

Facilities Planning Update

MCC quickly running out of instructional space as enrollment increases.



Enrollment at Muskegon Community College has climbed to 5,234 students and is projected to continue to grow.

5,234—and growing rapidly.

Enrollment at Muskegon Community College has climbed to 5,234 students. And we continue to add new majors and training programs in support of hundreds of Western Michigan employers. Unfortunately, we're quickly running out of instructional space to meet the growing demand. The MCC Board of Trustees seeks your thoughts and recommendations on a proposal to address MCC's highest priority facility and program needs.



What is MCC's future? You have the final word.



Why are we so busy?

Meeting the rapidly growing demand for talent development and workforce training.

The need for talent development, workforce training and job creation is at an all-time high, and MCC is meeting it head on. We're currently working with more than 200 companies throughout Muskegon County and Western Michigan to help them address their needs. This includes creating customized training programs and developing apprenticeships and internships.

Staying relevant.

In addition to implementing new programs, we continually improve and expand the programs that have remained an important cornerstone of our state-of-the-art offering, such as our highly successful Nursing and Respiratory Therapy programs.

Making higher education affordable.

More and more students are completing two years of coursework at MCC prior to moving on to a four-year college or university. Without this option, many students would simply not be able to attend college. This includes students who recently graduated from high school, as well as employed and unemployed adults who are seeking training in new fields.

Is it a good thing that we're busy? Yes, it's great! However, we are quickly running out of instructional space to handle the increase in enrollment and the demand for additional programming. Furthermore, our science labs and other key instructional spaces—as well as instructional equipment and technology—are outdated and becoming increasingly expensive to operate and maintain.

Dear Friends, Colleagues and Community Members,

Muskegon Community College is experiencing exciting growth and opportunities. Enrollment and program offerings continue to increase and demand for existing and new programs is on the rise. Unfortunately, we're running out of instructional space. There is a strong need to make improvements to extend the useful life of three core facilities on campus.

Diversifying our local economy

The MCC Board of Trustees is considering placing a measure on the November 2012 ballot to fund the College's highest priority building improvement needs. Proceeds of the voter-approved measure would positively impact many existing and future programs.

Helping local businesses compete

MCC is a critical part of the retooling of our workforce and the diversification of our local economy. As talent development and workforce training needs change, MCC must be prepared to quickly and effectively address those new needs.

Promoting a thriving Downtown Muskegon

In addition to improvements on campus, the MCC Board of Trustees is seeking public input on a proposal to create a satellite location in Downtown Muskegon. Other community colleges in Michigan and nationally have pursued similar downtown projects with great success. The MCC Downtown Center would help solve the College's need for additional instructional space and drive additional economic development in Downtown Muskegon.

Listening to your vision for a stronger local economy

MCC will be sending a community opinion survey to you within the next few weeks. The College will also be hosting a community town hall meeting to discuss our facility challenges and proposed solutions. Your participation in the survey and community meeting is greatly appreciated.

Letting you decide

When we say "you have the final word"—we mean it. Without strong community support for our proposed building and program improvements, it is unlikely they will ever get off the ground. We greatly value your thoughts and recommendations.



Dale K. Nesbary, Ph.D.
President
Muskegon Community College

MCC's proposed improvements are focused on talent development, workforce training, job creation and economic development.



MCC's 47-year-old Science Wing

Science Labs

The College's Science Wing has outdated, undersized science labs. The Facility Master Plan calls for a two-level, 21,000 sq. ft. addition that includes six new labs and six new classrooms. The plan also calls for the renovation of 20,000 sq. ft. of existing space. The proposed improvements would benefit many current and future programs, including Agriscience, Alternative Energy, Anatomy and Physiology, Biofuels, Biology, Chemistry, Ecology, Emerging Technologies, Emergency Medical Technician, Fire Science, General Education, Geology, Math, Microbiology, Nursing, Physics, Pre-Engineering and Respiratory Therapy.



MCC's 50-year-old Bartels-Rode Gymnasium

Health Education

The Bartels-Rode Gymnasium is one of the oldest and the most heavily used facilities on campus. The proposed improvements include expanding the facility by 27,000 sq. ft. and renovating the existing 17,500 sq. ft. The improvements, which would likely remain on one floor for universal access, include a new recreation floor area, new locker rooms, training room and studio classrooms. Current and future programs that would benefit include Athletic Training, Criminal Justice, Fire Science, General Education, Health, Nursing, Nutrition, Physical Education, Recreation and Respiratory Therapy.



Visual Arts currently in pole barn style building

Creative & Performing Arts

The Visual Arts Department is located in a cramped, 8,400 sq. ft. building. The proposed improvements include five new art studios, three classrooms, exhibition gallery, kiln room, improvements to the Overbrook Theater and band/music area, and an expanded lab and multimedia classroom. Current and future programs that would benefit include Art, Band, Broadcasting, Communication, Communication Technology/Technician, Dance, Entrepreneurship in the Arts, General Education, Humanities, Journalism/New Media, Music, Theatre, Performing Arts and Visual Arts.



Photo courtesy of the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce

MCC Downtown Center

There is strong demand for an MCC satellite center in downtown Muskegon. The proposed 35,000 sq. ft. project would provide much-needed instructional space as well as serve as a catalyst to economic development in Downtown Muskegon. The project would help improve the quality of life in the downtown area, benefit existing retailers and other businesses, and attract new businesses. There is a strong track record of success with other downtown community college projects in Michigan and nationally.

The Bottom Line

- The MCC Board of Trustees is considering placing a \$30.6 million measure on the November 2012 ballot
- The estimated monthly tax impact of the proposed ballot measure is \$1.98 per \$100,000 of a home's market value
- A citizen-led oversight committee would be formed to review expenditure of all proceeds and prepare an annual report posted on the College's website
- A decision to place a measure on this fall's ballot will not be made until later this summer, providing additional time to gather public input

Community Town Hall Meeting

Tuesday, May 22, 2012
5:30 - 6:30 PM
Muskegon Community College
Stevenson Center for Higher Education
Room 1100