

MUSKEGON  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE

UPCOMING  
DAYS OF  
INTEREST:

- May 9  
Mother's Day
- May 12  
Summer classes
- May 15  
MAYFEST
- May 31  
College Closed  
No Classes
- June 20  
Father's Day

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## Message from the President of Muskegon Community College

Hello colleagues, students, and community. Last month, I updated you on the status of the State of Michigan budget and its potential impact on Muskegon Community College. More on the budget process will be forthcoming in the next few weeks. In this month's message, I will shift back to a number of policy issues that may be of interest to you.

**Commencement.** First, thanks to all of you involved in the recent MCC Commencement Ceremony. A full house at the Frauenthal Center saw over 160 participants walk across the stage. Our speakers Mr. Jacob Smallegan (student) Mr. Andrew Levin, Chief Workforce Officer for the State of Michigan (commencement speaker) and Dr. Glenn Swartzlander (distinguished alumnus) were excellent. The MCC Singers, the West Michigan Concert Winds, and the Muskegon Regional Pipes and Drums performed admirably.

**Retirement Legislation.** The state employee retirement incentive remains an active piece of legislation. The Michigan House of Representatives passed a version of the bill on Tuesday of this week, meaning the Senate and House versions of the bill SB 1227 H-4 substitute:[2]) is expected to go to

conference committee next week. This is substantial progress toward a final retirement bill; thus, we will provide you with a substantive analysis once the conference committee reports its version.

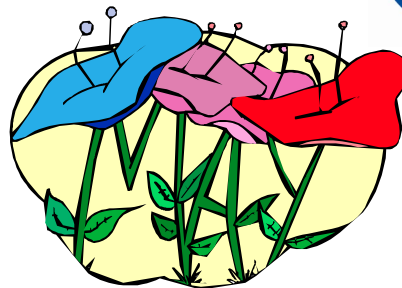
### Higher Learning Commission Reaccreditation Process

As you may know, the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (HLC) will visit the College as part of our 10 year HLC reaccreditation process. During the last two years, an HLC Committee met with the intent of gathering input from all corners of the College. Over the next three months, the Committee will complete its work by drafting a "self study" of the institution. The self study will be submitted to the HLC in midsummer and a site visit team from the HLC will visit the College in late October. The Committee, chaired by Richard Doctor (English Department) and Anne Meilof (Institutional Research and Grants) will continue to solicit input and provide information to the college community. Please contact them if you have any questions or wish to be involved.

**Planning Processes.** The Strategic Planning Process scheduled for Monday May 10 (9:00 am in 1200 Stevenson Center) is one of the last scheduled meetings of the Strategic and Master Planning committees. I want to thank committee members for participating and to welcome anyone interested in additional input to attend. The ideas coming from this process will drive the planning process for our curriculum, student life, administrative activities, and community outreach/relations for the foreseeable future. Feel free to contact committee chairs Dr. John Bartley and EVP Diana Osborn with further input.

I hope that you are enjoying the gorgeous spring days we are experiencing. Continue to strive for excellence and enjoy the month of May.

Best regards,  
Dale Nesbary, Ph.D.  
President





## Message from the CIO

We find ourselves at the end of another Winter Semester, and in the next few weeks, the College will slow down (if only a little). The Office of Information Technology takes advantage of the summer schedule to focus more efforts on projects. There are a few projects underway this summer that are worth mentioning, because of their impact to the college community.

One of these projects is an upgrade of the College's email and calendaring system. What this means to you is that you will have greater control of your messages and calendar through a wide range of choices, including multiple web browsers (not just Internet Explorer) and even mobile devices. Another summer project is improvements to student-use computers. High-use labs and classrooms will not only receive new computers, but also upgrades to the software that runs on them. This includes Windows 7, which delivers an experience more likely to be found on students' home computers today.

College applicants will find an improved online college application, which is easier to navigate and submit. Students are also now presented with specific questions about their academic goals, and what programs they wish to be enrolled in, with detailed information to guide them through these steps in the application. Improvements to the back-end application process results in more meaningful information collected, and more automatic processing of applications. This is saving the Student Services staff time and effort.

Some upcoming changes to WebAdvisor are expected to deliver benefits to both students and faculty. Course prerequisite checks are currently being tested in WebAdvisor, giving faculty a much-needed self-service option for determining students' chances for success in their classes. Also upcoming in WebAdvisor is the ability for students to verify their enrolled program and academic goals. If the student changes their goals or program, this information is captured so the appropriate college staff can be made aware of a student's changes.

Looking beyond the next few months, the Office of Information Technology will be placing a greater emphasis on several key areas. Among these areas are student engagement, business intelligence, and technology governance.

Arguably, the highest priority of these initiatives is student engagement. It is important that we take a critical look at our efforts to reach students using technology. The preferred method of communication has shifted with millennial students. Now email is used less frequently; text messaging, web 2.0 and social networking tools, and information tailored by relevance, delivered through personalized web experiences, have supplanted traditional communication.

