Dear Students, Colleagues, Friends, and Community Members,

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New scholarships, expanded partnerships with nearby colleges and universities, winning athletic teams, awards for nursing, student journalism and horticulture, and innovative housing options for our students are just some of the impressive headlines featured. Meanwhile, behind the scenes, significant work and planning have occurred in anticipation of next year’s accomplishments: new programs and initiatives in Trenton, development of cutting edge credentials in aseptic manufacturing and artificial intelligence, capital improvements on both campuses, and new strategies for helping students all the way to graduation and beyond.

As we continue to emerge from the pandemic, prepare to collaborate with new county leaders, and find ways to invest in the sustainability of our resources, I predict that we will see 2022-2023 as a turning point at Mercer, the beginning of a period of hope and opportunity. I urge you to take your place in our community and become part of our future success!

Deborah E. Preston, Ph.D.
President
Mercer County Community College

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Deborah E. Preston, Ph.D.
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MCCC AT A GLANCE

Student Profile
• Approximately 9,000 credit-earning students
• Approximately 3,000 non-credit students
• Mercer County residents comprise three-fourths of the student population
• More than 50% of Mercer’s graduates transfer to senior colleges or universities

Community Offerings
• Two convenient campuses – West Windsor and downtown Trenton
• Kelsey Theatre – quality performances for both adults and children in a modern, spacious venue
• WWFM The Classical Network – listener-supported public radio offering classical music programming throughout the region (89.1, Trenton; WWNJ 91.1, Toms River, NJ) and JazzOn2 broadcasting on HD2
• Conference Center – state-of-the-art accommodations for meetings and events
• The Gallery – award-winning venue hosting series of art exhibits (West Windsor Campus)
• Youth Programs – serving children, teens, and young adults
• Fitness Center – open to public memberships
• Athletic Facilities – public rental of courts and fields
• The University Center – earn bachelor’s and even master’s degrees on-site at MCCC’s West Windsor campus through programs offered by:
  - Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
  - William Paterson University

Athletics Teams
• Baseball
• Basketball
• Lacrosse
• Soccer
• Softball
• Tennis

Educational Advantages
• Choice of more than 100 degree and credit certificate programs
• Dual enrollment and guaranteed transfer agreements with nearly 50 colleges and universities
• MercerOnline – Internet-based learning anywhere
• Average student-to-faculty ratio: 16 to 1
• Free academic advising, tutoring, transfer services, and career counseling
• Honors Program – an enriched college experience
• Jump Start – college classes for high school students
• Total number of academic computer labs (54) with a total of 1328 computers

Unique Academic Programs
• Aviation Flight Technology
• Culinary Arts
• Entertainment Technology
• Funeral Service
• Ornamental Horticulture

Scholarships
The Mercer County Community College Foundation makes more than $1,000,000 of scholarship support available annually; $8,000 being the largest individual award to date, $1,200 the average.

MCCC BY THE NUMBERS

TOP DEGREE PROGRAMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Degrees</th>
<th>Certificates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liberal Arts (All Options)</td>
<td>504</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Justice</td>
<td>219</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>186</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer</td>
<td>184</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Engineering Science</td>
<td>168</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Aviation</td>
<td>168</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Radiology</td>
<td>171</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Administration</td>
<td>131</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare Admin / Bus. Studies (All Options)</td>
<td>96</td>
<td></td>
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ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Degrees</th>
<th>Certificates</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liberal Arts (All Options)</td>
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<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Criminal Justice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>186</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer</td>
<td>184</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Education Engineering Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aviation</td>
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<td>Radiology</td>
<td>171</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business Administration</td>
<td>131</td>
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<tr>
<td>Healthcare Admin / Bus. Studies (All Options)</td>
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RETENTION (cohort 2021 FTFT) Degree Seeking

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quarter</th>
<th>Fall to Spring</th>
<th>Fall to Fall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>56%</td>
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GRADUATES BY DEGREE 2022-2023

