

A PUBLICATION OF MOTT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

# ENGAGE

CONNECTING LEARNING WITH COMMUNITY



Fall 2017

# MCC MAKES STRIDES AGAINST BREAST CANCER

Each year MCC faculty, students, staff and their families are committed to help in the fight against breast cancer by taking part in the American Cancer Society Making Strides. The Making Strides events celebrate survivors and raise awareness and money to help the lives of thousands of women and men who are diagnosed with breast cancer every year. Our MCC participants helped in this effort by participating in the fundraising efforts for the 2017 Flint Making Strides Walk which was held on October 14. MCC is one of the top team contributors for this event pledging \$10,000. Activities took place across campus for raising and collecting contributions. The campus provided Zumba classes in which participants gave donations. Student organizations decorated the walls of the Curtice-Mott Bistro area with a "Pink Bear Paw" for each \$1.00 donation.

All six academic divisions participated in the Battle of the Divisions with the help of a division "coach" to see which division could raise the most contributions. All together the divisions raised over \$3000 with the Health Sciences Division in the lead. Health Sciences coach, Janet Westhoff sees this as an important mission for Mott. "I definitely think that Mott should continue to be a visible presence at the annual Making Strides event! So many students, faculty, staff, retirees, alumni (and others) have been affected by breast cancer, and continue to be every year! What is really important about this event is that most of the funds remain at the local level, assisting people in our community," stated Westhoff. This year there were 79 Mott participants who committed to walk in the event including our MCC President Dr. Beverly Walker-Griffea. The Health Sciences and Business divisions also had a large turnout of participants.



# HANDS THAT CARE

Our MCC nail technician and cosmetology students from the Transitions School of Cosmetology have hands and hearts that care. In October, the nail technician students provided nail polishing to recognize and contribute to two important causes, Making Strides Against Breast Cancer and Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In preparation for the 2017 MCC Making Strides Walk on October 14, nail technician students provided pink nail polishes for donations toward the fight against breast cancer. Cosmetology students also provided pink hair extensions on clients for a donation to Making Strides.

Nail Technicians also partnered with the MCC Department of Public Safety to recognize National Domestic Violence Awareness month. This campaign reminds the public that anyone can be affected by domestic violence regardless of race, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender or economic status. On October 19, Nail technician students demonstrat-

ed that we all have a responsibility to help create a safer environment for all by providing purple nail polishing for donations to be given to the YWCA of Greater Flint. This organization provides services to eliminate racism and empower women. Through advocacy and local programming. Karyn Jensen-Brock, Nail Technician Program Coordinator, plans to make service a regular part of the program by connecting with community partners to serve the needs of the community. The students themselves were excited to contribute to such great causes.

One student commented, "It is great to use our skills for such a great cause."

**"It is great to use our skills for such a great cause."**



# A HEALTHIER FLINT

Each year Professor Donna Ireland-Johnson and her nutrition students have teamed up with the Flint Farmer's Market for the annual Healthy Halloween Event. This year, the event took place on Saturday, October 28, from 10:00 am until 12:00 pm. Working together, this event supports health and well-being for a Healthier Flint. Other community partners contributing to this event include Sprout, a coalition that encourages healthy eating, and the Genesee County Health department. MCC students provided visiting patrons with information about nutrition labels to identify which ingredients can contribute to obesity and diabetes. They also surveyed patrons about their knowledge of the nutrients that help combat the effects of lead. They used these surveys to assess the

collective knowledge of the community on this serious health issue. The students passed out boxes of raisins to trick-or-treaters young and old as a naturally healthy sweet alternative to Halloween candy.

Professor Ireland-Johnson believes that educators can make a difference in society through projects like this. "Serving in the community makes me accountable to a wider audience. I am compelled to make sure students

are confident and well prepared to give their best service to the public. I also feel an obligation to the public to provide a service that can empower people to make healthier decisions regarding their lifestyle," stated Ireland-Johnson. And the students couldn't agree more. One student states that service learning "shows you exactly what it means by applied science. These are not things you just memorize; you have to apply them to everyday life."

