Communitas

MVCC Faculty/Staff Newsletter

Week of October 1, 2012

New scholarship helps students return to college

As part of SUNY Commit to Complete campaign this week, MVCC announced a new scholarship designeed to enable students who left the College short of graduating, the opportunity to return and complete their Associate Degree on a full scholarship.

The New York State College Completion Day was observed at all SUNY community colleges.

The MVCC College Completion Scholarship is supported by the MVCC's Challenge and Opportunity major gifts campaign. The scholarship provides eligible students with funds needed to finish their studies and graduate.

"The community college degree has tremendous benefits for graduates, in terms of their work readiness, transfer possibilities, and lifelong learning and learning potential," says Randall J. VanWagoner, MVCC president. "This scholarship will enable more people to take advantage of these benefits. It will help more of our students achieve success and it will equip more people to participate in the economic health of our community."

To administer the scholarship, the MVCC Foundation reviews student records to identify students who left MVCC requiring 12 or fewer credits to complete associate degrees; had cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher; and who left in good standing two or more years ago.

"We will proactively reach out to the eligible students starting with those who have previously applied for graduation, and invite them to cross the finish line with their degrees," says Foundation Executive Director Frank DuRoss. "These new scholarship opportunities exist because of the generosity and community spirit of donors to the Challenge and Opportunity campaign, and they'll lead to new stories of student success." Scholarship-winning students will receive full tuition and fees, less any applicable financial aid. Up to 25 scholarships will be offered annually. People interested in the scholarship should call (315) 792-5555 for more information.

COMMIT. COMPLETE. COMPETE.

New York Community College Completion Day

"Nationally and here in Oneida County, some of the most challenging obstacles on the path to completion are constraints in students' financial resources," says VanWagoner. "This new scholarship addresses these obstacles and renews students' potential to benefit from education." The U.S. Census Bureau reports that on average, an associate degree holder will enjoy lifetime earnings $400,000 more than a high school graduate without a completed college degree. MVCC estimates that about 250 past students meet eligibility requirements for the new scholarship.

The scholarship launch was just one of Wednesday's activities marking MVCC's college-wide commitment to completion. Students, faculty and staff signed pledges to completion; participated in advising that let students review their progress toward graduation; wore graduation regalia and alma mater apparel for photos; and viewed a video broadcast and live Q-and-A with completion advocate Isa Adney.

Completion Day is a statewide initiative of SUNY community colleges, established in a proclamation by Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo. With the motto "Commit, Complete, Compete," it sends a message to all students that completing an associate degree ensures greater opportunities for transfers, scholarships, and jobs after graduation.

MVCC's participation is organized by the Phi Theta Kappa honor society. This is the second year that the student leaders of PTK have organized college-wide completion activities. Last year's programs were recognized by statewide PTK as the exemplary student program in the state.

THE PLEDGE - Christopher Sleys, Student Trustee, signs the Commit to Complete banner during this week's New York State College Completion Day.

"We are tremendously proud of how our students have dedicated themselves to spreading the word about the importance of college completion. This initiative exists through our students' planning, implementation, and creativity," says Stephen Frisbee, Director of MVCC Libraries and co-advisor to PTK.

Submit information for Communitas to rhaubert@mvcc.edu

Engineering, CSTEP students receive tour of Clarkson University facilities

MVCC has a long tradition with Clarkson University, with hundreds of MVCC graduates having transferred to Clarkson over the years. This tradition continued last week when 18 Engineering Science students, including students from CSTEP, visited Clarkson University.

The daylong trip started with an information session upon arrival. Trish Dobbs and Tracy Green from Clarkson provided the students with the opportunities that they will have while attending Clarkson. One of the most important notes that the students heard is how very well prepared MVCC students are when they come to Clarkson.

After the introduction, students were taken on a "SPEED" tour. This is not a quick tour of the college, but rather a tour of the labs where various teams prepare for national and international competition in various categories. Students may choose to work on building a remote controlled airplane, a concrete boat that must float, an environmentally clean snowmobile or a buggy capable of making it through a very rugged, wet, dry and bumpy terrain, just to mention a few.

After this tour, MVCC's students - who were escorted by Dr. Shahida Dar, Celia Domser and Danielle Inger - were treated to a lunch where they listened to former MVCC students presently at Clarkson University as well as several other transfer students. Each student assured the MVCC folks that it would be one of the best moves they made if they attend Clarkson.

