



2019

# ANNUAL REPORT



2020



# BLUE RIVER



# BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY



# MAPLE WOODS



# PENN VALLEY



# LONGVIEW



# ONLINE



## METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

3200 Broadway, Kansas City, Missouri 64111  
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### MCC-BLUE RIVER

20301 E. 78 Highway  
Independence, Missouri 64057

### MCC-BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

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Kansas City, Missouri 64120

### MCC-LONGVIEW

500 S.W. Longview Road  
Lee's Summit, Missouri 64081

### MCC-MAPLE WOODS

2601 N.E. Barry Road  
Kansas City, Missouri 64156

### MCC-PENN VALLEY

3201 Southwest Trafficway  
Kansas City, Missouri 64111

### MCC ONLINE

mcckc.edu/online

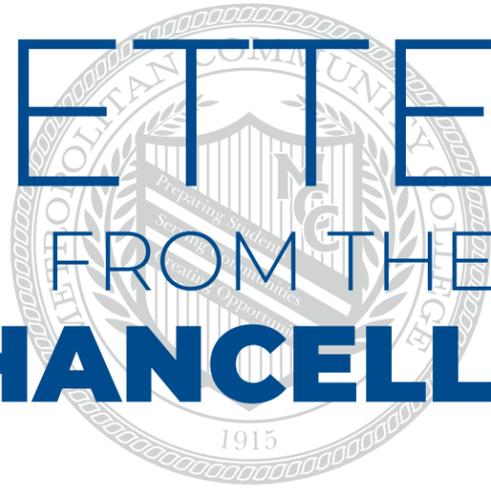
- Metropolitan Community College is the oldest public institution of higher education in Kansas City, Missouri, and was the first community college in Missouri
- Founded in 1915 as the Kansas City Polytechnic Institute
- One of the first schools in the country to award associate degrees
- Serves about 30,000 students per year through credit and noncredit courses and business services

MCC is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (hlcommission.org), a regional accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

# YOUR COLLEGE. MCC FUTURE.



# LETTER FROM THE CHANCELLOR



## IN A TRAGIC, UNFORGETTABLE YEAR, WE LEARNED SOMETHING ABOUT OURSELVES

If I said it once, I said it dozens of times in 2019-20: I am extraordinarily proud to be chancellor of Metropolitan Community College.

Although the first part of the academic year — fall semester and several weeks of spring semester — flew by as usual, it was the coronavirus outbreak that marked 2020 as scary, surreal and tragic. But in some ways it was transformative.

COVID-19 got our full attention in March. The week before spring break, we learned that a member of the MCC community had been potentially exposed, prompting us to close one day earlier than planned. That same week, we also learned MCC had been the victim of a ransomware attack on our computer systems, leaving us without some critical systems and documents.

These developments, coming at the same time, presented two of the most serious challenges in the 105-year history of this college.

For the foreseeable future, students would take classes at home; faculty and most other employees would work from home. It became a year of firsts, including the first virtual MCC commencement. All the while, the dominoes kept falling, including state funding cuts and concerns about enrollment. But starting with that quick pivot to completely virtual instruction, we learned just how nimble an institution we could be.

All of our employees, despite their personal anxieties and challenges, stepped up to serve and support students. We kept everyone safe, even with the return to campus of some hands-on classes. With the help of federal CARES Act dollars, we provided emergency financial and technology assistance to hundreds of students. Throughout 2020, the College's IT functionality returned thanks to the IT team's long hours and dedication. Meanwhile, we started laying the groundwork for MCC's capital campaign, The Path Forward, and a new five-year Strategic Plan.

As I write this, we can finally see the light at the end of a very dark tunnel.

In the pages of this annual report, you'll see further evidence of what a remarkable, unforgettable year it was for Kansas City's community college. As always, thank you for all you do for our students and the extended Metropolitan Community College family.

All the best,

Dr. Kimberly Beatty  
Chancellor

## Metropolitan Community College Board of Trustees

MCC's trustees are elected by the public and serve six-year terms. The board meets monthly.



**Trent M. Skaggs**  
Subdistrict 1 (2012- )  
President (2016- )



**Cindy Adams**  
Subdistrict 2 (2018-2020)



**Barbara Washington**  
Subdistrict 3 (2016- )



**Holmes Osborne**  
Subdistrict 4 (2019- )



**Ellen Martin**  
Subdistrict 5 (2018- )



**Michael R. Brown**  
Subdistrict 6 (2016- )  
Vice president (2018- )



**NEW ARRIVAL**  
**Jermaine Reed**  
Subdistrict 2 (2020- )

### HOLMES OSBORNE, JERMAINE REED JOIN BOARD OF TRUSTEES

• In December, the Board of Trustees appointed **Holmes Osborne** of Independence to represent Subdistrict 4 until the MCC election the following April. Due to the pandemic, that election was delayed until June 2. Because Osborne, principal of Osborne Global Investors, was the only person to file for the seat, no election was necessary. He remains on the board until April 2024. Osborne was appointed to replace Henry Carner, who resigned in July 2019.

• Also in June, **Jermaine Reed** was elected to a six-year term as Subdistrict 2 trustee, unseating incumbent Cindy Adams. Reed is a former Kansas City councilman. Meanwhile, incumbent Ellen Martin in Subdistrict 5, facing no challenger (someone else filed but later withdrew), was also elected to a six-year term.

## Metropolitan Community College Executive Cabinet



**Kimberly Beatty, Ed.D.**  
Chancellor



**John Chawana, Ph.D.**  
Vice Chancellor, Institutional Effectiveness, Research and Technology



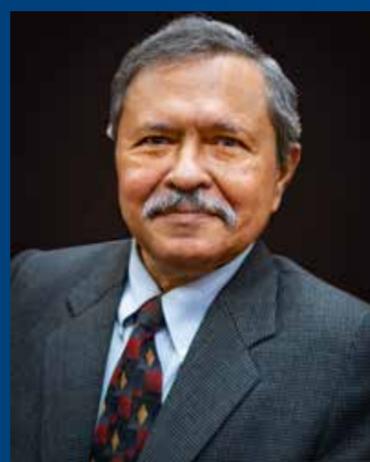
**Donald Chrusciel, Ph.D.**  
Vice Chancellor, Administrative Services, and Chief Financial Officer



