

Connecting with community through cultural offerings

By Shelly Springborn

At Montcalm Community College, sustainable access to the arts, cultural offerings, recreation and enhanced educational opportunities are integral parts of our personal connections with people in the communities we serve.

Through a generous endowment, the MCCF Stanley and Blanche Ash Community College Enhancement Fund within the MCC Foundation provides funding to support a variety of endeavors.

MCC planners continue to craft new and innovative programs and delivery methods to provide opportunities in-person and virtually. Highlights of this year's cultural offerings include:

- The MCC Library brought together its community of readers during its eighth MCC Reads program from January through March. MCC Reads aims to bring together students, staff, faculty and community friends to read the same book and enhance shared learning.
- In February, the college engaged the community through its virtual "HeartBeatz Trivia Night" where teams competed in a virtual trivia contest. It brought a fun evening of entertainment to people in the comfort of their own homes during the pandemic.
- MCC partnered with the World Affairs Council to offer its lectures to our community of learners.
- In March, the college hosted a virtual panel discussion about the history and current status of China's presence in various countries in Africa. This presentation was part of the Stanley and Blanche Ash Lectureship Series, which features nationally and internationally-known speakers, whose presentations aim to increase awareness of key issues of global and domestic importance.
- The MCC Library hosted its "Sharing and Caring" lunchtime presentation series during spring and fall semesters. The events feature friends of MCC who share stories on a variety of topics including culture and travel, self-help, hobbies, recreation and more.

Michigan Author Dianna Stamp er, top, spoke during the One Book One County Montcalm closing celebration. Bottom, MCC Library Assistant Sonya Beach discussed autism during a Sharing and Caring event at the library.



