

AN EVENING TO REMEMBER

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REFLECT

MCC

FALL 2026

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ON THE COVER

Guests dance as the West Side Soul Surfers perform at An Evening with MCC.

Photo by Samantha Korecki

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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.

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President Selmon and Jay at An Evening with MCC.

GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT SELMON

What an unforgettable year it's been.

This summer, Muskegon Community College officially turned 100. After a calendar year full of Centennial-themed events, we capped it all off in June with *An Evening with MCC*, where 474 people came together to celebrate this incredible milestone. For me, the greatest joy over the past 12 months has been hearing firsthand, from so many people, how MCC changed the course of their lives for the better. It has served as a powerful reminder of why we are here and what MCC has accomplished over the past century.

But as proud as we are of our past, we are equally proud of where MCC stands today.

This year, MCC received an extraordinary level of recognition. We were named an Achieving the Dream Leader College of Distinction, received the United Way of the Lakeshore's Spirit of the Lakeshore Award, were recognized as a Michigan Race to Talent Champion, and earned a Global Silver Telly Award for our Bring It Out campaign.

These honors are meaningful—not because we seek recognition for recognition's sake. Rather, because they affirm something much more important: People outside our organization are taking notice. Our efforts are working.

As we begin our 2026 Fall Semester, enrollment is up. The Muskegon Area Promise has expanded, the Michigan Community College Guarantee provides a tuition-free pathway for recent high school graduates, and Michigan Reconnect has lowered its minimum age requirement to 21.

Exciting as all of this is, our focus at MCC must now shift towards the next 100 years. There is much work to be done. At MCC, we recognize the continuing systemic gaps in our community and the lack of access and equitable outcomes for all in our region.

Because of this, we renew our unwavering commitment to breaking down those barriers, empowering every student to bring out their talents, reach their full potential, and achieve the success they long for. MCC's new strategic plan provides a roadmap for that future.

Thank you for your support of Muskegon Community College and for being part of our story.

We are just getting started!

John Selmon
– President Selmon

PLAN FOCUS: EXCELLENCE IN OUTCOMES

In July 2026, MCC's Board of Trustees approved the college's 2026-2029 strategic plan, *Pathways to Success*. Serving as a roadmap for the college's future, the plan is centered on one strategic imperative: to advance excellence in outcomes for all MCC students and to prepare them for success after college.

"At the heart of this plan is a belief that every student, regardless of background or starting point, deserves access to high-quality education, relevant programs, and the support needed to achieve their goals," said MCC President Dr. John Selmon. "As the needs of our students, communities, and workforce evolve, MCC will do more than respond — we will lead with innovation and accountability."

Among its key priorities, the college will work to improve access, strengthen teaching through evidence-based instructional practices and professional

development, improve graduation and transfer rates, expand employer partnerships and career preparation opportunities, and drive innovations that result in strong student outcomes.

"The Board recognizes and appreciates the collaboration of faculty, staff, administrators, students, and community stakeholders whose insight and leadership helped shape this plan," the MCC Board of Trustees said in a collective statement. "As

trustees, we are committed to supporting the successful implementation of the strategic plan through effective governance, responsible stewardship of resources, and continued advocacy for the college and its mission."

Each focus area includes measurable objectives, timelines, and benchmarks that will guide implementation through 2029. Detailed action plans, regular measurements, and progress reports are being developed to provide transparency.

The plan and MCC's mission, vision, and values can be found at www.muskegoncc.edu/missionstatement. It comes on the heels of the college's centennial celebration in June, marking 100 years of serving students and the Muskegon community.

"As we enter our second century, this plan serves as both a promise and a call to action," said Selmon. "Together, we will build on the strength of our past while boldly shaping the future, ensuring MCC remains a powerful engine of opportunity and community vitality for generations to come."

**"AS WE ENTER OUR
SECOND CENTURY,
THIS PLAN SERVES AS
BOTH A PROMISE AND
A CALL TO ACTION."**

- President Dr. John Selmon





\$300,000 GRANT EXPANDS CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING

In July 2026, Muskegon Community College, in partnership with Greater Muskegon Economic Development, was awarded a \$300,000 Reconnect Enroll with Momentum Grant from the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement and Potential (MiLEAP) to help more adults earn college credits through the knowledge and skills they have already gained through work and life experience.

The grant will expand MCC's Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) initiative by allowing adults to receive academic credit for professional training, industry certifications, military service, and workplace experience. The initiative is designed to remove barriers that often prevent adults from enrolling in or finishing college by reducing the time and cost required to complete a degree or certificate.

MCC was selected for the competitive grant because of its commitment to serving adult learners, its innovative strategy for expanding Credit for Prior Learning, and its partnership with Greater Muskegon Economic Development (GMED) to better align education with regional workforce needs.

"Our adult learners bring years of valuable experience into the classroom, yet too often they have been asked to start from scratch," said John Selmon, president of Muskegon Community College.

"By helping students receive credit for prior learning, we can shorten

the path to graduation, reduce costs, and create more opportunities for working adults to achieve their educational and career goals."

Grant funding will support a full-time Credit for Prior Learning coordinator. The coordinator, along with GMED, will conduct a regional labor market analysis to align industry credentials with academic credit. The coordinator will also work directly with employers to launch a targeted outreach campaign encouraging adults to take advantage of Michigan Reconnect and Credit for Prior Learning opportunities. Michigan Reconnect provides free in-county tuition for adults 21 and older who live in Michigan but do not yet have a degree or certificate.

