COMMUNITY

Passion in Bloom:
MCC alum follows her heart, opens two successful businesses

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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear friends and supporters,

These are defining moments for each of us and for Metropolitan Community College going forward. The COVID-19 pandemic has taught us a great deal about ourselves and our society. At MCC we have had to make many decisions and work hard to carry them out positively, professionally, innovatively, compassionately and, most of all, courageously. We are thankful to the MCC community members, who have eagerly shared their strengths to help our students, faculty and staff during this time of need.

From the earliest stages of this public health crisis, MCC managed the situation using reliable information from the Douglas County Health Department, The National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the local experts at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and Nebraska Medicine. We are fortunate to have some of the best healthcare professionals in our country living right here in the four-county area. Each step taken over the last few months was designed to protect the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff, and to reduce the spread of the virus across our community.

Beginning March 18, MCC shifted fully to e-learning and other alternate delivery formats for all credit courses. This option was possible due to significant advance preparation by our faculty and instructional support teams. Implementation required suspending on-campus career and technical training and developing alternate delivery methods for hands-on learning. Plans are now underway for future quarters, which will have built-in safety and contingency plans for all modes of learning, whether it be on-campus, online or something in-between.

While the pandemic has displayed our community’s resilience, it has also amplified the inequalities among us. More of our students find themselves without food, housing, reliable computers or Internet access. For these and many other reasons, our student affairs and advocacy counselors have been working tirelessly to connect students to private, institutional and federal funding, as well as other resources to assist them during these trying times.

MCC is the right place for this moment. And we are grateful to have the opportunity to serve the four-county area during these remarkable times.

Sincerely,

Randy Schmailzl
College President
Similar to a real-world home construction site, Metropolitan Community College students working in the Capstone Lab in the Construction Education Center collaborate with a number of other tradespeople. Working together, students from the Construction and Building Science, Electrical Technology and Plumbing programs each have a hand in building a finished home. The lab has produced two homes, with another currently in production. Each house takes a collaborative team of instructors and students, and of course, plenty of hours in the lab. Here’s a summary of just one home.
It’s difficult to imagine all of the information stored digitally around the world. Forget the thousands of pictures and songs being kept in the cloud, think about all of the sensitive financial data that banks and other institutions have to store. Keeping this information safeguarded is the job of cybersecurity professionals, but there’s a shortage of qualified applicants to keep up with the demand.

Gary Sparks, Metropolitan Community College Cybersecurity instructor, says there are thousands of job vacancies related to cybersecurity in Nebraska.

“Currently, there are more than 300,000 vacancies nationally. In Nebraska, there are 2,026. The amount internationally is in the millions,” explains Sparks. “The shortage of cybersecurity experts grows every year and many companies struggle to understand the qualifications needed for employees in this critical area. The National Security Agency says this is a national security and economic security issue as well.”

Sparks says cybersecurity is becoming more important and just one data breach could spell serious trouble for a business. As cities move toward smarter technology to improve traffic and make roads safer, it opens up new areas vulnerable to attack. MCC is helping address this shortage of cybersecurity workers by offering the Cybersecurity program.

Students in the MCC Cybersecurity program learn through hands-on experiences in defending against attacks and instruction, including disaster recovery preparation. Students will learn to implement security policies, manage information assets and design security infrastructures. Students who complete the program will earn an associate degree and will become qualified to obtain entry level positions in cybersecurity while giving them the necessary credits to pursue a four-year degree.

“The program provides the student with the skills needed to establish and manage security programs for organizations. Students are provided hands-on instruction, as well as skills for communicating with senior leaders in an organization to help them understand the impact of establishing a strong security program,” Sparks says. “Students are presented with problems and have to research and recommend solutions.”

The program has also been designated a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense for Two-Year Education by the Department of Homeland Security.

“The designation gives our program national recognition. It speaks to the quality of education you’ll get at MCC,” says Sparks. “We go above and beyond. We conduct outreach to local businesses to provide awareness and training with organizations such as Assure Women’s Center and Bozell Marketing.”

Sparks says that while cybersecurity has been around for years, only recently have big organizations and private companies become heavily invested in obtaining top cybersecurity talent, and that means opportunities for students.

“The program provides the student with the skills needed to establish and manage security programs for organizations.”

