Creating the Future

ANNUAL REPORT to the COMMUNITY

July 2006 - June 2007
Dear Friends of MCCC,

I am so pleased to have joined the vibrant community of learners at Mercer County Community College this year. Our top-notch faculty and staff are truly dedicated to addressing the needs of all learners – traditional and nontraditional credit students, professionals who want to enhance their career skills, children and teens whom we help groom for success, and adults of all ages seeking career training or English language skills.

The future is bright and challenging. To achieve our many goals, during the past several months we have focused on a comprehensive strategic planning process, involving not only our staff and faculty but our students, trustees, advisory commissions, the business community and the general public. The innovative ideas we have gathered will become part of our daily goals and objectives. We have also begun a master planning process that will shape our strategy and enable us to meet our facility needs well into the future.

To our trustees, foundation board members, committee volunteers, faculty, staff, supporters and all who have made a commitment to the students of Mercer County Community College this year, I extend my appreciation and thanks. To our students, I celebrate your choice to learn at Mercer.

In this publication I invite you to join us for a brief tour of the year’s highlights, as we celebrate the college’s many accomplishments and the academic successes of our students. I look forward to working with you in the year ahead as we continue “creating the future” for the students at Mercer County Community College.

Sincerely,
he extended college family celebrated a new beginning on May 4, with the inauguration of Dr. Patricia C. Donohue as the college’s fifth president and first woman president.

MCCC Board President Anthony J. Cimino presented Dr. Donohue with the presidential medallion before more than 200 guests gathered in the Conference Center auditorium, including county officials, college trustees, and MCCC faculty, staff, and students. Among the ceremony’s distinguished participants were Dr. R. Barbara Gitenstein, president of The College of New Jersey, Dr. Karen Stout, president of Montgomery County Community College, and Dr. Lawrence Nespoli, president of the New Jersey Council of County Colleges.

A lifelong teacher, educator and leader, Dr. Donohue most recently served as president of Luzerne County Community College. She served as vice chancellor for education at St. Louis Community College and acting president of St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley. At Harrisburg Community College she was vice president of external affairs and community development, interim dean at the Lebanon Campus, and dean of the School of Business, Engineering and Technology.
New Honors Program Offers Challenges to the Highly Motivated

Developed by a group of dedicated faculty members, MCCC’s new Honors Program completed its first semester with 30 students this spring. Three pilot courses -- in history, English and sociology -- drew rave reviews from students for their stimulating interactive quality and rigorous intellectual standards. Pictured are Dr. Craig Coenen, left, with students in his Honors history class.

Creating Academic Enrichment

New Agreements Ease Student Transfer

This year, Mercer signed two new agreements that enable students to transfer more easily into bachelor’s degree programs, including a new dual admissions agreement with Wilmington University in Delaware. Pictured after signing the agreement are, from left, MCCC’s Dean of Business and Technology Mark McCormick, and Wilmington University’s President Jack Varsalona and Vice President Betty Caffo.

A new agreement with Strayer University ensures a smooth transfer process and gives students the opportunity to take advantage of Strayer’s abundant online programs.

MCCC Welcomes Police Academy

In partnership with Mercer County, the college has adapted existing classroom space to establish the Mercer County Police Academy at the West Windsor Campus. Pictured announcing the opening, from left, are MCCC Vice President Dr. Thomas N. Wilfrid, Mercer County Prosecutor Joseph Bocchini Jr., Mercer County Executive Brian Hughes, Sheriff Kevin Larkin, and Lawrence Township Police Chief Dan Posluszny, who is president of the Mercer County Police Chiefs Association and an MCCC alumnus. The academy, which opened in January, will standardize training for county police departments while maximizing resources.
Distinguished Guests Enrich the Academic Experience

Eleven special guests shared their expertise with the college community this year as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series. With topics ranging from global warming and endangered species to photography, art history, and poetry, the series provided students with the opportunity to hear from impassioned professionals who are making a difference in their fields. Pictured is former Maryland Corrections Commissioner Dr. William Sondervan, center, a 1973 MCCC alumnus, who shared his insights about the challenges facing the nation’s corrections system. With him is Assistant Professor Cavit Cooley, left, and Dr. Peter Horne, coordinator of Mercer’s Criminal Justice program.

