



2023-2024

ANNUAL

REPORT



FROM HERE **ANYWHERE**





METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

3200 Broadway, Kansas City, Missouri 64111
816.604.1000 | mcckc.edu

MCC-BLUE RIVER

20301 E. 78 Highway
Independence, Missouri 64057

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-ONLINE

mcckc.edu/online

MCC-PENN VALLEY

3201 Southwest Trafficway
Kansas City, Missouri 64111



- ▶ Metropolitan Community College is the oldest public institution of higher education in Kansas City, Missouri, and was the first community college in Missouri

**EST.
1915**

- ▶ Founded in 1915 as the Kansas City Polytechnic Institute



- ▶ One of the first institutions in the country to award associate degrees



- ▶ Serves more than 17,000 students annually 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

Produced by MCC Marketing & Communications

THERE'S A REASON MCC IS GOOD AT MAKING EDUCATIONAL DREAMS COME TRUE



Hello and welcome to Metropolitan Community College's 2023-24 Annual Report. Thank you for spending a little time learning more about us.

One thing a lot of people don't realize is how long MCC has been part of this community. We're now 110 years old! We've grown from 566 students in our inaugural year, 1915-16, to now serving more than 17,000 students annually. We have risen from an outgrowth of a high school to an institution that will be offering our first bachelor's degree, in respiratory care, beginning in Fall 2025.

Students come to us from a variety of situations — first-time, returning, transfer, dual-credit, part-time, full-time — and walks of life. We are committed to being an open door to anyone who sees education as their pathway forward.

STUDENTS CHOOSE MCC ...

- ▶ Because we offer high-quality higher education at an affordable cost.
- ▶ Because we are accessible — close to home, in their neighborhoods and along bus routes.
- ▶ Because we provide the safety nets and support systems they need to succeed.
- ▶ Because we have stellar faculty and staff supporting our students.
- ▶ Because we offer more than 120 programs that support our students' desires to transfer or build a skill set — both of which support the ecosystem of Kansas City.





Dr. Beatty threw out the ceremonial first pitch to MCC Wolves baseball catcher (2022-24) Kevin Pelico at the 2024 MCC Day with the Royals at Kauffman Stadium.

About 44% of MCC students transfer to four-year universities. Their top five choices are the University of Missouri-Kansas City, University of Central Missouri, Park University, Northwest Missouri State University and University of Missouri. Others get what they need here to enter or advance in the workforce in two years or less.

Also consider that we support students “downstream” before they come to us through our early and middle college academies with Guadalupe Center, Kansas City Public Schools, North Kansas City, Liberty, Raymore-Peculiar, Lee’s Summit and other area school districts.

In short, MCC is where transformation happens. Students arrive here seeking opportunity, and they leave with the tools to build a better future for themselves and their families.

While Metropolitan Community College has a great history, our future is bright, too. Thanks to generous donors, a successful facilities campaign has helped us make tremendous improvements across our campuses. In recent years, we’ve added a new engineering technology building at Penn Valley, opened a Blue River East facility for lineman and warehousing programs, and renovated an urban core building for advanced technical skills programs like HVAC and welding.

In this annual report, you can read about the expansion of our in-demand **automotive technology program** at Longview (Pages 4-5) and the overhaul and expansion of Blue River’s **Public Safety Institute**, which offers police, fire and EMS/paramedic training (Page 9).

Be on the lookout as well for articles on the always inspiring **Chancellor’s Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Luncheon**, national attention for MCC’s annual **Civil Rights Pilgrimage**, one of our buildings that won a **national architecture award**, great photos and moments from **commencement** (my favorite day of the year), a spotlight on the **MCC Foundation** and our much-appreciated donors, the College’s successful partnership with **the Kansas City Royals** ... and more.

Thank you for helping us be the college that is committed to making educational dreams a reality. We’ve been doing it a long time.

All the best,

Dr. Kimberly Beatty
Chancellor and CEO
Metropolitan Community College



ONLY GOOD SURPRISES UNDER THE HOOD

Groundbreaking for the much-anticipated MCC-Longview Automotive Institute — an expansion of the campus' automotive technology program — was celebrated in July 2024. The project would double the existing square footage and connect the current High Technology building to the center of the Longview campus.

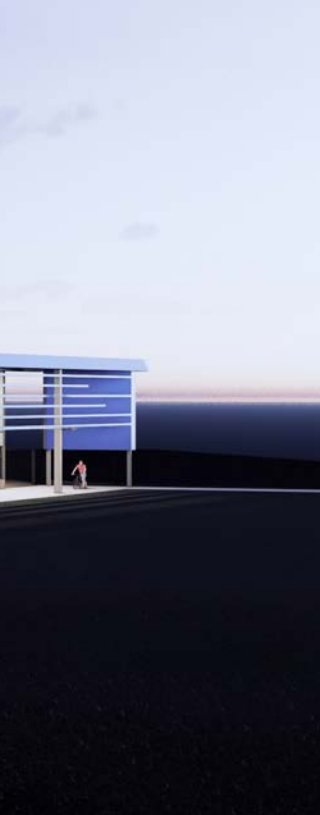
“For as long as anyone can remember, MCC-Longview has been known for its high-quality automotive programming,” Chancellor Kimberly Beatty said at the event. “Starting in the fall of 2025, our students will be learning the trade in a showcase environment that shines as brightly as our reputation.”

The new facility will not only expand the existing automotive technology and collision repair programs but also make way for a brand-new diesel technology program.

Longview President Ryan Crider said adding diesel will go a long way toward addressing a skills gap in the field.

“Employers have been asking for diesel for years,” Crider said. “We already have folks involved in diesel who are looking for ways to get in front of our existing students even before we had the program.”