For more information, call 531-MCC-2400.
Weather maps, UFOs, outer space, tidal waves and airplane traffic. All of these things and more can be seen at Metropolitan Community College North Express.

Even though MCC North Express is only one floor of the Accelerator Building in the 75 North development, near 30th and Parker streets, it can fit all of those activities comfortably. Actually, they are all housed on one sphere located in the center of the room—appropriately named Science On a Sphere.

This 50-pound carbon-fiber ball can display a vast variety of global scientific topics and subjects through projection technology. Developed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Science On a Sphere can be found at locations across the United States and the world.

To bring Science On a Sphere to MCC, Daphne Cook, manager of MCC North Express, got the ball (or sphere, in this case) rolling.

“I wrote a proposal and took it slowly up the chain [at MCC],” Cook says. “Eventually, it was approved by the Board of Governors.”

Science On a Sphere arrived at North Express in October and the installation began. Cook says it wasn’t just MCC employees who were excited for its arrival.

“Everyone at 75 North was excited,” she says with a laugh. Cook says all MCC North Express and some other staff have been trained on how to operate Science On a Sphere. The sphere is connected to a touchscreen tablet that comes loaded with sets and shows provided by NOAA. To help staff get excited about learning the ropes, Cook asked them to each learn about a topic they personally found interesting and present it on the sphere to each other.

“It has been a lot of fun to dig into the data sets,” Cook says.

Some topics can be complex, such as weather-related disasters, climate change or air pollution, but NOAA data sets help make the information easy to digest, Cook says.

“It makes complicated information easily understood,” she explains. “It also helps show the impact from a global perspective.”

Cook points to an example of this global impact with a data set called “Earthquakes and Nuclear Power Plants,” which shows how an earthquake in Japan caused a tsunami that made a nuclear power plant react. The reaction sent radioactive particles into the air that traveled in both directions and landed all over the world. Science On a Sphere shows how far the particles landed, how the tsunami affected coasts on multiple continents and more.
“You’re thinking ‘So what? That happened all the way in Japan.’ But it shows how something in Japan can affect us here in the U.S.”

Science On a Sphere is a powerful learning tool for Science, Technology Engineering (Art) and Math, or STEM and STEAM, Cook says, which is why she reached out to local educators so they can take advantage of it for their students and partner with MCC. Students at Howard Kennedy Elementary School and King Science Middle School were given the opportunity to come see Science On a Sphere up close.

“We want to maximize its usage,” Cook says. “It’s a great tool to apply STEM and STEAM. Two Howard Kennedy students gave a science presentation using the sphere and they were recognized by the Omaha Public Schools Board of Education as the first to use the technology.”

Partnering with schools caught the eye of other locations with a Science On a Sphere, Cook says.

“We reached out to other organizations offering Science On a Sphere and found that no one else is partnering with local schools. Once they heard about it, they said ‘Oh my gosh, we want to see what you’re doing,’” she says.

Beyond Howard Kennedy, other schools around the Omaha area have also reached out for field trips to take advantage of the exhibit, including MCC credit courses. Cook says she has helped the MCC Horticulture program find data sets about agriculture. A History instructor used the sphere to demonstrate human migration. The MCC Adult Education program has even used it to help explain longitude and latitude to students more easily.

“It takes information off the page and really brings it to life,” Cook says. “It’s not just the framework. It offers context and perspective. It deepens that level of understanding for all ages.”

Besides schools coming to see Science On a Sphere, the general public has also been curious to see it up close. MCC Continuing Education has many virtual Science On a Sphere offerings for learners of any age this spring and summer.

“We reached out to the general public that wants to dive into a topic,” Cook says. “We have classes for enthusiasts and for those people who want to take a deep dive into a specific topic.”

Over the past winter quarter, a College for Kids weather class was completely full. Cook says a 12-year-old boy was so interested in the subject, he signed up for the adult Continuing Education Science On a Sphere weather class.

“There was a 12-year-old along with 60-year-olds in the same class,” she explains. “With this tool, our goal is to be something for all ages. And it really has been. The appeal of getting a better understanding of the world around you is universal. It’s not limited to a certain age.”

