NEW YEAR, NEW YOU
CHANGE, CHALLENGE AND CREATE!
Check out the community education offerings at MCC-Maple Woods.

mcckc.edu/mwcommed
We offer a variety of online computer classes for all ages and learning styles.
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Business & Technology
Longview
Maple Woods
Penn Valley

816.604.3011
Great Things Happening At MCC-Maple Woods

On behalf of faculty, staff, students and administrators at MCC-Maple Woods, I wish you the very best in 2015. We are very excited about the new initiatives we will be undertaking in the first part of this new year – many of which I’ll share with you in this publication.

Community input is important to both me and the college. Maple Woods serves Northland residents and businesses, and we rely on you to keep us apprised of community needs. To that end, we were fortunate that a representative group of business leaders recently spent time with us to discuss the important skills required for success. As a result of those discussions, we are now investigating ways to infuse workplace skills in many of our courses.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of MCC in 1915. The college began as the Kansas City Polytechnic Institute, and was one of the first two-year colleges in the United States to award an associate degree. We will be celebrating this event, and the legacy of Ewing Kauffman, one of MCC’s most prominent alumni, at the Centennial Celebration April 18, 2015.

In other news, MCC-Maple Woods has long been considered a leader in using learning communities to promote student success. This year, we are looking forward to putting another feather in our cap by hosting the National Conference in Learning Communities this November.

MCC-Maple Woods is now part of a Missouri Innovation Campus. The partnership between the six local school districts, local businesses, Metropolitan Community College and Northwest Missouri State University around the Northland CAPS initiative has been awarded the Missouri Innovation Campus designation, along with a $450,000 grant, by Missouri Department of Higher Education.

Our mission is preparing students, serving communities, creating opportunities. This update will provide you with some insights about how we are moving forward with our mission.

MW.President@mcckc.edu

Utpal K. Goswami, Ph.D.
President-MCC-Maple Woods
MV.President@mcckc.edu

Local Businessman Covers A+ Shortfall

A Northland businessman is paying out of his own pocket to help fund tuition at MCC-Maple Woods. Mike Anderson, of Chuck Anderson Ford, was home sick when he heard a news story about recent state cuts to the Missouri A+ Program.

“It’s an unfortunate situation, and one that our kids didn’t have any control over,” Anderson recently told the Excelsior Springs Standard. “They did their part, and they should know that we don’t break promises.”

Founded more than 20 years ago, the Missouri A+ program pays tuition for two years of classes at community college for many high school graduates who meet certain conditions.

This year, however, the state was unable to provide the full amount of tuition, coming up short by one credit hour. Mike Anderson, of Chuck Anderson Ford, decided to step up and fund the difference for graduates of Excelsior Springs High School, citing the fact that being unable to pay for just one credit hour might be enough to keep a student from graduating on time, or even enrolling.

Anderson’s funds will cover about 30 students for the Spring 2015 semester. After that, he said, he hopes that the local education foundation will be able to continue providing Excelsior Springs graduates with the funding they were promised.

MCC-Maple Woods Data

Enrollment Fall 2014: 4,556 students

Number of Graduates in 2014: 321

Dual Credit Students Fall 2014: 611

Tuition per Credit Hour:

$95 (in-district)
$175 (out-of-district)
$229 (out-of-state)

Apply Now to Ensure Financial Aid

There are two things college students must do if they want to ensure they’ll receive financial aid for college for the next school year. First, they need to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Second, they must fill it out early.

The time for filling out the FAFSA is now, as the priority deadlines for both the state of Missouri and MCC is April 1, 2015. While the April deadline is midnight, June 30, applications received on or before this date typically receive first consideration.

Completing the FAFSA is free and relatively easy. You can fill out the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. You will need the following documents to complete your application:

• Social Security Number or Alien Registration Number (if you are not a U.S. citizen)
• Your most recent federal income tax return
• Bank statements or records of investment (if applicable)
• Record of untaxed income (if applicable)
• A Federal Student Aid PIN (you can obtain one at http://www.pin.ed.gov)

Students who can be claimed as a dependent on someone else’s taxes will need to provide the above-mentioned information for their parents or their legal guardians.

