

2023 **YEAR-END SUMMARY** & ALUMNI **NEWS**

STAYING AHEAD OF THE CURVE

INSPIRING FUTURES

BUILDING STRONG FOUNDATIONS AND PATHWAYS

REACHING GREATER HEIGHTS

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MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



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YEAR IN REVIEW

Dear fellow alumni and donors,

When I first came to Mohawk Valley Community College, I didn't know how important it would be to me as an adult or how important it is to the community. As a local business owner, I am greatly interested in the area's success, and I joined MVCC's Foundation Board to ensure its influence for years to come.

As the president of the MVCC Foundation Board of Directors, I have seen firsthand the impact the College has on its students. I have congratulated hundreds of scholarship winners, talked to many alumni grateful for receiving so much support when they needed it most, and discussed with other business owners how much MVCC graduates have put back into the community.

As an involved alumnus and a donor, I feel an enormous sense of satisfaction that I am helping students who will make a difference in our community, students who will achieve great things because they've had support, encouragement, and the means to do so with the amazing education they got from MVCC.

Sincerely,

Steve Zogby '82

President, MVCC Foundation Board

Alumnus of Merit, 2001

Greetings from the MVCC Foundation!

It's a new year and MVCC is focused on Building Better Futures for our students and community. Last year, President VanWagoner and I spent a great deal of time meeting with MVCC department heads and Board members to ask their opinion on what the College needs to do the best job it can educating students for a successful future.

Born from these meetings was the MVCC Foundation's Building Better Futures major gifts campaign! Through all the discussions, four themes emerged as the most important initiatives to ensure future success. These initiatives include:

- Student Support Funding: Helping more students overcome financial barriers to a college education
- New and Existing Program Development: Attracting new talent to the local workforce, supporting entrepreneurship, and engaging youth in innovative programs
- Campus Enhancements: Addressing career training gaps in enduring and emerging fields and improving the quality of the student experience
- Areas of Greatest Need: Ensuring flexibility and continuity of support for student needs

Over the next three years, our goal is to raise \$5 million to support these areas. We hope you will join us by investing in our efforts to ensure the next generation of students can build better futures for themselves and their families.

We are thankful for your continued engagement and support.

Sincerely,

Deanna Ferro-Aurience '00

Executive Director of MVCC Foundation



Engineering jobs in the area were scarce, though, when Miller was first looking. It was just when the landscape of Utica's workforce was changing and many of the factories were closing.

Interested in seeing the western United States, Miller took his skills to Missoula, Mont., where he spent a year working at two civil engineering companies, resurveying mining claims and logging roads near Eureka and Glacier National Park.

When he came home, he was able to secure a job with Homogenous Metals in Herkimer. He began working in the company's factory and moved to the engineering department as a draftsman after six months, eventually working his way up to design engineer. Miller says many of his co-workers were from MVCC, too. "It was a great experience, and during that time, that's when I got into the public life."

In 1993 at the age of 33, Miller ran for Bridgewater Town Supervisor, another career field that ran in his blood. His grandfather served as a Town Judge in Paris and his uncle was a Town Councilman. "When I was in high school, they always told me I was going to be the aspiring politician along the way, so I guess public life was always a calling, some place I wanted to be," says Miller.

"I YEARN FOR THAT KNOWLEDGE. I WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THINGS."

It was during this time that Miller purchased an apple orchard when the opportunity arose, and Miller's Orchard in Bridgewater was founded. This venture taught him a lot about how to apply his skills in a new way. "When you're an apple grower, you're many things," Miller says. "You're a chemist. You're a mechanic. You're an engineer. A lot of the machines, we had to work on or design parts. You had to market and you had to advertise."

After eight years as Town Supervisor, Miller was approached to run for the Oneida County Board of Legislators. He served for 16 years, during which he sat on every committee, was assistant majority leader, and chaired the public safety, public works, and government reform committees. It was in this capacity that he set up the Fire Hawks scholarship with MVCC, which he says is one of his biggest accomplishments.

The Fire Hawks scholarship provides 10 \$5,000 stipends a year for students who commit to volunteering at a fire department for three years, take at least six credits per semester, and maintain a 2.0 GPA.

"We talk about it everywhere we go and it's a great opportunity not only for the young people but everyone who wants to volunteer in fire service and wants to continue their education."

In 2016, Miller entered office after being elected to the NYS Assembly. He recalls that when he first went to Albany, someone commented that he wouldn't fit in well because he was an engineer, but he disagreed.

"Government's there to help people," he says. "It's not there to find ways to say no. We always try to find a way to help. We do a root cause analysis and then we come up with a corrective action plan. That's the way we look at bills. That's the way my staff looks at things. It all comes back to [MVCC]."

Miller says he's led a pretty interesting life and hopes to leave a legacy in his wake that helps someone else, similar to the legacy he's so far left in the engineering field.

"Every piece of material that goes through Homogenous Metals goes through a machine that I designed," he says. "They're numbered, M1, M2, M3, M4, and the M stands for Miller. I'm no longer there, but a part of me is still there."

He adds that his greatest accomplishment may yet come tomorrow, and it all started at MVCC.

"It was a great place to go, and hopefully it'll be a great place for a lot of people to go for many, many years to come."

ERIC KOWIATEK '08



Eleven years ago, Eric Kowiatek '08 got a lifechanging lesson in being in the right place at the right time.

