

MCC NAMED LEADER COLLEGE OF DISTINCTION

p. 4



REFLECT

MCC

SPRING 2026



**MEET MCC'S
NEWEST FACULTY**

p. 8

**MCC: "ONE OF THE
GREAT PROJECTS OF MY LIFE"**

p. 14

inside

REFLECT

p. 4 MCC Named Leader College of Distinction

p. 8-9 Meet MCC's Newest Faculty

p. 14 MCC: "One of the Great Projects of My Life"

p. 18 Remembrance



ON THE COVER

Dr. Tucker Brown (left) and President John Selmon (right) pose with Achieving the Dream Leader College of Distinction Award.

Photo by Samantha Korecki

CORRECTION

In the previous issue of Reflect Magazine, Nick Sarnicola was incorrectly identified as the donor of the former Masonic Temple. The building was, in fact, donated to MCC by Jonathan Rooks. We apologize for the error.

MCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Diana Osborn
Chair

Roy J. Portenga
Vice Chair

Kathy Moore
Treasurer

Nancy Frye
Secretary

Shon Cook
Trustee

Donald Crandall, M.D.
Trustee

Asaline Scott
Trustee

MCC LEADERSHIP

Dr. John Selmon
President

Dr. Tucker Brown
Provost & Chief Student Services Officer

Beth Dick
Chief Financial Officer

Kristine Anderson
Chief Human Resources Officer

Sue Samaniego
Chief Advancement Officer

Dr. Steven Wilson
Chief Information Officer

Ken James
Chief Compliance & Title IX Officer

Kristin Tank
Chief Marketing & Communications Officer

Jason Cooper
Dean of College Services & Athletics

FOUNDATION FOR MUSKEGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Sue Samaniego
Chief Advancement Officer
Richard Vanderputte-McPherson
Director of Development
Amy Swope
Annual Giving & Donor Relations Manager
Angela Johnston-Goch
Department Support

FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ryan Bennett <i>Chair</i>	Janie P. Brooks-Davis Edgar Watson <i>Representative</i>	Kathy Moore <i>Board of Trustees Representative</i>
Renee Johnson <i>Vice Chair</i>	Ken Grant Karen Kayes <i>Faculty Representative</i>	Debra Grube <i>Faculty Representative</i>
Mike Verstraete <i>Treasurer</i>	Sukaina Csay Julie Stapleton	Jennifer Jones <i>Faculty Representative</i>
Celeste Spivey <i>Secretary</i>	Diana Osborn <i>Board of Trustees Representative</i>	

CONTACT US

Foundation for
Muskegon Community College

221 S. Quarterline Road
Muskegon MI 49442
(231) 777-0571

foundation@muskegoncc.edu
www.muskegoncc.edu/departments/
foundation-advancement/

ABOUT

MCC's fundraising efforts are managed by the Foundation for Muskegon Community College (FMCC), a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization with a mission to build strong, collaborative relationships that connect generosity to opportunities to build an educated, thriving community through MCC. The FMCC Federal EIN is 38-2363598.

REFLECT MAGAZINE

is published by the Foundation
for Muskegon Community College

REFLECT STAFF

Managing Editor:
Kristin Tank

Senior Writer:
Daniel Boothe

Graphics Editor & Photographer:
Samantha Korecki

Designer:
Kevin Kyser



Do you have a story idea
regarding a student,
staff member, or alumnus?
Contact Daniel Boothe at
daniel.boothe@muskegoncc.edu

MCC SOCIAL MEDIA

f MCC's official Facebook page
highlights campus life and events
facebook.com/muskegoncc

f News and opportunities
for MCC alumni
facebook.com/mccalumni

ig MCC's official Instagram
account featuring campus life
[muskegon_cc](https://instagram.com/muskegon_cc)

in MCC's official LinkedIn account
[@muskegoncommunitycollege](https://linkedin.com/company/muskegoncommunitycollege)



Student Centennial Design Contest Winner, Red Sorenson

GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT SELMON

On behalf of Muskegon Community College, welcome to this *Dream Edition* of MCC's *Reflect Magazine*. We have so much to share and so much to celebrate.

In March 2026, Muskegon Community College was honored by *Achieving the Dream*, a national organization committed

to advancing community colleges, with *Leader College of Distinction* status—an achievement earned only by the top 3 percent of community colleges nationwide. The honor not only affirms MCC's efforts over the past century, but it also cements MCC's status as one of the best community colleges in the country. We

will continue to urgently advance student success into the next 100 years.

This June, I invite you to join us for *An Evening With MCC*, as we celebrate a milestone unlike any other-- a full century of serving the Lakeshore. For 100 years, MCC has opened doors to education, strengthened our workforce, and changed the trajectory of countless lives and families. *An Evening with MCC* is the culmination of a year-long celebration with our community, faculty, and staff.

As we look ahead, our mission remains clear and unwavering. The challenges facing our community—access to education, workforce needs, and economic mobility—are as urgent as ever. MCC's role has never been more important for our region.

We remain committed to removing barriers and providing a high-quality and affordable education to everyone who walks through our doors. Where there is a dream, we pledge to continue to help bring out the very best version of our students' selves and turn those dreams into reality.

Thank you all for being part of MCC's story—past, present, and future. Our history is worth celebrating; we are proud of where we are today, and together, we are drafting a new and innovative path forward.



– President Selmon

MCC NAMED LEADER COLLEGE OF DISTINCTION BY ACHIEVING THE DREAM

Muskegon Community College has been recognized as one of the nation's top-performing community colleges, earning the prestigious *Leader College of Distinction* designation from *Achieving the Dream* (ATD). The honor is bestowed upon only the top 3 percent of community colleges in the country, placing MCC among an elite group of institutions leading measurable, sustained improvements in student success.

ATD is a national organization committed to advancing community colleges as accessible hubs of learning, credentialing, and economic mobility. Each year, colleges within ATD's network are evaluated on their ability to drive meaningful outcomes for students. Institutions that earn *Leader College of Distinction* status must demonstrate sustained and expanding success in early momentum metrics such as student retention, as well as milestone outcomes including completion rates. They must also show a strong culture of data-informed

continuous improvement and clear evidence that effective practices are embedded across the institution.