CHECK OUT THESE FEATURES

- An open architectural design inspired by modern auto dealerships
- An abundance of natural light
- A second-floor observation bridge overlooking 24 automotive work bays
- Dedicated space for each of the three MCC automotive programs
- Much-needed storage space
- More efficient and streamlined instructional space
- An industry partnership room where regional employers can host meetings or events





AT MCC'S MLK EVENT ... MLK III

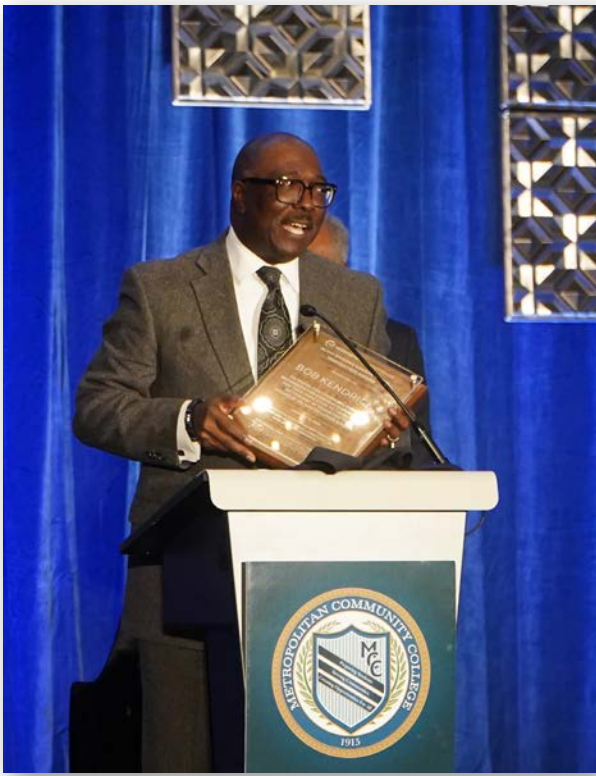
The 2024 edition of the Chancellor's Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Luncheon featured living history, embodied by a very special guest: Martin Luther King III, son of the late civil rights icon.

The Jan. 12 MCC Foundation event at the Loews Kansas City Hotel raised about \$360,000, with proceeds going to student scholarships. Five students were announced as the latest winners of one-year MCC scholarships. Another luncheon highlight: the presentation of the Alvin Brooks Kansas Citian Inspiration Award to Bob Kendrick, president of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City.



Martin Luther King III interviewed onstage by CommunityAmerica Credit Union's Lisa Ginter





Bob Kendrick, left, received the 2024 Alvin Brooks Kansas Citian Inspiration Award. Above: Chancellor Kimberly Beatty (from left) with Kendrick, Alvin Brooks and MCC Trustee Jermaine Reed.

“What I learned from my mother and father was, it just takes a few good human beings coming together, focused, to bring about change,” King III told the MCC audience. He is the oldest of two surviving children of Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King. He was 10 when his father was assassinated at the age of 39 on April 4, 1968, in Memphis.

One of the 2024 MLK scholarship winners, Iris Eltinay, said Dr. King had a great influence on

humankind. “He motivated people to fight for their rights, and education is one of the rights for any human,” Iris said in a video profile of the five students.

Brooks award winner Bob Kendrick, in remarks onstage, said it's easier to build strong children than to repair broken people — “what MCC is doing is building strong children.” He was paraphrasing 19th century civil rights leader Frederick Douglass. The MCC Foundation award is bestowed on Kansas Citians who, through their good works and dedication to community betterment, promote the values of Dr. King.



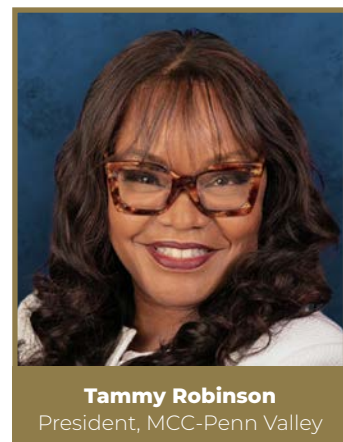
A WARM WELCOME

New presidents Ryan Crider at MCC-Longview and Tammy Robinson at MCC-Penn Valley were officially welcomed by their campus communities at receptions in September 2024. The Robinson event, held at Carter Art Center, was planned to coincide neatly with Penn Valley's annual Jazz in the Valley festival on campus. Robinson even received a \$500 check from PV employees to purchase a piece of artwork from the gallery.

Crider's welcome event took place at the Longview Education Center, but he hardly needed welcoming: He'd started as president that summer after having already served as Longview vice president of instruction and



Ryan Crider
President, MCC-Longview



Tammy Robinson
President, MCC-Penn Valley

student services since 2022. He had joined MCC in 2018 as Longview's dean of instruction. Crider replaced Kathrine Swanson, who over nine years served not only as LV president but also (not always at the same time) as vice chancellor for student success and engagement.

Robinson came to MCC after serving as president of Mesa Community College in Arizona.

WITH THANKS TO TRUSTEE SKAGGS

Trent Skaggs — who stepped off the MCC Board of Trustees after 12 years of service including the last eight as president — was honored at an appreciation reception in May 2024. Among the well-wishers at MCC-Maple Woods were several elected officials, fitting because Skaggs himself is a former Missouri state representative.

Gwen Van Asselt, his successor from MCC's Subdistrict 1, was seated later in May. Also that month, Skaggs was on hand at MCC commencement to offer the soon-to-be grads a little advice.





BIGGER & BETTER



MCC-Blue River celebrated a \$4.7 million overhaul and expansion of its Public Safety Institute in April 2024. The 40,500-square-foot facility is home to MCC's police and fire academies as well as the EMS/paramedic program (which relocated from Penn Valley's Health Science Institute).

At an open house, tours of the new PSI were offered, including some hands-on opportunities, such as a driving simulator that guests pronounced very cool.

Improvements to the space include a 5,000-square-foot-addition for the EMS/paramedic program, a larger gym to support activities required for firefighter certification testing, larger classrooms, renovated locker rooms and a key-card-secured firearms cleaning area.

MCC Fire Academy Coordinator Dave Johnson said moving the EMS programs to the Public Safety Institute was a positive change that allows for increased collaboration. "Fire and EMS work very closely together in the real world," he said, "and having both programs under the same roof makes it easier for faculty, staff and administration to manage."



SOUTHERN (AND NATIONAL) EXPOSURE

Two Professors Take Students Outside the Classroom to Bring History Home. That was the online headline for a Chronicle of Higher Education piece that featured MCC faculty members Karen Curls and Lyle Gibson as they accompanied students on a bus trip to historic sites in the South. The Civil Rights Pilgrimage is a four-day annual event (and a class), and for students and community members who don't have the tuition, MCC scholarships can help.

What the Chronicle produced may have looked like an article, but it started with the photos, and the photographer who accompanied the class — André Chung — got top billing. The Chronicle, which might be considered the New York Times of news and features about U.S. higher education, called it a photo essay. Chronicle senior writer J. Brian Charles provided the narrative.



Photo by André Chung

The Chronicle secured a grant to undertake the photo essay, part of a broader, yearlong initiative called Different Voices of Student Success. MCC learned about the Chronicle's interest in the pilgrimage, which started in 2002, just days before the 2024 trip in April. The Chronicle aimed to highlight "community college professors who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to both teaching and research."

