



## President's Brownbag Notes

Dr. Curt Freed, President

July 25, 2024, 12:00 p.m. via WebEx

- 1) Participants: 38
- 2) MCC will host Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Marlon Escamilla Rodriguez from El Salvador for the 24-25 academic year. His expertise is in Anthropology with a specialty in Archeology. Dr. Escamilla will teach a Latin American History class, work with faculty and instructors on internationalizing curriculum, engage with student groups, and collaborate with various community organizations in Morgan County. Curt Freed thanked Christiane Olivo for her efforts in securing the Fulbright scholar.
- 3) Two Higher Learning Commission Peer Reviewers conducted a site visit July 22-23 relating to the college's effort to offer a BAS in Business Administration. Curt thanked Deborah Coates and all who helped with the visit. One of the two peer reviewers couldn't attend in person and participated virtually. The next step is for the Reviewers to submit their report for HLC review. MCC is also pursuing a BAS in Education. Curt noted that the scope of the education degree will be broader than originally planned.
- 4) Deborah Coates noted there will be an HLC multi-site visit in the fall. This will occur at the Limon Center and selected high school locations. Dates are to be determined.
- 5) Curt extended congratulations to Connie Weingarten, as seven out of seven 2024 PTA graduates passed their board exams. CAPTE, the PTA program's accrediting body, conducted a site visit several weeks ago as part of the program's ongoing accreditation.
- 6) MCC has contracted with CyraCom to provide on-demand translation services by phone or video for students and community members visiting campus. Staff should contact Gary Dukes for more information and to obtain access to use the service. Gary noted that training will be set up.
- 7) MCC's budget for FY 25 is based on 809 FTE, which includes 63 FTE for Summer, 383 FTE for Fall, 354 FTE for Spring, and 9 imputed FTE. As of July 24, summer enrollment is 77.4 FTE, up 19% over last year at this time. Fall enrollment is changing rapidly. Currently, fall FTE is down by 2.9 over last year at this time (-1.075%). Degree-seeking non-concurrent students are up by 4.7% and concurrent enrollment is down by 5.39.% (concurrent enrollment FTE is expected to increase). Curt noted that CCCS sends out FTE reports on Wednesdays. Staff interested in receiving the reports can notify him. Christiane Olivo shared that MCC will be offering 51 gen ed classes through CO Online, plus around 15 CTE-related courses. There will be many new instructors starting in the fall. Becky Geltz reported that MCC students are taking significantly more classes via Colorado Online courses not taught by MCC instructors (a 96% increase over the number of credit hours taken last year at the same time). Colorado Online courses are capped at 34 students. Christiane expressed thanks to Nancy Ruhl for her help processing the unusually high number of new instructors.

- 8) Fall Semester In-service week will be held August 12-16. The week will include an increase in structured activities/workshops/training for faculty. The Instruction Department is sending an in-service week schedule to faculty with details. The All-Staff Fall Semester Kickoff meeting and BBQ will be held Wednesday, August 14. The day will start with an all-staff photo at 8:30 a.m., followed by an all-staff meeting in Founders Room from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. The BBQ will be held 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Jane Fries will send out a sign-up sheet with volunteer needs for the BBQ.
- 9) The Extended President's Staff group (President's Staff plus additional staff) will hold a retreat in Founders room July 31 to create an annual work plan and lay the foundation for a revised MCC strategic plan.
- 10) New hires starting in August include:
  - a) Ryan Burmester (Academic Technology Specialist)
  - b) Jamie Taylor (Associate Nursing Instruction Personnel – ANIP)
  - c) Dana Unruh (Coordinator of Burlington Center)
- 11) Other searches are in process. Curt is working with Amanda Dunn and Nancy Ruhl to create a step by step hiring process protocol. This protocol will be distributed to all staff.
- 12) NEOED: Jane Fries gave an update.
  - a) The Classified Performance Plan cycle will start August 1 in NEOED Perform. Classified staff should activate their NEOED accounts if they have not done so yet.
  - b) The Faculty Annual Work Plan cycle will start August 15 in NEOED. Jane will send NEOED account activation emails to faculty on August 12, and the evaluation program will go live August 15.
  - c) Jane has created customized user guides for employees and supervisors for the three employee groups (APT, Classified, and Faculty) that walk them through the process step by step. She is available to help anyone who needs assistance with NEOED.
- 13) Tracy Schneider provided construction updates.
  - a) The concrete floor has been replaced in the Dahms-Talton Center for Skilled Trades & Technology. Internal framing and electrical/plumbing work is occurring, and external brick is being added. Signage has been planned for the south side of the building. Contracting has been completed to re-do the Eighth Avenue entrance as part of the project. The estimated completion date for the building is November 8, with occupancy in late October to begin moving in equipment.
  - b) MCC staff will meet with architects to review preliminary designs for the Wray Center renovation. Initial cost estimates are over budget. Construction will start in January or February.
- 14) Curt shared that property located at 123 E Kiowa in Fort Morgan is for sale. It is currently occupied by Wells Fargo Bank. The 22K square foot building is owned by a Bloedorn-related Foundation and was built in the 1960's. The asking price is \$1.3M, which equates to \$58/square foot. Curt noted that the Dahms-Talton Center for Skilled Trades and Technology under construction is costing \$1040/square foot. The Wells Fargo bank will likely lease it for another year and will probably

transition to a much smaller facility. MCC President's Staff conducted a preliminary tour of the property and noted that it could provide space for MCC program expansion and community collaboration but would also require renovation/upgrades. Further research is needed. Curt noted that the State Board of Community Colleges and Occupational Education would have to approve purchasing the property. He shared that there is good potential for grant funding to help with the project.

15) MCC's new FarmBox is receiving a lot of attention. Curt expressed thanks to Bill Miller, Gabe Tolan and the Title III team, and STEM faculty for their work related to the FarmBox. The FarmBox is funded by the Title III grant. MCC will not sell any of the produce while grant funding is still being received, as any proceeds from sales would be counted against the grant funds. The produce will be given away during this period. After Title III funding expires, a structure will be developed for selling the produce at low cost. Bill shared that a variety of new plants will be grown in the FarmBox. He noted that the Health Inspector gave approval for the College Store to utilize crops in the Roadrunner Cafe. At full capacity, the FarmBox can hold 4100 plants. If all were lettuce, 700 heads could be harvested per week.

16) CACE events:

- a) Art Exhibit by Carrie Martin at the CACE Gallery, August 15 – September 19
- b) Third Thursday Art Walk, August 15 in Fort Morgan
- c) Virtual Author Series:
  - i. *Graphic Novels are Life! Telling Your Own Story in a Graphic Novel* with Dan Santat, Tuesday, July 30 at 12:00 PM
  - ii. *Your All Access Pass Behind the Scenes at the Space Station* with Smithsonian Curator Dr. Jennifer Levasseur, Wednesday, August 7 at 12:00 PM
  - iii. *The Golden Ticket to College Admissions Is Not What You Think: Redefining Success for Parents of Teens* with Dr. Irena Smith, August 15 at 12:00 PM

17) CACE Committees are looking for volunteers (Performing Arts, Community Arts, Visual Arts, and Authors and Speakers)! Contact Suzanna Spears if interested.

18) Curt expressed thanks to Michele Hodge for helping as interim HR director (Michele was on loan from CCCS).

Notes by: Jane Fries, Assistant to the President