Now Enrolling for Fall 2015

Metropolitan Community College—St. Joseph Center offices are open and serving A+ program students in St. Joseph and surrounding areas. Get a jump start on your education! Come visit us at the Historic Green Acres Building by the North Town Shops (3500 N. Village Dr. St. Joseph, MO. 64506)

Please contact our student service specialist Jessica M. Claar, M.A., to learn more or to make an appointment. 816.259.5005 • jessica.claar@mcckc.edu

Also look for us on Facebook - facebook.com/mccsjo and Twitter - @stjmcckc
MCC-MAPLE WOODS

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Ashley Boyer

Ashley Boyer was a typical high school graduate from Liberty High School. She had enrolled in classes at MCC-Maple Woods and was set to begin her college career when a personal tragedy struck. Boyer suffered a brain hemorrhage two weeks after her high school graduation, and though the road to recovery was tough, she succeeded beyond even her own expectations.

Boyer worked early and often with the Disability Support Services (DSS) office. “I worked with a note taker, and I took all my tests in the center,” she said. “Mentally I was where I needed to be, but physically I just couldn’t keep up. Kim Fernandez was a big help.”

Another part of the MCC-Maple Woods campus also became Boyer’s home away from home: the fitness center. While attending classes, Boyer performed many of her physical therapy workouts at the MCC-Maple Woods Fitness Center, with the help of her mother and the support of manager Sheila Juenger.

“Mentally I was where I needed to be, but physically I just couldn’t keep up. Kim Fernandez was a big help.”

Ashley Boyer

For the next several months, these cats and dogs will become responsibilities, lab partners, companions and best friends to the 30 students enrolled in the veterinary technology program at MCC-Maple Woods. They will have their teeth cleaned, they will be micro-chipped and will all be spayed or neutered. Paws will be bandaged, baths will be frequent and x-rays will be given.

Natalie Short, a long-time lab specialist, wastes no time in getting to know them — throughout the course of the semester, she will be their personal rehoming advocate, sending emails, snapping photos, making sure every person at MCC-Maple Woods and beyond knows their personalities and faces.

“I love working with the animals — it’s so special seeing them blossom from these shy, thin, scared shelter animals to loving pets that are so healthy and happy.”

Animal adoption through the program is free, and within a few weeks, Short will begin the usual routine of trying to find homes for her furry friends before the end of the semester. The job comes with challenges — awareness of the adoption program, for starters.

“We don’t advertise our program publicly, we operate on word of mouth by students and our previous adopters,” Short said. “I think that’s a huge compliment to us that they’re happy enough to be repeat adopters and that they recommend us.”

Another challenge is the way the program itself works. Since the animals must remain in the care of the faculty and students for the entire semester, adopters can’t just go and choose an animal to bring home right away.

The challenges, though, are worth it to Short, who enjoys watching both the animals and students blossom throughout the course of the semester.

“I really enjoy watching them learn,” she said. “I love watching them have moments where the light bulb just goes on, and they are able to put critical pieces on a puzzle together and truly comprehend the concepts.”

For more information on the program contact: natalie.ahorn@mcckc.edu

Enrollment is now open at www.mcckc.edu/mwcycle. Courses begin the last weekend of March

Natalie Short, Veterinary Technology Lab Specialist

Tucked away in a back room behind the laboratory in the Veterinary Technology facility, there is a bright room lined with cages on one wall; further down the hall, there are well-kept but clean kennels. One week into the spring semester, those spaces are filled with scared, wide-eyed cats and dogs, recent arrivals from local Kansas City animal shelters.

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Jim Murray, Music Instructor

Jim Murray, music program coordinator and instructor, volunteered at the National Archives in Kansas City last summer and fall; he served as a docent for the State of the Power of Nazi Propaganda exhibit.

