



REFLECT

MCC

FALL 2025

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ON THE COVER

Muskegon Community College's iconic main building spans the rippling waters below.

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.

REFLECT MAGAZINE

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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 News and opportunities for MCC alumni
facebook.com/mccalumni

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

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

tk Muskegon Community College's official TikTok account
[@muskegoncc](https://tiktok.com/@muskegoncc)



President John Selmon and his wife Zephra pose for a photo with Jay before climbing aboard the Aquastar for MCC's Centennial Cruise.

GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT SELMON!

On behalf of Muskegon Community College, I want to personally welcome you to our latest edition of Reflect! As you flip through these pages, I hope you are as impressed and humbled as I am at the incredible work we are doing here at Muskegon Community College.

Our entire faculty and staff are aligned and committed to a single guiding purpose that shapes everything we do — supporting and ensuring the success of our students.

Next year, Muskegon Community College will celebrate its 100th anniversary.

For a century, MCC has helped shape the identity of the Lakeshore into what it is today; an incredible place to call home.

We've educated generations of families, provided opportunities, and changed the narrative of so many who have walked through our doors.

As we celebrate our centennial over the next year we know there is more work to be done.

Our region still faces significant challenges including systemic poverty, wage disparities, food insecurity, inequality, and a lack of access for many.

At MCC, we are deeply committed to changing that by offering high-quality, affordable education to everyone who seeks it. Our mission is clear and unwavering. MCC's job is to eliminate barriers, build up our community and impact lives, one student at a time.

Together, with a shared vision and purpose, we will continue to bring out the very best of the Lakeshore for the next 100 years.

I invite you to join us.

Thank you for your continued support of MCC!

John Selmon
– President Selmon

MCC's Economic Impact



Total economic impact
\$249.9 million

OR



Jobs supported
3,426



Operations spending impact
\$33.5 million

+



Student spending impact
\$1.9 million

+

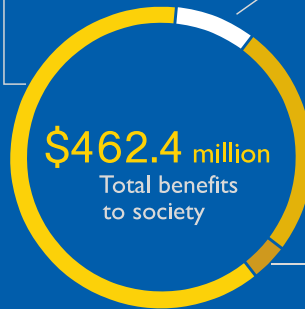


Alumni impact
\$214.5 million

Economic Benefits in Michigan

Added student income
\$306.8 million

Added income from college activities
\$29.9 million



Added business income
\$113.4 million

Social savings
\$12.3 million

Students see a high rate of return for their investment in MCC



Average annual return for MCC students
22.5%



Stock market 30-year average annual return
10.1%

READ THE REPORT HERE:



Student perspective



Taxpayer perspective



Social perspective

Present value benefits
\$98.6 million

Present value costs
\$13.5 million

Net present value
\$85.1 million

Present value benefits
\$41.1 million

Present value costs
\$28.0 million

Net present value
\$13.1 million

Present value benefits
\$462.4 million

Present value costs
\$47.7 million

Net present value
\$414.7 million

View the Economic Impact Report here: <https://www.muskegoncc.edu/about/mcc-economic-impact-report/>

STUDY: MCC HAS A TREMENDOUS IMPACT ON THE LAKESHORE ECONOMY

According to the results of a recent and independent study, Muskegon Community College had a profound economic and social impact on the Lakeshore Region in fiscal year 2022–2023, contributing significantly to local income, employment, and long-term community benefits.



IMPACT

The study, conducted by Lightcast Data, a comprehensive labor market intelligence platform, found that MCC generated \$249.9 million in added regional income or 3,426 jobs. The area studied included Muskegon, Oceana, Ottawa, and Newaygo Counties.

Key sectors such as Health Care and Social Assistance, Retail Trade, and Manufacturing experienced the greatest benefits from MCC's influence through both direct and indirect contributions.

According to Lightcast Data's findings, MCC's economic impact was driven by three main sources: institutional operations, student spending, and alumni success. Operations alone generated \$33.5 million or 461 jobs, while student spending contributed \$1.9 million or 37 jobs.

The most substantial economic contribution came from MCC alumni, whose improved career outcomes and increased earnings added \$214.5 million or 2,928 jobs. The study concluded that MCC played an integral role not only as an educational institution but as a powerful engine of regional economic development.

In terms of return on investment, MCC offers considerable value to its stakeholders.

Students saw an impressive 22.5% rate of return, translating to \$7.30 in earnings for every dollar invested, with total lifetime benefits reaching \$98.6 million.

Taxpayers received \$1.50 in value for every dollar

spent, yielding \$13.5 million in net benefits. From a societal perspective, the benefit-cost ratio climbed to 9.7, generating an overall social benefit of \$462.4 million through improved workforce productivity, economic output, and social savings.

Operationally, meanwhile, MCC continues to serve the region effectively, with 5,144 credit students, 408 non-credit learners, and a workforce of 262 employees. The college distributed \$28.4 million in payroll and benefits and generated \$8.3 million in tuition revenue, reinforcing its role as a major employer and economic contributor.

With 6% of students coming from outside the region, MCC also proved its value as a draw for educational opportunity across West Michigan.

Lightcast has over 20 years of experience working with higher education institutions and has completed over 3,000 economic impact studies.