"A friend of mine caught wind that there might be a professional hockey team coming to Utica," he says. "At the time, the idea was that it was going to be the Utica Flames. He made a fan club page and then I made the logo and then some more graphics. That page got discovered."

Soon after, Kowiatek received a call from Utica Comets owner Rob Esche looking for the creator of the web graphics. He ended up doing a lot of small design projects for Esche and was ultimately offered the graphic designer position for the Comets.

Leading up to this opportunity, Kowiatek chose to attend MVCC and enrolled in the Applied Computer Science program. He says he learned about web design, enough to help him with some basic work, but he found his calling in his design classes, especially Theory of Light. "At some point, I learned that the design half of that program was really what I liked," he says.

While the Comets were the affiliate for the Vancouver Canucks, Kowiatek designed the alternate logo, which won the 2015 Best New Alternate Logo of the Year award from sportslogos.net. "The alternate jersey that accompanied this logo is my favorite project I've worked on," he says.

He also designed the original branding for Seventy-Two Tavern and Grill and Kookie's Q, the rebrand of Babe's at Harbor Point, as well as the logo and branding for the Utica City Football Club arena soccer team. When the Comets became the affiliate of the New Jersey Devils, Kowiatek also did the rebrand of the logos to reflect that change.

After getting some more responsibilities and gaining respect for his decisions, Kowiatek kept getting promoted in title and responsibility. Now, he's the vice president of creative services, and he does much more than graphic design.

"I say I'm a graphic designer...but really I'm involved in pretty much everything when it comes down to it, whether it be helping corporate partners on sponsorship and activation, or game presentation," he says. "During games, I'm sitting in the production room running the video board with a whole bunch of other people."

Kowiatek grew up loving hockey—its speed and intensity and fun.

"To actually get to work in the sport that I grew up loving in the town that I grew up in, that is one of the most awesome parts," he says. "Nothing beats a game day when I'm on headset. From spotlights to game presentation, director, replay operator, the producer sitting next to me—that's the most fun."

"...TO WORK IN THE SPORT THAT I GREW UP LOVING IN THE TOWN THAT I GREW UP IN, THAT IS ONE OF THE MOST AWESOME PARTS."

He says working in sports is a big commitment, but he loves being at the forefront of so many positive changes in the area. "The passion for working for Utica, the hometown team, is what keeps me going," he says.

That hometown passion extends to his experience at MVCC. He says he always recommends MVCC to his nieces and nephews as a great place to get started in college. "The classes there are just as good as you're going to get everywhere else and the professors are amazing," he recalls.

Kowiatek says that especially for those in the design field, MVCC is a great place to get the experience needed to get a job. "There's a lot that you can do at MV that can help you build up a portfolio that you can then turn around and show to other people and show your experience," he says. "When you can actually show a portfolio of work or show a resume that has experience, that's what really matters these days more than the four-year degrees."



ANNUAL FUND TOTAL TOPS \$64,000

With MVCC celebrating its 76th year, the 2022-23 MVCC Annual Fund campaign raised more than \$64,000 from 402 alumni donors!

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

Assist eight students in completing their degree through the MVCC Completion Scholarship, amounting to \$6,267

8

Create seven new scholarships that benefit MVCC students

Assist **nine** students through the Emergency Relief Loan program, amounting to

\$3,906

3

Assist 67
students
through the
CollegeCommunityConnection (C3)
Fund, totaling
\$28,999

9

Award
372 individual
scholarships to

188 students, totaling

\$393,390 in support •

Assist 17 students through its partnership with the Women's Fund of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, amounting to

\$3,901

Provide 63 individual students with assistance through MVCC Cares, totaling \$33,464





MVCC Foundation awards more than \$393,000 in 2022-23

In the 2022-23 academic year, the Foundation's Scholarship Committee (supported by subcommittees of faculty and staff) reviewed hundreds of applications and awarded 372 scholarships totaling more than \$393,000 to 188 individual students in a wide array of academic programs.

NEW SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE IN 2023-24

Thanks to the generous support of our alumni, friends, and donors, the Foundation has added four new scholarships to its list of nearly 140. These scholarships will be available to students in the 2023-24 academic year. They include:

Dr. Carmelita Lomeo-Smrtic Memorial Scholarship for Childhood Education

Dr. Carmelita Lomeo-Smrtic served MVCC as professor, education program coordinator, and director of education. In addition to serving as a teacher, she also acted as a consultant and presenter in her field. Throughout her career, she received multiple requests to present at conferences throughout New York State, which brought MVCC to the forefront of childhood education innovations and placed the College at the top of the field. She was widely cited in professional journals and served in leadership roles in numerous local, state, and national professional organizations. Lomeo-Smrtic's greatest passion was for her students and teaching. Her main objective was to help students attain excellence in their profession by teaching them the skills and giving them the opportunities to become teachers of the highest caliber. She received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2004 and was inducted into the MVCC Hall of Fame in 2016. The Dr. Carmelita Lomeo-Smrtic Memorial Scholarship for Childhood Education was established in her memory by family, friends, and colleagues.

