Communitas

MVCC Faculty/Staff Newsletter

Week of October 10, 2011

# Strategic Planning Council seeks feedback

The Strategic Planning Council is currently in the process of developing the next version of MVCC's Strategic Plan, and we need your help. To put things in the proper context, let's begin with why we do strategic planning. Essentially, strategic planning helps an institution to manage effectively, maintain fiscal control, improve services and processes, and allocate resources effectively. It ensures a disciplined, coordinated, systematic, and sustained effort toward meeting our mission and vision; the nature and quality of planning are among the basic indicators of institutional strength. As a corollary, strategic planning is also a requirement for accreditation.

In our approach to strategic planning, MVCC uses the following steps:

Step 1: Analyze Internal and External Scans;
Step 2: Identify Institutional Priorities;
Step 3: Determine Institutional Goals (which we call Directions) based on the Priorities;
Step 4: Publicize Priorities and Directions;
Step 5: Identify Strategies (Initiatives/Objectives) to achieve the Directions.

At this point, the Strategic Planning Council has conducted steps one through three and has drafted a proposed strategic plan to begin in the 2012-13 academic year. This article is the first stage of step 4; the Strategic Planning Council asks you to review the proposed new plan and provide feedback. Your representative on the Council will be soliciting your input in the coming weeks. If you prefer, you may also send comments to any of: Mark Radlowski, John Bullis, Ralph Feola, Patty Fox, Don Kelly, Norayne Rosero or Geri Sultenfuss. Please get involved!

On this page you can review the proposed plan. Should you be interested, the most recent plan can be found at www.mvcc.edu/about/board-of-trustees/strategic-plan.

## Proposed Priorities and Directions for Three-Year Strategic Plan Beginning AY2012-13

**COMMUNITY:** ***To build a strong vibrant community***

- Build a culture of civility, responsiveness
- Strengthen College communication
- Respond to regional employer needs
- Cultivate partnerships and pathways

**RESOURCES:** ***To effectively and responsively manage resources***

- Address space limitations
- Provide for succession planning and cross training
- Secure alternative funding for students
- Improve access to technology for students
- Implement sustainability initiatives

**EXCELLENCE:** ***To promote a culture of excellence***

- Improve intake and advising
- Enhance employee development
- Strengthen delivery of service
- Enhance quality of programs
- Increase opportunity for engaged learning
- Strengthen college diversity

**STUDENTS:** ***To provide a student-centered environment***

- Improve active engagement/bonding with students
- Enhance student preparedness
- Connect underserved students with MVCC
- Increase student completion rates
- Build citizenship and workforce readiness

**OUR OWN TALENT ON DISPLAY -** The Small Works Gallery on the second floor of the Information Technology Building is hosting the annual MVCC Art Faculty Show which opened last Tuesday with a reception. Special this year is a Gallery Poster Retrospective by Robert Clarke who was longtime professor in the Art Department.

## Clarification

**As a clarification to the article on access rights to the Jorgensen Athletic/Events Center, senior citizens are not permitted access unless they have a Wellness Pass.**

# WAC hosts members of Tradewinds Education Center

The Welders Among Communities club at MVCC played host to students from Upstate Cerebral Palsy's Utica Tradewinds Educational Center this past week.

This is the second time over the past 10 months that members of WAC met with these students. Back in the spring, WAC members helped Tradewinds students paint a hallway in their complex located on Armory Drive. During the Tradewinds students' visit, they were given a demonstration of what the welding students learn in the lab with showing how the metal is heated in the furnace and then bent to specifications. The UCP students also had an opportunity to view some of the artistic work of MVCC's welding students - including a steel birdhouse, a duck taking flight, and an iron cherry tree which is being crafted for the Rome Campus.

Assistant Professor Mike Sorrentino and instructor Tom Davis worked with members of WAC to talk about all the community projects the club has performed over the past five years.

"This was a great experience for these kids to see what we do here at MVCC," said Sorrentino. "It shows both the UCP and our students that you can help and make a difference in the community in which you live."

Club members wrapped up the day's tour with pizza and wings for their guests. WAC also ready has several projects scheduled for this fall both in the surrounding community and here on the Utica Campus.

**LESSON ON WELDING -** Assistant Professor Mike Sorrentino explains to students from Upstate Cerebral Palsy's Utica Tradewinds Educational Center about the welding program at MVCC.

