



President's Brownbag Notes

Dr. Curt Freed, President

October 22, 2024, 12:00 p.m. via Webex

- 1) Participants: 44
- 2) Curt Freed shared that he would be providing a "biscuit bar" (biscuits with gravy or jam) on October 23 for employees. The College Store may provide a beverage special.
- 3) Bachelor of Applied Science Updates:
 - a) *BAS in Business Administration*: The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) has approved MCC's BAS in Business Administration & Management. The program can now be added to the MCC catalog. A search for an additional Business Faculty is in progress.
 - b) *BAS in Technical Education*: Taylor Schneider is spearheading the program. The program has passed peer review by the Colorado State Education Board. The next step is to receive approval by the HLC. This program will equip people with existing degrees or careers to apply for teaching licensure in CTE areas. In May, MCC received notice that the college was awarded a \$740K Opportunity NOW grant to accelerate program development and provide scholarships. There were several delays in receiving the funding. The grant contract was finally signed by the state in October, coinciding with when the Colorado State Education board gave their approval.
 - c) *BAS in Elementary Ed (ECE emphasis)*: Jamie Hochanadel is the lead on developing this program. It is currently going through the peer review process with university partners. It will then go to the Colorado State Education Board for approval, followed by the Higher Learning Commission.
 - d) Staff is working on a press release relating to the approved BAS in Business Administration and will include an update on the progress towards gaining approval for the Technical Education program. Curt emphasized that MCC cannot advertise any degrees that have not been fully approved by the Higher Learning Commission.
- 4) HR Updates:
 - a) Curt congratulated Eloisa Bustos for being hired as the Assistant Director of Facilities. She will start her new role on November 1.
 - b) MCC's new VP of Administration, Michael Swank, will start November 11.
- 5) Construction Updates:
 - a) The Dahms-Talton Skilled Trades and Technology building is targeted for completion on November 11. Preparations are being made for window installation.
 - b) The State Board approved that MCC spend up to \$875K to renovate the property purchased for a Wray Center. The funds will come from college reserves.
 - c) The Safety and Security Project went out for bid on October 21. A contractor will be selected in around a month.
- 6) An HLC Reviewer is conducting routine multi-location visits the week of October 21 and October 28. Locations include Brush High School, Wiggins High School, Wray High School, the Burlington Center, Limon High School, and Deer Trail High School. The main purpose for the visit is to ensure that MCC

is providing the same quality of education in sites across the region as it does on the main campus. Curt expressed thanks to Deb Coates for coordinating the visit and to all who are participating.

- 7) MCC is hosting a Reverse Career Fair October 23 from 6-8 p.m. in Founders Room. Curt thanked the Title V MI CASA team (Cora Loera and Cathy Pacheco-Ogle) for their work coordinating the event. He encouraged everyone to invite students to attend.
- 8) MCC is seeking students to apply for the PTK All-USA Team and related scholarships. Students do not have to be PTK members. National scholarship awards can be up to \$5000. MCC will provide \$500 scholarships to the students selected for nomination to the national team. See Jane Fries for more information.
- 9) Five students were inducted into MCC's PTK chapter on October 21.
- 10) Donations are currently being sought for the MCC student food bank. Place your donations in the boxes around campus. See Jess Diehl, Student Life Coordinator, for more information.
- 11) The Wellness Committee is conducting a Toy Drive for the Morgan County Golden Stars. Please donate by November 15. Toys must be in their original packaging and unopened. Donations of wrapping paper are also being accepted.
- 12) The Colorado Combined Campaign is underway, which is a giving opportunity exclusively for State employees. There are over 400 charities to choose from, including the MCC Foundation. See emails from Jane Fries with more information.
- 13) Halloween Activities:
 - a) November 28, 10-3 p.m.: Employee Pumpkin Carving Contest in Founders Room. Curt thanked Brady Michel and Jess Diehl for helping coordinate the event.
 - b) October 31, 3-5 p.m.: Community Trick or Treat Trail around campus. See Jess Diehl for more information.
- 14) Bring Your Dog to Work Day is October 30. Employees are welcome to dress up their dogs for Halloween.
- 15) The Employee Thanksgiving event will be held Wednesday, November 20. Vanessa Pursley will be coordinating the meal this year. Edwards Market will provide some of the main dishes, and a potluck sign up sheet will be made available in November for the remaining items.
- 16) CACE events:
 - a) Juried Art Show and Sale, November 21 – December 19, with an Artists Reception November 21, 4-7 p.m.
 - b) Third Thursday Artwalk, November 21
 - c) Online Author Talk: "A Navajo Investigator's Search for the Unexplained," with Stanley Milford, Jr., November 7, 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

- 17) Curt noted that the MCC Emergency Response Team (ERT) will meet October 23. They will discuss how to clarify the expectations of staff who are faced with students or members of the public who appear to be having mental health issues. Curt referenced MCC's "EDNA" (Emergency Developing Need Assistance) number, extension 3362. He wants to ensure that EDNA calls ring to several phones at once, rather than ringing at sequential phones. He noted that when 911 is called, an autogenerated email is sent to specific people on campus notifying them who has made the call. Curt would like to see if an autogenerated email can be created when EDNA is called, as well. He also suggested developing a list of prompts to say when calling EDNA, so that an alert is given that help is needed, but not in a way that further agitates the person causing the concern. Curt noted that all employees need to be aware of and stay current on emergency procedures. He also stated that employees should feel the freedom to dial 911, when needed. Annette Lebsock suggested having an easier phone number for EDNA, like "888."
- 18) Curt shared that he has contacted Life Fellowship across Barlow Road regarding purchasing a section of property between their back parking lot and the property owned by the MCC Foundation. The topic will be discussed by the Life Fellowship Council at their November meeting. Curt noted that the original plan for the building on the Foundation's property was to create a Viticulture and Enology Center. However, it was difficult to find someone to lead/teach the program. There is a significant need for a construction trades program, so the current plan is to use the property for that purpose.
- 19) Free financial literacy workshops will be offered November 7 and 14. More information is available at the MCC Marketing site: <https://mcc-marketing.weebly.com/>

Notes by: Jane Fries, Assistant to the President