**"Service Learning shows you exactly what it means by applied science."**



# A BOUNTIFUL HARVEST

Cover photo and Article photos by Heather Sisto

Volunteering to help support urban farming in Flint has provided more than just a writing assignment for English students in Heather Sisto's English 101 course. Through the "Flint Phoenix" Project, students also learn a growth mindset. Harvesting Earth Educational Farm (HEEF), located in Flint, is one of several agencies that Professor Sisto has partnered with to combine community service with research and reflective writing that demonstrates that abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work.

HEEF is part of a non-profit agency called Youth Karate-Ka Association in which students receive scholarships for karate lessons and perform community service to learn about growing organic produce and eating healthy. Through her service learning project, Professor Sisto's English students see their part toward finding solutions to community problems. "This organization (HEEF) is a perfect example of that. Balancing life issues and college can be a struggle for our students, but broadening their knowledge to community

challenges helps them consider how we face those challenges and grow from them," stated Professor Sisto. Nearly 90 English students volunteered to clear the garden beds of 2 hoop houses for spring planting. By reflecting on their contributions and researching the problems and solutions addressed by the agency, students developed a greater understanding of how the agency contributes to community solutions while advancing their own skills in writing and critical thinking. Putting it all together, one student stated, "I now understand the impact I can make on my community; by getting together with others we can change things for the better." This mindset toward community problems will produce a bountiful harvest.

**"Getting together with others, we can change things."**



# DEPARTMENT SHOWCASE

## Dental Hygiene

Since fall of 2014, the faculty in the Dental Hygiene program, spearheaded by faculty member Jennifer Walker, has made service learning an integral part of the Dental Hygiene program. This commitment to service upholds the Dental Hygiene Oath to “promote high standards of quality care.” Each semester, faculty members arrange “Service Saturdays” in which students serve in their community at various non-profit agencies. Students have provided food for the needy by cooking meals at the North End Soup Kitchen, sorting food at the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan and helping with spring planting to provide organic fruits and vegetables for Harvest Earth Educational Farm. Students have also sorted clothes at Whaley Childrens Center serving traumatized children and at Foster Closet serving foster children. Racqule Hernandez, a student in the program sees the benefits. “This year was my first experience at the Foster Closet. It was quite a beautiful and humbling experience being able to help them and it was for such a great cause.”

In addition to the Service Saturdays, Jennifer Walker has organized a partnership with Valley



**“It is our duty to give back to our community and our residents.”**

Area Agency for Aging to serve the dental needs of the elderly in the Flint area. Students present workshops at senior centers to provide information about oral health. Qualifying seniors are also provided with free dental cleanings at the MCC Dental Clinic. Patient Kathryn Isham stated the benefits of this program. “I was glad to have the services available. I like the fact that I am helping out students to become hygienists.” Tara Spencer, Dental Hygiene Program Coordinator, embraces service learning. “I think it’s very important that Mott Community College works with other partnerships in the community. It is our duty to give back to our community and our residents.”

Through the initiatives of faculty member, Cheryl Doyle, students have also exercised their citizenship by taking part at the Dental Hygiene Association House of Delegates meeting. They learned about the process of governing the hygiene association and spoke in support of resolutions at the state level.



# FACULTY SHOWCASE

## Phillip Nulph



Psychology instructor Phillip Nulph embraces the benefits of his students having the opportunity to participate in real world experiences in the mental health field as part of the first-year college experience. How does he provide these experiences prior to students gaining a credential in the field? Through service learning. By combining service to the community with applied knowledge gained in class, Professor Nulph’s students grow their critical thinking skills as well as develop their citizenship skills in the field. Nulph appreciates Mott’s commitment to service learning. “Mott prides itself on experiential learning because practice by doing is a great way to learn,” states Nulph.