Weather classes, along with storm systems, climate change and outer space have been some of the more popular classes so far, Cook says, but the fun topics are garnering interest, too, such as Nikola Tesla, the Bermuda Triangle, UFOs and the paranormal.

This summer, MCC College for Kids and College for Teens will have virtual camps that cover climate, meteorology or outer space. These classes will be held via the Continuing Education page on mccneb.edu.

“Sometimes, Cook says, people will stop in during the day just to see Science On a Sphere in person.

“The first thing people always say is ‘Pictures don’t do it justice,'” she says.

To view a current list of available Science On a Sphere noncredit courses, visit mccneb.edu/ce.
While some people may have a career they enjoy, it may not necessarily be their true passion.

Julie Hockney decided to follow her passion. She went back to Metropolitan Community College and completed an associate degree in something she has loved her entire life: Interior Design.

Hockney was interested in interior design starting at a young age.

“When I was a kid, my parents had a designer for their home,” Hockney says. “I loved watching what she did. And I was the girl who would stay up all night rearranging my room.”

Hockney even had an interior design internship while in high school. But she also developed a love for the arts, putting interior designing on the back burner.

“I was coached by my choir director and I really took a different path and fell in love with music,” she explains. “She told me ‘You need to be a music teacher.’ And when you’re 17 and someone says that, you think ‘OK that’s what I’ll do.’”

Hockney attended the University of Kansas and got her bachelor’s degree in Music Education. While there, she met her husband, Rob, who was in a band at the time. She moved to Nashville with him and helped him run his band’s sound production.

Hockney was happy, but there was still a feeling that something was missing in her career, something she pushed aside back in high school that she wanted to revisit. Hockney realized she was missing interior design and the passion she had for it was still there.

“I got to a point where I thought ‘I still have something in my head and in my heart that is saying I still want to explore design. And if I don’t explore it, I will always regret it,’” she says.

In 2004, Hockney and her husband returned to Omaha. She immediately began exploring and researching different interior design programs around the area. She was working at the time with a designer and liked the flexibility MCC had to offer.

“I would work all day with the designer and then go to school all night. I think that’s what is so great about MCC,” she says. “You don’t have to drive to Lincoln to get a four-year degree. MCC has a great associate degree program and it made perfect sense for what I was trying to accomplish.”

The Interior Design program at MCC provides students with the knowledge and skill of not only designing a space and what goes well together, but also the knowledge about the business and retail procedures. Hockney says the program only fueled her passion more.

“I think I just enjoyed learning about something that I had always been passionate about. I loved learning the ins and outs of it,” she says. “I really connected with some of the staff, too. Instructor Nanci Stephenson is a rock star.”

Since many of her credits from KU transferred to MCC, Hockney was able to take mostly design courses and move through the program and graduate quickly.

“That is the other great thing about MCC,” she says. “They can meet a student on any level whether they’re fresh out of high school or have a Ph.D. and go back to MCC to pursue a different path.”
After graduating from the College, Hockney says she went to work right away and hasn't stopped since.

"I just hit the ground running," she says. "I worked full-time at the [interior design] firm I was at. I became affiliated with the American Society of Interior Designers, a nonprofit that promotes interior design."

Hockney and her husband also started their family. Shortly after giving birth to her first child, Hockney thought she might be a stay-at-home mom.

"That lasted about eight weeks," she says with a laugh. "In 2007, after talking with my friends and family, I decided to start my own business."

Hockney started jh Interior Design Studio in her basement, then moved up to renting two cubicles with another designer. Eventually, the business moved to its current location near Westroads Mall on 98th and Dodge streets. The current studio has a showroom for people to come in and see home accents and furnishings that they can purchase, or meet with a designer and discuss transforming a space.

Work can move quickly, Hockney says. She is often working on and overseeing numerous projects at any given time.

"It's pretty fast-paced," she explains. "It's really studio time and designing, mixed with client meetings, presenting and a lot of site visits to check on things. In the design world, you have to see things all the way through. We are working on anywhere from 40-50 projects at a time."

Hockney's projects are a mix of commercial and residential work. She may design an office space or doctor's office, but also redo a client's bathroom or kitchen.

"We do it all," she says. "Really we just want to do quality work and do whatever needs to be done for people. Every project is so unique. I think that keeps it interesting."

More recently, Hockney has added another job title to her résumé: florist.

