In 2014-15, Metropolitan Community College — founded as the Kansas City Polytechnic Institute in 1915 — celebrated 100 years of educating Greater Kansas City.

OUR MISSION

Preparing Students, Serving Communities, Creating Opportunities.

We prepare students by offering a college experience that is uniquely suited to their needs. A Metropolitan Community College education provides the foundation to further one’s education or embark immediately on a career. We serve our communities by providing educational resources that extend beyond the classroom. MCC fuels local commerce by cultivating tomorrow’s workforce and providing business support services that sustain economic development. In addition, cultural activities offered on each of our five campuses enrich the lives of our students, staff and communities. We create opportunities by providing affordable access to quality higher education to those who might not otherwise have it. Regardless of their background, age or experience, we help prospective students overcome barriers in order to access a college education. In short, MCC is an education that works – for students, for employers and for the Kansas City region.

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Metropolitan Community College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.
We’re always looking to the future at Metropolitan Community College, but in 2014-15 we also had the pleasure of reflecting on the rich 100-year history of our institution and its significance to the communities of Greater Kansas City.

It might surprise some to learn that MCC is the oldest and largest public institution of higher education in Kansas City and the fourth largest in Missouri. MCC was founded in 1915 as the Kansas City Polytechnic Institute and has since built upon an extraordinary academic foundation laid by the faculty who taught that inaugural class of 234 students. In 1919 the institute got a new name, the Junior College of Kansas City, and became one of the first colleges in the nation to award the associate degree.

A century later, in April 2015, MCC hosted a Centennial Celebration attended by Kansas City civic and business leaders, alumni, employees and students. They gathered to honor the history and service of the institution, raise money for student scholarships, and pay tribute to notable alumni. These MCC alumni include CEOs, state and local political leaders, chiefs of public safety agencies, professional athletes, U.S. Olympians, educators, engineers, nurses and other successful graduates numbering in the hundreds of thousands, most of whom call Greater Kansas City home.

These days, MCC is highly sought out for academic collaborations and transfer agreements. Our quality academic programs combined with the work of the MCC Institute for Workforce Innovation — which delivers customized workforce certificate programs to the region’s business and industry — make MCC a recognized regional academic and economic engine.

In preparation for the next century of service to our community, MCC embarked on a new strategic planning process in Spring 2015 involving employees, students and representatives from the community. Five priorities — MCC Climate and Campus Culture, Targeted Student Success, Eliminating the Achievement Gap, System Functions and Processes, and Strategic Financial Plan — have been identified as the core of this new strategic plan.

We’ll always remember and honor the tremendous accomplishments of everyone who came before us at MCC. At the same time, I’m confident that we’re well on our way to achieving even greater things over the next 100 years.

Sincerely,

Mark S. James
Chancellor
Board of Trustees

Christopher Whiting (from left), Mariann Tow, Robert Martin, Richard Tolbert, David Disney and Trent Skaggs.

David Disney
President
Subdistrict 2

Mariann Tow
Vice President
Subdistrict 6

Trent Skaggs
Subdistrict 1

Richard Tolbert
Subdistrict 3

Christopher Whiting
Subdistrict 4

Robert Martin
Subdistrict 5

Trustees, who are elected by the public, serve six-year terms. The board meets monthly.
Celebrating a Century of Service

Birthdays are always special occasions, but Number 100 is a particularly big deal — and Metropolitan Community College did it up right. Throughout 2014-15, MCC toasted its century mark in various ways.

Kansas City Mayor Sly James, himself an MCC alumnus, kicked off the 100th academic year by paying a visit to the Business & Technology campus, where he talked about the College’s impact on KC’s workforce and economy.

Business & Technology employees presented the mayor (at left) with a 3-D wood plaque they designed and created. Inspired by a topography map, it featured the city logo.

