



MVCC's thINCubator awarded grant to spur entrepreneurship, innovation across region

The role of MVCC in the revitalization of the economic outlook of the Mohawk Valley was heightened this week when the U.S. Commerce Department announced the College would be one of just 35 organizations nationwide to receive a half-million-dollar grant to develop and promote entrepreneurship in the region.

"The work being done at MVCC and throughout the region by others, so pointedly represents innovation, entrepreneurship and the importance for economic prosperity," said Deputy Assistant Secretary Matthew Erskine, who is a part of the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). "It is the entrepreneurs and small business owners who are driving the creation of new jobs. Studies have shown these groups have generated 65 percent of newly created jobs over the last two decades. What this means is when the startups succeed, our workers benefit, our families and communities are stronger."

Part of the EDA's i6 Challenge program, MVCC will receive \$499,500 to fund business initiatives through the College's thINCubator, it was announced at a press conference on Thursday at the Broad Street location. The thINCubator is where local entrepreneurs are provided access to thousands of untapped technologies and can build their businesses with a vast array of business resources in a single one-stop entrepreneur hub. MVCC is just one of two community colleges in the nation to receive this grant.

"The thINCubator demonstrates the power of networks," said MVCC President Randall J. VanWagoner, Ph.D., "We have worked with entrepreneurs to expand their networks personally and organizationally."

MVCC was selected from 215 applications for this funding.

MVCC has demonstrated the power of networking over the past eight years as a



HELPING ENTREPRENEURS - Deputy Assistant Secretary Matthew Erskine from the U.S. Economic Development Administration, explains the benefits of receiving funding from the i6 Challenge Program while MVCC President Randall J. VanWagoner looks on.

member of the Strategic Horizon Network, which consists of seven community colleges from across the nation. These community colleges meet to focus on innovation in higher education, allowing the institutions to think of big ideas and provide support for these initiatives to get off the ground.

The only other community college to receive funding from Thursday's announcement was Lorain County Community College, one of the member institutions. Lorain County's demographics are within one percent of Oneida County, as both communities face the same economic challenges.

This funding will allow MVCC to provide funding for start-up companies as well as connect them with the resources needed to succeed and create jobs, specifically nanotechnology, cybersecurity

and Unmanned Aerial Systems sectors.

"Two important core components entrepreneurs really need to succeed to take your ideas to market are: Pragmatic support and access to capital," said Erskine. "The i6 Challenge helps entrepreneurs convert research and innovation into viable businesses. Seed funding grants help these entrepreneurs to grow their businesses."

"This federal funding will build on the thINCubator's success, by enabling it to provide local entrepreneurs in the burgeoning industries of nanotechnology, cybersecurity and Unmanned Aerial Systems the resources they need to kick-start innovation and provide high-tech jobs to Upstate residents," said U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer who was joined by U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand in making the announcement.

Mandia Learning Commons pathway to success

While tutoring services have a stigma of struggling students at other community colleges, the MVCC Learning Commons has the reputation of being the place where the best and brightest go to succeed. With such a strong reputation, there is little question why one of the College's most successful alumni is proud to place his family name on the Learning Commons.

MVCC held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday for the Mandia Family Learning Commons, a recently renovated space dedicated to helping students succeed. This new space is located in the center of the Information Technology Building on the Utica Campus.

"I believe it is not how much you pay for a degree, but what you learn to receive it," said Mandia during the ceremony.

"MVCC was a foundation for me whether it was accounting 101, learning about financial statements, or macro accounting or cost accounting. I know these classes were a very important part of my education and it helped me in my business career. My family and I are honored to have our name on the Learning Commons because MVCC was not just an inspiration for me, but also in my family."

Mandia is proud of the fact that his two brothers, nephew, and sister-in-law are all graduates of MVCC.

The Learning Commons was made possible through a \$2 million Title III grant and a generous donation from Mandia, an Alumni of Merit winner. This is part of MVCC's Pathway to Graduation Project that included relocating the Learning Center (previously 2,830 sq. ft.) into a new Learning Commons (8,714 sq. ft.) space.

"The history of this space and the services provided in it go back decades," said MVCC President Randall J. VanWagoner, Ph.D. "Today in modern literature about community colleges, when they talk about student success, one of the greatest innovations that works for students is supplemental instruction. Supplemental instruction started at MVCC through our Learning Center in 1993. This space continues to evolve around and find additional support for students."

The Learning Commons will offer services of tutoring, study groups, library resources, computer labs, technical assistance, an iTeach Learning Lab for faculty/staff, and seminar areas. Along with four faculty members having their office space in this area for easier access to students, the College has hired three completion coaches - Maimun Khan, Rachel Golden, and Salina Billins.

