

MVCC welcomes education leader, non-profit leader as Rome Dean

Starting Feb. 27, MVCC will have a new Rome Campus Dean tasked with leading the campus' continued growth in enrollment, programs, and connections to its community. Richard Quest, Ed.D., an accomplished educator and administrator with more than 20 years of experience, will take on the challenges and opportunities of Rome.

Quest's appointment and approval by the Board of Trustees concluded a national search with nearly 40 applicants. Quest succeeds Ron Cantor, Ph.D., who became President of Southern Maine Community College last fall. President Randall J. VanWagoner has been serving as interim dean since Cantor's departure.

"Our Rome campus and community, as well as our entire college, will benefit from a Rome Dean who is highly effective as an administrator, who has deep experience in education, and who cares about the history and connections of the community. I'm excited that Dr. Rick Quest brings all three qualifications to the table," said VanWagoner. In addition to his oversight of Rome Campus facilities and services and his collaboration with Learning and Academic Affairs on Rome's academic offerings, Quest will play an important role in the Rome division of the Challenge and Opportunity major gifts campaign.

Quest joins MVCC from Keuka College, where he is associate vice president of the Center for Professional Studies. He oversees the non-traditional half of Keuka and leads its Penn Yan branch campus. He has concurrently served as assistant professor of education. At Keuka, Quest contributed to 30 percent growth in concurrent enrollment in three years; led the accreditation process for Keuka's concurrent enrollment program; and led the creation of articulation agreements and other partnerships while with a wide range of institutions. Keuka programs



Dr. Richard Quest

under Quest's leadership included undergraduate and graduate offerings in Criminal Justice, Management, Nursing and Social Work enrolling more than 900 students with 250 adjunct instructors, 20 fulltime faculty members and more than 50 staff. Quest first visited MVCC last fall as part of an articulation team, an interaction that ultimately led him to vie for the Rome deanship.

"It is clear to me that MVCC's philosophy and vision are closely aligned with my deep interests in education," said Quest. "I view community colleges as the most democratic form of higher education in this country, and I am excited about ways that the Rome campus and our college as a whole will be able to further extend the benefits of education into our communities and local economy." Furthering his interests in democratizing learning, Quest is founding president of the non-profit Duffy Books in Homes

USA. Duffy brings books and resources directly to under-privileged children, helping them overcome obstacles to literacy and learning.

Before Keuka Quest held positions at Corning Community College, as associate dean of academic excellence and extension; and roles as elementary school principal, high school principal, and assistant superintendent in the Candor, N.Y. Central School District. He held a concurrent teaching appointment in Corning's history department and has 11 years' experience teaching social studies at the middle and high school levels. He has written grants totaling in excess of \$2 million and has presented and served on boards for organizations such as the Career Pathways Network and the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society.

Quest holds a doctor of education degree from the University of Pennsylvania, and he completed a 2005 study abroad program with the University of New Zealand. He also holds a Certificate of Advanced Study in educational administration from SUNY Cortland; a master's degree in social sciences from Binghamton University; and a bachelor's degree from Binghamton in an area of continuing scholarly interest, anthropology.

"I still have my field pack and archaeological tools from my undergraduate days, and it's not unheard of for me to set up a grid and excavation in the back yard – for me it's both a learning experience and a form of relaxation," said Quest. "I also have a deep interest in the American Revolution which gave birth to our nation and a passionate interest in the Civil War which defined us a nation. I feel that these interests come from my deep appreciation for the history of people and the places they called home."

Honoring Employees for Years of Service When it comes to cutting edge electrical technology and sustainability.

Perh Poster is a wealth of knowledge and experience As the College's when it comes to cutting eagle electrical technology and sustainability.

Bob Decker is a wealth of knowledge and experience. As the College's happing to be been instrumental princetor of Engineering Technologies Programs he has been instrumental. Director of Engineering Technologies For his service and dedication to hoth in the success of MVCC's graduates. Ulrector of Engineering Technologies Programs, the this service and dedication to both in the success of MVCC's graduates. For his service and dedication to both success of MVCC's graduates. In the success of MVVVVs graduates. For his service and dedication to both honored for 15 years of service.