The project will also utilize software that enables prospective students to receive immediate estimates of the college credit they may earn based on their work experience and certifications, helping them see a faster, more affordable path to completing a credential.



ROY J. PORTENGA REFLECTS ON HIS TIME AT MCC



For 27 years, Roy J. Portenga has been a familiar and dedicated presence on the Muskegon Community College Board of Trustees. His commitment to MCC is rooted in personal experience—he is an MCC graduate who considers his time at the college among the most meaningful and transformative chapters of his education.

In this conversation, Portenga reflects on why he has stayed committed to MCC, the moments that have meant the most over the years, and the opportunities he sees ahead.

Q: You've been part of Muskegon Community College for many years now. Looking back, what first inspired you to serve on the Board of Trustees, and what has kept you committed all this time?

A: I've been a board member for 27 years. I can't believe it's been that long—time flies.

I was raised to believe we have a duty to serve, to "give back." I received degrees from MCC, the University of Michigan, and Valparaiso University. Without hesitation, I can say my most impactful, life-changing educational experience was at MCC.

When I came back to my hometown, I decided I would give my "give back" time to MCC. I work with such a great team—fellow trustees, administration, faculty, and staff—and we've had so much success.

Q: You've watched MCC grow and evolve over the years. What's been one of the most rewarding moments or accomplishments you've witnessed as a trustee?

A: That's easy: graduations. One's first college experience is tough; it was tough for me. When I see our students proudly walk across the stage and hear their families cheer, I get it.

To know that, in a very small, indirect way, I was part of that is very satisfying.

Q: Let's switch gears for a minute. You're also a musician and play in a band called Legal Rehab. That's a name people don't forget. Where did it come from, and how did the band get started?

A: Not sure why, but I have a passion for rock 'n roll, always have. I begged my parents to hustle home from our Sunday night church service to see the Beatles on Ed Sullivan in 1964. I don't read music, so I had then-teenager Randy Davis across the street teach me chords. I've played on and off ever since.

When you have people you love in a group harmonizing voices and instruments—well, for me, it's a catharsis. As a teenager, I played in the Henchmen in my

middle years with the Kartor Goodman Band, and for the last 15 years with Legal Rehab.

Legal Rehab consists of my wife, Britta, a classically trained violinist who plays in the West Michigan Symphony but can play anything by ear; our dear friend Scott White, an incredible harmonica player, percussionist, and vocalist; and myself, just the rhythm guy.

We got our name when we landed our first gig at Hennessy's. Scott went in the night before to check out the stage. He told the bartender we were playing the next night. He asked, "What's the band's name?" Pause. We never discussed it.

Because I'm a lawyer and Britta and Scott are physical therapists, Scott blurted, "Ah, Legal Rehab." For better or worse, it stuck.

Q: MCC just celebrated its 100th anniversary. As someone who's been involved in helping shape the college's future, where do you see the biggest opportunities for the next decade?

A: College used to be directed toward the 18-year-old. Those numbers are decreasing, while the number of 20-, 30- and 40-year-olds without degrees, certificates, or special skills is increasing.

MCC is just the place where adults can go to change their lives for the better. We have to reach out to them.



Portenga's band, Legal Rehab, performs aboard the Aquastar.

DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD

Muskegon Community College's Distinguished Faculty Award recognizes a faculty member whose career reflects exceptional service to students, the college and the broader community. The award, bestowed by the MCC Faculty Association, is earned through sustained contributions to MCC, including excellence in teaching, leadership, collaboration, service, and commitment to the college's mission. It honors faculty members whose work extends beyond their classrooms and demonstrates a lasting impact on the institution and the people it serves.

PREVIOUS DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD RECIPIENTS INCLUDE:

- Jack Rice, 1988 (Emeritus Faculty)
- Robert E. Sheets, 1996
- Donald J. Goodman, 1996
- Wilma J. Kyvig, 1996
- Mary Kathryn Hartz, 1998
- Daniel J. Yakes, 2014
- Bill Jacobks, 2015
- Carlo Spataro, 2015
- Tim Trainor, 2016
- Beth Smith, 2017
- Blair Morrissey, 2017
- Richard Doctor, 2019
- Sue Meeuwenberg, 2022



2025 Distinguished Faculty Award Recipients



"TOM HAD A GENEROUS SPIRIT, AND HE WAS ALWAYS WILLING TO OFFER HIS GUIDANCE AND EXPERTISE OR JUMP IN TO LEND A HAND ON A PROJECT."

– Sheila Wahamaki,
MCC's retired Director of the
Center for Theater

TOM HARRYMAN was a Muskegon native and graduate of Muskegon Community College attending from 1972-1974. After leaving MCC, he worked as a professional actor on stage, screen, and radio, and served as a manager and administrator at the Frauenthal Center and The Playhouse at White Lake. Harryman also worked as a critic for *The Muskegon Chronicle* and as a theater instructor. He was an active member of the Muskegon community and remained closely connected to the area's arts and cultural life.

Harryman returned to MCC first as a theater adjunct instructor and, in 2008, joined the college full time as a theater instructor. He taught theater courses and directed, designed, and performed in productions, including a favorite role as Willy Loman in *Death of a*

Salesman alongside his wife, Fran. He was active in the MCC Faculty Association, participating in the annual Muskegon Labor Day Parade and serving as Action Committee Scribe during contract negotiations. Harryman also served as chair of the Institutional Affairs Council and the Arts & Humanities Department. As department chair, he advocated for adjunct faculty and led the department's renovation project that resulted in what is now the Art & Music Building.

