



Foundation



Musco
Millner III '90

2022 YEAR-END SUMMARY & ALUMNI NEWS

CREATING STUDENT OPPORTUNITY

REVITALIZING OUR ECONOMY

BREAKING BARRIERS

SUPPORTING EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

**MOHAWK VALLEY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**



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YEAR IN REVIEW

January 4, 2023

Greetings from the MVCC Foundation!

The pandemic has made us rethink the way we do so many things at Mohawk Valley Community College. This unexpected disruption has created change, growth, and progress in several aspects of the College. It has made us rethink how we teach, work, gather, and even how we celebrate. It has forced us to be innovative, from holding class and events online to holding smaller, more intimate gatherings and even creating virtual experiences.

As a lead educator and community partner for the last 75 years, we take pride in our ability to pivot on a dime, to make changes that benefit our students, alumni, campuses, local businesses, and the community.

The benefit of disruption is it challenges us to look at our world through a different lens. In the last year, we have seen a multitude of changes to our events:

- In March, we held an intimate roundtable discussion for only 15 students, with Criminal Justice alumnus Billy Soldato '72.
- In April, we held our first ever hybrid (in-person and virtual) Ted Moore Run/Walk.
- In October, we gathered our full-time College employees who are also alumni (more than 30%!) for a celebratory photo.
- In November, we partnered with Broadway Theatre League of Utica to offer discounted tickets to alumni for *Elf, The Musical*.

This fresh look, coupled with the leadership of the Foundation's new Executive Director, Deanna Ferro-Aurience '00, will allow us to continue looking at our day-to-day operations and events to find new ways to make them more engaging, enticing, and educational for our alumni, students, and community. If you have comments, questions, or suggestions, don't hesitate to reach out to Deanna at dferro-aurience@mvcc.edu.

As always, thank you for your continued support and engagement!

Sincerely,

Randall J. VanWagoner, Ph.D.
President, MVCC



2022 ALUMNUS OF MERIT MUSCO MILLNER III '90

Musco Millner III '90 speaks often of blessings. He counts many in his own life — from his strong family bonds to the opportunities he has had to serve others, and even the difficulties he has faced — all of which have helped shape who he is today.

But most of all, Millner talks about the importance of being a blessing to others.

“You can’t change the world, but you can change the moment,” he says. “The blessed of us must help the rest of us.”

That is the approach Millner takes in life and in his career, which includes teaching college math as an adjunct instructor in addition to a long, proud career in law enforcement.



Millner is now Director of Campus Safety at Utica University, a role he took on after retiring from the New York State Police in 2019. During his 26 years with the State Police, Millner was assigned to various locations of Central New York as well as the Capital Region. While no two patrol days were ever alike, it all came down to helping people solve problems.

“In law enforcement, you meet people at life’s crossroads,” he says. “Our job is to help at those crossroads.”

After years of serving as a patrol Trooper, Millner was assigned to the Forensic Unit, an exciting opportunity that presented some unique challenges. “I was the first African American member in the history of the New York State Police to be assigned to a Troop Forensic Identification Unit,” he says. “Upon arrival to the unit, one would say that the welcome was everything except that.”

The hardships of feeling unwelcomed in his new surroundings caused Millner to consider transferring back to the field. But with the encouragement of his parents and his own problem-solving approach, Millner persevered. “Those words of wisdom from my parents — I could hear them daily — ‘You belong. You stay. You sit up front. The day will come when you have to leave, and they won’t want you to.’”

“You can’t change the world, but you can change the moment.”

“In law enforcement, you meet people at life’s crossroads. Our job is to help at those crossroads.”

About 10 years later, that day came. Millner was appointed Senior Investigator and was transferred to the Forensic Investigation Center in Albany. Several months after his transfer, he received a special request to return to the local Troop Forensic Identification Unit as the Unit Coordinator. One year later, Millner received the Bureau of Criminal Investigation Member of the Year Award.

Even in retirement, Millner’s impact continues to resonate with his former colleagues at all levels within the State Police. “Younger people who came up after me have told me, ‘Musco, your spirit is still here.’ That’s heavy,” he says. “I’m grateful that I was part of somebody else’s journey.”





“(At MVCC), they saw something in me and encouraged me to stick with it. I not only learned mathematics; I learned about life and the importance of being a blessing to others.”

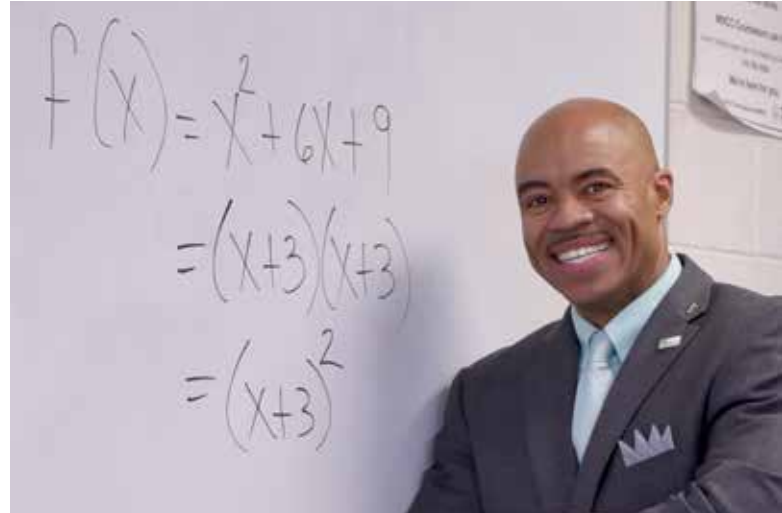
No matter where his career in law enforcement has taken him, Millner is always ready to answer the call to teach. “I enjoy being a part of the students’ better today and tomorrow.”

Currently teaching math and criminal justice courses as an adjunct faculty member at MVCC and Utica University, he takes great pride in seeing his students learn and grow. “I can’t put a dollar value on the feeling I get when a student reaches that point of understanding,” he says. “Being a part of their breakthroughs is what it is all about.”

Millner says his teaching philosophy is modeled after two of his MVCC professors — Donald Willner and the late Theodore “Ted” Moore — who nurtured his passion for mathematics and solving problems.

“As a young African American male who loved math, I am so thankful for the atmosphere they created in their classrooms,” he says. “They saw something in me and encouraged me to stick with it. I not only learned mathematics; I learned about life and the importance of being a blessing to others.”

Millner came to MVCC in 1988 after a medical disqualification from Virginia Tech’s ROTC program. He returned home and enrolled full-time at MVCC as a math major, taking courses at both the Utica and Rome campuses. “Everything happens for a reason,” he says. “I didn’t understand it then, but I understand it now.”



“It was at MVCC where I learned who I was, where I was going, and how I was going to get there.”

After graduating from MVCC, Millner earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University at Albany and a master's degree in mathematics education from Empire State College. He is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in curriculum and instruction with a specialization in mathematics education through University at Albany.

