Welcome Back Everyone!

MCC’s Spring enrollment and FTE remain intact!

Despite two months of controversy swirling around MCC, enrollment for the 2017 spring semester has held its own. On January 6, the day after the classes started, MCC’s enrollment was 797 and the estimated FTE (Full Time Equivalency) was 276. In context to last spring, the headcount is down by 73 students and the estimated FTE is up by 20. However, last spring, MCC had 68 NC iRIS (investing in Rural Innovative Schools) students included in the enrollment numbers. That program ended in June of last year.

Thus, the now defunct iRIS program accounts for 93% of MCC’s change in enrollment. Also, the iRIS program produced no FTE for the community college. Thankfully, this Spring’s estimated FTE (which is the base number by which NC Community Colleges are funded) remains stable.

Like most of North Carolina’s Community Colleges, High School students account for more than half of MCC’s enrollment. Last spring, 63% of MCC’s students were from High Schools throughout its service area. This spring, it is 62%.

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MCC’s Fire Investigation Class was ‘Smokin’!

Martin County’s Emergency Management Director, Jody Griffin (pictured top left), presents his team’s (pictured below) findings after investigating a fire started with a bag of potato chips.

Pictured below from left to right below are John Edwards (Former Special Agent and Forensic Chemist with NC SBI), Larry Johnson (MCC’s Fire and Rescue Training Coordinator) and Kevin Oliver (NC SBI Special Agent - Arson Investigations) and in the center, his arson investigating dog, Dublin.

Andy Thomas led classes on Building Construction, Scientific Methods and Fire Scene Safety.

Progression of a fire started with a book of matches taped to a lit cigarette and a chair leg. These are actual photos from MCC’s Fire Investigation class.
MCC Burns Bright with Live Fire Training

On December 5 through 8, Martin Community College’s (MCC) Division of Continuing Education conducted a four day Fire Investigator Class for fire, emergency management and law enforcement personnel. The class, organized by MCC’s Fire / Rescue Coordinator Larry Johnson, was delivered by the N.C. Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators (NCIAAI). Twenty-five people participated in the class with two students coming from as far away as Concord, NC.

Topics covered during the week included: building construction, the legal aspects of fire investigations, burning laws in NC, scientific methods of fire investigations, fire scene safety, fire behavior, report writing, interview & interrogation, motives, evidence collection, use of K-9’s, origin and cause of fires, photography and practical exercises in evaluating actual burn rooms.

This class was made possible in great part, by the donation of an old house for controlled burning. Four rooms in the house were set up for specific types of relatively common, intentionally set fires, originating from: lighting a bag of potato chips, sparklers on a bed, a book of matches taped to a lit cigarette and a road flare thrown onto bed. The students were subdivided into teams, with each team assigned a room to investigate. Each team reported back to the others as to what caused the fire their room and what evidence led them to that conclusion.

The Fire Investigation course was immediately followed up with Fire Control classes taught at the Williamston Fire Department on December 12, 13 and 15 and culminated with a controlled burn of the entire structure on December 17. Fire Control is required training from the OSFM (Office of the State Fire Marshall) and deals with the extinguishment of a multitude of different fires and the use of varied tools and extinguishing agents.

Firefighters from all seven of Martin County’s fire departments, more than 35 participants in all, joined in the multi-drill training on December 17. The live fire training is part of the N.C. Fire & Rescue Commission’s certification class on Fire Control Operations and is one of 24 required in the N.C. Firefighter Certification Program.

During the live burn, interior rooms were set on fire utilizing class “A” (ordinary) combustible fuel sources to provide the firefighters with a realistic training environment. The primary training objective was to give the firefighters an opportunity to practice proper fire stream application methods as they apply to interior room and content fires. Each firefighter was paired with an experienced instructor while entering the house and advancing to a burning room. Crews worked in teams of four personnel and were assigned to a fire attack line, an RIT (Rapid Intervention Team) as well as a backup line. Each team rotated after making entry into the burning structure. An Incident Command System was utilized to ensure the safety and accountability of all participants.

Also on December 17, a county-wide water shuttle drill, designed to supply water to the fire attack pumpers during the training exercises.

