



Curt Freed, Ph.D., President

June 2023

Transform the student experience.

MCC students celebrated the end of semester April 24 with a BBQ organized by the Student Life Coordinator and Title V Mentors. The outdoor event included food, music, and friendly games of volleyball and cornhole.

MCC held its fiftieth commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 6 in Fort Morgan's downtown Glenn Miller Park with approximately 150 graduates participating. More than 300 certificates and degrees will be awarded if all requirements are met for graduation, with some students earning multiple certificates/degrees. The commencement video can be viewed on [MCC's YouTube Channel](#).



Transform our own workforce experience.

The college held its annual end-of-year employee picnic and awards ceremony on May 8. Staff and faculty were presented with years-of-service and other awards. Five-year service awards were presented to Kim Berning, Kiley David, Ariella Gonzales-Vondy, Robbin Schincke, Kimberly Senn, and Janell Sutter. Fifteen-year award recipients included Beth Carpenter, Jessica Edington, Gene Kind, Troy McKie, and Michelle Uhrick. Jessica Trusty was recognized for twenty years of service. Tracy Schneider and Dan Hartless were honored for reaching the twenty-five- and thirty-year mark at MCC, respectively. In addition, the college bid farewell to retirees Kathy Frisbie and Kim Ewertz.

In honor of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, a “Water Cooler Conversation” event focusing on the history of the Amache Japanese internment camp was held for staff on June 2. Participants watched a 25-minute video on the Amache National Historic Site near Granada, Colorado, and then engaged in discussion.



The MCC Communications and Marketing Department created a “You Are The Bomb!” award to promote engagement between college employees. The award recognizes the daily contributions employees make that impact their peers and students. The traveling trophy is awarded to an employee each week, with the current recipient choosing the next winner.

Eloisa Bustos, MCC Groundskeeper and the first recipient of the award, was recognized for her positive attitude and dedication to MCC’s students and staff in her role with the Maintenance and Operations Team.

Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.

MCC partnered with Denver-based Mile-High United Way and Tax Help Colorado to offer individuals and families free tax preparation. The program, offered February 2 through March 7, 2023, yielded over \$840,000 in 2022 tax refunds for the participants. MCC students who were enrolled in a related Tax Help Colorado course became Certified Tax Preparers (CTP) and joined other CTP volunteers to put their skills to use.



MCC held its first annual STEM Festival May 9-11, hosting over 500 local middle and high school students who participated in STEM education activities. On Saturday, May 13, MCC offered STEM activities to the community at the Fort Morgan campus. STEM Festival sessions included the STEM Career Expo, drones, chemistry, biology, geology, geometry, and electrical/mechanical topics.

MCC collaborated with a variety of partners from the community as well as with CSU Spur, who brought a mobile STEM Lab and with CSU Morgan County Extension. The Career Expo was facilitated by Generation Schools Network who coordinated STEM professionals to share their careers with students.



MCC's Center for Arts and Community Enrichment (CACE) partnered with five local childcare centers, learning centers, and preschools throughout Morgan County to offer a "Month of the Young Child" Mixed Media Art Exhibit. More than 100 pieces of art from children under the age of six were displayed April 6-April 20 at the CACE Gallery of Fine Art housed in MCC's historic 300 Main Street building.

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

The MCC Fort Morgan campus began a controlled maintenance project in early May to replace the sprinkler system that was originally installed in 1997. The new sprinkler system will use water more efficiently. To also aid in water conservation, fifteen percent of the campus grass areas will be removed, and xeriscape and hard surface areas installed. This will result in cost savings to the college and create more areas for staff and student activities.

The City of Fort Morgan, Morgan Community College, and Colorado Clean Cities partnered in a grant to provide thirty e-bikes to income-qualified individuals in Morgan County. The pre-deployment meeting for the bikes will happen on July 17. Individuals selected to receive a free e-bike will also receive gear, tools, equipment, and instruction on their new e-bike. The MCC Financial Aid department handled the application process for community members interested in receiving the free e-bikes.

MCC continues to provide students with zero-cost, short-term healthcare training through Care Forward Colorado funding. Eligible programs include nurse aide, phlebotomy technician, medical assistant, and emergency medical technician (EMT).