Throughout the years, Millner has been recognized for accomplishments in law enforcement, teaching and giving back to the community. In October 2022, Millner was named the recipient of the Booker T. Washington Freedom Fund Award by the Rome NAACP in recognition of his dedication to education and law enforcement and setting an example for those rising behind him. Other honors include the Excellence in Adjunct Teaching Award

(2019), SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching (2020), Utica/Rome Historically Black Ministerial Alliance Community Service Award (2019), Rome Wesleyan Church Appreciation Award for Loyalty and Faithfulness (2017), Bureau of Criminal Investigations Member of the Year (2011), and Oneida County Law Enforcement Coalition Service Award (1998).

Millner says the core values of MVCC continue to impact his life in meaningful ways. They taught him the importance of embracing community and being a model of what others can strive to achieve. “MVCC was the launching pad,” he says. “The instruction I received instilled in me the confidence that I could achieve anything I set my mind to. It was at MVCC where I learned who I was, where I was going, and how I was going to get there.”

TRUE HAWK PRIDE: BOB & DAVID GOULD



COACH BOB GOULD LOOKS BACK ON 43 YEARS AT MVCC

For over four decades, Associate Professor and Coach Bob Gould served as a knowledgeable teacher, coach, and mentor to his students, athletes, and colleagues at MVCC, and no matter which role he was in at any given moment, there was a common message he strived to instill—Hard work pays off.

As an instructor, Bob infused this message into every course he taught for MVCC's physical education curriculum, especially Fitness Center (PE154). "The class itself is easy, but it may be the hardest class you'll ever take because your need for exercise never ends."

As a coach, Bob expected hard work from his athletes in every sport. Team practices were organized and demanding. "They had to be fit to support their teammates. That was part of the hard work."



During his time at MVCC, Bob was head coach for Baseball, Men's Tennis, and of course, Men's Soccer, which he coached for 38 years. "That was probably my premier sport, and certainly the sport that I enjoyed the most."

With Bob at the helm, the Men's Soccer Team consistently advanced to the top four of the NJCAA Region III, one of the most competitive regions for men's soccer in the nation. He led his team to the Region III Tournament numerous times and amassed 368 victories.

"With a lot of successes, one person gets recognized, but there are so many people involved," he says. "When you have a team — and I think of the College as a team — you need shoulders to stand on. There are some phenomenal people at Mohawk Valley, and I was fortunate to have their support throughout my career."





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Bob has fond memories of many of his players, their victories, and their losses.

One memorable match pitted MVCC against rival Herkimer in the Regional Finals, with the winner advancing to the Nationals. The Hawks, wrapping up an 18-2 season, played a strong game, which went into overtime. In a critical moment, the ball hit the post, leading to a heartbreaking loss for MVCC. “I really felt for those guys,” Bob says. “For me, there would be more games. I got to coach for another 20 years, but those guys — that game would stay with them.”

But there are lessons in defeat, and Bob believes they’ve helped his players flourish on the field and beyond. “You get knocked down in life, but you have to get back up. Athletes do this every day; they

learn how to handle defeat —they know the importance of sacrifice and practice.”

Throughout his coaching career, Bob earned numerous accolades, including NJCAA Region III Division III Coach of the Year (1998), Mountain Valley Conference Coach of the Year (multiple years), and Region III and Conference Co-Coach of the Year (2007). In 2019, he was named to the NJCAA Soccer Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

But for Bob, the greatest reward is hearing from his athletes. “Certainly, you get inspired by the game-winning goals, but to have athletes come back and tell you that you were the guy who turned their life around is really heartwarming.”



Barrett Hawes '07, a physical education teacher and head boys' soccer coach at Mount Markham, says Bob was an important mentor. "Coach Gould was always passionate and energetic in developing the best person I could be on the pitch and in the field of teaching," Hawes says. "One of my favorite things about him is that he's a family man. He'd bring his youngest son, David, around at times, and would ask about my family. Even though he may be done teaching at MVCC, his legacy continues in the lives he has touched."

Bob served not only as a role model and knowledgeable resource for students, but also for his colleagues. Always generous with his time and expertise, he has volunteered for numerous College committees, initiatives, and charitable events, most notably as the pace cyclist for the annual Ted Moore Run/Walk.

"I think I live and bleed Mohawk Valley Hawk green, and I've been rewarded, being able to stay here for 43 years. It's been a great run."



DR. DAVID GOULD '12 OPENS CHIROPRACTIC & ACUPUNCTURE PRACTICE IN UTICA

As his father ends a legendary career, Dr. David D. Gould '12 is just starting his own — as a licensed chiropractor and acupuncturist who recently opened his own practice, Gould Standard Chiropractic & Acupuncture in Utica, N.Y. He also travels to Syracuse weekly to treat patients at Meridian Chiropractic and Wellness, where he's been working since 2019.

"I knew at a young age that I wanted to be a doctor, and my goal was to find a career in the service of others."

David's career choice is a perfect fit for someone who was raised to value health and wellness, and it allows him to give back to the community he's proud to call home. "I knew at a young age that I wanted to be a doctor, and my goal was to find a career in the service of others," he says. "As a Doctor of Chiropractic and practitioner of Acupuncture, I've found my purpose."

As a chiropractor and acupuncturist, David treats a variety of patients and addresses their medical concerns with evidence-based solutions. He also focuses on education and nutrition in helping people achieve their health goals. "The vast majority of my patients leave the office feeling significantly better than when they walked in," he says. "Chiropractic and acupuncture works — especially when done in conjunction."

“I’m a lifelong Hawk. MVCC was my one and only choice out of high school. It turned out to be a critically important steppingstone on my educational path.”



After graduating from Frankfort-Schuyler Junior/Senior High School, David decided to major in Biology at MVCC, a place he knew very well since both his parents worked at the College. “I’m a lifelong Hawk,” he says. “MVCC was my one and only choice out of high school. It turned out to be a critically important steppingstone on my educational path.”

At MVCC, David not only excelled as a student, but also as a student-athlete. He was a midfielder of the Men’s Soccer Team, which was coached by his dad.

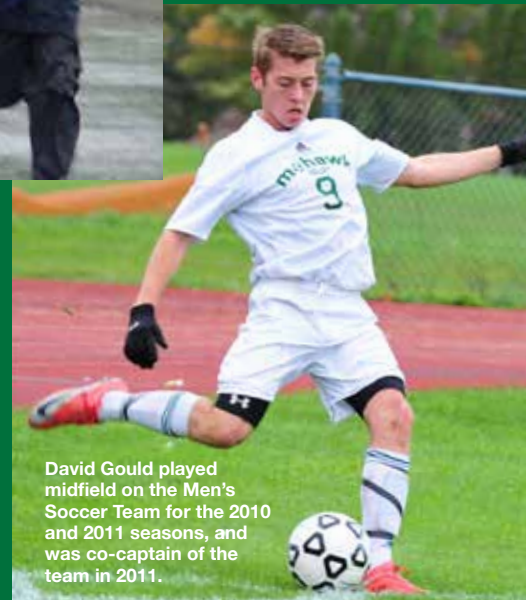
In November 2011, David, then a sophomore at MVCC and co-captain of the men’s Soccer Team, spoke at the dedication ceremony for the Robert R. Jorgensen Athletic/Event Center, where he talked about being a lifelong Hawk who had the privilege of spending much of his childhood at MVCC. “I grew up in this gym,” he said at the time. “Since I was about 5 years old, on any given day there would be a chance of seeing little Gould roam the halls.”

