

Congressman Arcuri introduces College Cost Reduction Act of 2007

U.S. Congressman Michael A. Arcuri visited MVCC's Utica Campus on Tuesday to unveil the recently passed College Cost Reduction Act of 2007, which was signed into law by President Bush on September 27.

This is the largest investment in higher education since the GI Bill which was passed on the heels of World War II. This Act will provide nearly \$20 billion in funding through 2012.

"Affordability is the key factor for students today," said MVCC President Dr. Randall J. VanWagoner, adding MVCC offers \$250,000 in scholarships. "Eighty eight percent of our incoming freshman class receives some form of financial aid and this Act will help relieve some of the burden on students."

Joining the Congressman and Dr. VanWagoner in the lobby of Payne Hall for this announcement were SUNY-IT President Peter A. Spina and Utica College's Vice-President for Enrollment Management, Patrick Quinn.

"This Act helps students and families pay for college which is a critical step toward growing and strengthening America's middle class," said Congressman Arcuri, who added that this Act will be funded through the slashing of excess subsidies paid to lenders in the student loan industry.

According to recently released data, college costs across the nation have grown nearly 40 percent in five years, forcing students to gra duate with more debt than ever before. This has forced

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MAKING COLLEGE AFFORDABLE – U.S. Congressman Michael A. Arcuri talks about the recently signed College Cost Reduction Act of 2007, that will make college accessible to more people. Looking on are: Utica College's Vice-President for Enrollment Management, Patrick Quinn; SUNY IT's President Peter A. Spina; and MVCC President Randall J. VanWagoner.

College Cost Reduction Quick Facts

- 6.8 million students will have interest rates on loans halved over the next five years, saving thousands of dollars.
- 50 percent of federal student loan borrowers have family incomes between \$26,000-68,000.
- In 2003-2004, the median income of federal loan borrowers was \$45,000.
- 5.5 million students will see Pell Grant scholarships increase from \$4,050 to \$5,200 over next five years.
- Nearly 600,000 additional students would become eligible to receive Pell Grants

AEDs important part of keeping MVCC safe environment

Environmental Health and Safety Officer George D. Aylesworth has a big job on his hands, working to keep both of MVCC's campuses safe for students and employees. It was under his guidance that the College instituted its Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) Program following a donation by the MVCC Student Congress in May 2003. Following the purchase of Automated External Defibrillators (AED), the program was formally activated in May 2004.

"Our program was one of the first of its kind in a college setting," said Mr. Aylesworth. "As a college, we have been ahead of the curve when it comes to this life saving program. We have consistently exceeded NYS laws and standards. ... We have done this to provide a safer and healthier environment that further promotes a good academic environment and a positive college experience."

In 2004, New York State Education Department only mandated PAD's for public K-12 schools. MVCC's program has 10 AEDs, seven on the Utica Campus and three on the Rome Campus.

In addition to the College's Security staff, there are 42 trained volunteers in the use of the AEDs and CPR. The AED units are placed within 20 feet of a campus phone, with the posted security number.

NYS law now states AED's be provided in all publicly funded buildings with 100 or more occupants and that at least two individuals per each 100 occupants be trained in the use of an AED. These people need to receive retaining every two years.

MVCC's AEDs are stored in clear cases which can be broken in case of emergency. Once opened, the system will verbally instruct the user on where to place the two shock pads. The machine will then run a diagnostic of the patient to determine if a shock is necessary. If needed, the machine will warn all those present to stand away from the patient and instruct the user to administer the shock.

"These are self adhesive pads and there are large ones for adults and smaller ones for children," said Anne Popeo, MVCC's College Nurse. "You need to have basic knowledge of the program as you'll be under stress when using it."

The AEDs can be reused with only the batteries needing replacement after a discharge. If not used, the batteries have a 2-3 year lifespan. While the AED units don't wear out, the programming can be updated using a desk-top or lap-top computer.

While there are currently no plans for further training of



Locations of MVCC's AEDs

Utica Campus

Alumni College Center - snack bar Academic Building - AB General snack bar Science & Technology Building - Physical Science Crossover

Payne Hall - main lobby, admissions side Gymnasium - Athletic cage Information and Technology - Theater Atria by elevator Utica Campus Security mobile unit - 1 AED

Rome Campus

Plumley Center - 2nd level next to Registrars Office Rome Academic Building - near bookstore Airframe and Powerplant Lab - Griffiss Park

volunteers on the AED, the NYS standards require retraining every two years. This is an important aspect of the program as there are discussion to add units to the residence halls as New Hall falls into the criteria with about 150 students.