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<th>Degree</th>
<th>Graduates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Associate in Applied Science</td>
<td>244</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate in Arts</td>
<td>350</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate in Fine Arts</td>
<td>109</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate in Science</td>
<td>9</td>
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GRADUATES BY CREDENTIAL 2022-2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credentail</th>
<th>Graduates</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degrees</td>
<td>712</td>
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<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
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ATTENDANCE Fall 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Part-Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full-Time</td>
<td>33%</td>
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STUDENT ETHNICITY Fall 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>5,310</td>
<td>5,480</td>
<td>6,342</td>
<td>6,205</td>
<td>5,821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>193</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
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<td>1,073</td>
<td>1,073</td>
<td>1,073</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multiracial</td>
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<td>318</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>318</td>
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<tr>
<td>Not reported</td>
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<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>7630</td>
<td>7480</td>
<td>6342</td>
<td>6205</td>
<td>5821</td>
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</table>

STUDENT GENDER Fall 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
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<tr>
<td>Male</td>
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TUITION & STUDENT FEES (Per Credit)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Residence Type</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-County Resident</td>
<td>$202</td>
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<tr>
<td>Out-of County Resident</td>
<td>$256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out-of-State Resident</td>
<td>$357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>$357</td>
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</table>

RESIDENT STATUS Fall 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-State</td>
<td>5,310</td>
<td>5,310</td>
<td>5,310</td>
<td>5,310</td>
<td>5,310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out-of-State</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-County</td>
<td>4,237</td>
<td>4,237</td>
<td>4,237</td>
<td>4,237</td>
<td>4,237</td>
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<tr>
<td>Out-of-County</td>
<td>1,073</td>
<td>1,073</td>
<td>1,073</td>
<td>1,073</td>
<td>1,073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>318</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

HEADCOUNT (Five-Year Trend)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7630</td>
<td>7480</td>
<td>6342</td>
<td>6205</td>
<td>5821</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FULL-TIME FACULTY

Ranked #1 for “Best Faculty” among New Jersey Community Colleges by Intelligent.com (2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tenure Status</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On Tenure Track (17%)</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenured (83%)</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female (50%)</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male (50%)</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professors (55%)</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Professors (17%)</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Professors (25%)</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructors (2%)</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EXPENSES

1% 5% 8% 9% 39% 25% 6% 4% 3% 1%

REVENUES

27% 9% 8% 7% 3% 3% 19% 2% 8% 2%

TOTAL BUDGET: $56,524,580

COLLEGE FINANCIALS FY23
**2022-2023 SNAPSHOTs**

**OCTOBER AND JUNE**

**Final Goal: Women’s Soccer Undefeated Season Marks the Retirement of Standout MCCC Coach / Star Student-Athlete**

After nine seasons as MCCC’s head women’s soccer coach, Elyse Diamond has retired. In her tenure, she compiled 65 wins and three times led her teams to the Region 19 Championship, most recently in 2022, her final season. The Vikings went 15-0 in the regular season this year – the first undefeated regular season in program history.

Diamond coached the 2022 Region 19 Division II Women's Soccer Player of the Year, Lisa Schroeder, along with 12 All-Region 19 performers throughout her Mercer career. In her first season as head coach in 2016, she coached All-American Janine Dennis, the first women's soccer All-American since 2010.

As an MCCC student-athlete in 1983, Diamond was the college’s first women’s soccer All-American. She is Mercer’s all-time leading goal scorer with 118 in two seasons. Prior to enrolling at Mercer, she was a high school All-American, setting a record of 112 goals in three years and 47 goals in her junior year – records that still stand today.

Following her two seasons at Mercer, Diamond received a scholarship to Rutgers University where she set a single season scoring record of 15 goals (broken by famed former U.S. National Team member and Olympian Carli Lloyd).

