



Coffee with the President Notes

Dr. Curt Freed, President

September 12, 12:00 p.m. via Webex

- 1) Participants: 41
- 2) Curt Freed expressed thanks to everyone for a successful start to Fall Semester. He shared highlights from the September 11, 2024, CCCS enrollment report. Those who wish to be on an email distribution list to receive the weekly FTE reports should let Curt know. MCC's fall FTE is up 1.371% from the previous year at the same time. Concurrent enrollment is up, but non-concurrent enrollment is down. The System as a whole is up 3.9%. Curt noted that MCC's students seem to have a greater level of engagement this semester. Dianne Purves noted that her classes (anatomy and biology) are completely full, for the first time in her seven years at the college. Divinity O'Conner De Los Rios noted most of her students are concurrent enrollment but are still engaged and active.
- 3) On September 10, the State Board for Community College & Occupational Education approved a BAS in Technical Education and a BAS in Elementary Education with an emphasis in Early Childhood Education. Curt thanked everyone who worked hard to make this happen, including Taylor Schneider, Jamie Hochanadel, Deborah Coates, Christiane Olivo, and Kathy Frisbie. After students complete MCC's Education BAS programs, they will be able to apply for teacher licensure through the Colorado Department of Education. Curt noted that he hopes to secure donors who will fund an endowment that will help cover program expenses and fund scholarships. MCC was awarded an Opportunity NOW grant to help develop the BAS in Technical Education program but is still awaiting the contract. There are several additional approval steps (including accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission) that must be completed before the programs can launch.
- 4) MCC is awaiting approval from the Higher Learning Commission's Institutional Actions Council (IAC) regarding the college's BAS in Business Administration program.
- 5) Curt, Holly Haman-Marcum, Robbin Schincke, Deborah Coates, and Erik Richter traveled to Lamar Community College on September 6 to learn about their construction trades program. The program includes working on both renovations and new builds. The MCC team toured a new build in progress. Staff will explore whether a similar program would work for the college. Curt noted that the building across Barlow Road could possibly serve as a location for a construction trades program (a viticulture & enology program is no longer being considered for that space.)
- 6) The VP of Administration interviews are underway, with the first round of interviews occurring via Webex this week. Finalist interviews will be held in person and will include forums for staff to provide input.
- 7) The Controller vacancy announcement was not attracting candidates, despite advertising a higher salary than other rural Controllers make. Since the college is required to have a Controller, Curt worked with CCCS to establish an MCC procedure to offer new hire sign-on incentives for select positions. A \$10,000 new hire sign-on incentive is being offered for the Controller position. The incentive would be paid within 60 days of hire. If the person were to separate from the college within 12 months (voluntarily or involuntarily) they would be required to pay the incentive back. Curt stated that staff can contact him with any questions or concerns. Susan Clough will be chairing the search committee for the Controller.

- 8) Construction Updates:
 - a) CSTT building: Electricity was supposed to be connected September 12, but this has been delayed due to not having the right size breakers. MCC anticipates obtaining occupancy of the building on November 18. Planning for a ribbon-cutting ceremony will start soon. The plan is to have classes in the building for spring semester.
 - b) The Safety and Security Project is currently undergoing code review and is expected to go out to bid within a month.
- 9) Professional Development Day is September 24. Morning activities will be at the Fort Morgan Fieldhouse and afternoon activities will be held on campus.
- 10) DEI training for staff (not faculty) will be provided by Dr. Brenda Allen on September 27 from 9-12 in Founders Room. In October and November, Dr. Allen will work with individual divisions virtually. An all-staff meeting will be held in December.
- 11) Several staff will be attending a Rural College Consortium Symposium September 25 at Otero College in LaJunta.
- 12) A group from MCC will be attending a CCCS conference October 17 regarding Artificial Intelligence.
- 13) The MCC Foundation Gala is scheduled for February 21, which is one week earlier than typical. The event will be held at the Mark Arndt Event Center at the Brush Fairgrounds. Volunteers are needed for the MCC Foundation Gala planning committee, as well as to help with set up and duties at the event. Contact Susan Clough, if interested.
- 14) MCC will be hosting the Pro-15 fall conference October 17-18 on campus. Some political candidates may be participating.
- 15) Curt noted that he is hoping to provide another biscuit bar for staff.
- 16) CACE events
 - a) Art Exhibit by Carrie Martin at the CACE Gallery, through September 19.
 - b) Boulder International Film Festival, September 12, 6pm-8pm (doors open at 5:30pm) at The Historic Sands Theater in Brush. Ewan Magie will serve as the film critic.
 - c) Art Walk On Wheels, September 14, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Discussion and refreshments at MCC from 2-3 p.m. A map is available on [facebook.com/fmartwalk](https://www.facebook.com/fmartwalk).
 - d) Online Author Talk:
 - i. *Living with an Expansive Mind in a Distracted World* with Nate Klemp, September 18, 2024, 12:00pm - 1:00pm
- 17) Other:
 - a) MCC's Fulbright Scholar, Dr. Marlon Escamilla, will be offering a course on "Rock Art." The class will be offered tuition-free.
 - b) CCCS is offering a Teaching Excellence Conference October 18 in Broomfield. Deborah Coates will attend and noted that faculty can email her if they are interested in going.