"As someone whom was in on the ground floor of this program, I am very proud of it and its growth. I am also proud of the volunteer response my friends and co-workers have made to help make this a successful endeavor," said Mr. Aylesworth.

Trained volunteers in the use of MVCC's AEDs

Rome Campus

Helen Adsit, PC-128 (Library), x7728; Henry Bryant, RA-107, x7720; Kelly Mc-Namara, PC-L27, x7760; Barb Evans, PC-129 (Library), x7714; David Hoffman, RA-202, x7753; Pete Peterson, PC-A20, x7739; Bernie Raynor, PC- L03, x7715; Barbara Seaton, PC-236, x7737; Dan Yoxall, PC - A20, x7739.

Utica Campus

George Aylesworth, ACC-B09, x5645; Lisa Bullet, PH-112A, x5317; Bob Clarke, AB-228D, x5641; Kelly McNamara, gym-cage, x5572; Bob

Gould, gym-109, x5388; Krista Hartman, PH-202 (Library), x5339; Mike Hayes, gym-cage, x5541/557; Jim Kinney, ACC - Base, x5550; Marie Kohl, PH-368, x5340; Jennifer Krohn, gymtraining room, x5429; Gary Kulis, PH-

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some prospective students to delay or put off completely going to college.

Along with raising the maximum for Pell Grants to \$5,200 by 2012, the College Cost Reduction Act of 2007 will cut interest rates in half, make student loan payments more manageable, increase federal loan limits and expand eligibility to include more students with financial need.

The Act also provides tuition assistance to undergraduate students who commit to teaching in public schools in high-poverty communities, offers loan forgiveness for first responders such as law enforcement officers, firefighters, nurses, public defenders, prosecutors, early childhood educators and librarians along with allowing public servants to have loans forgiven after 10 years.

"This bill will create incentives for college graduates to work as public servants for the betterment of our communities," said the Congressman. "Communities advance and evolve around out colleges and we need to do everything we can to assist in that process."

Chess tournament set for Saturday

Come join the fun as MVCC hosts the 2007 Fall Chess Tournament on Saturday, October 13, in Room 116 of the Alumni College

Center on the Utica Campus.

Registration for this event will be held from 8:30-9:30 a.m. The registration fee is \$30 for general public and \$20 for MVCC students.

There will be four tournament rounds at 9:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 2:15 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Prizes will be determined by the number of participants. This event is sponsored by the MVCC Chess Club.

For more information, contact Dr. Jonathan Meeter at 315-222-8105 or Dr. A. Mildred Treis at 315-792-5493.

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377, x5498; Ken Maser, ACC - Base, x5550; Mike McHarris, ACC-B05, x5489; Gary Parker, gym, x5541; Mary Jane Parry, PH-108 Business Office, x5654; Tim Schram, AB239B, x5504; Steve Senior, gym-109, x5397; Rick Stempien, PH-354,x 5668; Julie Sweet, ACC-B06, x5550; Greg Sydoriw, ST 131, x5332; Dave Warren, gym-203, x5674.

To submit information for Communitas, e-mail Rich Haubert @ rhaubert@mvcc.edu



BUSINESS TOUR - Patty Trevette, Administrative Assistant for the Marketing Department at Utica National Insurance Company, gives a tour of the Lafayette Street building to students from MVCC's Office Administration course.

Office Administration students get inside look at Utica National

Rosemary Fuoco, Instructor for the Business and Information Technology Department, took 11 students from MVCC's Office Administration (AA208) course on a site visit to the Utica National Insurance Company's building on Lafayette Street in Utica.

This trip took place on Wednesday, September 19.

The students were greeted by Patty Trevette, Administrative Assistant for the Marketing Department, who discussed the nature of the insurance industry and then gave a tour of the complex.

Following the tour, the students talked about other aspects of the company with Dan D'Angelo, Claims Manager; Tad Beaver, Underwriting Supervisor; Karen Burton, Employment Coordinator; and Laura Wittenbeck, Marketing Representative for the Eastern Regional Office.

MVCC Campus Events

Tuesday, Oct. 9

College Night, Gymnasium, 6:30 p.m. Night Hawk Café, MV Commons, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 10

Think Fast Game Show, MV Commons, noon Cultural Series Lecture: "Fundamentals of Investing" by Herb Koestner, IT 225, 7:00 p.m.

