

Keeping in Touch



2018 REPORT
TO THE COMMUNITY



Montcalm Community College

“Partnerships have positioned the college very well to continue its work in economic and community development.”

– Robert C. Ferrentino



From the President

Greetings from Montcalm Community College.

Over the last two years, MCC has been pleased to host a series of three Community Conversations, forums where we've discussed the many opportunities and associated challenges facing our region. An improving economy has brought more jobs to our region, economic development activities in the county have proven successful and our collective confidence continues to grow. Yet, poverty remains a terrible scourge for too many of our citizens and the lack of a sufficient number of skilled workers threatens to stifle the economic comeback.

In the time since the Conversations took place, the college and the MCC Foundation have used the input received to inform our planning efforts and to establish a Developing Talent for Montcalm Tomorrow initiative. Our goals for the program focus on activities designed to support the creation of a more vibrant and sustainable region.

Examples of initial successes for the Developing Talent effort include the establishment of clear academic pathways for all certificate and degree programs, empowering students with a clearer understanding of specific requirements for their chosen program of study. We have also hired two new full-time faculty members to serve as a Career Advisor and Dual Enrollment Instructor.

The Career Advisor serves MCC students as well as high school and middle school students in our K-12 partner districts. Career exploration and advising services are critical needs in our communities and this innovative approach is our first step toward meeting the challenge head-on. In addition to teaching courses in English and Composition, the Dual Enrollment instructor also helps coordinate dual enrollment options as our K-12 partnerships continue to grow.

During the fall 2018 semester, we welcomed 358 high school students in dual enrollment classes. Dual enrollment allows students to take college level courses while still in high school and receive both high school and college credit.

We have also seen growth in our Early College program with a total of 93 students enrolled this year. Early College allows high school students to earn up to two years of college credit or an associate degree as part of their high school learning experience.

As part of our Continuous Quality Improvement efforts, the college conducted a Community Awareness Survey this past year. The feedback received from 450 of our fellow citizens confirmed the wide-ranging support the college enjoys in the region, and also provided us with constructive feedback to consider. With input from the community, the college recently renovated the Activities

Building on our Sidney campus to modernize our fitness facilities, campus café and bookstore. Safety and security upgrades have also been completed with the installation of LED lighting and digital surveillance cameras across all campus facilities.

Our students continue to make us proud. Nearly 400 degrees and certificates were awarded in the past year, student organizations have been recognized at the state, regional and national levels for their achievements, the number of apprenticeship students remains strong and the support systems to help students achieve success continue to be enhanced.

As always, we remain focused on providing our students with achievable pathways to success. Students and community members alike should expect innovative teaching, excellent student support services, and a learning environment where the attainment of students' goals is of paramount importance. I'm proud to say Montcalm Community College delivers on all three of these expectations.

We invite you to join us on campus to see for yourself how your community college is changing lives and contributing to improved prosperity for all.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Robert C. Ferrentino". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a white background.

MCC President
Robert C. Ferrentino

Our workforce development focus reflects the spirit and character of the individual people and businesses in the area and helps bring innovative solutions to our community.



Developing the area's workforce

Based on workplace demand and industry projections, a continued focus of the college is to create additional high-value programming tied to progressive advancements in a variety of career areas. Along with new programs, MCC is committed to fulfilling customized training needs for its business and industry partners. As industry demands evolution of a more skilled workforce, the college continues to position itself to be proactive in responding to those needs.

MCC is partnering with several area businesses to provide customized training through the Michigan New Jobs Training Program (MNJTP). Designed as an economic development tool, the MNJTP allows community colleges to provide free training for employers that are creating new jobs and/or expanding operations in Michigan. Training for newly hired workers is paid by capturing the state income tax associated with the new employees' wages. By providing this training for companies such as Dicastal, Foremost Farms, Ventra-Ionia, Milicron/DME and Parker Hannifin, the college plays an instrumental role in advancing employment opportunities in the communities it serves. MCC professionals work with each employer to design customized training based on what the companies need to help them be successful in the marketplace.