Members of the 100th graduating class received medallions of a new MCC seal, which made its debut at the commencement ceremony in May. Thousands of family members and friends were on hand at Municipal Auditorium to honor the 900-plus new MCC alumni. U.S. Rep. Emanuel Cleaver II, the keynote speaker, encouraged the grads to continue to push, innovate and move forward: “Don’t give in and don’t ever give up.”
The party of the century, at least from MCC’s perspective, was the Centennial Celebration at the Kansas City Convention Center. The April 18 black-tie gala, attended by about 800 guests, broke fundraising records for the College. The event was also a tribute to one of MCC’s best-known alumni: entrepreneur and philanthropist Ewing Kauffman. (See Pages 16-17 for more on the Centennial Celebration.)

The College launched a major fundraising campaign, “100 for 100,” to underwrite 100 scholarships for students seeking associate degrees.

Kansas City and other municipalities in MCC’s area issued proclamations in honor of the College’s 100th birthday. The Missouri Senate passed a resolution congratulating MCC for “providing education excellence and service to students.” State Senator Ryan Silvey (right) presented the resolution to Chancellor Mark James.
In honor of the College’s centennial, we decided to share “100 Stories” about members of the MCC community past and present. Here’s a quick glance. Learn more about these people and others at mcckc.edu/our-history/100stories.asp.

“I still remember probably more of those entry-level classes I had at Longview than I do the rest of my entire college career.”

— MCC alumnus Charlie Shields, Truman Medical Centers CEO. The former Missouri legislator is also a member of the MCC Foundation board of directors.

“The teachers I had, I still remember to this day.”

— “41 Action News” anchor Rhiannon Ally, who took classes at MCC’s Penn Valley and Longview campuses. She and her husband, Mike Marusarz, both Kansas City natives, moved back to the area from Miami in 2015.

“They were looking at me like, ‘You don’t look like a police officer at all,’ so it is kind of a good thing to get out there and surprise them.”

— Terin Humphrey, Olympic silver medalist who later enrolled in the police academy at MCC-Blue River, following in her brother’s footsteps. Humphrey won two silver medals in gymnastics at the 2004 Summer Games in Athens. After graduating from MCC, she worked as a police officer for 4 ½ years. Shannon Humphrey is a Blue Springs police sergeant who teaches at Blue River’s Public Safety Institute.

“I’d like for it to be around another 100 years, because it has benefited me and so many other family members and friends.”

— Kansas City Police Chief Darryl Forte, who earned an associate degree at MCC-Penn Valley.
“I was nervous to leave high school, but my dad told me to look at the big picture.”

— Queen Wilkes (right), winner of MCC’s inaugural MLK Chancellor’s Scholarship, named for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Through the Early College Academy program, Wilkes started at MCC while still a Kansas City Public Schools student. She calls MCC a “gateway to opportunity.”

“Going to MCC helped me develop expectations of what an education could be.”

— Idris Raoufi (right), a transportation planner and alumnus of MCC-Penn Valley. He also co-founded the 816 Bicycle Collective, a community recycled bike shop.

“Every semester we would come home and talk about students who you could tell would go on to do great things that they would not have been able to do without that college.”

— Judith Flynn, mom of bestselling novelist Gillian Flynn, whose blockbuster “Gone Girl” was turned into a movie starring Ben Affleck. Judith and her husband, Matt, both taught at MCC.

“It was a natural fit, because I’d heard good things about the program and they accommodated a firefighter’s schedule.”

— Kansas City Fire Chief Paul Berardi, who graduated from MCC-Penn Valley in 1992 with an associate degree, fire science emphasis. Berardi and the Kansas City Fire Department recently established an MCC scholarship to attract and train paramedics.

“(MCC is) very much involved now in preparing people for careers. I think that’s extremely important, that we have an institution that is focused on the job market.”

— Kansas City Mayor Sly James, who used the G.I. Bill to study at MCC-Penn Valley before attending Rockhurst University and law school.
EARLY COLLEGE ACADEMY GROWS ITS NUMBERS

High school and college commencement ceremonies within days of each other? That’s reality for graduates of MCC’s Early College Academy.

