

## Special Edition: Coronavirus Communication 44

May 8, 2020

Good Friday Evening:

The morning began with the first meeting of the MCC Reopening Task Group. I believe all members were present and heard up-to-the-moment information about the pandemic in Flint and Genesee County from Suzanne Cupal, Community Health Division Director, Genesee County Health Department and Dr. Debra Furr-Holden, MSU Associate Dean for Public Health Integration. The two of them have been on the ground since the beginning, giving weekly updates to the community. They gave great and thoughtful information for the group as we began to discuss the task of the group. The Task Group members asked wonderful questions and shared information as well, which was very helpful. The group, through the use of interactive software, shared the critical elements of the reopening plan they will need to be thinking about for student success, employee success, teaching and learning success, workforce partnerships success, and community success. I appreciate the honest insight they provided this morning, and am looking forward to working closely with them for the next few weeks.

I was pleased to participate this morning in the annual Fine Arts and Social Sciences Awards Ceremony that celebrates the top students in the division. I always enjoy hearing the faculty share the students' stories and to see the proud families and friends. This ceremony highlights the best about our student/faculty relationships as you hear about the bonds that develop over the course of the student's academic experience. The surprise of the event was honoring Sociology faculty and former Phi Theta Kappa adviser Brenda Zicha with the Humanitarian Award. Usually, this award has been reserved for community leaders who have improved the quality of life for the community. A touching tribute was presented to Brenda by her colleagues, who will miss her quiet leadership and wisdom. Brenda is retiring and will leave as her legacy a rigorous Sociology program area and her unconditional support for students and colleagues. I have attached the ceremony program and I thought you may want to watch this year's Media Arts and Entertainment Technology Award winners' film, "Thorns." Sumer Williams directed and Isabelle Hough cast the film that was nominated for a [NATAS Student Production Award](#) for best short film. It is a thriller so there is crime, murder, and suspense in the plot.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zP5\\_a2kqsss&t=208s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zP5_a2kqsss&t=208s)

Also, Isabelle Hough worked on this NATAS nominated PSA spot for the Flint Institute of Music.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZVjiXCU6HeU>

Immediately after the ceremony, I jumped on our S&P Global Ratings call for the MCC Facility Bonds. CFAO Larry Gawthrop and Executive Director Nichole Woods had everything handled as

they were answering the multitude of questions while being interviewed by the financial analyst. The questions asked them to discuss our debt, MCC's economic base pertaining to development, assessment value, enrollment, finances, management practices and policies. The analyst ended the meeting stating that it had been a fantastic conversation. That's always good to hear.

I concluded the day participating in two informative national conversations for presidents about leading through the pandemic.

Have a wonderful weekend and a restful week! Enjoy your time!

Looking Forward!

Dr. Beverly

Beverly Walker-Griffiea, Ph.D.  
President  
Mott Community College



**Fine Arts & Social Sciences Awards Ceremony**

**Congratulations Graduates 2020**

Dean Mary Cusack - Welcome

President Dr. Beverly Walker-Griffea

Jason Wilson, Academic Affairs

**Criminal Justice Award** - Haley Slade

Dominique Miller

**Ginger Edwards Social Work Award** - Dr. Dalton Connally

Shamonica Simon

**Geography Award** - Frank Sobie

Jacob Winter

**Meredith Meade Early Childhood Education Award** - Becky Garske

Rosemarie Rideout

**Joseph Perisa History Award** - Aaron Gulyas

Rebekah Harmon

**Psychology Award** - Dr. Rachael Laimon

Wyatt Nyswaner

**Psychology Award** - Phillip Nulph

Jack Kelly

**Music Technology Award** - Dr. Bill Withem

Rolla "R.J." Etter

**Outstanding Music Freshman Student** - Dr. Eddie Howell

Eric "Will" Blake, Jr.

**Outstanding Music Sophomore Student** - Dr. Townes Miller

Caleb Robinson

**Humanitarian Award** - Mary Cusack, et. al

**Media Art Entertainment Technology Award** - Dr. David Rembiesa

Isabella Hough

Sumer Williams

