

The Martin Messenger

A monthly newsletter for Martin Community College

July and August 2018

MCC's new electronic signs go live!

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On June 26, several MCC Trustees and employees joined David Whitley, the Director of the Williamston Chamber of Commerce, at one of the College's two new electronic signs, to cut a ribbon and officially bring all of the signs into service.

The ribbon cutting was held in front of the sign located at the College entrance on Highway 64 Business. The other sign is located on Prison Camp Road. Construction began in March. However, bad weather delayed the signs' completion by a month. The signs were designed by Greenville-based architect John Farkas, and constructed by Barnacle Construction Company based in Goldsboro.

Once

completed, the signs immediately started advertising upcoming College classes. Sue Gurley, MCC's Coordinator of Health Care Programs, noted that calls of inquiry about her classes had shot up since the signs went into service.

Funds from MCC's portion of the NC Connect bond referendum paid for the signs. The sign budget also allows for a smaller electronic sign to be built on the MCC campus in Windsor. Construction on that sign will begin this fall.

Jeff Lewis, a member of MCC's maintenance team, has already prepared a landscaping plan for the signs. Lewis, a graduate of Pitt CC's horticulture program, also owns his own landscaping business.

There is enough unspent money remaining in the sign budget to also create a directional sign system across the MCC campus and a smaller electronic sign on the Windsor campus.



Adjunct Instructor Robin Lilley Receives Award



This story was written by Attila Nemecz, the Marketing and PR Director for BCCC (Beaufort County Community College)

Robin Lilley an adjunct instructor for MCC, has been named a winner in Blackboard's Exemplary Course Program (ECP). The awards program recognizes faculty from schools, colleges and universities around the world who develop engaging and innovative courses that represent the very best in technology and learning. Lilly is also the lead instructor for information technology at BCCC. She is the first instructor at the college to achieve the award as part of a broader initiative to meet the needs of online students without sacrificing quality.

Lilley won for her CIS 110 course, "Introduction to Computers." The course demonstrated excellence in course design, interaction and collaboration, assessment and learner support. She chose to use the ECP rubric on her CIS 110 classes to broadly impact student success early in students' college careers. About 200 students will experience the improved class this fall.

"Our IT program at BCCC is now entirely online, meaning we rarely see our students in per-

son," said Lilley. "The ECP course rubric allowed me to design my course to promote and support learner engagement with myself as well as other students." A recent student of Lilley's lived in Chapel Hill, N.C.

"I implemented a mid-course survey thanks to the rubric. This allows me to make changes during the course to improve student success." Lilly is also increasing the announcements and videos she is uploading each week.

"It's a lot more time intensive, but I think these videos address questions and issues that may hinder learning, especially for our non-traditional students who are used to a higher level of interaction," she noted.

Certification through Blackboard's ECP is part of a larger initiative at BCCC to make online education a valuable option for students. Kate Purvis, BCCC's Blackboard administrator, said the college is committed to providing online students the same rigor and quality of instruction as those attending traditional classes. "Online instruction opens the door for students who want to continue their education, but due to schedule constraints or distance, cannot come to campus," Purvis pointed out.

"We are encouraging all of our instructors to learn more about best practices in online course design and instruction, and Robin has been the perfect trailblazer. She took the initiative and jumped in with a passion. Her support, positivity and enthusiasm for excellence has played an important

role in encouraging others to do the same. Many of our professors are now choosing Blackboard's ECP as their preferred route to certification. It's a very exciting time!"

"In many respects, online learning is only as good as the technology and the faculty who use it," said Dr. Dave Loope, president of BCCC. "Professor Lilly exemplifies a level of commitment to quality instruction in online format that faculty across the state and nation will emulate. BCCC is indeed fortunate to have her on our faculty."

For 17 years, the ECP has recognized faculty and course designers whose courses demonstrate best practices. Since its founding, thousands of instructors, teachers and designers have used the ECP to evaluate and improve their courses with recognized best practices. To be considered for the honor, applicants must be a user of the Blackboard Learn learning management system. Submitted courses are evaluated by other course developers, instructional designers, teachers and professors using the ECP Rubric.

Lilley will be honored alongside other outstanding recipients on the Blackboard website, as well as in the Blackboard Community, a platform where the largest organized network of Blackboard users connect, collaborate and learn from their peers.

To learn more about the Exemplary Course Program, visit <https://community.blackboard.com/community/ecp>.

Leggett Presents Education Benefits Info to Vets



Pictured above is retired USMC Colonel Walter Whitfield (left), former MCC Director of Continuing Education, with Teri Leggett (right), MCC's Financial Aid Director, at the 2018 Eastern NC Veteran's Benefits Update held on June 14 in Williamston.

On June 14, the Eastern NC Veteran's Benefits Update was held at the Moratoc Park Building in Williamston. The event was designed to provide potential benefits information to veterans, veterans' spouses, and widowers/widows. The event mainly addressed veteran concerns and issues in the context of benefits to which they are entitled. Such topics included: NC State Veteran's Benefits, Claims Processing/Appeals, Disability Compensation, Veteran Pensions, Veteran's Healthcare, PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) and VET Centers, and Veteran's Education/GI Bill.

As the final speaker at the event, MCC's Financial Aid Director, Teri Leggett, presented on Veteran's Education and the GI Bill. Her main points follow.

MCC offers twenty-three degree, diploma, and certificate programs that qualify for veteran benefits. Many in the audience were curious if BLET (Basic Law Enforcement Training) qualifies as well, but it does not, since it is a Continuing Education Program. However, the new Criminal Justice Program does qualify and can prepare veterans for careers related to law enforcement, such as probation officer, court system employee, or social worker.

Most chapters of service have a provision for educational benefits, but each has different stipulations as to what and how much they will pay. All pay tuition, but, for example, some post-9/11 GI Bill recipients are eligible for up to a \$1,000 book stipend and a housing allowance, depending on the number of credit hours.

Veterans don't have to be enrolled full-time, or even pursue a degree. They can take individual classes that interest them, help them with their current careers, or enhance their skillsets.

If veterans have a permanent and total service-connected disability, they may be able to transfer their educational benefits to their spouses, children, or step-children. Children must be between the ages of 18-26 to be eligible to receive educational benefits.