Theatre Students Stage Ambitious Productions

MCCC Theatre students reached artistic heights this year with three ambitious productions: “Iphigenia in Aulis,” one of the great Greek tragedies; “The Mysteries,” a series of Medieval dramas; and “Woyzeck,” a visionary German morality play. Students performed regularly in the Late Night Series at the MCCC Studio Theatre and traveled to New York City to perform original sketches in a theater space that occupies a storefront window.

Culinary Center Dishes Up Expanded Course List

The MCCC Culinary Center opened its doors to the community with an expanded menu of appetizing noncredit courses this year. From novice cooks to gourmet chefs, community members flocked to the college to learn cooking secrets about appetizers, desserts, international cuisine and more from the region’s top culinary educators. Chef Sharon Vecchiarelli, pictured, taught classes in local produce and organic baking.
Pilot Studies Science, Speaks at Commencement

Student speaker MaryJane Harris was one of 791 to graduate from MCCC this year. A pilot and U.S. Airforce Reserve member, Harris returned to college for a science degree and plans to go to medical school. She is the first Mercer student to graduate from the new Honors program, and completed scientific research projects as part of a special Honors Research program with Rider University. She is pictured receiving her diploma from MCCC President Patricia Donohue on May 24.

Nursing Program Graduates 78 High-Achievers

January and May graduates of the Nursing program totaled 78, including many career changers such as spring valedictorian Jordana LeBlanc. With the highest grade point average in her class, LeBlanc completed her studies while raising three children. She previously earned a B.A. in history. Her classmate, Thomas Bonacci, worked for 30 years as a truck mechanic before pursuing his Nursing degree. January graduate and valedictorian Beatrice Mwariri, originally from Kenya, was a teacher who earned a B.S. in Chemistry from the University of Glasgow. “It is said your mind once it is stretched will never regain its original shape. I am glad to say that my education here has given me a limitless amount of elastic.” Pictured are members of the May 2007 graduating class.

TV Students Create Winning Productions

The creative talents of Mercer’s Television students were recognized by several professional organizations this year. In an “Applied Field Production” course, TV students created a marketing video for MCCC’s Career Training Institute that won a 2007 Aegis Finalist Award. For the second year, Television students won a national Videographer Award for live coverage of the Mercer County High School Basketball Championships. Students won an International Digital Video Award for the cooking show, “Dish It Out,” a collaboration between the Television and Hotel, Restaurant and Institution Management (HRIM) programs.

Television and HRIM students also collaborated on a commissioned video project, “The Art of Food Presentation,” which won two Telly Awards. It featured HRIM instructor Frank Benowitz, far left, and HRIM Coordinator Doug Fee, pictured with TV students. Television Program Coordinator Steve Voorhees is pictured second from right.
Academic Excellence - Helping Students Create the Future

Aviation Students Score First in Region, Third in Country

MCCC’s Flight Team scored first place in the Northeast Region competition of the National Intercollegiate Flying Association, competing against both two- and four-year colleges. The top-notch team went on to compete in the national competition this May in Ohio. Pitting its skills against teams from across the nation, in events both on the ground and in the air, Mercer scored third in the country for two-year colleges. Pictured, from left, are team members Evan Conley, Jacob Copeland, Tabatha Ialacci, Colin Stewart, Mark Schambers, Ian Johansen, Louis Nazario, John Gusrang, and Sean Copiak.

James Kerney Campus Honors Credit and Noncredit Achievers

With abundant opportunities in both credit and noncredit programs, Mercer’s James Kerney Campus in downtown Trenton celebrated student achievement at a festive event on May 8. The ceremony honored 37 credit program graduates who started their studies at the James Kerney Campus or took most of their courses there. In noncredit programs the honorees included 73 Career Training Institute graduates, 59 students who completed the GED program, and 78 who completed programs at the English Language Institute. These students came from countries worldwide. Pictured are MCCC Vice President Beverly Richardson, left, and James Kerney Campus Assistant Provost Monica Weaver, third from left, congratulating students on stage.

