



NEW STRATEGIC PLAN - MVCC President Randall VanWagoner talks at the unveiling of SUNY's new Strategic Plan. Looking on are Chancellor Nancy Zimpher and SUNY Trustee John Murad.

The "Six Big Ideas"

1. The Entrepreneurial Century
 - a. SUNY StartUP
 - b. Setting the Stage For Investment
 - c. SUNY-INC
2. The Seamless Education Pipeline
 - a. The SUNY Urban-Rural Teacher Corps
 - b. Cradle-to-Career Success
 - c. SUNY Works
3. Healthier New York
 - a. Right Health Professionals in the Right Places
 - b. The SUNY Wellness Network
 - c. SUNY Scale
4. Energy-Smart New York
 - a. SUNY Smart Grid
 - b. New York as a Green Incubator
 - c. Living Smart
5. Vibrant Community
 - a. Citizen SUNY
 - b. SUNY Passport
 - c. SUNY Community Exchange Program
6. The World
 - a. Building Our Global Talent Pool
 - b. SUNY Diplomacy
 - c. Open SUNY

The Power of SUNY Chancellor unveils new Strategic Plan

Chancellor Nancy Zimpher unveiled the direction and scope of SUNY's mission when she announced the system's new Strategic Plan - *The Power of SUNY* – during a news conference on the campus of SUNY Institute of Technology in Marcy on Thursday.

This new plan is bold, making New York State's public education system stronger as everyone faces the economic challenges ahead. SUNY is the nation's largest comprehensive system of public education with 64 institutions, including research universities, academic medical centers, liberal arts colleges, community colleges, agricultural and technical institutes, and an online learning network. The system has more than 465,000 students enrolled served by 88,000 faculty and staff. More than half the students are in community colleges.

"The economical revitalization of New York State will rest on the successes of SUNY," said Zimpher. "SUNY's vision remains grounded in the three imperatives on the SUNY seal: Learn. Search. Serve."

SUNY's Core Values - Student-Centeredness; Community Engagement; Diversity; Integrity; and Collaboration – remain firmly in place while the new Strategic Plan is built on "Six Big Ideas."

"As MVCC's own strategic planning efforts have gained traction and a number of other major shifts have emerged — like the forthcoming major gifts campaign, accelerating enrollment growth, and

reshaping the ways in which our functional areas work together — it becomes more important than ever to look for ways that SUNY's proposed strategies can be aligned with MVCC's strategies and actions," said President Randall VanWagoner.

The first of the "Big Ideas" is Entrepreneurial Century which will be to get more local industries to invest in SUNY's students, laboratories and campuses. New York is lagging behind the rest of the country in having its graduates start-up their companies in the communities in which they were educated. SUNY will pursue financial support from investors – including federal, state, private and venture capitalists.

The second measure is Seamless Education Pipeline. Preparing educators of the future is in "desperate need of repair." SUNY trains 5,000 teachers annually only to have many burn-out due to shortfalls in initial preparation and lack of support for high-quality professional development. "This requires a commitment within the local community to correct." The goal is to produce graduates who are work-savvy and generally debt-free.

Then there is the Healthier New York initiative. SUNY educates thousands of students annually in the fields of medicine, pharmacy, research, paramedical, allied health and biomedical. As society continues to battle obesity, smoking cessation, and chronic illness, SUNY plans to determine which professionals

Continued on Page 2
The Power of SUNY

'Homeless to Harvard' inspiration to deliver Commencement address

Liz Murray, the inspiration for the movie "Homeless to Harvard," will deliver MVCC's Spring 2010 Commencement address. While in Utica, Murray will also discuss the transformative power of education at a meeting with leaders of Oneida County's 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness, including County Executive Anthony Picente Jr. and MVCC President Randall VanWagoner.



Murray

Commencement will be held Friday, May 21, at 4 p.m. at the Utica Memorial Auditorium. Participating will be successful degree and certificate candidates from MVCC's graduating classes of December 2009, May 2010, and August 2010. An estimated 1,200 students will be eligible to participate in Commencement. The event is free and open to the public.

Murray's life has been a triumph over adversity and an example of the power of dreaming big. She will speak about her experiences as the homeless child of drug-addicted parents and as a successful student at Harvard University, where the

experience of a college education transformed her prospects for the future.

