Mohawk Valley Community College Student Affairs Drug Free Schools and Campus Regulations Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Biennial Review December 2012

Part I: Program and Description Goals

Mohawk Valley Community College is committed to an environment that supports academic success and the overall health of our students. We believe that the use of alcohol or other drugs are counterproductive to the goals of each student as they work toward the completion of their education as well as other individual measures of success that our students hold as individuals. The Healthy Lifestyles Workgroup, Judicial Affairs, Counseling and Residence Life provide the traditional educational components of the AOD program and manage the administration of policy. The Healthy Lifestyles Workgroup has been developed with membership from the many stakeholders in student success at Mohawk Valley Community College including Residence Life, Student Activities, and the College Nurse. This group has a focus on the social aspects of AOD prevention and is intended to address our student body from a holistic perspective of student health and wellness. The alcohol and other drug education and prevention initiatives are a large part of the focus of this group as it relates to providing healthy alternatives through the promotion of lifestyle choices.

Goals of the AOD Program:

- 1. Develop a comprehensive educational program that addresses the needs of all students
- 2. Evaluate the effectiveness of current college policies, procedures and AOD programs
- 3. Develop, implement and assess the outcome measurements for programs, services and events

Part II: Description of the AOD Elements

Through an assessment of the previous two years of programming activity, the following components have been identified as actively in place.

A. Alcohol Free Options

- Mohawk Valley Community College is an alcohol free campus with vibrant student activities that consist of a wide array of clubs to facilitate student involvement in campus based activities with the support of professional staff and faculty;
- A Cultural Series that is unparalleled by community college peers that bring nationally recognized and award winning speakers and entertainment to campus;
- State of the art athletic and fitness facilities with an organized intramural program to
 offer students the opportunity to engage in individual and competitive physical
 activity.

B. Normative Environment

- Healthy Lifestyles Workgroup is focused on providing healthy alternatives to minimize the allure of high risk activities and supports the educational tenets of prevention;
- MVCC utilizes the e-magazine Student Health 101 to deliver educational messages on Alcohol and Other Drugs though the contributions from students, faculty and staff;
- Employees are provided with information on policies related to alcohol and illicit drug use through distribution of the Employee Handbook;
- Specific residence life programming is focused on topics of alcohol and drug use and are often coordinated with the support of campus counseling services;
- Alcohol Education courses through campus counseling services are mandatory for students who violate policy as a means to help students make healthy choices and support their efforts to complete their education;
- During the time period covered by this report, the College contracted with a local agency (Center for Family Life and Recovery) through August 2012 to provide Alcohol Education classes and support other AOD efforts on campus. MVCC had made the decision in the spring of 2012 to hire two full time licensed counselors that are charged with supporting the campus AOD prevention program. It is the prevailing thought that having staff with a full time regular presence will be better able to deliver a more consistent thread of communication, education and programming to support a prevention program;
- BERT (Behavior Evaluation Response Team) is a standing committee that meets weekly to review reports from faculty and staff on student behaviors that fall outside of traditional classroom management, but may not generate an incident report (to Public Safety).

C. Alcohol Availability

• Alcohol is prohibited on both campuses of Mohawk Valley Community College.

D. Marketing and Promotion of Alcohol

- Alcohol Advertising on campus is prohibited;
- Campus involvement of national recognition weeks such as Alcohol Awareness Week, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Suicide Awareness Week, National Depression Screening Days and their corresponding events are made public and an effort to involve student congress and their affiliated student clubs is standard practice;
- Policy regarding Alcohol and Other Drugs and the status of MVCC as a dry campus is widely distributed through New Student Orientation, distribution of the Student Handbook and Residence Hall Orientation.

E. Policy Development and Enforcement

- Comprehensive policy for both residence hall and non-residence hall students exist as a part of the student handbook that is distributed to all students;
- Policies are reviewed prior to every academic year as a part of the review of the student handbook to refine polices for clarity and consistency;

- MVCC is a part of an area college consortium (ACCESS Coalition) that collaborates to provide education on AOD topics as well as to share and review policies and policy enforcement related to alcohol and other drugs;
- Disciplinary standards and processes align with MVCC student status, therefore off-campus incidents are pursued when brought to our attention.

Part III: Summary of AOD Strengths and Weaknesses Favorable Compliances:

- Policy is reviewed regularly and applied consistently as it pertains to appropriate sanctions;
- The recently implemented Healthy Lifestyles workgroup is a conversion from previous AOD workgroup with an emphasis on healthy alternatives. This workgroup consists of a broad based membership from across campus that widens perspective for new ideas and creates additional stakeholders in AOD programs for increased awareness;
- Counseling Services recently (spring 2012) made the decision to hire all licensed staff in lieu of utilizing the services of local agency partner to have an increased investment and presence on campus;
- Data on Student Learning Outcomes is collected for each mandatory AOD workshop; Counseling Services are now offered on both the Utica and the Rome campuses;
- Three Campus Committees that meet weekly to review day to day operations and address student concerns:
 - 1. Monday Morning Roundtable
 - 2. BERT (Behavior Evaluation and Response Team)
 - 3. The Judicial debriefing team
- Policy distribution occurs in or through the following: Student Handbook, Employee Handbook, student orientation, residence hall orientation and information is available on the college website.

Compliance Concerns:

- Insufficient emphasis placed on marijuana education;
- AOD and other mandated messages are delivered to students and employees, but we have not accounted for the receipt of the materials and information.

Part IV: Recommendations to Address Policy Revisions and/or Biennial Compliance Concerns

- Greater focus on marijuana education in our prevention program to counteract the increase in documented abuse;
- The Healthy Lifestyles workgroup will work toward development of a calendar of AOD events the presents a consistent thread of AOD educational components;
- MVCC will explore message dissemination and receipt tracking;
- Need for review of data collected on Student Learning Outcomes associated with the mandatory AOD workshops to determine any necessary actions or appropriate changes to the workshops;
- Review of the SUNY Policy on Alcohol and Controlled Substances in the Workplace to determine applicability for inclusion in the specific policy as addressed below;
- Need for development of specific policy with specific content addressing:
 - 1. Standards of Conduct
 - 2. Legal Sanctions
 - 3. Health Risks
 - 4. Drug and Alcohol Programs
 - 5. Disciplinary Sanctions