MCC EARNS HIGHEST RATING FOR ACCREDITATION

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC), a regional accreditation agency that oversees higher education institutions in the central United States, notified Muskegon Community College

(MCC) that it has earned the highest rating possible following its recent review.

The rating, an "Open Pathway Assurance Review with no recommended monitoring," was the

result of the Year 4 Assurance Review conducted by peers from other higher education institutions.

Muskegon Community College has been accredited since 1926. The next comprehensive evaluation will be conducted by the Higher Learning Commission in 2031.



MCC WELCOMES TUCKER BROWN AS NEW PROVOST

In June 2025, Muskegon Community College welcomed Dr. Tucker Brown as the institution's new Provost & Chief Student Services Officer.

Dr. Brown brings over a decade of progressive leadership experience in higher education, most recently serving as Senior Vice Provost and Associate Vice President at Austin Peay State University (APSU). His career at APSU has been marked by several leadership roles, including Dean of the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences, Chair of the Department of Sociology and Community Development, and Faculty Senate President.

Dr. Brown's dedication to academic excellence and student success in higher education aligns seamlessly with the vision and goals of MCC.

His deep commitment to innovative program development and enhancing the college experience for students is reflected in his recent focus on grant-funded research.

In recognition of his leadership and potential, Dr. Brown was selected as one of only 38 higher education professionals for the 2024 cohort of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities' Becoming a Provost Academy.

An accomplished academic, Dr. Brown has published numerous scholarly articles and delivered over 17 conference presentations. His expertise spans a wide range of topics,



"MCC HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME A WORLD-CLASS COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE."

- Dr. Tucker Brown, Provost & Chief Student Services Officer

with a particular focus on improving the overall student experience.

Dr. Brown holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Penn State University, as well as a Master of Science and a Ph.D. in Sociology from Arizona State University.

With family ties to West Michigan, Dr. Brown says he is happy to be home, and ready to meet the challenges ahead.

"MCC has the opportunity to become a world-class community college in the very near future," Dr. Brown said. "I stand committed to seeing that come to pass. On behalf of my family, we thank everyone for making us feel so welcome. We are overjoyed to be here."



MCC NEW ATHLETIC DIRECTOR WINS COACH OF THE YEAR HONORS BY MCCA

In addition to the honor of being named as Muskegon Community College's New Athletic Director this year, Head Women's Basketball Coach Jason Cooper was awarded Coach of the Year by the Western Conference of the Michigan Community College Athletic Association (MCCA) for the 2024-2025 season.

The honor follows an outstanding season by the Jayhawks, who posted a 23-6 overall record, went 15-1 at home, and finished 12-2 in conference play. The team made a strong playoff run, reaching the Great Lakes District A Semifinal.

"Winning Coach of the Year is very special to me," said Jason Cooper. "Our team this year battled through a lot of adversity; from injuries to illness, this group of exceptional athletes faced the challenges head-on, continued to push forward, and defied the odds. I am so very proud of their perseverance and dedication."

With a .793 winning percentage over 29 games, the Jayhawks didn't just win; they dominated. Notable victories include a 100-46 win over Alpena Community College, a 100-48 rout of North Central Michigan, and an 82-74 hard fought victory against Montcalm Community College.

Jason Cooper credits his squad this year for fully embracing the team's motto, "PULL" Together – an acronym that stands for "Patience, Understanding, Loyalty, and Love" – values he instills in his players to live out both on and off the court.

"This accomplishment would not have happened without my players' tenacious work ethic, the support of President Selmon, and all who root for MCC athletics," he said.

Now in his seventh year at Muskegon Community College and his 17th overall as a basketball coach, Jason Cooper is building a legacy. As a former Academic and Athletic All-American student-athlete himself, he holds a collegiate coaching record of 400 wins, averaging 24 wins per season and a 77% winning percentage.

"Coach Cooper has made all of



us incredibly proud," said Muskegon Community College President Dr. John Selmon. "His leadership, character, and unwavering commitment to his players have created a culture of excellence that reflects the very best of MCC. We are beyond lucky to have him. Congratulations, Mr. Coach of the Year, and go Jayhawks!"

ATHLETICS TO ADD WOMEN'S WRESTLING, MEN'S VOLLEYBALL IN FALL OF 2025

In Fall of 2025, Muskegon Community College expanded its athletic program with two new sports: Women's Wrestling and Men's Volleyball. With these additions, MCC will now offer a total of 20 collegiate sports, reinforcing its position as the community college with the most athletic programs in the state of Michigan.



"Athletics play a crucial role in student engagement, leadership development, and personal growth," said MCC Athletic Director Jason Cooper. "These new sports teams align with our commitment to providing a well-rounded college experience for our students, and I could not be more excited to grow our athletic program."

"ATHLETICS PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN STUDENT ENGAGEMENT, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, AND PERSONAL GROWTH."

- Jason Cooper, Athletic Director



CEMENTED IN HISTORY MCC SOFTBALL TEAM LEGACY

The Muskegon Community College (MCC) 2010 National Championship softball team was recently inducted into the Muskegon Area Sports Hall of Fame, cementing their place in local sports history.

