



Counselor Advisory Committee Meeting  
August 27, 2024, 8:30 AM  
Moraine Valley Community College, Fogelson Theater I

Present: **MACS** – Suzanne Kendryna, Michelle Cognetti, Anne Cothran; **MVCC** – Mike Bates, Tamekia Smith, Emmanuel Esperanza, Andy Sarata, Cara Maca, Sheila Moran, Andy Hufnagl, Neil Barker, Michelle Skelton; **High Schools: 217** – Brian Schutz, **218** – Sarah O’Brien, Elise Mayer, Natalie O’Boye, Kerry McNicholas, Maggie Sekula; **220** – Lindsay O’Donnell; **229** – Kelly Kenny; **230** – Jim Malec, John Tadla, Leah Ellis, Matt O’Neill, Kristi Sterlow, Sarah Schultz, Brendan Duffy; **231** – Veronica Almendarez

**Meeting Highlights**

1. MVCC Updates -

- a. **EMS Program** - Andy Hufnagl introduced Sheila Moran as the new full-time EMS program coordinator. Sheila discussed the age 18 restriction for students to enroll in the program and participate in clinicals will be removed. Students only need to be 18 to obtain their state license so they can complete all program requirements before then if they choose. To facilitate flexibility for high school students interested in enrolling in EMT dual enrollment, in addition to the spring dual enrollment section, they will be adding a fall, TWR, 8:00AM - 11:50PM section.
- b. **Engineering Technology** - Neil Barker shared information about his Engineering Technology program. He discussed how this program is a great fit for students who might not excel at Math and Physics and that the program is designed to provide a direct career pathway for high school graduates. The program is targeting students who may have taken courses in CAD, Electricity and Electronics, Auto Shop, and Computer Maintenance (even one course is enough). The program focuses on two main engineering tracks, Mechanical Engineering and Electrical Engineering and also offers programs in CAD, Computing, and Mechatronics. Most students complete a 1-year certificate and go right to work as technicians, solving the practical problems that keep businesses running. They earn around \$50k-\$70k. Around 16 students per year complete the Associates in Applied Science degree. Of this, a good proportion continue on to 4-year colleges such as IIT, SIUC, ISU, and Purdue. If you would like brochures on this program to share with students, please reach out to Neil Barker.
- c. **Criminal Justice** - Michelle Skelton shared that the CRJ degree program requirements have changed from 62 required credit hours down to 60 credit hours in order to align with other degree programs. The Criminal Justice program is now on social media (Instagram, tiktok & Facebook) highlighting course information, job opportunities, and general Criminal Justice fun facts. Michelle provided literature to the counselors to share with their students. Michelle and her team will once again offer the Public Service Career Day this February for our high school students.
- d. **Dual Enrollment** - Emmanuel Esperanza shared to following dual enrollment due dates -
  1. **September 16th** – All changes to your spring dual enrollment student list due.
  2. **September 30th** – All placement testing must be completed.
  3. **October 17th** – Spring dual enrollment course applications due to MVCC.

An interest survey will be sent to MACS to share with the high schools to determine the CRJ dual enrollment course schedule preference. A discussion took place regarding early grad testing/GPA requirements. the ALEX test is open to any student who has an ID# and is open in October and January.



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- e. **Admissions** - Andy Sarata introduced Cara Maca, who has replaced Peggy Heenan who retired from the college. The following event dates were shared - Fall Open House, November 2; Fall Counselor Breakfast, December 6; Spring Open House, April 26. The college will host a spring College and Career Fair, date TBA. The new college application process will go fully live in September which will end the need for paper applications. There will be an option to pay the \$25 application fee, defer the fee until registration, or attach a fee waiver.
- f. **Career Programs** - Tamekia Smith shared that the Ultrasound Technician program has been approved. They are currently searching for a full-time faculty member for the program and once that person is hired, the program will be open for enrollment. The college partnered with Northwestern Palos to offer a summer healthcare camp and 25 students from area high schools were able to take advantage of this opportunity. The college is continuing to look for additional partners who would be willing to offer hands-on events for our students to encourage them to pursue healthcare careers.
- g. **Science, Business, and Computer Technology** - Two new programs are available in CIS - Data Analytics and Python. These will be listed in next year's MVCC catalog. The Culinary program will no longer require BUS120 for their program and are looking to replace that requirement with a technical mathematics course. Suzanne Kendryna will discuss high school culinary classroom visits and possible teacher training workshops for this school year with Chef Dean Eliacostas.

2. MACS Updates -

Suzanne Kendryna discussed the career exploration events for the upcoming school year and also reviewed the MACS website. Having access to the website for easy reference will help to cut down having multiple emails to keep track of changes. All event details and updates will be placed on the MACS website and an email will be sent to the CAC to simply notify when updates are made to the site. There will be one shared google RSVP document for all events, which counselors should update with chaperone information and student numbers. Information has been posted for the Manufacturing Day, Health Care Career Fair, and First Responder/Fire Safety Day and details regarding the Mech Tech/Trades Fair and Public Service Career Day will be shared as that information becomes available.

3. Next Meeting – Joint with AC, October 10, 2024