**Caron Daugherty, Ed.D.**  
Vice Chancellor, Instruction, and Chief Academic Officer



**Sandra Garcia, J.D.**  
Chief Legal Officer



**Utpal K. Goswami, Ph.D.**  
President, MCC-Longview



**Tyjaun Lee, Ph.D.**  
President, MCC-Maple Woods and MCC-Penn Valley



**Thomas W. Meyer, Ph.D.**  
President, MCC-Blue River and MCC-Business & Technology



**Kathrine Swanson, Ed.D.**  
Vice Chancellor, Student Success and Engagement

## Metropolitan Community College Executive Cabinet

### NEW ARRIVALS



**Sue Gochis**  
Vice Chancellor, Instruction, and Chief Academic Officer



**Dan Hocoy, Ph.D.**  
President, MCC-Longview, and Vice Chancellor, Strategic Initiatives



**Larry Rideaux Jr., Ed.D.**  
President, MCC-Maple Woods

### THREE NEW EXECUTIVE CABINET MEMBERS NAMED

The appointments of **Dan Hocoy, Ph.D.**, and **Larry Rideaux Jr., Ed.D.**, were announced in April. Hocoy became president of MCC-Longview and vice chancellor of strategic initiatives on July 1. Rideaux became the new president of MCC-Maple Woods on June 1, allowing Tyjaun Lee to return full time to the Penn Valley campus.

Hocoy joined MCC from State University of New York's Erie Community College, where he served as president. He is also a licensed psychologist. Hocoy said the dual role at MCC "combines, in my mind, the best of both worlds — overseeing strategic advancement of the entire College while still being around the energy of students." He is a non-native English speaker and was the first in his family to attend college.

Rideaux came from Texas Southmost College in Brownsville, Texas, where he served as vice president of student services. The community college sits just across the border from Matamoros, Mexico. During his interview process, Rideaux learned that employees tend to stay here for "years and years," which he attributes to a healthy institutional

climate and culture. A "strong student success agenda" is one thing that attracted him to MCC.

**Sue Gochis** joined the College in July as vice chancellor for instruction and chief academic officer. Although she came here from Northern California's Cabrillo College, where she was assistant superintendent and vice president of student services, Gochis' roots run deep in Kansas.

She spent a chunk of her career, 1995-2012, at Cowley College in Arkansas City, Kansas, initially as an algebra instructor and assistant volleyball coach. She went on to serve there as TRIO grant director, admissions director, dean of student life and vice president of student affairs. "A community college system is the only place I want to work," Gochis says. "Everyone is so diverse and at different stages in their lives. Community colleges are able to provide opportunities to truly transform lives, and that is something that makes me so devoted to the community college mission."



Chiefs legend Willie Lanier (from left), Mayor Quinton Lucas, author Ed Gordon and KCUR's Steve Kraske take part in an onstage conversation.



About 400 people made it to the Marriott Downtown despite an ice storm that day.

# 'Find ways to seek the truth'

## 2020 CHANCELLOR'S MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON FEATURES JOURNALIST AND AUTHOR ED GORDON, RAISES \$77,000

Five-plus decades after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., what is life like for African-Americans? That was the starting point of a discussion at the MCC Foundation's annual scholarship luncheon that honors the civil rights icon.

It was a comment toward the end of the January program, however, that seemed to resonate with those attending. "Broaden your aperture and try to find ways to seek the truth, as opposed to assumptions," urged Ed Gordon, TV journalist and author of the book "Conversations in Black."

Take a stroll you wouldn't ordinarily take. See a movie you wouldn't ordinarily see. During those and other everyday interactions, "it's OK not to understand" everything you encounter, Gordon said.

"It's about dialogue."

More than 700 guests were expected at the sold-out Chancellor's Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Luncheon at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown. Then came the freezing rain.

"It's so great to see all of you on this beautiful day in Kansas City," emcee Elizabeth Alex (and an MCC Foundation board member) said, adding: "I think we lost a few soldiers in the ice."

But some 400 hardy souls came out anyway, and the event ultimately raised about \$77,000 for student scholarships.

Chancellor Kimberly Beatty told the crowd that Dr. King taught us "some of life's greatest lessons" including a belief in justice, that love is the one thing powerful enough to overcome hate, that

education should teach critical thinking and cultivate character, and that "life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?"

The chancellor mentioned several examples of how donations to the MCC Foundation have helped students overcome difficult financial barriers. "Contributions like yours today make the difference between success and failure, between succeeding and completing a degree or dropping out and not finishing." For anyone who wants to pursue an education, she added, "our doors are open, and the answer is yes."

The panel discussion featured Gordon as well as retired Kansas City Chiefs great Willie Lanier and Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas. Steve Kraske of KCUR-FM moderated the conversation.

Gordon's message: that Americans need to continue King's quest for justice to become "the America we like to present ourselves as on the world stage."

The luncheon also included the presentation of MLK scholarships for one year of tuition to five MCC students.

*"It does boost me up. It does encourage me. This will go a long way to help pave my path toward my dreams, toward my vision, and to believe that they are obtainable."*

— Innocent Njobara, a 2020 recipient of the Chancellor's Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship



MCC Trustee Barbara Washington (from left) with keynoter Ed Gordon, Chancellor Kimberly Beatty and Willie Lanier



The event included the presentation of five student scholarships.



## 'AN OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME BETTER': MCC WELCOMES ACCREDITATION TEAM FROM HLC

The College spent a year and a half preparing for a day-and-a-half visit, but these were very important visitors: a review team from the Higher Learning Commission, MCC's primary accrediting agency.



On February 17, at the first of three public forums, reviewer Mark Kelland said the team had two main roles. One was to ensure that MCC was in alignment with the five HLC criteria. The second was to help the College get back on track in cases where the alignment was off.

A review like this "is a time for us to be able to reflect on what we have been doing right and areas that we can improve on," said John Chawana, vice chancellor for institutional effectiveness, research and technology. "Accreditation always gives us an opportunity to become better."



The results of the mid-cycle visit were announced several weeks later by Chancellor Kimberly Beatty. MCC met the accrediting agency's expectations in all categories except for three. To follow up on those components, which were "met with concerns," HLC will return for a focused visit in 2022 on areas including instructional program review and student learning assessment.

Dr. Beatty told employees that HLC recognizes the College has processes in place in the areas of concern "but we are not yet at a point to provide evidence to identify any opportunities or challenges to inform change."

The February 2020 visit focused on the MCC district as a whole as well as on operations at three MCC campuses: Blue River, Maple Woods and Penn Valley.

Preparation for the site review included holding a mock visit the previous September, writing an exhaustive "assurance argument" document for HLC, installing banners about MCC's mission on the campuses, and producing videos and other information to educate employees about the HLC visit and encourage them to play an active role.

MCC is on what HLC calls the Standard Pathway, which requires comprehensive evaluations in years 4 and 10. The 2020 visit was MCC's Year 4, following an HLC site visit in late 2015.