Curls, an MCC-Penn Valley fixture, is criminal justice coordinator for both Penn Valley and Maple Woods. Gibson, long associated with Penn Valley, is MCC-Online history coordinator. Both celebrated MCC milestones in 2024: Curls for her 35 years of service; Gibson, for 20 years.

HIGH-PERFORMANCE BEAUTY



You might not realize it if you're driving by, but the newest building at MCC-Blue River — Blue River East, a workforce training center — is something special. It won a national award for architecture in 2023.

Blue River East was one of five winners in the schools and universities category of the American Architecture Awards. More than 150 projects in various categories were lauded.

At Blue River East's ribbon-cutting in February 2022, James Pfeiffer of architecture firm BNIM called it a "simple, high-performance building" designed to be "intuitive, easy to use and

AN INTERNATIONAL VISITOR (AND DIRECTOR)

She's a drama teacher and professional actor and director who was born in England and raised in Colombia. So how did Agnes Brekke — whose regular gig is teaching at Universidad El Bosque in Bogota — wind up at the MCC-Longview campus?

Well, she was a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence during the Fall 2023 semester, which entailed not just teaching theater classes but also directing "Albatross," a play first staged in London, at Longview. Here are a few of Brekke's thoughts about MCC, our students and this place we call home.

ON HER EXPERIENCE AT MCC-LONGVIEW

"I have been having an amazing time here. Everyone has been so generous and kind to me and my family. ... As it is a college and not a university setting, it has been a nice challenge for me to adjust to the length of the classes here. They tend to be shorter than what I am used to, but it's been very interesting for me to be more concise and direct."

HER STUDENTS

"I teach two groups of Theater Appreciation,



Acting I, Acting II and Directed Studies in Theater. The students are very engaged. I try to make participation a big part of my class, and most of the time the students are very happy to participate."

HER IMPRESSIONS OF KANSAS CITY

"We are loving it here! We are staying at Be Free Farm, which is about a 10-minute drive from the campus, and it has been amazing to wake up and be

surrounded by nature and birds and squirrels. Coming from Bogota, Lee's Summit has been an amazing place to recharge batteries and pace down a little. ... We also love going into Kansas City. There are so many cultural things happening all the time — the Nelson museum is wonderful, the City Market, the Plaza, it has so many things going for it. And most of all, the people here."

AND FINALLY

"I think the theater program here is really taking off. The team behind it is doing an amazing job, with clear love for what they do, and I think the students feel and recognize this."

hopefully a really joyful place to be every single day that you're here."

Blue River East was an \$11.3 million project designed by BNIM and built by McCownGordon Construction, both Kansas City firms.

The American Architecture Awards, celebrating "the best new buildings" in the U.S. as well as overseas projects designed by American architects, are presented by the Chicago Athenaeum: Museum of Architecture and Design, and the European Centre for Architecture Art Design and Urban Studies.



REIMAGINED PARTNERSHIPS



MCC Vice Chancellor for Instruction Tom Meyer (right) and Park University President Shane B. Smeed signed an agreement in January 2024 at the campus in Parkville. It outlines a clear path for students to earn a Park bachelor's degree after completing an associate degree at MCC. If they meet criteria, our grads would start at Park as juniors and receive a \$1,000 scholarship annually.



WILLIAM JEWELL COLLEGE

MCC and William Jewell College signed a transfer agreement in October 2023 at the independent private college in Liberty. The deal ensures a clear transfer pathway for MCC students who earn an associate degree and want to complete a bachelor's degree in specific discipline areas at Jewell. From left: Jewell Vice President Daniel Jasper and President Elizabeth MacLeod Walls with MCC's Chancellor Kimberly Beatty and Vice Chancellor Tom Meyer.



Leaders from MCC and Lincoln University of Missouri signed an agreement in September 2023 at the Lincoln campus in Jefferson City. The arrangement spells out a time- and money-saving way for MCC associate degree holders to transfer to the historically Black university to complete a bachelor's degree. On hand at the event: MCC's Tyjaun Lee (from left), Karen Curls, Andrew Wilkerson, Tammie May and Tom Meyer with Lincoln's John Moseley and Darius Watson.



MCC MOMENTS



◀ **MCC Wolves basketball players were busy with some hands-on community cleanup** in Penn Valley Park when they encountered none other than Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas (center), who thanked them for their efforts. This scene was part of the Great Kansas City Cleanup in April 2024.



◀ **At a retirement celebration in August 2024, Kathrine Swanson** — who served not only as vice chancellor for student success and engagement but also as MCC-Longview president — was lauded for her contributions. Swanson joined the College in 2015 as vice chancellor, but she said the capstone of her “fulfilling career in higher education” was her time as Longview’s leader.



▲ **Girl Scouts returned to MCC’s Advanced Technical Skills Institute** for a second edition of their Power Up Trades Camp, a week long exploration of careers in construction (building birdhouses), HVAC, welding and more. The summer camp aims to inspire young women to consider fields traditionally dominated by men.