"Tom had a generous spirit, and he was always willing to offer his guidance and expertise or jump in to lend a hand on a project," said Sheila Wahamaki, MCC's retired Director of the Center for Theater. "Tom was never above being a part of the creative community he helped build in Muskegon."

GREG MARCZAK dedicated more than 22 years of his professional life to educating students at Muskegon Community College, where he began his own higher education.

A graduate of Reeths-Puffer High School, Marczak continued his education at MCC before transferring to the University of Michigan (U-M). He earned his bachelor's degree in chemistry from U-M and later received his master's degree in chemistry from Western Michigan University.

Marczak began his professional career as a chemist, working at Howmet and Lorin Industries. After successful careers in industry, he made a career change

that reflected his passion for education and became a chemistry professor at Muskegon Community College.

For more than two decades, Marczak helped countless MCC students build the knowledge and skills needed to pursue careers and degrees in nursing, science, and engineering.

"Greg always put his students first and constantly tried new things to keep them interested and engaged," said MCC Life Sciences Faculty Darren Mattone. "He had a quiet nature about him, but also a loud heart; Greg would do anything for his students, colleagues, friends, and family. That's just who he was."



"GREG ALWAYS PUT HIS STUDENTS FIRST AND CONSTANTLY TRIED NEW THINGS TO KEEP THEM INTERESTED AND ENGAGED."

– Darren Mattone,
MCC Life Sciences Faculty

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 STARTING FALL OF 2026

DR. ALICIA BOYNTON joins Muskegon Community College as a biology instructor, bringing more than a decade of experience in higher education, scientific research, and laboratory sciences. Before joining MCC, Boynton served as an assistant professor of biology at Madonna University and taught graduate-level anatomy coursework at Central Michigan University. Her academic background includes a Ph.D. from the University of Utah, where she conducted National Science Foundation-supported research in human biomechanics and collaborated across multiple disciplines to advance the study of injury prevention and human movement. Boynton is recognized for expertise in anatomy and physiology, genetics, and evolutionary biology, as well as a strong commitment to student mentorship, innovative instruction, and fostering student success in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields. A West Michigan native, Boynton is happy to be back in the area.



MICHELLE JOHNSON joins Muskegon Community College this fall as a full-time sociology faculty member after serving as an MCC sociology adjunct since 2014. With more than a decade of teaching experience, she has taught a variety of courses, including Principles of Sociology, Introduction to Social Work, Race, Ethnicity and Immigration, Modern Social Problems, and Women's and Gender Studies. She holds a Master of Science in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Michigan-Dearborn and has completed advanced graduate studies in sociology and social work. Known for her student-centered approach, she is dedicated to fostering critical thinking, civic engagement, and student success. A lifelong West Michigan resident, she enjoys reading manga and playing video games in her spare time.



DR. SAWYER OSBORN joins Muskegon Community College as a mathematics instructor, bringing expertise in mathematics education, graph theory research, and student-centered teaching. Osborn earned a Ph.D. in Mathematics from Western Michigan University, focusing on graph theory and resulting in multiple publications and conference presentations. As a graduate teaching assistant, he taught courses ranging from algebra to calculus and received the *Charles H. Butler Excellence in Teaching Award*. Known for making complex mathematical concepts accessible and engaging, he is committed to helping students build confidence and achieve success in mathematics. Outside the classroom, one of his favorite hobbies is drawing.



CORRINE CROSBY comes to Muskegon Community College as a respiratory therapy clinical coordinator, bringing experience in critical care, respiratory therapy, and extracorporeal life support (ECLS). Before joining MCC, she served as an extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) coordinator and respiratory therapist at Corewell Health and previously worked as a respiratory therapist at Michigan Medicine. Crosby's expertise includes ECMO management, mechanical ventilation, airway management, and interdisciplinary critical care for neonatal, pediatric, and adult patients. She holds a Master of Business Administration from Louisiana State University Shreveport, a Bachelor of Science in allied health science from Grand Valley State University, and an Associate of Science in respiratory therapy from Muskegon Community College. A Muskegon Community College alumna, she is excited to return to MCC and work alongside the instructors who helped launch her career in respiratory therapy.



DR. DARRYL JENT joins Muskegon Community College as a mathematics instructor, bringing experience teaching college-level mathematics and a strong background in algebra and mathematical research.



Jent recently earned a Ph.D. in Mathematics from Western Michigan University, where he taught courses as a graduate assistant, including Precalculus, Elementary Linear Algebra and Differential Equations, and Linear Algebra. Recognized for outstanding

instruction, Jent received the *2025 Charles H. Butler Excellence in Teaching Award*. Known for making complex concepts accessible and fostering student confidence, he is dedicated to helping students succeed in mathematics and beyond. In his free time, he enjoys board games and card games, with favorites including Wyrmspan, Everdell, and 7 Wonders Duel.

MATT NIXON joins Muskegon Community College as a computer information science instructor, bringing more than 20 years of experience in software engineering,



technology leadership, and embedded systems development. He spent over a decade at Gentex Corporation, including serving as engineering manager of software development, where he led engineering teams, managed complex projects, and mentored emerging professionals. Before Gentex,

Nixon held engineering and leadership roles at GE Aviation, contributing to avionics software and systems development. In addition to his industry experience, he has served as a guest lecturer at Grand Valley State University and Calvin University. Nixon is a recent graduate of the University of Iowa with a Master of Business Analytics and is currently pursuing an MBA through the University of Iowa. He is passionate about helping students prepare for careers in computing, software development, and technology leadership through a practical, student-centered approach to teaching.