Diamond has earned multiple honors for her soccer achievements including induction into the MCCC Athletics Hall of Fame in its 2021 inaugural year. She became the first female soccer player to be inducted into the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame, and was the 2014 female honoree of the Trenton Select Committee, which recognizes the accomplishments of Mercer County athletic figures.

**OCTOBER**

**MCCC Mourns the Passing of Loyal Friend and Generous Donor Jim Faridy**

One of the college’s most steadfast supporters and loyal friends, MCCC Foundation Director Emeritus Jamil Faridy was 88.

Known to all as Jim, his ties to MCCC date back more than 50 years, when he was an evening instructor in Trenton prior to the construction of the West Windsor Campus. As a partner in the architectural firm that designed the MCCC Conference Center and addition to the Physical Education building, Jim’s imprint on our physical space remains his MCCC legacy.

So, too, does his generosity.

Over the years, Jim became a passionate champion of all things Mercer – first and foremost, our students. He was a member of MCCC’s Architecture Program Advisory Commission and spearheaded scholarship opportunities for multiple architecture students annually, including his own endowed scholarship established with his wife, Lynne.

Community service was Jim’s calling card. In 1997, he joined the college’s Foundation Board, serving with dedication for more than two decades. He was a long-time member of the Foundation’s Spring Gala Committee, often donating his and Lynne’s paintings to the event’s silent auction. He also donated regularly toward other fundraising priorities at the college, including the purchase of a new piano for MCCC’s Kelsey Theatre in 2007. In 2015, the Foundation honored the couple with its Distinguished Benefactor Award in recognition of their significant contributions.

“Jim was one of a kind, an irreplaceable member of the MCCC family,” said Joseph Claffey, Vice President for College Advancement. “We are incredibly grateful to have had him and Lynne in our fold and are inspired by their belief in our educational mission.”
Endowed Scholarship Furthers Professor Emeritus Bob Pugh’s College Commitment

“Bobby” Pugh and his wife Brenda reinforced their lasting dedication to Mercer County Community College by inaugurating The Robert and Brenda Pugh Scholarship, to be awarded annually to a continuing full-time MCCC sophomore studying Exercise Science, Health Professions, or Education.

With a nearly five-decade association, Pugh served MCCC for 46 years as a professor and coordinator for Health and Fitness. In 2019, in recognition of his unparalleled contributions, the college named its fitness facility in Pugh’s honor. The Robert L. Pugh Fitness Center boasts upgrades thanks to a fundraising campaign spearheaded by Pugh.

Pugh’s history of generosity includes buying textbooks for financially strapped students and mentoring them in various capacities, perhaps most notably as an assistant coach during the College’s national championship basketball seasons in the 1970s.

His dedication in both academics and athletics has garnered him numerous accolades, including MCCC’s Distinguished Teaching Award in 2016 and honors from the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association for his contributions to high school basketball.

Golfers Swing Into Action to Support MCCC Student-Athletes

With more than 100 participants, raising more than $45,000 directed toward scholarships for student-athletes, MCCC hosted its 31st Annual Golf Classic at the Trenton Country Club.

Credited for much of the event’s success were numerous sponsors, including especially generous contributions from The Haldeman Auto Group as Tournament Sponsor, The Bank of Princeton, The Spiezle Architectural Group, and Imbue Creative.

Backed by success-driven Golf Classic Committee volunteers from the college and community, including co-chairs Kevin Kerins and Michael Procaccini, the Athletics department teamed with the MCCC Foundation in organizing and hosting this popular fundraiser. Present among golfers throughout the day, student-athletes from the College’s baseball and softball teams gave “faces” to the cause.

Outgoing Golf Committee co-chairs Brian Bennett, Dave Fraytak, and Allen Silk were commended for their longtime efforts in rallying the community, sponsors, and MCCC for rewarding days of golf supporting the education and future success of the many deserving student-athletes who participate on the College’s nine sports teams.

