Throughout the 2016-17 academic year, Muskegon Community College generated an enviable level of achievement, growth, and community engagement. In 2017, BestColleges.com ranked Muskegon Community College as the best community college in the State of Michigan. This honor came on the heels of MCC being rated by Value Colleges in 2016 as the second best of the 28 Michigan community colleges and among the top two percent of the 1,711 community colleges nationally. They use data and information regarding graduation rates, transfer rates, and gainful employment of our students from longstanding and respected resources. The accolades reinforce our perception of MCC as an outstanding value for our students and community.

Intensive renovations commenced on our newly acquired downtown facility to transform the former homes of a Masonic lodge and the local newspaper into a cutting-edge center for applied technology, entrepreneurism, and experiential learning. We are humbled by the ongoing generosity of donors to our efforts there.

MCC planned and hosted a wide gamut of informational, educational, and entertaining events. These included Native American Heritage Month, the Community Family Fest, theatrical shows, musical performances, athletic contests, International Education Week, Global Awareness Festival, the Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Breakfast, a Veterans Day ceremony, and lectures including our acclaimed “And Justice for All…” series and the AhFest focus on Dennis Lehane. We marked a milestone - our 90th anniversary - with a Founder’s Day celebration that raised funds for our Arts and Humanities Department, whose Collegiates choir performed by invitation in New York City’s prestigious Carnegie Hall.

Our nursing grads continued to exceed state and national averages with their 97 percent pass rate on their RN licensing exams and 100 percent pass rate on their LPN exams. Our students took first place at the 78th Annual Wisconsin Regional Foundry Conference and Exposition against a field of seven four-year colleges and universities. Another group launched an innovative Floating Treatment Wetland to improve Muskegon Lake’s water quality. MCC’s Matthew Grulke was named Tutor of the Year in Michigan, and Adjunct Instructor Sherry Claffin the 2017 Outstanding Earth Science Teacher in Michigan. MCC Alumna Terry Tchorzynski was named the national Counselor of the Year at a White House ceremony and we honored her with our 2017 Distinguished Alumni Award. Hardly content to rest on the laurels of our most recent achievements, MCC worked in 2016-17 with more than 180 volunteers from Muskegon, Newaygo, and Ottawa counties to develop our 2017-2022 Strategic Plan to ensure continued success for years to come.
A YEAR OF STRATEGIC ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

MUSKEGAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The methodology behind their rankings is grounded in statistical data and a few consistently applied guiding principles, including academic quality, affordability, and the breadth and depth of online learning opportunities. “Our rankings are intended to inform and guide prospective students toward institutions that provide a quality education and a meaningful learning experience at an affordable cost. Schools featured in our rankings demonstrate a commitment to high-quality education for their students,” according to BestCollege.com “To provide the best list possible, we have accounted for all of the factors that students value when choosing a college. Key measures incorporated in our algorithm include acceptance, retention, graduation and enrollment rates. We have also included each school’s student loan default percentages, as we know how important it is for students to repay their debt upon graduation.”

All eligible institutions are ranked on a 100 point scale. A perfect score of 100 is earned by ranking #1 for all ranking factors. Muskegon Community College earned a 78.21 ranking score to lead all 25 Michigan community colleges rated by Best Colleges.com. “Due to the extraordinary efforts of our students, faculty, staff, and board, Muskegon Community College has been able to accomplish great things,” said MCC President Dale K. Msabary. “The Best Colleges.com rating reconfirms that when we collaborate we can accomplish anything.”

MUSKEGAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE RANKED NO. 1 AMONG MICHIGAN’S COMMUNITY COLLEGES

In 2017, Muskegon Community College was ranked as the top community college in the state of Michigan by the Seattle-based BestColleges.com. The National Center for Education Statistics. Their goal is to objectively assess relative quality based on academic outcomes, affordability, and the breadth and depth of online learning opportunities.