Dr. Francis R. Dunning Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship was set up in memory of Professor Emeritus Dr. Francis R. Dunning, who was a scientist and innovative educator. Dunning taught math and science at Madison Central, Frankfort, and Herkimer Central School before starting his career at MVCC where he was Professor in the Physical Science Department and Dean of the Division of Technology and Business. He taught from 1963 to 1995. He pioneered use of industry advisory committees and led the creation of programs in Chemical Technology, Photonics, and Solar Energy Technology. He won several prestigious National Science Foundation grants and received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service in 1990. Dunning was inducted into the MVCC Hall of Fame in 2003.

Henry Wester Scholarship

This scholarship was created by MVCC alumnus Brian Wester, who enrolled at MVCC as a returning adult student at the age of 35, graduating in 1983 with a degree in Biology. He continued his education at SUNY ESF with a degree in Paper Science and Engineering and was employed by Hammermill Paper Co., Thilmany Paper, Weyerhaeuser, and Domtar. Working in pulp and paper mills, he provided technical support and worked in R&D, and holds 18 U.S. Patents.

Wester's mother immigrated from Germany in 1922 when she was 9 years old. She did not graduate high school but went on to become self-educated and spent many years working as an assistant librarian. She was very involved in her community, founded her children's school PTA, and served as a Cub Scout leader, volunteer election worker, on the library board, and on the local cultural committee.

Wester's father, Henry, was a pattern maker, making patterns for metal castings and wooden models. Henry did not attend college but provided for his family and community as a Boy Scout leader, part-time policeman, volunteer firefighter, and fire chief.

Wester and his brother were the first generation of their family to attend college. This scholarship honors the values and lessons Wester learned from his parents and supports the needs of current MVCC returning adult students by providing scholarships for tuition, fees, and books.

Spire Honor Society Scholarship

Spire is a national honor society that recognizes the unique achievements of adult students and other nontraditional students enrolled in associate degree programs who have overcome significant obstacles to achieve academic success.

Being part of the Spire Honor Society is more than a special designation. It is a symbol of great academic achievement and a place to make connections and grow personal and professional networks.

This scholarship will be awarded to current members of Spire who demonstrate leadership, persistence, and future promise.

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





BUILDING BETTER FUTURES

The Campaign for Mohawk Valley Community College

We take pride in our beautiful campuses in Utica and Rome. As MVCC continues to grow and emerge as a model of transformational learning and development of the regional workforce, we need to enhance and expand some campus facilities to fully support the endeavors of MVCC students, faculty, and staff — now and in the future.

For over 75 years, MVCC has been focused on the future of the Mohawk Valley and those who call it home. What will tomorrow's careers look like? Who will be ready to fill them? How can we best provide the education and training needed for our community to thrive?

New York State is home to nationally renowned programs in technology, manufacturing, healthcare, cybersecurity, and education, and MVCC is at the center of it all. As the community's college, we are committed to providing accessible, high-quality educational opportunities for everyone. We connect people with opportunities, employers with a skilled workforce, and families with better futures.

For today's students, we're a smart investment. Our tuition is among the lowest in New York State, and the quality of education is among the highest — a world-class education in the heart of New York State's tech valley.

Building Better Futures is a \$5 million fundraising initiative that will expand our impact and strengthen our ability to transform lives and communities through the power of education.

Campaign Priorities



Campus Enhancements

Addressing career training gaps in enduring and emerging fields and improving the quality of the student experience



New and Existing Program Development

Attracting new talent to the local workforce, supporting entrepreneurship, and engaging youth in innovative programs



Student Support Funding

Helping more students overcome financial barriers to a college education



Areas of Greatest Need

Ensuring flexibility and continuity of support for student needs

mvcc.edu/donate

Invest in tomorrow with a gift to the MVCC Foundation.

The MVCC Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation established in 1966 to secure private sector support to supplement and enhance public funding at the College. It serves as a repository for all private, non-governmental gifts and support received on behalf of the College.

ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

1960s

Robert "Pete" Rice '65, Civil Engineering Technology,

recently retired from the Fort Drum Civilian Workforce where he was involved with the design review and construction of the last major buildup of the fort.

1970s

Randy Loboda '76, Criminal Justice, recently became employed as an assistant state attorney for the 18th Judicial District in Viera, Fla.

1980s

Amazon.

Lori (Seifried) Sullivan '82, Liberal Arts, just published her first children's book, *Murray's First Plane Ride*, and it is available as a Kindle book or in paperback on

Stephen Zogby '82, Business Administration, won the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America's Sidney O. Smith Award, their highest individual government affairs honor.

Joseph M. Furner, Ph.D. '85, General Studies/Liberal

Arts, serves as a professor of mathematics education in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at Florida Atlantic University in Jupiter, Fla. Furner has authored more than 90 peer-reviewed papers and has been cited more than 2,300 times in

Google Scholar by his peers. He has worked as an educator in New York, Florida, Mexico, and Colombia.

Mary Webster '85, Individual Studies, is serving on the board of directors for the Utica Center for Development/Veteran Outreach Center. She also was honored by having the former YWCA building named after her — the Rev. Dr. Mary Webster Wellness Center.

Karen Korotzer, '89, Human Services, passed her Board of Governors exam and now has the prestigious Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE) credential and distinction.

1990s

Venice Ervin '95, Human Services, was elected to be the representative for District 5 for Utica's Common Council.

2000s

Kyle Jones '01, Advertising: Media Marketing & Management,

began a job in April 2022 as a design and content specialist with Volunteers of America Colorado after a nine-year hiatus from graphic design. He previously ran his own photography business and was a first assistant to many commercial photographers in the Denver area.