**DELEGATION MEMBERS -** Representatives from MVCC's Phi Theta Kappa and advisors attended a Leadership Conference in New York City this past weekend. Attending were: Loreen Collins, Steve Frisbee, Liz Doherty, Veronica Verenich, Olga Surkova, Carlos Pulquerio, Mariana Kuzmich, Nicole Kraeger, Nick Mancari, Olga Lukashevich, LaToya Richardson and Sue Smith.

## Phi Theta Kappa travels to NYC for Leadership Conference

The New York Region of Phi Theta Kappa held its annual Leadership Conference in New York City on Friday-Sunday, October 7-9, hosted by the Borough of Manhattan Community College.

From the MVCC chapter, nine students and three advisors attended the conference which included workshops on planning and implementing College Projects and Honors in Action projects. There were also other Chapter Development activities which MVCC's delegation took part in.

Attending this event was a great opportunity for fellowship with other chapters and was also an important step toward the chapter's application for Five Star Status.

## Thomas, Ianno have beautiful baby girls

There is good new from the home front as the MVCC family has expanded by two.

Earlier today, Melissa Thomas gave birth to a healthy girl. Her name is Estelle Angelica, and she weighted in at five pounds and 20 inches long.

The baby is doing fine and Melissa is doing extremely well. As an instructor in Psychology and Human Services, she plans to resume teaching on Monday.

The second new member of the MVCC family is the daughter of Marye and Dan Ianno. Their bundle of joy arrived on Thursday, October 6, at 7:50 p.m.

Her name is Emmelyn Danielle Ianno and she weighted in at six pounds, three and three quarter ounces. She was 18.5 inches long. Both baby and mother are doing extremely well.

**Did you know?**
Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance has awarded a grant to MVCC to train individuals who are currently on Food Stamps? This will train 50 individuals a year for 4 years in Healthcare or Construction Trades.

# Mock arraignment part of Constitution Day

The Center for Social Science, Business and Information Sciences celebrated Constitution Day on Wednesday, October 5, by hosting a demonstration and panel discussion on the processes for a court arraignment.

With more than 150 students in the audience, the proceedings began with Yolaida Parra, a Criminal Justice student, being arrested by a City of Utica police officer and then brought onto stage where a mock courtroom was set up. Because Yolaida was bilingual with Spanish being her first language, the court requested to have MVCC trustee and court interpreter Tony Colon attend the proceedings in the defendant's corner.

With the Honorable John Balzano of the Utica City Court overseeing the proceedings, Yolaida answered questions through Mr. Colon and Leland McCormac of the Oneida County Public Defender Office.

"Interpreters play a very large role in the Utica City Courts," Hon. Balzano told the audience. He went on to inform the students there are 43 languages spoken in Utica and every person involved in a case must have their own interpreter. "This is to give each person their own voice. You cannot have one interpreter speaking for a defendant and a victim."

Mr. Colon expanded on the importance of interpreter in understanding the different cultures within the city in talking with the individuals. If the Utica Police Department is serving an arrest warrant on an individual who doesn't speak English, they will request to have an interpreter to accompany them in order to avoid conflict and confusion.

"When a defendant or a victim doesn't speak English or is unable to express themselves very well in English, it is something we have to adapt to in how we proceed. It is most important that we proceed under the letter of the law in order for a verdict to stand," said Kara Wilson, an Assistant Prosecutor in the District Attorney's Office.

"The public defender also has to work quickly to learn everything they can about a defendant for an arraignment hearing and the interpreter in this case plays an important role," said Mr. McCormac. "Because this is where bail is decided, I need to know their background, work history and family history if I am to state they are not a flight risk."

**COURT PROCEEDINGS** – Members of the City of Utica Court gave a presentation of how an arraignment proceeding is done. Seen here, Leland McCormac from the Oneida County Public Defender Office explains the defendant's rights to the audience while Yolaida Parra, an MVCC Criminal Justice student playing the role of defendant, and MVCC trustee Tony Colon who is a court interpreter.

The panel went on to discuss the difference between a felony and a misdemeanor, bench trial very a jury trial, and how the different jurisdictions between city, county and state courts operate. Constitution Day commemorates the formation and signing of the U.S. Constitution by 39 officials on September 17, 1787, recognizing all, born in the U.S. or by naturalization, have become citizens.

# MVCC student selected for NASA program

Steven Riggall, a Physics Education major at MVCC, was selected to travel to NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., to develop a prototype vehicle to roam Mars as part of the National Community College Aerospace Scholars program.