MCC SETS NEW STRATEGIC INITIATIVES WITH INPUT FROM CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY

Muskegon Community College presented its inaugural Alumni Achievement Award, an honor recognizing professional achievement by one of its graduates from the past 15 years, to Rudy Bartels, Class of 2007, for his significant accomplishments in the fields of geography and climatology. Bartels was honored at the Alumni Awards Dinner and formally recognized at the 2017 MCC Commencement at the L.C. Walker Arena.

His higher education journey started at MCC, where his interest in geography, meteorology, and climatology began with the encouragement and mentorship of his geography instructor Diana Casey. His passion translated into his becoming a founding member, secretary, and treasurer of MCC’s GEO Club. His higher education journey started at MCC, where his interest in geography, meteorology, and climatology began with the encouragement and mentorship of his geography instructor Diana Casey. His passion translated into his becoming a founding member, secretary, and treasurer of MCC’s GEO Club.

Bartels’ successful climatology research has brought him grant study work at Western Michigan University, Louisiana State University, and the University of North Florida. He has also completed research for Homeland Security, as well as a stint at NASA’s Stennis Space Center in Stennis, MS, and presented his research at NASA headquarters in Washington D.C. Bartels was honored at the Alumni Awards Dinner and formally recognized at the 2017 MCC Commencement at the L.C. Walker Arena.

Rudy Bartels with MCC Alumni Relations Manager Julie Weller.
MCC & MSU Partner to Offer New Agricultural Program

Muskegon Community College was proud to introduce a new degree program in collaboration with Michigan State University’s Institute of Agriculture Technology (IAT). The new program leads to an associate degree in agriculture at MCC and offers agriculture-related certificates provided by MSU. Students will co-enroll at MCC and MSU and take courses at both institutions. The MSU courses will be offered locally at MCC’s area locations and online, as appropriate. The three MSU certificate programs that began in fall 2016 are: Agriculture Operations, Landscape Management, and Fruit and Vegetable Crop Management.

“There is an incredible demand for students in the agriculture industry,” stated Clarence Rudat, MSU Coordinator for the program. “Last year over 26,000 jobs went unfilled in the agriculture sector due to a lack of qualified individuals in the work force. With West Michigan agriculture generating over one billion dollars in revenue, the demand for employees is only going to continue to increase.”

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An MCC Distinguished Alumnus and his wife, Richard H. and Ann U. Kraft, have donated $300,000 to the Foundation for Muskegon Community College (FMCC) to support a key component of the college’s Rooks|Sarnicola Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies in downtown Muskegon, slated to open in 2018. The state-of-the-art room, more popularly called a “fab lab,” will house a high-end 3-D printer, three midrange 3-D printers, a 3-D digital scanner, 15 student CAD (Computer-Aided Design) stations and instructor space, explained David Stradal, the MCC Business Department chair and director of the college’s Entrepreneurial Studies Program. “Their generosity will give the community the ability to promote entrepreneurship, provide students with hands-on experience and math) education in grades K-12, as well as advanced digital product innovation capabilities for our businesses, and 3-D prototype capabilities for our community inventors,” he said.

Kraft, a 1949 MCC graduate, went on to earn a degree in civil engineering. He started his own consulting and engineering firm in Flint, Michigan, and enjoyed a successful 55-year career. A loyal philanthropist and avoid supporter of MCC, he and his family have long supported scholarships and capital projects on campus. He received the 2007 Distinguished Alumnus Award from the MCC Alumni Association.

“I still believe that MCC is the most affordable way. My gift to the Entrepreneur Program at MCC reflects the fact that the foundation for my career started right here. Pre-engineering courses completed here before going on to Michigan State University lowered the cost of my entire college experience. I like to encourage today’s students to take a similar advantage of the community college as a great way to start their career paths,” said Richard Kraft.

“We are grateful to the Kraft family for their steadfast support of MCC,” said Amy Swope, the FMCC executive director. “Over the years, they have donated more than a half-million dollars to MCC. If you look, you’ll see the Kraft name across our campus. We really can’t thank them enough for their long-term and ongoing dedication to student success.”