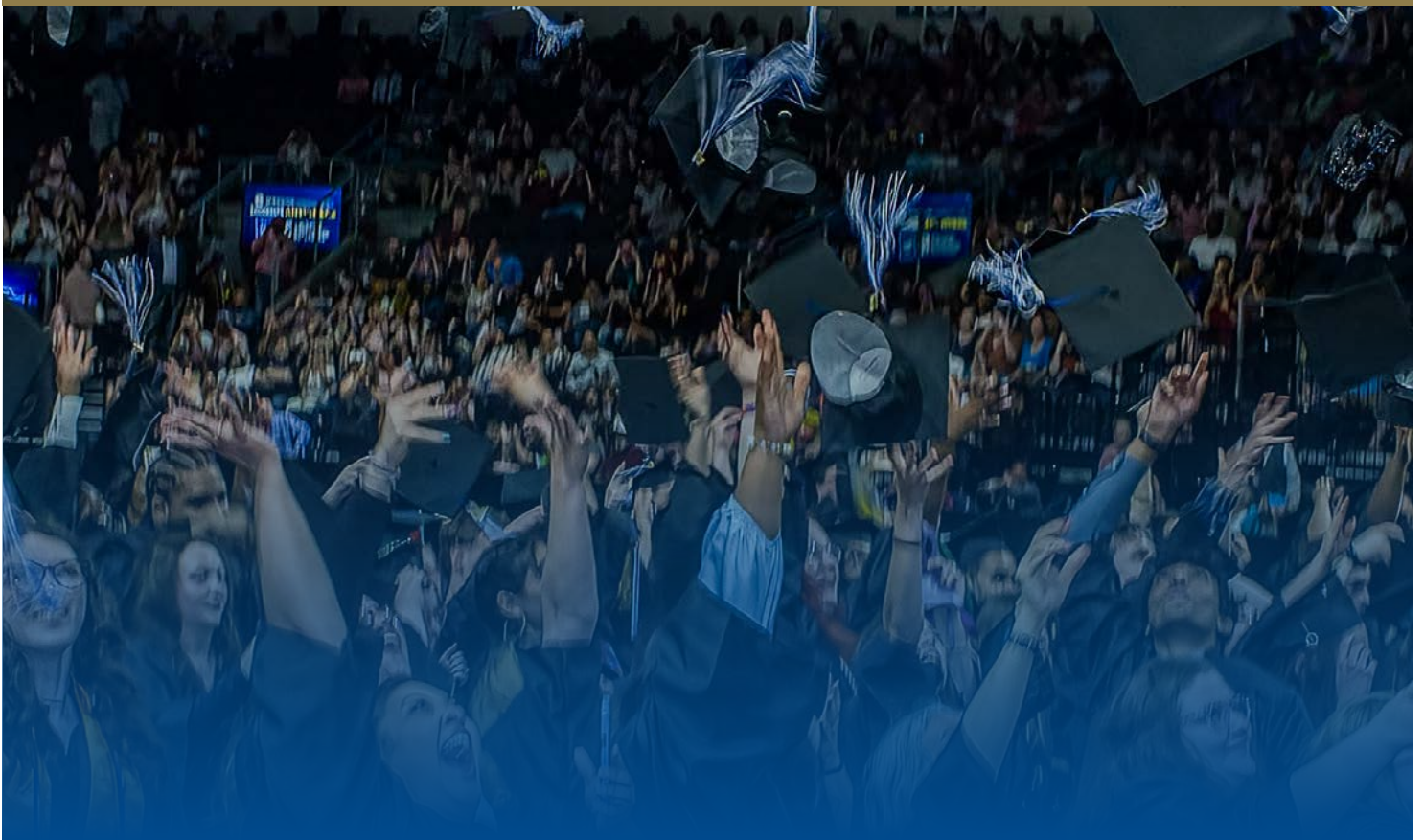


◀ **Congressional staffers from Washington, D.C.,** participated in a tour and panel discussion at MCC’s Advanced Technical Skills Institute in August 2023. The Kansas City Chamber organized the three-day “Spotlight” visit to KC, which included Capitol Hill staff members from Missouri and Kansas’ U.S. Senate and House of Representatives offices.



2024 COMMENCEMENT

 **May 16, 2024** | 1 & 6 p.m.  **CABLE DAHMER ARENA**





825

Grads who walked at the ceremonies



2,190

Candidates for graduation, which included students who completed studies in Fall 2023 and Spring and Summer 2024



56: Percent of 2024 grads who are women, reflecting a national trend of significantly more women attending college than men



41: Members of the class who said they'd be graduating from MCC at the same time as another family member



155 (7% of the class): Students graduating with high honors, signifying a cumulative GPA between 3.9 and 4.0

429 (20%): Students graduating with honors, signifying a GPA between 3.5 and 3.8



970: Grads who were 20 and younger (the largest segment, 44% of the class). But grads 21 to 29 years old weren't far behind: there were 816 of them (37% of the class).

159: Grads who were 40 or older (7% of the class)



1,270: Number of students who earned MCC's most popular credential, the associate in arts (A.A.) transfer degree



1,838: Associate degrees awarded
1,728: Certificates awarded

QUOTABLE QUOTES

FROM 2 COMMENCEMENTS IN 1 DAY



"Will you become a tall, wise tree producing the next generation of sapling seeds? Will you become a tree that

produces fruit from which all can benefit? How tall will your branches grow? How deep will your roots reach?"

1 p.m. student speaker **DARELLE WABO**, a 2024 grad from MCC-Longview, employing a nature theme throughout her address

"Graduates, your final assignment from your community college is to get engaged."

TRENT SKAGGS, who had recently stepped down from the MCC Board of Trustees. He described a pandemic-rooted trend in which students and workers avoid face-to-face interactions and collaborative opportunities. Skaggs says this has significantly weakened "the fabric of our communities."



"My father did not finish high school. He got his GED. But he told me the most poignant things. He said, 'College tells people that you're able to

learn.' ... And it shows on your resume that you are able to start something and you're able to complete something."

DANAN HUGHES, recipient of the MCC Foundation's 2024 Distinguished Alumni Award, in a video profile. He played for the Chiefs from 1993-98 and now is a color analyst for Chiefs games on radio, as well as college baseball, football and basketball on TV. He took two classes at MCC-Longview to earn enough credits to complete a bachelor's degree at age 46. Hughes is pictured at center with Chancellor Kimberly Beatty and Bret Bonge of the MCC Foundation.





“So all of you are special tonight, but what I wanted to demonstrate ... is the impact that MCC has in our community.”

CHANCELLOR KIMBERLY BEATTY, conducting a “data point exercise” by asking groups of 6 p.m. grads to stand, including early college academy grads, first-generation college students, and grads who are over 40 or who returned to college after working



“My instructors (at a military college) wanted me to be on the Ranger Challenge

Team, but I was uncertain. Their convincing argument and a lifelong lesson: You don’t have to be the best, you just have to be your best. This change in mindset allowed me to not take on the entire world at once but to take up each challenge.”

6 p.m. student speaker **ERIN FOX** (with Dr. Beatty), who graduated from MCC-Blue River's Police Academy in December 2023 after 14-1/2 years in the military, including flying Blackhawk helicopters in Afghanistan



“I can’t believe I did it. I can’t believe I did it!”

An emotional **VICKI L. BRONSON**, about to graduate with her associate in arts degree, with the MCC Wolf at one of the pre-ceremony grad receptions

“3 ... 2 ... 1... Congratulations, Class of 2024 MCC!”

MCC Trustee **JERMAINE REED**, doing the cap-toss countdown at the end of each ceremony. (Students who didn’t want to risk losing their mortarboards could just give them “a little nod,” Reed told the happy grads.)



MCC MOMENTS



◀ **Some 50 countries and 26 languages were represented** at MCC-Penn Valley's annual International Festival in December 2023. The event — which includes performances, a fashion show, and food, drink and cultural objects from around the world — is largely organized by students, with support from English as a Second Language faculty.