Vinny Galluppi '02, Computer Information Systems, is

celebrating nearly 11 years as senior help desk/support for the Franklin County Sheriff's Office in Columbus, Ohio.

Heather Beebe '03, Human

Services, is on track to earn her juris doctorate from Albany Law in December 2024 and has been teaching classes through MVCC's CCED, including the grant program through MACNY to support women in manufacturing with interpersonal skills.

Joseph Ruggiero '05, Criminal Justice, is now a retired Utica Police Sergeant and retired Army Command Sergeant Major.

Will Taylor '05, Respiratory

Care, recently was named chief of Respiratory, Pulmonary, and Sleep at the Erie VA Medical Center.

2010s

printer.

Howard Potter '10, Individual Studies, is planning a third expansion of his business, A&P Master Images, and has ordered two unique-to-the-area machines: a UV laser engraver and a UV



Cynthia Vogel '13, Fine Arts, graduated with her BFA in sculpture from Buffalo State University, is on track to graduate with an MSW in 2024, and plans to return to get another master's degree in art therapy.

Danilo Bonnet '14, Mechanical Technology: Aircraft Maintenance, is working for JetBlue as an aircraft mechanic in Buffalo.

Jasmin Eustache '16, Digital Animation, recently became a graphic designer at Mercury Screen Printing in Albany.

Emily Smith '18, Criminal Justice, earned a bachelor's degree in September from the University of Phoenix.

Aman Awais '19, Engineering Science, is employed as a systems engineer at Plug Power Inc. and does intensive research and development within the realm of fuel cell systems.

William "Trey" Moore '19, Computer Science:

Cybersecurity, began a new job in July 2023 at TEKsystems as a Tier 1 IT Help Desk Analyst for Bloomberg Industries in the Baltimore-Washington, D.C. metro area.

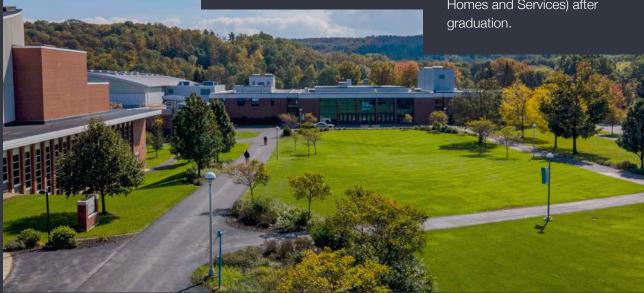
20200

Brittany Leo '21, Computer Information Systems/General Studies, earned her bachelor's degree in information technology from Empire State College. She began her first job in August 2023 in customer service at UPS.

Collin Meehan '21, Recreation and Leisure Services, was promoted to branch director of the Oneida branch of the YMCA of the Greater Tri-Valley.

Matthew Thomas '22, Recreation and Leisure

Services, got a job as a recreation leader at Community Wellness Partners (Presbyterian Homes and Services) after graduation.



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 2023

Four esteemed individuals were selected for induction in MVCC's Hall of Fame as part of the Class of 2023.

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 bios of all Hall of Fame members, visit halloffame.mvcc.edu



Gary Broadhurst

Gary Broadhurst retired in 2022 as Administrator and Professor Emeritus after serving the College for 43 years. For 26 of those years, Broadhurst was Dean of Athletics,

directing one of the most extensive, diverse, and successful two-year college intercollegiate programs in the country. Not feeling like his career is over, Broadhurst continues to serve MVCC as a part-time Administrative Advisor to Athletics.

Broadhurst began his career as a Technical Assistant and became part of the faculty in 1988, achieving the rank of Professor before being appointed as Director, and later Dean, of Athletics in 1996. He served as Head Coach of Men's Basketball, Women's Basketball, Men and Women's Bowling, Softball, and Golf. He has taught almost every course in the department's curriculum. He also is recognized by the State Education Department as a certified instructor in the Coaching Certificate curriculum. He also oversaw the building and operation of the Robert R. Jorgensen Athletic/Events Center, which opened in 2011.

During his tenure, Hawks teams captured 20 NJCAA National Championships while finishing second an additional 20 times; 81 Region III Championships with 67 runner-up finishes; and 144 Mountain Valley Conference titles. MVCC student-athletes have been selected as NJCAA All-Americans 484 times, 1,329 were recognized as All-Region, and 172 have been individual NJCAA National Champions. Six student-athletes were selected as NATYCAA Scholar Athlete of the Year—more than any other institution in the

nation—and 34 were chosen as SUNY Chancellor's Scholar Athlete of the Year. The Hawks won the inaugural NATYCAA Cup in 2004 in the non-scholarship division and have never finished lower than 15th in the history of the national award, which recognizes excellence in comprehensive athletic programs.

Broadhurst sits on NJCAA Foundation Board of Directors and chairs the Hall of Fame selection committee. He has served on the NJCAA Board of Regents and chaired numerous NJCAA committees. He previously was both the Men and Women's Regional Director and Chair of the region's Executive Committee for more than 10 years. He also has served as the treasurer for the Mountain Valley Collegiate Conference for more than 20 years.

Broadhurst is actively involved in national professional organizations, including the National Alliance of Two Year College Athletic Administrators (NATYCAA), of which he previously served as president and treasurer. He also served on the executive committee of the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) and was on the New York State SUNY Athletics Oversight Committee.