"We have three amazing individuals working in the heart of the Learning Commons with students who have needs both academic and non-academic, and can get them connected very quickly with the support services they need," said Dr. VanWag-



ner. "Through a Community Connect Grant, we have a case manager from Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency, Katrina Engell's office next to the completion coaches, connecting the students with additional services the students need."

The iTeach Lab is where faculty can explore new technology with instructional designer librarian, Jocelyn Ireland. She works directly with the faculty.

Following the ribbon cutting, the Mandia family and surrounding community were given a tour of the renovations that include comfortable workstations, group study rooms with smart technology, math and writing labs equipped with updated computers, and tutor and faculty offices. There is also a "soft space" area for conversation and for students to share academic information and useful ideas on study and coping methods.

Since the opening of this new location, more than 25 percent of the College's students have utilized the Mandia Family Learning Commons with statistics showing the students who use this facility five times a semester have scored grades higher than those who do not. National studies have shown colleges with Learning Commons achieve a higher quality of education for students and a higher rate of graduation.

There will be a second Learning Commons location on the Rome Campus in the northern wing of the Plumley Complex as the renovations are completed. It will also house a testing center, math and writing labs, tutoring stations, and will share the computer lab with the library.



Veterans Day marks beginning of healing

A cold, overcast, rainy day could not dampen the spirits of the more than 200 people in attendance to honor the nation's veterans last Friday on Veterans Day in the Alumni College Center. Due to the rain, the event was moved inside.

With MVCC President Randall J. VanWagoner, Ph.D. hosting the festivities, students, faculty, and staff gathered around the stage in the ACC Commons to hear salutations and honoring speeches to veterans and the community as a whole.

What made this year's Veterans Day so different is it came on the heels of a tumultuous election that left some deep divides. Dr. VanWagoner offered words of healing in his address.

"Veterans Day is an important day for us to reflect on what it means to be an American and the responsibility that comes with living in a democracy with all its ambiguity and paradox," said Dr. VanWagoner. "Our veterans served and sacrificed to maintain the complex tapestry of give and take, victory and loss, left and right, conservative and liberal, evaluation and stagnation, bias and respect, and countless other levels of paradoxes that inspire and frustrate us on a regular basis. And all of this is underscored by the power of patience and compromise."

It was a solemn moment when the Thomas R. Proctor Senior High School's Junior ROTC performed a flag passing ceremony, silence falling over the audience. Many of the more than 200 veterans currently attending MVCC raised their hands in salute, pumped out their chests with pride, and stood rigid during the ceremony.

"On Veterans Day we don't just reflect on our freedoms, but the extreme costs they carry as we honor the brave men and women who have served and those



who currently serve to protect rights we have all come to know. Nov. 11, 1918, was the day all fighting stopped to end the 'War to End All Wars.' Unfortunately, it was far from the last of any war. In fact, the war shaped how war is fought today," said Dr. VanWagoner. "While the endings to the individual stories of our veterans may be written happy, tragic, or anywhere in between, the fact remains that their stories deserve our appreciation, respect, and wonder."

MVCC was founded in 1946 to serve the educational needs of veterans returning from World War II. The College's commitment to serving veterans remains strong to this day as it has expanded the support services for veterans at MVCC over the years.



Oneida County Executive Anthony Picente, Jr., put it: "This college was formed in response to a war my father came home from. It is fitting the ceremony is held here every year."

MVCC honors employee veterans

Bill Hunt
United States Army
Rank: Sergeant
Years of Service: 6

Jon Kio
United States Army
Rank: Sergeant E5
Years of Service: 3

John Susenburger
United States Navy
Rank: Seaman
Years of Service: 2

Leland McCormac
United States Marine
Corps Reserves
Rank: Lance Corporal
Years of Service: 5

David Smith
United States Air Force,
Air National Guard
Rank: Senior Airman
Years of Service: 5

Thomas Jeff
United States Army
Rank: E4
Years of Service: 2

Michael O'Donnell
United States Navy
Rank: Petty Officer 1st
class
Years of Service: 4

John M. Swistak
United States Air Force
Rank: Staff Sergeant
Years of Service: 4

Paul W. Phister, Jr.
United States Army
Rank: SP-5
Years of Service: 3
United States Air Force
Rank: Lieutenant Colonel
Years of Service: 22

Geri Sultenfuss
U. S. Coast Guard
Rank: Marine Science
Technician 3
Years of Service: 4

Morris Pearson
United States Army
National Guard
Rank: Sergeant E5
Years of Service: 8

Robert Reid
United States Army
Rank: E4
Years of Service: 4

Barbara Wilson
United States Navy
Rank: Petty Officer 2nd
Class, E5
Years of Service: 4



Non-Traditional Student Week on Rome Campus

To commemorate Non-Traditional Student Week, Rome Student Services Planning Committee (RSAPC) organized four events throughout the week with the help of Utica Campus Student Services and Adult Learner Services in Utica.