“The preparation for these types of classes is tremendous,” says Johnson, “but the hands on training it provides our firefighters is invaluable. I am thankful that someone had the foresight to donate a building for this training.”
Golden Leaf Grant funds Mobile PLC Lab for MCC

Thanks to a $40,000 Catalyst Grant from the Golden Leaf Foundation, MCC now has a custom made, four-unit mobile PLC (Programmable Logic Controller) lab for control system training at local industries as well as enhanced Curriculum and Continuing Education classes on campus. Billy Barber, MCC’s Business and Industry liaison, submitted the grant request and was awarded the funds during the fall semester. Once the equipment arrived in November, Barber immediately began the process of training the trainers - MCC’s industrial trades instructors.

“PLC technology is essential to today’s automated manufacturing systems,” states Barber. PLC’s work off of “ladder logic,” which causes a series of actions to take place within a loop of timed sequences. PLC’s are the brain behind nearly all of automated manufacturing. Stop lights are perhaps the most familiar example of equipment that operates with PLC technology. Martin County’s largest employer, Ann’s House of Nuts, uses PLC’s in nearly every aspect of its product manufacturing - sorting, setting, inserting, lidding, and packaging the nuts.

Barber adds, “It is very hard for local industries to train their employees off-site. With this equipment and a trainer, MCC can offer any company on-site training. Ideally, each unit would have two people training on it at a time. Our optimal number of trainees is eight students per session, but we could probably make three per unit work.”

Ann’s House of Nuts is slated to be the first industry to use the lab in January. ECU faculty have been contracted by MCC to provide the trainers for this first session.

Recently, Barber was also awarded a grant from the state’s Customized Training Program (CTP) to purchase SoftWorks 3D drafting software for training at Penco. Opportunities like these make MCC a vital partner to local businesses and industries. If you would like to know more, contact Barber at billy.barber@martincc.edu or call 789-0303.

Pictured above left is Billy Barber, MCC’s Business and Industry liaison, standing behind two of the four mobile PLC training units purchased with Golden Leaf Foundation grant funds. Above is a close up of one of the training units. Below is an air compressor that can be connected to the units and programmed to initiate or perform a variety of tasks related to automated production. This equipment will provide MCC students with state-of-the-art training in manufacturing control systems.
Pictured left are the various stages of the controlled burn organized by MCC’s Fire Training Coordinator, Larry Johnson on December 17. This live training session was made possible by the generous donation of an old house on Highway 11 between Oak City and Bethel. After a series of interior fire drills were conducted, the entire house was burned to the ground in about a half hour.

Pictured top right are firefighters entering the burning interior of the house. This drill required the use of self contained breathing equipment. Many of the participants had never entered an actively burning building. Among those being trained were two young women from the Hamilton Fire Department (pictured middle right). They joined the town’s all volunteer force about 8 months ago. Pictured left is Logan Smith and right is April Keel.

Pictured below right are firemen from the Jamesville and Hamilton Fire Departments as they practice using fire hoses fed from tankers to direct water streams onto specific areas of the fire. All of the participants broke up into groups of two to five people to man the hoses and practice controlling the fire. Because of the rural location of the house, all of the water had to be supplied by tanker trucks from multiple fire departments. This too, was part of the training that day.
Frye Speaks to MCC’s “Man Up” Students

The Minority Male Success Program (MMSP, aka Man Up) at MCC met with MCC’s Human Resources Director and MMSP mentor, Harlan Frye (pictured below), on December 7. Frye conducted a workshop on making career decisions. During his presentation, Frye gave the students a scenario in which they were assigned relacional roles to a young man (L.J. Evans) who had been offered a job at an up and coming dance studio in Los Angeles, CA. Evans, a recent high school graduate and talented dancer, had to let the studio owner know within 24 hours if he would accept the $150K per year position. Although the company was willing to allot him $50 K for moving expenses, if he did not stay with the dance company for five years, he would have to pay them back the entire amount.

With his classmates assuming the roles of his parents, his best friend, his grandparents and his high school counselor, Evans had to navigate his way through the many considerations that would come with such an offer. Frye based this scenario on a similar event in his life, when he was offered a business analyst position on the west coast at the time of his graduation from college. Pictured below right is Evans with the members of his “Circle of Influence” weighing the pros and cons of the job offer. Ultimately, he decided not to accept the offer.