In addition to new programming and enhanced customized training, curriculum and equipment enhancements to support

programming in industrial technology, industrial automation maintenance, technical drafting and design, digital arts, nursing and business are just a few more examples of how MCC is working to prepare students for careers in high-demand, high-wage fields.

In collaboration with K-12 partners, and business, industry and health organizations, MCC is continuing its efforts to support a countywide, coordinated focus on career exploration, advising and development, where all students will receive needed support as they investigate and develop their unique interests. Amy Zdanowski recently joined MCC's counseling staff in a newly created career advisor position to assist students in exploring career options, connecting their personalities with potential careers, enhancing their soft skills and more.

The college held its first "Discover Your Tomorrow" event in May on its Greenville campus. "Discover Your Tomorrow" featured demonstrations in skilled trades, health careers, agricultural science and computer science/digital arts. It also focused on the types of in-demand jobs that are available in these fields and featured local businesses and manufacturers to discuss training options and career attainability.

MCC also takes its high-tech manufacturing show on the road with its Advanced Technology mobile unit. The enclosed

utility trailer is set up with various pieces of advanced manufacturing equipment. Students and community members are able to use MCC's virtual reality welding trainers to gain hands-on experience; see the college's 3D printer work; receive items from the college's Baxter and Sawyer robots; and see FANUC and ABB robots in action. The lab is taken to area elementary, middle and high schools, as well as a variety of community events, where visitors learn about potential career opportunities while experiencing first-hand how the equipment functions.

Building a world class learning environment

MCC celebrated its 51st Commencement on May 4. Since its establishment in 1965, more than 100,000 learners have passed through the college's doors.

The college maintains accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission through its participation in the Open Pathway. Through this process, the faculty, staff and administration at MCC focus on continuous quality improvement each day.

With changes in curriculum and delivery of course material, passing grades in general education courses continue to increase.

To enhance classroom success and help students financially, several MCC instructors have developed Open Educational Resources (OER). In place of textbooks, OER are high-level resources compiled by subject area experts, including MCC instructors, that are adaptable to various learning environments and are free for students to use. Students in this year's Introduction to Anatomy and Physiology course, taught by Biology Instructor Michelle Gibson saved more than \$47,000 by using OER instead of traditional textbooks.

For the fourth year, MCC was honored as a Michigan Veteran Affairs Agency (MVAA) certified Veteran-Friendly School at the gold level for its commitment to supporting the needs of student veterans and dependents as they work to achieve their educational goals.

MCC also offers a variety of co-curricular activities and clubs that support learning.





MCC students earned numerous awards and honors during 2018

Highlights of student achievements

- Seven MCC students earned high honors during the Business Professionals of America (BPA) State Leadership Conference in February and qualified to compete at the organization's national conference. They included Collin Blatt of Lakeview, Erin Flint of Sheridan, Finn Gobnaith of Rockford, Amelia Lincoln of Greenville, Heidi Simon of Ionia, Steven Tripp of Greenville and Michael Wagner of Cedar Springs.

- A total of 1,080 students were named to MCC's honors lists during the academic year, including 565 during the fall semester and 515 during the spring semester.

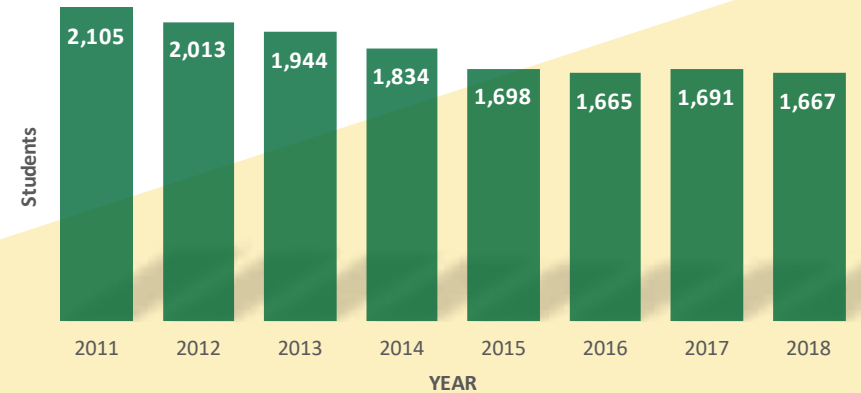
Highlights from the 2017-18 academic year