In May the program celebrated 39 student success stories, the largest number in three years of graduates. Through Early College Academy, a partnership with Kansas City Public Schools, highly motivated students spend most of their junior and senior years of high school at MCC-Penn Valley. Then, at the end of their senior year, students earn an associate degree at the same time they graduate from high school.

Similar early-college opportunities are also offered at MCC’s other campuses.

MCC FACULTY HONORED FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

Missouri Community College Association bestowed Governor’s Awards for Excellence in Teaching to five MCC faculty members in April.

The College’s honorees: Brian Chasteen, MCC-Penn Valley counselor; Katherine Ellis, MCC-Business & Technology computer science instructor; Jessica Halperin, MCC-Maple Woods sociology instructor; Randall Moore, MCC-Longview history instructor and social science division chair; and DeAnna Skedel, MCC-Blue River art instructor.

The annual awards are presented to Missouri educators who demonstrate effective teaching and advising, are dedicated in their service to the college community, and who nurture student success in and out of the classroom.

MCC NAMED A ‘MILITARY FRIENDLY SCHOOL’

Through programs such as Veterans Upward Bound, MCC strives to help military veterans achieve success in and out of the classroom. These efforts were validated when the College was named a 2015 “Military Friendly School” by Victory Media, publisher of such media channels as G.I. Jobs and Vetrepreneur.

The Military Friendly designation is awarded to the top 15 percent of higher education institutions “that are doing the most to embrace military students.”

Victory Media says its list was compiled through data-driven surveys of more than 10,000 schools nationwide.

Andrew Forbeck (right), an MCC-Penn Valley student who served in the U.S. Navy from 2009 to ’13, praised MCC’s efforts at making veterans feel comfortable on campus.

“It is not just the faculty and employees who care about veterans, it’s also the other students,” he said. “You can really feel the support here.”
SIZABLE FEDERAL GRANT TARGETS STEM TRAINING AT MCC

Following on the heels of two other "MoWINs" grants, MCC learned in September 2014 that it would receive substantial federal dollars to train long-term unemployed and other dislocated workers in the STEM fields: science, technology, engineering and math.

MCC was awarded about $2.7 million as its share of $15 million in MoSTEMWINs funds distributed to Missouri two-year colleges. MCC was the lead fiscal institution for the initiative.

Through MoSTEMWINs, the College is offering a medical assistant program — the first group of students started in June — as well as supplemental instruction for computer science students. Thanks to the grant, MCC expects to serve 190 students; training continues through 2018.

MoWINs (that stands for Missouri Workforce Innovation Networks) grants come from the U.S. Department of Labor in partnership with the U.S. Department of Education.

OH, BABY, BABY, BABY

Multiple babies have been born at MCC-Penn Valley's Health Science Institute since early 2015. But funny thing: They all look alike.

They also all have the same mom.

Credit goes to new arrival "Victoria," a birthing simulator at HSI's Virtual Hospital. Victoria is virtual, too, capable of giving birth — to rubber "babies" — hundreds of times, all for the benefit of HSI students.

“One of the many exciting features that drew us to Victoria is that once the baby is delivered, it has very lifelike responses, such as crying, moving, cyanosis, heart sounds and lung sounds,” says MCC health-care simulation instructor Todd Geringer.

The Virtual Hospital and its simulators help students get the clinical hours they need. Real hospitals aren’t always available to students, and in the case of birthing, not all soon-to-be-moms want students observing.

A study from the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine found that up to half of a student's clinical hours can be replaced in a high-quality simulation lab with no dropoff in learning.

