages.

The annual Storytelling Celebration, a growing festival now in its 15th year, performs in more than 100 venues across the metro area and reaches more than 20,000 people each year. The Story of the Arts of the Holocaust – a look at the musicians and composers who continued to practice their talents during one of the most turbulent periods of the 20th century – keeps the audience connected to the beauty and creativity that can flourish even in dire circumstances.

For more information on all activities contact: 816.604.3011

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