ANNA CUNNINGHAM joins Muskegon Community College as a nursing instructor, bringing more than 15 years of nursing experience in critical care and nursing education. Before joining MCC, she



served as a critical care nurse at Trinity Health Muskegon and has mentored both new nurses and nursing students in clinical settings, including MCC students, since 2012. Cunningham's professional expertise includes cardiac, neuro, trauma, medical-surgical, and

critical care nursing, with extensive experience caring for complex patient populations. She is recognized for her commitment to clinical excellence, student

mentorship, and fostering the development of future nursing professionals through hands-on learning and evidence-based practice. Cunningham holds a Master of Science in Nursing Education and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Ferris State University, as well as an Associate Degree in Nursing from Muskegon Community College. As an MCC alumna, she is excited to join MCC in this new capacity and work more closely with the faculty who helped shape her professional journey. One interesting fact about Cunningham is that she competed at the HYROX World Championships in Las Vegas, an international fitness competition that brought together athletes from around the world.

DR. GREG BASSETT joins Muskegon Community College as a music/humanities instructor, bringing a diverse



background in music, philosophy, and higher education. He holds a Ph.D. in Philosophy from Indiana University, a Master of Music in Horn Performance from the New England Conservatory, and a bachelor's degree with highest honors from Swarthmore College.

Bassett has taught music and philosophy courses at several institutions, including Hope College, Aquinas College, Case Western Reserve University, and Southern New Hampshire University. In addition to his teaching experience, he is an accomplished conductor and professional musician, currently serving as Director of Symphonic Band at Kalamazoo College and performing with both the Holland Symphony Orchestra and West Michigan Symphony. Known for fostering intellectual curiosity and critical thinking, he is committed to engaging students through discussion and interdisciplinary learning.

ALLY HORWITZ comes to Muskegon Community College as a Spanish language instructor, bringing



experience in language education at the secondary, collegiate, and adult learner levels. Horwitz holds a Master of Arts in World Languages and Cultures from North Carolina State University, with concentrations in Spanish Language and Literature and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL).

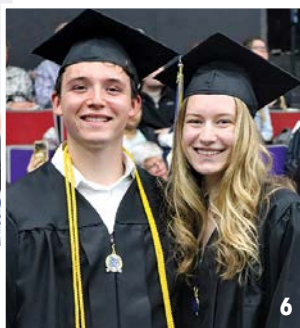
Her expertise includes Spanish language instruction, curriculum development, language acquisition, and culturally responsive teaching. Horwitz is passionate about creating engaging learning environments that support student success and help learners build confidence in their language skills. Fluent in English and advanced in Spanish, she is committed to fostering cross-cultural understanding and helping students achieve their academic, professional, and personal goals through language learning. In her free time, she likes to junk journal, travel, run, and spend time outside in nature!



2026 Commencement Video Highlights

Photo captions

1. Trustee Crandall hands a graduate her diploma.
2. Elijah Parmley, student speaker.
3. Three graduates await their turn to cross the stage.
4. A graduate holds up his diploma after crossing the stage.
5. Lisbeth Velasquez, student speaker.
6. Two graduates wait to receive their diploma.



STUDENTS CROSS THE FINISH LINE

MCC celebrated its graduates at the 2026 commencement ceremony on May 13, 2026, at Trinity Health Arena in downtown Muskegon. The ceremony took place during MCC's centennial year, marking 100 years of the college serving students and the community.

"Commencement is my favorite day of the year because we get to celebrate our students' success, and all the hard work, persistence, and growth they've shown to reach this moment," said Dr. John Selmon, president of MCC. "I'm incredibly proud of each of them for bringing out their best and achieving their goals. Congratulations to all of our graduates."

In 2026, Muskegon Community College awarded 664 degrees and certificates, including more than 535 associate degrees and over 129 certificates.

Notable areas of study included health-related degrees with 112 graduates, including 75 nursing graduates; engineering and technology programs producing 52 graduates; business programs accounting for 49 graduates; and 30 students graduating from education-related programs.

Certificate and diploma programs also continued to meet growing workforce demand in West Michigan. MCC awarded 23 manufacturing and industrial certificates, while medical assistant and computer/web design programs each produced 11 certificate graduates.

The ceremony honored students who completed degrees and certificates during the fall 2025, winter 2026 and summer 2026 semesters.



*Video of Grads
Thanking Sponsors*

362 DONORS
36 VOLUNTEERS
\$80,300 SPONSORSHIPS
474 ATTENDEES
\$188,225
TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED



Jay performs with dance students at An Evening With MCC.

AN EVENING TO REMEMBER

An Evening with MCC was a fitting finale to Muskegon Community College's yearlong celebration of its 100th anniversary. Held June 20, 2026, at the VanDyk Mortgage Convention Center, the centennial celebration

was a wild success, bringing together 474 attendees, 36 volunteers and 362 donors for an unforgettable evening celebrating MCC's century of service, opportunity and impact in the community.

The numbers tell the story of a night filled with generosity and celebration. The event generated \$80,300 in sponsorships and raised a total of \$188,225, with net proceeds supporting MCC's Five Next Century Funds. The tremendous support



(Above) MCC students chat with attendees about their success stories at the event.