The support through the programs goes right up to securing a job - 96 percent of last year's graduates were hired by companies across the country and close to home and the other four chose graduate school.

After lunch, students from MVCC were met by professors in the various disciplines that they were interested in pursuing and had the opportunity to ask specific questions on the programs. The day was a success for MVCC's students as well as for Clarkson. It was "the light at the end of the tunnel" for MVCC's students and it was evident by their excitement and chatter all the way back home.

The students taking part in this tour were: Matthew Senus, Jimmie Rush, Chris Ernst, Mathew Hrycan, Devin Sonne, Scott Kulman, Megan Carlo, Nick Schultz, Dominic Messagna, Nicolai Giedraitis, Viktor Sykora, David Fresne, Ben Derrane, Austin Cornish, Adael Sumner, Carlos Pulquerio, Brian Warner, and Andre Platt.

Did You Know?

Almost 5,000 spring semester students were returning from Fall-2011.

THE SPREAD OF CIVILITY – The Campus Civility Committee worked with members of the student body to arrange to have the Civility Banners hung in the lobby of Payne Hall. These banners are intended to remind students, faculty and staff of the importance of civil behavior by in the college community. While there are always challenges to civil behavior, the hope is that these banners will inspire respectful discussions around the topic of civility and ways the college can instill this value in each and every one of its faculty, staff, and students.

Team MVCC recognizes 2012 4 Runners

Team MVCC has made a profound impact throughout the Central New York Region over the past five years. For the last three years, Team MVCC has been recognizing its membership which goes above and beyond with its 4 Runners Club.

Team MVCC recognized 43 faculty and staff members along with 16 students for achieving 4 Runner status. For College employees, they must participate in two Team MVCC 4 Runner Club events during the academic year while also making donations to the United Way campaign and the Foundation's scholarship funds. Students need to participate in four Team MVCC 4 Runner Club events.

"The impact Team MVCC makes within the community when we come together is not overlooked by community leaders," said College President Randall VanWagoner, Ph.D. "The work done by Team MVCC falls in line with the College's Mission Statement, 'promote student success and community involvement through a commitment to excellence and a spirit of service."

Some of the accomplishments of Team MVCC this past year included raising $4,504 for "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk" - which ranked MVCC No. 2 overall area teams; raised $12,532 for the United Way Campaign; raised $27,675 for the Faculty/Staff Campaign for Foundation scholarships; took part in the Oneida County Intergenerational Clean-Up Weekend; collected over 350 non-perishable food items for the Feed Our Vets organization and many, many more goals.

CALENDAR OF TEAM MVCC EVENTS – Brian Molinaro and Rosemary Fuoco look over the 2012-2013 calendar of events which Team MVCC will be supporting.

Three of the founding members who have stepped down from the organization committee were also honored. They were Dennis Gibbons, Jerylann George and Anne Popeo.

Accomplishments of Team MVCC for 2011-2012

- **MVCC Men's Baseball Team & Team MVCC:** Marine Corp. League - Holly Days Toy Drive - Over 200 toys were collected and distributed to local children during the holiday season.
- **Utica Take Steps for Crohn's & Colitis:** iPad Raffle The raffle raised $1,052
- **Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk:** More than 180 MVCC Faculty, Staff & Student Participants, raising $4,504 which ranked MVCC No. 2 overall for the top 10 area teams.
- **Oneida County Intergenerational Clean-Up Weekend:** This program provides local elderly and disabled individuals with Fall & Spring yard clean-up. MVCC had more than 75 Student Volunteers from four Clubs Participate - PTK, Student Congress, Latino Student Union & Welders Among Communities Club. MVCC had the largest group of volunteers out of all of the local colleges who participated.
- **2011 United Way Campaign:** 101 Donors raised $12,532
- **2011-2012 Faculty/Staff Campaign:** 131 Donors raised $27,675
- **Feed Our Vets – Veteran's Day Food Drive:** Team MVCC Collected over 350 non-perishable food items for the Feed Our Vets organization.
- **Team MVCC – Salvation Army:** Helped recruit more than 45 Bell Ringers - MVCC Bell Ringers volunteered for an entire Saturday at Chanatry's, & Price Chopper
- **America's Greatest Heart Run & Walk:** 126 Participants raised $3,584
- **The Kelberman Center – Walk for Autism:** 15 MVCC Faculty, Staff & Students participated in the 2012 Walk for Autism, raising $650 for the Kelberman Center in Utica
- **MVCC Peace Studies Class & Team MVCC:** Bake Sale to benefit the Rescue Mission of Utica raised $112
- **15th Annual Theodore "Ted" Moore 5K Run/Walk:** Of the 274 participants at the Run/Walk, 50 were MVCC Faculty, Staff, and Students who each helped contribute to the $8,462 raised for the Ted Moore Memorial Scholarship Fund.
- **Saranac Thursdays:** On July 27th, 23 MVCC Faculty, Staff and Students volunteered to help at Saranac Thursdays.
- **Team MVCC – Results:** Team MVCC recruited over 600 volunteers and participants helped to collect over 200 Toys for local children; Collected over 350 non-perishable food items for local Veterans; Team MVCC helped raise over $58,571 - $22,434 for local non-profit organizations and $36,137 for MVCC Foundation and College Scholarships.