"Flowers were always my Zen thing," Hockney says. "When I would finish a project, often my gift to the client or contribution to a photo shoot would be floral. We would have a big, beautiful kitchen and the photographer is coming and I would think 'We need a really pretty arrangement on the counter.'"

Soon, Hockney was getting more and more floral requests for all kinds of occasions and creating them in her home.

"We would be up at 2 a.m. making them," she says. "I would take them down to the tiled bathroom and turn the air conditioning way down to keep them cool."

She opened bouquet Floral Design Studio in 2014 with her friend, Mark Griffith, in the Blackstone District. The business has flourished, doing more than 60 weddings and other events in 2019.

Recently, the restaurant next to Hockney's design studio closed. She realized it had giant walk-in coolers and the perfect space for bouquet. They decided to move in next door so her businesses could be adjoined.

"The main goal is synergy and collaboration between the two businesses," Hockney explains. "It was very tough to split my time. It will be really nice and everyone is so excited."

Now, with two successful businesses and continued growth, Hockney says there are things she learned at MCC that she still uses today.

"It was a reinforcement that you can aspire to whatever it is you want to do and they will help you achieve your goal," Hockney says. "There is encouragement. They always said to me 'You can do this. You will finish and it will be beneficial.'"

Hockney also gives back to MCC students now by letting Interior Design students come tour the studio.

"I tell my story and we give them a tour to show the ins and outs of the studio," she says. "A lot of times that is something you can't learn in a classroom. To see people working on real projects and see the messes from a meeting is a great, real-life example of working in a design studio."

Hockney explains she is always planning ahead. Her staff is always wondering what she will think of next, she jokes.

"I don't do well with free time," she says. "I enjoy having a full plate."
The booming sounds of hammering and other craftsmanship returned at the second annual Metro Omaha Trades Invitational, hosted by Metropolitan Community College earlier this winter. The event featured area high school and college students, who showcased their skills in various competitions. The invitational aims to promote the trades and other fields, introducing students to career opportunities that are in high demand. The event acts as a qualifier for other trades competitions in the state of Nebraska and consists of written and physical tests for students to demonstrate how well they understand the subject.

"MCC and industry partners have teamed up to offer students a unique opportunity to show off their talents in a setting where they race against the clock and each other," says Zach Pechacek, MCC SkillsUSA director and instructor. "Students have the chance to visit with local employers, alumni and instructors to discuss career opportunities."

The College hosted the event at three different locations. The Fort Omaha Campus, South Omaha Campus and the Applied Technology Center hosted competitions in Automotive Technology and Automotive Collision Repair, Carpentry, CNC Milling, Diesel Technology, Welding and others.

The Metro Omaha Trades Invitational was a chance for students to prove themselves to prospective employers and industry partners.

"The invitational is an opportunity for our local industry partners to work and see first-hand what our students can do," says Pechacek. "These are the companies that hire our students and by testing the students on what they want them to know, it’s almost like the best job interview in the world."

The awards ceremony was held at the Center for Advanced and Emerging Technology on the Fort Omaha Campus. First, second and third place for each competition were recognized in secondary and postsecondary levels.
Q: WHAT IS YOUR ROLE AT MCC AND HOW DO YOU SERVE THE MISSION OF THE COLLEGE?

My role is to coordinate and provide the day-to-day oversight of MCC South Express. I’m responsible for coordinating and implementing a continuum of specialized services, including special initiatives, based on local needs of the community and employers. I oversee all operations of the facility and coach our support staff. Together with my team, we create opportunities aimed to engage our community and students. We have the opportunity to engage students and community members in our GED and English Language Learner classes.

Q: WERE YOU FAMILIAR WITH MCC AND ITS PROGRAMS BEFORE YOUR ROLE AS COORDINATOR?

I have always had an interest in quality ELL and Adult Education, and especially in making them accessible to the community. Since arriving in Omaha 19 years ago, my family was received into robust English Language Learner programs. My sister and I both went to Ralston High School. At the same time, our mother was taking ELL classes at MCC. At the time of our arrival, having those community resources was extremely important for us. It took a few years for us to establish ourselves in Omaha, but I believe those ELL resources were a crucial part of our journey in a new country. The program at Ralston High School helped me acquire the language skills necessary to transition to regular high school classes within only one year. I’m a true testament of what a good ELL program can do when individuals commit to their education.

