

Developing Talent Fund

Purpose: Addressing critical shortages in the region's workforce and providing mechanisms for increasing the number of students pursuing careers in high-wage, high-skill, in-demand occupations.

EXPLORE Student Pathfinder Technology Promotes Student Program and Transfer Research

EXPLORE (with its Program, Inform, and Navigate modules) is a new resource integrated with our website content. Anyone can access this tool directly from our college website home page and can request additional information based on what they are learning. EXPLORE enables individuals to easily explore and compare careers, review academic programs, consider program costs, and consider current MCC transfer arrangements with four- year institutions. Someone using the program is also able to request additional information. College counselors and advisors now have another tool to support students with their plans.



MCC Industrial Technology Lab Coordinator Tim Rogers demonstrates the new FANUC Robot. The MCCF provided funds to attain this technology to support cutting-edge training.

FANUC Robot Trains Highly Skilled Workforce

The MCCF has purchased multiple robots for its automation programs. This year, the MCCF purchased a FANUC robot. These robots have enabled the industrial faculty to use National Science Foundation (NSF) funding to advance MCC's automation curriculum. As manufacturing continues to move toward Industry 4.0, the advanced curriculum and hands-on robotic training will create a highly skilled workforce. The robotic hands-on skills cannot be simulated. Each semester 10 to 20 students work with the robots as they prepare to complete the automation program. To further their value, we have aligned a national certification to the curriculum. We are also working to share Industry 4.0 with local businesses, while also improving the trailer curriculum to increase recruitment and awareness through demonstrations and camps. This work has allowed us to partner with Grand Rapids Community College, Muskegon Community College, and Michigan Works to write a Department of Labor (DOL) grant focusing on increasing the automation workforce as DOL plans to decrease the number of H1 visas. The grant will increase program enrollment and increase Industry 4.0 awareness. The total DOL grant will be \$7 million and we can use the funds to pay for tuition or discounted tuition. ■

MCC Career Advisor Amy Zdanowski uses EXPLORE Student Pathfinder to discuss career and program options with a student. This MCCF funded tool can be accessed by anyone through the college's website.



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