On March 4, 2026, Provost Dr. Tucker Brown accepted the award on behalf of the College, joining leaders from across the country whose institutions have demonstrated exceptional commitment to student achievement.

"This is an incredible honor for Muskegon Community College," Brown said. "To be recognized among the top few percent of community colleges nationwide, and the only college in Michigan, validates the hard work of our faculty and staff and our unwavering focus on student success. This award affirms that the strategies we have implemented are making a measurable difference for our students and our community."

Leader College of Distinction status is reserved for institutions that not only meet rigorous performance benchmarks but also demonstrate that their student success strategies are responsive to local needs — particularly for students who have historically been underserved.



MCC's Achieving the Dream Team.



Dr. Kelley and Jerry Conrad pose with Jay and friends at An Evening with MCC. Far right is their son, Alex and girlfriend, Gabrielle Campos.

CREATING A LASTING IMPACT AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE CONRADS

A legacy gift—also known as a planned gift or bequest—is a meaningful way to create an impact that lasts beyond your lifetime. At its heart, legacy giving isn't about reducing what you leave to loved ones;



IMPACT

it's about extending your values and the story of your life. It's a way to say, "This is what mattered to me. This is how I want to be remembered."

Each legacy gift is deeply personal and reflects the passions and priorities of the individual who makes it. We are grateful to Dr. Kelley and Jerry Conrad for sharing their vision for creating a lasting impact through Muskegon Community College.

—Sue Samaniego, Chief Advancement Officer, Muskegon Community College.

Muskegon Community College has been an integral part of our lives and our family's story for decades, which is why we have chosen to include the Foundation for MCC in our estate plans.

After Kelley's 28+ year career at the college, working alongside dedicated colleagues who shared a deep commitment to student success, we are convinced MCC is one of Muskegon's greatest treasures. Jerry earned his associate degree at MCC in the 1970s through the GI Bill, an opportunity that helped shape the rest of his life as he continued on to complete his bachelor's and master's degrees. Our son followed in our footsteps, earning a graphic design certificate from MCC after completing his four-year degree — proof that the college provides necessary and valuable lifelong learning opportunities.

**"...WE ARE CONVINCED
MCC IS ONE OF
MUSKEGON'S
GREATEST TREASURES."**

— Dr. Kelley and Jerry Conrad

For Kelley, higher education has always been more than a professional calling.

It has been a lifeline. She knows firsthand that education is the key to moving out of poverty and creating a better future. MCC represents that possibility for so many students who, like her, simply needed the chance to learn, grow, and succeed.

By including the Foundation for MCC in our estate plans we hope to help ensure that future generations of students will have access to the same life-changing opportunities our family experienced. It is our way of saying thank you and of continuing to invest in the promise of education for all.

With deep appreciation,

Kelley and Jerry Conrad

Q: Let's start at the beginning. When did you start at Muskegon Community College as a student, and what positions have you held over the years?

A: I started at Muskegon Community College in 1966 as a student and a student employee. As a student, I worked in the Student Services Department and assisted in giving GED tests. My student jobs also included student placement in jobs. When we moved out to the new campus, I continued working in the Student Services Department.

In 1967, I started working full-time in the Continuing Education/Adult Learning Department. At that time, the evening classes were part of our department. We enrolled students, registered them, and hired adjunct faculty.

My first big job at MCC came as personnel director, where my responsibilities included hiring people, benefits, negotiations, grievances, and making sure we were secure and safe, with proper safety practices in place. I later served as executive assistant to the president and then became the dean of administrative services. In the late 1980s, I worked as project manager for numerous major campus additions and improvements. Starting with the Stevenson Center for Higher Education, I have been a part of building all of them, including the Hendrik Meijer Library, the Herb Garden, the Student One-Stop renovations, and too many others to mention. I was administrative vice president, executive vice president, and served twice as interim president.

Q: And here you are today as Board Chair. What an amazing career you've had. I am curious, why did you choose to devote your career at MCC when you could have worked anywhere you wanted?

DIANA OSBORN



REFLECTS ON 60 YEARS AT MCC

When Diana Osborn first stepped onto the campus of Muskegon Community College in 1966, she never imagined it would become the center of her lifelong career. Now, sixty years later, and serving as Chair of the Board of Trustees, Osborn reflects on her remarkable journey, sharing her perspective on the College's most transformative changes and how MCC has consistently gone above and beyond—all while keeping students at the heart of everything it does.

A: Well, that wasn't always the plan. After graduating from high school, I intended to attend Central Michigan University. However, due to some dorm issues, I had to delay enrollment until the winter semester. In the meantime, I immediately signed up at Muskegon Community College—and, as it turned out, I never left.

Over time, I stayed at MCC because of the people. The individuals I worked with were simply the best. They invested in me, helped me learn, encouraged my growth, and gave me opportunities to succeed. What may have started as a temporary decision became a lifelong commitment because of the support, mentorship, and sense of purpose I found here.

Q: Having witnessed Muskegon Community College's growth firsthand, as both a student and a leader, what changes stand out to you most, and which transformations have meant the most to you personally over the years?

A: So many, as I said...I believe some of the most significant changes have been the additions and renovations that expanded both access and convenience for students. The Stevenson Higher Education Center allowed students to take classes from four-year institutions without leaving campus, greatly increasing local access to bachelor's and graduate degrees. The Hendrik Meijer Library, relocated to the front of the College with an IT Center in the lower level, made services more accessible and eliminated the need to open the entire campus on weekends just for library use.

More recently, the Sturris Technology Center and Fab Lab, the Student One-Stop renovations—which brought admissions, financial aid, counseling, registration, and testing into one central area—the Gerber Lounge

renovation, and the Health and Wellness Center have all transformed the student experience. Together, these improvements strengthened MCC as both a learning environment and a community resource.

Q: Over the years, you've seen MCC accomplish so much—often without abundant resources. From your perspective, how has the College continued to achieve so much with so little, and what has made that possible?