*The Higher Learning Commission review included many meetings (and three public forums, like the one at top), but the visitors also got a chance to tour campuses and talk to students. At MCC-Penn Valley's Health Science Institute, Lee Ann Townsend introduced reviewer Bill Maki to a high-tech patient simulator.*



*Sports seasons ended in mid-March, but before that the volleyball team, left, earned the regional crown, and several cross country runners went to nationals.*

## THE YEAR IN MCC WOLVES ATHLETICS

- Four women and three men on MCC's cross country teams qualified for the National Junior College Athletic Association national competition in Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- The volleyball team won the NJCAA Region 16 championship.
- MCC's student athletes excelled in the classroom, too. The volleyball, softball and cross country teams won NJCAA Academic Team of the Year awards. Three students were named to the All-Academic First Team

(4.0 GPAs); seven made the Second Team (3.8-3.99 GPA); and nine earned spots on the Third Team (3.6-3.79 GPA). The men's cross country team was ranked 14th nationally for academic achievement by the NJCAA Cross Country Coaches Association.

MCC, in accordance with an NJCAA decision, suspended practices, scrimmages and games for all sports in mid-March due to the coronavirus outbreak. This ended the seasons for MCC's men's and women's golf, softball and baseball teams.



## BESTING ALL RIVALS AT NATIONAL 'HACKATHON'



Congratulations to the MCC-Blue River "CyberWolves." The three-student team took first place overall out of 35 teams in the IT Policy Hackathon, part of the 2020 Summer Cyber Games organized by the National Cybersecurity Student Association. Pictured here are (from left) MCC cybersecurity program coordinator Brian Hurley with Jill Sheeks-Edson, Rachel Kortkamp and Jonathan Stewart. The hackathon presented teams with a complex IT scenario involving four challenges over four weeks — they had to update network infrastructure and create a remote access policy, disaster recovery policy and business continuity plan. The MCC team scored first place in three of the four challenges.



The Kansas City Construction Career Academy's smart home, left, made it to Bartle Hall, but then the Home Show was called off.

## HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA, COLLEGE DIPLOMA, CAREER

The Class of 2020 included the first graduates of MCC's Kansas City Construction Career Academy, an early-college program made up of students from North Kansas City Schools. Fifteen students in the first two-year cohort earned both Level 1 and Level 2 certificates in building maintenance; 14 earned A.A.S. degrees. About half these high school seniors planned to work in jobs such as electrical technicians, framers, finish carpenters, HVAC

technicians, painters and plumbers. In 2019-20, the KCCCA students built a "smart home" at MCC-Business & Technology and then reassembled it at Bartle Hall for the Greater Kansas City Home Show. Unfortunately the show, scheduled to open in mid-March, was an early casualty of the COVID-19 outbreak. KCCCA is a partnership of MCC, the school district, JE Dunn Construction and the Kauffman Foundation.



Left: At the opening of the Penn Station clothing closet at MCC-Penn Valley, Chancellor Kimberly Beatty (center), campus President Tyjaun Lee (left) and interim Vice President Lesha Gregory peruse the offerings. Right: Looking good!

## FOR STUDENTS WITH JOB INTERVIEWS (AND NO SPARE CASH), PENN STATION IS THE STOP FOR BUSINESS ATTIRE

After the speechifying and ribbon-cutting, it wasn't long before a handful of students started checking out the threads inside a new boutique-like space at MCC-Penn Valley.

Penn Station, which celebrated its grand opening in January in the Campus Center, is a "clothing closet" of free business attire for students who need to look good for job interviews, career fairs and the like. "If you can't afford to purchase a suit for your interview, we have plenty of nice suits in here," said Lesha Gregory, Penn Valley's interim vice president.

Campus president Tyjaun Lee expressed her appreciation to the two women "who really came up with the idea": Sonya Thomas, Penn Valley's former Career Services coordinator, and Chelsia Potts, student engagement manager. Lee also thanked the Facilities team and the faculty and staff members

who donated clothes, shoes, bow ties and other accessories. Another big supporter was Daniel Barickman, president of DapperKC.com, a company that is dry-cleaning the donated clothing at a discount.

Chancellor Kimberly Beatty said the professional-clothing resource is a great example of the College's mission — "Preparing Students, Serving Communities, Creating Opportunities" — in action. The chancellor went through her own closet, and "I've got a bag sitting right outside my bedroom door" to donate to Penn Station.

Any current MCC student with an updated Career Central profile who has completed a resume review from Career Services is eligible to receive clothing from Penn Station.



## WELCOME TO KC AND MCC!

"I'm just thrilled to be in a room with international women leaders!" Chancellor Kimberly Beatty said as she greeted eight W-GDP delegates who were on a 2 1/2-week tour of the United States. W-GDP is the Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative, and MCC was the only higher education stop for this group of businesswomen. The new White House program is an effort to advance women's economic empowerment on a global scale. The delegation that visited KC for two days in September represented Costa Rica, Egypt, Ghana, the Republic of Kosovo, Malaysia, Nigeria, the Philippines and Rwanda.



## A STUDENT CENTER MAKEOVER

MCC-Maple Woods President Tyjaun Lee described the remodeled Student Center as a "shining jewel" of the campus at a September ribbon-cutting ceremony. The dining area/lounge, Campus Life & Leadership office and student organization meeting space got new carpet, paint, ceiling fixtures and LED lighting, as well as new data connections and plenty of outlets to charge electronics. Branding featuring MCC's mascot, the Wolf, is prominent throughout the refreshed space.



## MCC SEES RED... AND A SUPER CHIEFS VICTORY

Would the Kansas City Chiefs have triumphed at Super Bowl LIV without the support of Metropolitan Community College? Hard to say. MCC Goes Red for the Chiefs Day (Jan. 31, Red Friday before the big game) proved that Chiefs Kingdom was well represented at the Administrative Center and the five campuses. We also let our Chiefs flags fly across the College.

In related news, a friendly wager between this community college and one in the San Francisco 49ers'

backyard resulted in photographic evidence that losing such a bet is, well, less than super. Before the big game in Miami, MCC Chancellor Kimberly Beatty and Mission College President Daniel Peck agreed that the CEO of the losing college would have to wear the winning football team's ball cap and the winning college's T-shirt. So here you see President Peck looking, as you'd expect, rather defeated. Our thanks to him and our new Mission College friends in Santa Clara, California, for being such good sports.

As part of the bet, both colleges poked each other on Twitter in the two weeks leading up to the Super Bowl. The MCC Wolf mascot starred in several of our tweets, posing around campus and at Chiefs photo-op locations around town.