Colleges require veterans to submit their certificates of eligibility in order to determine the benefits' extent and duration. Veterans must also complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which will

qualify them for Pell Grant and State Grants through the College Foundation of NC if they are eligible. The Pell Grant was created by the GI Bill for veterans coming home from World War II.

Leggett advised veterans to utilize Pell Grant funds along with their VA benefits because Pell Grant will pay for tuition and books until the VA education benefits get paid. It usually takes the VA on average 6 weeks to pay.

At the end of her presentation, Leggett showed her respect, gratitude, and dedication to the members of the armed forces. She shared that her husband served in the National Guard and that her father served in the Army during Vietnam.

"I'm honored to serve you and help you accomplish whatever educational goals that you may have," Leggett said.

For more information regarding veteran's benefits, visit benefits.va.gov or contact Wayne Bray, the Director of the Martin County Veterans Association at 252-792-7816 or Teri Leggett at 252-789-0204 or via email at Teresa.Leggett@martincc.edu.



Minding Moxie - MCC's New Filly Lives Up to Her Name



In just two and a half months, little miss Moxie has grown from 55 pounds to 210 pounds and everyone who handles her agrees that Moxie was the perfect name for her. According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, "moxie" means 1) energy, pep; 2) courage, determination; 3) know-how. The rambunctious filly exhibits all of these qualities and was especially courageous when visited by the board members of the NC Community College System on July 19. She strolled right up to the large group of people and happily accepted their friendly pats and strokes. One visitor was heard to say, "She's like a big dog! She enjoys being petted." Moxie is also the acronym for MCC's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) - Martin

Online eXcellence In Education. This plan was developed to assist MCC students in being prepared to take online classes. It is also an integral part of MCC's effort to be re-accredited by SACSCOC. More information about the QEP will be available as the Fall 2018 semester gets underway.



Five Complete BLET on July 9



Pictured above are MCC's most recent BLET (Basic Law Enforcement Training) graduates. From left to right, are Durwin Lamb, Terrence White, Tahj Smallwood, Corey Cox, and Hillard Wilson. Lamb is a resident of Greenville and Wilson resides in Robersonville. White, Smallwood and Cox live in Windsor.

Five students were recognized on July 9 for successfully completing MCC's BLET (Basic Law Enforcement Training). The BLET program is offered through MCC's Division of Continuing Education. Three of the cadets already have jobs. Hillard Wilson has accepted a position with the Martin County Sheriff's Department, Durwin Lamb is now working for the Winterville Police Department and Tahj Smallwood has joined the Windsor Police Department.

MCC's BLET Program Director, Wayland Mitchell, welcomed the audience comprised of friends, families and instructors of the cadets. Mitchell praised the students for their extreme hard work and determination over the past six months.

Deborah Price Fonville, the Associate Minister of Back Swamp

Church of Christ in Williamston NC and a Court Counselor for the NC Department of Juvenal Justice provided inspirational comments during the ceremony. Fonville is also one of the many instructors for the program. She teaches Juvenal Law.

Pastor Fonville encouraged the graduates to; "Give their best, work hard, continue to learn, and don't be afraid to ask for help. Always remember why you are doing this." She also drew upon the Biblical story of Cain and Abel in reminding the students to, "not be like Cain. Resist bitterness and hurt feelings. Stay focused on doing your best, because God will be your final judge."

Mitchell and his Assistant, Tamesha Woolard, then presented the cadets with their certificates.

While calling them to the stage, Mitchell noted the special qualities that each cadet had brought to the training process.

Immediately following the presentation of certificates, class Sergeant, Durwin Lamb, offered some remarks. He noted that the program had been intense, taxing, and exhausting, but had prepared them mentally and physically for the job ahead.

"We started as strangers, but now we're a team," stated Lamb. "This program has built a brotherhood and a bond between us. I encourage you to stay true to the morals and values of this profession."

The program concluded with comments from Mitchell. He offered special thanks to the instructors, family, and staff who had supported the program and the cadets and reminded the cadets to "protect life."

The NC BLET program covers 639 hours of study within 36 total blocks of instruction including; Physical Fitness, Firearms, Law Enforcement Driving Training, Laws of Arrest, Search and Seizure, Motor Vehicle Law, Techniques of Traffic Enforcement, Patrol Techniques, Sheriff's Responsibilities, Rapid Deployment, etc. The course contains the most current law enforcement information available and is filled with practical exercises and an extensive ethics section that is woven throughout the training experience. It takes approximately 16 weeks to complete and concludes with a comprehensive written exam and skills testing. A new BLET class is now underway. This course of study is mandated by the state for all certified law enforcement officers.

For more information about the BLET program at MCC, contact Mitchell at wayland.mitchell@martincc.edu or 252-789-0267.

MCC Trustees hold first FY meeting on July 17

The MCC Board of Trustees conducted their first Trustee meeting for Fiscal Year 2018-19 on July 17 at the College's campus in Williamston. During this fiscal year, the Trustees will resume a bimonthly meeting schedule as prescribed in their by-laws. At the behest of the State Board of Community Colleges, MCC maintained a monthly meeting schedule for nearly two years. This was done to bring more stability to the college during a time of big transition.

Prior to starting the meeting, one new trustee, KeVonna Hall of Oak City, and reappointed trustee, Clint Saunders of Williamston, were sworn in. Hall was appointed by the Martin County Board of Education and Saunders was re-appointed by the Martin County Commissioners. MCC's Testing Coordinator, Candance Bryant-Whitehurst swore them in and witnessed their signatures.

Dwayne Baker, MCC's new Chairman of the Board of Trustees was out of town, and Vice Chairman Rick Cowan led the meeting in his stead.

MCC President, Dr. Paul Hutchins, reported the following:

- ♦ State Senator Erica Smith and Representative Shelly Willingham visited the MCC campus on July 11.
- ♦ MCC's new electronic signs are garnering a lot of positive comments from the community.
- ♦ A response to MCC's Continuing Education Audit has been written and submitted.
- ♦ On July 9 he was interviewed by the Chamber of Commerce's director, David Whitley, on the Chamber's FM radio show (95.9) and on July 10 he participated in a video interview for the Cham-



Pictured above from left to right are NC State Senator Erica Smith MCC President, Dr. Paul Hutchins and State Representative, Shelly Willingham. They met with Dr. Hutchins on July 11.

ber's website.