Now Hear This: Kelsey Theatre Impresses Hearing-Challenged Patrons

Kelsey Theatre, a cultural jewel on MCCC’s West Windsor campus, proudly unveiled its latest upgrade: a sophisticated, state-of-the-art Hearing Loop Assistive Listening System. Patrons with hearing disabilities now benefit from impressive audio clarity that enhances their overall theater experience.

“The sound quality of this system is nothing less than marvelous,” boasts Kelsey artistic director Kitty Getlik. She further praised the technology as the universal standard for assistive listening systems, the same employed in such esteemed venues as Lincoln Center.

The system works with most modern hearing aids and all cochlear implants fitted with telecoils. Moreover, Kelsey Theatre ensures inclusivity by offering special hearing loop receivers and headphones for theatergoers without hearing aids.

Funding for the installation was made possible, in part, by the Mercer County Cultural and Heritage Commission (committed to enriching the lives of county residents and visitors through the promotion of art, cultural, and historical activities); the Mercer County Board of Chosen Commissioners (overseeing funding allocation across county departments including Mercer County Community College); and the New Jersey State Council of the Arts, a partner of the National Endowment of the Arts (the U.S. federal agency championing projects of outstanding artistic merit).
**JANUARY**

**New Center Addresses Academic and Career Challenges of County Students with Developmental Disabilities**

In a significant move toward inclusive education and career opportunities, MCCC has established a County College-Based Center for Adult Transition (CAT) catering to young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Center is set to provide individuals aged 18 through 24 with comprehensive academic and vocational training aimed at promoting self-sufficiency and independent living, including the gaining of meaningful employment.

“We are excited about this new commitment to our community and the opportunities that will unfold during the months ahead to create paths to credential building, employment, and credit-bearing continuous education,” said Dr. Gonzalo Perez, Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs for MCCC’s Division of Innovation, Online Education and Student Success as well as The Division of Lifelong Learning.

Arlene Stinson, director of MCCC’s Center for Accessibility Resources, emphasized efforts to collaborate with area organizations to identify and onboard suitable students.

Funded with a State of New Jersey grant from The Office of the Secretary of Higher Education, the new program will build upon the current, related DREAM program at Mercer, which provides academic guidance, prevocational training, career orientation, and apt social experiences for these young adults.

The CAT program will operate from MCCC’s James Kerney Campus in Trenton.

**JANUARY AND MAY**

**Nursing Education Program, Ranked 4th Best in State, Honors Graduates at Traditional Pinning Ceremonies**

In January and again in May 2023, Mercer’s highly acclaimed Nursing program recognized newly minted graduates poised to join an ever-demanding profession.

On both occasions, proud family, friends, and MCCC faculty and staff packed Kelsey Theatre to witness the Nursing classes, 38 graduates in each, receiving well-deserved pins signifying their program completions. The ceremonies additionally were livestreamed.

Presiding over the proceedings, MCCC Director of Nursing Education, Dr. Elizabeth Mizerek, introduced and welcomed the College’s new President, Dr. Deborah Preston, who commended the graduates. “I have so much admiration for what you do,” said Preston. “Thank you for your work put forth this year and for the work you are going to do.”

Mizerek additionally recognized the MCCC Nursing faculty’s substantial classroom, laboratory, and clinical time with students throughout the program. “None of us would be here for this celebration were it not for their dedicated efforts,” she asserted.

Dr. Lisa Dunn, Professor of Nursing, introduced each graduate to approach the stage. Most have already passed the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN), earning the title of registered nurse (RN), and many are already embarking on careers at prominent local facilities including Capital Health, Penn Medicine Princeton Medical Center, and RWJ Hamilton.

**FEBRUARY**

**MCCC and TCNJ Collaborate to Streamline Pursuit of Bachelor’s Degrees**

In the spirit of bolstering higher education accessibility, Mercer County Community College and The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) signed an articulation agreement designed to simplify the transition for MCCC graduates to TCNJ’s four-year degree programs. The partnership ensures that MCCC students meeting academic prerequisites will be assured admission to TCNJ starting Fall 2023.

