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Curt Freed, Ph.D., President

**October 2024**

**Transform the student experience.**

Students kicked off Hispanic Heritage celebrations with "Nuestra Gente en Ciencia," a drop-in showcase honoring the inspiring contributions of Hispanic leaders in STEM. Attendees explored remarkable achievements and stories that highlight the impact of Hispanic individuals in their respective fields. Other activities included a salsa contest and the creation of Papel Picado and Flores, traditional cut paper folk art used to decorate the skirts of folkloric dancers on a poster.



Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) students explored the differences in maneuvering a wheelchair over rough versus smooth surfaces. They practiced techniques for safely assisting chair-bound patients up and down stairs and curbs, both forward and backward. They discovered that moving backward helps maintain better balance and stability during these transitions.

**Transform our own workforce experience.**

MCC staff and faculty participated in a Professional Development Day on September 24. The day included a session with Ken Barr, Jr. and Katie Christensen, Gallup Certified Strengths Coaches, who presented an interactive discussion on StrengthsFinder assessments, a continued professional development work from the spring development day. The facilitators focused the presentation on assessing individual strengths, discussing ways to celebrate these strengths and integrate them into the MCC culture and work environment. The afternoon was dedicated to a

team-building scavenger hunt, where faculty and staff had the opportunity to learn more about the roles of each department.

**Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.**

MCC took part in a "Back the Blue" community event August 8, collaborating with Morgan County law enforcement agencies. The objective was to strengthen community relations and foster a positive connection.

MCC was invited to be the keynote speaker at the I-70 Corridor Chamber of Commerce's August Lunch & Learn, held at May Farms in Byers. Jamie Hochanadel and Taylor Schneider, MCC Education Faculty, presented information about the teacher education and early childhood education degrees and certificates offered by the college, as well as BAS education degrees under development.



**Redefine our value proposition through accessibility, affordability, quality, accountability, resource development, and operational excellence.**

MCC's Nursing Program received simulation equipment through the Community Project (CP) Funding/Congressional Directed Spending grant. This equipment will enhance simulated learning activities, improve theoretical and in-person clinical experiences, foster critical thinking, and develop clinical reasoning skills. The program acquired four nursing simulation mannequins, including one that intelligently simulates labor and delivery, as well as mannequins representing a young child, a newborn infant, and an adult male. MCC Nursing Faculty learned about the pregnant female mannequin and its features, preparing to integrate these learning modules into their classroom experiences.



MCC's Center for Arts and Community Enrichment (CACE) hosted the Boulder International Film Festival, free to the community, on September 12 at the Historic Sands Theatre in Brush, Colorado, featuring five short films and discussion on film styles with MCC's own film critic, Ewan Magie.