- ♦ Due to financial issues, MCC was forced to cut back its four career coaches to one.
- ♦ Recommended that the Trustees increase the College's stall boarding fees for horses from \$220/month to \$240 and the pasture boarding from \$175 to \$195. The Board approved this unanimously.
- ♦ Tammy Bailey's title has been changed to Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Director of Auxiliary Services.
- ♦ Dr. Brian Busch's title has been changed to Executive Vice President.

MCC's Director of PR and Institutional Advancement, Judy Jenette, then provided an overview of the College's advertising efforts over the past year and plans for the upcoming year.

The Capital Projects report ensued with the following items:

- ♦ Steve Taylor, MCC's Dean of

Administrative Services / Capital Project Coordinator commended the maintenance department for their tremendous work on cleaning and painting the equine facilities.

- ♦ Taylor also asked the board to consider funding the resurfacing of all the campus parking lots. He is currently soliciting quotes and would like to have the work done by the end of November. The Buildings and Grounds Committee will review the quotes and make a recommendation to the full Board.
- ♦ Taylor also asked the board to close out the sidewalk repairs project. The work is complete and it came in \$50K under budget.

Tammy Bailey then provided the Trustees with budget and finance updates.

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Pictured above left are KeVonna Hall and Clint Saunders being sworn in as 2018-19 Trustees for Martin Community College by MCC's Testing Coordinator, Candance Bryant-Whitehurst. Hall resides in Oak City, and reappointed trustee, Clint Saunders is from Williamston. Hall (pictured in the middle and far right) was appointed by the Martin County Board of Education and Saunders was re-appointed by the Martin County Commissioners. swore them in and witnessed their signatures.

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Vice Chairman Cowan then reminded the board to get their sub-committee assignments from Kismet. He also noted that the board's bylaws has expanded the number of appointees to subcommittees to more than three. The new subcommittee chairmen are as follows: Andy Griffin, Buildings & Grounds Committee; Helen G. Davis, Personnel Committee; Clint Saunders, Budget and Finance Committee; and Dr. Derrick Wilkins, Curriculum Committee

The board then went into closed session under NC GS § 143-318.11(5), (6) - Employment and Personnel. No vote was taken when they returned to open session. The next Board meeting is scheduled for September 18, at 7 p.m. in room 14, in Building 1 on the MCC campus.



Pictured above is Vice Chairman, Rick Cowan, presiding over MCC's July 17 Board of Trustees meeting. Cowan served as the Chairman of the Property and Grounds Committee during the College's 2017-18 Fiscal Year.

BECHS Students attend Microbe Meeting in Atlanta



Bertie Early College students at the ASM Microbe 2018 meeting in Atlanta, GA, June 7-11, 2018. Pictured in back row from left to right: Brian Dunlow, Sean Brown, Tyree Hyman, Tyrese Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Boller. Pictured in front row from left to right: Maria Medina, Jailyn Weaver, Carrington Dudley, Caiyah Jones, Amy White, and Kristien Teel.

From June 7-11, 2018, eleven students from Bertie Early College High School (BECHS) traveled to Atlanta, GA, to attend the annual ASM Microbe 2018, the annual meeting for the American Society of Microbiology (ASM). This international meeting brought together over 12,000 scientists, microbiologists, veterinarians, pharmacists, and physicians from all over the world to present and discuss current research across all aspects of microbiology, biotechnology, and medicine. This year's meeting differed from previous years by adding new topics, in order to "draw a little more attention to antimicrobial resistance," according to the conference's co-chair Dr. Robin Patel.

The eight tracks of ASM 2018 were Antimicrobial Agents and Resistance, Applied and Environmental Science, Clinical Infections and Vaccines, Clinical and Public Health Microbiology, Host-Microbe Biology, Molecular Biology and Physiology, Microbial Ecology and Evolution, and Profession of Microbiology.

This fantastic opportunity was the culmination of the students' Biotechnology II experience. The students were accompanied by Mr. Bruce Boller, BECHS science teacher, and Dr. Matt Koci, Associate Professor at North Carolina State University. The students assisted Mr. Boller and Dr. Koci on Sunday, June 10th, as they presented a poster on the Falcon Bio-manufacturing project they are car-

rying out at BECHS, which involves producing proteins made from a foreign gene and introduced into bacteria using biotechnology – to support agricultural research projects at NC State and other NC universities. Falcon Biomanufacturing is a mini-biotech company used as a teaching model to give students real-world experience in the field. While in the program, students form relationships with local industries and professionals. During the summer of 2017, the members of Falcon Manufacturing visited two biotech companies in the area: Novozymes and Bio-resource International. This summer, the program went beyond the local scene and gave students the opportunity to experience national and even global work in their field.

While at the ASM Microbe 2018 conference, BECHS students attended poster sessions, networked with researchers, and toured the conference expo that featured over 100 biotechnology companies. Students were able to see many distinguished experts and researchers from around the world, including officials from the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), who presented posters and participated in workshops. Since so many researchers and professionals were in attendance, students were able to make connections for future educational and employment opportunities.

Dr. Anne Schuchat, Principal Deputy Director of the Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), attended and gave the keynote address at the conference. Since the CDC headquarters is in Atlanta, many others from the agency participated in the event. Atlanta was a good location for the conference, since it holds the CDC and the Emory University lab that was vital in fighting Ebola in 2014.

Atlanta, one of the most accessible cities in the world, also provided students with knowledge and experiences outside of microbiology. Students were able to visit historic sites and landmarks, and they were exposed to culturally diverse people, places, and cuisine. The Georgia World Congress Center, where the ASM Microbe 2018 was held, is surrounded by award-winning restaurants, shops, and entertainment, and the nearby Ambassador Force supplied diversity of languages and nationalities.