Broadhurst has been the recipient of numerous awards during his career, including the NATYCAA L. William Miller Award, NACDA Athletics Director of the Year (2007, 2012, 2016, and 2019), the NJCAA Loyalty Award, the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service, and was selected as inaugural NJCAA Region III Athletic Director of the Year.



Coach Robert W. Gould

Coach Robert "Bob" W. Gould retired from MVCC in 2022 as Associate Professor Emeritus after a 43-year career in which he served as a coach, mentor, professor, and colleague with a

tireless work ethic who exemplified what it means to be a Hawk living the College's values.

Over the span of his MVCC career, Gould served as Head Coach for Baseball, Men's Tennis, and Men's Soccer, the latter being the sport he coached the longest—38 years. He consistently led Men's Soccer to the top four of the NJCAA Region III, one of the most competitive regions for men's soccer in the nation, taking them all the way to the Region III tournament multiple times and amassing 368 overall victories. Eight of his players were recognized as NJCAA All-Americans, and MVCC soccer players set every statistical record during his tenure.

As a professor, Gould taught most of the courses within the curriculum of the Athletics Department and was active in designing new curricula. In addition to mentoring his students and student-athletes, Gould mentored other faculty and planned wellness initiatives for College employees. He assisted with multiple accreditation visits and enjoyed celebrating the achievements of students and colleagues alike, serving as a frequent Commencement Marshall and a member of multiple Excellence in Service committees.

A proponent of giving back to his community, Gould was an active member of the Mohawk Valley Soccer Referees Association, the Utica Board of Soccer Officials, the Utica Board of Women's Basketball Officials, and the Coliseum Soccer Club, through which he received the President's Award in 2007-08. He also served on the Ted Moore Scholarship Committee and was the pace cyclist for its annual eponymous Run/Walk.

Gould has received numerous accolades over the years, 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.



Lorie L. Phillips

Lorie L. Phillips, Professor Emerita, worked with MVCC's Respiratory Care program since its beginning in 1974. Over the next three and a half decades, she dedicated her career to

educating her students, ensuring they received the most up-to-date information and procedures so they could provide the best possible care to their patients.

During her tenure at MVCC, Phillips held every position that existed in the Respiratory Care program. After working for four years as a clinical preceptor for MVCC while working as a Registered Respiratory Therapist and assistant director of respiratory therapy at Faxton Hospital, Phillips was hired as an Instructor and Clinical Coordinator for the Respiratory Care program in 1978. Phillips held the Clinical Coordinator position until she became a part-time adjunct clinical instructor while she and her husband raised their two sons. Phillips rejoined the program full-time as an Assistant Professor/ Clinical Coordinator in 1989, became the Respiratory Program Coordinator in 1996, and continued to rise through the academic ranks, becoming a Professor in 2004. She maintained the Coordinator position until her retirement in 2017, but even then, Phillips stayed on as an adjunct faculty member through 2018 and as a tutor until 2019. She now serves the New York State Assembly as a constituent liaison in Assemblywoman Marianne Buttenschon's office, a role which combines her passion for civil service and health care.

Phillips' commitment to the College and the program ran deep. As the Coordinator, she was instrumental in transitioning the program from a one-year certificate program to a 1+1 associate in applied science degree program in 1997 and then to a straight degree program in 2002. She shepherded the program through three successful accreditation site visits, frequently collaborated with the Nursing program to have students on both sides learn about and appreciate each other's knowledge bases, was active in the recruitment process for incoming students, achieved more than \$200,000 in equipment donations, and helped design the program's new lab built in 2000.

As a professor, Phillips worked hard to ensure graduates were knowledgeable, skilled, and safe. In her more than 35 years of teaching, she guided more than 600 students to become respiratory therapists, a challenging task that included treating some of the sickest patients in the hospital receiving mechanical ventilation in Critical Care Units. She also helped some students complete their program when their education was interrupted, including one student who was called to National Guard service twice and another who contracted active tuberculosis. She regularly earned 50-90 continuing education credits annually though the requirement for licensure maintenance is only 10. Her graduates also consistently met accreditation Thresholds of Success and passed national credentialing exams at a higher rate than the national average.

Phillips maintained memberships with the National Board of Respiratory Care and the American Association for Respiratory Care while a practicing clinician and educator. She has had several papers published, served as a regional speaker on respiratory care topics, and has been involved in many committees, clubs, and organizations serving a variety of groups in health-related and political endeavors. Her accolades include MVCC's Excellence in Teaching and Excellence in Faculty Service awards, SUNY Chancellor's awards for Excellence in Teaching and Excellence in Faculty Service, Cambridge's Who's Who Among America's Teachers, and MVCC's Heart of the Hawk and Heart of Hearts awards.





Russel C. Fielding

Russel C. Fielding, Trustee Emeritus, served as treasurer of the MVCC Foundation Board in 1962 and then joined the MVCC Board of Trustees in October 1970. He acted as Board Chair

from September 1972 until August 1977 and retired in June 1979.

Fielding had extensive military service. He was in the U.S. Army's 222nd Infantry Regiment from June 1944 until September 1946 and served as a First Lieutenant in the 42nd Infantry (Rainbow) Division in France, Germany, and Austria. He later joined the Army's Inactive Reserve and was recalled to active duty in a noncombat role as 1st Lieutenant in Japan and Korea during the Korean War from April 1951 until July 1952. For his service, Fielding earned a Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, Presidential Unit Citation, three campaign stars, and was inducted into the New York State Senate Veterans' Hall of Fame in 2018.