Known for their mental toughness, resilience, and depth, the team defied the odds to secure Muskegon Community College's only softball national title — and just the fourth national championship in any sport since the college's founding in 1926.

Muskegon entered the 2010 NJCAA Division II National Tournament as the No. 3 seed and finished its historic season with a 59-9 record. The title win marked the first-ever national championship for MCC in a women's sport and the first DII softball national title for any Michigan-based NJCAA school since Lansing Community College's win in 2002.

The 2010 team joins an elite group of athletes and teams enshrined in the Muskegon Area Sports Hall of Fame, which since 1986 has celebrated the region's rich athletic legacy.

Located in Trinity Health Arena in downtown Muskegon, the Hall of Fame honors heroes from Ludington to Grand Haven and beyond.

"Muskegon Community College is incredibly proud of what that 2010 team accomplished, and their story continues to inspire our student-athletes today," said Muskegon Community College Athletic Director Cooper. "That team exemplifies what it means to be a Jayhawk — heart, grit, and unity."

2010 National Championship Team By The Numbers

1ST

National Championship in Women's Sport

4TH

National Championship in any Sport

59-9

Overall Record





MCC WINS 25K GLOBAL AWARD FOR INNOVATIVE STUDENT SUPPORT



"I'M SO PROUD OF THE JAYHAWK HUB AND THE IMPACT IT HAS ON OUR STUDENTS."

- Dr. John Selmon, President



See President Selmon receive the Impact Award



Learn more about the Jayhawk Hub

In honor of the Jayhawk Hub's impactful work, Muskegon Community College (MCC) was named a 2025 Ellucian Impact Award winner in the "Unlocking the Power of Data" category.

The global award was presented in April before 6,000 attendees at the Ellucian Live Conference in Orlando, Florida. It honors institutions that use data to drive innovation and improve student success.

MCC was chosen from a competitive pool of around 40 institutions worldwide for its innovative use of the Jayhawk Hub—a student support system that helps address basic needs insecurities like food insecurity, transportation, mental health, financial instability, and housing. As part of the recognition, MCC received \$25,000 to support these efforts.

"This award means a great deal to me personally," said MCC President Dr. John Selmon. "I'm so proud of the Jayhawk Hub and the impact it has on our students. Removing barriers that get in the way of student success is one of the pillars of MCC's mission, and this recognition reinforces the importance of that work."

The Jayhawk Hub serves an average of 25 students each day and has contributed to measurable improvements in student outcomes.



Data showed students who accessed services through the Hub experienced an 11% increase in persistence rates, a 3% improvement in retention, and a 6% rise in course success rates.

"Receiving the Ellucian Impact Award is truly an honor," said Jayhawk Hub Manager Emily Merten. "This recognition reflects our deep commitment to meeting students where they are and providing support when it's needed most. Our goal is to ensure everyone can stay focused on their education and not worry about anything else that might get in the way of achieving their goals at MCC."

MCC'S KEN JAMES 2025 RECIPIENT OF ZETA PHI BETA EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

In 2025, Ken James, MCC's Chief Compliance & Title IX Officer, earned the 2025 Exceptional Leadership Award by the Delta Alpha Psi Zeta chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated. This prestigious award recognizes outstanding leaders who demonstrate dedication, vision, and a commitment to positive change in their communities.

James, a dedicated advocate for removing barriers that prevent student success, has played an instrumental role in fostering a culture of respect and accountability at MCC. Through James' leadership, the college has strengthened its policies and initiatives, ensuring a safer and more welcoming environment for all students and staff.



100 years:
A look back,
and what's
ahead.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL

Muskegon Community College is celebrating a major milestone — its 100th anniversary. Since opening in 1926, MCC has helped shape the educational, cultural, and economic life of the Lakeshore region. To mark this historic occasion, the college is planning a full year of events and celebrations to culminate on June 20, 2026. Students, alumni, faculty, and community members are invited to join MCC to reflect on a century of growth, achievement, and transformation. From historic social events and lectures to an unforgettable dinner celebration, the centennial will honor MCC's lasting impact and strong connection to the region.



1

A Century of Excellence: Muskegon Community College Turns 100

For a full century, Muskegon Community College has stood as a cornerstone of educational opportunity, economic

development, and cultural enrichment for the Lakeshore region. What began in 1926 as Muskegon Junior College has grown into a student-focused, highly regarded economic engine driving the community forward.

As MCC celebrates its centennial, it will also re-commit its mission to build communities and improve lives for another 100 years and beyond. MCC is not just celebrating a history of success—it's laying the foundation for its next century of impact.

CENTURY



3

Turning 100: A Year of Celebration and Events

HISTORICAL EVENTS & LECTURES

To commemorate the historic marker, Muskegon Community College is planning a yearlong series of events designed to bring together students, alumni, faculty, and community members in both reflection and celebration. The celebration will wrap up on June 20, 2026, with An Evening With MCC at the VanDyk Mortgage Convention Center.

MCC will host three events that take a historic look at MCC's legacy. The Founding of the Dream will highlight MCC through the years 1926-1959, The Bold Dream on Marquette and Quarterline will cover the years of 1960-1996, and The Expansion of the Dream will consider the year 1997 to the present. Other notable celebrations slated for the year are the MCC Blue and Gold Night with the Muskegon Lumberjacks, and sponsorship of the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce Business for Breakfast.