A: MCC has always focused on doing what is best for students, even when resources are limited. After moving to our own campus, the College had to seek voter approval for its millage every three years. Those were uncertain times—we did not always receive approval, and when that happened, we had to issue pink slips and operate with only what we could afford. It required difficult decisions and a great deal of resilience. Under President Jack Thompson's leadership, and with the support of the community, the College successfully secured a 10-year millage. Later, President Jim Stevenson helped move that to a perpetual millage, which brought much-needed stability.

Even with that stability, financial challenges have continued, including concerns related to the Headlee Amendment rollback. As a result, the College is now exploring a possible operating millage restoration. Throughout all of this, the guiding principle has remained the same: we do the very best we can with what we have. When positions open, we carefully evaluate whether they are still needed or whether resources would be better used in another area.

That thoughtful stewardship, combined with a deep commitment to students and strong community support, is what has allowed MCC to accomplish so much over the years.

DIANA OSBORN HEADLINES PECHA KUCHA

MCC Board Chair Diana Osborn received a standing ovation after delivering her speech during Muskegon



Community College's 3rd installment of Pecha Kucha. While her presentation was focused on the history of MCC over the past 100 years, those in attendance quickly became aware of the major events that have happened under her leadership.

"Chair Osborn started at MCC as a student, served as an employee for 40 plus years, interim president twice, board member for 12 years, and board chair twice, making her one of the most influential leaders the college has ever known," President John Selmon said. "Her impact will be felt for generations to come; her dedication to our students' success cannot be measured; she is a living legend and hero for all of us here at MCC."

COMMUNITY SHARES PERSPECTIVES ON COLLEGE FACILITIES

On Wednesday, February 18, 2026, the Muskegon Community College Board of Trustees reviewed feedback gathered through a series of focus groups and a county-wide survey conducted in late January. The results included input about proposed facility improvements and a possible proposal to restore the college's operating millage.

Over 1,500 individual comments were collected as part of a community outreach initiative conducted by a Michigan-based independent research firm. The report included MCC strengths, weaknesses, and recommendations for the future. Overall, respondents viewed MCC as affordable, accessible, and closely tied to the needs of Muskegon County residents. The college's mission, its dedicated faculty and staff, and its role in opening doors for first-generation students, adult learners, and working families were frequently cited as the college's top strengths. Areas for improvement include aging campus facilities, limited access to on-campus food options, advising capacity, communication, and limited course availability.



Watch the video here

Participants indicated strong preliminary support for restoring the operating millage. Overall, 71 percent of community respondents expressed support for a millage restoration that would include an estimated 0.2705-mill increase. Participants shared that they understand the need to update facilities and are generally supportive of MCC's request; however, they also indicated that additional information would be helpful before a proposal is placed on the ballot.

MCC Board of Trustees Chair Diana Osborn said she is grateful to the participants in the focus groups and to the community members who completed the survey. "It is encouraging to see the high level of trust and satisfaction with Muskegon Community College. Our community members recognize the need to invest in our aging facilities to ensure our services continue for the next 100 years."

ABOUT OUR FACULTY: Faculty members at Muskegon Community College meet high academic and professional standards to ensure students receive a strong educational experience. Faculty in liberal arts and transfer programs hold a master's degree or higher in their subject area, while instructors in career and technical programs hold at least a bachelor's degree along with relevant professional expertise. All faculty meet the qualifications required by the Higher Learning Commission, and many continue to strengthen their teaching through professional development with organizations such as the Association of College and University Educators and the Educational Technology Organization of Michigan.



MCC faculty are known for their dedication both in and beyond the classroom. They regularly lead campus events, engage with the community through public programs and presentations, and create learning opportunities that extend beyond campus through field experiences and travel. This commitment to teaching, engagement, and professional growth helps make the faculty at MCC a central part of the college's mission to support student success.

MEET MCC'S NEWEST FACULTY MEMBERS THIS YEAR

Annelise Dickinson: MCC's new Theater Faculty Annelise Dickinson brings a rich background in acting, directing, and voice coaching. She holds an Master of Fine Arts



in Acting from the University of Wisconsin–Madison and a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Theater from Purdue University. Dickinson has taught and directed at Aquinas College, Grand Valley State University, and Interlochen Arts Camp, and has worked extensively with Grand Rapids Civic Theatre and Actors' Theatre.

"Most of my acting work in the past has been with Shakespeare companies, and I have had the opportunity to play some dream roles over my time there—Jacques, Queens Margaret and Elizabeth, Prospero—but I came to MCC because I missed teaching and directing."

Dr. Rei Gordon: Dr. Rei Gordon joins Muskegon Community College as a political science faculty member. They are a Ph.D. candidate in Comparative Politics at Western



Michigan University. At WMU, they have taught courses in international relations, American politics, Sub-Saharan African politics, and environmentally sustainable development. Gordon holds a Master of Arts (MA) in Political Science from Western Michigan University, a BA from Pepperdine University, and an Associate of Arts from Northwestern Michigan College.

"Community college classrooms are diverse; they may include non-degree seeking students, veterans, international students, non-traditional and continuing education students, as well as those from various racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups. My instructional approach is to use active learning techniques in order to engage this diversity of learning styles."

Dr. Tom Henry: Dr. Tom Henry, MCC's newest English faculty member, comes from a background in rhetoric, technical communication, and English studies. He earned



a Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Technical Communication from Michigan Technological University and both his MA and BA in English from Northern Arizona University. He has taught at several institutions, including Utah Valley University, Northern Arizona University, and Grand Valley State University.

"My goal as an instructor is to ensure everyone feels valued, heard, safe, and respected in all learning spaces."

Dr. Jacob Pappas: Dr. Jacob Pappas joins Muskegon Community College as a psychology faculty member. He has completed his Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology at



Oakland University, where his research focuses on evolutionary psychology, neurodivergence, and moral cognition. Pappas brings teaching experience from both Oakland University and Washtenaw Community College, where he has taught a range of psychology courses.