Students interested in joining this group may contact MCC’s Minority Male Success Coordinator, Crystal Pugh at 252 - 792 - 0268 or by email at cpugh@martincc.edu. Pugh’s office is located in Building 1, office number 22B. Members are assigned mentors and expected to attend leadership development meetings and outings. Last June, several of the MMS members traveled to historically black college campuses in Raleigh, Greensboro and Charlotte.
The Automotive Systems Technology (AST) program at Martin Community College has received re-accreditation by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF). MCC’s AST program has been re-accredited as a provider of Master Automotive Service Technology (MAST) programs, which includes several Master Technician areas of certification from the nationally recognized the ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) organization. The ten areas include: engine repair, engine performance, automatic transmission, manual transmission, suspension and steering, brakes, heating and Air Conditioning, electrical and electronics, Basic Service and Repair and Advanced Engine Performance.

To achieve this coveted recognition, the school’s automotive training program underwent rigorous evaluation by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF). Nationally accepted standards of excellence in areas such as instruction, facilities, and equipment were used.

“This is great news for automotive-minded young people and their parents,” said Donald Seyfer, former NATEF Chair. “Because this program increases cooperation between local education and industry leaders, it gives added assurance that MCC’s graduates will be employable entry-level technicians. As a result of the quality education provided by MCC, the motoring public will benefit since better repair technicians will join the work force.” Upon completion of the evaluation, MCC became re-accredited by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF). NATEF is a non-profit, independent organization that evaluates and accredits entry-level technician training programs against standards developed by the automotive industry.

MCC’s Automotive Technology Instructor, Al Dawes, added, “We have worked closely with NATEF to make certain that our program continues to meet strict industry standards and now we are delighted to announce that MCC remains in the ranks of the NATEF accredited training programs. Our students will be assured of a quality education, and shop owners will be assured of getting quality job applicants.”

**Congratulations to Al Dawes and his department!**
A Merry Martin Christmas!
MCC Staff and Faculty Christmas Party
December 13, 2016

Marsha Rogers, Jerry Coltrain and Randy Stokes decorated the beautiful tree for the party.

Elaine Spellman and Vickie Murphy

MA, PTA and DA

Student Services

PR & Foundation

MA, PTA and DA

Trustee Dwayne Baker

Crystal Pugh, Elijah Freeman, Curtis Hyler and Candance Bryant -Whitehurst shared their incredible voices to fill everyone with the Christmas spirit.

Maintenance Department
Santa is a very close friend of maintenance man Jeff Lewis.
Alice Cotten placing her finishing touch on the table decorations.

Continuing Education

Equine Faculty

IT Staff

Science Faculty

Arts and Business Faculty

Cosmetology Faculty

Jennifer Cherry and Kismet Matthews

Pam Perry and Maureen Green

Alice Cotten placing her finishing touch on the table decorations.
MCC Equine Students Rack up the Ribbons at 4H Show

On December 3 and 4, several of MCC’s Equine students traveled to Raleigh to compete in the Holiday Classic Open Horse Show held at the James B. Hunt, Jr. Horse Complex. The show is a fund raiser for the Equestrian Western Club at NCSU and the North Central District 4-H Horse Program.

According to MCC’s Equine Barn Manager and the students’ coach, Mary Dalcourt, “The students all showed MCC owned horses. Ribbons were awarded to first through eighth places. In some of the classes where MCC students won ribbons, they were judged against more than 30 other competitors. When our riders were not showing they watched and supported their teammates in other divisions.”

Dalcourt adds, “What is perhaps most remarkable is that most of the MCC team members were competing in something brand new to them (and in some cases their horses, too.) Their courage and stamina represented our school beautifully!”

MCC Equine Students Host Class Christmas Party on 12/16
MCC Literary and Cultural Arts Club Entertain Preschoolers

On December 9, members of the MCC Literary and Cultural Arts Club (LCAC) provided a Christmas party for the children in the WPS (Williamston Preschool) here on campus. WPS is one of five preschools operated by the Martin County Schools system.

Approximately 15 children enjoyed hearing the Cat in the Hat (aka Marsha Rogers) read The Night Before Christmas and one of Santa’s elves (bearing a striking resemblance to Dr. Rochelle Mabry) reading How the Grinch Stole Christmas. Club members were also on hand in festive costumes to assist Santa in distributing candy canes, snacks and books to the children. Santa was invited to the event by his good friend, and MCC maintenance worker, Jeff Lewis.