The trip was part of a larger biotechnology educational program developed by Mr. Boller and Dr. Koci, which is supported by the Burroughs Wellcome Fund Student Science Enrichment Program (SSEP). The SSEP works to give NC K-12 students access to "creative, hands-on scientific activities." As BECHS's program continues, each year additional Bertie Early College students will get to attend scientific conferences and present on the truly innovative biotechnology they are doing in Bertie County, NC.



NCCCS Board Convened at MCC on 7/19

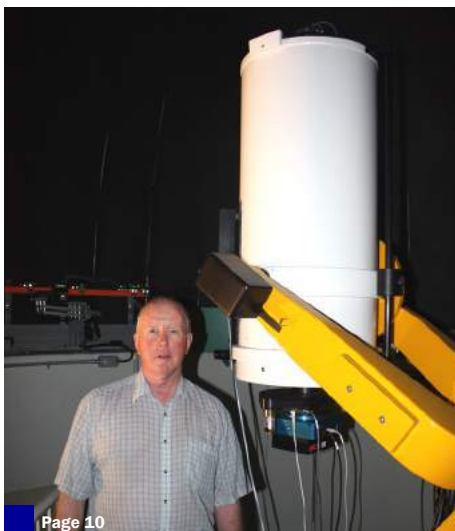
The State Board of Community Colleges met on the MCC campus on July 19. During the morning, they toured the campus and learned about the many improvements and plans for the College. The system office hosted a barbeque luncheon for the entire campus. After lunch, the board simultaneously conducted a number of Committee meetings across the MCC campus. Pictured below left is Dr. Paul Hutchins being interviewed about the vent by WITN TV reporter, Grace Holland. Below right is Board Chairman, Scott Shook during the general session meeting in room 14. At the bottom is MCC's Equine Program Director, Tami Thurston, sharing before and after pictures of the facilities. Looking on are NCCCS President Peter Hans (center) and others from the State Board and NCCCS office.



McCann Expands Horizons



Pictured above is MCC's Chemistry Instructor, Dr. Michael McCann, suited up to enter a Class 10 clean room - a part of NC State University's (NC SU) Nanofabrication Facility. He was attending the Nanotechnology Workshop, sponsored by the Research Triangle Nanotechnology Network at NC SU on August 9 & 10. Pictured below is McCann in front of Appalachian State University's (ASU) 16-inch telescope. During the summer, McCann completed two ASU graduate astronomy courses; Astronomical Photometry and Galactic Astronomy.



MCC's Spring 2018 Honor Students

Martin Community College (MCC) has released the names of its students on the President's and Dean's lists for the Spring of 2018 Semester. To make the President's List a student must have achieved a 4.0 gpa (grade point average) for the semester and have taken a minimum of 12 credit hours. Dean's List students must have achieved at least a 3.5 gpa for the semester and have taken a minimum of 12 credit hours.

Those on the President's List are: Levi Ambrose, Lisa Armstrong, Julie Askew, Jessica Beacham, Shameka Best, Kristin Buck, Daniel Castello, Sarah Flanagan, Princess Foster, Brittany Gibson, Jordyn Gray, John Gurganus, Kasey Hall, Lauren Hardison, Pristina Harrell, William Hayes, Elisabeth Heath, James Holliday, Tyler Hopkins, Kaylee Jackson, Megan Johnson, Lauren Lassiter, Dustin Mann, Clara Moseley, Anna Noell, Vivek Patel, LaTeah Rodgers, Kendra Spruill, Zachary Styons, Amanda Vick, Julia Ward, Amy White, Amy Williams, Taylor Williams, and Katelyn Winslow.

Those on the Dean's List are: Phyllis Barber, Alexia Binns, Jasmine Birdo, Wyatt Blackburn, Taylor Cavezza, Keith Clark, Kirsten Cooper, Andrea Dail, Madison Davis, Tammy Earley, Ladrika Faison, John Griffin, Christopher Hardison, Britney Harrell, Crystal Holliday, Jasmine Howard, Marques Jeffreys, Ashlynn Lee, Seung Lee, Rosario Lilley, Jesenia Martin-Garcia, Logan Modlin, Emily Owens, Stephanie Powell, Ibrahim Romero, Richard Rowley, Kichelle Sherrod, Hannah Silverthorne, Evan Singlar, Demonte Speller, Mary Stoneburner, Keshona Swain, Melissa Thompson, Mikaela Valovick, Marlen Villegas, Ashlei Vogleson, Katlyn Ward, Tyler Wilkins, and Ashley Williams.



MCC's LCA Club to plan Constitution Day activities on 9/6

MCC's LCAC (Literary and Cultural Arts Club) will plan a program for Constitution Day during its first meeting on Thursday, September 6. All MCC students are welcome to participate. The meeting will begin at 1 p.m. in room 26 of building 4.

Constitution Day (or Citizenship Day) is an American federal observance that recognizes the adoption of the United States Constitution and those who have become U.S. citizens. It is normally observed on September 17, the day in 1787 that delegates to the Constitutional Convention signed the document in Philadelphia.

Last year, in addition to the Constitution Day event, the LCAC presented several fun activities that highlighted the cultural arts. Among the events were: a Halloween writing and art contest, a Poetry Slam, an International Coffee Hour in the Library, as well as a Dine and Design event and a Christmas gathering in the Campus Café.

The LCAC provides MCC students with a great venue in which to socialize and express themselves. No dues are required. The club's advisors are Marsha Rogers, Christina Measamer, and Dr. Rochelle Mabry.

Candance Bryant-Whitehurst is up to the Test!



Candance Bryant-Whitehurst was selected to be MCC's Testing Center Coordinator. She is now providing testing services for the entire MCC campus. The tests she administers include GED, ACT/WorkKeys, CRC, Admissions Placement Testing, and more.

According to MCC's Vice President, Dr. Brian Busch, "Testing services play an integral part on Community College campuses, not just for GED students, but for all new students seeking admission and registration into the appropriate classes. There was an overwhelming need for this position."

Bryant-Whitehurst earned her BS degree in Business Administration from ECSU. She began her career at MCC in 2000 as the College's Chief GED Examiner. She started in her new position on July 1, 2018.