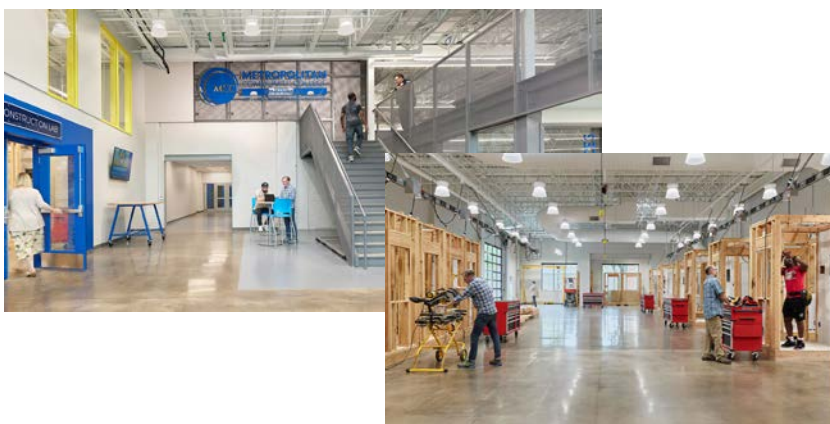
January in Kansas City? Iffy. How about January in Mexico? Spanish instructors Chad Montuori and Emily Armstrong accompanied 18 MCC students to Oaxaca for a week of Spanish study. Students stayed with host families and took part in small-group Spanish classes each morning and cultural activities each afternoon (like a cooking class, salsa lesson and petrified-waterfall hike). MCC study-abroad trips are typically planned for both January and June.



◀ **Best field trip ever?** In November 2023, MCC-Blue River instructor Antwan Daniels' organic chemistry class visited Vine Street Brewing Co. in the historic 18th & Vine district to learn more about "the transferable skills of distillation in the lab to the business sector."



◀ **Chancellor Kimberly Beatty was part of a group of civic and business leaders** that traveled to Frankfurt, Germany, in November 2023 to promote business opportunities in Kansas City. The visit was planned at the same time the Chiefs were playing the Miami Dolphins in Frankfurt — the first NFL game played there.



◀ **For the second year in a row**, MCC's Advanced Technical Skills Institute at 2944 Troost Ave. was Kansas City's favorite vocational school, according to readers and residents who voted in the 2024 Kansas City Favorites competition, a Kansas City Star special publication. Way to go, ATSI!

MCC MOMENTS

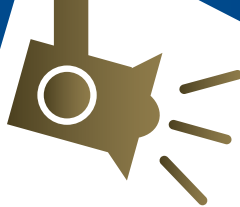


◀ **MCC-Maple Woods celebrated the 50th anniversary** of its veterinary technology program in October 2023 with a special event. Barkin' in the Woods featured costumed pets (including one cat dressed like a bat!), tours of the vet tech facility and canine agility demos (the kitties couldn't be bothered with that nonsense). Proud vet tech alums turned out, too.

Environmental wall art (along with new furniture) has really spruced up the campuses in recent years, but what about the Administrative Center? No worries. Colorful graphics tied to the MCC Reimagined Strategic Plan now brighten the central office, seen here in the spring of 2024. ▶



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



‘A PROMISE TO TAKE MY EDUCATION SERIOUSLY’

“Take what you’ve learned and teach it to others, and you’ll empower others to do the same.” That’s a personal motto that has carried MCC’s **Nabil Abas** far in his 27 years.

Abas, once a participant in MCC’s Project Success graduated with his associate in arts in 2019, then transferred to UMKC, where he earned a bachelor’s in communication studies with a minor in criminal justice in 2023. He is now back at MCC and working as an academic advisor for Project Success..

Project Success provides first-generation and low-income college students with supports like tutoring, personal and career counseling, mentorships, financial guidance and more to help them succeed and graduate.

A self-described “knucklehead” who got in some trouble at school during his teen years, Abas said participating in Project Success was “transformative.”

“It provided resources, mentorship and a sense of belonging that propelled me toward success,” Abas says. “It gave me the confidence to embrace challenges and grow.”

Looking back on his early discipline problems, Abas says he ultimately chose not to let those negative moments define him, and he draws on those experiences as he advises students.

“I take my past experiences and use it today to motivate other students and tell them, ‘It’s OK to not be OK,’ ” Abas says. Remembering back to times he was told he would never amount to anything, he counsels students to allow past mistakes to fuel them to their destination.



Nabil Abas with Gabrielle Moore-Jones of MCC’s Project Success program. Abas was a Project Success participant who now works there.

Abas said he gained leadership, teamwork and resilience by getting involved at MCC as president of Penn Valley’s Student Government Association, as president of the MCC Men of Color organization, and as a student ambassador. He says the skills he acquired at MCC gave him the foundation he needed to succeed at UMKC and “continue to shape my professional and personal life still today.”

MCC’s Project Success Program Coordinator Gabrielle Moore-Jones is Abas’ current supervisor and was his academic advisor while he attended MCC. She says he stood out as a student for his perseverance, determination and resilience, and because he was always proud to shine a positive light on the College through his involvement with campus activities.

Drawing on his unique experience as both a Project Success student and mentor, Abas continues to lead with creativity, energy and passion, and builds relationships effortlessly wherever he goes, Moore-Jones says. He takes a “holistic approach” in supporting students on their academic journeys and helping them see their value.

“Nabil advocates for students themselves to give back to students, the institution and community once they graduate,” Moore-Jones said. “Building a bridge with alumni and being a leader in the community, Nabil continues to

keep a relationship with other fellow Project Success alumni who have come back to share in their journeys while providing mentorship.”

Abas and his family immigrated to the U.S. from Mombasa, Kenya, when he was about 2 years old. Abas points out that his parents chose to move the family to pursue opportunity and education (and not because of war or unrest in their home country), so they are very proud of their children’s academic accomplishments. All four children have graduated from high school, three of the four have earned undergraduate degrees and are pursuing or will pursue post-graduate degrees, and the youngest, Walid, is an MCC-Online student with plans to transfer to UMKC after graduation.

When he graduated from MCC, Nabil received the Henry W. Bloch Scholarship, which covered tuition and fees and provided him with intensive academic and personal support at UMKC.

He says MCC gave him “the higher-ed bug,” and he plans to return to UMKC in the near future to pursue a master’s in higher education administration with a student affairs emphasis.

“I made a promise to take my education seriously,” Abas says. “That’s all my mom and dad ever asked for.”

– **Mary Beth Hope**

He counsels students to allow past mistakes to fuel them to their destination.