MCCC President Dr. Deborah Preston and TCNJ President Dr. Kathryn Foster both acknowledged the monumental impact of this alliance. Foster highlighted how MCCC’s quality education effectively grooms students for TCNJ, while Preston emphasized the student-centric nature of the agreement.

“We share a passion,” said Foster, “for ensuring student success, for cultivating a love of learning, for educational experiences and engaged education.”

“I know all the work that went into making this agreement happen,” added Preston. “And I think that speaks volumes for the respect that the institutions have for each other and for the great work we are both doing in putting our students first.”
A standout feature of the arrangement is that no fewer than 796 MCCC courses will now transfer as concrete courses at TCNJ – a landmark achievement for MCCC. Historical data reveals that the partnership has yielded tangible results. Over the last four years, more than 220 MCCC students transitioned to TCNJ as full-time students, with two-thirds of Mercer applicants gaining admittance to TCNJ.

MARCH
Dr. Deborah E. Preston Inaugurated as Seventh President of Mercer County Community College

More than 250 attendees – Dr. Preston’s family, friends, and former colleagues along with MCCC faculty and staff, special guests, elected officials, delegates and others from the higher education and Mercer communities – convened at Kelsey Theatre on Friday, March 24 to witness the inauguration of the seventh president of Mercer County Community College.

With Marvin Carter – Diversity, Equity and Inclusion director for the college – presiding as master of ceremonies, President Preston, in her inaugural speech, conveyed a clear view for Mercer’s success, emphasizing the importance of inclusive education and a welcoming environment.

“My vision for MCCC is that we recognize achievement gaps and opportunity gaps among our students,” she related. “We know we have work to do and we are going to do that work with passion and purpose. The first step for success is for every student, every community member, to know deep down that they are safe and welcome at MCCC.”

County Executive Brian M. Hughes lauded Dr. Preston for her tenacity, expressing optimism for the college’s future under her leadership. Special guest Dr. Joseph Roach, professor emeritus at Yale who served as Preston’s dissertation adviser as she pursued a Ph.D. from Tulane University, gave heartfelt remarks in a moving speech which he closed by saying, “I am humbled in the certainty that as a community college president you will do more good for more people in a given month – or even in one good week – than I had done in a whole career.”

Kristin S. Appelget, vice chair of the MCCC Board of Trustees, adorned Dr. Preston with the presidential medallion, symbolizing the official transfer of the institution’s stewardship.

About President Preston

Dedicated to the profession of academia for more than 30 years, Dr. Preston maintains a career-spanning commitment to ensuring that students receive a quality education in a welcoming environment.

Prior to joining MCCC, Dr. Preston served as Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Raritan Valley Community College. Earlier roles included tenures at Montgomery College (MD) and Georgia Perimeter College (now Perimeter College at Georgia State University).

She earned a Ph.D. in English from Tulane University, supplementing earlier degrees from Florida State University.

MARCH
Horticulture Program Blooms with Best Year Yet at Philadelphia Flower Show, Rooted with $10,000 Support from MCCC Foundation

MCCC’s Horticulture students dug in for success at the prestigious Philadelphia Flower Show, this time with a significant financial boost from the MCCC Foundation.

The world’s largest and oldest indoor flower exhibition, drawing more than 250,000 enthusiasts annually, the eight-day Philadelphia Flower Show is renowned for its breathtaking gardens, esteemed competitions, and creations by many of the world’s premier floral and landscape designers.

The MCCC Horticulture program, now boasting a track record of 11 medals over nine years, sees participation in this event as the culmination of a year’s hard work. Horticulture and Plant Science Professor Amy Ricco emphasized the event’s importance, likening the rigor of the competition to “working for a very tough client.” The awards are testament to the skills and dedication of MCCC participants.

