

## from the president

**G**reetings from Montcalm Community College.

On the morning of July 1, 2009, I walked into Montcalm Community College as its new President, the fifth person to have had the opportunity to lead this great institution. I was honored, humbled and, frankly, a bit clueless as to what lay ahead. Fast forward 10 years and a whirlwind of activities have resulted in an institution more in tune with students' needs and better prepared to help those students succeed in their studies.

This past year has been a time of reflection upon the series of "last times" everyone experiences in their respective careers. The "last" commencement, the "last" welcome week signaling the beginning of a new fall semester, and now my "last" community report. Most of all, I've had the opportunity to reflect on the evolution of MCC over these past years.

What an evolution it has been! Numerous initiatives have been accomplished, positioning the college as a leader in the community, primed to support, encourage and show the way forward to continued growth and prosperity for our region.

One of the major areas of emphasis for us has been the focus on improving student success. The Student Success Center has become a hub of activity for students requiring assistance in any number of ways. Revised curricula and programs of study provide

clearer pathways to students' success. We have answered the call from a resurgent manufacturing industry to provide relevant training in skilled trades, resulting in a dramatic increase in the number of students seeking careers in today's modern technology world. Student outcomes have consistently improved with the addition of these critical support services.

MCC has advanced its standing in the community as a collaborator and partner with many different industries. We have become an important "player" in economic and workforce development, delivering training across our region in areas such as robotics, welding, machine technology and many others. MCC's Greenville campus has become our region's center for industrial education.

We have upgraded our facilities to better reflect the modern learning environment required for today's students. Our Recreation & Fitness Center, including our pool, have undergone a facelift and we have expanded our offerings for the benefit of our students and our community. More of a "new and improved" MCC will be coming in the future as our Board of Trustees has unanimously approved a facilities master plan, setting the stage for the next five to 10 years of growth and modernization.

Yes, your community college is well-positioned for the future. Our



campus colleagues come to work everyday with the goals of helping our students navigate their way through the rigors of college and preparing them for future success. We are proud of our abilities to serve our region with integrity and quality. And, I am personally proud of the advancements we've made, the communities we serve and the role MCC plays in continuing to grow our learning community.

Thank you to everyone who helps make MCC the great place it is. I've been privileged to have played a part in moving the college forward and I am forever grateful to the many partners who have helped us along the way. We couldn't do it without the continued support of the community. As 2020 arrives, and a new chapter in the life of MCC begins, I will be a very interested observer because I know where the potential lies in the future and I know we'll continue to make a dramatic difference in the lives of many of our citizens.

Thank you for your continued support of MCC. ■