"Education is not, nor should it be, a 'one size fits all' endeavor; different students need different levels and forms of support. I have found the best outcomes for my students arise from being willing to meet them at their level."



Dr. Teresa Schueller: Prior to joining Muskegon Community College as a biology faculty member, Dr. Teresa Schueller served as an Associate Professor of



Biological Sciences at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee at Waukesha and Director of the UW–Milwaukee at Waukesha Field Station in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. She earned her Ph.D. in Zoology and Entomology with a focus on ecology and animal behavior from the University of Wisconsin–Madison, along with a Master’s degree in Zoology from the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa.

“I especially enjoy connecting with my students and helping them make personal connections to the course content; that is the key to motivating them to learn.”

Dr. Melissa Smith: Dr. Melissa Smith joins MCC as a nursing faculty member with experience in nursing



education, care management, and clinical practice. She holds a Doctor of Nursing Practice in Health Systems Leadership from Grand Valley State University and has taught at institutions including Lincoln Memorial University, Hope College, and the University of Detroit Mercy. Her teaching focuses on community health, behavioral health, and

medical-surgical nursing, with an emphasis on student mentorship and clinical excellence.

“I truly believe customer service/client satisfaction is at the core of any business, and particularly in the Health Care Industry, where student and patient satisfaction directly influence future relationships (reputation of institution), and the confidence to seek healthcare.”

Chip Vander Wier: MCC 3D Art Faculty Member Chip Vander Wier earned a master’s in education in Visual Arts Education (K–12) from Aquinas College and a Bachelor of



Fine Arts with emphases in sculpture and ceramics from Grand Valley State University. A former adjunct instructor, Vander Wier now serves as a full-time art faculty member at MCC. Earlier in his career, Vander Wier taught at North Muskegon Public Schools, where he led courses in ceramics, sculpture, painting, drawing, fiber arts, and site-specific art.

“Throughout my career as an artist/educator, I have been committed to cultivating a nurturing environment for my students that fosters creativity and idea generation while building relationships and community.”

Patrick VanOtteren: Muskegon Community College has hired Patrick VanOtteren as a new Applied Technology Faculty member at the Sturris Technology Center. He brings years of experience in electronic and controls technology to the classroom.



VanOtteren most recently served as an associate professor at Grand Rapids Community College and has worked closely with industry partners to prepare students for today’s high-tech manufacturing environments.

“Walk into any modern plant, and you’ll see that technology is at the heart of everything we do,”

VanOtteren said. “Automation, robotics, and advanced systems are transforming the industry faster than ever, and employers need people who not only understand that technology but can troubleshoot it and keep operations moving without missing a beat.”

Jamie Wright: Jamie Wright serves as a full-time English composition faculty member at Muskegon Community College. She has been part of MCC since 2017 in several



roles, including adjunct instructor, writing center manager, and English paraprofessional. Wright holds a Master of Arts in English Literature and brings expertise in integrated reading and writing instruction, workplace writing, and student-centered pedagogy.

“Throughout my time at MCC, I have embraced a composition pedagogy rooted in engagement, accessibility, and equity, ensuring that students of all backgrounds develop both the technical and critical thinking skills necessary to succeed in academic and professional writing.”



Muskegon Community College faculty members gather at Faculty Seminar Days earlier this fall.



AWARDS

MCC WINS BEST AND BRIGHTEST IN WELLNESS AWARD

Muskegon Community College (MCC) was named one of the winners of the prestigious Michigan's Best and Brightest in Wellness awards, presented by the National Association for Business Resources (NABR). This award honors organizations that demonstrate an exceptional



commitment to promoting wellness and creating a supportive, healthy work environment for their staff.

"We are thrilled to recognize organizations (like MCC) that prioritize health and well-being," said Jennifer Kluge, President and CEO of NABR. "Winning the

Best and Brightest in Wellness award is a testament to their commitment of creating a supportive and healthy workplace culture. These companies are setting a high standard for wellness initiatives and truly making a positive impact on their employees' lives."

The Best and Brightest in Wellness award evaluates organizations based on their culture, environment, employee input, financial well-being, leadership commitment, and physical and mental health initiatives.

"We are incredibly proud to receive this recognition," said MCC President John Selmon. "This award reflects the hard work and dedication of our faculty, staff, and leadership in creating a nurturing environment where everyone feels supported not only in their professional and academic pursuits but also in their mental and physical well-being."

2025-2026 GOLD-LEVEL VETERAN-FRIENDLY SCHOOL

Muskegon Community College has been officially certified as a "Gold-Level Veteran-Friendly" School by the State of Michigan's Veteran-Friendly Schools Program.



Veterans prepare for the rifle salute outside MCC Health and Wellness Center.

Gold certification is the highest level of recognition, reserved for institutions that set the standard in supporting veterans, their dependents, and all military-connected learners. This award reflects MCC's outstanding commitment, innovative programming, and leadership in creating a welcoming, resource-rich environment for Michigan's military-affiliated students.

MCC's award-winning wellness culture offers employees a range of benefits, including an onsite fitness center, indoor track, group exercise spaces, and outdoor hiking areas for both activity and reflection. Beyond physical health, MCC supports mental well-being and personal growth through free weekly yoga, wellness courses—from pottery to accounting—and preventative health programs.

MCC was honored at Michigan's Best and Brightest in Wellness Conference and Awards in 2025 at The Henry Autograph Collection in Dearborn, MI. Additionally, MCC was featured in the *All-Winners Edition of Corp! Magazine*.

MARK VERHOEVEN HONORED FOR TWO DECADES OF SERVICE WITH CISCO NETWORKING ACADEMY

In January 2026, Mark Verhoeven was recognized for an extraordinary milestone—20 years of dedicated service to the *Cisco Networking Academy*. The prestigious *Instructor 20 Years of Service Award*



Mark Verhoeven
CIS Faculty

celebrated his long-standing commitment to student success and his lasting impact on both the classroom and the broader community.