Students and co-workers, he was recently honored for Mathematica Deviced students and co-workers, he was recently contar for Mathematica Deviced. students and co-workers, ne was recently number for Mathematics, Physical With the academic rank of Professor in the Center for Mathematics, Physical Control of Applied Technology, Bob topology and Applied Technology and Applied Te With the academic rank of Professor in the Cerner for Mainematics, Physical Science, Engineering and Applied Technology, Bob teaches engineering and Science, Engineering and MAICC And Long 12, 4007 Science, Engineering and Applied Technology, Dod real Phone (1997). It is consessible to the point of the poi



Ever since joining the MVCC community, Krista Hartman has been making life easier for everyone who uses the Utica Campus library by making sure materials are organized and easy to find. As the College's Cataloging Librarian, she has been responsible for overseeing that new materials are filed correctly and dealing with the technical process of materials. She was recognized last week for 15 years of service to the College, having joined the staff on Jan. 1, 1997. Holding the academic rank of Associate Professor, Krista's responsibilities also includes assisting with collection development and reference. She specializes in children's literature and Oneida County authors.

Phi Theta Kappa induction Feb. 8

The Lambda Beta Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society will be welcoming new members during the Spring Induction Ceremony on Wednesday, Feb. 8 at 3 p.m. in the Utica Campus IT Theater.

Invitations have been sent out to over 540 students who have met the requirements for membership [3.5 GPA with at least 12 credit hours toward a degree program]. Students who have accepted the invitation to join will be recognized at the ceremony. A list of inductees will appear in Communitas.

If you know students who have received invitations, please encourage them to join! We have recently completed our paperwork to be recognized as a five-star chapter, and are involved in activities which reflect the four hallmarks of the society - leadership, scholarship, fellowship and service including last semester's College Completion Signing Events and Honors Transfer & Scholarship Night.

The Induction Ceremony is open to all members of the college community, and should take less than an hour.

Light refreshments will be available at the conclusion of the ceremony in the IT Lobby. Please come to show your support for these inductees, should your schedule permit. This is a great opportunity to recognize students for their academic achievement.



Fourth Friday Institutes debut

"Fourth Friday Institutes", a new employee enrichment program format, for faculty and staff will be initiated this spring through the Student Affairs Division, according to MVCC Executive Director of Organizational Development, John Bullis. The new format has been developed in response to feedback the Organizational Development Office has received from Institute surveys conducted over the past few years. Fourth Friday Institutes will be offered on the fourth Friday following the start of classes each fall and spring, with specific themes. Themes will also often be focused toward specific groups, offices, departments, or divisions of the College as requested by administrators, leadership team members, or groups of employees themselves.

The initial "Fourth Friday Institute", scheduled for Friday, Feb. 10, will feature a day-long, interactive workshop entitled "Engaging Communication" for Student Affairs personnel and other "front-line" staff. The program is scheduled to run from 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Cindy Maher, co-founder of Leading Edge Coaching & Development (West Hartford, CT), will provide the training. Vice President Stephanie Reynolds and Associate Professor David Katz have worked with the Leading Edge staff to plan and organize the day. "We're very excited about the opportunity this training presents MV's Student Affairs staff," said VP Reynolds, "and we've opened up registration for this program to interested front-line staff and any other members of the faculty and staff whose work schedules allow them to attend." Registration for the 8:30am – 3:00pm daylong workshop is available on-line at:

http://www2.mvcc.edu/training/feb/ on a first come, first served basis like a regular Enrichment Institute registration.

"The original Enrichment Institutes schedule follows class sessions during the academic calendar year," Bullis said. "This schedule has worked well for a majority of faculty and staff, but there have been some Centers, offices, and departments whose staff and faculty have found it difficult – if not impossible – to participate in the August and January Institutes because of semester start workload demands." Several staff members and administrators documented this concern in evaluation surveys conducted after each event. "We've seen different attendance issues with our October and March offerings," he said. "Often those events were offered around the Columbus Day and Spring breaks, with a primary focus on non-teaching issues."

MVCC holds MMR, Meningitis clinics

MVCC will be holding two MMR/Meningitis Clinics this spring.

The first will be on Wednesday, Feb. 1, from 1-3 p.m. in Room 104 of the Alumni College Center. The second clinic will be held Wednesday, Feb. 29, from 1-3 p.m. in Room 104 of the Alumni College Center.

The cost of the MMR is based on a sliding scale with a minimum cost of \$5. Some insurance policies are accepted and can be verified on the day of the clinic.

For the Meningitis Clinic shot, patients must be 18 years old and the fee ranges from \$116-\$138 based on income. Some insurance policies are accepted.



Survey results from those events revealed slight decreases in attendance from August and January, with some faculty and staff indicating they'd used that time for vacation, or other travel away from campus. Organizational Development staff presented their findings to the Employee Enrichment Council and discussed the issues raised directly with faculty, staff, and administrators.

The discussions resulted in development of the new format which includes run dates modified to better accommodate semester start up schedules, and narrowed subject focus to address single issues requested by groups of employees or identified by administrators.