**Riggall**

Alongside his peers, Riggall will establish a team and form a fictitious company pursuing Mars exploration. The team will create a company infrastructure to design and develop a rover. The experience includes a tour of NASA facilities and briefings from agency scientists and engineers. Riggall is among 48 students from 25 states who will visit the Space Flight Center Nov. 8-10.

Riggall, a West Eaton native, is in his sophomore year at MVCC. He is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges, and was named to the President's List for the Fall '10 semester and the Vice President's List for the Spring '11 semester.

"I am extremely happy to be given this opportunity, because I know how competitive the program is," Riggall says. "I'm looking forward to meeting people who have shared interests in science, as well as developing connections across the United States. I am just as excited about the entire experience, and thanks to Phi Theta Kappa I am able to participate in programs such as this."

Riggall and other participants were selected based on completion of Web-based assignments during the school year centered on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) content.

"Community colleges are a tremendous source of talented problem-solvers and will help feed skilled scientists and engineers into the nation's workforce," said Susan White, director of education at Johnson Space Center in Houston, where the program is coordinated. "This program helps inspire students to pursue STEM careers in the future."

NCCAS is based on the Texas Aerospace Scholars program, originally created in partnership with NASA and the educational community in Texas. The program is designed to encourage community and junior college students to enter careers in science and engineering and ultimately join the nation's highly technical workforce.

Visit NASA's education programs, www.nasa.gov/education, to learn more.

# Business Club invites Kipp Hicks to discuss IDA

The MVCC Business Club welcomed guest speaker Kipp Hicks, Executive Director of the Madison County for Industrial Development Agency to talk to students on "How an IDA can help small businesses locally and how to expand internationally."

An IDA is an Industrial Development Agency which helps to spur economic growth within a region. This lecture was well attended by business student which was held in Room 116 of the Alumni College Center on Tuesday, September 27.

Hicks has been the Executive Director in Madison County since June of 2007. His 11 years of professional experience in the industry includes time as the executive director for a private non-profit economic development agency - Grow Idaho Falls, Inc. He additionally spent three years as regional business recruitment for the Eastern Idaho Economic Development Council. Prior to that, he worked as a financial consultant with Merrill Lynch.

Hicks is a native of Oneida and obtained a Business Administration degree with an emphasis in Finance and a minor in Economics from Baldwin-Wallace College in Ohio.

# Toy drive a home run

Once again the MVCC baseball team hit a home run during the Hawks' Fourth Annual Fall Toy Drive with more than 200 items collected by members of the team.

Overcoming the difficulty of collecting toys so far before Christmas, the Hawks' squad went out into the community and contacted friends and family to garner support. Team MVCC helped promote this toy drive, but it was the dedication and hard work by the baseball players which put the drive over the top.

"The players collected most of the toys as some players bought items and others had their families help them donate something," MVCC baseball coach Dave Warren. "The players really get into this drive as they know the toys will be going to a needy but deserving child."

The toys were delivered this week to the Holly Days Program which is run by Ron Sterling of Ilion. Holly Days gives the toys to needy families throughout the Mohawk Valley during the Christmas holiday season.

**ON THE CUTTING EDGE –** Members of MVCC's Nursing and Allied Health staff met with researchers at the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL) last week in a collaborative visit. Taking part in the visit were Melissa Copperwheat, Pam Fess, Associate Dean of Nursing and Allied Health, Myron Thurston, Assistant Director of Communications and Development at MMRL; Anna Dousharm and Jamie Cuda.

# MVCC visit could lead to learning opportunities

A collaborative site visit was facilitated with Faculty and staff from Nursing and Allied Health to the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL) this past Monday.

The Masonic Medical Research Laboratory is a not-for-profit institute supported by volunteer contributions and bequests. The Laboratory also obtains funding through foundation, corporation and Federal grants. The MMRL is a state-of-the-art medical research facility engaged in studies involving major health issues facing society today such as, ischemic heart disease, cardiac arrhythmias, sudden cardiac arrest and other aspects of cardiovascular disease.

The MMRL is also an educational institution and resource center with close ties to Syracuse University, Utica College, the SUNY Health Science Center at Syracuse and other medical schools nationwide. The Laboratory offers four educational programs: Summer Fellowship, Undergraduate, Predoctoral and Postdoctoral.

Pamela Fess, Associate Dean of Nursing and Allied Health, will be pursuing educational opportunities with this valuable institute for MVCC students enrolled in Health Care Careers.