"We are excited to honor your contributions to the *Cisco Networking Academy* program with the *Instructor 20 Years of Service Award*," the organization shared in its congratulatory message. "Your dedication and passion have made a meaningful impact on your students and community."

As part of the recognition, Verhoeven's name was proudly featured on the Academy website alongside fellow distinguished award recipients.

"Thank you for your tireless dedication and invaluable contributions," the message continued. "We were honored to partner with you in transforming your students' lives and shaping a bright and inclusive future for all."

For two decades, Verhoeven helped students become, as the Academy described, "the bridge to the possible"—preparing them with the technical skills and confidence needed to thrive in an ever-evolving digital world.



ALUMNI

MCC TO PRESENT 2026 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD TO ROBERT A. DUBAULT

Muskegon Community College named Robert A. Dubault as its 2026 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient, recognizing his outstanding professional achievement and leadership in the legal field. It is the highest honor the college bestows upon a former student.

Dubault serves as executive partner of the Muskegon office of Warner Norcross + Judd LLP, where he leads operations for one of the firm’s nine offices across Michigan. A labor and employment attorney with over 30 years of experience, he counsels public- and private-sector employers across a broad range of industries, including automotive, health care, higher education, manufacturing, and financial services.

Known as a trusted advisor, Dubault represents clients in complex matters involving employment discrimination, workplace harassment, ADA and FMLA compliance, collective bargaining, and labor arbitration, consistently earning a reputation for professionalism, integrity, and practical problem-solving.

In 2023, Dubault was named among *Michigan Lawyers Weekly’s Leaders in the Law*, an honor recognizing attorneys who demonstrate excellence and leadership

in Michigan’s legal community. He has also been recognized by *Best Lawyers in America*® as *Lawyer of the Year* in labor law and has been listed by the publication since 2010. Dubault was also named *Grand Rapids Labor Lawyer of the Year* by *Best Lawyers in America* in 2019.

Beyond his practice, Dubault is deeply engaged in community and professional service, serving on the boards of the Employers Association of West Michigan and the Muskegon Museum of Art, where he chairs both the Collections and Personnel committees.

Through his career and community leadership, Dubault exemplifies the distinction and service celebrated by MCC’s *Distinguished Alumni Award*.

“What I have come to learn in my 30-plus-year legal career working with MCC and with West Michigan employers generally is how broad and how deep MCC’s impact is,” Dubault said. “I have been privileged to work with MCC’s administration, with the staff and with the faculty, and it is clear how much they care about their students, how much they respect and support one another, and how they strive to ensure that MCC is a vital part of the overall Muskegon and West Michigan communities.”



Robert Dubault named 2026 Distinguished Alumni

“WHAT I HAVE COME TO LEARN IN MY 30-PLUS-YEAR LEGAL CAREER WORKING WITH MCC AND WITH WEST MICHIGAN EMPLOYERS GENERALLY IS HOW BROAD AND HOW DEEP MCC’S IMPACT IS.”

- Robert Dubault



Charging stations installed in newly paved main parking lot.

MCC INSTALLS EV CHARGING STATIONS

MCC installed new electric vehicle (EV) charging stations on its main campus in 2026, marking another step in the college’s ongoing commitment to sustainability and innovation. As more drivers shift toward hybrid and fully electric automobiles, the new charging stations provide a convenient resource for students, faculty, staff, and visitors who rely on cleaner transportation options. The addition reflects MCC’s forward-thinking approach and recognition of the growing demand for infrastructure that supports environmentally responsible choices, positioning the campus to better serve a changing automotive landscape.

CENTENNIAL LAUNCHES WITH COMMUNITY LAKE CRUISE

Muskegon Community College kicked off a year of centennial events with a summer celebration on the water. The MCC Centennial Lake Cruise, hosted by the Foundation for MCC, set sail on July 23, 2025, aboard the AquaStar in downtown Muskegon. Guests enjoyed a scenic cruise on Lake Michigan, appetizers, a cash bar, and live music from the local band Legal Rehab.



“The entire community was invited to join us on the water as we kicked off a year of honoring the people and partnerships that have made MCC what it is today,” said MCC Director of Development Richard Vanderputte-McPherson.



Passengers wave from the bow of the AquaStar.

COFFEE BLENDS CRAFTED FOR MCC

In August 2025, The Coffee Factory in Muskegon crafted a special MCC Golden Turmeric Latte to celebrate MCC’s 100-year anniversary. The specialty drink was a collaboration, with one dollar from every purchase donated to support The Jayhawk Hub resources for students.



Also in 2025, Aldea Coffee launched a limited-release coffee, MCC’s Blue & Gold Blend, online during the holidays. It is known as a “hug in a mug” with notes of rich caramel, roasted nuts, and creamy chocolate.



Jay rolls pumpkin with first round of children.

JAY ROLLS THE FIRST PUMPKIN

Muskegon Community College joined the White Lake Area Chamber’s annual Pumpkinfest in Downtown Montague, where Jay the Jayhawk helped celebrate the College’s centennial by rolling the first of over hundreds of pumpkins down a long hill. The family-friendly event featured a full day of pumpkin-inspired activities and contests, including an arts and crafts festival, artisan and farmers markets, pumpkin pie and carved pumpkin contests, a biggest pumpkin weigh-in, and pumpkin seed spitting contests.

MCC HOSTS THREE PART DREAM LECTURE SERIES

As part of its Centennial Celebration, Muskegon Community College presented a three-part Dream Lecture Series reflecting on the institution’s founding, the construction of its main campus on Quarterline Road, and the expansion of programs and services over the past two decades. Hosted by Social Sciences Faculty Chair George Maniates and College Archivist Emily Busch, the series explored the vision and perseverance that shaped MCC’s modern identity—tracing periods of internal growth and challenge, strengthened community partnerships, and continued community outreach.



George Maniates speaks at the *Founding of the Dream* lecture. Watch each lecture using the QR Codes below.



Founding of the Dream



Building the Dream



Expanding the Dream



Alumni artwork displayed in Overbrook Art Gallery.