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MUSKEGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS LAUNCH FLOATING TREATMENT WETLAND

Muskegon Community College environmental science students planted and launched a Floating Treatment Wetland (FTW) near the college’s Lakeshore Fitness Center shoreline as part of an innovative approach to directly improve water quality in the Muskegon Lake Watershed. FTW was donated to MCC by Floating Island International. FTWs are man-made ecosystems that biologically remin natural wetlands. The ShoreLive Pilot Project, funded by the Great Lakes Protection Fund, was conceived by Chris Byrnes, whose project management firm Viability LLC approached MCC’s Entrepreneurial Studies Program with the idea and was also connected with the Life Sciences Department. The project uses the latest FTW technology and demonstrates its ability to accelerate wetland ecosystem services, improve water quality, attenuate wave action, enhance waterfront desirability and develop a more sustainable, resilient watershed.

Students were selected on the basis of academic achievement, community service involvement, and leadership accomplishment. The State Academic Teams are a division of the All-USA Community College Academic All-American Team sponsored annually by Phi Theta Kappa, USA TODAY and the American Association of Community Colleges.

MICHAELA BOSET (pictured on the right) Micheala Bosset balanced her 30-hour-per-week job at an insurance company with attending Muskegon Community College full time. As the PR/Artistocrat officer in Phi Theta Kappa’s Beta Xi Xi chapter at Muskegon Community College, Micheala has made a significant contribution to community and campus outreach. She has worked with The Bay Window – the MCC student newspaper – on publicity for the honor society’s events, led her chapter’s collaboration with John Ball Zoo, Grand Rapids for its Honors in Action research project, and represented MCC at regional conferences. A Twin Lake, MI native and a Holton High School graduate, Micheala is now majoring in mathematics at Grand Valley State University.

VAN Vu (pictured on the left) Born in Vietnam, was a volunteer assistant with the Hansi Baseball Club. The coach’s wife, an American, offered Van the opportunity to come to the U.S. to attend high school. After graduating from Muskegon Catholic Central High School in 2015, Van began her college career at Muskegon Community College. The vice president of Phi Theta Kappa’s Beta Xi Xi chapter’s Holmarks program, Van has worked in MCC’s Hendrik Meijer Library. An active volunteer, she assisted the Hansi Youth Baseball Club during the Colt World Series in 2015, served as an IRS tax volunteer, and has prepared volunteer, she assisted the Hanoi Youth Baseball Club during the Colt World Series in 2015, served as an IRS tax volunteer, and has prepared

MCC’s Center for Experiential Learning seeks to create insightful and relevant educational experiences for students & community members through a variety of opportunities including lectures, films and discussions, presentations, educational trips, special events, and other endeavors to stimulate student and community members. These insightful and hands on experiences have taken participants to historical sites including the Lakeshore Museum Center, the USS LST 393, USS Silversides Submarine Museum, Hackley Public Library, Harbor Cinema Theater, Spring Lake District Library, and a variety of films that have taken participants to historical times and places all over the world.

Experiential Learning looks to 2018 when the center will move its Home base to MCC’s new Sturrus Technology Center and host classes and public programs that will bring history, social science, political science, and many more topics to life in Downtown Muskegon.
MCC Diving Services employee, Yolanda Marble, received the 2017 Beverly A. Drake Essential Service Award for Food Service. The awards, presented annually by West Michigan Works! to honorees in different categories, review criteria including pride in their job, a positive attitude, a strong work ethic and habits, punctuality, and completing work on time. Nominations are submitted by employers and the community. Winners are chosen by a committee established by the Workforce Development Board.

Marble, who operates the Grab-n-Go café at MCC, was nominated by Cyndi Langlois, the associate dean of workforce and talent development at MCC. In honoring Marble, the selection committee wrote: “Yolanda’s job is to sell food items to students, but she does so much more. When you pass by the Grab-n-Go there is frequently a crowd of students engaged in conversation with her. Staff at MCC comment that she is an extension of our counseling office.”

