

Mountain Empire

Community College Foundation



SHARE THE VISION ANNUAL REPORT 2013





Share the Vision

It is my pleasure to present to you the Mountain Empire Community College/MECC Foundation 2013 Annual Report, a summary of the year's successes, challenges, and opportunities.

Leadership has been described as the capacity to translate vision into reality. I believe that Mountain Empire Community College continues to translate vision in positive action for the future. The community college system in Virginia was developed by leaders with a vision to improve educational opportunities for residents. Our campus facilities were developed thanks to a vision to meet the academic and workforce needs of the region. MECC students enroll with a vision to improve their future; our donors provide scholarships and needed resources because they share a vision for a strong, vibrant community.

Southwest Virginia is changing and the need to diversify the region's economic and skill base is imminent. Now, more than ever, our high school graduates and displaced workers will require a post-secondary education in order for their family and community to prosper.

Let me share my vision with you. I believe that Mountain Empire Community College is critical to meeting the demand for high-skilled, educated workers. Our college will serve as the driving force to attract new industry to the region. We can achieve a strong, vibrant community by investing in educational opportunities and support services that our students need to be successful during and after their college experience.

A vision can only be transferred to reality if it is clearly articulated and others are enlisted in a joint effort to achieve results. I ask you to share MECC's vision for student success, community engagement, growth and development, and supportive partnerships, all of which lead to the ultimate goal of a prosperous and productive Southwest Virginia.



Dr. Scott Hamilton

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Vision: Student Success

The goal of MECC is to ensure that each student achieves his or her personal education and career goals. In addition to quality academics, the college supports several programs that promote student success.

For the last decade, the AIMS Higher Scholarship program has enabled qualifying high school students to attend MECC with no out of pocket costs for tuition and fees. The program has encouraged students to reach higher academic standards and helped their families to finance a college education for their children. As of fall 2013, MECC has cumulatively served 1,125 students through the AIMS Higher Scholarship Program, with 300 or more students concurrently receiving support. AIMS Higher Scholarship students have less need for developmental education. Students prepared for college-level study will have a much greater chance for success and save time and money in working toward a degree or certificate.

Preparing high school students for the transition to college is also the goal of MECC's Career Coach program. Career coaches work individually with students to provide career assessment, resume development, and tutoring—services that traditional high school counselors are stretched to provide due to workload. Coaches also guide students through the college enrollment process, providing information about applying, financial aid, and orientation. Last year, MECC's Career Coaches had direct contact with more than 2,500 high school students in the region and provided individual coaching services for more than 1,500 students. MECC believes the additional assistance in planning for future educational and career-related goals will provide high school students with a clearer vision of how to be successful in college and in life.



"My career coach has helped to get me into the Introduction to Health Information and Medical Science class. This class will enable me to be exposed to different medical professions that I might be interested in. I am especially excited about the opportunity to job shadow professionals."

— Twin Springs High School Student, Dare Bond

SPECIAL THANK YOU

MECC thanks the Virginia Tobacco Commission for their continued support of the AIMS Higher and Tobacco Family Scholarships, as well as additional college programs and initiatives.

Members of the Tobacco Commission visited the campus in 2013 to present a \$420,000 award to MECC's AIMS Higher and Tobacco Family scholarship programs and a \$59,595 award for MECC's Advanced Manufacturing program.



Vision: Community Engagement

A PROUD COMMUNITY

For more than 40 years, Mountain Empire Community College has served an integral role in fulfilling the educational and economic development needs of Southwest Virginia. In an ongoing effort to build awareness and support for the college and our students, MECC launched the first-ever MECC PROUD campaign in 2013 in coordination with the college's annual Home Craft Days festival. Businesses, students, alumni, employees and community members throughout Dickenson, Lee, Scott and Wise Counties and the city of Norton participated by displaying MECC PROUD yard signs and window decals. MECC PROUD signs were also distributed at the MECC Alumni Booth featured at the Home Craft Days festival. Feedback and response for the MECC PROUD campaign was overwhelmingly positive, and the college plans to continue the MECC PROUD campaign on an annual basis.



MECC launched the first-ever MECC PROUD campaign in 2013 in coordination with the college's annual Home Craft Days festival.

CELEBRATING OUR HOMETOWN

Adriana Trigiani may call New York City her home these days, but she will always be a Big Stone Gap girl. Trigiani visited MECC's campus just a few days before filming began for the long-anticipated *Big Stone Gap* movie. Scores of fans and friends greeted her at MECC's Goodloe Center, anxious to learn about the movie and Trigiani's ongoing work to promote her hometown. Her commitment to film in Big Stone Gap is equal to her commitment to involve locals in the production of the film. "I love it so much here. I love the people so much. The heart of [the movie] is honoring the dignity of the working person." Several Mountain Empire students and staff members served as interns and cast members, including student Austin Swiney. "It's a very



neat business,” said Swiney, 18, of Norton, Virginia. “Everything is very fast-paced.” Although filming was at a whirlwind pace, Trigiani hopes to have a long-term impact on the area.