- In March, two members of MCC's Alpha Tau Alpha (ATA) Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society were honored at the All-Michigan Academic Awards Program. Emma Skogseth, of Greenville, and Finn Gobnaith, of Rockford, were selected to represent MCC as its 2018 All-Michigan Scholars for their academic achievements, community service involvement and demonstrated qualities of leadership.
- Six MCC students were honored in May for their essays in the college's "Dreamin's Free" contest. The winning essay was written by Emily Boley, of Fenwick. The runners up were Brooke Dimond, of Greenville, and Dawson Mallay, of Vestaburg. Honorable mentions were awarded to Emma Skogseth, of Greenville, Megan Baird, of Howard City, and Dezirae Lincoln, of Greenville. The contest was established in 2011 to encourage students to express and achieve their dreams.

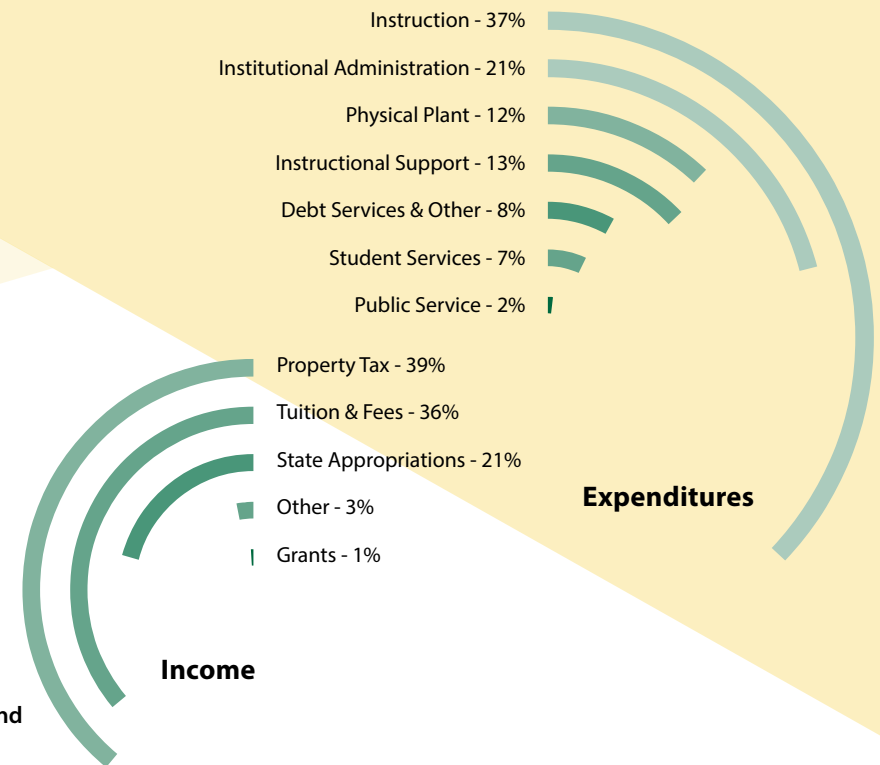
- 299 students earned 196 associate degrees, 167 certificates and 29 job training certificates of completion
- 2,094 students enrolled in credit classes
- MCC's average class size was 16 students
- The average age of MCC's credit students was 26
- 63 percent of the credit students were female
- 500 students were dual enrolled (high school students taking MCC classes for both high school and college credit) and completed 2,546 credit hours
- MCC offered 65 credit classes online and 103 hybrid (partially online and partially in the classroom) courses
- 62 veterans enrolled in credit classes

- ◀ **2017-18 officers of the MCC Alpha Tau Alpha Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society include, in back from left, Rogena Brinks of Howard City, Lacey Tullis of Howard City and Jacqueline Ney of Alma. In front from left are Caleb Walden of Alma and Justin Miller of Ionia.**

2011-2018 MCC FALL SEMESTER CREDIT HEADCOUNT



MCC's 2017-2018 budget



Participation in Early College at Montcalm Community College has steadily increased since the program was initiated in fall 2013.