As a child in the Bronx, Murray witnessed a harrowing cycle of addiction that eventually contributed to the death of both parents. By age 15 Murray was homeless, living on the streets and eating from dumpsters. Murray started high school later than most students but, determined to take charge, she finished high school in just two years. She received a New York Times scholarship for needy students and matriculated at Harvard University to major in psychology. After caring for her terminally ill father, Murray graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology in June 2009.

Her life story was portrayed in the 2003 Lifetime Television movie, "Homeless to Harvard." She received Oprah Winfrey's first-ever Chutzpah Award. She has authored advice columns in *The New York Times Upfront Magazine*. As a speaker she has shared stages worldwide with Mikhail Gorbachev, the Dalai Lama, and others.

To participate in Commencement, students must file an application for graduation with the Registrar's Office in Utica or Rome.

13th Annual 'Ted' Moore Run slated for May 1

The 13th Annual Theodore "Ted" Moore 5-kilometer (3-mile) Run/Walk will be held on Saturday, May 1, at 9:00 a.m. on the Utica Campus. This race is ideal for the casual runner or the serious runner working up to the Utica Boilermaker.

"This event is an important part of raising awareness to the dangers of drinking and driving. It demonstrates how such an act can not only devastate a family, but an entire community," says Ted Moore Run/Walk Race Director Deanna L. Ferro.

Theodore "Ted" Moore was an Associate Professor in MVCC's Mathematics

Department from 1981 until his death in December 1996 when he was tragically hit and killed by a drunk driver while out for a morning run.

The registration fee is \$20 for the general public, \$10 for students and \$40 maximum for a family of five. All participants receive a commemorative t-shirt. Registrations will be accepted prior to and on the day of the event. Registration will begin at 7:15 a.m. in the Gymnasium.

Proceeds from the event benefit an MVCC scholarship in Moore's name along with a portion being awarded to

area agencies whose mission is drug and alcohol abuse prevention and treatment. Sneaker Angles are also being sold on both campuses over the next few weeks in support of the Ted Moore Run.

Awards will be presented for the top runners in 14 age categories for male and female along with overall awards for runners and fundraising awards.

Make checks payable to the MVCC Foundation and mail to: MVCC, Office of Institutional Advancement, 1101 Sherman Drive, Utica, NY 13501. For more information, call Deanna L. Ferro at 731-5797.

The Power of SUNY

Continued from Page 1

are more critical to NYS' healthcare and create capacity in programs that train students for these areas.

As much of the country attempts to go green, SUNY's fourth initiative is Energy-Smart New York. As a founding member of the New York State Smart Grid Consortium, SUNY will seek to drive down excessively high energy costs while creating jobs in the communities it serves. The goal is to reduce energy consumption by at least 30 percent over the next 10 years.

The fifth of the "Big Ideas" is Vibrant Community, as 97 percent of all New Yorkers live within 20 miles of a SUNY campus. The goal is to take service learning and volunteerism to scale, collaborating with communities across the state to identify the most pressing programs, create solutions and promote safe and livable neighborhoods, stable housing and thriving workplaces.

The final initiative is The World. In a globalized economy, students with a broad cultural and international perspective have distinct competitive advantages. Through the expansion of foreign exchange, students will be able to enter this competitive environment without hurdles to cross.

"The five strategic priorities of MVCC's Plan connect well with the themes the comprise the new SUNY Strategic Plan," said VanWagoner in an open letter to the College community. "We are well positioned to move forward as a key contributor to SUNY's mission and to leverage the work we do every day in service to this college's local, regional, and global goals."

To learn more, visit www.suny.edu/strategicplan/

Volunteers needed for Rome Home Show

Volunteers are needed to work in the MVCC booth of the Rome Home Show, Saturday and Sunday, May 1 & 2. The Home Show will be held in the Rome Armory on Black River Blvd. The hours of the show are Saturday from 10-6 and Sunday from 10-4.

Volunteers are needed to work in two hour intervals. You may work alone or with a partner. Of course, if you'd like to work more than two hours, you may do so. The duties are simple: Represent MVCC to Home Show visitors to talk about MVCC programs, degrees and opportunities. In addition, if you know of a club, organization or student group who may be interested in representing MVCC, they are more than welcome to participate and showcase their work and accomplishments.

The remaining available time slots are:

Saturday: 10-12, 2-4; 4-6

Sunday: 10-12

Contact Mike Badolato at mbadolato@mvcc.edu or extension 7718 for details.



LION-O SPEAKS - Larry Kenney talked of his experiences as a voice-over artist.