New Faces @ MVCC

The new smiling face welcoming visitors to the Office of the Dean of the Rome Campus is Brenda Crossett.

Crossett

Crossett joins the Rome Campus family as the Project Coordinator in the Office of the Dean where she will oversee Dr. Richard Quest's schedule and help to organize events and programs on the Rome Campus.

A native of Newport, Crossett holds a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies from the State University of New York Empire State College and an Associate in Art in Art Studies from Herkimer County Community College.

Prior to coming to MVCC, Crossett worked for the Mohawk Valley Center for the Arts as well as an adjunct instructor in Humanities and Social Sciences.

Cross country teams nationally ranked

By David J. Warren
Assistant to the Director of Athletics

The MVCC cross country teams had last weekend off to get ready for the stretch run of their season. The Hawks will travel to the Hamilton College Invitational on Saturday. The men's team is ranked No. 6 and the women's team is ranked No. 1 in the NJCAA national poll.

The women's soccer team has rolled to an 11-1-1 record this season. The Hawks defeated Herkimer County Community College 3-1 last week and battled Clinton Community College to a 1-1 tie. The women travel to Hudson Valley Community College before hosting Bryant and Stratton College this week. MVCC is currently ranked No. 3 in the NJCAA national poll.

The men's soccer team had a tough week falling to Herkimer CCC, 2-0, and North Country CC, 1-0. MVCC dropped to 7-5 on the season. The Hawks hope to bounce back at home against Hudson Valley CC before traveling to Adirondack CC on Saturday.

The women's tennis team is in action this week hosting SUNY Delhi. Leylee Tayefeh has led the way for the Hawks this year. She is currently 6-1 at the No. 1 singles.

The women's volleyball team continues to be very competitive under the direction of first year coach Kelly Entwistle. The women have a big week this week hosting Hudson Valley CC then traveling to Onondaga CC for a Friday-Saturday invitational.

Questions/Comments please contact Dave Warren at 792-5674.

READY FOR ACTION - Kara Hollowell takes several warm up swings as she prepared for for a match against Onondaga Community College. Hollowell is the No. 4 singles for MVCC.

Athlete of the Week

Leylee Tayefeh defeated the top player from Onondaga Community College this past week to improve to 6-1 in singles tennis competition. This accomplishment has earned Tayefeh the honor of MVCC Athlete of the Week for the week ending September 30.

Tayefeh is a first-year General Studies major and a graduate of Westmoreland High School.

Brittell

Baseball team campaigns for children and Veterans

The MVCC baseball team recently made two community donations this week which will have a profound impact on members of the Mohawk Valley community.

The Hawks once again donated children's toys, books and games to the Holly Days program based out of Ilion which is operated by Ron Sterling. The toys will go to children in the Mohawk Valley during the Christmas holiday season. This is the fifth year the baseball team has made a donation to the Holly Days program.

The second project the baseball team completed was a donation to the Feed Our Vets Program in Utica. The team sold and proudly wore camouflage t-shirts this fall. The Hawks were able to raise $500 to donate to the Program. Mark Smith, Vice President of the Feed Our Vets Program, was on hand to accept a check which will go to purchase food stores for Veterans.

Both of these campaigns were organized by David J. Warren, Assistant to the Director of Athletics and head baseball coach.