(Left) MCC student raises her paddle to bid during the live auction.



An Evening with MCC
Video Highlights

demonstrated just how deeply the college is connected to the community it has served since 1926.

"An Evening with MCC was a resounding success," said President Selmon. "To witness nearly 500 of our friends and neighbors coming together in celebration of Muskegon Community College's 100th anniversary was a powerful reminder of the important role our community plays in ensuring MCC will continue to help inspire and change lives for the next century."

1926



President Selmon drops the puck.

MCC TAKES TO THE ICE

Muskegon Community College brought its centennial celebration to the hockey rink with a special MCC Centennial Blue and Gold Night hosted by the Muskegon Lumberjacks at Trinity Health Arena.

"When a community comes together to celebrate its roots, milestones and future, every moment is filled with pride and possibility," said MCC Director of Development Richard Vanderputte-McPherson. "The MCC Centennial Blue and Gold Night with the Lumberjacks was more than an event — it was a testament to the enduring spirit of the Muskegon Lakeshore, our legacies, and the future our incredible community built together."

MCC President John Selmon dropped the ceremonial first puck before the game, while the MCC Choir performed the national anthem. MCC Board Chair Diana Osborn was also recognized by the Lumberjacks as a "Hero of the Lakeshore" for her longstanding service

and contributions to the community.

Throughout the evening, MCC distributed prizes and gifts to fans as part of the celebration. Following the game, commemorative jerseys worn during the matchup were auctioned off, giving fans an opportunity to own a piece of MCC's centennial celebration.

The evening concluded with a Muskegon Lumberjacks victory, adding another memorable moment to a night dedicated to celebrating 100 years of MCC and its impact on the community.



Diana Osborn poses with Timber after being named Hometown Hero.



STUDENT CREATIVITY ON DISPLAY

Muskegon Community College celebrated student creativity and achievement through its Centennial and 62nd Student Art Exhibition and Reception, showcasing outstanding artwork created by visual art students during the 2025-26 academic year.



Juried by Michigan State University Associate Professor of Art Benjamin Duke, the exhibition featured student work across multiple mediums and concluded with an awards ceremony recognizing exceptional artists.

Dawson LaBrenz's "Untitled" clay piece, (left), received the President's Purchase Award and was added to the Muskegon Community College Art Collection.

"Being a part of MCC's art program this past year has been an awesome experience, and I feel like I've really grown as an artist," LaBrenz said. "My classmates and instructors are incredibly talented and have been a big inspiration. Winning this award is a huge honor, and I'm very grateful."



Onlookers admire the art during the exhibit reception.

MCC Art Faculty Erin Hoffman praised the quality of the exhibition and the growth demonstrated by student artists.

"The level of talent, creativity and dedication demonstrated by our students was truly remarkable," Hoffman said. "These artists challenged themselves throughout the year and produced work that reflects both technical skill and personal vision."



100 VOICES

One of the most meaningful projects undertaken during MCC's centennial year was led by Video Communications Manager Jon Mills.

Over the past year, Mills invited 100 individuals from across the college and community to answer one simple but powerful question: "What makes Muskegon Community College special?" Their responses came from students, alumni, faculty, staff, trustees, retirees and community partners — each offering a unique perspective on the impact MCC has had on their lives and on the region.



**100 Voices
Video Highlights**

While this video highlights only a small sample of the interviews, every conversation has been preserved as part of Muskegon Community College's historical archives. Together, these recordings serve as a centennial time capsule, capturing not only memories and experiences, but also the spirit of MCC in 2026. They ensure that future generations will be able to hear, firsthand, the voices that defined this milestone year and the lasting impact the college has had on so many lives.



Jon Mills records MCC alum Carson Tank.

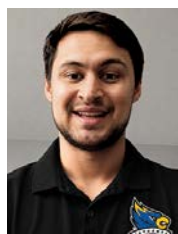


FIVE MCC TEAMS EARN NJCAA ACADEMIC TEAM HONORS

The National Junior College Athletic Association recognized the MCC Women's Cross Country, Women's Indoor Track & Field, Women's Outdoor Track & Field, Softball, and Baseball programs for outstanding academic achievement during the 2025-2026 academic year.

EDIS MARIC NAMED NEW MEN'S SOCCER COACH

In April 2026, Muskegon Community College named Edis Maric as the new head coach of the Jayhawks Men's Soccer Program, bringing an impressive blend of international coaching experience, player development expertise, and leadership to the sidelines. Since April, he has served as head coach of the men's soccer program at MCC while continuing his work as head coach of the Athletic Soccer Club in Grand Rapids. His coaching resume also includes serving as an Olympic Development Program (ODP) head coach with the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association, where he helps identify and develop many of the state's top young players.



Coach Edis Maric

Before joining MCC, Maric held several leadership roles with Grand Rapids Soccer Club, serving as both sporting director and first-team head coach. "I'm excited to join Muskegon Community College and help build a program that our students, alumni and community can be proud of," said Maric. "There is tremendous potential here, and I'm looking forward to developing our athletes into confident competitors, leaders and teammates. My goal is to create a culture of hard work, accountability and excellence while helping our players grow both as soccer players and as people."



ATHLETES HONOR THE U.S. COAST GUARD

MCC student athletes stand in front of the MCC float.

Ten Muskegon Community College student-athletes joined Jay the Jayhawk and MCC faculty and staff members in the Grand Haven Coast Guard Festival



Parade Video

Parade in August, proudly representing the college while honoring members of the U.S. military and Coast Guard.