◀ MCC Early College students McKinley Woodman of Lakeview, Hannah Devries of Greenville and Gavin Platte of Ionia.

Partnerships expand opportunities

MCC works collaboratively with area high schools and a variety of colleges and universities to offer more educational options to students.

The college continues to grow its partnerships to enhance its focus on developing talent, working collaboratively to provide vital support to families and individuals through increased access to Early College, dual enrollment and career mentoring to chart a course for each learner from preschool through the community college level.

Early College continues to grow

During MCC's May commencement ceremony, the third class of 29 Early College at Montcalm Community College students graduated. All of the students earned a certificate or degree, 19 of them are pursuing additional education, and 10 of them are working at full-time jobs in their respective fields. Twenty-eight Early College students are expected to graduate in May 2019, while 25 are in the 2020 class and 40 are in the 2021 class.

Early College is a partnership between MCC and the Montcalm Area Intermediate School District, which allows high school students to earn up to two years of college or an associate degree or certificate as part of their high school learning experience. Students enter the program in their junior year. Growth in the last year includes the addition of a new partner, Flat River Academy.

Other participating schools include Belding, Carson City-Crystal, Central Montcalm, Ionia, Greenville, Lakeview, Montabella, Tri-County and Vestaburg.

Fourteen Early College students were invited to join the college's honor society, having earned at least 12 college credits while maintaining a 3.5 GPA or higher. For their academic achievements, 48 percent of all Early College students earned a place on the college's honor roll during the Spring 2018 semester, by earning a 3.3 or higher GPA. In addition, Early College students from all school districts scored higher on the SAT test – a standardized test widely used for college admissions – than students in any school district in Montcalm or Ionia counties, and they also exceeded the state average.

Dual enrollment helps high school students earn college credits

Dual enrollment allows high school students to take college courses while still in high school. During the 2017-18 academic year, 500 high school students from Carson City-Crystal High School, Carson City-Crystal alternative, Central Montcalm High School, Cedar Springs High School, Creative Technology Academy, Douglas Welch High School, Fellowship Baptist Academy, Flat River Academy, Fulton High School, Greenville High School, Ionia High School, Lakeview High School, Montabella High School, Niles High School, Portland Virtual School, Success Virtual Learning Center,

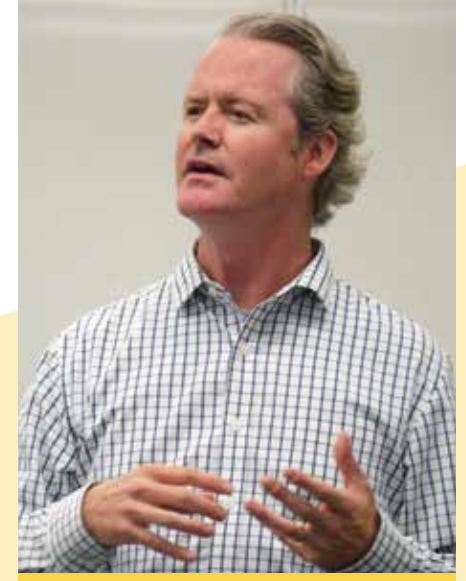
Tri County High School and Vestaburg High School participated in dual enrollment classes. In the past, students also have participated from Alma High School, Belding High School, Lowell High School and Saranac High School.

To enhance its commitment to taking college-level courses to area high schools, Ben Stancil recently joined MCC as a full-time dual enrollment English instructor and program coordinator.

MCC has also partnered with the Montcalm Area Career Center to offer a Teacher Academy for students who wish to pursue an education-related career such as teaching or paraprofessional. Teacher Academy students take MCC classes through dual enrollment and get hands-on classroom experience through in-class placement time.

