



In just nine months, Foremost Farms turned a green field into a multi-million dollar state-of-the-art milk processing facility, and Montcalm Community College was there to provide support and training to help ensure their workforce was ready for the first load of milk to arrive.

"The college has truly showed its sense of

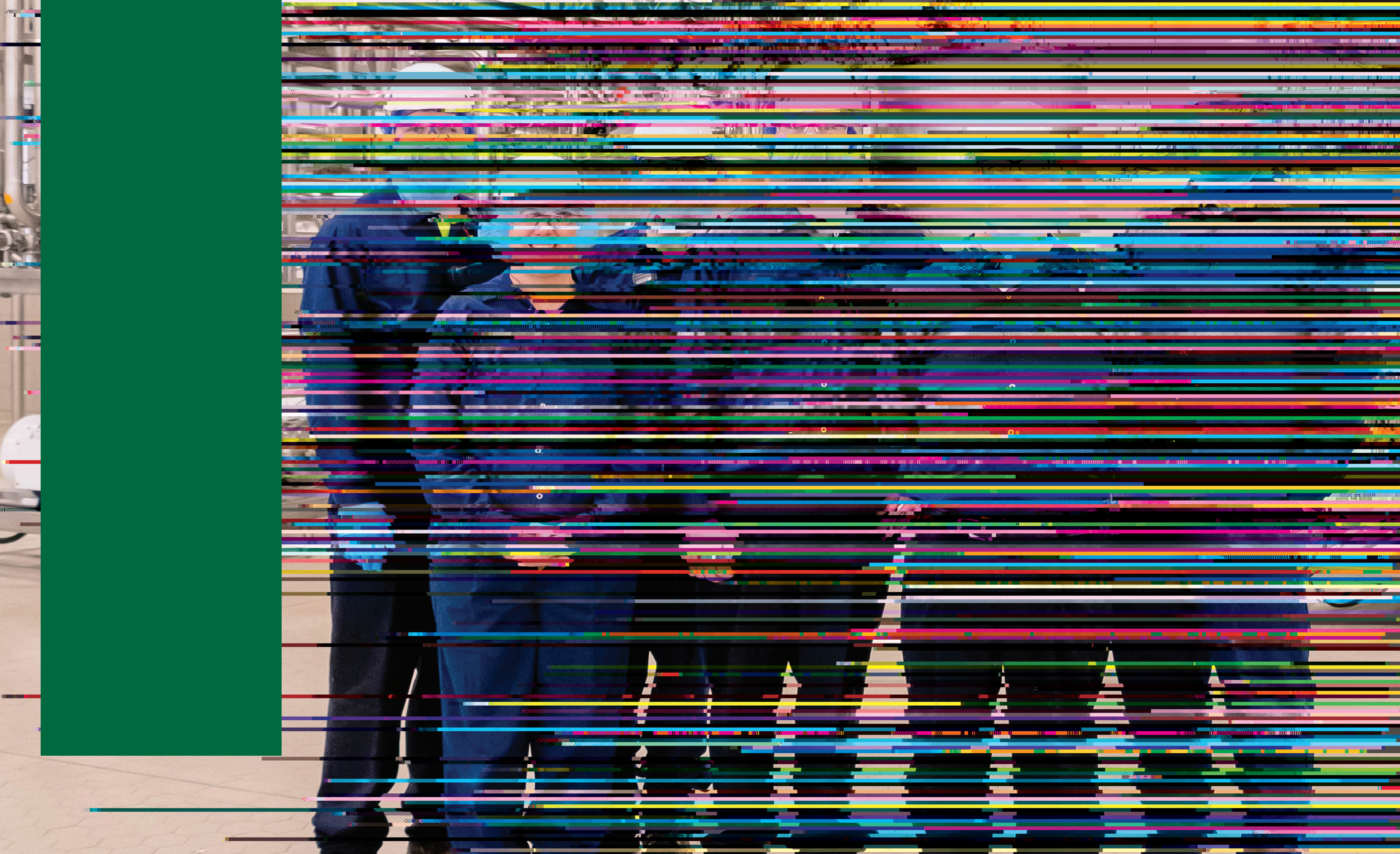
"MCC welcomed us with open arms," Kienitz said.

During the construction phase, the company had very limited space at its location and

24/7, 365 days per year.

Kienitz has been in the dairy business for more than 22 years and has been involved in other green field site builds. Throughout his career, he said "this is by far the most automated plant I have ever worked in. Three-quarters of the plant is run by four people – two in the intake bay receiving the milk, one in the control room running all of the equipment and the other person relieving the other three positions."

Thus, the employees required specialized training to learn the ins and outs of the technology used to support the operation of the equipment.



MCC Dean for Industrial Education & Workforce Training Susan Hatto said the college was just doing its part to support the community and local economic development, which benefits the entire region.

As part of the college's commitment to training the area's next generation of workers and supporting economic development, Hatto led the effort to secure Michigan New Jobs Training Program (MNJTP) money to support Foremost Farms' workforce training efforts.

"While in the planning stages, we put in a request for MNJTP funds as part of the recruitment package," Hatto said. "The new jobs training amount is determined by how many people are coming and potential wages. Based on that, we can determine how much money will be available, and that gives us the training amount."

Designed as an economic development tool, the