MECC students assisted with the production of the Big Stone Gap movie, featuring cast members (left to right) Whoopi Goldberg, John Benjamin Hickey, Jenna Elfman, and Ashley Judd.



Anthony Platt

LIVING HISTORY

For Dr. Walter Ziffer, the atrocities of the Holocaust are not just a page in a history book, but a history he has lived. Dr. Ziffer, a Holocaust survivor, was the honorary guest of Mountain Empire Community College’s Annual Living Legend Lecture series. More than 500 people, including high school students from throughout the Southwest Virginia and Northeast Tennessee region, heard Ziffer’s compelling testimony, urging the audience to prevent further human suffering through remembrance. In addition to Ziffer’s lecture, audience members were also able to view a special museum exhibition on loan from Kennesaw State University titled *Parallel Journeys: World War II and the Holocaust*. The exhibit focused on the experience of teenagers during the Holocaust years. The Living Legends series was developed by by MECC Assistant Professor of History Mike Strouth, who has provided outstanding leadership in hosting this program annually. The 2013 Legends Lecture was sponsored by New People’s Bank and the MECC Foundation in recognition of Veterans Day.

Only Walter (left) and a fellow deportee, Peter Berger, survived the war. (Peter eventually moved to a kibbutz in Israel).



Vision: Growth and Development

With a united vision and financial support from state and local leaders, MECC's campus is evolving to meet the future workforce needs of the region. MECC celebrated the rededication of Dalton-Cantrell Hall in October, marking the closure of an 18-month construction process that moved classrooms and offices to allow for the complete demolition of the facility's internal structure. Constructed in 1984 to serve as a mining technology center for the Southwest Virginia region, Dalton-Cantrell Hall was named in honor of Governor John N. Dalton and Delegate Orby Cantrell who were instrumental in securing funding for the instructional facility. In 2008 the Virginia General Assembly approved a statewide capital outlay program for institutions of higher education. The program included funds for the design and renovation of Dalton-Cantrell Hall provided through the issuance of tax-exempt bonds by the Virginia College Building Authority and the 21st Century College Program. In June 2008, MECC was authorized to begin planning and development of the \$9M renovation project. Engineering

was provided by The Lane Group, and Quesenberry's, Inc. served as the project construction contractor. State Senator Phillip Puckett and House of Delegate members Terry Kilgore and Joseph P. Johnson, Jr., along with many members of the college staff, student body, and community were there to commemorate the special event demonstrating the campus' ongoing growth and development.

MECC's vision to offer state-of the-art learning opportunities extends beyond facilities to actual program development to meet the identified needs of the community. With a goal to improve rural healthcare delivery in Southwest Virginia, MECC applied for and received an \$883,000 Rural Health Information Technology Workforce grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to support and enhance the region's only Health Information Management (HIM) degree program. In addition, the college received a \$94,332 grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission to establish dual enrollment basic Emergency Medical Technician (or EMT) courses in four local high schools. At least 72 students will have the opportunity to earn college credit, a CPR certification, and an EMT/Basic Career Studies Certificate before they graduate from high school.

With the rising cost of tuition and the downturn in the region's economy, the MECC Foundation is strongly focused on increasing scholarship funding. The Foundation's goal is to ensure that every resident has the opportunity to increase their employability by seeking an affordable, quality education.



MECC celebrated the rededication of Dalton-Cantrell Hall in October, marking the closure of an 18-month construction process that moved classrooms and offices to allow for the complete demolition of the facility's internal structure.

Vision: Supportive Partnerships

Community colleges are strongest when programs and goals are developed in unison with the current and future workforce needs of the region. In an effort to align vision and need, the Mountain Empire Community College Foundation held a series of forums with leaders from the economic development, energy, healthcare, and manufacturing sectors in the spring of 2013. Challenges and partnership opportunities were identified by the college and the business sector, addressing workable solutions benefitting the entire Southwest Virginia region.



Eastman Chemical Company donated \$10,000 to support the purchase of new equipment and software for MECC's industrial technology programs.

One such partnership that has already produced mutual benefits is MECC and Eastman Chemical Company's Electromechanical Technology Student Trainee Program. Qualifying students who complete at least one year of coursework in electromechanical technology at MECC can apply for a trainee position with Eastman Chemical Company. Selection of trainees is competitive, with only the most qualified candidates advancing to paid positions.