Transfer agreements offer students more opportunities

Articulation and transfer agreements with several colleges and universities allow students to take up to three years of coursework at MCC before transferring to another institution, and these agreements pave the way for the seamless transfer of credits. Students can utilize these agreements to transfer from MCC to institutions such as Aquinas College, Central Michigan University, Cleary University, Cornerstone University,



▲ **English Instructor and Dual Enrollment English Coordinator Ben Stancil teaches MCC dual enrollment courses in area high schools.**

Davenport University, Ferris State University, Michigan State University, Northwood University, Saginaw Valley State University, Western Governors University, Western Michigan University and others to pursue studies in fields such as accounting, agriculture, animal science, business, exercise science, health care, information technology, landscape management, management, manufacturing technology, marketing and nursing.



Definitions

- ▶ Endocrine vs. Exocrine
- ▶ Hormone
- ▶ Target cells
- ▶ Hormone receptors



MCC combines the benefits of a small institution with the ability to create huge opportunities for our students and community.

Delivering programs

MCC delivers quality programs and services in a way that makes them accessible and affordable to all.

With average semester enrollments of about 1,700 students, MCC combines state-of-the-art facilities and technology with its highly qualified instructors, small class sizes and affordable tuition to meet the educational needs of its community. MCC offers 54 associate degree, certificate and job-training programs; courses for transfer to bachelor's degree programs; online courses; and articulations with other colleges that offer students a seamless transfer; and career and personal development noncredit courses.

In addition to its campuses in Sidney and Greenville, the college offers courses at its classrooms in the Panhandle Area Center in Howard City and at Ionia Public Schools' Administration Building.

MCC Programs

Degree & Certificate Programs:

- Associate of Science & Arts

Associate of Applied Science Programs:

- Accounting
- Agricultural Operations
- Business Entrepreneurship
- Business Management
- Business Marketing
- Computer Information Technology Management
- Computer Networks & Systems
- Digital Arts
- Early Childhood Education
- Education Paraprofessional
- Engineering Technology
- Industrial Automation Maintenance
- Medical Office Administration
- Nursing
- Office Administration
- Pre-Animal Health Technology
- Skilled Trades
- Technical Drafting & Design
- Web Developer & Programming
- Welding

Certificate Programs:

- Apprenticeship Training
- Business Management
- Computer Technology
- Criminal Justice/Corrections
- Digital Arts
- Early Childhood Development
- Industrial Automation Maintenance
- Information Processing Assistant
- Liberal Studies
- Medical Assistant
- Pre-Animal Health Technology
- Pre-Veterinary
- Skilled Trades-Industrial Automation Maintenance
- Skilled Trades-Machinist
- Skilled Trades-Maintenance Mechanic
- Skilled Trades-Tool & Die Maker/Designer
- Technical Drafting
- Web Developer & Programming
- Welding Technology

Job Training Programs:

- Business Management
- Child Development Associate
- Digital Arts
- Industrial
- Long-Term Care Nurse Assistant
- Michigan Corrections Officer Training
- Office Applications
- Pre-Animal Health Technology
- Programming
- Web Developer
- Welding



▲ In some MCC classes, the need for students to purchase textbooks is being replaced with Open Educational Resources (OER) that are free for students to use. OER are high-quality teaching, learning and research materials that are compiled by subject area experts, including instructors, and are adaptable to various learning environments. They often include selective readings, online sources, stats, graphics and more.

◀ MCC Biology Instructor Michelle Gibson, left, uses a model brain to discuss brain anatomy with student Julie Toddy, of Lakeview, in Biology 105 – Introduction to Anatomy and Physiology.



MCC's reach extends beyond learning to partnerships that foster economic growth, cultural celebration and social interaction.

Collaborations enhance cultural offerings

At MCC, sustainable access to the arts, cultural offerings, recreation and enhanced educational opportunities are integral parts of our personal connections with people in the communities we serve.

Through a generous endowment, the MCCF Stanley and Blanche Ash Community College Enhancement Fund within the MCC Foundation provides funding to support a variety of endeavors.

MCC's cultural opportunities include an annual Chicago trip; participation with the Great Decisions discussion series; musical presentations by local, regional and national artists; theater productions; art exhibits; Montcalm Heritage Festival; lectures and more.

