



January Institute explores how learning communities are changing MVCC

Learning communities are having a growing influence on MVCC's students and faculty, and the upcoming January Institute will seek to share best practices and MVCC's gained knowledge about learning communities with all faculty and staff who teach, advise, or otherwise support students.

Open to all faculty and staff, the January Institute day of employee enrichment will take place Wednesday, January 12. Signups are available now at www.mvcc.edu/training/jan/.

The day's plenary session, "Learning about 'Community' in Learning Communities," will be presented by two leaders in the national learning communities movement: Joye Hardiman from Evergreen State College and Greg Hinckley of Seattle Central Community College. Hinckley and Hardiman will discuss the goals and definitions of learning communities and explore pedagogies and practices for getting students more involved in their own education. The presenters' goal is to give MVCC a national perspective on learning communities and to share ways that the communities can be used to help MVCC's unique student body.

The plenary will be held in the Theater at 9:30 a.m. following free breakfast refreshments at 8:45 a.m. available in the IT lobby and free casual lunch will be served between the morning and afternoon sessions.

Other sessions will include "Translating an Equity Agenda into Success for All Students," "Going to Scale with Integrative Assignments," "The Power of Strengths," and "Boot Camp for

Working with Combat Veterans on Campus."

Most of the sessions will focus on learning communities because of the communities' increasing role in the education of MVCC students. In learning communities, a cohort of students is linked together with two or more interdisciplinary courses, enabling the formation of a tighter network of support among students and their faculty.

This fall 100 students and 12 faculty participated five learning communities. For spring 2011, learning communities are projected to grow to include 235 students and 30 faculty in 12 learning communities.

Also this spring, MVCC will initiate its first off-site learning communities with a Late-Start Program offered at the Stanley Theatre and the Utica Public Library. Additional details of this program will be announced in the coming weeks and will be shared with participants at the January Institute.

Because learning communities affect students' scheduling and plan of study, all faculty and non-teaching professionals are encouraged to have a working awareness of their purpose, function, and benefits. The January Institute's multiple sessions will enable both large-group plenary discussion and smaller-group breakouts on the topic, allowing for exchange of ideas, exposure to best practices, and identification of ways MVCC can best deploy this new teaching tool.

To sign up for any of the sessions visit www.mvcc.edu/training/jan/.

Taylor repeats as math champion

MVCC's 10th Annual High School Mathematics Competition, which pits some of the best brightest high school minds against one another, once again generated some excitement on the Utica Campus.

With high schools from throughout Oneida County represented, Whitesboro High's Andrew Taylor was the overall individual champion. This is a repeat performance for Taylor, who won this competition last year.

Taking second place in the individual competition was Ben Rolewicz from Westmoreland High while New Hartford High's Joe Mootz finished in third place.

In the team category, Whitesboro High took the crown away from two-time champions New Hartford. On the Whitesboro team were Taylor, Mike Albert, Sam Kuhr and Paul Lastowicka. The team's coach is Lisa Alexander.



VICTORIES ADD UP FOR TAYLOR - Andrew Taylor from Whitesboro High School won his second consecutive High School Mathematics Competition at MVCC. On hand to congratulate Taylor is Donald Willner, Dean of the STEM Center, and MVCC President Randall VanWagoner.

Honoring Employees for Years of Service

Debra Waterman was all smiles after being honored for 15 years of service to the College. Debra is an Assistant Professor in the Respiratory Care program. ▶



Phil Benson was honored by MVCC President Randall VanWagoner for his 20 years of service at the College. Phil is an Admissions Counselor, who is responsible for recruiting potential students, arranging tours and making contacts with high schools. ▼



◀ Thomas Welpé was recently honored for 10 years of service to the College and was presented with a tasty treat, balloons and an award. Thomas is the College's Store Clerk who is responsible for the distribution of equipment and supplies to all custodial staff on the Utica Campus. He is also responsible for maintaining supplies for the HVAC (Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning) systems.



Michigan university visits MVCC to offer two honors scholarships

As MVCC strives for excellence in our students, the College hosted representatives from Wayne State University on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 16-17, who came to Central New York to announce the creation of two full-tuition scholarships for members of MVCC's Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

Visiting MVCC were Jerry Herron, Dean of the Honors College at Wayne State University, and Associate Vice President Rob Kohrman.

Phi Theta Kappa is the International Honor Society for two-year colleges and the largest honor society in American higher education. Membership in Phi Theta Kappa is offered to students who have a 3.5 GPA or higher.

These two new scholarships will include full tuition, transfer as a junior into Wayne State's Honors College. Six current MVCC students were interviewed during the visit. The representatives also met with MVCC's Academic Affairs Office as well as Transfer Services to discuss how the Honors College at Wayne State University was established and best practices for enhancing MVCC's honors program.