Catina Blake is MCC's new Director of Basic Skills



Catina Blake has been selected to be the new director of MCC's Basic Skills program. Basic Skills include GED®, Adult Basic Education (ABE) & English as a Second Language (ESL). The Basic Skills Department is operated through MCC's Division of Continuing Education. Blake is replacing former director, Jerri Griffin, who retired at the end of December 2017.

Blake earned her AAS degree in Elementary Education from Pitt Community College and her BS degree in Elementary Education from ECU. She began working as a Basic Skills Instructor for MCC from August 2004 – 2011. In July 2011, she was promoted to Basic Skills Coordinator at MCC. She officially began her duties as the Basic Skills Director on July 1.

Blake is intent on meeting student needs, offering a quality education and growing the program..

Freeman Receives MCC GEM Award!



Jason Freeman, MCC's Web Developer, was awarded the Gem (Going the Extra Mile Award) in July. He was nominated by IT Director Elijah Freeman (not related). He was recognized for taking on the considerable additional duties of the System Administrator when the former administrator, Donna Rogers, moved to the Financial Aid department in June. In its entirety, Freeman's acceptance speech was, "Thank you." All were pleased with the brevity of his comments and congratulated him afterwards for being so dedicated and humble. Freeman an MCC alumna, rejoined the staff in 2017. Congratulations Jason!

Ten MCC Dental Assisting Students Pinned on 7/26



Pictured above is MCC's class of 2018 Dental Assisting graduates. Their pinning ceremony was held on July 26 in the campus auditorium. From left to right are; Keshona Swain (Roper), Rosie Lilley (Jamesville), Britney Harrell (Williamston), Tyler Wilkins (Plymouth), Taylor Latham (Washington), Caitlin Griffin (Bath), Andrea Clifton (Williamston), Marla Alvarado (Tyner), Ladrika Faison (Greenville), and Abigail Hernandez (Hobgood). Instructor Shelby Brothers reports that six of the graduates already have jobs and two are scheduled for interviews. Lilley is transferring to ECU to pursue a degree in dentistry.

On July 26, ten MCC students graduated from the College's Dental Assisting program. The auditorium was filled to capacity with family and friends celebrating their achievements. MCC is the only Community College in Northeastern NC that offers a Dental Assisting program.

Dr. Deryl Davis-Fulmer, MCC's Dean of Academic Affairs, welcomed the audience and presented them with several impressive facts about the profession. Most notably, employment of dental assistants is projected to grow nationwide by 19 percent from 2016 to 2026, and by 15% in North Carolina. This is

much faster than the average for all occupations due, in part, to America's aging population. Also, ongoing research linking oral health and general health continues to increase the demand for preventive dental services. Taking into account both employment growth and the need to replace persons leaving the profession, the NC Department of Labor estimates 3,487 job openings in the state during that period.

The guest speaker was Desiree Perry. Perry is herself, a graduate of the 2017 program and is now an instructor. Perry's path to becoming a dental assisting instructor was not a direct one. She

completed her post graduate work in biology at Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) in 2009. She then moved on to Chowan University where, in 2014, she earned a BS degree with a major in Interdisciplinary Studies and a minor in Natural Science. In 2015, she added a BS in Biology to her credentials. Perry was interested in dentistry and decided to enroll in MCC's Dental Assisting program in 2016.

While in the Dental Assisting Program at MCC, Perry was encouraged by the program director, Shelby Brothers, to consider teaching. Brothers, like Perry, had a credential in biology and event-

Cont. on pg. 13...

Dental Assisting Cont. from pg. 12

ually made her way to MCC's Dental Assistant program. Upon completing the program and several hours of clinical assisting, Perry, like Brothers, knew that teaching was her calling.

In her comments to the students, Perry reminisced about her own feelings of joy and elation when she graduated from the program in 2017. Perry reminded the students that, "Every end has a new beginning and that your opportunities are as big as you can dream." She also thanked the graduates for having faith in her as a first-time instructor and noted that she would miss them.

Class President, Tyler Wilkins, followed Perry. She noted to the audience, "If you see one these graduates in a dentist's office, you will be in good hands." She also thanked the instructors for their time and service to the class of 2018. "We have grown a lot – especially in our friendships and in our faith in one another."

Marla Alvarado, the class Vice President, encouraged the graduates to use their God given talents and reminded them that "We can do all things with Christ who gives us the strength."

MCC's Dental Assisting program Director, Shelby Brothers, then presented four graduates with recognition plaques. The Academic Achievement Award was shared by two students, Ladrika Faison and Tyler Wilkins. They both maintained a 3.5 gpa (grade point average) throughout the program. The Clinical Achievement Award was presented to Abigail Hernandez for receiving nearly perfect evaluations during her training time in dental

offices. Andrea Clifton was presented with the Ann Marie Debien Memorial Award, which recognizes dedication and passion to the profession.

Dental assistants perform many tasks, ranging from providing patient care and taking x-rays to recordkeeping and scheduling appointments. Their duties vary by state and by the dentists' offices where they work. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median annual wage for dental assistants was \$37,630 in May 2017. Dental assisting ranks #25 across the US in the category of Best Health Care Support jobs. Although state certification is not required in NC, MCC's Dental Assisting faculty does encourage their students to pursue professional credentials.

Six of MCC's 2018 Dental Assisting graduates have already been hired by a dental practice. Most gained employment at an office where they performed their clinical rotation. Currently, fifty-eight dental practices throughout Northeastern NC serve as clinical sites for MCC's Dental Assisting program. Many of these offices seek MCC trained Dental Assistants after they graduate.

This program's quality and proven record in connecting graduates to jobs has made it a popular course of study at MCC. Only 12 students are selected each year to begin the program. It is a one year program. If you are interested in learning more about MCC's Dental Assisting program, visit the MCC web site at www.martincc.edu or contact Shelby Brothers at 252-789-0239 or via email at Shelby.brothers@martincc.edu.



Pictured above is Tyler Wilkins delivering the class president's remarks during MCC's 2018 Dental Assisting graduation ceremony.



Pictured above is Instructor and guest speaker, Desiree Perry. Perry is also a 2017 alumna of the program.



MCC's Equine Program Director Participates in Collegiate Interview



Pictured above is MCC Equine student Taylor Cavezza manning a recruitment booth at a 4-H horse show held at the James B. Hunt Horse Complex in Raleigh on July 6.