After graduating from MVCC, David earned a bachelor’s degree at Utica College, where he played two more years of collegiate soccer. He went on to earn a Master’s of Applied Clinical Nutrition and Doctor of Chiropractic from Northeast College of Health Sciences (formerly New York Chiropractic College), and a Master’s of Acupuncture from the Finger Lakes School of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine.

“MVCC shaped almost every aspect of my life for the better,” David says. “It was my first taste of collegiate academia. If I didn’t have a good experience there, I don’t think I would have chosen to spend the rest of a decade studying and attending lectures at other schools. If it weren’t for MVCC, I don’t believe I’d be in this position helping people like I am today.”



In November 2011, David Gould spoke as a student representative at the Robert R. Jorgensen Athletic/Event Center Dedication.



David Gould played midfield on the Men’s Soccer Team for the 2010 and 2011 seasons, and was co-captain of the team in 2011.



MVCC is where Bob met his wife, Luciann, and all three of their sons attended the College.

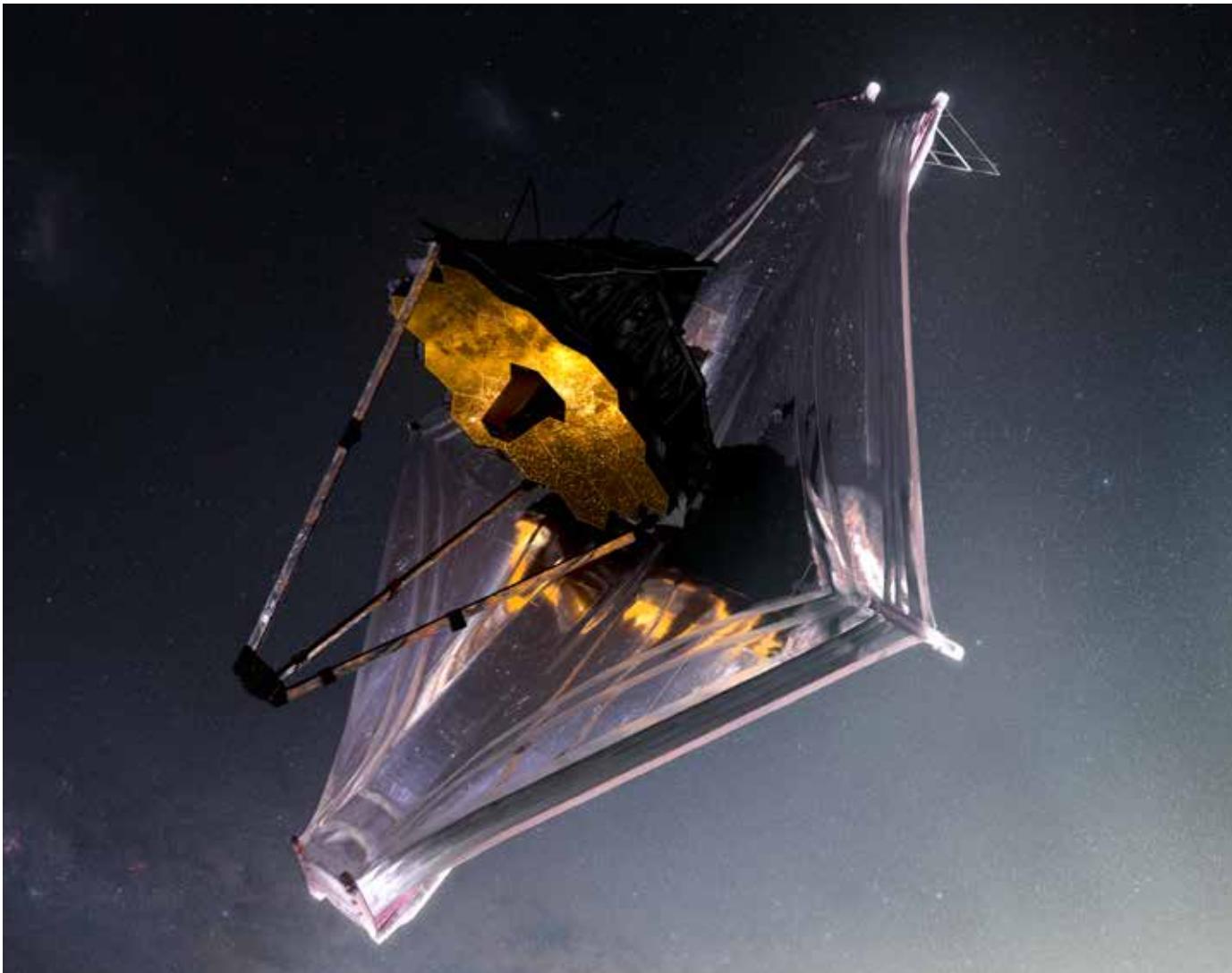


BRITTANY VANDERHOOF '12

ONE OF FIRST SCIENTISTS TO USE JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE

When the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) began transmitting its first breathtaking images of the distant universe in July, Brittany Vanderhoof '12 was among the first scientists to work with the observations that are revolutionizing our understanding of the cosmos.

Credit NASA, ESA, CSA, STScI



Credit NASA-GSFC, Adriana M. Gutierrez (CI Lab)

“I still haven’t fully processed the emotions I have of being on the forefront of such a significant time in astrophysics,” says Vanderhoof, who majored in chemistry at MVCC. Now pursuing her Ph.D. in astrophysical sciences and technology at Rochester Institute of Technology, she is one of 50 researchers on the team for COSMOS-Web, the largest general observer program selected by NASA for JWST’s first year. Led by scientists at RIT and University of Texas at Austin, COSMOS-Web aims to map the earliest structures of the universe.

“Our main goals are focused on understanding galaxy evolution from the time of first assembly to what we observe currently,” she says. “Many galaxy-formation processes have been studied locally, but these same observations get more and more difficult the further away you look.

“I still haven’t fully processed the emotions I have of being on the forefront of such a significant time in astrophysics.”



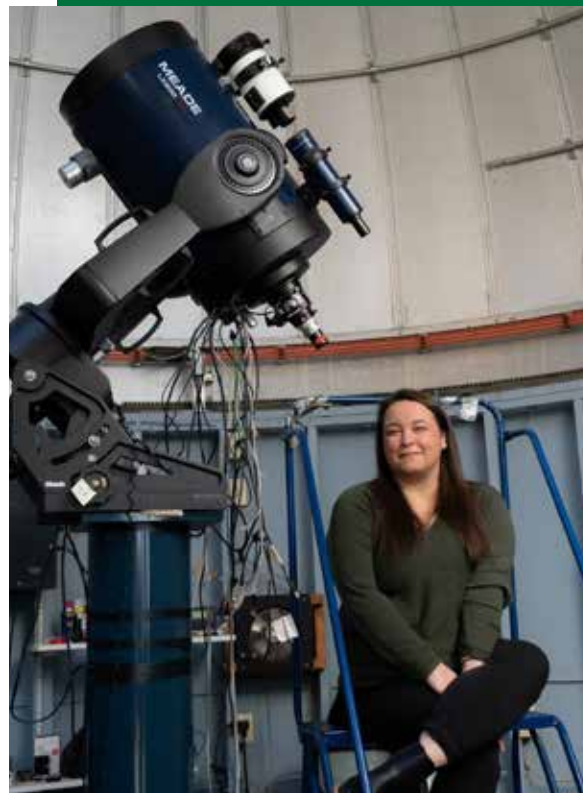
Credit NASA, ESA, CSA, STScI

JWST being so advanced in its capability to see so much farther — or back in time — is perfect for the type of studies our collaboration thrives on.”