The Wonderful World of Mercer Sports

Known for its high-achieving athletic teams and national rankings, Mercer continued the tradition this year. Basketball forward Patti Foley, pictured, solidified her place in the record books by being named a pre-season and post-season All-American, only the third Viking woman ever to achieve this goal.

The men’s soccer team, with a season record of 15-3-3, performed spectacularly in the post-season, winning their way to the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) title game. They came in a close second in an overtime loss.

The women’s softball team also made history this year, traveling to the NJCAA World Series for the first time since 1988. Their 38-8 season record was the softball team’s best ever.

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Creating a Better Community

Living and Writing in Mercer County: “Kelsey Review” Celebrates 25 Years

The Kelsey Review, a community literary and art journal, celebrated its 25th anniversary this year. With the assistance of an editorial board, two new co-editors, Dr. Ed Carmien and Holly-Katherine Mathews (both members of the English faculty), selected an eclectic mix of themes and genres in short fiction, poetry, and illustration from 18 writers and artists of widely varying ages and backgrounds. The journal is open to those who live or work in Mercer County, and is distributed at county libraries.

WWFM Names New General Manager

Peter Fretwell was named general manager of MCCC’s WWFM The Classical Network, a 24-hour music station serving New Jersey, eastern Pennsylvania, and portions of Delaware, Maryland and Colorado. An experienced radio station manager who has played the cello, double bass and piano, Fretwell is committed to bolstering the station’s presence in the community, and offering the best in classical music programming.

Acting Up at Kelsey Theatre

This year, Kelsey Theatre offered a delightful variety of family musicals, adult dramas, holiday shows, and performances for the younger set. Barely a weekend went by without the curtain going up on another impressive Kelsey event. Community troupes performed nine full-length productions. Award-winning traveling and community companies presented 18 shows in the Kelsey Kids Series. The Mercer County Symphonic Band and the Mercer Dance Ensemble added concert music and dance to the performance mix. With a continuing mission to provide quality theater at an affordable cost, Kelsey counts hundreds of loyal supporters – those who enjoy the thrill of live theater and the warm and comfortable atmosphere at Kelsey. Pictured, from left, are Kelsey Theatre Artistic Director Kitty Getlik, Administrative Specialist Amy Foris and Technical Coordinator Kate Pinner.

Adult Literacy Center Opens

Funded by a grant from New Jersey Reads, a new “Adult Literacy Drop-In Center” at the James Kerney Campus opened in January. The Saturday program offers individual and small group instruction in reading, writing, math, and computer skills, and identifies student learning styles. An online assessment system tracks student progress. Staffed by volunteer tutors from the college and community, the center seeks additional volunteer support and welcomes new students.
MCCC Students Teach, Perform, Donate, Collect, Create Video, Design, Photograph, Plant, Walk, Cook and Serve

Community service is not just a goal at Mercer, it’s a vital, everyday part of student life. Students organize projects through their clubs and organizations, through class collaboration or a professor’s suggestion, and because of their passionate commitment to helping others.

Building More Than Houses

MCCC students teamed up with alumni and staff members to volunteer at a Habitat for Humanity construction site in Trenton. Television majors shared their expertise by producing a public service announcement for the organization. TV students also taught Trenton High School students about TV and radio production at the college’s studios.

Chemistry Road Show Wows Youngsters

Mercer students and faculty members joined their counterparts from Rider University to bring the wonders of science to hundreds of enthusiastic youngsters at five area elementary schools. The annual project is supported by the Trenton section of the American Chemical Society in celebration of National Chemistry Week in October.

Word of Mouth Delights Audiences

Students in Mercer’s Oral Interpretation class, who participate in a troupe called MouthWorks, performed an hour-long children’s show at the Lawrence Library. “Tall Tales About Grumpy People” earned rave reviews. MouthWorks also performed a hilariously funny show for the college and community. The students are pictured during rehearsal with faculty member, Kathi Paluscio, far left.

Bake Sales Rise to the Occasion

To support their club’s activities and to raise funds for those in need, MCCC’s Hospitality Club held lunchtime bake sales for the college community throughout the year. Led by May graduate Rodney Wright, pictured far left, this active club cooked, baked and served with flair at numerous charitable events. Students supported a family whose home burned down, donated to the Campaign for AIDS Awareness, and purchased kitchen supplies for a youth program in North Africa.
Creating a Better Community

MCCC Gallery Attracts Arts Community, Dodge Foundation Grant

With its uniquely designed exhibit space, The Gallery at Mercer has enjoyed a steadily increasing statewide profile, mounting six well-received shows in 2006-07. The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation recognized The Gallery’s contribution to the arts with a grant to fund a special exhibit in the fall of 2007.