ALUMNI ART EXHIBIT

MCC hosted an Alumni Art Exhibition in the Overbrook Art Gallery from September through October 2025. The event showcased the incredible talent of MCC's graduates as part of the College's 100th anniversary celebration.



"This is such an exciting moment for Muskegon Community College," said Erin Hoffman, Overbrook Gallery Curator. "For decades, MCC has trained amazing artists who

have gone on to do incredible things. To welcome them back to campus as we honor 100 years of excellence is truly special, and we loved celebrating both their artistry and their history."



Student performance of *These Shining Lives* in Overbrook Theater.

STUDENTS PRESENT 1920s PLAY

In celebration of MCC's Centennial, Muskegon Community College's Center for Theater presented *These Shining Lives* by Melanie Marnich, a powerful production based on the true story of four courageous women who fought for their health, rights, and voices in 1920s America. Set during the same decade the college was founded, it told the story of women employed at the Radium Dial Company in Ottawa, Illinois, where they were unknowingly exposed to dangerous levels of radium.

"*These Shining Lives* is heartbreakingly beautiful in its storytelling and imagery, and our students brought it to life," said Les Rorick, Director of MCC's Center for Theater. "Even though the events took place a century ago, the lessons about courage, corporate accountability, and justice are still incredibly relevant today."

HEALTH CLINIC OPENS IN HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER



Dr. Katie Rhew begins work in the health clinic at the MCC Health and Wellness Center.

Muskegon Community College strengthened its commitment to employee well-being in January 2026, with the opening of the MCC Health & Wellness Clinic. Powered by *MI Partner Health*, the on-campus clinic provides routine check-ups, preventive care, and treatment for minor illnesses and injuries. Services are also available to spouses and families of eligible employees, offering a convenient healthcare option designed to reduce time away from work and improve access to care. As capacity builds, MCC's goal is to expand the clinic for student use.

The clinic provider, Dr. Katie Rhew, has over seven years of experience in comprehensive primary care.

FORMER DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY JOINS MCC

MCC strengthened its focus on campus safety by hiring Jeff Hawke, the former Director of Public Safety for the City of Grand Haven, where he led that department for 12 years before retiring in 2024.



Jeff Hawke
Safety and Security
Officer

Hawke, MCC's Safety and Security Supervisor, brings decades of public safety experience to MCC. Many on campus have smiled at the coincidence of his name—"J. Hawke"—which echoes the college's Jayhawk mascot. Hawke said he feels "thankful to be here" and that "everyone has been extremely welcoming" as he settles into his new role.

MCC: "ONE OF THE GREAT PROJECTS OF MY LIFE"

More than six decades after MCC's campus was built, the story of how its iconic main campus came to life nearly slipped into history.

That changed in October of 2025 when MCC Archivist Emily Busch and Social Sciences Department Chair and History Instructor George Maniates received an unexpected tip: William "Bill" Gilmore—the young architect who worked side by side with Alden B. Dow to conceptualize and design the campus—was not only alive at 93 years old, but living in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and eager to share his story.

Recognizing the importance of capturing firsthand history, Busch and Maniates, joined by MCC Videographer Jon Mills, made the seven-hour journey to Marquette to sit down with Gilmore and document his memories. What follows is an account of how MCC's main campus was envisioned and built—told largely in Gilmore's own words.



William "Bill" Gilmore, 93, was a 26-year-old architect with Alden B. Dow when he conceptualized and designed MCC's iconic campus.

When voters approved a new campus for Muskegon Community College in 1963, the College finally had the opportunity to move from borrowed spaces into a permanent home of its own. A 111-acre wooded site was selected—beautiful, but challenging. The architectural firm of Alden B. Dow was hired to design it, and a young architect named William "Bill" Gilmore, just 26 years old at the time, was given an "extraordinary opportunity."

"Mr. Dow said, 'Well, why don't you work on it and develop it, and the two of us can work together in putting it together,'" said Gilmore.

Armed with "a half a dozen books about that thick"—filled with square footage calculations, enrollment projections, and the college's needs—Gilmore began shaping what would become MCC's main campus.

From the start, the land presented a tremendous challenge.

"One of the initial walks of the site, I was struck by the size of it," Gilmore said. "The second thing was the diversity of the site with the two plateaus and then dropping to the stream below. I thought, 'This is going to be hard to build on.'"

Rather than fight the terrain, Dow suggested a bold idea: "'He said, 'Bill, what if we take the building across the ravine?'"

That concept changed everything.

"We tried rectangles first," Gilmore said. "But we were not getting enough dynamic out of the site with those."

The breakthrough came with the idea of using diamond shapes instead;



Gilmore is interviewed by Busch and Maniates in Marquette, MI.

ADMIN

an angular, interconnected layout that followed the land's contours.

"Eventually, the best way was to use the diamond form, which the board seemed to like, as did the staff, as did the faculty." From there, Gilmore said, "the building just grew by itself."

All of a sudden, the small stream running through the property became a centerpiece rather than an obstacle.

"When I first saw that stream, it probably wasn't over 5 feet wide," Gilmore said. "We thought, well, wouldn't it be nice to widen it to about 40-50 feet and deepen it and make that the feature of the building?"

That idea resulted in a new, one-of-a-kind campus integrated with water, elevation, and changing sightlines—an embodiment of Dow's organic architectural philosophy.

Construction began in 1965, and the new campus opened in phases before its formal dedication in 1967.

For Gilmore, the long nights and constant revisions were worth it.

"All the nights thinking about that building. It pays off," he reflected. "I hope the students today...realize the impact it had on their life and on their education. I would hope they got the same excitement out of studying there as we had in making the building, because it ended up being one of the great projects of my life."



Gilmore and Maniates peruse historical books and photos of MCC's campus.



Maniates (left), Gilmore (middle), and Busch (right) discuss the architectural blueprints for campus.



(Above), Gilmore is seen through the viewfinder of a video camera as he shares his story.

(Left), Gilmore looks over a book featuring buildings designed by the Alden B. Dow firm based in Midland, Michigan.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION

PLAN (TWO SIM) UNIVERSITY COLLEGE 350,000 SF





Jayhawk volleyball player, Bianca Bower winds up to serve the ball.

