



President's Brownbag Notes

Dr. Curt Freed, President

September 7, 2022, 12:00 p.m. via WebEx

- 1) Participants: 51
- 2) Curt inquired how Fall Semester is going. Jorge Correa, Holly Haman-Marcum, Desryan Jenson, Brady Michel, and Steven Norton provided updates. There have been indicators of increased student engagement, in particular the Roadrunner Rush, which had around 100 students sign in. Curt noted that the drop for non-payment schedule was modified this semester.
- 3) Curt welcomed Jennifer Ocanas. Jennifer shared about her background in anthropology and as a case worker with Morgan County DHS.
- 4) A "New Employee Cohort" program has been created. The purpose of the cohorts is to help connect new employees with one another. The first cohort is made up of employees who started January – July 2022 and the second cohort will be made up of more recent hires.
- 5) Curt introduced a new Employee Referral Award program. The program provides \$500 to employees (with a few exceptions) who refer an applicant who gets hired for a full-time position. Julie Beydler will email additional details about the referral program, as well as send a link to open positions.
- 6) "Bring Your Dog to Work" days have been scheduled for September 23, October 27, November 22, and December 14. Employees must submit an acknowledgement form to HR to participate if they don't already have one on file. Julie noted that the October date may change to align with a campus costume contest.
- 7) Curt reviewed current FTE and enrollment intensity data in comparison to the past four years. Enrollment intensity is calculated by dividing FTE by headcount. Students who take higher loads of credits tend to have greater success in college, as a result of increased academic momentum. Fall semester enrollment intensity is 26.67%, higher than past years. FTE is currently at 376.62, which is also higher than last fall and surpasses the fall semester budget goal of 374. FTE will likely flux in the coming weeks. Curt thanked everyone for doing a great job serving students.
- 8) Curt shared about SB-226 (Care Forward Colorado) funding. MCC received just shy of \$439K to help pay college expenses for students pursuing short-term health programs such as Nurse Aide, EMT, Phlebotomy, etc. The college is gearing up with additional sections to accommodate the anticipated increase in enrollment.
- 9) Curt provided an update on the planning process to build a Center for Trades & Technology. The design is currently over 9K square feet. The next step is for the architects to request a cost estimate from Buildings By Design. The college is also working on a request to the City of Fort Morgan for a donation of in-kind support for groundwork and utilities preparation. Curt noted that location options for the new building are being considered to minimize the expense of ground preparation. Funding is also being pursued to construct a STEM building. That project is currently #16 on the list of State funding priorities, but it is the highest ranked community college project.

- 10) MCC will host a CCCS Rural College Summit September 21 with around 60 participants. The goal is to discuss ways to maximize the work of the Rural College Consortium. Founders will be used as the main meeting room, with breakout sessions held at several locations around campus. Curt encouraged MCC staff to give the Summit participants a warm welcome.
- 11) The Employee Health Fair is scheduled for September 27. Julie Beydler noted that employees should register ahead of time for blood draws and flu shots. She also reminded employees to fast for 12 hours if they are getting blood draws.
- 12) Hot sandwiches are now available at the College Store. Cold blended drinks are coming soon. Increasing the food options on campus has proven to be popular among students and staff.
- 13) An art exhibit with Feather Canvas Paintings by Patricia Marin Miranda ends September 9. Artwork is 30% off this week. A new exhibit by artist Kathryn Wernsman opens during the Third Thursday Art Walk September 15.
- 14) April Amack gave a reminder that the MCC library and CACE are offering live online talks with authors. Those who register will also receive access to the sessions' recordings. The next event is scheduled for September 8 at noon and features Dr. Michele Borba. She will discuss her bestselling book, *Thrivers: Surprising Reasons Why Some Kids Struggle and Others Shine*.
- 15) Julie Beydler announced that Cara Draegert will start September 12 as the College Recruiter and Social Engagement Specialist. Eric Mosqueda will start September 13 as a SUCCESS Advisor. Alison Stone will start September 26 as the Coordinator of the Burlington Center.
- 16) Deb Wacker gave a reminder that a benefit will be held September 24 at the Akron Events Center to benefit the wife and child of Malachi Vondy.

Notes by: Jane Fries, Assistant to the President