

from the president

This is an exciting time at Montcalm Community College! My hope is that the community feels a part of the great things happening as we feel blessed to be part of Montcalm County and the surrounding areas.

I believe our community is stronger because of our community college. Data from economic impact studies reveal that investing in Montcalm Community College grows the entire region. A college education helps students by increasing income levels and increasing the likelihood of positive social practices. For example, greater income helps students access housing and transportation, and builds community infrastructure. An educated community is positive for the area, as more people vote, volunteer, and are less inclined to commit crimes.

This year, we embarked on the *"Transforming Lives, Empowering People"* major gifts campaign to support strategic plan initiatives to enhance our facilities, improve student success and access, increase enrollment and engage our community of learners. The largest portion of our campaign is the renovation of the Kenneth J. Smith Instructional Building on the college's Sidney campus, which is home to math, science, nursing and other health career classes and programs. Our new spaces will promote learning in and out of the classroom as well as state-of-the-art simulation and science labs that serve many of our students. Along with new spaces, we are creating pathways for students to seamlessly

move from credentials to certificates and degrees. Our campaign also supports scholarships and our MCC Express Conductor program, which provides mentoring and guidance for students so they can be successful in and out of the classroom. Currently in the lead gifts phase, the *"Transforming Lives, Empowering People"* campaign will transition to the community phase in spring 2023.

While our primary purpose is to serve students, Montcalm Community College is the community center that can offer free or inexpensive noncredit courses as well as a place for the community to gather for events important to the area, and a place to go to for lifelong learning. We have even added the SilverSneakers® program to our Recreation & Fitness Center to promote activity with our senior community.

As families struggle with the cost of education, MCC provides high quality education for a fraction of the cost of universities. Using Early College or Dual Enrollment programs, students can obtain free college credits, while also giving them the opportunity for personal growth.

Personal growth is one of the reasons sports is returning to MCC after more than 40 years! The return of Centurion Athletics will provide the community and students an opportunity to continue to play sports while achieving a degree. We are even considering building student housing so they can better focus on their studies, while also experiencing personal growth and



living on their own.

What I hope you can see while reading this magazine is that we continue to work toward our mission of "Transforming Lives Through Quality Education" and Montcalm Community College is charging ahead leading higher education efforts for our next generation of students. MCC dedicates itself to the community and provides education and support throughout the lives of the citizens we serve.

If you have not been to campus lately, I would love to give you a personal tour. If you are an aspiring student, please contact us so we can show you what you can expect as a student at MCC.

I am passionate about staying connected to students and the community. Please reach out to me anytime on my personal cell phone at 574-596-2781 or by email at stacy.young@montcalm.edu. ■

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stacy H. Young". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Stacy H. Young, Ph.D.

President
Montcalm Community College