The voice of Lion-O roars at MVCC

While you may not know his face, voice artist Larry Kenney provided insight into the world of voice-overs and what it is like behind the scenes of animated productions.

As the voice of "Best Week Ever" and better known for the characters Lion-O and Jackalman in the popular 1980s cartoon ThunderCats, Kenney was on the Utica Campus on Monday, April 12, to discuss his career experiences as a voice-over artist. He is also the voice on the Skittles commercial.

Kenney started his career as a radio DJ, which he said was great training for voice-over work as he read live commercials and did impressions and character voices. Kenney was a regular on the *Imus in the Morning* radio show for more than 30 years doing impressions of popular television and politicians.

His advice to those interested in breaking into the field of voice-overs was to take classes from a reputable teacher. Such classes are offered at the College through CCED.

Rome hosts Open House

The Rome Campus will host an Open House on Wednesday, April 21, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Atrium of the Plumley Complex.

The College will welcome prospective students and parents for tours and demonstrations of the academic programs offered by MVCC. Tours will include highlights of student programs and services, laboratories and technology services offered on both the Rome Campus and the Utica Campus.

Representatives for academic programs such as Business, Information Technology, Airframe and Powerplant Technology, Hospitality, Art and Graphic Design, Dental Hygiene, tractor trailer driving, Health Services, and MVCC's distance learning will be available to answer questions. There will be demonstrations by the hospitality program, tours of the nursing laboratories, as well as a financial aid seminar.

Prospective students will also have an opportunity to learn about MVCC's dual-credit high school program, student activities, academic advisement, the Learning Center in Rome, and Adult Services along with the Returning Adult Student Association/Rome Student Activities Association.

There will be off-site parking at Clough Elementary School, located on Bell Road. Shuttle service will be available every 10 minutes.

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

MVCC EVENTS

Monday, April 19

- 9:00 am - Local Census Office: Forms Assistance, PC Atrium
- Noon - ECOS Club: Information/Promotion Booth, IT Lobby
- 12:30 pm - Environmental Discussion/Presentation
w/Rogers Environmental Education Center, IT 225
- 3:00 pm - Chess Club: Informal Games, ACC 114
- 5:30 pm - CCED: T'ai Chi, ACC 116
- 6:00 pm - MVCAA: Drinking & Driving Program Class, RA 306
- 7:00 pm - CCED: Ballroom Dancing, ACC 116

Tuesday, April 20

- 11:00 am - Cultural Series Concert: Olga Megedyn,
Utica Symphony Violinist, IT Lobby
- Noon - Hilby, The Skinny German Juggle Boy, MV Commons
- 1:00 pm - WAC Club: Cigarette Cleanup, Utica Campus
- 4:00 pm - Softball vs. Onondaga CC, Softball Field
- 5:00 pm - Relay for Life Meeting, IT 225
- 6:00 pm - MVCAA: Drinking & Driving Program Class, RA 312
- 7:00 pm - MV Café Live: Faculty/Staff Poetry Reading, ACC 116
- 7:00 pm - Alcohol Awareness Week: "Dodge the Shot"
Dodgeball Tournament, Gym
- 7:00 pm - CCED: Ballroom Dancing, PH Lobby
- 7:00 pm - Night Hawk Café, MV Commons

Wednesday, April 21

- 11:00 am - WAC Club: Information/Promotion Booth, IT Lobby
- Noon - Brown Bag Lunch Series: "How to Beat the Cram Out
of Finals!," IT 220
- Noon - Alcohol Awareness Week: Mocktails, MV Commons
- Noon - Program Board: Gridley Paige Band, MV Commons
- 4:30 pm - SUNYIT Meets MVCC Art Exhibit Reception
on the SUNYIT Campus, Kunsela Hall, Gannett Gallery
- 6:30 pm - MVCC Spring Open House on Rome Campus, PC Atrium
- 7:00 pm - MVCC Concert Band Practice, ACC 116
- 7:00 pm - Night Hawk Café, MV Commons
- 9:00 pm - Alcohol Awareness Week Movie Night:
"The Hangover", New Hall

Thursday, April 22

- 8:00 am - Kettering Review Conference, IT 225
- 11:00 am - Dining Hall Sustainable Menu, ACC Resi Dining
- Noon - Alcohol Awareness Week: Jaws of Life, outside AB
- Noon - Habitat for Humanity Club: Information Booth, IT Lobby
- 10:00 am - Earth Day Film Series: "Planet Earth-Fresh Water,
Mountains, Jungles," Theater
- 2:00 pm - Baseball vs. Adirondack CC, Murnane Field
- 7:00 pm - CCED: Ballroom Dancing, ACC 116 (U)
- 9:00 pm - Alcohol Awareness Week: Throwback Board
Game Night, New Hall