Following the war, Fielding moved to Rome and worked at the Rome Sentinel from 1947 until 1985, eventually becoming vice president of Operations and Finance and corporate treasurer. He also was president of Associated Dailies, which was made up of the small daily paper in New York State, and of the New York State Publishers Association in 1982.

Eager to serve his community, Fielding ran major fundraising campaigns for the Rome Family Y, First Presbyterian Church, and Rome United Way, of which he later became president. He also was the Rome Public Safety Commissioner, a director of the Rome Chamber of Commerce, was involved with the Rome Industrial Development Corporation, and an incorporating director of Bethany House. He was a part of many boards of directors for community, education, and corporate organizations, including the Rome Chapter of the American Red Cross, the Hospital Plan of Utica, the Rome Labor Management Council, the Mohawk Valley Institute for Learning in Retirement, and the Herbert T. Dyett Foundation.

thINCubator Update



During the first half of 2023, MVCC's thINCubator has maintained its role as the hub for entrepreneurial services in the Mohawk Valley. Faculty hosted over 30 events in 2023 ranging from workshops on website development, workforce development, and Al-Automated Answering Machine Detection to networking events and fireside chats. They hosted five multi-week bootcamps for new entrepreneurs and served more than 107 individual clients through programming and mentorship services—the most served in a single reporting period since receiving the HotSpot designation.

thINCubator cohorts have evolved to include fourweek foundational programs for new entrepreneurs as well as eight-week programs for creatives and artists and eight-week masterminds programs for existing entrepreneurs who need to build their network or move faster.

They continue to work closely with their partners at the Small Business Development Center in providing individual assistance to clients from across the region specifically through business plan development, marketing, and customer discovery.

Finally, they have formed new partnerships including the Upstate Founders mastermind program out of Clarkson University, which provides in-kind programming to several of their entrepreneurs. thINCubator also has been awarded \$30,000 in funding through the New Growth Innovation Network (NGIN) Economic Inclusion Incubator program and has partnered with HMJ Equity Consulting (also a HotSpot client) on the application and project

scope which will include crafting metrics to measure economic inequity and gathering data from focus groups on the most pressing needs and what can have the most impact.

Refinery Foundations/Refinery Accelerate/Artist Refinery: Their multi-week entrepreneurial training programs are held throughout the calendar year and target both new entrepreneurs looking to take their ideas to market, creatives and artists looking to create business models around their art, and veteran entrepreneurs seeking support, mentorship, and accountability. In 2023, two Foundations cohorts, one Accelerate cohort, and one Artist Refinery cohort were held, serving almost 50 clients.

Workforce Roundtable: A two-hour seminar in partnership with the Greater Utica Chamber of Commerce and the Mohawk Valley SBDC brought together local and regional employers, labor resources, and economic development agencies to discuss best practices for attracting and retaining top talent.

The Website Workshop: A two-hour hands-on seminar was held twice this year, during which participants learned how to plan and organize content and resources for their websites. They also discussed pros and cons of different platforms, working with freelancers and agencies, and best practices for deploying high quality DIY websites.

Story: This networking night was held in partnership with Rising Tides Society of Utica, a group of local designers and creatives. The evening provided networking opportunities and an in-depth interview with Frank Elias, founder of Utica Coffee Roasting Company, on the origin of the business and best practices for longevity, financing, and growth.





MVCC NEWS AND EVENTS

Week of Giving

MVCC's annual Week of Giving included a new campaign and new initiatives! Aligning with the Foundation's Building Better Futures campaign, MVCC's Week of Giving raised more than \$18,000 from 130 donors to benefit four initiatives:

- Student Support
- New and Existing Programs
- Campus Enhancements
- Areas of Greatest Need

Building Better Futures is focused on expanding MVCC's impact and strengthening its ability to transform lives and communities through the power of education. MVCC's 2023 Week of Giving was the first public event hosted by the Foundation to raise funding for this campaign and we are grateful to all who have participated to get us a start on reaching our campaign goal of \$5 million.

Save the Date: Next year's Week of Giving will kick off on Monday, April 15.



Jim Dyer Award Ceremony

MVCC presented the 25th annual Dr. Jim Dyer Award for Academic Excellence in July to Amanda Moyer of Vernon Center, the Liberal Arts graduate with the highest GPA in the humanities.

Moyer was a double major at MVCC who graduated in December 2022 with a high GPA in each of her degrees — Liberal Arts & Sciences: Humanities & Social Sciences AA and Liberal Arts & Sciences: General Studies AS. Moyer, who aspires to be a high school librarian, is now majoring in Adolescence Education English at Utica University, where she was named to the Dean's List in her first semester.

Moyer was honored at a small gathering hosted by the MVCC Foundation and School of Humanities, where she was presented with an award certificate and scholarship prize by longtime MVCC Humanities Professor Dr. George Searles. Also in attendance were family members of the late Jim Dyer, including his wife, Madeline, and the very first recipient of the Dyer Award, Jennifer Campbell, who graduated from MVCC with honors in 1997. Campbell is an educator and designer in Boston with more than 20 years of experience in the field of education and curriculum design.