BY THE NUMBERS

FALL 2023

STUDENT HEAD COUNT



13,376

2022 | 13,164

2021 | 14,165

CREDIT HOURS



125,940

2022 | 123,876

2021 | 133,242

HIGH SCHOOL PENETRATION



16%

2022 | 16%

2021 | 16%

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

STUDENT AGE

AVERAGE AGE | 23

MEDIAN AGE | 20

2022

AVERAGE AGE: | 23
MEDIAN AGE: | 20

2021

AVERAGE AGE: | 24
MEDIAN AGE: | 20



STUDENT STATUS

FULL TIME 5,688 (43%)

PART TIME 7,688 (57%)

FEMALE 7,771 (58%)

MALE 5,492 (41%)

UNSPECIFIED 113 (1%)



2022

FULL TIME | 42%
PART TIME | 58%

2021

FULL TIME | 42%
PART TIME | 58%



2022

FEMALE | 59%
MALE | 40%

2021

FEMALE | 60%
MALE | 40%



STUDENT RACE/ETHNICITY



White	7,603 (57%)
Black/African American	2,010 (15%)
Hispanic/Latinx	1,965 (15%)
Asian	389 (3%)
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	38 (0.3%)
American Indian/ Alaska Native	27 (0.2%)
Two or more	851 (6%)
Unspecified	346 (3%)
Nonresident Alien	147 (1%)

2022

White	(57%)
Black	(16%)
Hispanic	(14%)
Asian	(3%)
American Indian/ Alaska Native	(0.2%)
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	(0.2%)
Two or more	(6%)
Unspecified	(2%)
Nonresident Alien	(1%)

2021

White	58%
Black	16%
Hispanic	13%
Asian	3%
American Indian/ Alaska Native	0.2%
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	0.2%
Two or more	7%
Unspecified	2%
Nonresident Alien	1%

Student enrollment and demographic
data from end of fall semester 2023.

Source: MCC Institutional Research and Analytics



COLLEGE FINANCIALS

Revenue, 2023-2024

Local Taxes\$49,250,735
State Aid\$32,225,501
Student Tuition/Fees.....\$11,893,118

Grants, Contracts (incl. Pell)\$40,718,196
Auxiliary\$597,453
Other\$11,270,776

Total
Revenue **\$145,955,779**

2022 | \$144,441,063

2021 | \$145,775,015

Expenditures, 2023-2024

Instructional\$42,877,625
Institutional Support.....\$25,345,693
Public Service\$783,376
Student Services.....\$13,842,071
Plant Operation/Maintenance....\$13,663,936

Academic Support.....\$14,101,759
Scholarships & Fellowships.....\$3,650,609
Depreciation.....\$10,433,907
Interest Expense\$2,086,989
Auxiliary Expenses.....\$335,303

Total
Expenditures **\$127,121,267**

2022 | \$126,953,415

2021 | \$123,402,639



ANNUAL EVENTS



September 2023



Halloween trunk-or-treat event, MCC-Maple Woods, October 2023



Chancellor's Veterans Day Celebration, MCC-Blue River, November 2023



eWolves Tournament of Champions, a videogame competition,
MCC-Online, February 2024



MCC-Blue River
ALL FOR THE
Children

Family resource fair, April 2024



FLIGHTS OF FANCY
MEGA KITE FESTIVAL

MCC-Longview, April 2024

WINNING PARTNERSHIP

Once again Metropolitan Community College was an Official Higher Education Partner of the Kansas City Royals. That partnership was on display throughout the Royals' 2024 season and beyond. Some highlights:



FARMERS IN THE OUTFIELD?

The Royals announced in May 2024 the addition of a garden to the grounds of Kauffman Stadium — as in a vegetable garden. The fresh produce from Fountain Gardens would go to families served by the Royals' Urban Youth Academy as well as to Aramark, the stadium's food service provider. Several corporate partners and volunteers were involved, including MCC. Fountain Gardens,

which includes raised beds and a greenhouse, is "a perfect tie-in for the students in our recently expanded agriculture program, especially those pursuing a degree in the plant science pathway," MCC Chancellor Kimberly Beatty said.



IN THIS CASE, WE SUPPORT STEALING

During the Royals' 2024 season, stolen bases counted for more than just 90 feet. With every steal, the Kansas City Royals Foundation donated to scholarships for MCC students as part of the Steals for Scholarships program. Prior to the game Sept. 22, Royals Vice President for Community Impact Luis Maes (left) presented a check for \$12,900 to the MCC Foundation — 129 bases stolen at \$100 a pop. The final tally actually came to \$13,400 (134 stolen bases), because the Royals stole five more on their final road trip of the season.



THEY REALLY ARE QUEENS OF THE DIAMOND

A team of women representing MCC won the sixth annual Queens of the Diamond softball tournament in August 2024 at the Royals' Kansas City Urban Youth Academy. MCC has participated in and supported this event since its inception, but this was the Wolves' first tournament win. The team comprised former Wolves softball players, current and former MCC softball coaches and current employees. "Even though I'm as old as dirt,



I always love the opportunity to dust off my glove and be part of a team," MCC's Sue Gochis says. "I do pay for it the next day. Never in my life do I ever actually sprint except for this one day a year."

LEARNING THE BUSINESS OF SPORTS

At the Royals' Sports Business Forum in October 2023, 50 MCC students interested in sports business careers (plus six staff members) heard from a panel of Royals front-office execs and had the opportunity to meet with Royals human resources staff about the club's 2024 training program. The students also received tours of the stadium and enjoyed lunch there.



SHE SCORED A SCHOLARSHIP

If both the MCC Wolf and Royals mascot Sluggerrr appear out of the blue to surprise you one day, it's probably good news. That's what happened to MCC-Blue River student Elisabeth Elustin (center) in March 2024, when she was presented with a huge check — \$3,360, good for one year of MCC tuition — from the Kansas City Royals Foundation. Elisabeth was selected from among the MCC students who took part in a Sports Business Forum at Kauffman Stadium the previous fall.



DOUBLE PLAY: BUS ADS SPOTLIGHT ROYALS, MCC



"From Here, Anywhere" is MCC's marketing tagline, and in the spring of 2024 that catchphrase was quite literal. Ride KC buses with ads touting the College's partnership with the Royals cruised metro streets, mostly downtown, with exterior and interior baseball-themed messages and even 15-second audio ads for MCC when buses stopped.

YOUTH COACH OF THE YEAR

MCC Head Softball Coach Autumn Hughes was honored with the Don Motley Youth Coach of the Year

award at the Royals' 2024 season opener March 28. The two Motley award recipients (one for softball, one for baseball) were presented with custom bats with their names on them. The award goes to volunteers who work with young athletes in the urban core. Hughes is a coach in the Royals RBI program, a partnership of the Boys & Girls Clubs and Royals Charities. Hughes says her focus is keeping fun in the game for the younger participants and helping older kids improve their skills — and, overall, promoting mental health, confidence and positivity.