MCC's 10,000-square-foot Virtual Hospital was one of the first academic simulation centers to receive national accreditation from the Society for Simulation in Healthcare.
SERVING COMMUNITIES

EVENTS, PROGRAMS 
PUT THE ‘COMMUNITY’ IN MCC

Learning and earning: Employees of the Unilever plant in Independence faced the prospect of layoffs as the plant switched from “wet” production (salad dressings and such) to “dry” (gravy mixes). But thanks to state funding, 120 workers spent the summer of 2015 being retrained at the MCC-Business & Technology campus in such areas as OSHA safety, hydraulics and pneumatics. They received full paychecks while they were learning.

Santa’s shoeboxes: Through MCC-Blue River's Operation Christmas Child, volunteers filled shoeboxes with school supplies, toys, treats and personal hygiene items, plus handwritten notes of encouragement. The effort netted 251 boxes and more than $1,700 in cash to ship the care packages to kids in need all over the world.
Lending a hand in Dr. King’s name: As part of MCC’s centennial, the College set a goal of providing 100 volunteer hours during the 2015 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service in January. Students and employees from all five campuses pitched in and far exceeded that goal, working with organizations such as Hillcrest Transitional Housing, St. Charles Food Pantry, ASPCA in Independence, Habitat for Humanity, Hope House, KC Pet Project, Harvesters and the American Red Cross.

Fifteen years of good stories: MCC-Maple Woods’ annual Kansas City Storytelling Celebration turned 15 in the fall of 2014. Storytelling events, held on campus as well as at other venues around the city, featured culturally diverse tellers, both local and national, with the ultimate goal of encouraging positive dialogue about their listeners’ similarities, not differences.

A chapter in baseball history: At a February program at MCC-Longview, Bob Kendrick, president of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, discussed the history of the Negro Leagues and how the museum came to be located in Kansas City. Founded in 1990, it has become a center of the study of race and sports in American history. The program, to which the public was invited, even drew Royals great Frank White (shown at left with Kendrick) — he’s not only a friend of Kendrick’s but also an MCC-Longview alumnus.
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ADD COSMOPOLITAN FLAIR

It’s true that most MCC students live within a 50-mile radius of Kansas City. But some students come from much, much farther away.

Any given semester, about 200 international students from more than 50 countries are enrolled at MCC. The College started tracking international student attendance in 1996, and over that 19-year span, nearly 4,000 students from 129 countries studied here.

International students say they choose MCC for the smaller class sizes and affordable cost. Many are referred by family or friends who previously attended. And as you can imagine, these students arrive speaking a variety of languages and representing many cultures and customs.

Most have some English language skills, and those who need extra help usually bring someone with them to assist in translating. Students who need additional English assistance attend MCC-Penn Valley’s Applied Language Institute to take courses in reading, writing, vocabulary, speaking and sometimes tutoring. For international students seeking extra one-on-one attention, MCC has an international student counselor who specializes in issues like homesickness and adjusting to American life.

“I think these students are so very brave. They get on a plane, leave all they know thousands of miles away to go to an unknown land with hopes and dreams of an American education,” says Bobbie Gustin, MCC’s international student coordinator.

During Gustin’s 14-year tenure, she has learned how to navigate potentially difficult situations for students and guide them toward a successful academic experience. For example, she’ll offer assistance on using the health care and banking systems or even grocery stores.

“All I can do,” Gustin says, “is give them the best possible advice and help them create a successful experience at MCC.”

CHANCELLOR HELPS DRAFT HIGHER-ED ‘BLUEPRINT’

MCC Chancellor Mark James, along with other education leaders and representatives of commerce, industry and government, was named to a statewide steering committee on higher education.

The Coordinating Board for Higher Education’s initiative, “Preparing Missourians for Success: A Blueprint for Higher Education,” included public hearings around the state. The group met at MCC’s Health Science Institute in April.

The steering committee was charged with developing broad themes and recommendations for responding to the state’s current and future needs for higher education.

The plan will focus on four areas: improving college readiness and accessibility to higher education; affordability; education quality; and helping students complete their certificate and degree programs.

A final report was expected in December 2015.
Hearing someone sing your praises is always nice, especially when it’s someone like the governor.

Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon, at an event at Cerner headquarters in January, announced that the Northland CAPS program had been designated an Innovative Education Partnership by the Missouri Department of Higher Education. The honor also came with grant money for the program.

Northland CAPS — that’s Center for Advanced Professional Studies — puts high school students in workplaces such as Cerner, BankLiberty, Ford Motor Co., Holland 1916 and North Kansas City and Liberty hospitals.

The program targets students interested in high-demand/high-skill careers such as engineering, information management, advanced manufacturing and nursing.

Northland CAPS is a partnership of MCC, six Northland school districts, Northwest Missouri State University and area businesses. Students receive college credit through MCC and Northwest.

Nixon said Northland CAPS “is already putting hundreds of students on a fast track to success in future careers, and this official designation will ensure that hundreds more will have this opportunity in the years ahead.”

The Missouri Innovation Campus in Lee’s Summit was named a finalist for a prestigious national award that recognizes community college innovation.

How competitive was the field? More than 1,000 programs were nominated for Bellwether Awards in three categories, presented by the University of Florida’s Community College Futures Assembly. The winners were announced in January at a CCFA conference in Orlando, Florida. The innovation campus was a Top 10 finalist in the workforce development category.

At the end of 2014-15, 58 Lee’s Summit students were enrolled. MIC’s three tracks: systems engineering technology, drafting and design technology, and software design. Each student interns with a business partner such as Black & Veatch, Burns & McDonnell, Cerner, DST, KCP&L and St. Luke’s Health System.

Seven students from MIC’s first 2012-16 cohort went through MCC commencement in 2015 (nine graduated the previous year). From that 2012-16 group, 12 students are expected to earn bachelor’s degrees in systems engineering technology in May 2016 from UCM.
ENROLLMENT

High School Penetration
(Percentage of in-district high school graduates attending MCC)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>23.8%</td>
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Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>18,222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>19,234</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>20,151</td>
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Credit Hours

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<th>Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>177,611</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>183,240</td>
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STUDENT ENROLLMENT STATUS

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Full-Time</th>
<th>Part-Time</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>43%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>42%</td>
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</table>

Numbers are from fall semester. Source: MCC Office of Institutional Research and Assessment
STUDENT RACE/ETHNICITY

2014
- White: 64%
- Black: 16%
- Hispanic: 9%
- Asian: 3%
- American Indian: 0.4%
- Pacific Islander: 0.3%
- Multiracial: 6.2%
- Unspecified: 0.5%

2013
- White: 65%
- Black: 16%
- Hispanic: 8%
- Asian: 3%
- Multiracial: 6%
- Unspecified: 1%

2012
- White: 65%
- Black: 16%
- Hispanic: 9%
- Asian: 3%
- Multiracial: 6%
- Unspecified: 1%

COLLEGE FINANCIAL RESULTS

Revenues

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<tr>
<td>Local Taxes</td>
<td>$32,527,980</td>
<td>$31,605,159</td>
<td>$31,831,624</td>
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<td>State Aid</td>
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<td>Auxiliary</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td>$6,702,517</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$136,711,530</strong></td>
<td><strong>$142,219,424</strong></td>
<td><strong>$143,339,512</strong></td>
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Expenditures

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<tr>
<td>Instruction</td>
<td>$42,397,980</td>
<td>$44,548,476</td>
<td>$51,072,981</td>
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<td>Institutional Support</td>
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<td>$22,886,397</td>
<td>$25,403,729</td>
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<td>Community Services</td>
<td>$2,364,475</td>
<td>$3,353,484</td>
<td>$2,197,877</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Services</td>
<td>$14,040,303</td>
<td>$13,411,453</td>
<td>$13,613,662</td>
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<td>Plant</td>
<td>$11,090,673</td>
<td>$10,387,029</td>
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<td>Academic Support</td>
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<td>$14,107,610</td>
<td>$15,283,744</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Aid</td>
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<td>$5,981,304</td>
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<td>Depreciation</td>
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<td>Interest</td>
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<td>Auxiliary</td>
<td>$7,049,352</td>
<td>$7,765,719</td>
<td>$8,197,694</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditures</strong></td>
<td><strong>$123,797,854</strong></td>
<td><strong>$132,622,894</strong></td>
<td><strong>$145,222,642</strong></td>
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A gala 100 years in the making, the Metropolitan Community College Centennial Celebration, drew about 800 guests to the Grand Ballroom of the Kansas City Convention Center on April 18, 2015. Through event sponsorships and individual donations, the Centennial Celebration also set a fundraising record for the MCC Foundation: more than $420,000 raised in support of the “100 for 100” initiative. The campaign sought to make a college education possible for 100 more students in our community by underwriting 100 MCC associate degrees.