Cultural events highlights

- MCC presented its 2018 Ash Lectureship Series. Presentations included "Human Flourishing in the Context of New Technologies" by Dr. Badrinath Rao, associate professor of sociology and Asian studies in the department of liberal studies at Kettering University; "Becoming a Global Citizen" by Theo Sypris, director
- ◀ **The Hubbardston Irish Dance Troupe performed traditional Irish dance during the 32nd annual Heritage Festival at Montcalm Heritage Village on MCC's Sidney Campus.**
- ▶ **In February, Associate Professor of Sociology and Asian Studies in the Department of Liberal Studies at Kettering University Dr. Badrinath Rao presented "Human Flourishing in the Context of New Technologies" during the 2018 Stanley & Blanche Ash Lectureship Series.**

of the Midwest Institute; and "Darwin: Books, Beetles and Blasphemy" by David A. Wooten, Biology professor at Washtenaw Community College.

- MCC's Alumni & Friends Choir and Philharmonic Orchestra performed two concerts during the year.
- The MCC Library brought together its community of readers during its fifth MCC Reads program from January through March. MCC Reads aims to bring together students, staff, faculty and community friends to read the same book and enhance shared learning.
- Montcalm Heritage Village celebrated its 32nd anniversary during Heritage Festival, held each year during the first weekend in August. Since its establishment, Montcalm Heritage Village has grown to include 28 buildings on the college's Sidney campus, and it features hundreds of artifacts from local areas depicting life in Michigan at the turn of the 20th century.

- MCC partnered with the public libraries of Montcalm County to offer One Book One County Montcalm programming, which encourages area residents to read the same book at the same time and share it with their family and friends. The program was established in 2005.

Lifelong learning

MCC has long been committed to serving learners of all ages.

The college established its Lifelong Learners in 1998 to provide academic experiences to adults age 18 and older, regardless of their formal education. The college also offers a variety of recreation, arts and culture opportunities, summer camps for youths, and partners with local organizations to bring special events to the area for all learners.

Adults age 60 and older, who live in the college's district, may take MCC credit courses tuition free. Senior citizens are not required to pay college services fees for one course per semester.

In addition, MCC offers hundreds of noncredit course offerings each semester to enhance career development and personal enrichment.



**Our personal approach
makes it easier for students
and community members
to access our services.**



Collaborations enhance cultural offerings - continued

Study abroad and international connections

In today's global society, students increasingly need international experience to round out their education.

During 2018, MCC partnered with Percussive Tours to offer travel opportunities for students and community members including Italy and Malta and the Islands of the Philippines.

In addition, the college continued to enhance its study abroad experience by hosting three guests from India, who learned about our country's rich culture through a variety of activities. The college is planning a study abroad trip to India during summer 2019, in partnership with Mid Michigan College.



Recreational offerings and service learning

MCC provides a variety of recreational opportunities.

The MCC Recreation and Fitness Center unveiled a new name, remodeled facilities and enhanced offerings in August. Several fitness and exercise classes offer cardio boxing, stability ball training, senior aerobics, yoga and more.

The facility features a fitness center, gymnasium, climbing wall, NCAA-sized pool, Kenneth J. Lehman Nature Trails, tennis courts and sand volleyball court, which are open to community members, students and staff.

Outdoor recreational enthusiasts may enjoy connecting from MCC's Sidney campus to the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail in Sidney.

The Lena Meijer Heartland Trail Connector provides walking and bicycling access to the Montcalm Area Career Center (MACC), the Community Dental Clinic, Montcalm Heritage Village, the Kenneth J. Lehman Nature Trails, the Stanton State Game Area, an outdoor classroom, an ongoing prairie restoration project and other recreational offerings on the college's Sidney campus. In addition, a pavilion along the trail and adjacent to the college's greenhouse provides a gathering place for a variety of uses.

In September, the college's Nature Trails committee hosted its fourth annual Bramble Ramble, a 10K trail run and 5K trail run and walk on the Kenneth J. Lehman Nature Trails, in memory of former MCC Social Sciences Instructor Michael Seaman, who passed away in June 2017 due to injuries sustained in a bicycling accident. In addition, the Nature Trails committee welcomes community volunteers several times annually to help maintain more than four miles of trails that span more than 100 acres of land.