Friday, April 23

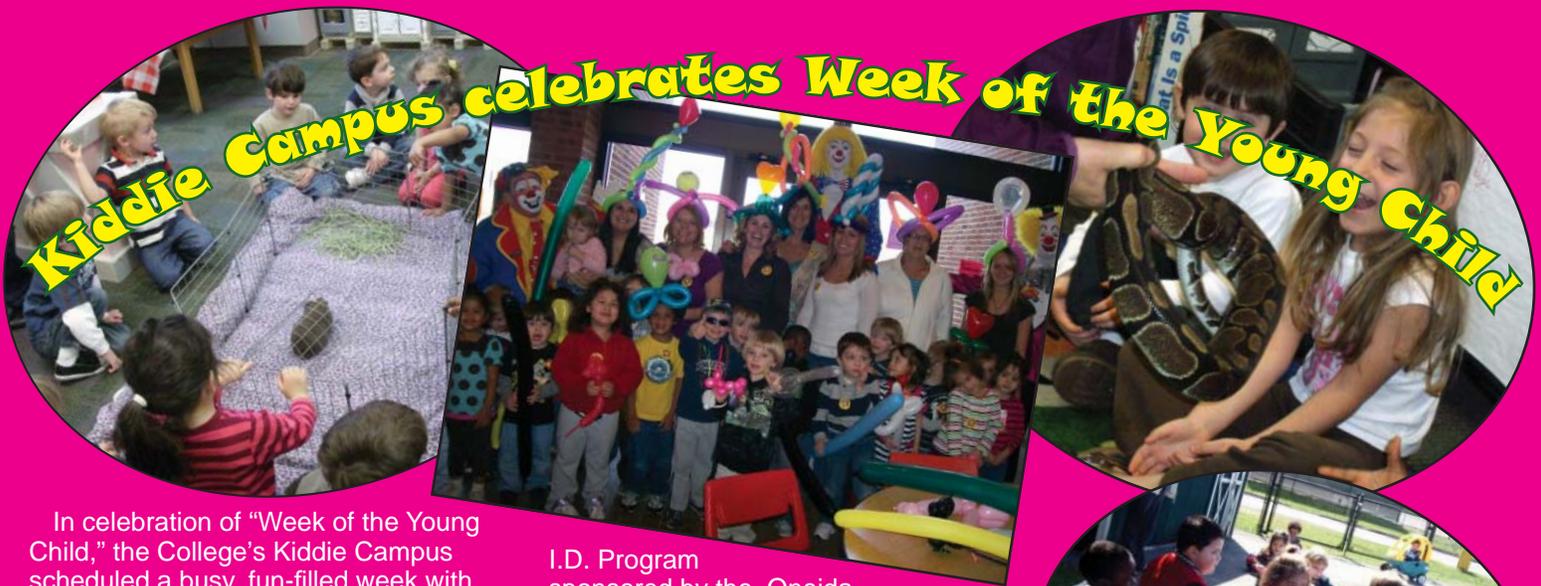
- 8:00 am - Kettering Review Conference, IT 225
- Noon - ECOS Club: Information/Promotion Booth, IT Lobby
- 5:30 pm - RASA Dinner, ACC 116
- 7:00 pm - CCED: Ballroom Dancing, PH Lobby
- 8:00 pm - Readers Theatre: "The Pussy Cat and the Expert
Plumber Who Was a Man," Theater

Saturday, April 24

- Earth Day: Intergenerational Spring Cleanup Weekend
- 8:00 am - MVCAA: Drinking & Driving Program Class, PC 207
- 8:00 am - CCED: Motorcycle Driving Learn to Ride, RA 207
- 8:00 am - Kettering Review Conference, IT 225
- 9:00 am - Traffic Safety: Defensive Driving Course, PC 205
- 1:00 pm - Baseball vs. Schenectady CC, Murnane Field
- 1:00 pm - Softball vs. Monroe CC, Softball Field
- 8:00 pm - Readers Theatre: "The Pussy Cat and the Expert
Plumber Who Was a Man," Theater

Sunday, April 25

- Earth Day: Intergenerational Spring Cleanup Weekend
- 8:00 am - CCED: Motorcycle Driving Learn to Ride, RA 207



In celebration of "Week of the Young Child," the College's Kiddie Campus scheduled a busy, fun-filled week with special activities each day. This past week, the Utica Zoo Mobile visited on Monday while Tuesday was "Pet Day" where some family pets visited the classrooms. The fun continued on Wednesday with Circus Day as members of the Shriners' Clown Brigade entertained the children and staff.