In May, the annual “Visual Arts Student Exhibition” delighted visitors. Mercer’s art students, who range in age from 17 to 90, reflected their diversity in their art. Pictured from the show are Toyoko Miyakoda’s oil painting, “The Lady with Turkish Hat,” top, and Martha Huehneerarth’s raku “Dragon Pot.”

As part of Women’s History Month in March, the “Color Theories” exhibit showcased the work of four seasoned women artists, and attracted large numbers of art lovers as well as considerable media attention. Pictured are artists Betty Curtiss, Graziella Smith, Marie Sturken and Jeanne Calo describing their creative processes to guests during a Gallery Talk. Both Smith and Calo have honed their skills by taking art classes at the college.

Bonner Foundation Benefits Students; Students Benefit Community

Beginning last fall with funding from the Bonner Foundation, nine MCCC students participated throughout the year in the Bonner Americorp Leader Program, which requires 300 hours of community service. The students worked at the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, tutored children and adults, and conducted a campus-wide “safe sex” education program. Participants receive stipends and scholarship awards, as well as training and support to help them develop leadership and professional skills.

DREAM Program Enters Second Year

Nine students who began the innovative DREAM program last September realized their dreams of going to college. All will continue for a second year in this program, designed for students with cognitive disabilities. Funded by a grant from Laura and Steve Riggio through the National Down Syndrome Society, the program is welcoming a new group of students this fall whose plans include studying drama and learning computer applications. Pictured are Ken and Sue Frano with their son, Ken, center.
Alumni Return

Physical Therapist Assistant Program Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Alumni returned to campus in April to celebrate the tenth anniversary of Mercer’s Physical Therapist Assistant program. Called “The Chocolate Affair,” the event raised scholarship dollars and garnered support from the New Jersey chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association, area chocolate shops and the educational software company, Primal Pictures. Pictured are 2004 grads Regina Brown, left, and Rebecca Apgar, who are co-workers at a local skilled nursing facility. Both are passionate about their field.

Funeral Service Program’s 30th Anniversary Draws Alumni

Owners and managers of funeral homes throughout the region who are graduates of Mercer’s Funeral Service program returned to campus to help celebrate the program’s 30th anniversary last fall. The only program of its kind in New Jersey, and one of only 57 in the country, the program is highly successful, with graduates achieving a high pass rate on the national exams each year.

In recent years the college has renovated the program’s specialized classrooms and three-station embalming lab, and recently added a “selection room,” which displays caskets and urns. Mercer attracts students interested in this specialized field from a wide geographic region. Pictured, from left, are alumni Christopher Coleman, Jim Cummings, Rodney Dickerson, Beverly Cotton, John Van Newenhizen and Patrice Juliani.

Nursing Alumni Have Much to Offer

Mercer’s Nursing graduates are not only making a healthy difference in the community, they also want to give back to their alma mater. A group of 20 enthusiastic alumni gathered at MCCC this summer to explore the founding of a Nursing alumni chapter. The alumni, some of whom are pictured with Nursing Program Director Linda Martin, standing far left, explored ideas such as serving as mentors for students, participating in a speaker’s bureau, providing continuing education workshops for colleagues, speaking at student events, and developing a support group for new graduates. They plan to develop these ideas at future gatherings.
Creating, Developing, Nurturing

Businesses Turn to The Center for Training and Development

This year, MCCC’s Center for Training and Development provided training and consulting services to more than 50 businesses in the region – in communications, English for speakers of other languages, computer skills, project management, advanced topics and highly customized programs. The center partnered with human resource departments and operations managers to determine needs, design programs and gauge results -- results that included improved productivity, more highly functioning teams, and an increased bottom line. State grants supported some of the training costs for companies that met specific qualifications.