Sherry Claflin, an adjunct science instructor at MCC and a science educator for the K-12 school groups at Grand Valley State University, Lia’s Arts Network for Development (LAND) Innovation Award for the development of an interactive Media and Game Designer Degree. Claflin earned both a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and a Bachelor of Science in Earth and Space Science Education from Central Michigan University. She has taught in various capacities for 24 years and began teaching geology, at MCC this past year. Claflin, a Fremont, MI, native, also runs the educational programming for the Stephan P. Wasiling Observatory and the Kessick Farm Environmental Center in Fremont. “It is a fantastic honor to be awarded the 2017 Michigan Earth Science Teacher Award,” said Claflin. “To be given this award by the National Association of Geoscience Teachers for doing what I enjoy so much, makes me more resolved to make a real difference in the lives of my students.”

Terri Tchorzynski received the national award from the American School Counselor Association. Tchorzynski, the Michigan Counselor of the Year, was chosen over nominees from the other 49 states. The First Lady, in her last official public appearance, presented Tchorzynski for her efforts that led to 75% of seniors at the CACC now taking key college application steps. “Under Terri’s leadership, more students than ever attended workshops, resume writing, and FAFSA completion,” Obama said. “And of this is just one small part of what Terri has done for students each day.”

The Muskegon native graduated from Orchard View High School in 1997 and earned an associate’s degree from MCC in 1999. She then earned a bachelor’s degree from Central Michigan University, and a master’s degree in counseling from Spring Arbor University. “I truly wasn’t ready for a large university after high school and at that point in my life I still was not 100% certain as to what type of career pathway I wanted to pursue. MCC allowed me the time to mature and figure out what direction I would like to take with my learning. By the time I finished my two years at MCC and earned my Associates, I knew I was ready to venture out on my own and start my journey as a future educator and school counselor. MCC helped me lay the foundation of my learning that I can honestly say acted as a springboard as to where I am today,” said Tchorzynski.

Dr. Timothy N. Trainor joined MCC in 1976 after earning a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in psychology from Western Michigan University, and his doctorate in human development/psychology from the University of Kansas. In addition to teaching, he chaired the Technology Council and the Faculty Association’s Scholarship Committee and worked with MCC colleagues and administrators to launch an Entrepreneur Associate’s Applied Science degree. Trainor was a leader in the development of a culture of entrepreneurship at MCC. He impacted thousands of students in positive ways as an exceptional instructor who maintained a standard of academic excellence. The MCC Student Government Association presented him with its Outstanding Faculty Award. He also received the Liberal Arts Network for Development (LAND) Innovation Award for the development of an interactive Media and Game Designer Degree.

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“Young Trainor received his master’s and Lincoln, where he was an All-American and two-time conference MVP wrestler. He earned his master’s and
**MCC MUSIC ENSEMBLES TO PERFORM IN FRAUENTHAL CENTER BEGINNING IN 2017-18**

Beginning with the 2017-18 academic year, all performances by Muskegon Community College music ensembles, as well as those by the West Michigan Community College, Muskegon Community College Community College concerts at the Frauenthal Center at the Frauenthal Center will begin taking place in the Frauenthal Center in downtown Muskegon.

MCC Music Director Daniel M. Meyers praised the collaboration between the Frauenthal Center and the MCC Music Department, the Concert WINDS and the Honors Orchestra, which are for-credit courses at MCC, and the Shoreline Symphony, which is a continuing education class at MCC. “The benefit to our students, faculty, and staff is the opportunity to have a permanent home in one of the finest performance halls in our state,” said Meyers. “The same benefit, of course, is there for the Concert Winds and Orchestra, allowing all of us to have a fabulous home venue.”

Meyers said the move from the Overbrook Theater, which is the home to MCC’s Center for Theater, to the Frauenthal Center, will help him in recruiting and retaining musicians “who will look forward to performing regularly on this stage.” “We are very excited to have Muskegon Community College concerts at the Frauenthal Center next season,” said Dick Levine, the Frauenthal Center manager directing “We think it’s a win-win for the Frauenthal, for the college, and for the community.”

Downtown Muskegon should benefit from an estimated $2.5 million in additional economic impact that will now take place in the Frauenthal Center, said Meyers.

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**Creating Advanced Manufacturing Career Pathways**

Achieving the Dream (ATD), a national non-profit dedicated to increasing community college student success, will begin a 16-month initiative designed to build a manufacturing talent pipeline in three communities, including Muskegon, by breaking stronger ties between community colleges in the ATD network and local manufacturing employers.