During the coming week the Kiddie Campus will hold its annual vision screening for children sponsored by the Central Association of the Blind, Child's

I.D. Program sponsored by the Oneida County Sheriff's Department and lastly the Humane Society visit. They are currently collecting donations to present to the Humane Society next Tuesday. Any contributions would be accepted.

Week of the Young Child is held each year to honor children and thank teachers and all those who make a difference in the lives of children. It is sponsored by the National Association for the Education of young children (NAEYC).



Easter Bunny visits Kiddie Campus

There was a very large furry critter wandering around the campus two weeks ago. But not to worry as it was only welding instructor, assistant professor Michael Sorrentino. The College's Welders Among Communities Club held a 50-50 raffle with an Eastern Bunny theme. Club members also asked the Kiddie Campus teachers if they could come down hand out candy to the children since they already rented the outfit for the day.

"The kids were excited to see the Easter Bunny come to visit them," said Sorrentino. "The kids asked me if I knew the bunny hop, which they then showed me how to do. It was a lot of fun to interact with the kids."

Sorrentino added this helps to promote the WAC club and provides goodwill within the college community.



Dr. Searles

Dr. Searles takes part in Hamilton art exhibit

Dr. George J. Searles is showing a mixed media work in the Abstract Art Show at the MAD Art gallery in Hamilton, N.Y. The exhibit opened on April 9 and will be up until June 5. Dr. Searles is a professor in the Center for Arts and Humanities.

Tyson named Region III 'Male Athlete of Week'

The College's baseball team is having a stellar season, in part due to the play of Christopher Tyson. With his latest no-hit performance from the mound against Jefferson Community College, Tyson was named the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region III Male Athlete of the Week for the week of April 5.

The Hawks baseball team record is 10-2 in Region III completion and 14-8 overall. Tyson, with a 2-0 record from the mound, has an ERA of 3.18 over 17 innings during which time he struck out 14 batters against just eight base-on-balls. He has only given up 11 hits.

Along with being honored on the regional level, Tyson was also named MVCC's Athlete of the Week for the week ending April 4. This sophomore Liberal Arts major is a graduate of Niskayuna High School.



Tyson

WE'RE CELEBRATING...

Thai and Vietnamese Cuisine: A Magical Experience

FEATURING THE SIGNATURE FLAVORS OF

Chef Mai Pham

World-Renowned Chef,
Restaurateur and Cookbook Author



Our exciting Thai and Vietnamese Cuisine promotion is coming to an end. Don't miss your chance to taste some of the delicious dishes of Master Chef Mai Pham. This great celebration is taking place right now in the Resident Dining Hall.

April 19 – Grilled Pork Chop w/ Chili Lime Sauce and Vietnamese Crispy Spring Roll (Dinner)

April 20 – Chicken Noodle & Vegetable Stir Fry and Vietnamese Fried Rice (Lunch)

April 20 – Chicken Salad Roll (Dinner)

April 21 – Vietnamese Chicken w/ Lemongrass and Mango Sticky Rice (Dinner)

April 22 – Ginger Sesame Salad with Chicken (Dinner)

April 23 – Spicy Lemongrass Tofu (Dinner)

April 26 – Ginger Tofu & Vegetable Stir Fry and Five Spice Chicken (Dinner)

April 27 – Jungle Curry (Lunch)

April 27 – Spicy Thai Beef Salad (Dinner)

April 28 – Thai Green Curry w/ Shrimp (Dinner)

April 29 – Pork Noodle Bowl "Bun" (Dinner)

April 30 – Claypot Style Chicken (Dinner)

May 3 – Orange Chicken (Lunch)

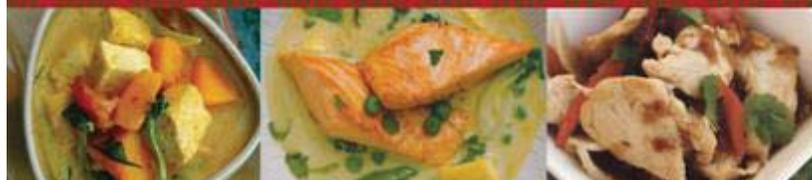
May 4 – Tofu & Mushroom Noodle Bowl (Dinner)

May 5 – Bangkok Beef and Biryari Rice (Dinner)

May 6 – Beef Noodle Pho (Dinner)

Please contact Jason at jmartin@mvcc.edu for questions on upcoming dish.