MCCC Creates Job Connections

When area employers are ready to hire, they seek out Mercer County Community College students. This year the college hosted 30 company recruiters on campus, including UPS, FedEx, Verizon, Best Buy, Filene’s Basement and other retailers, as well as several police departments and all branches of the military. Many visited multiple times. Career fairs helped students find positions in their chosen fields, including Nursing, Criminal Justice, and Hotel, Restaurant and Institution Management. Mercer also hosted the Manufacturing and Technical Career Day for Mercer County, which attracted more than 40 employers.

Organizations with job openings posted their positions through a service called College Central Network (collegecentral.com/mccc/), which is provided exclusively to Mercer students and alumni through the Career Services office.

Lifelong Learning Through The Center for Continuing Studies

With class offerings that ranged from JAVA Programming and “Six Sigma” to foreign languages and a full international culinary series, Mercer’s Center for Continuing Studies served 4,600 students this year, and most took more than one class, resulting in 8,382 registrations. In addition to individual registrants, more than 200 area businesses sponsored their employees in career development courses. The center adds new classes and programs each year to reflect the evolving needs in the workplace. This year, new certificate programs included Inventory Management, Network Engineering, Business Analysis and Certified Bookkeeper. Also new was an exam preparation course for the Project Management Professional. Continued growth in the pharmaceutical industry increased demand this year for the Certificate in Clinical Research.

Working with the nonprofit organization, Jewish Family and Children’s Services (JFCS), the center offered two conferences at the college’s Conference Center, attracting more than 200 social workers. The conferences included: “Cultural Competency Issues Working with Latino Families” and “Childhood-Onset Bipolar Disorders.”

Pictured at the Latino Families Workshop are, from left, MCCC’s Director of Community Programs, Dr. Yvonne Chang, presenter Nydia Garcia Preto of the Multicultural Family Institute and Rutgers University, and JFCS’ Wendy Cacacie and Marta Liscovich.
**Partnerships**

**Advisory Commissions Provide Advice Plus Community Links**

> Students in Mercer’s Hospitality programs planned, cooked and served approximately 200 guests at a dinner to thank members of the college’s Advisory Commissions in March. The volunteers who give their time as members of MCCC’s 25 commissions provide invaluable advice on academic programs and services. They share their expertise with faculty and staff about careers, community resources, and technological innovations in their fields, and serve as communication links between the college and the business community. Pictured are Kevin Connell of CUH2A, Inc.; Jamil E. Faridy, past president of Faridy, Thorne, Fraytak; Garry Perryman, coordinator of MCCC’s Architecture program; Marilyn Dietrich, professor in MCCC’s Architecture program; William J. Pappalardo, A/E Building Systems Division; Thomas S. Perrino, The Spiezle Architectural Group; and Anthony F. LaPlaca, Jr., La Placa Enterprises.

**The Conference Center at Mercer Surpasses Business Needs**

> Elegant facilities, customized training services, and the latest technology combined with top-notch food and service made Mercer’s Conference Center a popular meeting place this year. Small businesses, corporations, government agencies and nonprofit groups hosted their conferences and retreats at the 38,000-square-foot center. Facilities include computer labs, a 219-seat auditorium, two outdoor patios, and meeting and breakout rooms. Services include teleconferencing and video conferencing.

**PSE&G and MCCC Generate Success**

> Students in Mercer’s Energy Utility Technology program again met with success in their studies and on the job. Launched in January, 2003, in partnership with Public Service Electric & Gas Co., the program has expanded to three other community colleges and has successfully fulfilled the need for PSE&G technical staff members. Students receive classroom training, internships and mentoring by company employees. Those who meet all requirements are guaranteed a job at PSE&G. Some of this year’s graduates are pictured with MCCC Vice President for Academic Affairs Thomas N. Wilfrid, standing fourth from left, and Dean of Business and Technology Mark McCormick, far right.
Thirty Weeks to a New Career

After 30 weeks, graduates of the Career Training Institute (CTI) at the James Kerney Campus are prepared to begin a career in office automation or the culinary arts. This year’s 73 graduates represent all ages and stages of life.

Recently, the program expanded its employability skills classes, which cover resume writing, interviewing, job search techniques, dressing for success, money management, stress management, and customer service. As part of their internship, culinary students operate the Center City Café at the James Kerney Campus, serving high-quality meals to staff and visitors, and earning accolades.