Through service learning projects, MCC's students, instructors and staff support community activities such as local food pantries, clothing collections, health clinics, blood drives and efforts to combat homelessness.

Summer camps

MCC offered 19 summer camps in 2018 to engage school-age youths in fun yet educational activities. Topics included health and fitness, health careers, science, math, welding, drones, robotics, fine arts, law enforcement, agriculture and more.

- ◀ The MCC Recreation and Fitness Center offers a variety of fitness related activities, which are open to community members, students and staff.
- ▶ Anna Gardner, of Sheridan, attended the college's "Ag Day - Where in the World is Ronald McDonald" summer camp this year.



The MCC Foundation assists the college in its mission of creating a learning community by providing academic scholarships to MCC students, funding institutional grants for education projects and supporting building projects.



From the Foundation

Developing talent for Montcalm tomorrow

Strengthening our workforce is key to strengthening our region. Increasingly, today's jobs require workers with at least some post-secondary education, yet recent data show only 51 percent of our high school graduates enroll in college within six months of graduation and only 24 percent of adults in our region have earned a college degree.

MCC and its two boards, the Foundation Board and the Board of Trustees, are working with regional partners to address the challenge of developing talent. Since 2016, MCC hosted three community conversations. These events have engaged representatives from education, businesses, human services and other community organizations in sharing ideas and developing strategies to:

- provide more consistent career exploration activities beginning with youngsters and continuing through high school and college;
- increase access to a range of educational opportunities including workforce training, dual enrollment, Early College and new and revised college-level programs;
- systematize the preschool through college experience for students; and
- increase employability skills.

One direct result of these conversations was the establishment of the Creating Futures Consortium. The Consortium is headed by Dr. Roger Coles, housed in the MCC Foundation Farmhouse and funded by the MCC Foundation Ash Community College Enhancement Fund. The consortium's goal is to serve as a conduit to bring regional partners together to collaboratively address these identified needs. Key activities executed during 2017-18 included meeting with schools to hear about challenges facing students today in all grade levels, meetings with bankers/credit union managers to address the needs in their industry, and facilitating the strategic planning process for the county commissioners.

For more information about the consortium, contact Coles at Roger.Coles@montcalm.edu or 989-328-1260, or MCCF Executive Director Lisa Lund at lisal@montcalm.edu or 989-328-1284.

Making a difference with grants

The Foundation's Making a Difference grant program provides funds to MCC employees for projects that enhance teaching and learning and the cultural, social and economic components of the college's mission. This program has been in place in 1991. During the 2017-18 fiscal year, more than \$26,000 in grants were awarded to the following projects: Making a Difference grants supported a nursing lab video capability, Cranbrook

Institute of Science trip, Simple Syllabus, Chicago Museum Field Trip, India Team visit to MCC, MCC Create! Hopeful Vision, Top Hat in the Biology Classroom, Cranbrook Institute of Science Trip, MCC Disc Golf Course and Remote Proctoring of Online Programs.

Making a difference with scholarships

The Foundation provides a variety of scholarships to support students as they pursue their academic goals at MCC, including more than 40 endowed scholarship funds. During the 2017-18 fiscal year, more than \$300,000 was made available for student scholarships. The Foundation is also pleased to share that two new scholarship funds, the Maureen Burns Scholarship and the Josh Fish Memorial Scholarship, were established in the past year.