Mercer continued its winning streak in a historic way this year, earning the “Education” category gold medal at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. “Our third gold since 2017,” notes Ricco. MCCC Horticulture students also claimed two additional medals and an honorable mention for a total of four awards this year, breaking the College’s previous record. “The most ever,” affirms Ricco. “These awards are the feathers in the caps of our graduates who go on to transfer or work in the industry.”
Ricco emphasizes that Mercer’s participation in the show is an enormous group undertaking. “The Foundation’s donation,” she reports, “came in at exactly the right time to allow us to pay our bills and remove the financial pressure.”

MARCH

Good News: Student Newspaper Wins 13 New Jersey Press Foundation Awards

MCCC’s student newspaper, The College VOICE, earned 13 awards from the New Jersey Press Foundation for the 2022-2023 academic year. This includes top honors in arts and entertainment reporting, investigative reporting, opinion writing, features reporting, and photography.

Despite being a small, hardworking staff of only roughly five to ten students, ten were acknowledged with these awards. Notably, three award-winning articles emerged from the college’s Journalism II class during the Spring semester.

Co-advisers for The VOICE, English/Journalism Professor Holly Johnson and Associate Professor Matthew Kochis, along with Photography Professor Michael Chovan-Dalton, conveyed immense pride in the student journalists, especially in light of unique challenges of the year.

“The fact that we won so many awards is particularly remarkable, as The VOICE is moving from its long-time home in Student Activities into an academic program,” observed Johnson. “Students are still turning out top-quality work.”

In addition to the individual student awards, The College VOICE also won second places for “Website” as well as for “General Excellence.”

MCCC graduates once affiliated with The VOICE are known for their impressive long-term outcomes, many having secured jobs at mainstream publications.

APRIL

MCCC, TCNJ, and Rider Partner for “Capital 3 Collaborative” Benefiting Educational Opportunity Fund Students

Mercer, Rider University, and The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) joined to launch the “Capital 3 Collaborative,” providing resources and opportunities for students who benefit from the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) – also referred to as the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) – at each institution.

The initiative, named to reference the proximity of the three colleges to the state capital in Trenton, is a joint networking, community building, and transfer pipeline that will foster connections among students at each institution to increase student engagement and promote student leadership. It also hopes to increase public familiarity with the state-sponsored EOP, which helps low-income New Jersey residents attend college.

The Collaborative intends to sponsor a series of events including a “Wellness Weekend” to promote holistic wellness while addressing mental health issues and concerns, along with “Care for the Capital,” a community service event to be held in Trenton which will align with the overall goal of fostering leadership and serve as a civic engagement learning experience.

Another mission of the “Capital 3 Collaborative” is to fortify the transfer student pipeline from MCCC to Rider and TCNJ.

“This is another example of our collaborations that increase pathways to higher education for Mercer residents and the region,” says MCCC Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. James H. Whitney III. “This collaboration serves as a model of how community colleges and four-year colleges can and should be active partners to serve our community.”

MAY

Foundation Gala Springs Forward, Raising Nearly $60,000 for Student Scholarships

More than 175 donors, alumni, students, community friends of MCCC, and College staff gathered to “Spring Into Student Success” – the first in-person celebration of philanthropy for MCCC in more than three years. The nearly $60,000 raised from the popular event, the 32nd of its kind hosted by the College, is earmarked for MCCC student scholarships.

Videos of scholarship recipient success stories and honoree remarks, honoree award presentations, and a sit-down dinner followed a cocktail hour and silent auction accompanied by music from the MCCC Jazz Band.
In her remarks, MCCC Board of Trustees chair Kristin Appelget commended the unwavering commitment and generosity of community members, businesses, and organizations supporting MCCC’s mission and its students. This year’s gala recognized four distinguished honorees in particular:

Capital Health & Trenton Health Team, Inc. received the Innovative Partnership Award; The Tuchman Foundation received the Spirit of Education Award; Aamir Rehman received the Distinguished Service Award; and Bristol Myers Squibb was the recipient of the Student Impact Award.