2ND

Looking Toward the Future: The Next 100 Years

CENTURY

As Muskegon Community College embarks on its second century, it remains dedicated to excellence, preparing our students, building our community, and improving lives.

For another 100 years, MCC will work toward ensuring the Lakeshore is an educated and thriving community, and lean heavily on our guiding values of learning, integrity, excellence, collaboration, and kindness.

With deep roots and an eye on the horizon, Muskegon Community College stands ready to shape the next generation with the same spirit that has guided it from the very beginning.



MCC kicked off the series of centennial events with an evening cruise on the Aquastar.

4TH OLDEST

Muskegon Community College (MCC) is the fourth-oldest community college in Michigan. It started back in 1926 as Muskegon Junior College, operating inside Muskegon Senior High School. But soon, more students wanted to attend, and they quickly outgrew the space.

In 1934, the college moved to the former Hackley School, a building donated by local businessman Charles H. Hackley, located across from Hackley Park in downtown Muskegon. At first, the college mostly helped students who planned to transfer to four-year universities. But in 1951, its name was changed to Muskegon Community College to reflect its growing range of programs.

During the 1960s, the college grew even more. Over 2,000 students were enrolled, and classes were being held in many different buildings around town. A special



committee of local citizens proposed making MCC its own independent college district and building a permanent campus. Voters approved the plan in 1963, and soon after, MCC got its own Board of Trustees and a new home.

In the years that followed, MCC became a regional leader in education. In 1995, the Center for Higher Education opened, offering programs from partner universities like Ferris State, Grand Valley State, and Western Michigan. In 2006, the Hendrik Meijer Library and Information Technology Center brought Wi-Fi and modern library services to students and the public.

The 2010s brought even more improvements. Voters approved \$24 million in funding, which helped MCC build a downtown campus, a high-tech Life Sciences building, and the Peter and Carolyn I. Sturuss Technology Center. In 2018, MCC added the Rooks-Sarnicola Entrepreneur Institute and a new Health and Wellness Center to support local business and community health.

MCC has also received national recognition. In 2017, BestColleges.com named it the top community college in Michigan. Its nursing programs continue to be highly ranked, and in 2023, MCC was again named an Achieving the Dream Leader College, recognizing its strong student support and success.

In 2024, MCC had the highest transfer rate in Michigan for students receiving federal aid—34%, well above the state and national averages. That same year, MCC and Grand Valley State University teamed up to launch an Associate Degree in Nursing to Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program to help meet the growing need for more academically advanced healthcare workers.

From one classroom in a high school to a well-respected, multi-campus institution, MCC has come a long way—always growing and always serving.

Centennial Celebration Event Highlights

2025

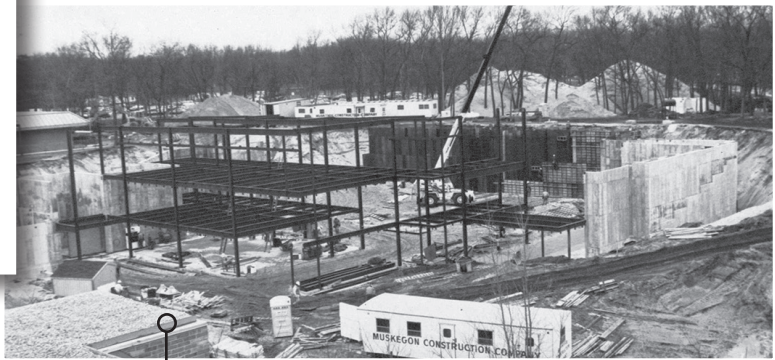
- 9/16** MCC John Bartley Science Museum New Exhibit Opening
- 9/17** Alumni Art Exhibition Reception (exhibit through 10/23)
- 9/30** The Founding of the Dream (1926-1959) – Historic Social Event & Lecture
- 10/11** Jay the Jayhawk Rolls the First Pumpkin at Montague's Pumpkinfest
- 10/21** MCC on Tap at Pigeon Hill Brewing Company (PHBC)
- 11/6-9** Play/MCC History Roadshow
- 11/8** EXPO – Meet the Faculty and Explore Programs
- 11/11** Veterans Day Salute
- 11/11** MCC on Tap at PHBC
- 11/18** The Bold Dream on Marquette & Quarterline (1960-1996) – Historic Social Event & Lecture

2026

- 1/29** Pecha Kucha
- 2/17** MCC on Tap at PHBC
- 2/24** The Expansion of the Dream (1997-2026) – Historic Social Event & Lecture
- 3/21** Lumberjacks: MCC Centennial Blue and Gold Night
- 3/24** MCC on Tap at PHBC
- 3/26** Play/MCC History Roadshow
- 4/24** Centennial Dance Recital
- 5/16** Theater Reunion & Alumni Production
- 6/20** An Evening with MCC Centennial Celebration

Scan for more details





1926: Muskegon Junior College was established

1934: College moved into the former Hackley School in downtown Muskegon

1951: Muskegon Junior College renamed Muskegon Community College

1963:

- MCC left oversight of Muskegon Board of Education

- First Board of Trustees was elected

- Land was purchased for dedicated college building

- Alden B. Dow and Associates named as architect

1965: Construction began on new (current) college building

1966: Vocational Technical Wing was completed and occupied

1967: Dedication ceremony on October 22, entire building was occupied

1968: Frauenthal Fine Arts Center was completed and occupied

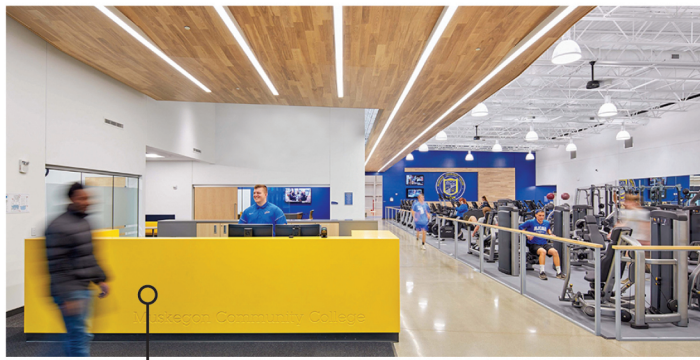
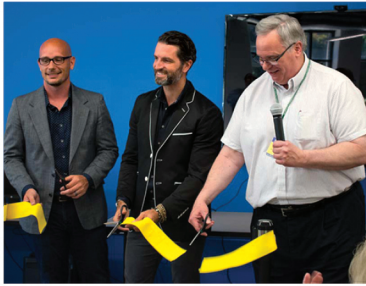
1968: University Park Golf Course opened

1995: Center for Higher Education/Stevenson Center was opened. Housed programs and courses offered by Ferris State University, Grand Valley State University, and Western Michigan University

2006: Hendrik Meijer Library Information Technology Center was completed and occupied

MCC Timeline

100 Years



2014: The Muskegon Chronicle building purchased to house applied technology programs and experiential learning program

2015:

- Masonic Temple donated to MCC by Jonathan Rooks
- Nick and Ashley Sarnicola endowed a \$200,000 scholarship to fund the Rooks Sarnicola Entrepreneur Award
- Rooks Sarnicola Entrepreneur Institute established

- Science Center opened and is home to the Life Science Department

- MCC Purchased Muskegon Family YMCA West Western Ave property

2016: MCC Lakeshore Fitness Center opened

2017: Peter & Carolyn I. Sturus Technology Center opened, formerly The Muskegon Chronicle

2018: Rooks-Sarnicola Entrepreneur Institute opened and houses the Lakeshore Fab Lab

2019: Health and Wellness Center opened on main campus

- MCC Art & Music Building re-opened after remodel

- MCC Ottawa Center opened

2021: Boys & Girls Club of the Muskegon Lakeshore purchases the Lakeshore Fitness Center

2022: Consumers Energy STEM Lab opened

2025: University Park Golf Course renamed to Muskegon Community College Golf Course





NEW CAMPAIGN ENCOURAGES STUDENTS TO **UNLEASH THEIR POTENTIAL**



In 2025, Muskegon Community College launched a new marketing campaign and brand slogan, “Bring It Out,” reflecting the college’s unwavering commitment to help students unlock their full potential and celebrating all the unique talents, skills, and dreams they bring to campus. MCC students say they have enjoyed being featured in ads, billboards, and commercials.

“‘Bring It Out’ is more than just a tagline. It’s our belief that MCC provides a unique platform for students to launch their quest to better their futures,” said MCC Chief Marketing and Communications Officer Kristin Tank. “In other words, it means that MCC recognizes the inherent value and potential within every person who walks through our doors; it’s the notion that all our students have something “awesome” to offer, and we’re here at Muskegon Community College to help them ‘Bring it Out.’”

The innovative marketing campaign and brand initiative also seeks to

“‘BRING IT OUT’ IS MORE THAN JUST A TAGLINE. IT’S OUR BELIEF THAT MCC PROVIDES A UNIQUE PLATFORM FOR STUDENTS TO LAUNCH THEIR QUEST TO BETTER THEIR FUTURES.”

– Kristin Tank, Chief Marketing and Communications Officer

position Muskegon Community College as a supportive environment where students can explore. MCC helps students remove the academic and non-academic barriers to acquiring the skills, knowledge, certifications, and degrees they need to advance their dreams and careers.

“As a community college, MCC is more than just a place of learning; it is a place of possibility,” said MCC President Dr. John Selmon. “The college’s blend of affordability, convenience, and diverse options provide our students the freedom to explore, discover, and develop their potential in ways that are unique to them.”

Learn More
 www.BringItOut.org

NEW MCC LOGO HONORS PAST; EMBRACES FUTURE

In 2025, after years without change, MCC made a significant update to its official logo, with a more contemporary design. While preserving the historical significance of MCC's diamond shape, the new look enhances clarity and reinforces the college's commitment to the communities they serve.

For decades, MCC's logo featured the letters "MCC" placed along the border of the diamond.