Hope you can join us!



sodexo
Making every day a better day

MVCC joins four area colleges to utilize \$2.7 million health care training grant

MVCC joined four other area colleges in receiving a \$2.7 million grant meant to help train 2,450 local residents for jobs in the health care sector.

Officials of the Workforce Investment Board of Herkimer, Madison and Oneida Counties were joined by the presidents of Mohawk Valley Community College, Herkimer County Community College, Morrisville State College, Utica School of Commerce and SUNY Institute of Technology and representatives of local BOCES for the announcement on Tuesday in the MVCC Board Room on the third floor of Payne Hall.

The project provides training scholarships for a wide range of health care careers, funded by this \$2.7M grant from the U.S. Department of Labor.

The project enhances existing alliances by offering one common basic skills health care training program at MVCC, HCCC and Morrisville. "The employers in our region told us the kinds of skills they wanted, and we developed a curriculum that matched their needs," said MVCC President Randall VanWagoner. "We have worked with our partners so that this course can be offered in all three of the WIB's counties. Any employer anywhere in these counties will have access to new hires who pass through the same course. That makes us a stronger region."

This project is in response to the needs of employers across the region for employees, and the needs of unemployed adults and dislocated workers for pathways that provide entry to employment as well as higher-level skills for advancement.

"The Oneida County region has some outstanding educational institutions. This project is a clear sign of what we can achieve when all of these partners work together with our workforce system and respond to the needs of our people," said



GRANT FOR TRAINING - Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente discusses how this \$2.7 million grant will help Oneida County and the surrounding counties. Looking on are MVCC President Randall VanWagoner, Utica School of Commerce President Phil Williams and SUNY Institute of Technology President Wolf Yeigh.

Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente. "This success is a great step forward, and I thank all the partners for their work and collaboration to develop a project that will help our region."

Joining President VanWagoner were There is a great need for health care training in the region and it makes perfect sense HCCC President Ann Marie Murray, Morrisville President Raymond Cross, SUNYIT President Wolf Yeigh, and Utica School of Commerce President Phil Williams.

Student Experience Workgroup to create retention plan

In its multi-year strategic plan for growing and sustaining MVCC enrollment at healthy levels, the College's Enrollment Management Council has identified retention as a key opportunity. To ensure that the College addresses retention systematically, the EMC has chartered and formed the new Student Experience Workgroup with input from the Senate and Cabinet.

Made up of front-line staff, faculty, and administrators, the Student Experience Workgroup is co-chaired by College Advisor Liz Doherty and Student Congress President Megan Vogt. Its purpose is to research, design, and recommend a plan of action for improving retention (students' persistence toward academic goals). The group's plan will emphasize student experiences—in the classroom, in enrollment processes, in co-curricular settings, and other places where students encounter the college—that positively influence student success.

The group's first tasks, already under-

way, are to research best practices in student engagement and retention, and to review MVCC practices that influence interaction with students. Working with Institutional Research, the Student Experience Workgroup will also review quantitative and qualitative data regarding the relationship between students' perceptions, engagement, and educational attainment. The group will synthesize and organize this knowledge into a retention plan, which it will recommend by the end of this calendar year to the Enrollment Management Council. Participating along with Doherty and Vogt are Deb Bogan, Claire Rudka, Jean Leandre, Jed Kimball, Stephanie Verostek, Charmaine Franklin, Donna Sawyer, Mike Alsheimer, and Allen Light.

Starting next week, the Student Experience Workgroup will seek information from students, faculty, and staff around the college regarding current efforts to support student success. This will help the group identify strengths among

MVCC's offerings as well as areas that can be improved. Co-chair Doherty will reach out to interviewees across the college, and anyone who wishes to participate can respond to a request for information in next week's "MVCC Today" or contact Doherty directly at ldoherty@mvcc.edu or extension 5813.

What to look forward to in next week's issue of *Communitas*

Alumni Art Show Winners
John Joyce's service recognized
Cultural Series Attendance
... and much more!