Katz, who coordinates faculty and staff enrichment out of the Organizational Development Office, noted the importance of the new format. "Fourth Fridays will demonstrate our ability to meet a wide variety of training and enrichment needs within the institution," he said. "We are committed to working with all faculty, staff, and administrators interested in creating innovative and unique opportunities that improve our ability to work, learn, and grow!"

If you have an idea for an employee enrichment or professional development program, please contact Bullis (x5307) or Katz (x5624).

Vietnamese community college leader to visit

MVCC will be hosting Mr. Pham Thiet Khanh, Head of the Vietnamese Association of Community Colleges and Rector (President) of Tra Vinh University in the Mekong Delta of southern Vietnam, on Wednesday, Feb. 29.

This visit follows his attendance at the Community Colleges for International Development Conference in New Orleans. The purpose of his visit to the United States is to identify possible partners for future projects, including those possibly having to do with faculty and staff development, vocational training and business development.

This visit is in part a result of Dr. Sandra Engel's Fulbright grant at Kien Giang Community College in Vietnam in 2003. A detailed schedule is being developed.



HELPING OUR ANIMAL FRIENDS - MVCC President Randall J. VanWagoner, Ph.D., presented co-founder and president of Spring Farm CARES Animal Sanctuary and Adoption Center Bonnie Reynolds with a check for \$1,000 which was raised by MVCC employees during the 2011 Falls Celebration of Success.

MVCC employees raise \$1,000 to help animals

MVCC's staff and faculty helped raise \$1,000 for the Spring Farm CARES Animal Sanctuary and Adoption Center during the College's fall "Celebration of Success" employee recognition event which was held on the Utica Campus in December.

Spring Farm CARES shelters various "down on their luck" animals, utilizing "alternative" ways of caring for, healing, and lovingly co-existing with animals, to educate the public as to these methods. Spring Farm bills itself as a public facility selling a commodity more "desperately needed by humanity than all the money in the world."

"The animals we care for come from all kinds of stories and situations," said Bonnie Reynolds, co-founder and president of Spring Farm CARES. "We care for all kinds and size of animals."

MVCC President Randall J. VanWagoner, Ph.D., presented a check for \$1,000 to Reynolds, who is in her 20th year of running Spring Farm CARES. The facility takes care of more than 300 animals ranging in size from turtles to horse and goats.

Spring Farm CARES is located at 3364 State Route 12, in Clinton. The goal is to heal and rehabilitate the animals and then locate an appropriate home for them. Adoptions and donations can be made be made by contact the organization.

MVCC's employees raised this money by holding a special fundraising basket raffle during the "Celebration of Success." More than 30 departments, offices and student organizations at the College donated baskets to be raffled off, with MVCC's employees voting on what charity to donate the proceeds to.

To learn more about the Spring Farm CARES or to make a donation, contact them at 315-737-9339 or visit online at www. springfarmcares.org.

springfarmcares.org.

Submit information for Communitas to rhaubert@mvcc.edu

MVCC Faces: Jonelle Ritchie



Jonelle E. Ritchie joined the MVCC community with the philosophy and goal of giving back to those people who have helped her attain her dream and aiding the next generation in realizing their own dreams.

"I hope to leave the college each and every day knowing that I was able to touch a student and give them that 'aha' moment that they may have been struggling with," said Ritchie, who joins MVCC as the new Technical Lab Assistant of the Nursing Program.

Ritchie is very familiar with MVCC's program, having graduated as an RN in May of 2011 after earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Syracuse University in 1999. Prior to joining the MVCC staff on Jan. 17, she spent three years teaching biology and chemistry at the high school level where she thoroughly enjoyed teaching students and engaging in the learning process with them

While attending MVCC as a student, Ritchie received the Nursing Leadership Award in May 2011, and was a member of Phi Theta Kappa.

"I am able to combine my love for teaching and my passion for nursing into the lab and be an advocate for students and guide them in the right direction and ease their worries and stress when it comes to clinical skills," says Ritchie, who is a New Hartford resident where she volunteers as the co-president of the PTA for E.R. Hughes Elementary School.

Ritchie's responsibilities in the nursing lab is to maintain lab, equipment and supplies for all skills testing, aid students in practicing their skills, entertain questions, support staff for students and work directly with faculty to provide knowledge from the classroom that crosses over into the lab.

"I hope to grow with this department for years to come and see the many generations of nurses blossom from this amazing program and enter the workforce and carry with them a small bit of knowledge that I was able to give to them through my commitment and dedication to learning and education," added Ritchie.

When not at work, she enjoys spending time with her husband of 10 years and their three children. She also enjoys traveling, sports of all sorts with her children as well as all things Jimmy Buffett.