September & October 2019

Transform the student experience.

MCC offered its second annual Roadrunner Rush event for students September 5. This event offered students the opportunity to interact with representatives from student groups, staff from the financial aid and accounting departments, the MCC College Store, Student Services, MCC advisors, and more, highlighting campus and community resources. Students participated in activities that fostered a fun and engaging atmosphere.

MCC’s Student Nursing Association (SNA) held its annual fundraising Penny War. All of the funds raised were donated to a local non-profit, Rising Up!, a resource that provides support to homeless individuals and families.

MCC’s SNA raised over $300 for a local homeless shelter.

Students participated in an informative and emotional discussion on September 18 about self-harm, mental health, and personal loss as part of Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month activities. Facilitators created a non-judgmental, safe place where students could both share experiences and obtain advice. This was the first of many future invitations for students to attend “speaking circles” to promote mental health support.

In honor of Mexican heritage month, Spanish Language faculty Monica Carrasco hosted MCC’s first Lotería night in the Student Center. Lotería (Mexican Bingo) originated in Italy, moved to Spain, and finally came to Mexico in 1769. Initially played only by the colonial Mexican elite, it was eventually embraced by all social classes. Winning Lotería students received MCC Bucks, redeemable in the MCC College Store.
MCC students participate in Lotería Night

Transform our own workforce experience.

MCC employees gathered October 22 for a Professional Development Day that focused on enhancing the workplace culture and team building. The primary activity involved working in small groups to define and discuss MCC’s Guiding Principles: integrity, respect, open & honest communication, and collaboration. During the last few hours of the day, staff participated in “Minute-to-Win-it” activities and tasks, fostering a fun and team-oriented atmosphere.

Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.

MCC’s Center for Arts and Community Enrichment (CACE) partnered with the Brush Chamber of Commerce to bring well-known business consultant and speaker Jon Schallert to the area. Schallert’s Destination Reinvention presentation, held October 16 at MCC, helped local business owners learn how to differentiate and market themselves as a ‘destination’ rather than relying on the physical location or demographics of an area to be successful. The event was open to the public at no cost, due to the support of Morgan Federal Bank, a local institution that contributes to an Excellence in Business Endowment through the MCC Foundation.

The college collaborated with the Fort Morgan Area Chamber of Commerce Board to create a new position, Director of Community/Business Development and Fort Morgan Area Chamber of Commerce. Sandy Schneider-Engle has been hired to fill the role, where she will help develop community enrichment courses as well as facilitate Chamber activities. This partnership will provide stability for the Chamber and create enhanced support for business and economic development.

Redefine our value proposition through accessibility, affordability, quality, accountability, resource development, and operational excellence.

Morgan Community College (MCC) received notice September 25 of grant funding from the U.S. Department of Education. The funding under the Department’s Title V program for Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions (DHSI) will provide $600,000 per year for five years, totaling $3.0 million. MCC obtained official Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) status in fall 2018. Grant funding begins October 1, 2019 and will support the addition of new staff for advising and other direct service to students. MCC’s Title V grant program, titled “SUCCESS” (Supporting a College Culture of
Equity for Student Success) includes four primary activities: Intrusive Advising, Supplemental Instruction/Tutoring, a Summer Bridge Program, and Professional Development.

MCC has been invited to apply for the prestigious 2021 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, as well as Aspen’s Excellence and Equity in Community College STEM Award. Only 150 community colleges nationwide (or 15%) received the opportunity to apply. According to the Aspen Institute, “Colleges eligible to apply for both awards are diverse institutions that have helped students achieve strong outcomes in the classroom and in the workplace after graduation. Criteria is based on performance in student outcomes – including graduation rates, improvement in student success, and equitable student success.”