Communitas

MVCC Faculty/Staff Newsletter

Week of October 15, 2012

Canada provides views on children's success

More than 2,000 people from the surrounding community and the College took time out of their afternoon on Wednesday to listen to the words of Geoffrey Canada at the Jorgensen Center on the Utica Campus. This event is part of The Community Foundation of Herkimer & Oneida Counties' Leadership Speaker Series.

Canada

Canada is the founder of the Harlem Children's Zone which focuses on educating and raising children from pre-kindergarten until they graduate from college. He has been nationally recognized for his work with children seeking to escape poverty through education. "Raising children is not a part-time job. You need to nurture and guide them," said Canada. His approach is that education has to start at birth, and continue through college and that success is not just up to education leaders, but the whole community working together.

Many of Canada's views, especially his opinions about the role labor unions, have been controversial nationally and here at MVCC. That said, much of his message stems from common experiences of the constituents he serves, such as his discussion of having to go to court for a teenager who had been arrested. Canada argued that spending $5,000 for a child to go to a private school made more economic sense than spending $45,000 a year to have that same child incarcerated.

"(You're) Either going to pay it up front and help that little boy or girl be successful, or we're going to be paying in welfare and food stamps..." said Canada. "I've been trying to stop our communities from following California, which did all the wrong investments; they've got so many people in jails they can't afford to keep their schools operating."

Through the Harlem Children's Zone, Canada has changed education for thousands of impoverished children, inspiring them to go onto and succeed in college. "We've also got to think about how do we engage our social service our community service our sports and athletics so that we're all really coming together to support children," said Canada. "Any one activity by itself is not going to be successful, it's only if we all come together that we find these kids really do well."

MVCC staff gives students firsthand knowledge

The students in Rosemary Fuoco's Office Administration class received firsthand knowledge and insight into the workings of an office from two professionals on Wednesday.

LaToya Richardson and Jill Heintz, who work in the President's Office at MVCC, discussed their roles and duties such as updating the President's calendar, opening lines of communication within the office, sharing information with each other, answering telephones, filing, and participating in committee meetings.

"If someone wants assistance, you must assist immediately to help them find the answer," said Heintz. They discussed dealing with parents of students, maintaining efficiency, and completing tasks on the fly. "You must be able to deal with the public and listen to what people are saying," said Heintz.

Richardson talked about the interview process. "You have to research the company, be honest, be yourself, have a firm handshake, keep eye contact, and be conservative and comfortable in what you wear to the interview," she said. "And if someone asks you a personal question during the interview, you can say you do not feel comfortable in answering that question. After every interview write down names and contact information and always thank you notes."

PROVIDING INSIGHT - LaToya Richardson and Jill Heintz, who work in the President's Office at MVCC, talked to students about their responsiblities.

The presentation ended with the students asking many questions about going on job interviews.

HANDS AROUND THE WORLD – The College hosted an International Student Reception in the lobby of Payne Hall as a gesture of welcome to the Mohawk Valley while also giving local students an opportunity to mingle and meet other students from around the world. The reception was held September 12, with more than 400 students in attendance. From student culture to the faculty and staff level, MVCC is a very diverse culture.

New Faces @ MVCC

Tamara Mariotti was promoted to the position of Coordinator of Disability Services at the College during the August Board of Trustees meeting.

Mariotti

The position requires Mariotti to advocate for campus awareness of disability services and its institutional responsibilities and obligations.

She holds a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from SUNY Cortland and an Associate in Applied Science in Medical Laboratory Technician from SUNY Agriculture and Technical College at Alfred.

Her experience includes being Associate Program Director, Program Case Manager and Residential Manager at the New MediCo Rehabilitation and Community Re-Entry Services for people with traumatic brain injury in Boston for five years.

Prior to coming to the College, she worked as the Assistive Technology Specialist and Coordinator of Youth Services for Resources Center for Independent Living in Utica for six years. She joined the MVCC community in October of 2008 as the Learning and Assistive Support Specialist in the Disabilities Office, a position she held until her promotion.

Women's soccer adds two more victories

By David J. Warren
Assistant to the Director of Athletics

Midnight Madness returns to MVCC tonight (Thursday, October 18) starting at 9 p.m. in the Competition Gymnasium in the Jorgensen Center. Witness history as the College unveils the new MVCC Hawk mascot.

The Women's Soccer Team held its No. 3 NJCAA national ranking with two more wins last week over SUNY Delhi and Onondaga CC respectively. The Hawks were hosting Fulton Montgomery CC this week in the regular season finale. On October 23, women will host a regional semifinal game against Jefferson CC or Erie CC, depending on the victor of a qualifying game. The game is slated for 3 p.m.

The Women's Cross Country Team is ranked No. 1 in the NJCAA national poll. The Hawks had last weekend off in preparation for the Mountain Valley Conference Championships to be held at North Country CC on Saturday. On October 27, the men and women teams will host the NJCAA Region III Championship at Proctor Park. Women's race begins at 11 am with the men starting at noon.

The Men's Cross Country Team moved up to No. 4 in the NJCAA national poll. The Hawks were off last weekend, but will return to action on Saturday at North Country CC for the Mountain Valley Conference Championships.

The Women's Volleyball Team has been improving steadily all year long. The Hawks posted a 3-2 record last week. MVCC hosted Columbia Greene CC earlier this week and will travel to Fulton-Montgomery CC in the Conference Tournament on Saturday.

The Men's Soccer Team won two out of three Region III contests last week to improve their overall record to 10-7 for the season. MVCC finished up the regular season on the road against Fulton Montgomery CC earlier this week. The Hawks will host Jamestown CC at noon in a first round regional game on Saturday.

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

Did You Know?
Last year 2,710 students were enrolled in 352 online courses.

◁ **PROMOTING STAYING HEALTHY -** MVCC nursing students spent a week stationed in the Academic Building lobby and Plumley Complex Atrium to promote Healthy Living and Illness Prevention. The nursing students spent four hours each day talking to their fellow students about how to prevent illnesses and what to be on the lookout for.

Submit information for Communitas to rhaubert@mvcc.edu