Night Hawk Café, MV Commons, 7:00 p.m. MVCC Concert Band Practice, ACC 116, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 11

Blood Drive, ACC 116, 8:00 a.m. Police Academy, IT 225, 8:00 a.m. Ballroom Dancing, MV Commons, 7:00 p.m. Women Volleyball at Onondaga CC, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 12

Student Congress, ACC 212, 1:00 p.m.

Acoustic Café hosts Bean & Cox

The Acoustic Café is delighted to present Syracuse recording artists Jason Bean and Ashley Cox on Tuesday, October 16, for back-to-back performances at 7:00 and 8:00 p.m.

Admission is \$3.00 for general public, \$1.00 for any college ID and free for MVCC students.

Bean's music entwines the dramatic with the playful. His vocals are strong, creating something for everybody to enjoy. Bean recently recorded his first full-length CD, "When History Let's You Go."

To learn more about Bean, check out his myspace page @ www.myspace.com/jasonbean.

Cox has toured with talents like MeShell Ndegeocello and recorded with the Fun Lovin Criminals. She won the Syracuse Area Music Award (or SAMMY) for Best New Artist in 1997 and the past several years has been touring coffee shops, clubs and festivals throughout the Northeastern United States. Cox recorded her first CD in 2000, "As Above, So Below."

The disc showcases the many sides of Ashley music and personality that covers folk, pop and alternative styles.

The Acoustic Cafe is located in the Alumni College Center's Room 116. The Café proudly serves pastries, coffee, tea and other refreshments.



LECTURE ON AMERICA'S THURST FOR OIL - MVCC alumnus A. Donald Karecki (1953, Retail Business Management), President of K&M Publishers, Inc., based in Tulsa, Oklahoma, returned to the Utica Campus on Friday, October 5, to present the Cultural Series lecture "Our Enterprising U.S. Oil Industry: Fire in the Belly!" The lecture was well attended comprising of students, faculty, staff and community members in Room 116 of the Alumni College Center. Mr. Karecki explored "Fire In the Belly", the constant driving force behind U.S. Oil, by highlighting the geo-political, military, political, environmental, and economic aspects of the Petroleum Industry while examining the state of the U.S. Petroleum Industry today.

Working with Students with Disabilities: It Really is Possible to be Too 'Nice'

By Lynn Igoe Coordinator, Disabilities Services

Large numbers of students with disabilities attend MVCC; however, in most cases, you won't even know that the student who is sitting in front of you is one of these students.

Most students with disabilities will look like everyone else, and what you will learn in most cases is that the strategies you will use with these students are going to be the same that you use with anyone else – just plain, good teaching techniques.

(At other times, there may be things it would be helpful for you to know about a person's disability, and in those cases we urge our students to share this information with you or to allow us to do the same.)

But it's not just the strategies you use that should be the same; the way you treat students with disabilities should also be the same.

I know that none of you would discriminate against an individual with a disability by refusing to teach her, being outright rude to him, or giving her less assistance than you would if she was not disabled. But the definition of discrimination includes partiality and preference as well as prejudice, and we all need to understand that we can do as much harm by being too kind, helpful, or empathetic as we can by being not kind, helpful or empathetic enough.

Many of our students with disabilities – particularly the traditional-aged students – come to the college after years of being taken care of by their schools and their parents. They were the piece on the chessboard, each move being strategized, plotted and carried out by others. All arrangements, advocacy, support, encouragement and decisions were the responsibility of others. In many cases, expectations were low and students received way too much "help" meeting them.

These students often struggle mightily once they leave the protection of the overprotective environment they've been cushioned by at school and at home to enter the college environment. Too many of them can't figure out how to do the simple things every student must do: arrange an internship, travel to an observation site, proofread written work, contact an instructor, carry books from class to class.

So how are they going to handle an admission's interview when they want to transfer to a college with selective enrollment? How will they go to a job interview and respond to a series of challenging questions? How will they get to the meeting in another city their boss wants them to attend? How will they handle it when they're audited by the IRS, have a disagreement with a neighbor, need to advocate on behalf of their children?

MVCC is the place where they must learn to do all of these things and more. Our small, safe, supportive environment is the perfect training ground for the life that will follow when (and if) they walk across the stage on graduation day.

We do these students a huge disservice if we don't encourage them to grow in independence, self-advocacy and problem-solving skills; if we give them "gift" or "pity" grades; if we anticipate every need, cushion every fall, never let them fail; if we don't allow them to become the chess player instead of the piece being moved across the board.

They will never have another opportunity like this – please, please don't keep them from making the most of it.