The Dr. Jim Dyer Award for Academic Excellence was founded by MVCC faculty in honor of Jim Dyer, Ph.D., a beloved humanities professor who served MVCC for nearly 50 years. Upon his retirement from full-time teaching in 1996, the MVCC Board of Trustees named him Professor Emeritus. His passion for teaching kept Dyer in the classroom, and he continued as an adjunct professor through 2011.



Emeriti Picnic and Coffee Break

MVCC held two events this past year that invited emeriti and retirees back to the College. The Foundation hosts these events each year to give them an opportunity to reconnect with former colleagues and learn what is new at MVCC.

MVCC's Emeriti Picnic was held on June 27. Originally intended to be outside on the quad, the threat of rain moved the celebration indoors. Nonetheless, all who attended learned about the new programs and events at the College from President VanWagoner while enjoying a delicious picnic-style lunch.

On the first day of classes, the Foundation hosted its Emeriti and Retiree Coffee Break in the lobby of Payne Hall. Retirees gathered bright and early to enjoy a cup of coffee and chat, all while the hustle and bustle of the first day of classes went on around them.

We are grateful to our emeriti and retirees for their continued support and interest in MVCC.





Community Convening

In October, MVCC held a Community Convening event to address the challenges facing Oneida County and showcase MVCC's commitment to finding workforce development solutions to an audience of business and community leaders.

Dr. Randall VanWagoner, President of MVCC, and Dr. Christopher Laney, Director of Government Affairs and Workforce Strategy at Lightcast, explored innovative approaches to address the workforce needs of Oneida County and discuss the roles of educational institutions, community leaders, and industry partners in building a better future.

By redesigning the student experience, reimagining high school-college transitions, and restoring the promise of education, MVCC has enhanced current programs and developed new ones so students can learn job-ready, applicable skills and established many new industry partnerships, becoming a key player in the area's workforce development.







DECEMBER '22: Engineer Club Alumni Panel

Former members of MVCC's Future Engineers Club—Noah Smith, Kyle Aserian, and Josh Dobransky— were invited back to campus to share their experiences at college and transitioning into their careers at Indium Corporation.



FEBRUARY: Health Sciences Career Networking Panel

2022

MAY: Engineers Panel

MVCC's Future Engineers Club had the opportunity to ask questions of alumni at MVCC's thINCubator.

JANUARY '23:

Alumni of Merit Luncheon

Eight years of MVCC Alumni of Merit winners were represented at this year's Alumni of Merit Luncheon.



From left: Karen Korotzer '89, Evon Ervin '97, Greg Benincasa '79, Musco Millner III '90, Troy Little '96, Rick Short '81, Chris Crolius '78, and David Mathis '70.





SEPTEMBER:

Future Engineers Club Event

At an event held by MVCC's Future Engineers Club, former MVCC Foundation Board President and 2018 Alumnus of Merit Rick Short '81 shared his story about becoming Corporate Associate Vice President at Indium Corporation and encouraged students to figure out what type of work will make them happy, saying it's the basis for everything else to fall into place.

"What do I like to do?" and "What am I all about?" are just two questions he says everyone should ask themselves when deciding on a career path.

SEPTEMBER:

Mohawk Valley Gives

MVCC raised \$11,156 from 62 donors during Mohawk Valley Gives, which will be used to help our students build better futures for themselves and our community! MVCC also was the recipient of two prizes during the event—the Golden Ticket - Morning Prize (sponsored by Bank of America) and the First Things First Prize (sponsored by First Source Federal Credit Union).





2023

OCTOBER:

Presidential/Exceptional/Honors Brunch

To celebrate the Wilcox Presidential/Exceptional scholars and Honors Program students, President Randall VanWagoner, Ph.D., a Michigan community college graduate, and MVCC Executive Director of Marketing and Communications Alen Smajić, a former MVCC Presidential scholar, shared their thoughts on how students should not allow themselves to be defined by one aspect of their lives, and instead should be open to experiences that can lead them down a path they may never have envisioned for themselves.

Wilcox Presidential and Exceptional scholars are students who placed in the top 10% of their high school classes and Honors students apply for the program after graduating high school in the top 10%, meeting the 3.5 final GPA requirement, or having an SAT score or 1240 or higher. Students with a 3.5 GPA with 12 or more college credits also may apply.



BUILDING BETTER FUTURES AND THE WORKFORCE

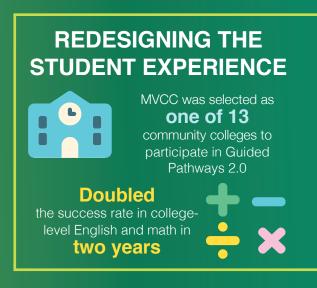
Redesigning, Reimagining, Restoring

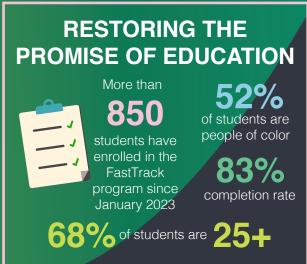
MVCC has undertaken transformative initiatives to redesign the student experience, facilitate smoother high school to college transitions, and restore the promise of education in the Mohawk Valley region. Through these efforts, we have achieved significant improvements in student success, program clarity, and affordability.

