

## MVCC partners to promote success for Rome students with Futures Academy

The College teamed up with the City of Rome, the Rome Community Foundation, and the Rome City School District this summer to launch an initiative known as the Rome Futures Academy. This program was designed to help prepare students entering ninth-grader at Rome Free Academy.

Funded through a regional grant, the Rome Futures Academy mentored 18 students on what it takes to be successful in high school and on the collegiate level while also planning for the future. Since this was the first year of the grant, organizers are hoping to have the program reach full capacity next summer with 50 students.

"We have been able to expose the students to several technology fields in order to demonstrate the many career options which are out there locally," said Wendy Waters, one of the two teachers in the program. There were also two coordinators involved.

The Rome Futures Academy students went on six field trips which included the Griffiss Institute and Midair Aviation to view how the work is done behind the scenes. Midair, which is a locally owned aircraft maintenance, trading and leasing company, employs more than 200 people and is seeking to expand in the Rome area.

"The partnerships that support this program provide students with a meaningful experience that makes learning relevant and fun by showcasing career opportunities here in the Mohawk Valley," said MVCC President Randall J. VanWagoner, Ph.D.

The Rome Futures Academy is designed to help participating students build self-esteem and self-confidence; improve reading, writing, and communications skills; develop problem-solving and critical thinking abilities; enhance their computer learning; find out about jobs and learn more about specific career paths; understand the link between school and future employment; learn more about education, training, employment, and life choices; and work as a team with peers and share responsibilities.

This program was free for the students, who attended a four-week summer camp in the mornings from July 16 through August 9 at MVCC's Rome campus. Students were able to choose from two career tracks, health care or information technology, with a special focus on career development and literacy.

This project builds upon Rome's long-standing connections with MVCC as the College's top dual credit partner and the school district that produces more MVCC Presidential Scholars than any other school district in Oneida County.

"The MVCC Rome Futures Academy is a shining example of how schools and community colleges can parter to ensure high school students graduate ready for college or careers,"



said Rome City School District Superintendent Jeffrey P. Simons.

The Academy was an alliance among MVCC, the Rome schools and other partners. It was made possible by a significant



grant from the Rome Community Foundation. The investment in Rome-area students is part of MVCC's \$7 million Challenge and Opportunity major gifts campaign.

"The Rome Futures Academy is another outstanding program geared toward providing students with some academic help in literacy, goal-setting, and emergent thinking regarding possible future careers in health care and information technology," says Richard E. Quest, Ed.D, Dean of MVCC's Rome campus. "Providing students with an opportunity to explore careers that are available, lucrative, and local is the foundation of creating a knowledgeable, contributing citizenry that fits with the mission and vision of Mohawk Valley Community College and its educational and business community partners."

Communitas

## GEAR UP's Math Corps students visit NYC

Nearly 50 Utica GEAR UP Math Corps graduates traveled to the Big Apple in early August to view the many exciting sights. These included Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty, the Museum of Natural History, and Central Park.

In a single day, students and staffers traveled by car, bus, ferry, and subway. To qualify for the trip, Math Corps participants earned points for attendance, participation, scholastics, and good citizenship.

Math Corps is a program created by Utica GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness for Undergraduate Programs), which is funded by the United States Department of Education and supported by Mohawk Valley Community College, Utica Safe Schools, and others. There is no charge for Utica GEAR UP programs including Math Corps, a 4-week summer program held on the MVCC campus.

Utica GEAR UP staff members guided participants through Math Corps with activities that had a positive, lifelong impact on students, and encouraged learning and exploration in a supportive environment that helped: develop self-confidence and independence; communicate core values of respect, responsibility, honesty, and caring; and created lasting friendships and lifelong memories.

GEAR UP was designed to encourage and support the Utica City School District's Class of 2017 by improving their



academic performance at JFK and Donovan middle schools, later when they attend Proctor High School, and ultimately when they attend college. Utica GEAR UP provides tutoring, mentoring, counseling, and various enrichment activities. During the school year, Utica GEAR UP also holds parent meetings and workshops.

## **MVCC's Best Honored Upon Retirement**













## Deadline for Hawk awards is Friday, September 7

The deadline for nominations for the Heart of the Hawk and Pride of the Hawk Awards is September 7.

Heart of the Hawk recognizes the accomplishments of fulltime teaching faculty. Pride of the Hawk is an honor for any full-time non-teaching employees. Click on the following link to nominate a colleague for these prestigious awards!

http://www.mvcc.edu/academics/employees-awards/facultystaff-accomplishment HONORING RETIREES – The College's Employee Enrichment Council and President's Office honored the May retirees in the Board Room during a ceremony where they were presented with personalized chairs. From left are Margaret Decker, Kathy Partridge, Dick Suhr, Don Willner, Larry Migliori and Gary Rogowski.

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