With almost half a million dollars in funding from Alcoa Foundation, ATD will bring together teams from Muskegon Community College, and various community colleges in the Midwest, along with local manufacturing employers to discuss current skills gaps and seek to align the colleges’ advanced manufacturing programs more closely with employer’s needs. The colleges will conduct outreach to local workforce boards, community-based organizations, and faith-based organizations to attract the potential pool of students and workers and match them with training programs.

“We are confident that Achieving the Dream’s proven model and deep relationships with community colleges will shine a light on the bright future that an advanced manufacturing career can provide,” said Ryan Kish, Program Manager, Alcoa Foundation.

**MCC's Collegiates Perform at Carnegie Hall**

The Muskegon Community College Collegiates choir, under the direction of Thomas Clark, was invited to participate in a performance in Isaac Stern Auditorium inside the famed Carnegie Hall in New York City.

The 27-member Collegiates, representing 14 different area high schools, performed Ralph Vaughan-Williams’ “Dona Nobis Pacem” under the baton of Dr. Nina Nash-Robertson of Central Michigan University. They were the featured Chamber Choir in a performance coordinated the Carnegie Hall concert, extended the invitation to the MCC faculty, and staff is the opportunity to have a permanent home in one of the finest performance halls in our state,” said Clark. “It is quite an honor to be invited, but being asked to be the featured choir is truly amazing!”

Tabernacle Choir Dr. Jonathan Griffith, Artistic Director and Principal Conductor for Distinguished Concerts International of New York, which coordinated the Carnegie Hall concert, extended the invitation to the MCC students based upon a strong recommendation from Nash-Robertson. “The students and I are excited and committed to bringing excellence to New York City,” said Clark. “It is quite an honor to be invited, but being asked to be the featured choir is truly amazing!”

**MCC’s Jayhawk Athletics on the Rise**

Already offering its students the most intercollegiate sports of any Michigan community college, MCC added two more - men’s and women’s indoor and outdoor track and field - in 2016-17. Three Jayhawks placed nationally in the Top 20: Nash Harrison in the 1500 meters; 600 meters; Collen Casey in the hurdles; and Camaryia Williams in the 400 meter hurdles. Led by Third Team All-American Kyle Ervin Jr., the men’s basketball squad advanced to the state championship game. Second Team All-American Lyndsay Jacobs paced the volleyball team to the regional championship match. The women’s and men’s bowling teams finished 14th and 15th respectively in the nation. Wrestling finished 26th and men’s cross country 30th.

Ervin Jr., the men’s basketball squad advanced to the state championship game. Second Team All-American Lyndsay Jacobs paced the volleyball team to the regional championship match. The women’s and men’s bowling teams finished 14th and 15th respectively in the nation. Wrestling finished 26th and men’s cross country 30th.

**MCC Nursing Grad's Exceed National Averages on First-Time Pass Rates**

In 2016, MCC’s Nursing Program graduates once again exceeded national averages on first-time pass rates on the National Council Licensure Examination for both RNs (NCLEX-RN) and LPNs (NCLEX-PN).

On the NCLEX-RN exam, MCC graduates had a 97.6% first time pass rate versus 81.68% in the nation. On the NCLEX-PN, Muskegon Community College graduates had a perfect 100% first time pass rate compared to just 83.7% nationally.

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) reviews the licensing examinations every three years based on feedback from nurses in their first year of practice. While scores nationwide took a significant drop with the new licensing exam in 2015, MCC’s scores increased and remain at the forefront.

“Our students consistently exceed the state and national averages for passing the RN and LPN NCLEX exams on their first attempt,” said MCC Nursing Program Director, Christina Donley, MSN, FNP-BC, CNE. “The MCC Nursing faculty are proud of the achievements of our 2016 graduates and congratulate them on their success in reaching this milestone as they begin their careers in the nursing profession.”

In 2016, the MCC Nursing Program awarded 68 Associate Degrees in Nursing and 79 Practical Nurse Diplomas.