Tami Thurston, MCC's Director of Equine Training and Equine Business Technology was recently interviewed for an article titled, "Choosing the Perfect College to Pursue Your Equine Dreams." The article was posted by Courtney Hall for GoHorseShow on July 6, 2018, in APHA, ApHC, AQHA, Association News, General News, IHSA, NCEA, News, NSBA, Other Associations, and Our Community News (<https://gohorshow.com/2018/07/choosing-perfect-college-pursue-equine-dreams/>).

Thurston was one of four distinguished professionals, including Mary Meneely, Amanda Jones, and Clark Bradley, to be interviewed. These four have numerous years of experience at the university and college level involving equine studies, horse judging, and equestrian teams. Bradley is an equine instructor at the University of Findlay. Jones is a horse judging and equestrian team coach at North Eastern Oklahoma A&M College, and Meneely, is assistant coach for the 2018 National Champion Auburn equestrian team. The following are excerpts from the article.

When asked how she recruits students to her

program, Thurston noted that she uses technology to persuade students to attend her college.

"We utilize social media," Thurston said. "It's been a big help. We do some television appearances and do some advertisements. We are starting to try to reach a more national audience. We do have a lot of out-of-state students. It's changing some, but we recruit from all over the state and all over the country."

Taking the time to go and see multiple college campuses, meet different coaches, and explore all of your options is very important. There are so many great programs across the country, and every one has something unique to offer. Jones, Meneely, and Thurston recommended visiting all colleges you are considering attending.

"Tour everywhere that you are interested in," Jones said. "After that, sit down and weigh all the pros and cons. Then, you can decide which place you think is the best for you and feel good about your decision. I even tell the kids I'm recruiting if they are on the fence between another school and me, they need to visit both of us."

"You need to visit several colleges and get a feel for that university and coaching staff," Meneely said. "Every single college is going to have a different feel. Also, make sure the college has the degree you are looking into."

"Make sure you pick the right school for you, and it is the right fit," Thurston said. "Do your research and know exactly what you are going to get out of the program. Talk to students who have been there. That's an excellent gauge. Try to talk to more than one student because they all have different experiences."

Not everyone who goes to school to study equine or ride on an equestrian team is going to be a horse trainer. There are many other routes students have the opportunity to take. You can manage a boarding facility, continue to be a veterinary technician, become an equine professor and multiple other careers.

Thurston sees many of her students get equine business-related jobs or prepare to become a veterinary technician with horses.

"Honestly, a lot of them generally start their own

little business, whether it's a lesson barn, training barn, or anything like that," Thurston said. "We have students all over the country who have established their businesses. A lot of our students also go on to be vet techs once they graduate from our college."

"I think it's pretty evident that the horse industry is changing and may be getting a little smaller or maybe not," Thurston said. "My goal is to figure out where the future of the industry is going and how we can best prepare our students. We are always trying to fill the need of the student."

Whether you decide to be part of a collegiate team or study equine in college, there are a few tips to keep in mind. Meneely, Bradley, Thurston, and Jones are all strong believers in touring many colleges and universities to find the perfect one for you. Talk to current students and athletes to get a feel for their school. Take your time when debating over schools. Above all, be confident in your decision and prepare yourself for the fantastic journey you are about to take. Good luck to all the incoming freshman starting this fall.



Tammi Thurston, MCC's
Director of Equine Technology

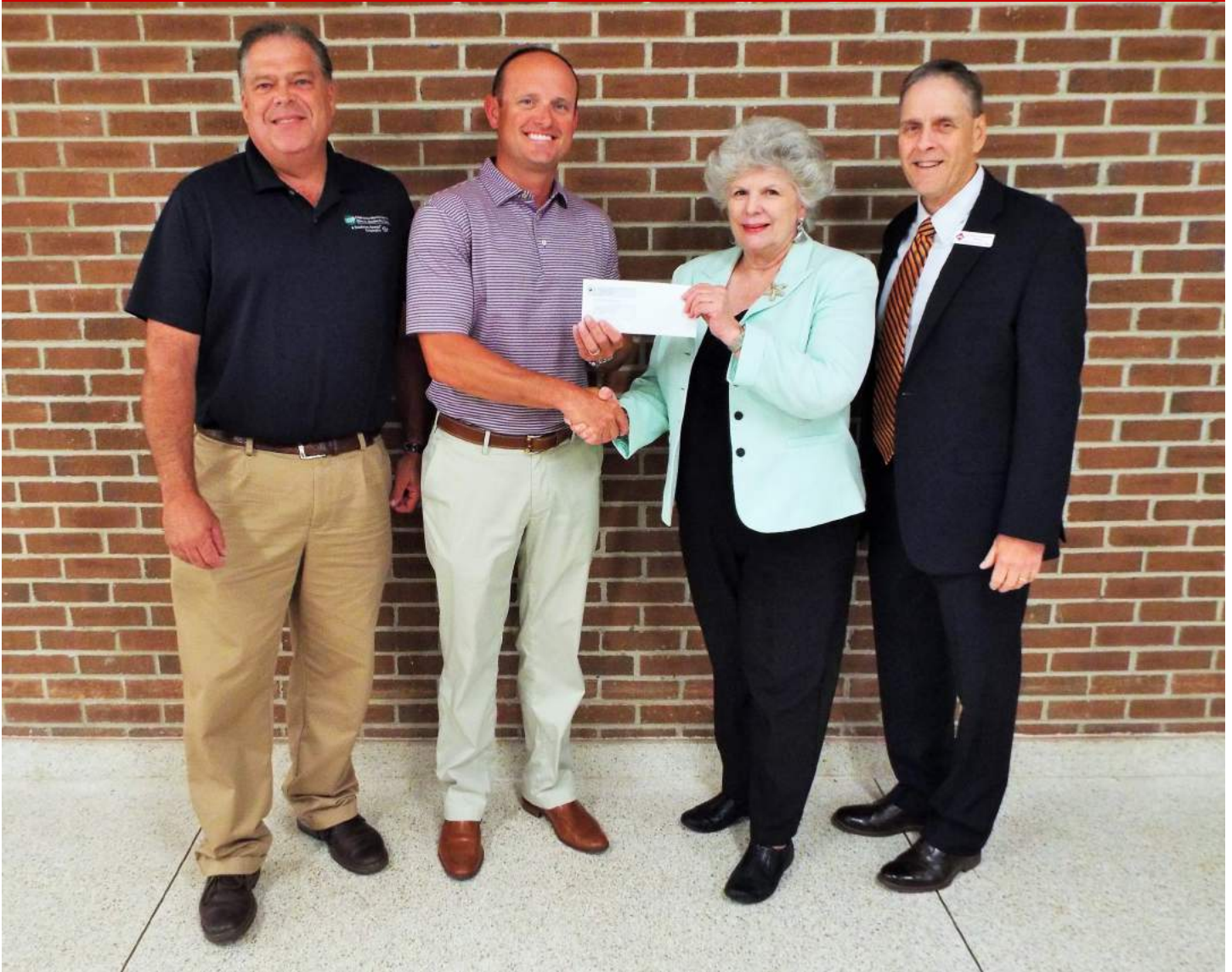
MCC's PTA Students in Action!