Murray routinely works to raise awareness of the Holocaust tragedy and, for 10 years running, has directed an annual Holocaust Remembrance Event on the MCC-Maple Woods Campus. These events have focused on the music, art and other forms of artistic expression that survived the Holocaust, and brought them to life for students and community members who might have otherwise never experienced them. For more information contact: jim.murray@mcckc.edu

David Sharp, English Instructor

Dave Sharp, an English instructor with more than 20 years of experience at MCC-Maple Woods, was awarded this year’s Missouri Community College Association Senior Service Award. The award is given to selected individuals who have served in the Missouri Community College system for more than 20 years.

Next year will be Sharp’s 25th year with MCC-Maple Woods. He teaches many different language arts courses, including Composition, Detective Fiction, The Bible as Literature, American Literature and Introduction to Mass Communications.

David Abrams, Motorcycle Safety Program Coordinator

The Motorcycle Safety Program at MCC-Maple Woods is under new management — from a familiar face and longtime member of its staff.

David Abrams, who has served as a rider coach with the program for the last five years, will be taking a new kind of wheel — overseeing the entire program through MCC-Maple Woods’ non-credit community education department.

Abrams’ familiarity with the program means that students will still experience the same consistent education and service. But as he settles into his new role, Abrams said he is looking forwards to revamping the program.

“We want to improve the student experience when they come through our program,” he said. “We’re looking at upgrading our equipment and expanding the size and scope of our training range. We’ll also be offering more types of courses, such as an advanced course for more experienced riders and an introductory course for those who are still undecided about motorcycle ownership.”

Dalton Caples

Dalton Caples, a Student Ambassador for MCC-Maple Woods, was selected this year as one of 10 student ambassadors for the Missouri Department of Higher Education’s state ambassador team.

The MDHE state ambassadors will be featured in upcoming publications to give advice and support for incoming and future college students all across Missouri.

Dalton is currently a biology major at Maple Woods. His favorite part about being an ambassador is giving tours on campus and connecting with new students.

“Dalton is everything you could want from a leader on campus,” according to ambassador program sponsor Tiffany Miller. “He is charismatic, intelligent, driven and has a genuine concern for others and is always willing to lend a hand.”

Ashley Boyer

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Another part of the MCC-Maple Woods campus also became Boyer’s home away from home: the fitness center. While attending classes, Boyer performed many of her physical therapy workouts at the MCC-Maple Woods Fitness Center, with the help of her mother and the support of manager Sheila Juenger.

“I don’t think I would be where I am, physically or cognitively,” said Boyer, “if it wasn’t for all the help and support I received there.”

Student Employment Services coordinator Mary Lynn Munger also played a part in Boyer’s recovery and transformation, setting her up with a work-study job in the Financial Aid office.

Boyer graduated from MCC in 2012 with her Associate of Arts degree. She said the resources and relationships she experienced at MCC-Maple Woods are a big part of her personal and academic success.

“I didn’t even see myself going to a community college,” she said. “But I want to emphasize that Maple Woods, or MCC altogether, has resources available. I hope everyone will acknowledge them and use them to the best of their ability, because I changed the entire course of my academic career.”

Boyer is currently attending Park University and working toward her BSW in social work with a minor in fitness and wellness management.
The National Junior College Athletics Association recently named two Maple Woods Monarchs to its first all-region team. In addition to being named to the all-region team, both of these athletes from England were top vote recipients in their respective sports.

Daniel Jackson was named to the men’s first team. He received the most votes of any player and has been nominated for All-American honors. Jackson is a sophomore and a team leader and led the offense with 11 goals on the season, three of which were game winners.

Beth Mellor was nominated to the women’s first team. Mellor was in the top three among all players and has also been nominated for All-American honors. A freshman newcomer to the Monarchs, Mellor was a scoring threat and led the team in assists.

Kelsi Broyles, a native of Independence, Missouri was recently awarded as a 2013-2014 Scholar Athlete by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA). Broyles is entering her sophomore year as a pitcher and infielder for the Maple Woods Monarchs.