For the record, not that we'd ever forget: At Super Bowl LIV on Feb. 2, 2020, the Kansas City Chiefs did indeed emerge victorious over the San Francisco 49ers by a score of 31-20.

Chiefs superfans could be found at every MCC location, and even Chancellor Kimberly Beatty dressed the part. She also made a Super Bowl bet with a San Francisco-area college president, Daniel Peck, that resulted in him looking blue.



## IT REQUIRED A LOT OF EFFORT — AND EVEN A NEW STATE LAW — TO REPLACE SOME OLD, INACCURATE HIGHWAY SIGNS

The new year of 2020 brought new MCC signs to highways and interstates around Kansas City. That might sound ho-hum, but actually it was an undertaking so complicated, it required a new state law to make it happen.

The old signs — in some cases at least 25 years old — didn't even use the correct names of the campuses. Since 2005, when MCC started marketing itself as one college with five campuses, each campus' official name has been Metropolitan Community College-Blue River, Metropolitan Community College-Maple Woods etc.

But the state-installed MCC “wayfinding” signs didn't refer to MCC, Metropolitan or Community at all. Instead, they called our campuses “Blue River College,” “Maple Woods College” and the like.

Replacement signs, however, would have to adhere to Missouri law, which by then differentiated between two-year colleges and four-year colleges.

“Two-year colleges could only get the smaller grouped signs like you see for food or hotels, listing all of the colleges that were at the next exit,” says Michael Banks, a recently retired MCC vice chancellor and campus president. Four-year institutions, however, could get the larger stand-alone signs with just their name on it.

MCC and the Missouri Community College Association lobbied state legislators to change the law. This was a passion project for former Chancellor Mark James, who retired without seeing new, properly named MCC signs go up.

Finally, in 2017, the Missouri General Assembly approved Senate Bill 225, a hodgepodge of transportation measures that addressed college road signs. Then-Governor Eric Greitens signed the bill into law that June. The bill's passage was seen as a victory for the state's 12 community colleges.

In December 2019, a contractor approved by the Missouri Department of Transportation started changing out the MCC signs.

The new ones along highways and interstates contain not only the full name of the college and the individual campus but also the MCC logo's blue ball. “They are somewhat larger, more visible and better located than some of the old signs,” says Jeff Ullmann, MCC's chief facilities officer.

“As you travel around town, you should notice the new MCC highway signs. Yes, finally, they are posted!” Chancellor Kimberly Beatty wrote to employees in January. “As you know, this effort took legislative action and a lot of hard work by the last chancellor, Mr. Mark James. Now, people will see us as Metropolitan Community College.”



## A.A.S. TO B.A.S., MCC TO NORTHWEST

“I feel like we're making this a habit. It's a good one,” Chancellor Kimberly Beatty said at a ceremony marking another partnership between MCC and Northwest Missouri State University.

At the summer 2020 event, the two institutions signed an agreement to facilitate the transition of MCC associate in applied science (A.A.S.) students into Northwest's bachelor of applied science (B.A.S.) program. The arrangement includes focused advising and support for students from both institutions.

Dr. Beatty said MCC business program coordinator Zack McNeil was determined to create this pathway for A.A.S. students. One big advantage for business students, for example, is that they can take some classes in their major (like business communications, marketing, organizational behavior) from day one at MCC rather than wait until they've transferred to a four-year school. Taking those courses here can save them thousands of dollars, McNeil says.

The signing ceremony was held both in-person at Northwest-Kansas City and livestreamed.

## 'ROOMENTUM': FASTER FOUR-YEAR DEGREE COMPLETION

“RooMentum” might sound like something you'd rub on a sore back. But it's really a combination of the University of Missouri-Kansas City mascot (the Roos) and the momentum for students created by a partnership between UMKC and MCC.

That momentum should propel students toward faster completion of a four-year degree. But really the RooMentum agreement, announced in September, is all about greater access and equity, MCC Chancellor Kimberly Beatty said: “We want to fulfill the dreams of those students” who might not have thought a college degree was possible.

RooMentum was designed to “lower the barriers to college enrollment and college success, barriers that are too prevalent in this community,” UMKC Chancellor C. Mauli Agrawal said. Components of this new transfer agreement include:

- The “On Track” Program is designed for first-time, full-time college students who may not qualify for direct admission to UMKC. It provides students an opportunity to explore academic and career interests, improve academic preparation and develop key academic strategies to enhance their success. Once students complete the On Track curriculum at MCC, they will automatically be admitted to UMKC.

- The “Pathways” program promotes successful completion of a bachelor's degree in as few total credit hours as possible. Pathways lets MCC students “connect with (UMKC) classes and opportunities” related to their major and ease the transition to upper-level coursework, Agrawal said.

Also announced: an initiative that will let students work simultaneously toward an associate in applied science (A.A.S.) degree at MCC and a bachelor of applied science degree at UMKC.

# How COVID-19 disrupted 2020 at MCC: A timeline



## FEBRUARY

The coronavirus is one of several topics covered in a Feb. 28 MCC on the Move memo from Chancellor Kimberly Beatty. "The country is putting forth efforts to protect the community. The same is true for MCC," she writes. **"We are assessing the ability for our business operations to continue should an emergency occur."**

## APRIL

**MCC staff reach out to students with Wolf Pack check-in calls.** The MCC Foundation works with local restaurants to provide food vouchers for students experiencing food insecurity. Meanwhile, the College announces that the summer term will also be remote instruction.

**Students with technology needs begin picking up laptops** and other equipment on the campuses (see Page 18). Staff at the two MCC Fitness Centers start posting daily online exercise videos (featuring our own fitness instructors) and workout plans.

**Two MCC nursing instructors, Brenda Kotar and LeeJae Wansing, step up to help New York City by taking temporary hospital jobs there.** The pediatric nurses are among hundreds of medical professionals who flock to the Big Apple, the early epicenter of the crisis. Kotar describes the experience as "a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to teach my students about truly going through a pandemic."

**Students are notified they can apply for emergency grants** made possible by the federal CARES Act. The first-come, first-served grants are available to those who experienced unexpected financial hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic. (See Page 18)

## JUNE

Phase II of MCC's "phased repopulation plan" gets underway, but **it continues to call for a limited number of employees and students allowed on campus.** Meanwhile, the College is determining how many students can fit in classrooms when desks are 6 feet apart. Entry vestibules, restrooms, break rooms, hallways and public spaces are also getting a hard look.

MCC holds its first-ever virtual commencement on June 5.