MCC's first-year PTA (Physical Therapist Assistant) students participated in a state wide advocacy event hosted by the NC Physical Therapy Association in Raleigh, on May 31. The group met with Senator Erika Smith-Ingram to advocate for professional Physical Therapy legislation currently being considered in the Senate. Pictured above, outside of the legislative office building and pictured below inside the legislative building are MCC's PTA students. Senator Smith-Ingram (below center), who represents District 3 welcomed the students personally.



Edgecombe–Martin County EMC Supports MCC



Edgecombe-Martin County Electric Membership Corporation (EMEMC) donated \$1,000 to the MCC Foundation on July 24. The funds are to be used for scholarships in the College's Electrical Systems Technology (EST) program. Pictured above from left to right are; Eddie Stocks (VP of Member and Industrial Development for EMEMC), Winston Howell (EMEMC's CEO), Charlotte Griffin (President of MCC's Foundation Board of Directors), and Dr. Paul Hutchins (President of MCC). This is the first time EMEMC has provided MCC with a scholarship for this purpose. EMEMC is the oldest Rural Electric Cooperative in NC and one of the oldest in the nation. It was the among the first batch of Rural Cooperatives to receive a loan under the Rural Electrification Act (REA) created during the Roosevelt administration in 1936. Based in Tarboro, EMC threw its first switch on April 17, 1937. They started with 82 cooperative members and 32 miles of power lines. Today, EMEMC's distribution grid stretches over 1,600 miles and serves 12,000 members. EMEMC's support of MCC's EST students demonstrates that they are just as forward thinking today as they were in 1937. Griffin thanked the representatives and assured them that the money would benefit some very deserving EST students. As soon as the Foundation has established the application guidelines, students will be notified.

MCC Foundation News

The MCC Foundation Board met on August 7 to make plans for their upcoming fundraiser, "Stampede in the Park Rodeo," scheduled for November 16 and 17 at the Bob Martin Agricultural Center. Board President, Charlotte Griffin, also recognized Tommy Bowen (pictured right) for his 17 years of service on the Board. Bowen was appointed to the MCC Board of Trustees last year and is resigning his Foundation seat. Bowen is also a Martin County Commissioner. Three new board members were welcomed during the meeting. They are pictured below from left to right; Phil Griffin of Jamesville, Richard James of Williamston and Tom Winslow of Oak City. MCC President, Dr. Paul Hutchins, pictured far right below, joined the board during their last meeting. Matthew Sessoms of Williamston has also been



elected to the board. The Board also voted to pay for MCC's MOXIE T-shirts which will be distributed to all faculty and staff in September.



REAL Crisis Intervention

REAL Crisis Intervention, Inc. is a non-profit agency offering free 24/7 counseling and an extensive referral service. REAL provides: Counseling, Information & Referral, Sexual Assault Services, Advocacy, Suicide Intervention/Prevention, Pitt Resource Connection, Dial-A-Teen, Community Resource Connection, and Outreach/Education. They are located at 1011 Anderson Street, in Greenville, NC. You may contact REAL in the following ways: by phone at 252-758-4357, by email at realcrisis@embarqmail.com, or on the web at www.realcrisis.org



Need help?

Center for Family
Violence Prevention

24 Hour Crisis Line

(252)752-3811

TOLL FREE (800)537-2238

Greenville, NC

Six NA students receive SECU scholarships



Pictured above from left to right are: Quilliah Smallwood, Kristina Mack, Ebony Hardison, MCC Dean of Academic Affairs Dr. Deryl Fulmer, MCC VP Dr. Brian Busch, MCC President Dr. Paul Hutchins, Health Programs Coordinator Sue Gurley, Kaylenn Slade, Yvonne Whitfield, Fontasia Cherry, and SECU District 42 Sr. VP Brent Glover.

On August 21, six recent completers of one or more MCC Continuing Education Health Programs were presented with scholarships and certificates awarded by the State Employee Credit Union (SECU). A total of ten MCC students have received SECU scholarships in 2018. Launched in 2013, the scholarship program focuses on assisting the needs of North Carolina's unemployed and underemployed citizens, military veterans, and members of the NC National Guard seeking short-term job training for new careers or retraining to advance current job skills. Scholarship funding is applied to tuition and other expenses associated with their eligible program of study through the Commu-

nity College System's Back-to-Work Program and continuing education courses.

Three of the recipients successfully completed an NA (Nurse Aide) I class at MCC to qualify for the scholarship. Among those students were Quilliah Smallwood, Kaylenn Slade, and Yvonne Whitfield.

Smallwood, from Kelford, NC, has is currently enrolled at Roanoke Chowan Community College (RCCC) in the healthcare program career pathway to become a Registered Nurse. Slade, of Williamston, NC, is currently employed as CNA I at East Carolina Outreach Home Health Care. She is planning to enroll in MCC's NA II program. Whitfield, also of Williamston, is currently employed at Ro-

anoke Nursing Home. She too is planning to enroll in NA II as well as MCC's Medication Aide program.