Jayhawks from a variety of MCC's athletic programs participated in the parade, walking alongside a custom-made MCC parade float. The group greeted spectators and celebrated the service and sacrifice of military personnel during one of West Michigan's most cherished summer traditions.

Muskegon Community College offers a variety of classes at its Ottawa Center located on Lincoln Street in Grand Haven.

NEW BASKETBALL COACH RETURNS HOME TO LEAD PROGRAM

Muskegon Community College is proud to announce the hiring of Brady Flynn as the new head men's basketball coach for the Jayhawks program.



Coach Brady Flynn

Flynn returns to West Michigan after serving as associate head men's basketball coach at Crowley's Ridge College (CRC) in Arkansas, where he helped guide the Pioneers to one of the most successful stretches in program history.

During his tenure, CRC earned its first winning season since joining the

National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) in 2017 and made an American Midwest Conference postseason appearance. Flynn played a key role in recruiting, player development and the advancement of multiple all-conference student-athletes.

For Flynn, the opportunity to lead the Jayhawks represents a homecoming.

"It means everything," Flynn said. "I took the job on the spot. I didn't have to think about it. To have the opportunity to come back here and coach, because it's where I'm from, it is just an amazing feeling."



ATHLETICS

MIGUEL ARRIAGA NAMED NEW WOMEN'S SOCCER COACH

Muskegon Community College has named Miguel Arriaga as the new head coach of the Jayhawks Women's



Coach Miguel Arriaga

Soccer Program. Arriaga brings more than 25 years of coaching experience and a lifelong passion for developing student-athletes to the role. Originally from Yuba City, California, he has coached at multiple levels throughout his career, most recently with Tennessee Soccer Club and Aquinas College, and now looks to build a competitive and student-centered program at MCC.

Arriaga's coaching philosophy is rooted in developing the complete student-athlete both on and off the field. He holds several national coaching licenses, including a United States Soccer Federation (USSF) C Coaching License, USSF National Youth License, and Director of Coaching certificates. "I am honored to join the Muskegon Community College family and lead the women's soccer program," said Arriaga. "I'm excited to work with the Muskegon community, help develop area student-athletes, help them reach their full potential, and build a culture centered on discipline, accountability, and a love for the game."

REBECCA CANDIDO NAMED NEW VOLLEYBALL COACH

Muskegon Community College is serving up a new era for its volleyball programs with the hiring of Rebecca Candido as head coach of both the women's volleyball team and the college's newly launched men's volleyball program. Candido brings an international playing background, collegiate success, and a growing coaching résumé to the Jayhawks as she prepares to build one program while leading two teams. Her hiring



Coach Rebecca Candido

comes at an exciting time for MCC Athletics as men's volleyball makes its debut, expanding opportunities for student-athletes and adding another competitive program to the college's lineup.

A native of Brazil, Candido played competitive volleyball for 11 years before continuing her career playing for four years in the United States. She earned all-conference honors at Clarendon College before competing as an outside hitter at Oklahoma Panhandle State University. Her coaching experience includes serving as a graduate assistant for the men's volleyball program at Bethel University, where she helped the team win Conference and Tournament championships, earning the squad a spot in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Men's Volleyball Nationals last April. Candido has been an assistant coach for the women's team at Great Lakes Christian College and has coached club and travel volleyball with Attack Volleyball Club (VBC). That diverse background has prepared her for the unique challenge of guiding both the men's and women's teams while establishing a culture centered on discipline, development, and competitive excellence.

"I couldn't be more excited to join Muskegon Community College and help grow volleyball in this community," Candido said. "The opportunity to coach both the women's team and launch the men's program is an incredible challenge, but it's one I embrace wholeheartedly. Building two successful teams at the same time will take commitment, energy, and teamwork from everyone involved, and I'm excited to create a culture where our athletes can compete at a high level while growing as people. I can't wait to get started and help make MCC volleyball something our campus and community can be proud of."



JOHNNY KARSTON: FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR HONORS

Johnny Karston made an immediate impact in his first season wearing the Jayhawk baseball uniform, and now his outstanding play has been recognized with Freshman of the Year honors.

A key contributor throughout the season, Karston combined consistent production on the field with the work ethic and maturity that quickly earned the respect of his teammates and coaches. His performance helped fuel another successful season for the Jayhawks while establishing him as one of the conference's brightest young talents.

Karston says awards are fine, but for him it is all about the team.

"The big goal for the team this year is to win the conference, and we want to make a regional," he said. "We're changing the program around. We're taking steps forward every year."



Johnny Karston



MICHIGAN RACE TO TALENT CHAMPION

In 2026, Muskegon Community College was honored with the Michigan Race to Talent Champion Award, a regional recognition presented by the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) and local Michigan Works! agencies. The award recognizes organizations that demonstrate an exceptional commitment to workforce development through the creation and support of U.S. Department of Labor Registered Apprenticeship Programs.

The Race to Talent Champion initiative highlights the importance of the “grow your own” talent model, which helps employers develop skilled workers while creating meaningful career pathways for individuals. Registered apprenticeships play a critical role in meeting workforce needs across industries including manufacturing, information technology, healthcare and automotive.

MCC was recognized for its efforts to connect education with employment opportunities and for



(L to R) Lisa Gatti-Arnold, Dawn Platt, and Heather Johnson with the Race To Talent award.

helping students gain the skills and experience needed to succeed in high-demand careers. Through partnerships with local employers and workforce agencies, the college continues to strengthen the region's talent pipeline and support economic growth throughout West Michigan.