In a message from the Preschool’s Director, Jill Perry, "The Preschool staff and the children in the preschool would like to extend a big THANK YOU to all of the MCC staff and students who planned, organized and participated in the wonderful party that was held for the preschool children on Friday, December 9th. The music and the refreshments were great, as well as the surprise visit from Santa! Thank you so much for the nice books that you gave to each child and all of the books that you donated to the class and to the children. Each child was able to choose 6 books to take home and add to their own home library. This was a tremendous activity and we appreciated it so much. It meant a lot to the children!"

The club officers are President LeeAnn Ericksen, Vice President Marcy Raynor and Secretary Aaniyah Robinson. Club advisors are Dr. Rochelle Mabry, Marsha Rogers and Christina Measamer. All MCC students are welcome to join the LCAC.
MCC Cosmetology student, and recent graduate, Sherricka Brown (pictured left) was awarded a Wells Fargo Scholarship during the Fall 2016 semester. Brown has excelled during her time at MCC. Her high GPA has earned her induction into the Alpha Beta Gamma (ABG) and Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honors Societies. Brown, a resident of Robersonville, had to write a short essay to be considered for the scholarship. In her essay, Brown conveyed her passion for helping other people by making them more attractive. “When a client sits in my chair, I feel that it is my opportunity to make them feel like a brand new person.” Congratulations to Sherricka on receiving the Wells Fargo Scholarship and on her recent graduation!

REAL Crisis Intervention, Inc. is a non-profit agency offering free 24/7 counseling and an extensive referral service. REAL provides: Counseling, Information & Referral, Sexual Assault Services, Advocacy, Suicide Intervention/Prevention, Pitt Resource Connection, Dial-A-Teen, Community Resource Connection and Outreach/Education. They are located at 1011 Anderson Street, in Greenville NC. You may contact REAL in the following ways; by phone at 252-758-4357, by email at realcrisis@embarqmail.com or on the web at www.realcrisis.org

The MCC Foundation Board has approved another day trip to the Durham Performing Arts Center. The Foundation has committed to ten orchestra seats for the Saturday, June 10, matinee performance of The King and I. One of Rodgers & Hammerstein’s finest works, THE KING AND I boasts a score which features such beloved classics as “Getting To Know You,” “I Whistle a Happy Tune,” “Hello Young Lovers,” “Shall We Dance” and “Something Wonderful.” Set in 1860’s Bangkok, the musical tells the story of the unconventional and tempestuous relationship that develops between the King of Siam and Anna Leonowens, a British schoolteacher whom the modernist King, in an imperialistic world, brings to Siam to teach his many wives and children. This trip will cost approximately $130 which will include the theater ticket and transportation. Please contact Judy Jennette at judy.jennette@martincc.edu or via phone at 252-789-0310 if you would like to reserve a seat.

Sherricka Brown is awarded Wells Fargo Scholarship

Next Foundation Trip “The King and I”
Health Careers Recognition Ceremony held on 12/6/16

On December 6, MCC’s Division of Continuing Education held its semiannual Recognition Celebration in the MCC auditorium for all successful completers of 2016 spring and summer healthcare programs. Those recognized came from Nurse Aide I (NAI), Nurse Aide II (NAII) and Phlebotomy classes. Approximately 30 friends and family members were in the audience to show their support of the students’ achievements.

Ann Chamblee, Director of Nursing at Creekside Care and Rehabilitation Center in Ahoskie, was the guest speaker. Chamblee congratulated the students on their accomplishment and welcomed them as valued new members and colleagues to the health care profession. She reminded the students that, “Tonight is just the beginning.”

Lolita Norman was recognized for having the highest score from among all of the students, while Sara Lapp and Danelle Benson were singled out for the highest averages.

Angela Lapp, mother-in-law of NAII student, Sara Lapp, provided the piano accompaniment and sang “I agree to be all that You want me to be.”

Brenda Moore, MCC’s HR Program Coordinator recognized the 16 students who also earned Career Readiness Certificates (CRC).

AJ Tyson, MCC’s Interim Executive Director of Continuing Education, assisted Sue Gurly, MCC’s coordinator of Health Care programs in handing out diplomas. Tyson closed the program by reminding everyone that learning is a life long process and encouraging the students to continue their pursuit of knowledge.