Wayne State University is located in the cultural center of Detroit, Michigan. WSU is a comprehensive research university that is home to the largest single-campus medical school in the country as well as a distinguished law school as part of their almost 32,000 student body. The mission of the Irvin D. Reid



HONORS SCHOLARSHIPS - Don Willner, Dean of the Center for STEM, takes notes while talking with Jerry Herron, Dean of the Honors College at Wayne State University.

Honors College is to provide a community of scholars within a large urban research university - promoting informed, engaged citizenship as the foundation for academic excellence in a diverse global setting.

Monday, December 6

- 10:00 am - Psychology Club, ACC 212
- Noon - American Red Cross Blood Drive, PC Nursing Lab
- 3:00 pm - Chess Club, ACC 114
- 3:30 pm - Circle K, ACC 212
- 4:00 pm - CCED/Intro to Healthcare, IT 219
- 5:30 pm - CCED/Tai Chi Beginners, ACC 116
- 6:30 pm - CCED/Tai Chi Advanced, ACC 116
- 8:00 pm - Monday Night Football: New York vs. New England, ACC Snack Bar

Tuesday, December 7

- 11:00 am - Tech Tuesdays, PC 209, AB 261
- 1:00 pm - Tech Tuesdays, PC 209, AB 261
- 2:30 pm - College Senate, IT 225
- 3:30 pm - Gay/Straight Alliance Club, IT 218
- 4:00 pm - Film Club, IT 220
- 4:00 pm - Poetry Club, ACC 114
- 4:00 pm - CCED/Intro to Healthcare, IT 219
- 4:30 pm - Drama Club, ACC 212
- 5:30 pm - Alcohol Education, ACC 212
- 6:00 pm - Movie/Lecture (DGV): "Eat, Pray, Love" w/Dr. Carolyn West Pace, Theater
- 6:00 pm - Drama Club Auditions, IT 225
- 7:00 pm - BBG Dance, ACC 116
- 7:00 pm - Night Hawk Café, MV Commons
- 10:00 pm - Late Night Breakfast, ACC Snack Bar

Wednesday, December 8

- 9:00 am - Web Wednesdays, PC 209, AB 261
- 9:00 am - Placement Testing, IT 219
- Noon - Brown Bag Lunch Series "Pro-Study/Anti-Stress Day," AB 151
- 1:00 pm - CSTEP, IT 220
- 2:00 pm - Web Wednesdays, PC 209, AB 261
- 4:00 pm - Kids and Coaches Christmas Party, ACC 114
- 6:00 pm - Movie/Lecture (DGV): "Eat, Pray, Love" w/Dr. Carolyn West Pace, PC Auditorium
- 7:00 pm - Comedy: An Evening with Adam Ace and Marcus, Theater
- 7:00 pm - Night Hawk Café, MV Commons

Thursday, December 9

- 8:00 am - WIC, ACC 116
- 8:00 am - CCED/Lead Safety Training Class, IT 225
- 8:00 am - CCED/Spanish Speakers, IT 220
- 10:00 am - V8 Thursdays, PC 209(R), AB 261
- 12:30 pm - Phi Beta Lambda, IT 218
- 1:00 pm - Chemical Dependency Club, ACC 212
- 1:00 pm - V8 Thursdays, PC 209(R), AB 261
- 2:00 pm - Student Congress, ACC 212
- 3:00 pm - International Club, IT 218
- 3:00 pm - Program Board, ACC 212
- 4:00 pm - RASA, ACC 212
- 6:00 pm - Women's Basketball vs. Fulton-Montgomery CC, Gym
- 7:00 pm - BBG Dance, ACC 116
- 7:00 pm - Strategic Gaming Club, ACC 212
- 8:00 pm - MVCC Men's Basketball vs. Hudson Valley CC, Gym

Friday, December 10

- 9:00 am - SUNY Canton Dental Hygiene Final Exams, PC Aud
- 1:30 pm - SUNY Canton Dental Hygiene Final Exams, PC Aud
- 3:30 pm - CSTEP, IT 225
- 4:00 pm - BSU Dance, ACC 116

Saturday, December 11

- 7:00 am - Chess Tournament, IT 225
- 8:00 am - Motorcycle Safety Course, RA 207
- 9:00 am - Oneida County Defensive Driving Course, PC 205



DIVA DISCUSSION – Hosting a panel discussion on diversity were MVCC Counselor Maimun Khan, LaToya Richardson from the President's Office, and professor Dr. Sarah Coleman.