**“Practice by doing is a great way to learn!”**

For his first year students, Professor Nulph developed a partnership with the Autism Resource Support Center (ARSC). He first learned about the ARSC through one of his students who was volunteering at the agency. “In talking with the community partner there was a stigma in mental health about spectrum disorders, so I thought this would

be a great experience for our students to understand this syndrome and gain those citizenship qualities while volunteering at ARSC.” Through weekly socials for children, teens, and adults at the center, Mott students are able to interact with individuals on the spectrum. “It helps reduce the stigma of spectrum disorders,” states Nulph. Students are eager to give presentations about what they experience. This first-hand learning sheds light on theories they are learning in class.” Nulph incorporates this opportunity as an alternative project. He mentions it initially adds to the work load when developing the project

but his students like the fact that they have choices. Nulph states, “Giving students choices empowers them and helps them to grow academically and cognitively.”



# STUDENT SHOWCASE

## Shawndra Felder

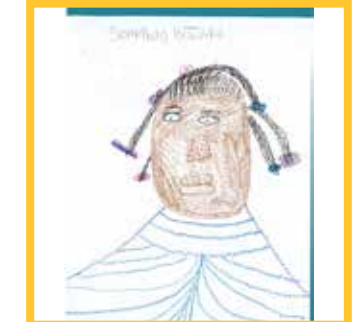
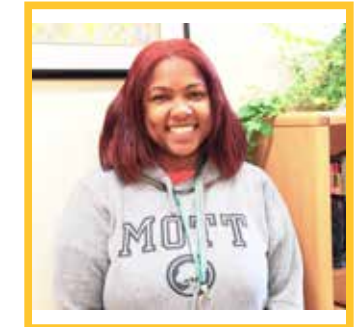
Shawndra Felder has always had a heart for people, so when her math instructor, Sunni Samuels-Larry offered an opportunity for students to use their math knowledge for service, Shawndra did not hesitate to participate. Professor Samuels-Larry is one of several instructors who provide the opportunity for Mott students to become volunteer reading, writing or math tutors for Motherly Intercession, a local, award-winning agency providing tutoring services to children of incarcerated parents.

children are often misguided and she hopes she is making a difference. “The older has a responsibility to teach the younger,” she states, “to show these kids the way in which to go.”

Shawndra likes giving back to her community even though it comes at a cost: “It really stretched my schedule,” she states. Shawndra plans to graduate at the end of December with an Associate Degree in Business Administration. She is taking 12 credits at Mott while working full time at McClaren Hospital as a Nutritional Services Worker. Still, Shawndra felt that learning through service at Motherly Intercession was well worth her time. She states, “I got a whole

**“The older has a responsibility to teach the younger.”**

new reignited passion and focus so that I could be in a position to help.” As commented by one of the children in her artwork, Shawndra has made something beautiful through service learning.



# COMPASSION FOR PUERTO RICO

Spanish Students in Professor Jessica Hunter's 2nd year Spanish course have taken cross-cultural understanding to a whole new level. They have started a campaign to collect bottles and donations to help with the relief efforts in Puerto Rico which was left devastated by Hurrricanes Irma and Maria this past fall. What inspired these efforts? Professor Hunter explains, "These students took part in an awareness event in class to learn more about the situation and crisis in Puerto Rico. And, they were inspired to make a change and to help."

The Spanish students put together a video that explains the need. In the video, one student explains the devastation of Hurricane Irma as "a category 5 hurricane which left 1 million people on the island without power." Another student explains that Hurricane Maria "was a category 4 hurricane, and 60,000 were still without power from Irma when Maria hit. As

of today, 85% are still without power and 35% are without clean water to drink or bathe in."

The Spanish students are working with UNICEF to purchase relief kits to send to Puerto Rico. The kits supply purification tablets, water containers, and water buckets with a lid, soap, detergent, sanitary pads, and toothpaste. Through this service project they have gained a profound understanding of cross-cultural awareness. They end the video with, "Join us in helping our Puerto Rican brothers and sisters. To contribute to this effort, bottle returnables can be delivered to the Foreign Languages Center, Room

2106 in the Curtice-Mott building. For more information, contact Jessica Hunter at [jessica.hunter@mcc.edu](mailto:jessica.hunter@mcc.edu) or call 810-396-8186.

**"Join us in helping our Puerto Rican brothers and sisters"**



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