MCC offers on going health care classes. For more information, contact Sue Gurly at 252-789-0261 or via email at sgurly@martincc.edu.
January is National Financial Wellness Month. It just so happens that it is also the month for resolutions and “starting fresh”. Almost every year many resolutions have to do with money, whether it’s saving more, spending less, being more frugal, or working harder at sticking to a budget. If your resolution this year is to improve your finances or if you just want to celebrate National Financial Month to the fullest, then now is a great time to give your financial plan a fresh look and focus on making changes and improvements to your financial well-being. While we commonly resolve to get fit, eat healthier, and manage stress better, it can also be the perfect time to consider and analyze all areas of our financial well-being and in today’s economy, it is more important than ever to pay close attention to our financial health. In 2017, resolve to cut spending, increase your savings, and be more disciplined.

Below are five very simple and important tips to help you get started on the path to achieving your financial goals.

1) **Know Your Expenses**
It is imperative to know your fixed expenses and how you are spending your money. It is the first step in determining where you could “trim fat” if the circumstances required it. Having a grasp on bills and their importance or frivolousness will help you determine a baseline for daily living expenses.

2) **Contribute To Your Retirement**
Whether it is an employer-based 401(k), Simple IRA, or other account type, saving for retirement is extremely important. 80% of Americans aged 30-54 believe they will not have enough money put away for retirement. The thought that you may not have substantial funds to get you through those last few decades of your life should be encouragement enough to contribute to your retirement savings and stick to your plan.

3) **Create A Budget & Stick With It**
Many times, the most simple tip is the most difficult to implement. Make sure the money you have coming in is greater than the money going out. More than that, plan your budget to include retirement savings, personal savings, emergency savings and savings for that next big purchase.

4) **Consult A Tax & Financial Advisor**
Tax rules change so very quickly and it can be difficult to keep up with the many adjustments and revisions. It may be helpful to consult a tax or financial advisor.

5) **Keep An Eye On Your Credit**
Your credit is only as good as its score and its accuracy. Make sure you pay your bills on time and check annually for any inaccuracies or fraud that may be lowering your score. This score is a number that may dramatically influence your lending interest or even future employment.

Empowering yourself and taking an involved approach is the best way to protect and improve your financial wellness.
SGA's Toys for Tots Drive is Successful

MCC’s Student Government Association (SGA) did its best to get our campus in the Christmas mood. Amanda Vick, the SGA President, purchased trees and decorations for every building on campus. She then proceeded to decorate them all. Vick also had the SGA partner with the Martin County Schools to host a joint Toys for Tots drive on campus. Pictured left are Clay Wagner, Director of Student Services for the Martin County Schools and Martin County Sheriff’s Office, Chief Deputy Tim Manning. Vick has recently located a number of board games (Scrabble, chess, checkers, dominoes, etc.) and a good deal of sports equipment (badminton, baseball, basketball and football) which has all been inventoried and placed in the campus book store in Building 1. Vick is working on a system by which this equipment can be checked out used by students. Stay tuned for more information on this system!

Continued from page 1...

MCC’s PR Director, Judy Jennette stated, “We are extremely relieved to see the Spring 2017 enrollment, and especially the FTE, holding steady from last spring. This is in no small measure, due to the great faculty and staff at MCC. Their reputation and commitment to our students precedes them and keeps our students coming back. They are all to be commended!”

Pictured counterclockwise from the top left are Automotive Instructor Al Dawes, Math Instructor Josh Noonan, IT Manager Elijah Freeman, English Instructor Marsha Rogers and Psychology and Sociology Instructor Rhonda Breed. They were among the many in the registration room on January 4.

MCC Medical Office Assisting Student and Work Study employee, Treva James, welcomed her new daughter, Janice, into the world on November 9. James, a resident of Robersonville, is on track to graduate in May of 2018. Congratulations Treva!
January 3 - Faculty Work Day
January 3 - BLET training begins
January 5 - Spring Semester classes begin
January 9 - BLET Graduation ceremony (MCC Auditorium)
January 10 - New BLET Class begins
January 10 - SGA (Student Government Association) Meeting, 1 pm
January 12 - ABG (Alpha Beta Gamma) meeting, 1 pm
January 16 - MCC closed for Martin Luther King Holiday Observance
February 1 (by appointment) & February 4 (by appointment or walk in)- Auditions for ECU’s Down East Talent Search at Wright Auditorium in Greenville, NC
Learn more at http://downeasttalentsearch.com/
February 16 - MCC’s 30th Annual Black History Program, MCC Auditorium at 7 pm

MCC is an equal opportunity employment institution.