Job prospects have been excellent -- a 90% employment rate. The college has benefited from employing CTI graduates in administrative and culinary positions. Graduates can also make a seamless transition into an associate degree program at Mercer. Pictured are CTI graduates preparing for the James Kerney Campus awards ceremony in May.
Teens “SCOOP Into Mercer”
In an innovative partnership between MCCC and Trenton’s “SCOOP” program, teens got a taste of college learning in after-school workshops. Mercer’s faculty members lent their expertise to teach ceramics, floral design, radio and television production, criminal justice, computer applications, forensics, creative theater and more. Pictured are teens enjoying a class in digital studio photography, with faculty member Michael Dalton, far left.

“Youth College” Fosters College Preparedness
 Teens who participated in enrichment and college preparatory programs year-round at the James Kerney Campus are pictured during a summer field trip to the West Windsor campus, where they enjoyed an awards event, picnic, swimming and games. Youth College programs include Educational Talent Search, Project SMILE/GEAR UP, and Upward Bound.

More Than 2,200 Youngsters Enjoyed Camps and Enrichment Programs at MCCC This Summer

Life is a Carnival
Camp College again offered its unique college-style schedule of academic and recreational activities. Camp special events included performances for family and friends, pictured, and a carnival marking the end of the season, featuring inflatable arcade games, crafts, prizes, cotton candy and more.

And All That Jazz!
Tomato Patch Visual and Performing Arts Workshops were the place to be for budding artists and aspiring actors. The intensive program concluded with a “Festival of the Arts.” Pictured are campers during rehearsal.

The Boys of Summer
Sports Camps for boys and girls provided 13 different week-long sessions in varied sports from lacrosse to mountain-biking, led by high school and college coaches and players. Pictured are campers enjoying Baseball Camp.
CONTINUING STUDIES AND ADULT EDUCATION:
Center for Continuing Studies: 4,600
Center for Training and Development: 1,581
Career Training Institute: 635
English Language Institute: 716
GED Program: 124
Adult Basic Education Program: 379

CAREER SERVICES:
Students registered on the College Central Network job bank: 750
Alumni registered: 360
Job opportunities active at end of fiscal year: 90
Transfer workshops offered: 25
Work-Study students employed each semester: 85

CREDIT PROGRAMS:
Enrollment: 13,128
Average class size: 21
Average age for full-time students: 23
Average age for part-time students: 30
Degree programs offered: 63
Credit certificates offered: 48
Credit program graduates: 791
Polled alumni who said they would recommend MCCC to others: 97%

FACULTY AND STAFF:
Full-time faculty: 136
Adjunct faculty: 406
Administrators: 23
Professional staff members: 167
Secretarial/clerical staff: 64
Maintenance/security staff: 50
Part-time hourly: 491

JAMES KERNEY CAMPUS YOUTH COLLEGE:
Educational Talent Search: 924
Project SMILE/GEAR UP: 455
Upward Bound: 113

WEST WINDSOR CAMPUS SUMMER CAMPS:
Camp College: 1,288
Sports Camps: 720
Tomato Patch Visual and Performing Arts Workshops: 311
Total Budget $47.4 million

**REVENUES**

- Tuition & Fees: 45.5%
- State: 19.1%
- County: 26.5%
- Institutional Support: 29.4%
- Community Services: 10.7%
- Other*: 8.9%

*"Other" category includes Conference Center, Kelsey Theatre, WWFM, etc.

**EXPENSES**

- Instruction and Academic Support: 42.4%
- Physical Plant: 10.3%
- Student Services: 7.2%
- Community Services: 10.7%
- Institutional Support: 29.4%
- Other*: 8.9%

*"Community Services" category includes Conference Center, cultural events, The Gallery, Kelsey Theatre, WWFM, and Career Services,
Board of Trustees

Standing from left: Robert Di Falco, Marvin Gardner, Patricia C. Donohue, Anthony J. Cimino, Pamela Hersh, Read Langan and William E. Coleman; seated from left: Mary Lou Armiger, Mark Matzen and Gwendolyn L. Harris; not pictured, Trustee David Applebaum.

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