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WINNING PARTNERSHIP

ROYALS BLUE? MCC BLUE? IT'S ALL GOOD



More than 1,500 MCC students, employees, alumni, friends and family turned out to enjoy MCC Day with the Royals on the first Sunday in June 2024. By all accounts, Chancellor Kimberly Beatty made the College proud when she threw out a solid ceremonial first pitch caught by MCC Wolves baseball catcher (2022-24) Kevin Pelico. Attendees included about 650 MCC students who received two free tickets and a concession stand voucher as a reward for maintaining at least a 3.0 GPA. Additionally, about 300 “theme” tickets were sold, which entitled the buyer to an MCC/ Royals-branded sweatshirt. A portion of the proceeds from each theme ticket benefited the MCC Foundation.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS RBI SEASON-END COOKOUT

For a second year, MCC served as co-host for the season-end celebration of the Boys & Girls Clubs RBI program. The event, held at the Royals Urban Youth Academy in the 18th & Vine District, featured fun activities on the inside baseball field, giveaways, information on MCC programs and services and a cookout sponsored by the Royals.



MCC MOMENTS

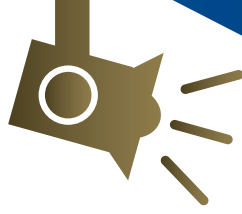


◀ **MCC-Maple Woods' annual Scholar Bowl** for high school students celebrated the big 4-0 in March 2024, with the squad from Park Hill South besting 17 other teams. At the event, questions — “195 very tough trivia questions” — are read aloud, with team members recording their answers on sheets that are then scored. MW faculty members including Doug Fishel (who retired in 2024) and the late Bill Young and John Stockmyer are among those who kept the Scholar Bowl going all these years.

Our campuses offered students a variety of volunteer activities for MCC's inaugural 9/11 Day of Service in 2023, which took place around the country as well. The day also included a solemn ceremony at MCC-Blue River, featuring Public Safety Institute students and the playing of taps, in remembrance of the nearly 3,000 souls lost on Sept. 11, 2001.



◀ **MCC-Maple Woods' third annual** President's Northland Scholarship Breakfast in December 2023 honored five MW students with \$500 scholarships, based on essays they wrote. The honorees were Alijah Young (from left), Twyla Frost, Ashlyn Iman, Tristen Thompson and Robert Newcom, with campus President Ellen Crowe.



‘WHAT I’M SUPPOSED TO DO OR BE IS A HUMANITARIAN’

As a youngster, MCC-Longview student **Agahve Lyons-Cayson** regularly told people who asked that she wanted to be a doctor when she grew up.

From the time she emerged as an early reader at age 3, Lyons-Cayson says she was always “academically inclined.”

One of her favorite activities was visiting the public library. With its stacks of books on any and every subject, she says “it felt like I was in an alternate universe!”

She has always believed education extends beyond the classroom. Over the years, she has used YouTube and other online resources to teach herself graphic design, programming and coding, Spanish and piano, among other skills. As long as she had an internet connection and a library card, she was set.

Now 25 and finishing her associate in arts degree at MCC, she gives a different answer to that age-old question — one that carries the sort of nuance and wisdom borne of life experience.

“I will do whatever will align with the vision,” Lyons-Cayson said when asked about her career plans. “Ultimately, what I’m supposed to do or be is a humanitarian ... I want to help people and give them a second chance at good health.”

After MCC, Lyons-Cayson plans to attend a four-year university to pursue a bachelor’s in biochemistry (or similar) with an emphasis on the sociological aspects of health and health care. She has been accepted at UMKC and is waiting to hear back from Princeton, Cornell and Emory universities, among others.

MCC sociology instructor Cynthia Heddlesten calls her “brilliant” and said she quickly grew to respect and admire Lyons-Cayson both as a student and scholar. Heddlesten was glad to write a letter of recommendation to



Princeton on Lyons-Cayson’s behalf after knowing her just a few weeks: “... Ms. Lyons-Cayson reached out immediately and presented herself as respectful, engaged, and wanting to elevate her sociological knowledge,” Heddlesten wrote to Princeton. “Through her course assignments, she quickly established herself as a scholar, offering reflection and perspective based on academic learning.”

The future is bright for Lyons-Cayson, but just 10 years ago, when she was 15 and a freshman in high school, the outlook was much different. Her life changed unexpectedly when an adverse reaction to a prescribed medication left her with a chronic illness she continues to struggle with today.

As she endured seizures, pain and other negative side effects wrought by the illness, her sole focus in life became simply graduating from high school. She qualified to receive additional support at school, was placed on a 504 plan (a legal agreement granting accommodations to students with disabilities to ensure they have equal access to public education) and received homebound instruction.

She made it. In fact, she more than made it. Despite the setbacks, she graduated from Lee’s Summit West High School in 2018 with a GPA just shy of 4.0 and was even selected as a commencement speaker. (She spoke of lessons learned while fighting her illness.)

Afterward, she says she “bounced around” trying different jobs for a few years, primarily in the space of entrepreneurship and self-employment. She even studied online and became a licensed real-estate agent in 2022.

Unaware that college students with health-related or other diagnosed disabilities can continue receiving extra support and accommodations to help them reach their academic goals, she says she never considered college an option following the onset of her illness.

"I had decided I was too old, too sick," Lyons-Cayson says, "and college wasn't for me."

Still unsure of the ultimate destination, she began taking classes at MCC in August 2023. Soon, the encouraging words of academic advisor Lauren Anderson helped her understand there was still plenty of time to accomplish great things.

"Don't limit yourself — dream big!" Anderson told her. "Don't limit your potential opportunities!"

If she becomes a doctor, she will treat people with dignity and focus on 'understanding things on a human level.'

This new line of thinking ignited a spark within Lyons-Cayson, and she began researching four-year schools outside of Kansas City and Missouri — particularly ones that would afford her the opportunity to explore new parts of the U.S. or study abroad.

MCC-Longview's disability services coordinator Keith Kaster was another instrumental part of Lyons-Cayson's journey at MCC. She said he never failed to show kindness, give her a word of encouragement or take time out of his day to provide support.

"Whatever amount of time you need from me," Kaster told Lyons-Cayson, "that's what I'm going to give."

Lyons-Cayson said her faith has also helped her tremendously. In addition to her own health issues, she watched as both her grandfather (2014) and great uncle (2024) passed away following diagnoses of type 2 diabetes that then led to pancreatic cancer. She has also had a front-row seat to the ongoing hardships her mother faces with ulcerative colitis.