Since the partnership began, more than 25 MECC graduates have been hired as Eastman trainees. According to Jeff Frazier, Eastman's Coordinator for the Regional Center for Advanced Manufacturing, "the trainee program has proven to be an excellent tool for recruiting and retaining qualified candidates for our maintenance

positions. We continue to get positive feedback from our first level team managers who coach the trainees during their assignments. Programs like this provide an excellent way for students to gain experience in advanced manufacturing. We encourage other companies to take advantage of this model as well."

In 2013, the Virginia Department of Education honored MECC and Eastman Chemical Company's vision to develop strong, supportive partnerships with a Creating Excellence Award. The award promotes best practices in education and recognizes exemplary contributions that improve the quality of Career & Technical Education programs. In addition, Eastman Chemical Company donated \$10,000 to the college in 2013 to assist with the purchase of new equipment and software for MECC's industrial technology programs.

Technical education is also the focus of MECC's partnership with Dominion Virginia Energy. In 2013, Dominion awarded MECC \$35,000 to purchase a virtual welder trainer, allowing students to acquire, practice, and master welding techniques in a simulated application, reducing consumable and material wastes produced in traditional instruction.

In addition, The Dominion Foundation provided \$5,000 to establish a new endowed scholarship for MECC students enrolled in a technical program. The first award is expected to be made during the 2014–2015 academic year.



The Dominion Foundation donated \$35,000 to purchase a virtual welder trainer.

MECC Foundation Donors

The Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following people, organizations, and businesses who contributed from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013.

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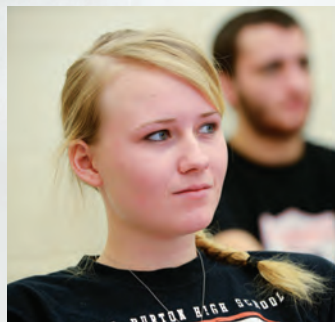
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Legacy Society

The following individuals have made arrangements to include the MECC foundation in their estate plans, named the college as a beneficiary of life insurance, or made a gift of paid-up life insurance.

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 Ben and Nancy Sergeant
 R.C. "Snook"* and Marti Shelton
 Dale and Donna Stanley
 Helen Jackson Sutherland*
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 Technology Center
 Mr. Terry Wright
 Ms. Janet R. Yates
 Mr. & Mrs. Forrest J. Young
 Mr. Joseph L. Young

Ms. Manuela Valera Castle
 Norton Track & Roller, Inc.
 Pepsi-Cola Bottling of Norton
 Mr. Erlindo G. Valera

In Memory of Mr. Earl Daugherty
 Mr. & Dr. R. Jackson Rasnic

In Memory of Ms. Sarah Dye
 Mr. & Dr. R. Jackson Rasnic

In Memory of Mr. George Mumpower
 Mr. & Mrs. Roger A. Daugherty

In Memory of Ms. Reida A. Rankin
 Ms. Freida Alexander
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Brickley, M.D.
 Ms. Wanda Crockett
 David Hammonds Construction LLC
 Mr. Richard Foster
 Mr. Normand T. Graber
 Mrs. Virginia H. Meador
 Mrs. Patricia T. Miller
 Ms. Charlene R. Robins
 Ms. Paula M. Robins
 Ms. Dorothy Royston
 Mr. S. Luther Stapleton
 Mr. Archie Stice
 Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Story

In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Roland & Grace Rose
 Dr. Winfield Rose

In Memory of Ms. Alice B. "Peggy" Rusek
 Mr. & Mrs. James H. Addington
 Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Ketron
 Mr. Dan Summit
 Mr. Mike Thomas
 Ms. Mary Blackburn
 Mr. & Mrs. John Donald Bruch
 Ms. Mary Calbaugh
 Mr. Billy Jack Cox, Jr.
 Mr. Kay Culbertson
 Ms. Beverly Darby
 Ms. Katherine DeCoster
 Mr. Vaso Doubles
 Mr. Devin England
 Goochland Athletic Booster Association
 Ms. Mary Catherine Hendricks-Hawkins
 Ms. Leah L. Hicks
 Ms. Barbara B. Humphreys
 Mr. Kevin Johnson
 Mr. Jon Johnston
 Mr. & Mrs. Brian McDavid
 Mr. James Mickey Mixon, Jr.
 Ms. Janine Myatt
 Pfizer Foundation
 Mr. John Pierce
 Mr. & Mrs. Nasser Shahbazi
 Ms. Rhonda Suggs
 Ms. Erin Thompson
 VA Office of Attorney General – Medicaid
 Fraud Control Unit

Gifts in Memoriam

In Memory of Ms. Thelma Jane Carter
 Mr. & Dr. R. Jackson Rasnic

In Memory of Mr. Randy "Doc" Castle
 Alpha Natural Resources, LLC
 Mr. Bobby Cassell

About the Foundation

Established in 1983, the Mountain Empire Community College Foundation, Inc., is a non-profit organization that supports the mission of the college by providing scholarships; faculty and staff development and recognition programs; cultural programs and events; campus improvements; educational programs; and other projects.