Vanderhoof has been involved in many different aspects of the project — from writing the original proposal grants to analyzing data and writing papers and reports — thanks to COSMOS-Web’s support of early career scientists. “This has been wonderful in my ability to learn the processes of being involved in scientific collaboration on this level,” she says. “It also can be fairly intimidating to be in a Zoom call with those who paved the way for your field, and you’re joining them to discuss the details of the next big paper or study.”

Vanderhoof has co-authored several papers on new information from JWST observations, including one highlighting the identification of an object that COSMOS-Web estimates is being observed as it was 290 million years ago. The object, named Maisie’s Galaxy, is thought to be one of the earliest galaxies ever observed, which could indicate that galaxies began forming earlier than previously thought.

“My time at MVCC really helped shape me into the scientist I am today.”



@oliviaphoto13

A lifelong passion for all things science made it difficult for Vanderhoof to choose one area to focus on when choosing a major. Going to MVCC gave her the opportunity to explore the different sciences and learn which fields aligned with her career goals.

“My time at MVCC really helped shape me into the scientist I am today,” she says. “It was actually my organic chemistry courses at MVCC that made me realize how much I loved chemistry. Now I am a space chemist, specializing in techniques in space that all stem from chemistry. And once you do chemistry in space, you can’t just come back to earth.”



ANNUAL FUND TOTAL TOPS \$66,000

With MVCC celebrating its 75th year, the 2021-22 MVCC Annual Fund campaign was the most successful to date, raising more than \$66,000 from 403 donors!

In the last fiscal year, the generosity of our alumni has helped the Foundation:

Assist five students in completing their degree through the MVCC Completion Scholarship, amounting to **\$5,032.**



totaling **\$315,601** in support.

4

Create **four** new scholarships that benefit MVCC students.

to **193** students



Award **335** individual scholarships



Assist **four** students through the Emergency Relief Loan program, amounting to **\$3,900**

Assist **16** students through the **College-Community-Connection (C3) Fund**, totaling **\$5,440.**



We continue to work to better our database, so we can communicate with you about the latest news and information about MVCC and our alumni. We appreciate hearing from you! If we don't have your mobile phone number or email address, please don't hesitate to reach out to us with your updated contact information:

315-792-5555 or **alumni@mvcc.edu**



Provide **52** individual students with assistance through **MVCC Cares** totaling **\$24,745.**



Assist **14** students through its partnership with the Women's Fund of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, amounting to **\$2,078.**



MVCC Foundation awards \$315,601.69 in scholarships in 2021-22

In the 2021-22 academic year, the Foundation's Scholarship Committee (supported by subcommittees of faculty and staff) reviewed hundreds of applications and awarded 335 scholarships totaling more than \$300,000 to 193 individual students in a wide array of academic programs.

For the first time since 2019, the Foundation was pleased to again bring together donors and scholarship winners through its annual scholarship dinner in May.

NEW SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE IN 2022-23

Thanks to the generous support of our alumni, friends, and donors, the Foundation has added four new scholarships to its list of nearly 130. These scholarships will be available to students in the 2022-23 academic year. They include:

Mitchell R. Williams Family Scholarship

The Mitchell R. Williams Family Scholarship was created to support and empower Remsen High School graduates in their pursuit of their educational goals at MVCC. Students must be graduates of Remsen High School and may be residents of either Oneida or Herkimer counties. They may be full- or part-time students and must demonstrate financial need.

MVCC FIRST® Scholarship

FIRST® inspires young people to be innovators and team players by engaging them in exciting ways building science, engineering, and technology skills, inspiring invention, and experimentation, and fostering self-confidence, perseverance, communication, and leadership. Students experience the application of real-world STEM concepts and achieve hands-on computer programming and rapid-prototyping experience. This scholarship is available to incoming or returning

students who have participated on a FIRST® Tech Challenge Team or a FIRST® Robotics Competition Team during high school.

Engineering Science and Computer Science

The Engineering Science and Computer Science scholarship is given to returning students who are residents of New York State and have completed one year and achieved a minimum GPA of 3.0. They must be full-time Engineering Science or Computer Science majors and consideration is taken for financial need and education/work ethic.

James and Phyllis Vashio Scholarship

The James and Phyllis Vashio Scholarship was established by their daughter, Valerie Vashio, in gratitude for their support and encouragement to pursue a career in the health sciences. This scholarship is given to female students who have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours and achieved a minimum GPA of 2.0. Applicants must be residents of Oneida County with preference given to students from the Utica area. Consideration is taken for demonstration of a strong work ethic and community involvement and/or service.

We would like to thank these wonderful donors for choosing MVCC as the recipient of their philanthropy.



GET INTRODUCED TO THE MVCC FOUNDATION'S STUDENT SUPPORT FUNDS

The MVCC Foundation has several support funds designed to assist students with gaps in funding that may prevent them from completing their degree. The Foundation works with Student Support Advisors on an individual basis when needed to ensure each student has the best chance at graduating.

MVCC ACCESS Fund

More than 40% of MVCC students receive little or no financial aid funding because their families are just above the threshold of the federal and state allowances for full grant aid. This threshold excludes local families whose household income falls between \$50,000 and \$60,000 annually. That income may be enough to survive on, but the added costs of tuition, books, and fees can become an overwhelming expense. ACCESS funding awards are determined by the Financial Aid Office and are available to full-time students who are New York State residents with a GPA of at least 2.5 and who have completed at least 15 credit hours. Awards can be used for tuition, books, or fees, and amounts range between \$200 and \$500.

Emergency Relief Fund

The MVCC Foundation's Emergency Relief Fund helps low-income students overcome financial barriers that threaten to derail their education. The Fund provides stopgap assistance for students who need help staying in school when faced with immediate, major financial crises. The Fund provides qualifying students an advance on their financial aid refund that enables them to continue in their classes without fear of being evicted, failing due to lack of textbooks or required lab materials, or similar issues. After meeting with the Executive Director of the MVCC Foundation, students are given a partial advance on their financial aid refund. When the student's financial aid becomes available, the Foundation is reimbursed directly from the MVCC Business Office, repaying the loan in full.

College-Community-Connection (C3) Fund

College-Community-Connection (C3) is a centralized network or connecting hub of services and resources that can aid students in their time of need. They work together with local community agencies to assist MVCC students in completing their educational goals. For students with housing insecurity, who are frequently skipping meals, in need of social services, having transportation issues, or having any other issues outside of the classroom, the C3 staff is available to help. After meeting with the coordinator of the program, C3 funds can be used to help cover the cost of bus passes, books, food, and housing assistance for MVCC students in need.