Kevin Kyser,
Graphic Design
Instructor

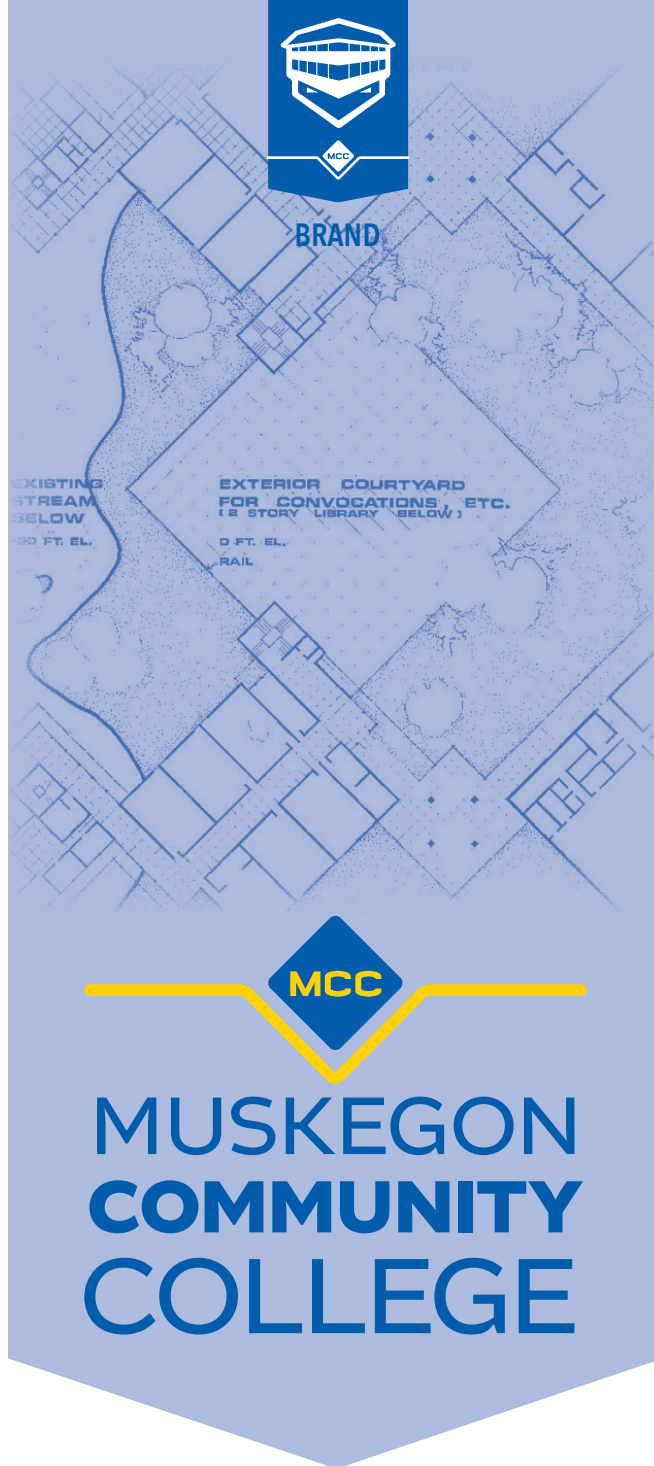
updated logo, designed by MCC Graphic Design Instructor Kevin Kyser, simplifies this arrangement by restoring the MCC letters to an upright position and reading straight across from left to right.

Additionally, the word "community" in "Muskegon Community College" now sits in bold type—symbolizing the importance of the community that MCC serves. "As MCC is set to turn 100 years, it became clear that our

logo and brand needed a fresh look that positions us for the next century," said MCC President Dr. John Selmon.

The diamond shape has been a defining symbol of MCC since the early 1980s. However, its roots trace back even further to 1963, when renowned architect Alden B. Dow integrated a series of diamond shapes into the original site plan and architectural drawings of MCC's iconic campus. By refining typography and positioning, the new logo remains deeply connected to this legacy while enhancing readability and modern appeal.

"This updated design pays homage to our rich history while presenting a forward-thinking visual identity that speaks to our mission," said Kevin Kyser.



GOLF COURSE GETS A NEW NAME AND FRESH LOOK

MCC's popular golf facility, formerly known as University Park Golf Course, has officially been renamed the Muskegon Community College Golf Course.

The change was made to better leverage MCC's brand and raise awareness of the connection to MCC. A new golf course logo, designed by Graphic Design Faculty Kevin Kyser, pays tribute to MCC's iconic diamond logo, while giving it a fresh and modern look. The course has been a destination for students, staff, and community members for nearly 60 years.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: LISA GATTI-ARNOLD

Lisa Gatti-Arnold joined MCC in 2024 as the Dean of Nursing & Health Programs. She leads the college's



nursing, respiratory therapy, and medical assisting education efforts. This includes MCC's ladder Practical Nurse and Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) curricula. A seasoned nurse educator and administrator, she holds a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) and is a registered nurse dedicated to excellence in healthcare education.

Under her leadership, MCC has strengthened its clinical pathways and academic partnerships. In fall 2024, she helped launch a new Associate Degree in nursing (ADN) to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program in collaboration with Grand Valley State University and Trinity Health Muskegon. This initiative allows students to begin their ADN at MCC and complete their BSN on the same campus—supporting local workforce retention and improved patient outcomes.