Key facts:

Number of scholarships provided in 2012–2013

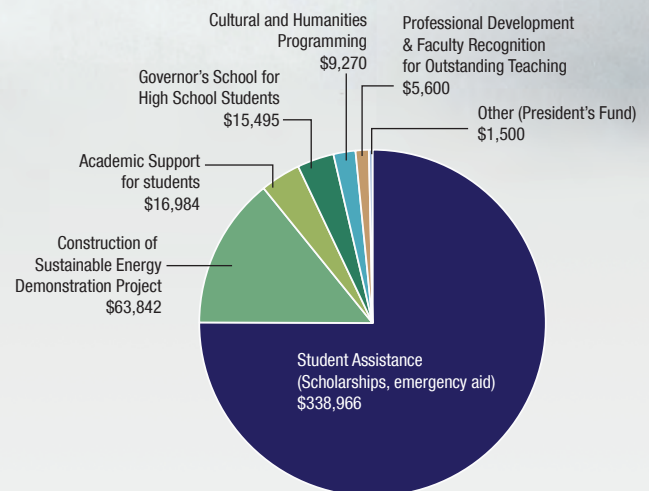
434

Number of students who received Dreamkeepers Emergency Assistance (grants or loans) in 2012–2013

34

Programmatic Expenditures for 2012–2013 academic year

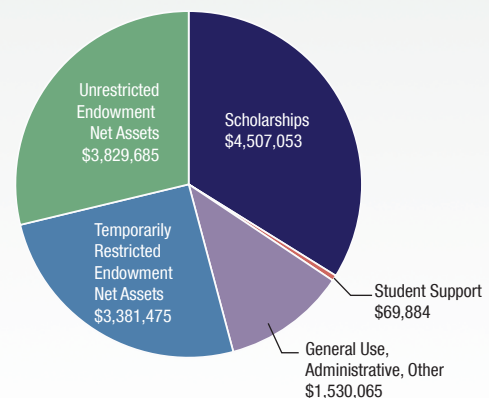
Student Assistance (Scholarships, emergency aid)	\$338,966
Construction of Sustainable Energy Demonstration Project	63,842
Academic Support for students	16,984
Governor's School for High School Students	15,495
Cultural and Humanities Programming	9,270
Professional Development & Faculty Recognition for Outstanding Teaching	5,600
Other (President's Fund)	1,500
Total Expenditures	\$451,657



Revenues, Gains, and Other Support, 2012		For Endowment	For Other
Private Gifts and Grants	\$676,047	\$125,288	\$550,759
Investment Income	555,497		
Unrealized Gains	977,902		
Other Income	64,380		
Total Revenue and Other Support	\$2,273,826		

Permanently Restricted Endowment Net Assets, 2012

Scholarships	\$ 4,507,053
Student Support	69,884
General Use, Administrative, Other	1,530,065
Temporarily Restricted Endowment Net Assets - 2012	3,381,475
Unrestricted Endowment Net Assets - 2012	\$ 3,829,685
Total Endowment Net Assets	\$ 13,318,162



Mountain Empire Community College Foundation Board

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Roger Daugherty
Dr. Kathleen A. DePonte
Bonnie Elosser
Leton Harding, Jr.
Ruth Gilliam
Sarah Gilliam
Karen K. Hall
Dr. Scott Hamilton, *President of MECC*
GE 'Pedro' Hunnicutt, Jr.
Robert Isaac, *Vice-Chair*
Gary D. McCann, *Chair*
Sandy McGlothlin
Virginia Meador

Ronnie Montgomery
Diana D. Pope, *Treasurer*
Donald Raber
Donnie Ratliff
Doris Rife
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Martha Spurlock
John Stafford, Jr.
W. Paul Varson
Ryan Witt
W.C. 'Buzz' Witt, Jr.

MECC Foundation Staff

(non-voting)

Donna Stanley, *Executive Director*
Jearline Bledsoe, *Annual Fund & Special
Events Coordinator*

Clara Harris, *Financial Specialist*
Nikki Morrison, *Grants Coordinator*
Tina Willis, *Secretary*

MECC Advisory Board Members

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Jane Carter, *Scott County*
Rebecca Coleman, *Vice-Chair, Scott County*
Patty Collier, *Lee County*
Gail Elliott, *Lee County*
James David Graham, *Lee County*
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Mary Ruth Laster, *Lee County*
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