“Hundreds of Mercer students rely on scholarship funds for financial assistance each year,” said Joseph Claffey, Vice President for College Advancement and Executive Director of the MCCC Foundation. “The College is extremely grateful for the generosity of our donors. Every dollar received makes a positive difference in our students’ lives by making a Mercer County Community College education that much more affordable.”

“Mercer is a gem in our backyard that gives back to students and the community every day,” commented Lori Danko, who along with fellow MCCC Foundation Board member Savita Lachman, co-chaired this year’s gala. Since its inception in 1976, the Foundation has raised millions of dollars to help students achieve their education dreams and goals.

JUNE

Contributors Team Up, Athletics Hall of Fame Inducts Class of 2023 Honorees

Recognition of the long and distinguished history of Mercer County Community College athletics continued, with the induction of Class of 2023 Athletics Hall of Fame honorees: seven distinguished student-athletes, three illustrious coaches (one also a former student-athlete), and three accomplished Viking teams.

“The MCCC Hall of Fame induction ceremony allows stories from more than 60 years of athletics history to be retold while raising funds to continue supporting our student-athletes and the continued growth and success of an esteemed athletic department,” said event co-chair Daniel Klim. “The Hall of Fame shines a bright light on all who wore a Mercer uniform on campus and beyond.”

Honored were the 1981 Men’s Baseball Team (JUCO World Series participants), the national championship-winning 1982 Men’s Soccer Team, and the 2002 Women’s Tennis Team, which also brought home a national championship.

Student-athletes inducted include Jim Dill (soccer), Carol Kokotajlo (softball), Maggie Muscarella (soccer), Marc Nichols (tennis), Steve Reid (soccer), Angelika Stec (basketball), and Randy Voorhees (baseball).

Coaches named to the MCCC Athletics Hall of Fame include Randy Voorhees (baseball), Bill Drake (women’s soccer and softball), and Bob Pugh (men’s basketball).

Proceeds from the awards ceremony and dinner, hosted by the MCCC Athletics Committee and the MCCC Foundation, support athlete scholarships and improvements to MCCC athletic facilities.

JUNE

Room for Success: Partnering with Rider University, MCCC Becomes First Community College in the State to Offer Campus Housing Option

In a landmark first for New Jersey, Mercer County Community College brokered an arrangement with Rider University for MCCC students to obtain on-campus housing at Rider’s Lawrenceville campus beginning the Fall 2023 semester.

While enrolled in courses at Mercer, MCCC students can immerse in Rider’s thriving residential life, entitling them not only to housing, but also an array of essential student services including dining, transportation, health care, and more.

The goal of the arrangement was twofold: to make housing accessible to MCCC students and to streamline the admission and transfer process to Rider. A special rate on room and board applies exclusively to MCCC students. Additionally, toward easing the transition for those choosing to further their education at Rider after earning their associate degree at Mercer, this discount rate can extend for two additional years.

“Our agreement with Rider allows us to offer students a valuable community college experience enriched with residential housing, plus a clear path toward a bachelor’s degree from a leading New Jersey university,” said MCCC President Dr. Deborah E. Preston. “This collaboration will open a wealth of opportunities for students, including those from other counties, states, and countries.”
A WORD FROM THE FOUNDATION BOARD CHAIR

Dear MCCC Friends and Supporters,

As the Chairman of the Mercer County Community College (MCCC) Foundation, I am both proud and humbled to reflect on our achievements throughout the fiscal year 2022-2023. With your unwavering support, we have made significant strides in our mission to enhance education and provide unparalleled opportunities for our students.