MVCC employee panel discusses diversity and the holiday season

In an effort to promote the College's Diversity and Global View initiative, three MVCC employees organized and hosted a "Casual Conversation with the Divas" on Friday, November 19. The purpose of this panel was to discuss and introduce students to the cultural differences during the holiday season.

Taking part in this panel was professor Dr. Sarah Coleman from the Center for Social Sciences, Business and Information Sciences; LaToya Richardson from the President's Office; and MVCC Counselor Maimun Khan.

"We discussed how people of different cultures celebrate their holidays, Thanksgiving in particular due to it being a week after. This offered the audience insight into how traditions are different depending on your background," said Richardson. "We also discussed personal experience with diversity during our lives."

This event was attended by more than 70 students who asked questions which sparked back-and-forth dialog. While this was a DGV event for the students, it turned into a more in depth conversation for everyone in attendance. The event was scheduled to last an hour, but went nearly two hours as students became more engaged with the members of the panel.

"The conversations began with those of us on the panel, but soon spreading among the audience," said Richardson. "I think it was a good start to helping the students really understand the mission of DGV – making known the importance of diversity, acceptance and appreciation of one another's differences."

PA's fundraiser collects \$1,100 for Toys for Tots

The Professional Association's Toys for Tots Fundraiser (at the Devereux on November 19) was a huge success by raising over \$1100.

"Every child deserves a little Christmas" has been the philosophy of the U.S. Marine Corp Reserve Toys for Tots Program since its inception in 1947.

Since then the Marine Corps has served thousands of children with toys each Holiday Season. Toys for Tots is the only official toy program of the U.S. Marine Corps that is sanctioned by the Department of Defense and every donation is matched by the TFT foundation.

Thank you to all that came out and supported this event. Be sure to look for upcoming PA Community Outreach Events.

Extended Library Hours

Utica Campus Library
Fall 2010 - Extended Hours
For Finals Week

Tuesday, December 14, 2010
 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Utica Campus Library
Winter Break Hours

December 15 – 22, 2010
 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
 Closed Weekends

Saturday, December 11, 2010
 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 12, 2010
 12:00 noon – 10:00 p.m.

Monday, December 13, 2010
 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Rome Campus Library
 Operate under normal hours.



GIVING THE GIFT OF LIFE - American Red Cross nurse Asia Brooles prepares Maria Romero from Sodexo to give blood during the Alumni Association's annual Fall Blood Drive. The event was held this week in Room 116 of the Alumni College Center.

Athlete of the Week

It may be early in the season, but the Hawks men's basketball team already has its leadership players stepping forward. One of those players is Darien Davis, who has become the Hawks' top gun.

For his performance this past week, Davis has been named MVCC's Athlete of the Week.

Davis averaged 17.3 points per game in helping the Hawks to three victories last week. The freshman General Studies major is second on the team in scoring and has knocked down 23 three-point shots this season.

Davis is a graduate of Longwood High School.



Davis

MVCC hosts security guard training course

The College will hold a 16-hour on-the-job security guard training course, which is required within 90 days of initial employment as a security guard. This course is offered through the Center for Corporate and Community Education, which is authorized by the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services to provide this training on the Utica Campus.

Topics to be covered include the role of a security guard, legal powers and limitations, emergency situations, public relations, access control, ethics and conduct, report writing, incident command system, and terrorism. An examination is taken at the end of the class and upon successful completion, students will receive a certification confirming participation.

The course will be held Monday - Thursday, December 13-16, from 6-10 p.m. at the MVCC Utica Campus. The course costs \$99. To en-

Did you know?
 Did you know that CCED offers classes for the community all over Oneida County? Locations include New Hartford Schools, Preswick Glen, Westmoreland Schools, NYS School for the Deaf, Jewish Community Center, and many more.

roll, call CCED

Holly Days Fund Drive

For the third consecutive year, MVCC's Phil Beta Lambda is sponsoring a toy drive to benefit the Holly Days, Christmas for Children, Inc.

Toy bins will be placed against the back wall of the Student Service Center in Payne Hall and in the Registrar/Business Office at the Rome Campus. Toys should be new and unwrapped. The drive will end December 15.

Holiday Celebration of Success

The MVCC Employee - Holiday Celebration of Success will be held Tuesday, December 14, from 4-6 p.m. in the lobbies of the IT Building. Please RSVP to cose@mvcc.edu this weekend.

Join in an end-of-semester gathering filled with music, delicious food, great drinks and the "ever-famous" Penny Auction.

A special web page has been set-up for MVCC where guests can submit their song requests to the DJ prior to the party.

To request a song please visit: <http://kennythepromoguy.djintelligence.com/request/mvcc>. (Group name: mvcc - Password: hawks)

Submit information
for Communitas to
Rich Haubert
at rhaubert@mvcc.edu