The remaining three - Kristina Mack, Fontasia Cherry, and Ebony Hardison - each completed the NA II course of study. Mack and Cherry, both residents of Windsor, are working in health care facilities. Mack is employed at Tyrrell House, and Cherry has just started working for Vidant. Hardison, of Plymouth, is employed at the Brian Center. All three are planning to pursue nursing degrees.

Dr. Deryl Davis Fulmer, MCC's Dean of Academic Affairs, has been working toward adding a Health Science program pathway that **Continued on pg. 19...**

SECU Continued from pg. 18...

can lead students toward other allied health programs like Registered and Practical Nursing. Once added, MCC's Nurse Aid I and II students can apply their training toward a Therapeutic and Diagnostic Services diploma, which will make them more competitive candidates for highly coveted nursing program seats at other colleges and universities. Dr. Fulmer states, "If all goes as planned, we should have this one-year program in place by the Fall Semester of 2019."

State Employees' Credit Union's local Advisory Board member Judy Jennette commented, "The SECU Continuing Education Scholarship program provides an excellent opportunity to assist North Carolina's unemployed and underemployed citizens with career training and marketable job skills needed for today's workplace. We look forward to the long-term success of these scholarship recipients as they build a better economic future for themselves, their families, and our State."

With this \$435,000 commitment for Continuing Education Scholarships and SECU Foundation's annual \$580,000 "People Helping People" Community College Scholarships, funding for the NC Community College System now totals over \$1 million.

SECU is in the process of modifying its scholarship distribution process. The next round of recipients may be eligible to receive the scholarship prior to taking their class rather than after. The new format will be announced this fall and shared with everyone on campus!

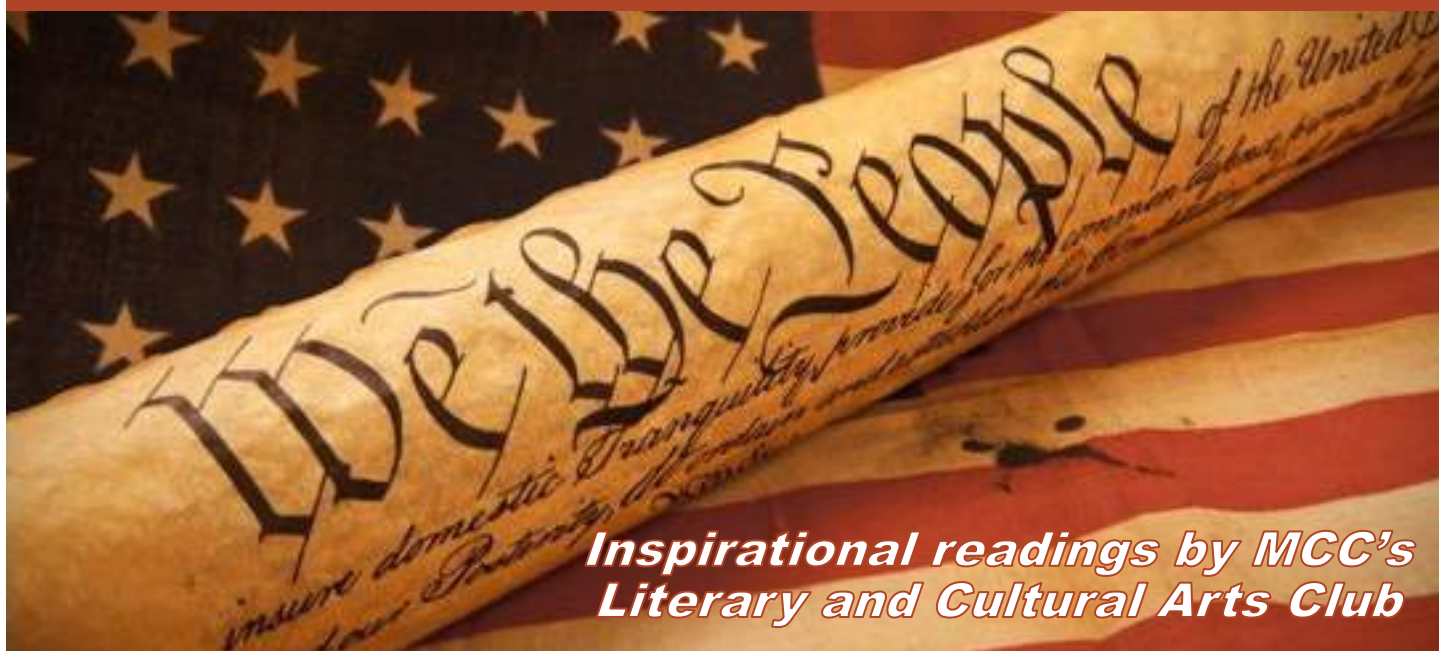
MCC Improvements Fan Out



Several improvements to MCC's facilities were made over the summer. Pictured left are SCI technicians installing the wiring for new campus doors and security cameras. The outer outdoor riding ring has been removed. Seven large fans have been installed in the newly renovated horse barns. They have dramatically improved the airflow in the barns. A temporary sign has been mounted in front of the colt breaking ring. It will eventually be replaced by a wood carved sign and remounted near the new equine classrooms.



Celebrate Constitution Day Monday, September 17, 12 noon Campus Café Lunch provided!



*Inspirational readings by MCC's
Literary and Cultural Arts Club*

Martin Memos

- Sept. 3 - Labor Day (MCC will be closed)**
- Sept. 6 - LCA (Literary and Cultural Arts Club) first fall semester meeting, 1 p.m., Bldg. 4, room**
- Sept. 11 - Health Care Program Completers' Recognition Ceremony, 6 p.m., MCC Auditorium**
- Sept. 17 - Constitution Day Celebration, 12 noon, MCC Café (sponsored by LCAC)**
- Sept. 18 - MCC Trustees Board Meeting, 7 p.m., room 14, Bldg. 1**
- Oct. 3 - STEM Day, Faculty Work Day/Professional Development**
- Oct. 3-5 - Fall Break**
- Oct. 9-11 - SACSCOC Site Visit to MCC**
- Oct. 17 - "Minimester" classes begin**