COMPETITION BEGINS AT HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER

Muskegon Community College Athletics rang in a historic new chapter this year as the Health and Wellness Center hosted its first-ever competitive matches.

While the facility was originally restricted by grant terms that prohibited competitive games, President Dr. John Selmon successfully convinced state lawmakers in Lansing to secure a five-year waiver for the space. Breaking the building's competitive "silence," the Jayhawks Volleyball team officially inaugurated the court on September 11, 2026, marking a monumental victory for the college community.

MARCINKOWSKI NAMED WOMEN'S XC COACH OF THE YEAR



Nick Marcinkowski
Women's Cross
Country Coach

Muskegon Community College is proud to recognize Coach Nick Marcinkowski for an outstanding season of leadership and excellence. Marcinkowski has been named the Michigan Community College Athletic Association Coach of the Year, National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region 12 Coach of the Year, and the US Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Women's Great Lakes Super Region Coach of the Year.

Under Marcinkowski's direction, the women's cross-country program reached new



heights this season — showcasing remarkable improvement, competitive depth, and a strong team culture built on dedication and resilience. His commitment to developing student-athletes both on and off the course has earned him the respect of peers across the region and nation.

These honors highlight not only the team's impressive performance this year, but also Marcinkowski's continued impact on the Muskegon Community College athletic program. His leadership has helped elevate Jayhawk athletics to a new standard of excellence.

LADY JAYHAWKS FINISH WITH THE HIGHEST TEAM GPA IN THE NATION

Muskegon Community College proudly announced that the Women's Cross Country Team finished with the highest team grade point average (GPA) in the country among NJCAA Division I programs, earning an outstanding 3.91 team GPA. The Lady Jayhawks' remarkable achievement reflects the team's unwavering commitment to excellence both in the classroom and in competition. Their dedication, discipline, and focus showcased what it truly means to be a student-athlete, bringing national recognition to MCC and setting a standard of academic achievement that inspires the entire college community.



Women's Cross Country runners pose with confetti.



ATHLETICS



MCC Wrestling Team, Champions of the Great Lakes District.

MEN'S WRESTLING WINS DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP

In February, the MCC's Men's Wrestling Team captured the Great Lakes District Championship turning in a decisive performance against nationally ranked competition. MCC finished with 149.5 team points to secure the title, narrowly defeating No. 9-ranked Harper College (144.0) and No. 12-ranked Southwestern Michigan College (107.5).



WRESTLING COACH WINS NATIONAL, DISTRICT & REGIONAL COACH OF THE YEAR



Cody Carpenter
Wrestling Coach

The wrestling program at Muskegon Community College continues to reach new heights as Head Coach Cody Carpenter has been named the National Junior College Athletic Association and the National Wrestling Coaches Association (NJCAA/NWCA) National Wrestling Coach of the Year. The honor recognizes Carpenter's outstanding leadership and the remarkable success of the Jayhawks during the 2025-26 season.



Carpenter's national recognition comes after an extraordinary year for the program. In addition to the national award, he was also named Great Lakes

District Coach of the Year and Region XII Coach of the Year, highlighting the impact he has made both regionally and nationally.

"I'm grateful for the recognition, but it really belongs to the group I get to work with every day," said Coach Carpenter. "At the end of the day, this is something I share with them. Our assistant coaches and our wrestlers bring great attitudes to the mat day in and day out. All season long, they were willing to do the hard work it takes to be champions."

Under Carpenter's leadership, the Jayhawks delivered one of their strongest seasons in program history. The team captured the Great Lakes District Championship, defeating two nationally ranked programs and qualifying their entire lineup for the national championships. The program's success also included multiple All-American performances and a strong presence on the national stage.

A former Jayhawk himself, Carpenter is now in his third season as head coach. After wrestling under longtime MCC Coach Ron Gaffner, Carpenter said one of his goals has been to honor that legacy and help return Muskegon Community College wrestling to the level of excellence the program has long been known for.

"We are not there yet," said Carpenter. "But we are well on our way."

NEW ASSISTANT ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Muskegon Community College recently hired Arie Edwards as its new Health and Wellness Center Manager, Golf Course Manager, and Assistant Athletic Director. Edwards brings a diverse background in



Arie Edwards
Assistant Athletic
Director

education, technology, and athletics. She previously served as Athletic Director at Timberland Charter Academy, where she also taught technology courses. Before her work in education, she was employed at Google in Detroit. A former collegiate basketball player at Marygrove College, Edwards also gained experience as an assistant coach there, further deepening her roots in athletics.

"I have been waiting for this opportunity for a long time," Edwards said. "My mentor was an athletic director, so it was always my goal to work in higher ed athletics. You work so hard, so when I was offered the job, I was thrilled."



REMEMBRANCE

This centennial year has also brought moments of profound loss and sadness. As a college community, we pause to honor and remember the lives and legacies of three pillars of MCC: former President Dr. Frank Marczak, Music Director and Instructor Dan Meyers, and Executive Assistant and Lead Donor (along with her husband Peter) Carolyn Sturru. Each one of them poured their hearts into this institution and worked tirelessly for our students' success. Muskegon Community College would not be what it is today without their efforts.

We also recognize that they are part of a much larger legacy of dedication and service. As we near 100 years, we take time to remember with gratitude the countless leaders, faculty, staff, and supporters who have gone before us—those who paved the way and helped shape MCC into one of the best community colleges in the nation. – Dr. John Selmon

MCC

DR. FRANK P. MARCZAK

On January 13, 2026, MCC's former President Dr. Frank P. Marczak Jr. passed away. Marczak shaped the institution over a period of significant growth and transition. He served as President from 1995 to 2004, capping a long career in academic and administrative leadership that began at the College in 1977.

Over the years, he held several key roles, including Associate Dean of Mathematics, Science, Technologies, and Occupational Education; Interim Dean of Instruction and Dean of Faculty; and Vice President/Dean of Faculty. His steady leadership left a lasting mark on the College's academic programs and campus development.