The NFCA recognizes scholar-athletes as players who have a GPA of 3.5 or higher during full-time enrollment and team participation. Out of the nearly 5,000 students selected for the honor, only 183 across the US came from community colleges, with Broyles the only MCC recipient.

Steven D’Amico, a freshman pitcher from Overland Park, Kansas, was presented with the Matt Mason Award. Each year, the Monarch baseball program selects a player for the Matt Mason Award—an honor given to those who display the same spirit of service and passion for life that former Monarch baseball player and fallen Navy SEAL Matt Mason exemplified. The award, presented with a scholarship, is given once per year in the fall.

The Northland Symphony Orchestra continues to delight both young and old with a number of performances throughout the year. With professional and community musicians, MCC-Maple Woods Orchestra I-IV students perform in the symphony under the direction of music program coordinator and instructor Jim Murray.

The Symphony’s annual Holiday Pops concert in December was a big success—children from Prairie Point, Hawthorn, Bell Prairie, and Northview Elementary School choirs were featured during several sing-a-longs. The Symphony will be performing at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 12, and a summer pops concert is scheduled at 7 p.m. Sunday, May 17. Both performances will take place at Park Hill South High School. Admission is free.
On November 20, 2014, the Friendly Bean Coffee Co. hosted a reception for MCC-Maple Woods art students. More than 50 people gathered to enjoy the variety of mediums, all inspired by Friendly Bean coffee. Students in drawing, painting, photography, sculpture and ceramics classes had more than 30 pieces on display. The art remained on display for four weeks following the reception so that the general public could enjoy (and even purchase) the pieces. This is the second time the Friendly Bean has hosted a Maple Woods student art reception.

Maple Woods art students are practicing their talents beyond the confines of the art studios. Carlos Bass, art coordinator and instructor, encourages his students to both think and work “outside the box,” with the box being the proverbial classroom. This year’s students are honing their painting skills by creating murals that can be enjoyed by the public.

Students began painting an exterior concrete wall outside the Humanities Building on the Maple Woods campus during the fall semester and, as the weather warms up, they will continue to fill the wall with color and additional designs. During the spring semester, art students will also paint murals on the Maple Woods Library’s floor-to-ceiling windows with images inspired by the books being read by the Maple Woods Book Club. Book club membership is open to community members. If you are interested, please contact Linda Carter at 816.604.3081.

For more information contact: daniel.wright@mcckc.edu
This year, MCC-Maple Woods students participated again in the Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service. Designed to get students out and volunteering in the community, the MLK Day of Service provides much-needed help to local organizations, such as Hillcrest Hope Transitional Housing, Hillcrest Thrift Store, Synergy Women’s Center, St. Charles Food Pantry, and our own MCC-Maple Woods students.

More than 50 students participate each year – organizing, sorting, painting, cleaning, writing letters to students and veterans, and interacting with residents.

Scholar Bowl: A long-standing Northland tradition will be back at MCC-Maple Woods March 3, 2015 from 12:30-4 p.m. in the Campus Center. The trivia contest features local high school academic teams who compete for cerebral supremacy.

This year will mark the 31st year. At time of publication, 17 schools are registered with over 100 students, coaches and parents attending.

For more information contact: douglas.fishel@mcckc.edu

BRAIN DRAIN: COMING FALL 2015

Speaking of brain draining, the annual community-wide trivia contest is still going strong as well, with teams of community members coming together to take a guess at everything from historical events to arts and sciences to even a little bit of Name That Tune. For more information contact: william.young@mcckc.edu

The Community Education department not only provides extended learning opportunities for adults and seniors, but also for kids 13 and under.

We all know Spring Break is time to leave the classroom behind, but MCC-Maple Woods is providing a fun, unique learning opportunities. These camps, which will be held from March 16-19, 2015, offer participants the chance to spy like a secret agent, contemplate the cosmos like NASA scientists, and even learn the beginnings of computer programming with Coding Academy.

Check out our Summer Schedule with all new programs. Classes begin first of June and run through July.

For more information, please visit mcckc.edu/mwcommed.