## AUGUST

On Aug. 17, with the start of the fall semester one day away, Dr. Beatty tells employees that at MCC and colleges across the country, enrollment is down: **The pandemic and economic fallout are "making people scared — they're not going to college, they're not going anywhere."** As of this week, there's a single point of entry at open MCC buildings. At each staffed entry, employees and students get a temperature scan and answer health questions.



*Some classes with accreditation requirements for in-person attendance met (safely) on the campuses, including at the Health Science Institute.*

*Inset: At MCC-Business & Technology, Richard Monroe and the MCC Wolf mask up for distribution of grad bags in early June.*

## MARCH

On March 12, the College closes at 4 p.m., one day earlier than planned before the start of spring break. **The break will ultimately be extended to two weeks** for students.

Dr. Beatty announces March 18 that **all spring courses will move to remote instruction** as of March 30.

Heeding the call for more personal protective equipment for health-care workers, **MCC's Health Science Institute donates surgical masks, gowns and other items** to Truman Medical Centers in Kansas City and a hospital in Hillsboro, Kansas. Later, HSI will also lend a ventilator to Providence Medical Center in Kansas City, Kansas.

## MAY

The end of the academic year usually includes events to recognize student achievement. This spring, **MCC art instructors have to figure out how to turn student exhibitions, like those usually held at Carter Art Center, into virtual events.** "The pandemic has pushed us into a new realm of design thinking," says MCC-Penn Valley graphic design coordinator Darlene Town.

In a video message May 8, **Dr. Beatty says everyone is asking when the College will reopen campuses.** "I can't give you a date, unfortunately." Officials are assessing MCC facilities to determine how social distancing can be maintained and what measures will be necessary to make everyone feel comfortable returning.

## JULY

**PLEASE WEAR A FACE MASK is the top headline** July 8 in MCC Update, the employee newsletter, which notes that face coverings (and distancing) are required not just on MCC property but also now in both Kansas City and in Jackson, Wyandotte and Johnson counties. MCC provides three branded face masks to all staff and students coming to campuses.



## A HELPING HAND WITH TECHNOLOGY

Having your classes switch to remote instruction is fine as long as you have access to a computer and the internet. But what if you don't, and couldn't afford it anyway? Fortunately, MCC was able to purchase laptops, cell phones (to be used as Wi-Fi hotspots) and webcams for students to borrow. Those students were referred by faculty and others. Starting in April, campuses provided curbside pick-up of equipment. Each campus also identified tech-savvy staff members who could provide support to students with questions.

### A look at how many students the College assisted with technology needs in 2020

	Spring	Fall
Laptop computers	144	258
Wi-Fi hotspots	41	105
Webcams	1	19

*"The emergency grant was a big blessing when my job placed my position on furlough. I was able to still post rent and not stress about being able to complete the semester due to the need to find steady employment immediately. The support MCC provides to students is amazing. Both the grant and loan of a laptop helped me during a time of uncertainty."*



— MCC-Penn Valley student Robert Gillis Jr., adding that the pandemic's "forced isolation" — not being around peers on a daily basis — was another struggle for him.

## A VARIETY OF EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE HELPED KEEP OUR STUDENTS IN COLLEGE

By mid-April, following a needs survey, MCC had a process in place for getting emergency help to students harmed economically by the coronavirus crisis. Several "waves" of student support were planned, with the bulk of funding coming from the CARES Act passed by Congress. Here's a summary of the types of assistance and the number of students who had benefited as of mid-August.

Type of assistance	Students helped	\$\$ per student	Total \$\$	Details
CARES Act emergency grants	2,153	\$120-\$2,000	\$3.06 million	These funds could assist with tuition, housing, technology, child care, etc. for those eligible for federal student aid
MCC Foundation & campus emergency grants	80	\$350-\$750	\$32,650	Helped students not eligible for CARES Act funds pay for food, rent and child care
MCC Foundation food vouchers	100	\$120	\$12,000	Meal vouchers good at local restaurants
Withdraw/repeat scholarships	116	Up to 3 credit hours	\$41,679	Students who withdrew from a spring course because of the pandemic could take it again, tuition-free, in the fall. Funding from the CARES Act and MCC Foundation.
Greater KC Community Foundation grants	71	\$120-\$470	\$25,980	To help with food and housing for students ineligible for CARES Act funds
Missouri Scholarship & Loan Foundation grants	19	\$375 or \$750	\$12,000	One-time emergency grants (full-time students received the larger amount)

Single points of entry, including temperature checks, debuted at open MCC buildings in August.



*"I was getting really stressed with my classes because I got COVID. I could not stay awake for a majority of the time — I just wanted to lay down. I couldn't breathe. My head was throbbing. But I didn't want to go to the hospital."*

— MCC-Maple Woods student Mariana Rodriguez, who was ill for about three weeks. Mariana, a nanny, and her mother, a housekeeper, both lost their income in the spring, and their savings didn't last long. Mariana borrowed a hotspot from MCC and qualified for emergency funds to pay for internet.



# VIRTUAL COMMENCEMENT 06.05.20



## THE 'HISTORIC CLASS OF 2020'

IN A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER, MCC GRADS GET A VIRTUAL SEND-OFF

Metropolitan Community College has been graduating students since the spring of 1916, but commencement for the Class of 2020 would be like no other: no hugs, no high-fives, no crossing-the-stage photos.

It was a spring semester in which most classes suddenly shifted from in-person and on campus to remote and at home. MCC commencement, long planned for May 14, 2020, at Municipal Auditorium, was delayed until June 5. In the interest of public health, the usual in-person pomp and circumstance became an online event, with virtual speeches and a slide for each grad.

On the computer screen, MCC Chancellor Kimberly Beatty said she'd "never felt more proud of a graduating class." Another speaker called the Class of 2020 "historic."

*"It will be your class that defines the post-COVID generation."*  
— Board of Trustees President Trent Skaggs

Board of Trustees President Trent Skaggs said that "for good or bad, COVID-19 has put a spotlight on the graduating class of 2020." Furthermore, he said, it was this generation that would figure out how to solve global warming, poverty, unequal access to health care "and whether all races and individuals have equal access to all the rungs of society."

Drawing on two of her role models, Michelle Obama and Robin Roberts, Chancellor Beatty encouraged the grads to "think about what you're becoming"

and find opportunities to "pay it forward."

She called on each member of the class to "become an innovator and not an imitator," an asset instead of a liability, a creator and not a destroyer, and a helper, not an adversary. She said the 2020 grads — who persevered in their studies despite the pandemic — already embodied these characteristics.

MCC alum and former Kansas City councilman Troy Nash said he realized the COVID-19 economy was a challenging one for job-seeking grads. "Keep your head up," he advised. "And remember, where you start out in life has nothing to do with where you end up."