This year, our collective efforts have yielded remarkable financial results, with total revenue reaching $2,002,160, including $760,173 from gifts and contributions and an additional $1,241,987 from support and revenue. These funds have allowed us to significantly expand our scholarship awards, special events, and various programs and activities, with a total budget of $947,308. Through careful stewardship and your generous contributions, we have witnessed an uplifting change in our net assets, growing from $13,184,064 at the beginning of the year to $14,238,917 by the year’s end. This financial growth is a testament to our community’s dedication and commitment to advancing the MCCC mission.

Among the year’s highlights, our 31st Annual Golf Classic brought together over 100 participants and raised more than $45,000 for student-athlete scholarships. The MCCC Horticulture program shone brightly at the Philadelphia Flower Show, supported by a significant $10,000 boost from the Foundation. Additionally, our “Spring Into Student Success” Gala, the first in-person event in over three years, successfully raised nearly $508,860. The MCCC Athletics Hall of Fame inducted its third class, the class of 2023, which further exemplified our commitment to honoring excellence within our college community. These achievements, alongside the financial milestones we’ve reached, underscore the profound impact of your support.

Your generosity and belief in our mission have fueled these successes and have set the stage for even greater achievements in the years to come. As we look forward to building on this momentum, I extend my deepest gratitude for your continuous support, which remains the foundation of our progress and growth.

The MCCC Foundation acts to encourage, solicit, receive, hold, invest and award private gifts, bequests and donations serving Foundation goals. Such gifts are applied to academic scholarships and other programs not funded through traditional sources. At the same time, the Foundation provides assistance to donors through a comprehensive program of tax-wise gift alternatives through planned giving.

Foundation Mission Statement

The MCCC Foundation is an independent 501(c)3 Corporation supporting the mission of Mercer County Community College and the community it serves. The Foundation assists the college and the advancement of public higher education by broadening the base of community and financial support. Through fundraising, advocacy and fundraising efforts, the MCCC Foundation nurtures educational opportunities benefiting the students of Mercer County Community College.

Critical to the success of this mission is board membership of fully committed and participating individuals who represent, are connected to, and can influence the significant constituencies of the community. Areas of representation include business, education, the professions, government and the community at large.

Ty Robinson, 2nd Vice Chair and Interim Treasurer

Deborah H. Preston, Ph.D. (ex-officio), MCCC President

Joseph T. Caffey (ex-officio) Executive Director and Secretary

Christian Perez (ex-officio)

Student Government President

Hibb Ames
Kalyan Arumula
Brian S. Bennett
Lori Danks
Heather Hanks
Randy Hanks
Kathy Klicker-Brink
Savita Lachman, Ph.D.
Linda Martin
Cesar Marrimpin
Diego F. Maya
Deboraah Miliar
Thomas Onder
Jeffrey F. Perlman
Michael Procaccini
Aarin Rehman, Ed.D.
Kimberly Saul
Allen M. Silk
Paula M. Taylor
Melissa Tenzer

Jamil (Jim) Faridy (deceased)

Directors Emeritus

James Floyd (deceased)

Directors Emeritus

Timothy Loch (deceased)

Directors Emeritus

Yong Sup Sim, Ed.D.

Directors Emeritus

Funds raised by the MCCC Foundation support current students or are directed to multi-year capital projects or endowments.

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Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Revenue
Gifts and Contributions $760,173.00
Support and Revenue $1,241,987.00
Total $2,002,160.00
*Includes Gifts in Kind

Expenses
Scholarship Awards $508,860.00
Special Events $177,082.00
Programs and Activities $261,366.00
Total Expenses $947,308.00

Changes in Net Assets
Net Assets, Beginning of Year $13,184,064.00
Net Assets, End of Year $14,238,917.00

FOUNDATION FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

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Together, we are fostering a brighter future for our students, our College, and our community. Your generosity and belief in our mission have fueled these successes and have set the stage for even greater achievements in the years to come. As we look forward to building on this momentum, I extend my deepest gratitude for your continuous support, which remains the foundation of our progress and growth.

Warm regards,

Daniel Klim
Chairman, MCCC Foundation