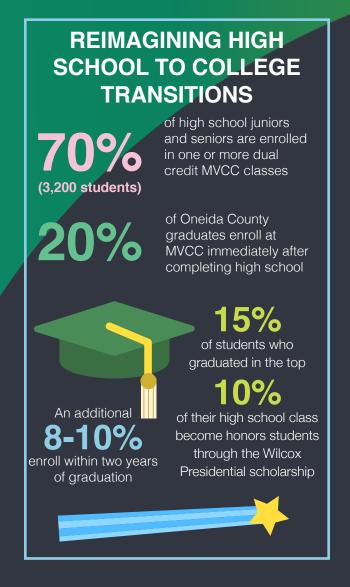
Now, we invite you to join us in our commitment to building better futures through education. Whether

you are a prospective student, an advocate for accessible education, or a potential partner in our mission, MVCC welcomes your support and engagement. Together, we can continue to innovate and expand our efforts, ensuring that education remains a pathway to prosperity for all.

Let's work together to create a brighter and more promising future for our community.

















Thursday Evening Ted Moore Race a Success

New this year, the 26th Annual Ted Moore Run/Walk was held on a Thursday evening. The new day and time proved to be a success, attracting more than 150 participants, both in person and virtually. The race raised approximately \$7,000 for the Ted Moore Scholarship at MVCC.

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

We ask that you continue to support this important community event, which will be held on Thursday, April 25, 2024.



37th Annual Golf Tournament raises \$20,000 for Areas of Greatest Need

Keeping with tradition, the MVCC Foundation held its 37th annual Golf Tournament at Valley View Golf & Country Club, even though the facility's clubhouse was under construction in June. Although this year's MVCC Golf Tournament came with a few surprises, it was still a rousing success, raising approximately \$20,000 for MVCC's Areas of Greatest Need.

This year, 116 golfers on 29 teams participated. A generous anonymous donor sponsored three teams this year: one filled by female golfers, a second filled with MVCC veterans, and a third filled with Utica Post 229 veterans!



Congratulations to Mike Briggs' Team 2, who earned the Corporate Cup Championship! Briggs' team members included Don Deluca, Tony Tong, John Collins, and Dave Ionta. Deluca shot a hole in one, which earned him a \$500 gift certificate to Golf Unlimited.

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



2023 MVCC Foundation Golf Tournament Sponsors

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Tee & Green Packages

- Association of Mohawk Valley Administrators
- MVCC Apprenticeship Program
- MVCC Cultural Series
- Mountainside Medical Equipment
- PJ Green Advertising
- R.O.I.

Save the date for 2024!

The MVCC Foundation will host our next annual golf tournament on Friday, June 14, 2024.



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Donate to the Building Better Futures Campaign

Online: MVCCFoundation.org

By Mail: Make checks payable to MVCC Foundation, Inc.

Mail them to:

Attn: MVCC Foundation

Mohawk Valley Community College

1101 Sherman Drive Utica, N.Y. 13501

By Phone: 315-792-5555 (Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)

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.

Establish a Named Scholarship

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

Underwrite an Annual Event

Whether it's the Ted Moore Run/ Walk, our annual scholarship dinner, or the 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

One of the most powerful ways to make a difference in the lives of

our students for years to come is through a gift in your will.

For additional information, visit our online Guide to Gift Planning at mvcc.edu/foundation/gift-planning/index.php or contact 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.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Make a meaningful impact with sponsorship opportunities for MVCC's academic schools and programs, student support, and annual college events or leave a lasting legacy on campus with MVCC naming opportunities.





MEET THE MVCC FOUNDATION AND ALUMNI STAFF



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

Deanna Ferro-Aurience, a member of MVCC's Class of 2000, joined MVCC's Office of Institutional Advancement in 2006, initially

serving as an Events Coordinator before being promoted to Director of Donor Resource and Development and later Director of Development. In January 2022, Ferro-Aurience took on the role of Executive Director. With over 17 years of experience as part of the MVCC team, she is responsible for the strategic development and implementation of all fundraising and development programs. She collaborates closely with other College leaders to foster and enhance campus-wide development initiatives and brings valuable insight that enables her to effectively engage with donors and alumni. Additionally, Ferro-Aurience oversees the management of grants that benefit MVCC's thINCubator, further contributing to the College's growth and impact.

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



Katie Voce Public Relations Specialist

Katie Voce joined the Office of Institutional Advancement as Public Relations Specialist in April 2023 after nearly nine years in MVCC's Office of Marketing and Communications, where she

worked closely with various departments on campus to plan and execute marketing strategies and publications to communicate the College's mission to transform lives through learning. As part of the MVCC Foundation, she uses her marketing experience to craft communications via multiple channels to alumni and donors. Voce earned her master's degree in information design and technology from SUNY Polytechnic Institute and bachelor's degrees in English and journalism from Utica College.

kvoce@mvcc.edu 315-792-5340



Courtney Taurisano-**Sprague**

Director of Development

After 20 years in the field of public relations, Courtney Taurisano-Sprague made the jump to higher education fundraising when she accepted the position of

Development Assistant for the MVCC Foundation in 2016. Seven years later, Taurisano-Sprague serves as the Director of Development for the Foundation and oversees several fundraising campaigns, including MVCC's Week of Giving, Faculty/Staff Campaign, and Alumni Annual Fund. She also plans and assists the College in implementing several annual events, including the Ted Moore Run/Walk, MVCC Foundation Golf Tournament, and Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

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



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.

amarken@mvcc.edu 315-792-5555

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



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