MCC Foundation executive committee members Jason Dalen and CiCi Rojas led a planning committee of more than 40 community members and college employees that developed and executed all aspects of the evening, from fundraising to programming. Lou and Sharon Smith were honorary chairpersons.

During his remarks, Chancellor Mark James recognized the work of the committee and the ongoing leadership of the Board of Trustees. He also announced the launch of the “MCC Works” fundraising campaign and thanked donors for lead gifts.
The Centennial Celebration was designed to tell MCC’s story and recognize its impact on the Greater Kansas City community. That storytelling was led by emcees Bonyen Lee and Charlie Shields, both MCC alumni.

The evening also highlighted the legacy of one of the College’s most accomplished alumni, Ewing Kauffman. “Mr. K” earned an associate degree from MCC (then known as the Junior College of Kansas City) in 1936, his only college experience. Kauffman went on to transform the community like few before or since. The newly named MCC Skyward Award was presented to Kauffman’s daughter, Julia Irene Kauffman, in honor of his significant accomplishments in and contributions to education, entrepreneurship and the arts.
ABOUT THE MCC FOUNDATION

The MCC Foundation, established in 1976, raises money to support student scholarships and special campus initiatives across the five-campus Metropolitan Community College system. In 2014-15, the Foundation awarded 444 scholarships to 244 students for a total award amount of about $280,000.

Executive committee
Carolyn Watley, Chair | President, CBIZ Benefits and Insurance Service
Jason Dalen, Vice Chair | Financial Advisor, UBS Financial Services Inc.
CiCi Rojas, Secretary | CEO and President, Central Exchange
Jim Martin, Treasurer | Retired
Kathy Achelpohl, Officer at-Large | Architect, PGAV Architects
Josh Maxfield, Officer at-Large | Assistant General Counsel, Garmin International Inc.

Directors
Bret Bonge | Director, Employee Relations and Staffing, KCP&L
Carl Chinnery | Founding Partner, Chinnery Evans & Nail
Elizabeth DeZeeuw | Chief Operating Officer | ECCO Select
Rafael Garcia | Principal, Garcia Architecture LLC
Mark Larrabee | President and CEO, Greater Kansas City, Arvest Bank
David Levy | Director, Strategic Solutions, Kinetic Supply
Matt McFadden | Principal and Senior Vice President, Newmark Grubb Zimmer
Mike Pospisil | Partner, Edgar Law Firm LLC
Michael Roane | Senior Vice President and Chief HR Officer, JE Dunn
Tony Rohr | National Managing Principal, Gould Evans Associates
Kevin Seabaugh | Director, Physician Experience, Cerner Corp.
Darin Shank | Assistant Vice President, ASA Group, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Inc.
Charlie Shields | President and CEO, Truman Medical Centers
Jami Shipman | Partner, Lathrop & Gage
Don Sipes | Vice President, Regional Services, Saint Luke’s Health System
Michele Watley | Director, Kansas City branch office, Missouri Secretary of State
Maurice Watson | Chairman, Husch Blackwell LLP
Vicki Westerhaus | Partner, Stinson Leonard Street