MVCC Cares Fund

The MVCC Cares Fund supports students who have been affected by the pandemic. This fund helps students stay on track to complete their degrees by providing short-term, need-based micro-grants to assist with tuition, books, and fees. For students facing the possibility of being unenrolled due to unpaid balances, this fund is available to cover tuition, fees, and books. Full-time students can receive up to \$700 and part-time students can receive up to \$350.





ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

1970s

Edward Burghard '74, *Liberal Arts and Sciences*, published his first book on branding, *Building Brands: What Really Matters*. His second book, *Building Brands: Making It Personal*, was published this past November. Both are available on Amazon.

1980s

Mark Cushman '81, *Mechanical Engineering Technology*, is serving as vice president of organizational development with Fiber Instrument Sales/Giotto Enterprises in Oriskany, N.Y. He earned a master's degree in public administration from Syracuse University, a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering technology from Rochester Institute of Technology. He also holds an executive education certificate in Employment Law from Cornell University, is a Certified Organizational Development Coach, and is a member of Giotto Enterprises' Corporate Board of Directors in Oriskany, N.Y.

Thomas J. Barnes '82, *Advertising and Design Production*, joined with Ricoh USA, Inc. as a field service technician working at Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield in Rochester, N.Y. Barnes has 40 years working in offset printing, die cutting, plate making, and digital printing since graduating from MVCC.

Anthony Retrosi '86, *Liberal Arts and Sciences*, earned a degree in history from the University of New Hampshire and has since worked with world champion and olympic gymnasts in Italy, Iceland, Switzerland, and the U.S. He has also lectured on gymnastics training and coach education throughout the U.S., Canada, Central America, Europe, and Australia.

Monica Famolaro Welpe '87'89, *Liberal Arts/Respiratory Care*, has been working with Oneida Health in the ventilator unit for over 23 years and as a consultant therapist with Upstate Respiratory Consultants for over four years.

2000s

Heather Beebe '03, *Human Services*, was accepted to Albany Law School. Beebe is an international best-selling author, retreat host, public speaker, humanitarian, and advocate. She is a certified coach with online interactive classes in emotional intelligence. In addition to her degree from MVCC, Beebe holds a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies with a triple concentration in history, technology, and globalization.

Durell Cull '09 was named MVCC's track and field coach/athletic specialist and will recruit and coach student athletes for the MVCC men's and women's track and field teams. He enters this

role with more than eight years of successful coaching experience with the Hawks including for the men's team: six NJCAA National Champions, more than 25 All-Region Athletes, 15 Regional Champions and 16 All-Americans. The women's team won the 2015 NJCAA National Championship and 2019 Region III Championship and has named 20 All-Region athletes, seven Regional Champions, and two All-Americans.

2010s

Hermin Garic '13, *Human Services*, was invited to participate in the 2022 Boston Marathon as an elite athlete and finished eighth overall. This was his fourth time competing in the Marathon, but his first time invited as an elite athlete. Prior to the Boston Marathon, Garic competed and broke the course record at the Cooper River Bridge Run in South Carolina. These are just a couple of his many highlights in racing this past year.

Craig Cammarata '15, *School Facilities Management*, has been named the new director of facilities for the Levittown Public School District.

Cesar Figueroa '15, *Welding Technology*, is now working as a high school welding instructor in Salinas, C.A. Figueroa first earned a certificate in English as a Second Language before completing his MVCC degree. After graduation, he transferred to SUNY Oswego, earning a bachelor's degree in technical education.

Brandon Pugh '15, *Liberal Arts & Sciences: Humanities & Social Sciences*, has been named Rome Health's Preparedness Coordinator. He will coordinate and implement emergency preparedness and safety standards to provide a safe environment for patients, staff, and visitors.

McLane Tyoe '15, *Engineering Science*, went on to Clarkson University to earn a civil engineering degree with concentrations in structural engineering and construction engineering management. Tyoe has been with Kiewit, a large construction and engineering company for five years and is now the site superintendent for their wastewater concentrated subsidiary, Jett Industries in New York City.

Erich Luther '16, *Engineering Science*, has been employed as a lead manufacturing engineer for GE Aviation/Unison in Norwich, N.Y.

Hannah Wasco '17, *General Studies*, obtained her bachelor's degree in forensic psychology from SNHU and is the risk management specialist at The Arc, Oneida-Lewis.

Garrett Leshner '18, *Liberal Arts and Sciences, General Studies*, continued his education at Utica College, where he earned his bachelor's degree. Leshner is employed as an information security analyst in Utica.

Brittany Leo '19, *Cybersecurity*, is pursuing her bachelor's degree in information technology from SUNY Empire State College.

Catherine H. Lester '19, *Administrative Assistant*, graduated with her bachelor's degree in business management with a concentration in human resources in December. She plans to go on for her master's degree in business management.

2020s

Sophie Garner '20, *International Studies*, was selected to deliver the student address at the University of Maine's Commencement ceremony on May 7, during which she graduated with her bachelor's degree in political science.

Kathryn LaPaglia '20, *Liberal Arts & Sciences General Studies*, has been awarded the top scholarship offered by Tau Sigma National Honor Society. Currently a senior accounting major at Le Moyne College, LaPaglia received one of 71 scholarships awarded nationwide. Tau Sigma's primary objective is "recognizing and promoting the academic excellence and involvement of transfer students."

Alexandria LoGiudice '21, *Liberal Arts and Sciences General Studies*, graduated with a bachelor's degree in health and science studies from Quinnipiac University and is attending SUNY Broome Community College for an associate degree as a clinical laboratory technician.

Stephen Becker '22, *Air Conditioning Technology - Refrigeration*, is employed at Comfort Systems USA.

Abby Coston '22, *Photography and Fine Arts*, has wrapped up her second season as a hired photographer for the Levitt AMP Utica Music Series and is a student at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City.

Samuil Kislyuk '22, *Liberal Arts and Sciences General Studies*, has been accepted to the mechanical engineering program at SUNY Polytechnic Institute.

Patrick Peckham '22, *Airframe and Powerplant Technician Certificate*, joined the aviation maintenance team at Piedmont Airlines.

Send us your news!

MVCC wants to hear from you! Alumni may submit Class Notes for future issues to alumni@mvcc.edu with "Class Notes" in the subject line. Please include your name, graduation year, and your major, as well as some information about your accomplishments. Also, please remember to keep your contact information updated so that we may stay connected.



MVCC HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2022

Four esteemed individuals were selected for induction in MVCC's Hall of Fame as part of the class of 2022.

The Hall of Fame recognizes those who have embraced the community, modeled the way, inspired confidence, and encouraged excellence at MVCC. Selections are also chosen based on business or professional achievements, leadership support and involvement at MVCC, significant contributions to MVCC athletics, and any other appropriate qualifications.

For full bios, visit halloffame.mvcc.edu



Dr. Sandra A. Engel

Professor and Administrator Emerita Dr. Sandra A. Engel joined MVCC's English Department in 1976. She taught an array of courses before becoming Head of the Humanities Department in 1989. Engel served the students and faculty well, always encouraging others to pursue opportunities

for growth. She was responsible for the introduction of computers to the English program at MVCC after freshman English was chosen as the course to help students get acclimated to them. Her roles continued to evolve, and she became Director of International Studies and Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs before retiring in 2015.