Q: MCC SOUTH EXPRESS OFFERS MANY ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY COURSES. WHAT IS YOUR PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS TYPE OF WORK?

Before accepting this new position, I used to be one of the College’s success navigators. I had mixed feelings because I thought I already had the best job. Working with high school students is a passion of mine, so leaving my previous position was difficult. But it was clear to me that the majority of our scholars have parents needing the same services we were offering to our younger students. It feels like I am where I need to be in order to serve our community better.

Q: WHAT WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT WOULD YOU GIVE TO THOSE CONSIDERING ADULT EDUCATION, ESL OR ANY PROGRAM?

I know balancing life, work, school and other priorities is very difficult and from time to time the challenges are fluid and ever-changing. I know this is going to sound very simple, but practice being realistic, involve your family and recognize that you are making a sacrifice. The sleepless nights, time away from family and friends will not be easy. Start small and build upon your successes. Achieving your goals might take longer than you originally expected. The journey will stretch your mental and physical ability, but achieving small successes will give you the strength to continue and finish.
HOW DOES SOUTH EXPRESS BEST SERVE THE COMMUNITY IT’S IN?
I think we best serve our community by listening to its needs. We are supporting the education and development of our youth and adults. MCC is creating innovative and comprehensive ways to engage the community through their journey. I think we can also serve our community by fostering leadership opportunities through the services we already have.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR JOB?
The thing I love about my job is seeing the positive impact the College brings to our students. MCC creates opportunities, and we provide the tools needed for our students to thrive. One rewarding part of my job is seeing our students making tangible progress, such as succeeding in their classes, passing an official GED test or finally graduating. I really enjoy helping our students navigate their next step after graduating from our program. I also love the team that I work with and being able to witness their dedication to students’ success.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF YOUR TIME AT MCC OR WHAT HAS HAD THE BIGGEST IMPACT ON YOU?
One of my biggest highlights at MCC was working as a college success navigator. I had the opportunity to closely collaborate with the Avenue Scholars Foundation in order to achieve student success. I was lucky to be one of the first CSNs. I was able to help in the creation of what the program is today. My time as a CSN was very exciting. My experiences helped me connect with students, faculty, community members and industry partners. Serving as a CSN was a privilege, but I can’t wait to create even more highlights.
Students in the Metropolitan Community College Criminal Justice program can go on to a variety of careers. Many graduates choose to become a member of law enforcement.

During the Introduction to Criminal Justice class every quarter, instructor Diane Sjuts has former students who are now members of various local law enforcement come in and speak to students about their experiences. The officers’ visit coincides with Sjuts’ unit on policing.

Former students included Trooper Daniel Flores of Nebraska State Patrol, Officer Mike Smutney of the Bellevue Police Department, Officer Terrell Long of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Police and Officer Dylan Belter of the Omaha Police Department. The officers, all former students of Sjuts, discussed where they are now, how they got there and what they enjoy.

“I started out at MCC,” Long explained. “Now, I’m an officer at University of Nebraska-Lincoln and I love it. I get to be on the field during football games. During my first game, I looked around and thought ‘OK, this is pretty cool.’”

Belter didn’t think he would become an officer growing up. He said that MCC helped him find his passion.

“I never thought I would become a police officer,” Belter said. “I took a few Criminal Justice classes and I found out I loved it. Now, I work in the Northeast Omaha precinct.”

Sjuts also led a discussion with the officers that covered many hot-button issues in law enforcement, such as body cameras, racism and the portrayal of law enforcement on television. Near the end of class, she asked the officers to tell the students what they loved about MCC and being a police officer.

“What I found most important at MCC is that the learning isn’t all textbook. It’s a lot of critical thinking,” said Smutney. “A lot of our job is common sense, but you do need to do critical thinking. Diane stuck with me through it all and I appreciate her.”

Long agreed, saying speaking up in class is also important to help with a career in law enforcement.

“My biggest thing is to participate,” he said. “In this profession, you have to talk to people. Don’t be afraid to raise your hand and speak up.”

Belter said Sjuts’ teaching style is unmatched, as she brought examples to life in class and made learning fun.

