



**Coffee with the President Notes
President Curt Freed**

8:00 a.m. March 22, 2023, via WebEx

1. There were 41 participants during this Coffee with the President gathering.
2. Curt welcomed faculty back from spring break.
3. Curt expressed thanks to Susan Clough, the MCC Foundation Board, and everyone who volunteered or contributed to the MCC Foundation Gala on February 24. Records were set for the number of tickets sold and money raised. The event netted an estimated \$129k for scholarships, programs, and technology. This is in comparison to \$75k last year, \$59k at the 2021 virtual Gala, and \$82k at the 2020 Gala.
4. Curt congratulated Tim Grauberger and his seven Collision Repair students who medaled at the SkillsUSA regional competition in February.
5. Several Title V and Title III staff attended the Alliance of Hispanic Serving Institution Educators (AHSIE) conference March 12-15 in San Francisco. Maria Cardenas shared that it was a valuable experience.
6. Several faculty and staff participated in High Impact Practices training March 8-9. Curt expressed thanks to Christiane Olivo for coordinating it. Dianne Purves and Preston Klimper shared that the training has been helpful.
7. Updates on construction/maintenance projects:
 - a) The architect selection is wrapping up for the Dahms-Talton Center for Skilled Trades & Technology building. Curt noted that the college may submit a new proposal to the City of Fort Morgan requesting assistance with the utilities infrastructure.
 - b) The state legislature Capital Development Committee did not recommend the MCC Science and Technology building for funding in this year's state budget. MCC will redevelop the proposal to submit for consideration another time and include the cost of utilities infrastructure and groundwork.
 - c) The bid process is underway for controlled maintenance-funded upgrades to the irrigation/sprinkler system and several rooftop units on the south end of campus. The hope is to complete the projects this summer. In the current legislative year, MCC has been recommended for roughly \$2 million in controlled maintenance funding for a campus safety and security upgrade that would include electronic locks and other safety improvements.

8. A search is underway for new Bennett and Wray Center locations. MCC leadership is currently in conversation with the Town of Bennett about a space. The current holders of the Wray lease terminated their agreement with MCC effective the end of May.
9. Grant updates:
 - a) An E-bike grant from the Colorado Energy Office for around \$115k was approved in partnership with the City of Fort Morgan. Scott Scholes and Sally Shawcroft are working on a process for selecting bike recipients. Income criteria is required and around 34 bikes will be available. Dianne Purves noted the need for safe riding areas, bike racks, etc. Curt acknowledged that work is needed in this area and discussions are being held on these topics.
 - b) MCC has been selected to receive \$274,000 from congressionally directed funds administered through the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration to purchase simulation equipment for the nursing program.
 - c) MCC's letter of interest for the Opportunity Now Colorado grant to provide seed funding to accelerate the development of a bachelor's degree teacher preparation program was accepted. Kathy is working on the next steps of the grant proposal due April 16. With or without the grant, MCC will continue development of the program.
10. A search has been launched within CCCS for the next Vice President of Instruction and will close March 27. A Search Committee has been assembled and the process will include faculty input.
11. There will be a Water Cooler Conversation in honor of Women's History Month March 31 at noon in Curt's WebEx Room. It will include a 30-minute video on Colorado Women's Suffrage and then a discussion with Representative Barbara McLachlan, Chair of the House Education Committee. Curt thanked Christiane Olivo and Gabe Tolan for helping organize the event.
12. Classified Open Enrollment for benefits will occur April 11 - May 1. This will be a passive process, so employees are not required to re-enroll unless they are making changes to their benefits or participating in a Flex spending plan.
13. APT and Faculty Open Enrollment will run April 24 – May 15. This will be an active enrollment process, where everyone must re-enroll to continue their benefits. The process will be fully online. The HR Department will provide open sessions for employees needing assistance in the process (more information to come.) Some new supplemental benefit options will be available (100% employee paid).
14. Curt outlined several CACE events coming up in April.
15. Julie Beydler gave the following updates:
 - a. Required employee training is due May 10
 - b. The year-end employee recognition event will be held May 8.
 - c. Julie gave an overview of currently vacant positions and noted that the Employee Referral Program (\$500) is still available if a referred candidate is hired fulltime. The applicant must

list the employee who made the referral. Curt Freed highlighted the new position, Director of Student Re-Entry, noting that it will encompass work with the Finish What You Start and Return to Earn grants. He expressed concern that MCC could lose grant funding if the position is not filled soon. Scott Scholes noted this position was retooled to be a director-level position with a higher salary.

- d. New hires include Andrew Sandeen, Part-time Learning Resource Specialist and Marsha Jesse, Accounting Technician II.

16. Curt reminded people to be aware of email phishing attempts.

17. Curt announced that Jennifer Thistle is the recipient of the Guiding Principles Award.

18. Curt noted that details are coming together for commencement. Ariella Gonzales-Vondy shared that over 340 applications have been received for graduation. Gowns should be available the last week in April and will be navy instead of royal blue. New stoles will be available for student clubs (Pride Club and Multicultural Club). A new yoke will be used to recognize those graduating with a bachelor's degree. Kenne Bauer noted that student speakers are still needed for commencement.

Notes by Jane Fries, Assistant to the President