

# Collaborations enhance cultural offerings



*MCC's Lifelong Learners was organized in 1998 to provide academic experiences to adults in the communities served by the college.*

**A**t MCC, sustainable access to the arts, cultural offerings, recreation and enhanced educational opportunities are integral parts of our personal connections with people in the communities we serve.

Through a generous endowment, the MCCF Stanley and Blanche Ash Community College Enhancement Fund within the MCC Foundation provides funding to support a variety of endeavors.

MCC's cultural opportunities include an annual Chicago trip; participation with the Great Decisions discussion series; musical presentations by local, regional and national artists; historical exhibits; Montcalm Heritage Festival; lifelong learning opportunities; lectures and more. ■

## Cultural events highlights

- MCC presented its 2019 Ash Lectureship Series. Presentations included "Darwin: Books, Beetles and Blasphemy" by David A. Wooten, Washtenaw Community College Biology Professor; "Immigration Policy Beyond the Border" by James D. Nealon, Former U.S. Ambassador to Honduras; and "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald" by Mike Fornes as Gordon Lightfoot.
- MCC's Alumni & Friends Choir and Philharmonic Orchestra performed two concerts during the year.
- The MCC Library brought together its community of readers during its sixth MCC Reads program from January through March. MCC Reads aims to bring together students, staff, faculty and community friends to read the same book and enhance shared learning.
- Montcalm Heritage Village celebrated its 33rd Heritage Festival, held each year during the first weekend in August. Since its establishment, Montcalm Heritage Village has grown to include 28 buildings on the college's Sidney campus, and it features hundreds of artifacts from local areas depicting life in Michigan at the turn of the 20th century.
- MCC partnered with the public libraries of Montcalm County to offer One Book One County Montcalm programming, which encourages area residents to read the same book at the same time and share it with their family and friends. The program was established in 2005.
- The college celebrated Women's History Month in March with several presentations, as well as historical displays.
- In November, MCC celebrated Native American Month with a variety of lectures, musical presentations, discussions and other activities.
- MCC partnered with the World Affairs Council to offer livestream of its lectures on the college's Sidney campus. Some of the presentations included: "Global Cyber Threats" by FBI Special Agent Peter Jolliffe; "China-U.S. Trade War, by Amy Celico of Albright Stonebridge Group; "A New Nuclear Arms Race?" by Kelsey Davenport of the Arms Control Association; and "Democracy on the Run: Dispatches from Eastern Europe" by freelance journalist Carol Schaeffer.