Business intelligence is simply a catch phrase that means asking the right questions of your information in order to make decisions. Many of the student

success initiatives that the college is undertaking depend on the ability to measure, to make sure that efforts produce results.

Without Technology Governance, the college community has less visibility and input into technology matters on campus. The Office of Information Technology seeks input from this governing body to help shape priorities of projects as well as assist with the information technology strategic planning process. Future efforts with Tech Council include investigating methods for increasing effectiveness and college participation, and promoting communication of activities from a broad perspective.

Each of these initiatives relates to one another, and each serves to align the efforts of Information Technology with the college's strategic focus on student success. For more details regarding ongoing projects, tech council, or other IT related information, look on the web at [www.muskegoncc.edu/oit](http://www.muskegoncc.edu/oit).

Mike Alstrom,  
Chief Information Officer

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## Creative & Performing Arts

### West Michigan Concert Winds **MAY I HAVE THIS DANCE?**

Sunday, May 2, 4:00 pm  
Reeths-Puffer High School Rocket  
Centre for the Fine Arts  
Tickets - [WMCW.org](http://WMCW.org)

### Overbrook Art Gallery

#### 46<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MCC STUDENT ART EXHIBITION

Top work in varied media from art and graphic design classes with cash place awards and the President's Purchase Prizes for the MCC art collection.  
Exhibit Dates: May 15 – September 15

#### Reception:

June 3 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Gallery is open Monday through Friday  
from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

## Hints @nd Tips from IT

It never fails - awhile back, perhaps it was a few years, perhaps it was only a few months, you bought a new super-fast, top-of-the-line desktop or laptop computer. At first it ran fantastic - there were few software crashes, browser pages visually popped onscreen, and games ran smoothly at high frame rates.

Unfortunately as the computer got older, problems started occurring. Crashes became more frequent, web pages took longer to load, games appeared slightly jerky, and the overall computing experience lost its luster. Why did this happen? Is there a conspiracy among computer and software manufacturers to make

computers run slower so you'll give up and buy a new machine? While conspiracy theories are questionable, here are seven valid reasons why your computer may start to run slower as time passes:

1. Slower boot due to installed software.
2. Slower overall experience due to installed software.
3. Uninstall software doesn't always work well.
4. Hard drive fragmentation.
5. Updates require more power.
6. Possible hardware problems.
7. The dreaded malware.

Interested to learn more regarding the 7 valid reasons please visit:



<http://malektips.com/computers-slower-older.html>

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Submitted by:  
Mindy Stevens, User Services Manager





## Answers to five questions about accreditation it never occurred to you to ask.

*“An institutional accrediting agency evaluates an entire educational organization in terms of its mission and the agency’s standards or criteria.”*

### **1. What exactly is the Higher Learning Commission and what does it do?**

In the United States, colleges and universities voluntarily seek accreditation from nongovernmental bodies. There are two types of educational accreditation: institutional and specialized. The Higher Learning Commission conducts institutional accreditation. An institutional accrediting agency evaluates an entire educational organization in terms of its mission and the agency’s standards or criteria.

### **2. Are there other HLC’s in other states?**

There are six regional associations, each named after the region in which it operates (Middle States, New England, North Central, Northwest, Southern, Western). The regional associations are independent of one another, but they cooperate extensively and acknowledge one another’s accreditation.

### **3. How many colleges and universities are accredited by the Higher Learning Commission?**

The Commission accredits more than 1,000 colleges and universities in nineteen states. Oddly enough, states such as Arizona are part of the North Central Association. Other states are Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, New Mexico, South Dakota, Wisconsin, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

### **4. What is the difference between HLC and other accrediting agencies?**

HLC evaluates entire colleges and universities, using the same five criteria for community colleges and large research universities. Specialized accrediting bodies evaluate particular units, or programs within an institution, such as our nursing and respiratory therapy programs.

### **5. Why do some faculty members talk about “North Central” or “NCA” instead of HLC or the Higher Learning Commission?**

The real answer is old age and hotel problems. All our previous self-studies for accreditation reported to the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA). NCA accredits both colleges and K-12 schools. Each of the two groups would meet in Chicago once a year, usually on the same days. This caused massive confusion especially about which hotel to go to, and some of us are old enough to remember. Thus a new name, for the same organization, with the same purpose: The Higher Learning Commission accredits degree-granting post-secondary educational institutions in the North Central Association region.

Submitted by:  
Ann Meilof and  
Richard Doctor, HLC self-study co-chairs



# Muskegon Community College

# Be Physically Active for Life



Physical activity is a necessity for healthy living. There are many resources available that provide information about being active, but all the information about good health is of no value unless it can motivate and inspire you to change.

