



Curt Freed, Ph.D., President

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**Transform the student experience.**

MCC students launched Hispanic Heritage Month by engaging the campus in a salsa contest. Students, faculty, and staff showcased their culinary skills by entering their favorite homemade salsas. The salsa contest not only brought the campus community together but honored the rich and dynamic Hispanic culture. Salsa submissions were judged for best presentation, spiciest salsa, and tastiest salsa.

Students participated in other cultural activities, such as making piñatas, designing Papel Picado y Flores (cut paper folk art) used to decorate an Ofrenda (altar) during the Day of the Dead celebration, creating Luminarias (holiday lights), and dancing at a Zumba night.



The MCC Foundation hosted a donor scholar reception October 5 that celebrated the generosity of scholarship donors and the achievements of the students they support. This gathering provided students an opportunity to express their gratitude and share their academic successes with those who have helped support their education.



MCC HOSA students generously contributed their time on October 7 at the East Morgan County Hospital Foundation Fall Affair, where they served attendees during the festive Christmas holiday-themed fundraiser. The healthcare students exhibited professionalism and dedication at the event.



MCC has introduced a First-Year Experience pilot program with the objective of actively involving first-year students and enhancing their retention rates through increased interaction with instructors, the college president, and financial aid personnel. This impactful initiative is made possible through funding from a Teaching Excellence grant.

**Transform our own workforce experience.**

MCC employees gathered September 26 for a Professional Development Day that focused on managing stress and self-care. CCCS Assistant Director of HR Operations, Jen Parker, facilitated the two-hour session that focused on defining stress and its impact on physical and mental health and identifying effective tools and techniques to manage and reduce stress. She assisted staff in developing a personalized self-care plan to proactively address stress and promote overall well-being. During the last few hours of the day, staff participated in Office Olympics activities which fostered a fun and team-oriented atmosphere.



MCC staff and faculty participated in a pumpkin carving contest October 20 to strengthen camaraderie between departments and to enjoy a fun, stress-free afternoon. Voting was done on official MCC social media platforms to involve local communities.

**Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.**

MCC Center for Arts and Community Enrichment (CACE) hosted an annual Boulder International Film Festival event October 12 featuring five short films. MCC English faculty, Ewan Magie, facilitated the discussion of film styles. This was a free community event.

**Redefine our value proposition through accessibility, affordability, quality, accountability, resource development, and operational excellence.**

MCC partnered with the City of Fort Morgan on a grant from the Colorado Energy Office to give away 30 e-bikes to local residents who met eligibility requirements. The majority of the e-bikes were given out during an event on the Fort Morgan campus Saturday, September 30. The e-bike program was featured on [Rocky Mountain PBS](#).

MCC was awarded its second Title V grant from the U.S. Department of Education for Hispanic Serving Institutions. This grant, titled MCC Innovating Careers, Access and Student Achievement, or “MI CASA” for short, will provide \$2,903,964 over five years. Funding started October 1, 2023, and is designated for initiatives to enhance career and transfer readiness as well as student success.