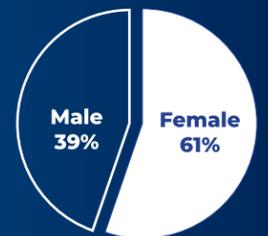
About 830 grads chose to take part in the virtual ceremony, down just a bit from the usual 900-1,000 students who typically "walk" at Municipal Auditorium.

### #MCCGRADS2020

candidates for graduation  
About **2,300**



**2,700**  
associate degrees and certificates conferred



**43%**  
ages 21-29

**34%**  
20 and younger

**4** grads in their 60s

**100** military veterans



Although commencement was an online event, the MCC campuses offered curbside pick-up of “grad bags” (containing a diploma cover, tassel and other items) and tied blue and white ribbons to fences and trees to honor the Class of 2020.

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

MCC-Longview recognized a group of distinguished alumni at a January reception at the Mel Aytes Education Center on campus. A poster featuring each honoree was revealed at the event, which was part of the yearlong celebration of Longview’s 50th anniversary. (Maple Woods and Penn Valley marked the same milestone.) “This has always been a joyful campus and is just as welcoming and accepting now as it always has been,” said MCC Trustee Ellen Martin, a retired longtime administrator and faculty member. The honorees on hand included Brian Wenninghoff, civil engineer with Bartlett & West; Valaree Smith, physician and medical director at Crossroads Hospice & Palliative Care; Rafael Garcia, president and owner of Garcia Architecture; Jennifer Audsley-Moore, archivist with the National Archives and Records Administration; Charlie Shields, president/CEO of Truman Medical Centers; Amber Maggard, cardiac nurse with St. Luke’s Hospital; and Bryan Compton, instructor at the Fort Osage Career & Technology Center.



The honorees included (from left) Brian Wenninghoff, Valaree Smith, Rafael Garcia, Jennifer Audsley-Moore, Charlie Shields, Amber Maggard and Bryan Compton.



MCC Trustee Ellen Martin (right) attended the event.



A poster of Audsley-Moore is unveiled by counselor Gretchen Blythe (right).



## ST. JOSEPH SITE ADDS MORE WORKFORCE PROGRAMS

Following the announcement in May that MCC would expand offerings at the St. Joseph site to include some in-demand health-care programs — practical nursing, radiologic technology and surgical technology — as well as the A.A. degree, the St. Joseph News-Press published a complimentary editorial.

“We wouldn’t claim to have all the answers for the class of 2020 as these students prepare for the next stage of their lives,” the editorial states. “It doesn’t matter if they

have a plan for a four-year college, a community college, a training program or the military. ... St. Joseph is fortunate that Metropolitan Community College is now part of the plan.”

MCC opened the site at the St. Joseph School District’s Hillyard Technical Center in 2019.

# BY THE NUMBERS, FALL 2019

Student enrollment and demographic data from fall semester, end of term

## STUDENT HEAD COUNT

**16,063**

2018 | 16,581

2017 | 17,059

## CREDIT HOURS

**150,124**

2018 | 153,420

2017 | 157,785

## HIGH SCHOOL PENETRATION

**21%**

2018 | 19%

2017 | 18%

(Percentage of in-district high school graduates attending MCC)

Source: MCC Office of Institutional Research and Analytics

## STUDENT ENROLLMENT STATUS

2018 FULL TIME | 40%  
PART TIME | 60%

2017 FULL TIME | 40%  
PART TIME | 60%

2018 FEMALE | 59%  
MALE | 41%

2017 FEMALE | 58%  
MALE | 42%



FULL TIME 6,684 (42%)



PART TIME 9,379 (58%)



FEMALE 9,550 (59%)



MALE 6,513 (41%)

## STUDENT RACE/ETHNICITY



White	9,283 (58%)	Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	37 (0.2%)
Black	2,490 (16%)	Two or more	1,198 (8%)
Hispanic	2,014 (13%)	Unspecified	367 (2%)
Asian	482 (3%)	Nonresident Alien	153 (1%)
American Indian/ Alaska Native	39 (0.2%)		

2018

White	59%
Black	15%
Hispanic	11%
Asian	3%
American Indian/ Alaska Native	0.2%
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	0.2%
Two or more	8%
Unspecified	3%
Nonresident Alien	1%

2017

White	59%
Black	15%
Hispanic	11%
Asian	3%
American Indian/ Alaska Native	0.2%
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	0.2%
Two or more	7%
Unspecified	2%
Nonresident Alien	1%

## COLLEGE FINANCIAL RESULTS



### Revenue 2019-2020

Local Taxes	\$36,454,932	Grants, Contracts (incl. Pell)	\$31,240,458
State Aid	\$26,569,202	Auxiliary	\$2,539,879
Student Tuition/Fees	\$21,251,693	Other	\$5,385,316

2018 | \$133,938,756

2017 | \$140,183,048

Total Revenue **\$123,441,480**

### Expenditures 2019-2020

Instructional	\$45,729,758	Academic Support	\$12,539,731
Institutional Support	\$29,020,569	Scholarships & Fellowships	\$3,940,601
Public Service	\$439,168	Depreciation	\$6,470,297
Student Services	\$15,317,695	Interest Expense	\$1,834,395
Plant Operation/Maintenance	\$15,098,302	Auxiliary Expenses	\$504,717

2018 | \$140,467,827

2017 | \$140,183,048

Total Expenditures **\$130,895,232**

## AWARDS AND HONORS

- For the third year in a row, an MCC faculty member received national recognition from the American Association of Community Colleges. **Chad Montuori**, Spanish instructor and foreign language interpreting coordinator at MCC-Maple Woods, was one of 56 recipients of the 2020 Dale P. Parnell Distinguished Faculty award. Montuori was to have picked up his award at the AACCC's 100th annual convention in late March, but the event was canceled due to the pandemic. "Chad is passionate about student success and engagement, and it shows in his efforts on campus," says colleague Jessica Halperin, a sociology instructor. "His work centers on our students and how to make the college experience better for them in and out of the classroom."
- **Tyjaun Lee** was one of 28 national recipients of the Phi Theta Kappa Paragon Award for New Presidents. PTK, the academic honor society for two-year colleges, bestows the award on presidents "who have shown strong support of student success by recognizing academic achievement, leadership and service among high-achieving students." Students in MCC-Penn Valley's PTK chapter nominated her.
- Seven MCC employees were honored at the Missouri Community College Association's annual convention in November: Governor's Excellence in Teaching winners



**Susan Blaser, Katherine Melles, Anne Nienhueser and Kenny Snell**, and Senior Service winners **Cindy Latta, Melissa Napper and John Nickles**. State Rep. and MCC Trustee **Barbara Washington** was named an Outstanding Legislator. MCC as an institution was recognized for the largest percentage increase in convention attendance. The event returned to Kansas City in 2019.