Her family's health problems have created a sense of urgency about disease prevention for Lyons-Cayson. She points out that diseases like type 2 diabetes are preventable, and she is interested to discover new and better ways to improve diet and nutrition (such as eliminating additives that are already illegal in other countries), as well as control environmental factors that contribute to disease.

If she becomes a doctor, she intends to treat people with dignity and focus on "understanding things on a human level."

"I want to give people a voice in a space where a lot of people don't have a voice," she says, adding that the word "compassion" is derived from the Latin *compati* which means "to suffer with."

Lyons-Cayson oozes with compassion, and life has more than qualified her to suffer alongside others.

If she were given an opportunity to deliver a message to her 15-year-old self, she says, "I would tell her, 'Your steps are ordered by God, and even when you can't see the light, there is a master plan. Continue to hold onto your values, what's important to you ... just cling to that.' Who I am at my core will always anchor me."

People all over the world are suffering, she says. Then, pointing out that while broken systems need repair, "all systems are made of people. We have to figure out how to change the hearts and minds of the people to make a difference."

– Mary Beth Hope

AWARDS & HONORS



Tammie May



Doug Fox



Joe Ham



Millie Edwards Nottingham

Four employees received special recognition at MCC Collegewide In-Service in October 2023. Joe Ham, Tammie May and Millie Edwards Nottingham were honored as “MCC Masters on the Move,” employees who demonstrate mastery in their field as they inspire those around them. Also at in-service, a professional development day, the first Chancellor’s Unsung Hero Award was presented to Doug Fox.

At the Missouri Community College Association convention in November 2023 in Kansas City, Joan Gorman of MCC-Maple Woods was one of two statewide Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award winners, and Aisha Sharif of MCC-Longview was one of two Excellence in Teaching Award winners. At the awards dinner, MCC nominees Balderston Auto Group and Brian Noller of the Platte County School District were among those honored with MCCA’s Distinguished Business & Industry Award.



Joan Gorman (center) with Larry Rideaux Jr. and Ellen Crowe



Aisha Sharif (center) with Kathrine Swanson (left) and Chancellor Beatty



MCC-Blue River was honored in the spring of 2024 with an Independence School District Academies Engagement Award, recognizing BR for its work with the school district’s five career academies. Shown here are Randy Maglinger (left), an ISD assistant superintendent, with Blue River President Sue Gochis and Dean of Instruction Craig McMein.

Chancellor Kimberly Beatty's name was added to Kansas City's Monument to Freedom, Justice & Courage in a ceremony in August 2024 at the Leon M. Jordan Memorial Park. The monument is an 8- by 33-foot wall that curves in an arc behind a statue of Jordan, a civil rights activist and respected Missouri politician who was assassinated in 1970. Dr. Beatty was among 100 new honorees chosen by the Freedom Wall Commission as an example of people whose everyday actions continue to advance communities and contribute to civil rights in Kansas City and Jackson County.



MCC-Blue River Student Engagement Manager Richard Monroe was selected to receive the 2024 NASPA (National Association of Student Affairs Professionals) Community Colleges Professional Award. The award recognized Monroe's achievements and long-lasting commitment to the student affairs profession and his colleagues.



MCC-Maple Woods was once again voted Best of the Northland in the University/College category by the readers of the Courier-Tribune and the Gladstone Dispatch.



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION IN THE COMMUNITY

The Metropolitan Community College Foundation is known for helping students afford college, as well as raising funds for new learning spaces on campus and other student success initiatives. In recent years, the Chancellor's Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Luncheon (see Pages 6-7) has

become a major event each January, awarding full-tuition scholarships to MCC students and bringing in national speakers to spark important conversations. Here are other examples of how the MCC Foundation serves the Greater Kansas City community.

CHANCELLOR'S VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

At this breakfast event in November 2023 at MCC-Blue River, two students — Michael Gorman and Anthony Miller — were presented with MCC's Reggie Helms Memorial Scholarship through the MCC Foundation. The honor is named for Chancellor Kimberly Beatty's father, who served in Vietnam. The event's guest speaker was Theresa Garza, a U.S. Navy veteran who served during Operation Desert Storm. The free program was open to all, including students, employees and community members.



MCC DAY WITH THE ROYALS

The Foundation's MCC Day with the Royals brought together some 1,500 MCC types on a beautiful Sunday in early June 2024 at Kauffman Stadium: students, faculty and staff, alumni, friends and family. About 650 students received two free tickets and a concession stand voucher. Why? They'd maintained at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA. Way to go! Additionally, about 300 "theme" tickets were sold, entitling the buyers to a free MCC-and-Royals-branded sweatshirt. A portion of proceeds from each theme ticket benefited the good works of the MCC Foundation. All that, and baseball too!



VET TECH'S 50th ANNIVERSARY

The October 2023 festival celebrating the big 5-0 for MCC-Maple Woods' veterinary technology program wasn't just about adorable pets. The MCC Foundation partnered with the Maple Woods campus, raising funds that summer and fall to not only support Barkin' in the Woods, as the event was known, but also to support future vet tech scholarships and program enhancements. In all, more than \$32,000 came in, including funds raised that day.



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FOUNDATION

Amount the MCC Foundation
awarded in scholarships to
800+ MCC students in 2023-24

\$1.05 MILLION



To support future scholarships and programs at Metropolitan Community College, point the camera of your smartphone at this QR Code...

... or visit mcckc.edu/donate,
send an email to MCC.Foundation@mcckc.edu
or call **816.604.1195**.



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Back: Antwan Daniels, Carolyn Watley, Darin Shank, Kevin Seabaugh, Bret Bonge, Beth Soukup, Scott Dikeman.

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"I would like to thank the Shumaker Family Foundation for choosing me to be a recipient of their scholarship. I am so appreciative because I was struggling financially, and you all lifted a major weight off of my shoulders."

— S'erra Anderson

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart for awarding me this scholarship. I am truly humbled to honor the Murray Family! This scholarship has helped me relieve some of the burden of funding my nursing program."

— Megan Stiles

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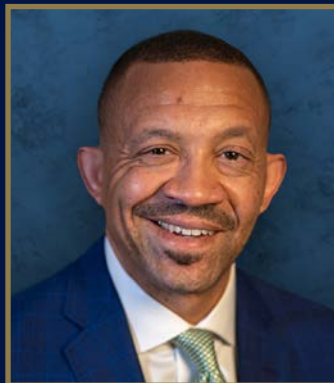
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