“Registered apprenticeships provide a powerful pathway for students to earn, learn and build rewarding careers,” said MCC Allied Health Faculty Dawn Platt. “We are honored to receive this recognition and remain committed to working with employers and community partners to create opportunities that benefit both our students and the workforce needs of our region.”

MCC EARNS GLOBAL SILVER TELLY AWARD

In 2026, Muskegon Community College received a Global Silver Telly Award for its college and university television commercial, earning recognition in one of the world's most prestigious competitions honoring excellence



Jon Mills with the Silver Telly Award.

in video and television production. MCC's award-winning commercial featured the song “I Can't Help But Feel My Groove” by Forrest Frank and highlighted the energy, diversity and opportunities available at the college.

“It's an honor to receive a Silver Telly Award and be recognized alongside so many talented creators from around the world,” said Jon Mills, MCC's video communications manager and producer of the

commercial. “What really made this project special was that we used actual enrolled MCC students as the faces of the campaign. Their experiences, personalities, and enthusiasm brought an authenticity to the commercial that simply can't be manufactured, and I think that's what resonated with audiences.”

The recognition reflects MCC's ongoing commitment to telling authentic stories that connect prospective students and the community with the people and experiences that make the college unique.

MCC EARNS UNITED WAY'S HIGHEST HONOR

In the spring of 2026, Muskegon Community College was recognized with the United Way of the Lakeshore's Spirit of the Lakeshore Award, the organization's highest honor for a company or institution. The award recognizes businesses that lead with purpose by mobilizing their people, resources, and influence to strengthen the community and improve lives across the Lakeshore.



The recognition reflects MCC's longstanding commitment to serving the region both inside and outside the classroom. Through educational opportunities, workforce development, community partnerships, volunteerism and support for local initiatives, the college continues to play a vital role in helping the Lakeshore thrive.

“These partnerships are at the heart of who we are as a community college,” said MCC President Dr. John Selmon. “We are honored to receive the Spirit of the Lakeshore Award and grateful to work alongside United Way and so many dedicated organizations that share our commitment to creating opportunities and improving lives throughout our community.”

The Spirit of the Lakeshore Award is presented to organizations that do more than support United Way's mission—they help lead it. Recipients demonstrate a deep commitment to community engagement and use their collective resources and influence to drive meaningful, lasting impact.

PRODUCTION REVISITS SHOCKING MOMENT IN U.S. HISTORY

The Center for Theater at Muskegon Community College presented "Elephant's Graveyard" by George Brant this spring in the Overbrook Theater on MCC's campus.

Based on a true event from 1916, "Elephant's Graveyard" tells the story of a traveling circus that visited a small Tennessee town and the tragic chain of events that led to the only recorded



Elephant's Graveyard Promo Video

hanging of an elephant in U.S. history. Blending historical accounts with folklore, the play explored themes of spectacle, mob mentality, justice and revenge while examining

how communities can be swept up by emotion and public pressure.

Since its 2007 premiere at the University of Texas at Austin, the play has been widely produced by college and professional theaters across the country.

The MCC production featured current students and alumni.

Director Annelise Dickinson said the play's story continues to resonate with modern audiences.

"What makes this story so compelling is that it actually happened. It forces us to wrestle with how ordinary people can get swept up in extraordinary circumstances," said Annelise Dickinson, theater faculty at Muskegon Community College. "The themes in this script, however, feel surprisingly current. It's a reminder that history isn't as distant as we sometimes think."



The cast of Elephant's Graveyard.



PERFORMING ARTS

MCC student dancers take the stage.

PERFORMANCE SIGNALS NEW ERA FOR DANCE

Muskegon Community College celebrated the return of dance to campus this spring with its first live dance performance in six years. The centennial production, titled "...the journey...", was presented on the Overbrook Theater stage and marked the debut of the newly established MCC Dance Company.

Directed and choreographed by Adjunct Dance Faculty and Program Coordinator Jovita Weibel, the performance was part of MCC's 100-year celebration. Through movement, music and storytelling, "...the journey..." explored the college's past, present, and future while highlighting the connections between generations of dancers and the role of the arts in building community.

The program featured two original works by Weibel: "now," performed by the MCC Dance Company, and "then," performed by a group of eight dancers age 50 and older, including MCC dance alumni, community members and MCC staff.

"This performance honors our past while embracing the creativity and possibility of what lies ahead," said Weibel. "Dance is a way to reflect on society and happenings in this world, and it brings people of different ages, walks of life and abilities together to create an all-encompassing experience."

Guest artists participating in the program included Erica Dollaway; Dance Playhouse of Grand Haven, featuring choreography by Kelsey Lee; screen dance artist Ladina Schaller; and dance artist Emma Armijo.

"I believe deeply that dance is an essential offering in a higher arts education curriculum," Weibel said. "Dance is especially powerful because it combines physical effort, mental focus, rhythm, music, emotional expression and coordination in space, and the brain thrives on this kind of layered challenge."

The newly founded MCC Dance Company included Claudia Allysse, Maria Basaj, Alexis Brayton, Emma Hillard, Elisabeth Myers, Aurora Ponce, Anthony Reynoso, Lauren Sawson, Emily Smolen, Ella Steele and Alixandria Thomas.



Dance Performance Promo Video

"THIS PERFORMANCE HONORS OUR PAST WHILE EMBRACING THE CREATIVITY AND POSSIBILITY OF WHAT LIES AHEAD."