Engel dedicated her career to broadening the cultural understanding and competencies of the MVCC community. She supported others in their development of programs and courses and encouraged other instructors to seek out ways of including cultural exposure in their programs. Recognizing the language and cultural barriers some students were facing, Engel designed and implemented the ESL Certificate program. She was instrumental in the planning and designing of Wilcox Hall and launching the Theater degree program and the MVCC Cultural Series. In 2002, Engel was awarded the prestigious Fulbright U.S. Scholarship, a program of the Federal Department of State for her project "American Literature, Learning Vietnamese Culture."

While serving as Innovation Leader as the Director of International Education, Engel's work in Vietnam, which included designing and launching the visiting professor program at Kien Giang Community College, led to multiple opportunities for MVCC. Her contributions continue to influence the College's present work in diversity, equity, and inclusion.



Eileen Dailey

Distinguished Retiree Eileen Dailey served as Executive Assistant to the President of MVCC for many years, first under President Michael I. Schafer and later under President Randall J. VanWagoner. Serving at the right hand of the presidents, Dailey assisted with speeches

and presentations, and was instrumental in helping the College complete its re-accreditation self-study with the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) in 1998. As a result of the MSCHE visit, the College was tasked with developing a Strategic Plan. Dailey was a member of the newly formed Strategic Planning Committee, which worked to ensure that the planning process would meet accreditation guidelines and that follow-up reports were submitted in a timely manner. She also oversaw preparations for a visit by the MSCHE vice president to review how MVCC was addressing the team's recommendations. Her tireless efforts were all in addition to her role as Executive Assistant.

Dailey also served on committees that benefited the College and community in many ways. She contributed to the success of MVCC's annual fundraising galas and worked on a series of Sunday afternoon piano concerts which funded the purchase of a Steinway piano. She also served on the Cultural Committee, the College Safety and Security Committee, and the Crisis Response Team.

In the community, Dailey served on the board of the Women's Employment and Resource Center (WERC), assisting women by helping them develop their economic and personal independence. Dailey's influence led other women at MVCC to join WERC's mission, and several colleagues at the College joined to act as mentors.



Steven Senior

Steven Senior joined MVCC in 1975 and provided dedicated service for over four decades in several positions, including Associate Professor and Head Coach of Men’s Wrestling, Men’s Tennis, and Women’s Soccer. His influence benefitted the College community both in the

classroom and on the field; his exemplary coaching led many of MVCC’s athletes to new heights.

Senior coached Men’s Wrestling and Men’s Tennis for 20 years prior to the elimination of the Wrestling program in 1995 and was inducted into the NJCAA Region III Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame in 2000. In 1996, he took over the Women’s Soccer program and turned them into a regional powerhouse. With no formal training in soccer, he led the program to an overall record of 249-70-12, with two NJCAA national championships, six Region III titles, and nine Mountain Valley Conference crowns. His teams also finished as national runners-up in 2004 and 2013 and placed third in 2006 and 2009. Senior’s athletes were recognized 13 times as NJCAA All-Americans and 25 times for academic excellence as NJCAA Academic All-Americans. Through all of this, he never missed a day of work in his 41-year career.

Off the field, Senior served the College as a member of the College Senate, and the Academic Program Review, Academic Advising, Foundation Golf, College-Wide Curriculum, Traffic and Safety Middle States Accreditation, and IBCC committees. In the community, he also was actively involved in youth boys’ and girls’ soccer leagues. He earned a master’s degree at Southern Connecticut State University and a bachelor’s degree at East Stroudsburg College, where he was a standout wrestler.



Dr. George Strong

Professor Emeritus Dr. George Strong’s service to MVCC spans 32 years with distinguished contributions to the Psychology, Human Services, and Education programs. As a full-time professor, Strong taught both day and night courses at the Utica and Rome campuses.

Strong was the first to serve as Head of the Department of Psychology, Human Services and Education, a position he held for 18 years. During this time, he developed and implemented programs and curricula and staffed the department with full- and part-time faculty, which, at its peak, was responsible for more than 500 students.

Strong’s contributions allowed MVCC to fill a need in the community in the 1970s when New York State was seeking help to meet educational needs for its entry-level employees in the human services field. Strong’s impact went beyond providing for his students’ needs; he also was instrumental in encouraging his faculty to pursue personal development, including six members who completed their doctoral degrees during his service, strengthening the department’s quality of education.

He shared his personal passion for art and judo by helping to develop a Physical Education course in Judo, which he also taught. Strong also was personally responsible for bringing a national judo tournament to MVCC.

Strong has been an active presenter before many groups on topics including psychology, martial arts, and sculpture. His artwork has received numerous awards, and he has generously donated several pieces to fundraisers at MVCC.

His professional achievements include the Excellence in Teaching Award from MVCC in 2001, the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2002, and the Service to Youth Award, Utica, from the YMCA. He also is a member of Psi Chi, the international honor society in psychology.

MVCC NEWS AND EVENTS

MVCC thINC

MVCC's thINCubator is our region's hub for entrepreneurship, and acts as a connector and creator of entrepreneurial opportunities for students and community members alike. Through close partnerships with the Mohawk Valley Small Business Development Center (SBDC), MVCC's Center For Leadership Excellence (CLE) and community organizations such as The Greater Utica Chamber of Commerce, thINC provides unique programming opportunities, networking and facility resources that build community and economic impact.



2021

This year, thINC hosted the CLE programs Neighborhoods Rising, a leadership development curriculum for Black and Latinx adults, and Leadership Mohawk Valley.



Many of thINCubator's clients come from previous clients or partnering organizations. Whether it's city/county agencies referring new entrepreneurs after getting a DBA, or financial partners who encourage potential clients to develop their business models and financial plans with thINC before seeking financing, thINCubator is well regarded as a front-line resource for new entrepreneurs.



thINCubator also provided programmatic support and resources for the Mohawk Valley Young Entrepreneurs Academy.



Participants in previous thINCubator cohorts/workshops and sprints have also been ambassadors of the programs, providing referrals through networks of colleagues and connections. Of thINC's clients in this reporting period over 1/3 were African American or Latinx, and over 60% were women. All told thINCubator provided mentorship services or multi-week programming to over 100 clients in 2022.



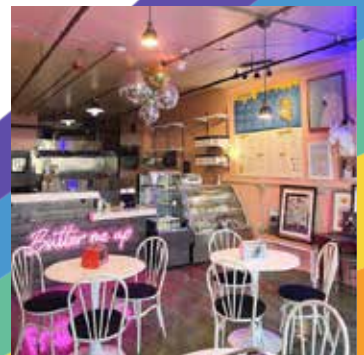
These workshops, sprints and mentor sessions are delivered in-person as well as online when needed.

thINC held two eight-week accelerator programs for new entrepreneurs (23 clients), with one being a hybrid cohort and the other as 100% in person and oriented towards artists and other creatives in partnership with UMN For the Arts (The Artist Refinery). Additional workshops and trainings included managing stress and mental health for entrepreneurs and multiple workshops on entity formation.