Those who are successful in staying active:

**Have confidence in their ability to maintain their new behaviors**

Making a commitment to have exercise be a part of your daily routine requires a dedicated mindset and confidence in your ability to be successful.

**Receive support from family, friends, and co-workers**

Whether you are already physically active or you're trying to become active, help from others makes it easier. If you have a partner who regularly exercises with you, it is more likely to become a consistent routine. Friends, family members, and pets all make great exercise partners.

**Value the benefits of their new lifestyle more than the benefits of their old lifestyle**

Motivation comes when you are convinced the effort required to exercise is worth the benefits received. The health benefits from being physically active can drastically change your lifestyle for the better.

**Set realistic goals**

Reaching a goal builds confidence and gives you a sense of accomplishment keeping you more engaged in your workout program. If a goal is set that is unattainable, it can cause discouragement and setbacks in your routine.

Making exercise a part of your daily routine can lead to the following benefits:

- Increased energy
- Reduced stress
- Increased ability to maintain a healthy weight
- Better sleep quality
- Lower cholesterol

Now is a great time to make a commitment to having a healthy, active lifestyle. Start with low impact activities and work your way up. Consult a health care professional if you have any questions about what types of exercises are best for you.

**Don't make excuses...**

**"I have poor health"**

Unless you have specific instructions from your physician not to engage in regular exercise, walking is always a safe, effective choice of exercise regardless of illness or injury.

**"No one will exercise with me"**

Join a walking group. Check with your local YMCA or community center to see what is available in your area. Others may be feeling the same way and are looking for an exercise partner.

**"The weather is too bad"**

Exercise during the more comfortable hours of the day. Instead of exercising in the heat of the day, go out in the morning or evening. If it is too hot or cold outside, exercise indoors or at a gym. If you do not belong to a gym, many malls open their doors early to allow walking inside.

**"I feel self-conscious when I exercise"**

You can exercise in the privacy of your home or try to exercise with friends or relatives who are supportive and perform at about the same level of fitness.

*Brought to you by Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc. / Source: Aldana, Steven. "Being Physically Active for Life." The Culprit and The Cure., Wellness Council of America*

**"Whether you are already physically active or you're trying to become active, help from others makes it easier."**



**ride on!**  
MUSKEGON COUNTY BIKES TO WORK

On!, a bike to work taking place May 17-21, that encourages Muskegon businesses and their employees

to be active in the community by biking to work and living a healthier lifestyle.

To win the bike you must visit <http://rideonmuskegon.com> and sign up as an individual. By registering you also have access to

- Park & ride locations for your

area

- Safety information
- Maps and suggested routes

The community goal for 2010 is to have 1,000 riders participate this year.

Wouldn't it be great if just at MCC we had over 100 employees participate for at least just one day????



Remember the bike to the right that was on display near the Bookside Bisto? Here's how you can win it!!

Ride Your Bike to Work- MCC is participating in Ride



Muskegon Community  
College

## Muskegon Community College

221 S. Quarterline Road  
Muskegon, Michigan 49442



## MCC Birthdays

### May

Duane Rainbolt  
Lois Smith  
Stephen Schmidt  
Pauline Keith  
Vilene Rodgers  
Kim Vanderlinde  
Al Barreto  
Karen Wilson  
Deb Howell  
Nancy Maycroft  
Gretchen Cline  
Connie Holmberg  
Ken Beckman  
Jay Zarowitz  
David Wiggins Jr.  
Elena Garcia  
Judith Walters  
Maggie Knox

### June

5/3 Sally Birkam  
5/3 Julia Perez  
5/9 Brenda Mitcheltree  
5/10 Dale Nesbary  
5/10 Phillip Anderson  
5/10 Michael McManus  
5/11 Kathryn Schrader  
5/11 Lisa McCarthy  
5/15 Rosemary Zink  
5/19 Sche Cornelius  
5/20 Tammisha Morris  
5/20 Maria Anderson  
5/23 Brian Goodman  
5/24 James Witham, JR.  
5/25 Dan Bialas  
5/29 Jennifer Darling  
5/29 Kathy Pollock  
5/31

## MCC's Bulletin Board

### STAFF DEVELOPMENTS

#### Purchase Order through Web Advisor

Monday, May 17  
9:30am - 10:00am **OR** 2:00pm - 2:30pm  
Room 1300

#### Advanced Outlook 2007

Wednesday, May 26  
9:00am - 10:00am  
Room 1300

#### Calendaring through Outlook 2007

Wednesday, May 26  
10:00am - 11:00am  
Room 1300

**Registering is IMPORTANT!**

**Lack of registrants may cause a training to be cancelled!**

Sign up by emailing to:

[events@muskegoncc.edu](mailto:events@muskegoncc.edu)



SPRING

on over to a Staff Development.....  
**SIGN UP TODAY!**