- Jovita Weibel

The MCC Sensory Garden,
freshly rebuilt and awaiting
its first bloom.



RETURN OF MCC'S HERBAL SENSORY GARDEN

This summer, Muskegon Community College restored its herbal sensory garden, bringing new life to a unique campus feature that had sat dormant for nearly two decades. Located in the courtyard between the Art & Music Building and the Stevenson Center, the garden was revitalized as part of MCC's centennial year and ongoing efforts to preserve meaningful spaces that connect the college's history with its future. A sensory garden is designed to engage multiple senses through carefully selected plants that offer distinctive colors, textures, and fragrances, creating an immersive outdoor experience for visitors.

Designed by Loveage Garden Co. owner Lynn Bryant, the restoration of MCC's sensory garden represents a shared effort rooted in friendship and memories. Former MCC employees Marge Stidham and Jane Kane would often visit the garden together years ago, and their connection to the space helped inspire its restoration. The revitalized garden features a variety of herbs and aromatic plants, including lavender, mint, rosemary, sage, thyme, and lemon balm.

For Stidham, seeing the garden restored fulfilled a dream she had carried for many years.

"I had always hoped to see this garden restored," she said. "I never stopped dreaming that one day people would be able to enjoy it again."

The restored sensory garden will also serve an important educational purpose at MCC, providing a living classroom where students can experience the concepts they study in Life Science courses firsthand, as well as the role of plants in human health and well-being. MCC's Garden Club will also have a role in caring for and learning from the space, creating opportunities for students to gain hands-on experience with gardening and horticulture.

If you would like to support the garden maintenance, updates, and signage, please contact the Foundation for MCC at 231-777-0461 or visit muskegoncc.edu/departments/foundation-advancement/ to make an online contribution.

**"I NEVER STOPPED
DREAMING THAT ONE DAY
PEOPLE WOULD BE ABLE
TO ENJOY IT AGAIN."**

- Marge Stidham



**CAMPUS
NEWS**

MUSKEGON AREA PROMISE EXPANDS

The Muskegon Area Promise Scholarship has expanded, beginning with the fall 2026 semester, making college more accessible than ever for Muskegon County students and graduates.

Under the expanded guidelines, there is no longer a high school grade point average (GPA) requirement to qualify for the scholarship. Previously, students were required to meet minimum GPA thresholds ranging from 3.25 to 3.5. The change opens eligibility to all qualified graduates of Muskegon County high schools or homeschooled from the Class of 2015 forward.

In addition, all Muskegon Area Promise recipients are now eligible to receive a \$500 annual allowance to help cover the cost of books, supplies, and equipment required for their courses of study.

"There has never been a better time for past and future Muskegon County high school graduates to take advantage of the Promise," said MCC Director of Admissions Sarah Luker. "The Muskegon Area Promise opens the door for so many more students to access a college education here at MCC."

The scholarship continues to require the annual completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).



SOMETHING DELICIOUS ON CAMPUS

In September 2026, Muskegon Community College (MCC) unveiled the all-new Jayhawk Café, a campus dining destination offering freshly prepared meals, grab-and-go selections, and a welcoming place for students, faculty, staff, and members of the greater Muskegon community to eat, meet, and connect.

Located in the Student Union, the Jayhawk Café features freshly prepared daily selections, including customizable bowls with rotating international flavors, along with sandwiches, salads, snacks, and other grab-and-go choices. Menus are available online, with items clearly labeled for the FDA's top nine allergens.

According to MCC officials, the ultimate goal of the new Jayhawk Café is to provide students with a healthy and quality option that doesn't require leaving campus for meals.

"Having dining available on site keeps students connected to campus, helps them stay on track with their schedules and gives them more opportunities to use support services like study halls and tutoring," said MCC Director of Student Success, Steve Sanocki.

The café is open to the public, and community members are invited to stop in for a meal, meet a friend, or simply enjoy MCC's distinctive campus environment, with expansive floor-to-ceiling windows, surrounding woods, and a flowing creek.

"We want people throughout our community to know that MCC is their community college — and they're welcome here," said MCC President John Selmon. "The Jayhawk Café gives people one more reason to come in, spend some time with us, and experience this campus for themselves."



GREAT READ EVENT DRAWS CROWD

In April 2026, Muskegon Community College and the Muskegon Area District Library hosted acclaimed author Curtis Chin as part of the statewide Great Michigan Read, marking the first time Muskegon had ever hosted an in-person author event for the program. The appearance was a significant milestone for the community, drawing readers together for a shared conversation around identity, history and storytelling. Chin spoke about his memoir, *Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant*, the featured selection for the 2025-2026 Great Michigan Read, which explores his upbringing in Detroit and the nearby suburb of Troy.

The memoir follows Chin's journey through childhood in urban Detroit, his time at the University of Michigan, and his experience coming out as queer in the early 1980s during a period when such identity was widely stigmatized in many Asian American communities. He also reflected on life inside his family's restaurant, Chung's Cantonese Cuisine, which served as a cultural hub and gathering place in 1980s Detroit, bringing together people from across the city's diverse communities.



MUSKEGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

221 South Quarterline | Muskegon, MI 49442

(L to R) Representative Will Snyder, MCC President Dr. John Selmon, and MiLEAP Director Dr. Beverly Walker-Griffiea at An Evening with MCC.

MCC Alumni:
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your profile to stay
connected.



MCC SOCIAL MEDIA

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