Ex-officio members
Kent Huyser | Associate Vice Chancellor for Advancement, Metropolitan Community College
Mark S. James | Chancellor, Metropolitan Community College
Mariann Tow | Board of Trustees representative, Metropolitan Community College

Advisory members
Dr. Don R. Blim | Retired
Herb Kramer | Retired

Directors emeritus
Thomas Brusnahan | Vice President, Commercial Lending, Bank Midwest
Carl J. DiCapo | Retired
John A. Dillingham | Dillingham Enterprises
William H. Dunn Jr. | Director of Market Services, Campione Interior Services
Mary Hunkeler | Retired
Anita L. Maltbia | Director, Green Impact Zone
Gene Sands | Retired
BLOCH SCHOLARSHIP HELPS FULFILL DREAMS

Karla Vega, a Kansas City Public Schools student, was thrilled when she earned her high school diploma. “As a Latina, the expectation for me to graduate was less than 50 percent,” she says.

But graduate she did, and by enrolling at MCC she became the first member of her family to attend college.

She also became a recipient of the Henry W. Bloch Scholarship, which finances not only an MCC associate degree but also a UMKC bachelor’s degree. Each year the H&R Block Foundation, partnering with the MCC Foundation and MCC-Penn Valley, awards scholarships to a number of Penn Valley students. In 2014-15, 32 Bloch Scholars participated in the program at Penn Valley.

Vega has now moved on to UMKC and hopes to one day earn a master’s degree in psychology.

“The idea of helping people better themselves was really meaningful to me,” she says. “The person I want to be is caring, inspiring, motivated, independent, strong.”

MCC helped her become those things, Vega says. The opportunity to attend college has been life-changing, she adds, one that would have been impossible without scholarships.

“I will forever be grateful for that,” Vega says. “I never knew I had so much potential until I came here.”

The Bloch Scholarships, by the way, do not require a high GPA, high ACT score or high class rank. They’re designed for average students, like Henry W. Bloch himself was, who have the drive and determination to succeed.

Since the program began in 2000, it has awarded more than $550,000 to more than 220 MCC students.

FAMILY CAMPAIGN DEMONSTRATES EMPLOYEE PRIDE

MCC’s first Family Campaign in 15 years — encouraging employees to donate any amount to the MCC Foundation to support student success — resulted in a 38 percent participation rate.

“To go 15 years between employee-giving campaigns and realize a response like this, it speaks to the passion and dedication of MCC faculty, staff and administrators,” says Kent Huyser, associate vice chancellor for advancement.

“As we ask the community to philanthropically invest in MCC, this commitment shows that we are leading by example.” During the Spring 2014 initiative, part of the larger MCC Works campaign, 326 employees signed up to give.

The total financial commitment: more than $50,000.

Lee Ann Zech (MCC-Maple Woods) and Christopher Gray (now at MCC-Penn Valley and Administrative Center) co-chaired the Family Campaign committee.

Another employee giving program is expected to be launched in Spring 2016.
Elements of the MCC Works Campaign

► **Priority 1, Transforming the Workforce ($6 million):** creating a customized training fund to meet the needs of business and industry; creating a career and technical education fund to enhance equipment and expand capacity of existing MCC programs; and establishing a Workforce Transformation Center.

► **Priority 2, Student Success ($8 million):** establishing Student Success Centers on each campus; creating endowed scholarships; and creating a Francis Institute for Child and Youth Development Endowment as a permanent source of support for the institute.

► **Priority 3, Teaching and Learning Excellence ($6 million):** creating a Science and Technology Fund to enhance the College’s resources and projects in these areas; creating a Campus Improvement Fund to support needed renovations throughout the college district.

Student Success is the College’s paramount focus, and fostering that success is one of the major goals of the MCC Works fundraising campaign.

MCC Works, initiated in Spring 2013, is striving to raise $20 million to transform the way the College serves our students and our communities. One-fourth of that amount, $5 million, would be earmarked for a Student Success Center on each campus.