"Dr. Frank Marczak's influence is still felt at Muskegon Community College today," said MCC President Dr. John Selmon. "His leadership helped guide this institution through pivotal moments. He personally

helped me during the first year of my presidency as a mentor and as my friend."

During his tenure in various leadership roles, Dr. Marczak oversaw several important milestones. Under his guidance, MCC's Nursing Program became a full college program in 1980, and the Stevenson Center was constructed and opened in the mid-1990s. He also led the College through the early expansion



of campus internet access in the late 1990s and early 2000s, positioning MCC to meet the technological



Former MCC President, Frank Marczak

demands of a new era. As president, he guided the institution through the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, attacks and supported initiatives such as the launch of the Global Awareness Festival in 2001.

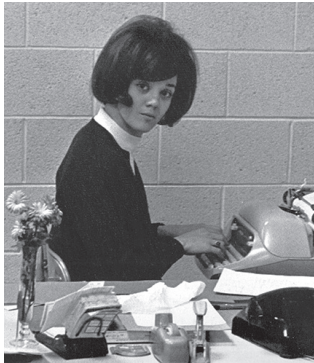
Beyond campus, Dr. Marczak remained active in statewide higher education leadership, serving in key roles within Michigan's community college system and professional associations. His work reflected a broader commitment to access, workforce development, and strong community partnerships — priorities that continued to define MCC's mission long after his presidency concluded.

"DR. FRANK MARCZAK'S INFLUENCE IS STILL FELT AT MUSKEGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE TODAY."

– MCC President Dr. John Selmon

CAROLYN I. STURRUS

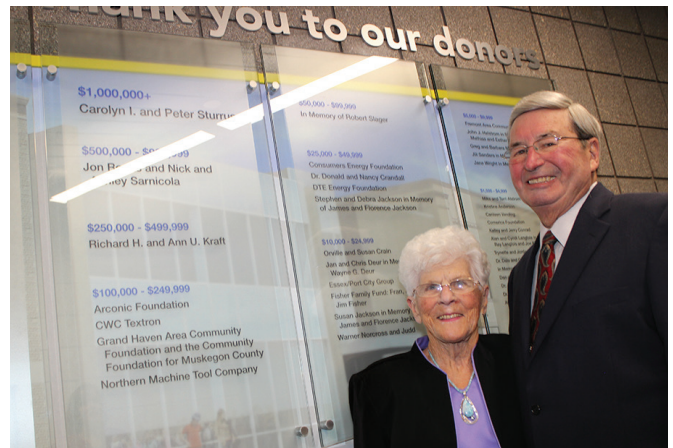
Carolyn Sturrus, who started her career at Muskegon Junior College in 1951, passed away on January 10, 2026. During her tenure of over thirty years, Sturrus assisted



Carolyn Sturrus working at MCC. (Photograph Courtesy of MCC Archives)

Reflections magazine, and the Foundation for Muskegon Community College. She retained an active role well into retirement.

seven different college leaders who were either directors or presidents: President Allen G. Umbreit, President William G. Dwyer, President James M. Snyder, President Ralph A. Auster Miller, President Charles Greene, President Robert Keason (interim), and President John Thompson. She retired in 1986. Carolyn was instrumental in establishing the MCC Alumni Association,



Carolyn and Peter Sturrus at the Sturrus Technology Center opening.

In 2017, Carolyn and her husband, Peter Sturrus, donated a record \$1.5 million gift to MCC to become namesakes of the Carolyn I. and Peter Sturrus Technology Center. The Sturrus' donation represents the largest – by more than a million dollars – individual gift to MCC. Carolyn was known for her love for others and for her listening ear.



DANIEL MEYERS

MCC Director of Music and Instructor Daniel Meyers passed away on December 13, 2025. For 15 years, Meyers dedicated himself to students and programs, leading the Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, and Jayhawk Sound Pep Band while teaching multiple humanities courses. His presence was constant at commencement ceremonies,



Daniel Meyers
MCC Director of Music

Veterans Day observances, and campus events, and he served on numerous committees central to the life of the College. He also acted as a liaison to community performance ensembles and, at one time, managed the Muskegon Community College Golf Course — a testament to his wide-ranging commitment to the institution.

“We are heartbroken over the profound loss of our Director of Music and friend, Dan Meyers,” MCC President Dr. John Selmon said. “We extend our deepest sympathy to his family. Dan’s enthusiasm for life, music, and the students he taught had a tremendous impact on the MCC Community. He will be missed by all.”

Selmon described Meyers as a champion for higher education, an extremely talented musician, and a gifted leader in the Arts and Humanities Department. “His commitment to student success positively impacted the lives of countless individuals,” he added.

Meyers’ career in music education spanned decades across Michigan. A former solo trumpet with the University of Michigan Marching Band, Basketball Band, and Hockey Band, he later served as a Graduate Assistant Conductor, leading the U-M Marching Band, Hockey Band, and Fanfare Band, and co-founding the Women’s Basketball Band. As a soloist, he performed at major national events including the Bluebonnet Bowl, Super Bowl XVI, and the Rose Bowl.



DAN’S ENTHUSIASM FOR LIFE, MUSIC, AND THE STUDENTS HE TAUGHT HAD A TREMENDOUS IMPACT ON THE MCC COMMUNITY. HE WILL BE MISSED BY ALL.” – MCC President Dr. John Selmon



MUSKEGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

221 South Quarterline | Muskegon, MI 49442



MCC Alumni: Please update your profile to receive invitations to our Centennial Celebration events.



*Drone Photo By:
Trent Alphenaar,
Mitten Made Media LLC*

MCC SOCIAL MEDIA

f MCC's official Facebook page highlights campus life and events
facebook.com/muskegoncc

f News and opportunities for MCC alumni
facebook.com/mccalumni

ig MCC's official Instagram account featuring campus life
[muskegon_cc](https://instagram.com/muskegon_cc)

in MCC's official LinkedIn account
[@muskegoncommunitycollege](https://linkedin.com/company/muskegoncommunitycollege)