### cultivatingcommunity

# Highlights of college and student achievements

By Shelly Springborn

Montcalm Community College celebrated its 54th commencement on May 7 during a drive-thru ceremony on the college's Sidney campus. A total of 259 degrees and certi cates were awarded to graduates for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Prior to commencement, Stacy H. Young, Ph.D., was inaugurated as the college's sixth president. Dr. Young joined MCC on Jan. 1, 2020, and she is the rst female to serve in the institution's top leadership position.

This year, the eighth class of Early College at Montcalm Community College students graduated. Thirty students earned a certi cate or degree. Our students continuing in the program are also doing very well. Our Spring 2021 SAT data was the best since the program's inception, with a cumulative average of 1,113 compared to the state average of 996. The SAT is a standardized test taken by high school students that measures their knowledge in reading, writing, mathematics and reasoning skills necessary for success in college. Schools participating in the Early College program include Belding, Carson City-Crystal, Central Montcalm, Greenville, Lakeview, Montabella, Saranac, Tri County and Vestaburg.

Dual enrollment experienced signi cant growth, with 469 students completing 4,130 credit hours. Dual enrollment at MCC allows students to take college-level courses while still in high school and receive both high school and college credit. Through dual enrollment, students can take up to 10 college classes, and their high school helps pay tuition and fees up to an approved dollar amount. Schools participating this fall include: Algoma Christian School, Alma High School, Belding High School, Carson City-Crystal High School, Central Montcalm High School, Fulton High School, Greenville High School,

# Highlights from 2020-2021

- 246 students earned 185 associate degrees, 116 certi cates and eight job training certi cates of completion
- 1,868 students enrolled in credit classes
- The average age of MCC's credit students was 24
- MCC's average class size was 12 students
- 64 percent of the credit students were female
- 469 students were dual enrolled (high school students taking MCC classes for both high school and college credit) and completed 4,130 credit hours
- MCC o ered 124 credit classes online, 125 hybrid (partially online and partially in the classroom) courses and 167 live online courses
- 30 veterans enrolled in credit classes



Lakeview High School, Michigan Great Lakes Virtual Academy, Montabella High School, Morley Stanwood High School, Niles High School, Portland High School, Saranac High School, Tri County High School, Vestaburg High School and West Michigan Aviation Academy.

For the seventh year, MCC was honored as a Michigan Veteran Friendly A airs Agency (MVAA) certi ed Veteran-Friendly School at the gold level for its commitment to supporting the needs of student veterans and dependents as they work to achieve their educational goals.

Four MCC students earned high honors during the Business Professionals of America (BPA) State Leadership Conference, which was held virtually in March, and quali ed to attend national competition. They included Morgan Mason, of Belding; Lindsey Olger, of Lakeview; Alison Skogseth, of Greenville; and Kasondra Triggs, of Ionia.

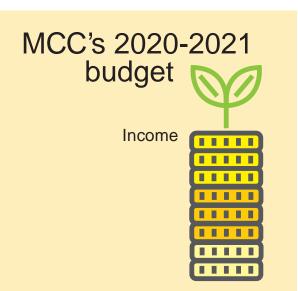
A total of 890 students were named to MCC's honors lists during the academic year, including 432 during the 2020 fall semester and 458 during the 2021 spring semester.

Over the summer, MCC partnered with Grand Rapids Community College to provide sessions for its "Cruisin' to College" summer program, which aims to expose students to many of the opportunities that exist in STEM-related elds and help them explore educational pathways that t their interests. On July 16, about 80 students visited MCC's Sidney campus to learn about opportunities in agriculture. The group visited MCC's Greenville campus July 23 to explore exciting opportunities in skilled trades.

MCC's ever-popular summer camps for youths returned in-person with a variety of o erings in arts, health careers, cyber security, agriculture, Legos, law enforcement, nancial literacy, STEM learning, shing, video production, computers and more.

The college maintains accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission through its participation in the Open Pathway component, which a ords institutions the opportunity to pursue improvement projects that meet their current needs and aspirations. In addition, MCC's nursing program maintains accreditation through the National League for Nursing Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation (NLN CNEA).





## 2017-2021 Fall Semester Credit Headcount