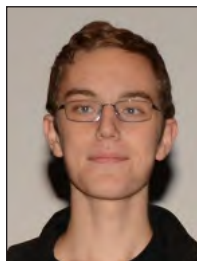
Each event was hosted in the Plumley Complex atrium by the main entrance to get the attention of all the students on campus, and the days and times were planned to accommodate many different class schedules. Members of RSAPC stayed by the tables during the activities to greet and serve students.

The first event of the week was a coffee and cookies fellowship. Adult Learner Services purchased the coffee and cookies from Sodexo and students greatly appreciated the sweet treats. The fellowship was held on Monday morning and reached out to many students.

On Thursday, Nov. 10, RSAPC organized coffee and doughnuts, and a luncheon of sub-sandwiches later in the day. Coffee, hot cocoa, and a huge mound of donuts were on tables by the entrance from 8:30-10:30 a.m. Later, a luncheon of various types of sub-sandwiches ran from noon-2 p.m. RSAPC purchased the food from Sodexo and it disappeared very quickly!

In honor of Veteran's Day, RSAPC hosted a Veteran's Day Reception on Friday from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Student Services in Utica bought cookies and punch from Sodexo and RSAPC organized the activity and provided information on Veteran's Services to benefit veteran students.

Each event was very well-attended and the Rome Student Activities Planning Committee, Adult Learner Services in Utica, and Utica Student Services can congratulate themselves on a successful week of outreach efforts that welcomed all students – traditional and non-traditional.



Crystal

The New Hartford Senior High team was adding up the numbers which equated to victory in the 16th Annual High School Mathematics Competition held in Schafer Theater.

Leading the Spartans' team was Joey Wu as he took second place in the individual competition behind Chittenango's Trevor Crystal. Crystal was awarded the top prize of a Presidential Scholarship to MVCC, which covers full tuition to the College. Taking third place in

Stadtmiller publishes latest book

D. Joseph Stadtmiller's recently released his latest novel, "The Nature of Man, Life and Humanity." This novel tells the story of the cosmos, sun and Earth, the evolution of mankind expanding across the continents, our struggle against nature taking place in the air and water with the degradation of the land, the annihilation of ecosystems and biodiversity, and concludes with the consumption of Earth itself.

Climate stability is collateral damage as the human population continues to explode. Our children's children are counting on us to act now, reducing our numbers, changing our wasteful behavior, being selective about what we consume, and how much we waste.

Stadtmiller is an engineer, educator, and writer who has spent much of his career developing electronic products, ranging from industrial, residential heating and air conditioning controls to medical electronics. After 25 years in industry, he joined MVCC and began teaching electrical and electronic technology and writing textbooks: "Electronics: Project Management and Design" (2000 & 2003), "Applied Electronic Design" (2002) and then a novel entitled "American Bases" (2008).

"The Nature of Man, Life and Humanity" is the culmination of an eight-year effort; it's the amazing story about the history of man and nature, how mankind has reached this point in time and the changes modern society will eventually have to make. After his retirement in 2012, Stadtmiller continues to teach as an adjunct professor in the field of STEM.

The book's review is featured in the October 2016 issue of the Kirkus Review Magazine. It is available in both print and digital formats from most major book outlets (Amazon, Barnes and Noble, etc.)



MATH TEAM CHAMPS – The New Hartford Senior High team won the 16th Annual High School Mathematics Competition held in Schafer Theater. MVCC President Randall J. VanWagoner, Ph.D., presented awards to New Hartford coach Lisa Cooper and team members Joey Wu, Nathaniel Adair, Seth Garrett, and Max Li.

Crystal wins annual high school math competition

the individual race was New Hartford's Nathaniel Adair.

All three top finishers also received prizes of software packages, mathematic books, gift cards, and cash.

Taking the overall team title was New Hartford High School, which consisted of Wu, Adair, Seth Garrett, and Max Li. The team coach was Lisa Cooper.

Second place was taken by the Clinton High School team consisting of Nathan Gale, Chris Rivera, Evan McCormick, and Gabrielle Dewhurst. The team coach was Michael Stanton.