In addition to her administrative role, Lisa ensures MCC's nursing programs maintain accreditation standards. She serves as Nurse Administrator for both the Associate and Practical Nursing programs—positions requiring strong oversight of curricula, faculty, and student compliance with the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing.

"I'm truly grateful for the opportunity to help guide the next generation of health care professionals at Muskegon Community College," said Lisa Gatti-Arnold. "Far before I arrived, MCC had already earned a strong reputation as one of the state's top nursing programs and respiratory therapy programs. Additionally, the medical assisting program has long had an excellent reputation in our community. I'm committed to upholding that legacy by continuing to prepare highly skilled and compassionate healthcare professionals for the Lakeshore and beyond."



L to R: (Back Row) Shawntain Jenkins, Gary Allore, Dr. Kara Van Dam, Dr. John Selmon (Front Row) Lisa Gatti-Arnold, Linda Dunmore, Linda Lewandowski

MCC, GVSU AND TRINITY HEALTH PARTNER TO PROVIDE NURSING TALENT

This year a number of students are benefiting from a new associate degree in nursing (ADN) to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program. It was created through a strategic partnership with MCC, Trinity Health Muskegon, and Grand Valley State University.



View the ADN to BSN Celebration

The program has created a vital talent pipeline for MCC nursing graduates to earn their BSN while working at Trinity Health.

"Together, we are dedicated to addressing the critical shortage of healthcare professionals here in West Michigan by cultivating the next generation of nurses who will provide essential care to our community at Trinity Health," said MCC Dean of Nursing and Health Programs Lisa Gatti-Arnold.

"There is mounting evidence that increasing the proportion of bachelor-prepared nurses leads to better patient outcomes and shorter lengths of hospital stays," said Linda Lewandowski, Dean of GVSU's Kirkhof College of Nursing,

The ADN to BSN program will empower local residents with the skills and education needed to become Registered Nurses (RNs) with a BSN. This, in turn, enables them to choose how they will contribute to higher levels of essential patient care at Trinity Health Muskegon.

"This partnership is another example of Trinity Health's commitment to first-rate health care in Muskegon County," said Linda Dunmore, Chief Nursing Officer, Trinity Health.

24/7 MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

In the face of rising mental health concerns, Muskegon Community College (MCC) has invested in a new service to connect students with a mental health professional free of charge. Through TimelyCare, all MCC students can now access on-demand and prescheduled master-level mental health care professionals 24/7. The new virtual service delivers mental and emotional support, health literacy guidance, and crisis management at no cost to enrolled students. TimelyCare reports that 75% of students report mental health improvement after a TimelyCare visit.



ALUMNI

SCOTT BLEASE:

2025 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD RECIPIENT

A 1991 graduate of Muskegon Community College, Scott Blease went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Grand Valley State University. He currently resides in Spring Lake and serves as the Vice President of Sales at Acrisure, overseeing the Great Lakes region.

A tradition for many years at MCC, the Distinguished Alumni Award is the highest honor that Muskegon Community College bestows upon an outstanding graduate. The award salutes the achievements of exceptional alumni whose personal lives, professional achievements, and community service exemplify the goals of their alma mater.

Scott Blease’s distinguished career is complemented by his leadership in local government and community organizations. He was elected Mayor of Ferrysburg from November 2021 to 2023 and previously served on the Ferrysburg City Council. He has also contributed to various boards and committees, including the Police Commission, Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee, North

Ottawa Recreational Authority, and the Ottawa County Solid Waste Planning Committee.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Scott Blease is a dedicated volunteer with the Michigan Edge Mountain Bike Association and Velo Bike Kids. He has also served as a Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce Ambassador for 20 years and as a DECA Alumni volunteer.

Reflecting on his time at MCC, Scott Blease shared, “I am most thankful for the ability to learn. I was taught critical thinking, time management, good listening skills and a variety of knowledge. All of those are key attributes that I still use today. One of my favorite instructors was Rich Oman, a theatre professor who was just awesome! He made the class fun, educational, and told us about his real-life experiences. I met an array of students locally and out of the area.”

Bleasant shared his insights and experiences with the next generation of MCC graduates during the May 2025 Commencement Ceremony.



Commencement Video:



“I AM MOST THANKFUL FOR THE ABILITY TO LEARN.”

– Scott Blease

MICHAEL VANBEMMELEN:

2025 ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT

Michael VanBemmelen, a 2015 MCC graduate, continued his education at Michigan State University (MSU), earning a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering. Today, he works as a machine design engineer at a local design shop, where he designs production equipment for area manufacturers.

Established in 2017, the Alumni Achievement Award recognizes extraordinary professional achievement by an MCC graduate from the past 15 years. The recipient is selected by the MCC Alumni Relations Committee.

Outside of his professional life,

Michael VanBemmelen is active in his church, where he leads the music for Sunday services and other special events.

When asked about the impact MCC had on his life, Michael VanBemmelen stated, “I look back at my time at MCC with fond memories. This was a great way to transition from living at home, being in high school, etc. into higher education and eventually, full-blown adult life.” The quality of education was as good if not better than that at MSU because of the smaller class sizes. MCC set me up for success and was a great launching point into my career.”



“MCC SET ME UP FOR SUCCESS AND WAS A GREAT LAUNCHING POINT INTO MY CAREER.”