Ash Community College Enhancement Fund

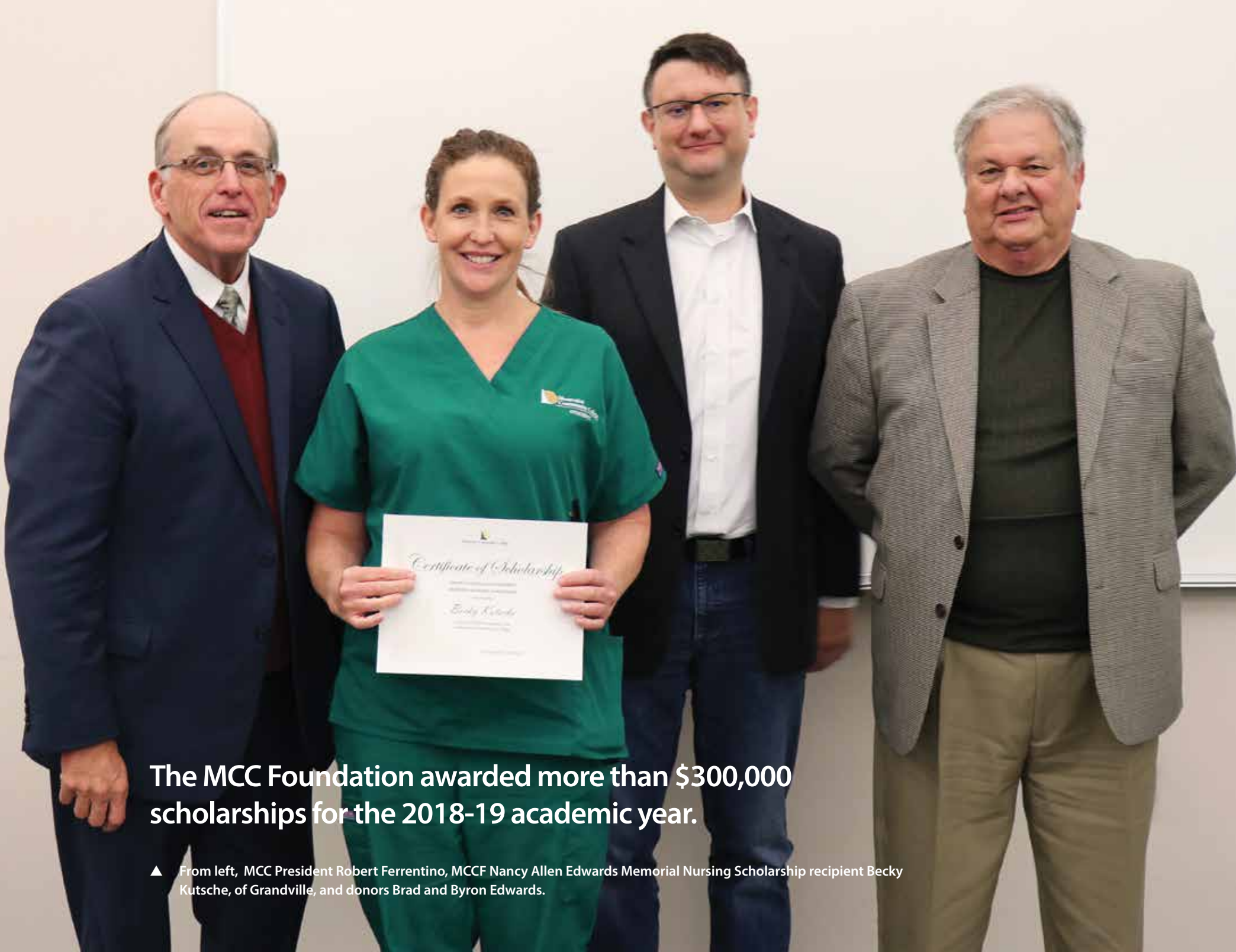
The Foundation's Ash Community College Enhancement Fund was established via a bequest from Stanley and Blanche Ash. In fiscal year 2017-18, the fund provided more than \$167,000 to initiatives including: Early College, college phone system upgrade, One Book One County Montcalm and Creating Futures Consortium. The fund also supported numerous cultural activities at MCC including the MCC Philharmonic Orchestra and three Ash Lectureship presentations entitled "Human Flourishing in the Context of New Technologies", "Becoming a Global Citizen" and "Darwin: Books, Beetles and Blashemy."

You can join us!

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The MCC Foundation awarded more than \$300,000 scholarships for the 2018-19 academic year.

▲ From left, MCC President Robert Ferrentino, MCCF Nancy Allen Edwards Memorial Nursing Scholarship recipient Becky Kutsche, of Grandville, and donors Brad and Byron Edwards.

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Thank you to the many people who support MCC through the MCC Foundation.