2022

Events, meetups and co-working have grown substantially during this reporting period. thINC facilitated a three-part series of networking and fireside chat events around Blockchain and Crypto topics (Crypto Conversations), hosted a partner event with the Mohawk Valley Chamber of Commerce focusing on building a positive workplace culture, and created an in-person workshop focusing on burnout, making better decisions and emotional intelligence (Get Ahead Of Your Head).



SUCCESS STORY: The Compound

In December of 2021, thINC began working with The Compound (clients Anna Marie and Sharrone Sofer) in creating their business plan and financial projects, and was able to connect them with area lending partners to secure financing package to open their new restaurant. The Compound has already become a staple of the Bagg's Square neighborhood and thINC is actively working with them on plans for additional locations as well as becoming mentors to other food-preneurs in thINC's programs. Since opening, The Compound has been profitable and has already hired for 10 positions.

This summer thINC was able to construct nine small office suites within the facility as part of its co-working initiative for companies and entrepreneurs who require private space.



MVCC's Week of Giving raises almost \$24,000

As part of MVCC's 75th Anniversary, the College said Cheers to 75 years with its annual Week of Giving campaign. This year's campaign raised funds for MVCC's areas of greatest need and the Access Fund, earmarked for students who are just over the line to receive state or federal aid.



With the assistance of our alumni, donors, friends, and employees, the Foundation raised nearly \$24,000 from 200 donors.

Year after year, we are grateful that you continue to participate in this very important campaign, which helps MVCC transform lives through learning.

Next year's Week of Giving is scheduled to take place during Community College Month (April), and will kick off on **Monday, April 17, 2023.**



Mohawk Valley Gives

The MVCC Foundation was pleased to be a part of Mohawk Valley Gives, The Community Foundation's first-ever community-wide one-day giving day, placing 16th on the leaderboard among the 137 local organizations that participated.

In addition to raising nearly \$11,000 from 40 donors, the Foundation earned two prizes, Social Media Guru, sponsored by C & D Advertising, and the Peer to Peer Rising Award, sponsored by Rising Phoenix Holdings Corporation.

The MVCC Foundation would like to thank The Community Foundation of Herkimer-Oneida Counties for sponsoring this fantastic opportunity that raised more than \$600,000 for local non-profits.



Emeriti Brunch and The Retiree Coffee on the Quad

MVCC Foundation held two events this past year to gather emeriti and retirees at the College. Both events provided an opportunity for attendees to reconnect with friends and former colleagues.

MVCC's Emeriti Brunch was held April 5, with more than 50 MVCC Emeriti members in attendance. President Randall J. VanWagoner was on hand to provide an update about College events and programs.

MVCC's Coffee on the Quad, a less formal event, was held on the first day of the fall semester, Aug. 29, under a tent on the Utica Quad.



Retirees gathered bright and early to chat and enjoy a cup of coffee, while the hustle and bustle of the first days of classes was going on around them.

We thank our emeriti and distinguished retirees for staying engaged and involved with MVCC.



More than 30% of MVCC's full-time employees serve as alumni

MVCC is pleased and proud to announce that more than 30% of our full-time employees are also MVCC alumni! The Foundation recently gathered this group of amazing individuals for a mini reception in Payne Hall and photo shoot on the Utica Quad. Each employee also received an alumni pin and sticker. We thank these dedicated individuals who have not only chosen to obtain their education at MVCC but have also dedicated their lives to assisting in the education of others in our community and our future alumni.





‘Billy the Liquor Guy’ ’73, meets Criminal Justice students

On March 29, MVCC’s Alumni Association held a roundtable discussion with MVCC alumnus William Soldato ’73, Criminal Justice. Fifteen students in MVCC’s Criminal Justice program, Dean Sheila Flihan, and several other members of the Criminal Justice faculty participated. The event was held over lunch courtesy of MVCC’s Student Engagement Office, and Alumni Association Board member, Joanne Szczygiel, was instrumental in its planning.

As an undercover agent for more than 12 years, Soldato, who was known as “Billy the Liquor Guy,” spent much of his career living the life of a bad guy. Soldato was responsible for heading one of the largest arrests in New York State history, and he and his crew



went into the heart of New York exposing drugs, bombs, and the terrorists who scouted out the Twin Towers on Sept. 11, 2001. His unit brought in millions of dollars for New York State, and he was called upon to assist several other failing operations. Soldato wrote about his work as an undercover agent with the NYS Petroleum, Alcohol, and Tobacco Bureau in the book “Under Too Long,” which was published in 2020.



Karen Korotzer ’89 holds panel discussion with Human Services students, faculty

On October 17, MVCC alumna Karen Korotzer, CEO of the Arc Oneida-Lewis, returned to campus to talk with Human Services and Chemical Dependency students and faculty about her career path, offer advice, and share lessons she’s learned throughout her 30-year career.

Karen graduated from MVCC in 1989, earning her associate degree in psychology/human services. She then went on to earn her bachelor’s degree in psychology, Master of Social Work, and Master of Business Administration — all from the University of Albany.

Karen says her passion for the field of human services began at MVCC, where she had exceptional faculty who shared their real-world work experience, inspiring her to help others in need. That exceptional faculty included one of Karen’s favorite MVCC professors, Elin Cormican, who was at the event along with Dean of the School of Public and Human Services Sheila Flihan, Associate Professor Melissa Thomas, and Assistant Professor Katey Cordary.

Karen was MVCC’s Alumni of Merit Award winner in 2020.



25TH ANNIVERSARY



TED MOORE RUN/WALK



25th Annual Ted Moore Run/Walk

It's hard to believe it has been a quarter of a century since this event began at MVCC, but on April 30, the MVCC Foundation hosted the 25th Annual Ted Moore Run/Walk. After two years of the event being virtual, the event came back in a hybrid format and was a tremendous success with 150 participants locally and across the country!

This event is sponsored by the Oneida County STOP DWI program and provides community awareness of the dangers of drinking and driving while also raising funds for the Theodore "Ted" Moore Memorial Scholarship at MVCC. This scholarship is presented to deserving students who exemplify the qualities and values of former Mathematics professor Ted Moore, who was tragically killed by a drunk driver.

The pandemic has changed this event. Equal numbers of participants ran and walked from home and afar; Ted's children, Derrick and Colleen Moore, also held a shadow walk in Washington D.C. The committee plans to keep this hybrid format in the years to come.

We ask that you continue to support this important community event, which will be held at 5 p.m. Thursday, April 27, 2023.





Annual Golf Tournament raises \$18,000 for Areas of Greatest Need

It was a beautiful day at Valley View Golf and Country Club, the perfect backdrop for the MVCC Foundation’s 36th annual Golf Tournament, which raised more than \$18,000 for the College’s Areas of Greatest Need fund.

Congratulations to First Source Federal Credit Union, who was this year’s Corporate Cup winner!

This year, 108 golfers (27 teams) participated. One team was made up of golfers celebrating 50 years of friendship; Rob LaLonde, Tom Mussotti, Mike Card, and Dan Urtz all met at MVCC in 1972. Unfortunately, Tom couldn’t make the tournament, so Rob’s wife, Mary Lou, took his place on the team.



