

# MCC introduces Montcalm **Excellence** Awards



By Shelly Springborn

**M**ontcalm Excellence Awards is bringing a new approach to scholarships at Montcalm Community College.

Under the program, full-time students will be eligible for \$1,100 and part-time students will be eligible for \$500 annually to help with the cost of tuition and fees. Once awarded, they will be renewable for a second year by maintaining good academic standing.

MCC President Stacy H. Young, Ph.D., said Montcalm Excellence Awards aim to strengthen the college's recruitment and retention efforts by providing funding students can count on early in their college decision-making process and for the long haul.

"As we build this program, we are awarding Montcalm Excellence funding three times per year. That means those who apply early will have an answer early," Dr. Young said. "It is critical for students and their families to have a full financial picture early in the year as they consider options for which college to attend."

With nearly \$400,000 in scholarships available through the MCC Foundation, there is strong financial support for students. This new process is intended to take that support to a higher level.

"We realize that students and their families need all the help they can get paying for college," Dr. Young said.

Results of a recent economic impact study conducted by an independent firm on behalf of the college showed that MCC influences both the lives of its students and the regional economy through higher education. During the study year, MCC added \$53.7 million in impact to the college's service area economy. This impact supported 949 regional jobs. Ultimately, one out of every 88 jobs in the MCC service area



MCC Director of Financial Aid Rebekah Schaub, at right, assists a student.

is supported by the activities of MCC and its students.

"When we consider the immense economic impact MCC has on our local and regional economy, we recognize the critical need to continue to be able to provide high-quality, affordable education to those in the communities we serve," Dr. Young said.

Traditionally, MCC has accepted scholarship applications from January through April and has announced scholarship awards early in May.

"As we continue to focus on growing our enrollments as part of our mission of transforming lives through quality education, we realized that many students were making their college selection before we awarded our scholarships," Dr. Young said. "We are hopeful that the change in our award cycle will be beneficial to MCC as students and their families make their college selection."

Another perk is that unclaimed scholarship dollars will be reawarded. Students will need to register for fall classes by June 1 to keep their scholarship. Those who do not will forfeit their award and it will be reawarded to another potential student.

"This will really allow us to ensure all of the scholarship dollars so generously endowed through the MCC Foundation are used according to the donors' wishes," said MCC Foundation Executive Director Lisa Lund.

"Scholarships are one of the many ways in which the MCC Foundation supports our students as they work to achieve their academic dreams. Through their stewardship of the Foundation's resources, the MCCF Board continues to illustrate their long-term commitment to MCC and its students," Lund added. ■