- MCC's **John Hudson**, the College's admissions manager, and **Eric Thompson**, MCC-Penn Valley dean of student success and engagement, were inducted into the Black Achievers Society of Greater Kansas City in January. They joined a growing list of Black Achievers "alumni" from the College.
- Chancellor **Kimberly Beatty** joined the 32-member Board of Directors of the American Association of Community Colleges on July 1, 2020. She was one of six new college representatives elected by AACCC membership. The chancellor was also selected by the Kansas City Business Journal as part of its 2020 class of Women Who Mean Business, recognizing professional women who have made significant strides in their industry and community. The 25 honorees were honored later in the year in a special Business Journal supplement and at a virtual event.

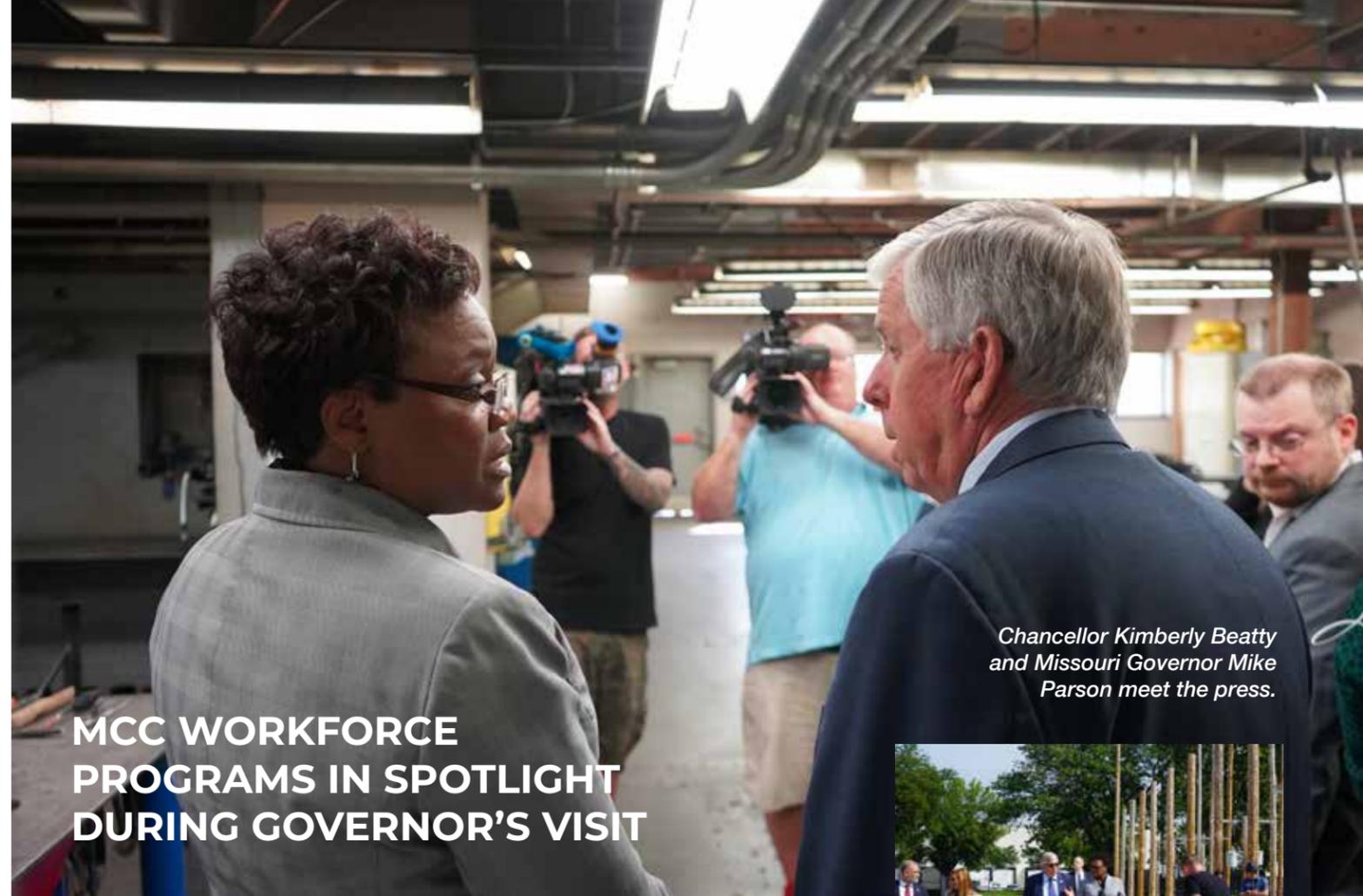
## KUDOS — AND A BIG GRANT — FOR MCC'S APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Autumn brought great news for MCC's skilled trades apprenticeship program: In October, the College received a \$140,000 federal grant. In November, the state named the MCC training program "Provider of the Year."

The grant came through an initiative of the American Association of Community Colleges to increase the number of apprenticeship programs across the country. It is funded by the U.S. Department of Labor. The national project hoped to train 16,000 registered apprentices over three years.

The following month, Governor Mike Parson presented the Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development award at an apprenticeship summit in Columbia. "We're honored to be recognized as a leader in providing apprenticeship opportunities in unique and innovative ways for the metropolitan area and the state of Missouri," Chancellor Kimberly Beatty said.

Created in 2017, the MCC apprenticeship program combines on-the-job and classroom training and education, allowing students to learn and earn at the same time. Meanwhile, participating businesses get to grow their own talent and increase employee retention.



Chancellor Kimberly Beatty and Missouri Governor Mike Parson meet the press.

## MCC WORKFORCE PROGRAMS IN SPOTLIGHT DURING GOVERNOR'S VISIT

Governor Mike Parson got an up-close look at some popular MCC workforce programs during an August 2019 visit to the Business & Technology campus. The tour included stops at the welding, HVAC, KC Construction Career Academy and utility lineman programs.

The governor was crisscrossing the state to promote a new grant program that provides tuition assistance for adults training to enter high-demand skilled trades fields.

"It's challenging for us to meet those demands," Parson said. "We're highly committed to it," MCC Chancellor Kimberly Beatty told him. Later, as they spoke to reporters, Dr. Beatty added that MCC has been partnering "upstream and downstream" on workforce training with K-12 districts, four-year universities and area businesses.