An anonymous donor sponsored two teams in the tournament — one filled by female golfers and the other by veterans and service members. The female golf team was made up of MVCC employees Marissa Flo, Kathe Herting, Karen Dean, Kelly McNamara, Penny Trojan, and Julia Fernandez.

The veterans/service members team included MVCC student Josh Galazra, who is currently active in the Army, and three Air Force veterans from Post 229 in Utica: Steve Curre, Dave Valentine, and Tito Ruiz.

Thanks to all golf tournament participants, donors, and volunteers!



2022 MVCC Foundation Golf Tournament Sponsors

Gold Sponsors:

- Michael Briggs '63
- Strategic Financial Services

Silver Sponsors:

- American Dining Services
- Baird - The Earl Savery Group
- The Pepsi Bottling Group

Bronze Sponsors:

- MVCC Auxiliary Services Corporation
- Beebe Construction Services
- First Source Federal Credit Union
- Indium Corporation
- MARCH Associates
- MVCC’s SUNY Apprenticeship Program
- Rome Health
- roi Office Interiors

Tee & Green Packages:

- Association of Mohawk Valley Administrators
- Mountainside Medical Equipment
- PJ Green

Save the date for 2023!

The MVCC Foundation will host next year’s annual golf tournament on Friday, June 16, 2023.



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ABOUT THE MVCC FOUNDATION

MVCC Foundation, Inc. is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit corporation that relies on the generosity of its alumni and donors to provide support and opportunities to the College and its students. Every dollar raised can make a difference, and there are many ways you can give and have a positive impact on our students and community.

Online: MVCCFoundation.org

By Mail: Checks can be made payable to MVCC Foundation, Inc. and mailed to the attention of the Foundation at:

1101 Sherman Drive, Utica, N.Y. 13501

By Phone: 315-792-5555 (Office hours are Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m–4:30 p.m.)

By Text Message: The MVCC Foundation has the ability to communicate with alumni and donors via text message. Please contact our office to update your mobile phone number.

Establish a Named Scholarship

With a minimum contribution of \$10,000, an annual scholarship may be established. Pledge commitments can be paid over time.

Underwrite an Annual Event

Whether it's the Ted Moore Run/Walk, our annual scholarship dinner, or the MVCC Foundation Golf Tournament, there are a number of opportunities to highlight your business or organization and support MVCC in creative ways.

Make a Contribution to Honor a Loved One

Celebrate a special occasion or remember a loved one by honoring them with a gift to the MVCC Foundation.

Consider Gift Planning

Please remember MVCC in your estate plan or by making a gift that makes payments back to you before benefitting MVCC. For additional information, contact Executive Director Deanna Ferro-Aurience at 315-792-5555 or dferro-aurience@mvcc.edu.

Gifts In-Kind

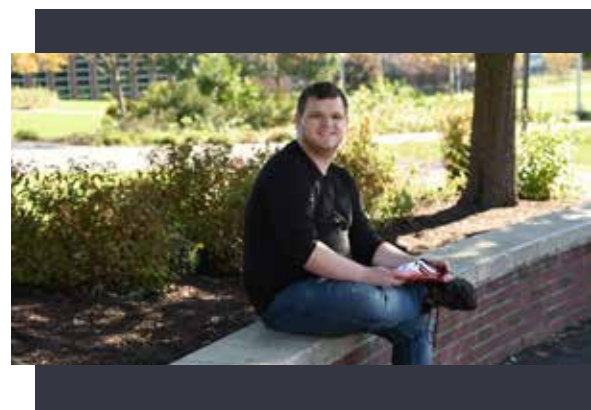
Gifts in-kind are a form of giving in which, instead of giving money to buy goods and services, those products or services are themselves given. In the past, MVCC has received gifts in-kind that include airplanes, office furnishings, and equipment.

Matching Gifts

You may be able to double or even triple the impact of your gift if you or your spouse's employer participates in a Corporate

Matching Gifts program. Simply speak with your human resources or personnel office about obtaining a gift match form and include the completed form with your contribution.

Don't forget to follow MVCC on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn for the latest College news and alumni information!





MEET THE MVCC FOUNDATION AND ALUMNI STAFF



Deanna L. Ferro-Aurience
Executive Director of
Institutional Advancement
and the MVCC Foundation

Deanna Ferro-Aurience was approved by the MVCC's Board of Trustees on Jan. 3, 2022, as the new Executive Director of Institutional Advancement

and the MVCC Foundation. Ferro-Aurience, an alumna and former MVCC presidential scholar, has 16 years of experience in Institutional Advancement, most recently as the Director of Development. She has provided tremendous efforts that have been key to the Foundation's success over the past several years, resulting in her earning several awards, including the SUNY Chancellor's and MVCC Excellence awards for Professional Service, the MVCC Pride of the Hawk award, and the MVCC Aeries award for community impact.

dferro-aurience@mvcc.edu
315-792-5555



Courtney Taurisano-Sprague
Director of Development

Courtney Taurisano-Sprague was approved by the MVCC Board of Trustees on April 18, 2022, as the new Director of Development for Institutional Advancement. She has been

at MVCC for six years, serving as Development Assistant, and has led various fundraising campaigns, including MVCC's Annual Week of Giving, the Alumni Annual Fund, and the Faculty/Staff campaign. Taurisano-Sprague holds a master's degree in business communications from Jones International University, and a bachelor's degree in public relations from Syracuse University.

ctaurisano-sprague@mvcc.edu
315-792-5345



Jackie Krouse Rudolph
Development Assistant

Jackie Krouse Rudolph joined the Institutional Advancement team on Sept. 12, 2022, as Development Assistant, bringing with her extensive experience in fundraising and development. She came to MVCC from the

YMCA of Greater Rochester's Camp Gorham in Eagle Bay, N.Y., where she served as executive director of the overnight camp facility. Prior to her 10+ years at Camp Gorham, she was an independent court researcher and branch manager for Lakeland Bancorp, Inc. She earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from SUNY Empire State College, an associate degree in paralegal studies from Herkimer College, and an associate degree in business administration from County College of Morris in Randolph, N.J.

jkrouserudolph@mvcc.edu
315-792-5648



Angela Marken
Assistant to the Office of
Institutional Advancement

Angela Marken joined the Institutional Advancement Office on Feb. 28, 2022, as Assistant to the Office of Institutional Advancement. She has extensive experience in

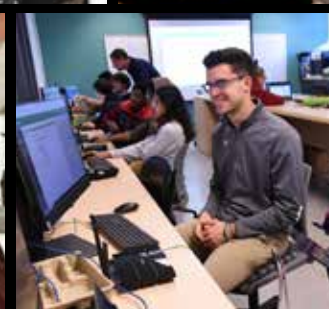
higher education settings, previously serving as registrar at PrattMWP College of Art and Design; executive assistant at UC Irvine; and adjunct instructor for MVCC and the American University of Health Sciences in California. She earned a master's degree in fine arts from Laguna College of Art and Design, bachelor's degrees in business administration and visual art from SUNY Potsdam, and an associate degree in Fine Arts from MVCC.

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