– Michael VanBemmelen

MCC PARTNERS WITH UTILITIES TO PROVIDE NEEDED ENERGY CERTIFICATIONS

Muskegon Community College has launched a new partnership with Walker-Miller Energy Services and DTE Energy, following the successful completion of a six-week intensive training course. The program, titled “DTE Energy Efficiency Academy Muskegon Upskilled Training Program powered by Walker-Miller Energy Services,” equips graduates with the esteemed BPI Building Analyst Technician (BA-T) certification. Graduates can anticipate expanding into roles such as crew leaders, energy assessors, and project coordinators, among other opportunities within the clean energy field.

MCC BOARD MEMBERS RECOGNIZED

Four MCC Board Members were recognized for their years of service during the Michigan Community College Association Summer Conference. Congratulations to Vice Chair Roy J. Portenga (25 years), Chair Diana Osborn (15 years), and Treasurer Kathy Moore (10 years).



L to R: (Back Row) President John Selmon, Landon Mechem, Marquette McDaniel, Ben Grierson (Front Row) Kylie Joslin, Wilson Hiron, Jay, Senator John Bumstead

ROAD TRIP TO THE CAPITOL WITH JAY

This April, President John Selmon accompanied Jay the Jayhawk and five students to Lansing in celebration of Community College Appreciation Month. A unique and once in a lifetime experience, MCC students had the opportunity to stand before the State Legislators, share their experiences and advocate on the importance of affordable community college education for all.

It was all part of a community college mascot takeover at the state capitol as Jay had fun catching up with his mascot friends and making appearances in the state senate and house of representatives. Meanwhile, Dr. Selmon said the five students who spoke that day were shining examples of the awesome talent and potential that MCC students possess.



MCC'S NEWEST EXPANSION: LARGE ENSEMBLE ROOM IN ART AND MUSIC BUILDING

After years of careful planning and fundraising, MCC proudly opened the doors to its new Large Ensemble Room, located within the Art and Music Building. Designed to accommodate up to 150 people, the state-of-the-art space now serves as a premier venue for MCC's music programs—providing an exceptional setting for rehearsals and live performances. This exciting addition was made possible through dedicated fundraising efforts, highlighted by the 2024 event “An Evening With MCC,” which was memorably held in the space while it was still under construction. The 2026 “Evening with MCC” will be on June 20, 2026, at the VanDyk Mortgage Convention Center.

Large Ensemble Room First Performance - Spring 2025



Watch MCC's Wind and Jazz Ensembles present the first concert in the Large Ensemble Room on April 25, 2025.





QUICK HITS

NEW ONLINE TUTORS CLOSE GAPS FOR STUDENTS

When MCC students are feeling the stress of completing their homework and need a helping hand, they can now turn to a free online tutoring service called BrainFuse.



BrainFuse is an accessible and valuable resource providing live tutoring with real

people in a convenient format. Integrating BrainFuse into campus life at Muskegon Community College benefits the entire college community by strengthening student success

while fostering a culture of proactive learning and self-advocacy. This leads to improved grades, increased confidence, and higher course completion rates.

Emily Butkevich, MCC's Tutoring Services Manager, said she wants students to know they are not alone. Support is available, even outside of regular business hours. The new online tutors especially help fill the gap for spontaneous late-night tutoring sessions and cover some subjects that are not regularly available.



NEW CLIMATE & ECOSYSTEMS EXHIBIT

As part of its continued history and ongoing commitment to public education and community engagement in the sciences, Muskegon Community College is celebrating the centennial with the launch of a new theme at the John Bartley Science Museum: Climate & Ecosystems. The museum, along with the Carr-Fles Planetarium, will host a free public event on Tuesday, September 16, to mark the occasion. The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. in the Stevenson Center with a talk by Grand Valley State University paleontologist Dr. Laura Stroik, who will share insights from her U.S. National Science Foundation-funded research on ancient mammal adaptations to climate change—research that directly inspired the museum's new interactive exhibits.



The updated exhibits feature hands-on displays including 3D-printed mammal skulls, fossil replicas, and immersive environments that showcase Michigan's ecological evolution. As MCC celebrates its 100-year-anniversary, the museum and planetarium continue to serve as key resources for science education in the community. Both facilities are free and open to the public during the academic year.

STUDENT WINS FULL RIDE SCHOLARSHIP AT 2024 EXPO

Fighting back tears as she hoisted the oversized ceremonial check over her head, Olivia Mitchell said she was speechless after hearing her name called as the winner of a two-year scholarship to MCC at the 2024 EXPO. "I am just so baffled right now, I don't know what to say. I am just so happy. Thank you, thank you." The scholarship also was a huge weight off of the shoulders of Olivia's mother, who was with her when she won. A single parent, she also fought back emotion when presented the check. "This means everything to us," she said. "I am just ecstatic." Muskegon Community College hosts the EXPO every year to connect prospective students with faculty and staff. Well over 300 people attended the event. The 2025 EXPO will be held on Saturday, November 8, 2025, at MCC's Health and Wellness Center.



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



Photo by Samantha Korecki

MCC SOCIAL MEDIA

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

f MCC's official Facebook page highlights campus life and events
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