On their tour of the Business & Technology campus, the governor and Missouri Commissioner of Higher Education Zora Mulligan spent the most time in the Burns & McDonnell Design Innovation Lab. That program pairs top computer-aided drafting and design (CADD) students with mentors/instructors from the Kansas City engineering firm.

"We know the demand's out there" for skilled workers in technical fields, Parson said. "We've just got to make sure we get people prepared for that. ... These community colleges are really at the forefront of making this happen."

Missouri's Fast Track Workforce Incentive Grants are focused on adult learners, with inducements to live and work in Missouri for three years after career training.



**\$50,000 - \$99,999**

Bank of America  
 Greater Kansas City Community Foundation

**\$10,000 - \$49,999**

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*Donor listing includes all cash and in-kind gifts received from July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020.*



*The MCC Foundation Board of Directors includes (from left): Lisa Bray, Matt Johnson, Ellen Martin, Jessica Ramirez, Matt McFadden, Sandra Price, Chancellor Kimberly Beatty, Bret Bonge, Rosana Privitera Biondo, Dr. Chris Morrow, Michael Roane and Oscar Monterroso.*

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*Faculty Representative | Veterinary Technology Program Coordinator, MCC-Maple Woods*

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*Staff Representative | MCC-Longview Cultural Arts Center Coordinator*

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*MCC Chancellor*

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*MCC Board of Trustees Representative*

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*Vice President of Commercial Lending, Bank Midwest*

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*Retired, Dillingham Enterprises*

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*Director of Market Services, Campione Interior Services*

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*Retired*

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*Director, Green Impact Zone*

**Jim Martin | Retired**

*Retired*

**Gene Sands | Retired**

*Retired*

*"MCC is the perfect place for students and for donors. For donors, it's where you really see that you're changing lives. We serve a wide variety of students where, in most cases, finances are the barrier to them seeing their dreams through."*

*— Chancellor Kimberly Beatty*



## WITH \$20,000 GIFT, CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI GROUP LAUNCHES AN MCC NURSING SCHOLARSHIP

Big smiles and a big check were the focus as Central Alumni Educational Foundation representatives and donor Robert DeWitt presented a \$20,000 check to the MCC Foundation in February.

The generous donation will be used to establish the Robert DeWitt Nursing School Scholarship. The new scholarship will support students and alumni of Central High School in Kansas City who plan to apply to MCC's professional nursing program. The first scholarship was expected to be awarded in 2020-21.

Central Alumni board members and MCC graduates Lola Riley (MCC-Penn Valley, 1980) and Joyce Posey (MCC-Longview, 1991) were on hand along with fellow Central board member Robert DeWitt, a retired attorney who matched the Central Alumni \$10,000 donation with a personal \$10,000 donation.

"The (Central Alumni) Foundation believes in making students' lives easier," said Riley, the board's president. "Scholarships allow students to focus on learning and not worry about how they will pay for their education."

The Central foundation chose to focus on the MCC nursing program because nursing is an in-demand field, says Jessica Ramirez, executive director of the MCC Foundation. More than half of MCC students require financial aid to realize their dreams of attending college.

The mission of the Central Alumni Educational Foundation, founded in 1991, is to provide Central High School students with the opportunity to attend college or earn workforce credentials.



MCC's Jeff Ullmann, a retired Air Force colonel, emceed the event. Inset: Student veteran Justin Long (behind check) is presented with the Reggie Helms Memorial Scholarship by Chancellor Kimberly Beatty (from left) and MCC Foundation board members Bret Bonge and Darin Shank.



## 'ASK THEM THEIR STORY': MCC EVENT HONORS VETERANS, INCLUDING A NEW SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

What can any one of us do to support military veterans? Ken Cheadle, keynote speaker at the Chancellor's Veterans Day Celebration in November, had a list of ideas...like picking up the tab for coffee, driving a vet to a doctor's appointment, volunteering at a veterans hospital, and writing a letter or sending a care package.

Event emcee Jeff Ullmann, a retired U.S. Air Force colonel and MCC's chief facilities officer, had one more suggestion. It's common for strangers to thank veterans for their service. But "to go one step further, you can ask them their story." Every veteran has one.

The program included the presentation of the Reggie Helms Memorial Scholarship to a MCC student veteran. The scholarship honors Chancellor

Kimberly Beatty's late father, who served in Vietnam, and Dr. Beatty appeared emotional as she talked about him, the scholarship and the event. "It warms my heart to present the Reggie Helms Memorial Scholarship to a deserving student veteran today."

The 2020 recipient of a \$2,500 scholarship was Justin Long, who in addition to being a full-time student also worked full time as a prison correctional officer. Long, married with three children, served in the U.S. Navy from 2005-09, including deployments to Afghanistan, Iraq, Baghdad and Cuba. He plans to become a registered nurse.

Keynote speaker Cheadle is a former MCC student who started his own digital health care solutions firm. He is also an author, speaker and podcast host.

Serving in the Army National Guard, Cheadle was sent to New Orleans to assist in Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

There are 18.2 million veterans in this country, Cheadle told the MCC audience, and of those, 326,000 are unemployed and 36,000 are homeless. Cheadle urged his listeners to hire veterans, and he shared some good reasons why, including vets' ability to work as a team, their strong work ethic, self-confidence, discipline, flexibility and ability to be cool under fire.

The Chancellor's Veterans Day Celebration was planned by MCC's Office of Institutional Equity and Inclusion.



Chancellor Kimberly Beatty with, at left, Ivanka Trump and Alex Azar, and with Senator Roy Blunt

## MCC HOSTS WHITE HOUSE CHILD-CARE EVENT

Washington, D.C., came to MCC in October as Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar, presidential advisor Ivanka Trump and U.S. Senator Roy Blunt took part in a discussion on child-care challenges and how they affect the workforce. The College played host to the Roundtable on Improving Access to High-Quality Child Care.

MCC-Penn Valley student RonNesha Goodwin, one of the panelists, shared that it was difficult to land jobs or pursue an education after she became a mother at 14. In 2019 she enrolled at Penn Valley, which has child care available on campus. That proved instrumental in shaping her future.

"Without Penn Valley, I don't know where I'd be right now," said Goodwin, who became emotional telling the dignitaries her story.

The event at MCC was one of 10 HHS child-care roundtables held around the country.



**METROPOLITAN**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Mission

*Preparing students, serving communities, creating opportunities.*

## Vision

*Metropolitan Community College will be a high-performing institution that is learning-centered, affordable, and aligned around student success.*



*Students gather on the final day the campuses were open in March — just before spring break, and what would turn out to be a long stretch of virtual classes with most employees working from home.*