The success centers are envisioned as state-of-the-art spaces created through renovation of 31,000 square feet of existing space across all five campuses.

Rather than having student services in different locations, the Student Success Centers would bring together career planning, math resources, writing lab, counseling and tutoring services, and the peer mentor program. The centers would also contain computers, a resource library, conference rooms and collaborative learning spaces.

The goal of the success centers: to promote greater academic achievement, improved student retention and, most important, increased graduation rates.
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1915: The Kansas City school board creates the Kansas City Polytechnic Institute to provide convenient postsecondary education for students. The Institute, in the former Central High School building at 11th and Locust streets, includes a junior college, mechanical arts school, business school and teacher training. Nurses training would be added two years later.

1919: The Kansas City Polytechnic Institute evolves into the Junior College of Kansas City. Post-World War I enrollment swells to 1,341. Meanwhile, the other programs at 11th and Locust spin off to other locations.

1941: The Junior College of Kansas City moves to 3845 McGee St., the former Westport Junior High. This facility offers four floors of classrooms and a chemistry lab as well as a cafeteria, men’s and women’s gyms, and a swimming pool.

1945: The passage of the G.I. Bill and the return of veterans from World War II overloads the McGee facility. As a result, classes are scheduled from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. five days a week.

1954: The segregated Lincoln Junior College is consolidated with the Junior College of Kansas City. Another college started by the KC school board, Northeast Junior College, had joined in 1937.

1964: The Metropolitan Community College District is created when seven suburban school districts join forces with the Kansas City School District. The new 400-square-mile MCC district includes parts of four counties and is governed by a board of trustees. To that point, the junior college had been run by the KC district.


Late 1960s: Metropolitan Junior College, as it’s now known, leases a building at 560 Westport Road to alleviate crowding at the main campus. Meanwhile, the College hires a consulting firm to recommend sites for new campuses. The north and south campuses (which would become Maple Woods and Longview, respectively) are well received, but the central-city site (Penn Valley) is more controversial. J.C. Nichols Co., for instance, doesn’t want a junior college so close to the Country Club Plaza.

1969: The three campuses open in interim facilities. Transfer programs and business, data processing, engineering, law enforcement and secretarial science classes are offered at all three locations. More expensive specialized programs are assigned to single campuses: health occupations at Penn Valley, automotive technology at Longview, and aviation maintenance at Maple Woods.

1972: The Pioneer campus is created at 18th Street and Prospect Avenue as an extension of Penn Valley. Later it becomes MCC’s fourth college, then reverts to Penn Valley and is eventually closed.

1984: After the Blue Springs School District votes to join MCC, the College opens a Blue Springs campus as a satellite of Longview.

1986: The Park Hill School District votes to join the MCC district.

1993: The Independence and Fort Osage school districts vote to join MCC.

1995: After MCC acquires part of the Kansas City Merchandise Mart at I-435 and Front Street, the Business & Technology Center is born. This move concentrates the College’s business consulting services and technical training at one location.

1997: A fourth permanent MCC campus is created by consolidating the Blue Springs campus and an Independence location (opened in 1995) to form the Blue River campus at its current location in Independence.

2002: The Business & Technology location expands to create a 340,000-square-foot facility that includes an exhibit hall and expo center. It becomes MCC’s fifth permanent campus.

2005: The institution, which had been known as Metropolitan Community Colleges, becomes “one MCC” — one college with five campuses. It drops the “s” to become simply Metropolitan Community College.

2010: The MCC Foundation holds its inaugural Five Star Gala at the Marriott-Muehlebach Tower. The fundraising event honors Henry W. Bloch and the Bloch Scholars program.

2014-15: Metropolitan Community College celebrates its 100th birthday with a visit from Kansas City Mayor Sly James, the unveiling of a new MCC seal at the 100th commencement exercises, and the Centennial Celebration gala.

1945: The passage of the G.I. Bill and the return of veterans from World War II overloads the McGee facility. As a result, classes are scheduled from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. five days a week.