“Diane finds a way to get the information across to you,” he said. “She takes you on field trips, she brings in speakers. She has real-world knowledge and she’s passing it on.”

To learn more about the Criminal Justice program at MCC, visit mccneb.edu/criminaljustice.
"As a single mother of three, I needed some type of post-secondary education to ensure a better future for my family. I turned to MCC. The College allowed me to close the gap of a 10-year educational deficiency. Starting with the first inquiry of attendance, the MCC staff was right there in my corner. Through every challenge of learning the mastery of concepts and application, instructors took the time to assist with the utmost care, even when it seemed trivial. Their dedication was instrumental in my success and their belief in me helped me to have the belief in myself and allowed me to be a first-generation college graduate. Throughout my education, I learned course-by-course to think critically, challenge the status quo, apply concepts, adapt to ever-changing technology and that education itself is the great equalizer no matter how you identify. All people should have access to affordable, quality education and MCC continues to meet that need. My education not only provided the tools needed for professional growth, development and success but also sparked my interest in community engagement and advocacy. It was significant in helping me to advocate for youth. I served as an elected official on the OPS Board of Education as a member and vice president, and to hold other honorable seats on the Nebraska Association of School Boards, Council of Urban Boards of Education, Learning Community Achievement Council, Douglas County Board of Health and NAACP Education chair-Omaha Section. Without education, none of this work would have been possible, so I am forever grateful for MCC. I am now a proud nonprofit executive and an emerging entrepreneur. My education gave me the tools needed to examine, improve challenging learning and experiences that happen at MCC. I am a proud MCC alumn."
College introduces event and wedding planning certificate

Metropolitan Community College is now offering an Event and Wedding Planning noncredit certificate, giving entrepreneurs and professionals in the hospitality industry an opportunity to add credentials to their résumé. The certificate, offered through MCC Continuing Education, gives students extensive training led by industry professional instructors.

“By completing the certificate, students will position themselves to be knowledgeable, professional and highly committed event and wedding planning professionals. Students will strengthen communication skills, interpersonal relationships and enhance problem-solving skills,” says Vernetta Kosalka, Hospitality Management adjunct instructor.

The noncredit certificate offers specialized tracks in event planning, wedding planning and event design. Students are required to take four core classes, followed by two electives that vary upon specialization. There are more than a dozen different courses available, including topics such as floral artistry, financial management, creative thinking, logistics, trends, marketing and more.

Facebook and Metropolitan Community College have partnered to offer an online digital marketing program.

Facebook and Metropolitan Community College have partnered to offer an online digital marketing program. The nine-month certificate program is fully online with instructors that will provide guidance, grading and feedback.

“MCC’s partnership with Facebook enhances and builds the skills of digital marketers throughout the region,” says Kim Whiteside, MCC director of Workforce and IT Innovation Corporate Online. “We are proud to offer this robust program.”

The program consists of six modules that build essential skills businesses look for when hiring and promoting digital marketers, including content marketing strategy, analytics and performance optimization, social media and email marketing and search and display advertising. For more information, visit mccneb.edu/wid.

MCC lab creates vital face masks in fight against COVID-19

The Metropolitan Community College Prototype Design Lab produced thousands of masks for Nebraska Medicine, and other area healthcare providers, amid a supply shortage in the fight against COVID-19.

It began with a call for assistance from Nebraska Medicine. Once Ken Heinze, lab coordinator, was forwarded the message, he connected with Nebraska Medicine, letting them know the College’s lab could answer the call for more medical supplies.

“I’d rather be here in the lab making these masks than sitting at home waiting this thing out,” said Heinze.

Volunteers from the lab and other areas of the College provided a helping hand. Heinze collected material from companies willing to help, as well as other Omaha area stores. The face shields can be used by health care workers on the front lines of the pandemic. Manual labor in the midst of a pandemic wasn’t easy, though. Heinze kept the 10 people to a room rule in mind.

Omaha creates math momentum with partnership between MCC, UNO and others

A $1.4 million federal grant funded by the National Science Foundation Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program will help the University of Nebraska Omaha build upon a successful program that prepares future high school math teachers for dynamic careers in high-need schools.

The NebraskaMATH Omaha Noyce Partnership, which partners MCC with UNO and Omaha Public Schools, will run from Oct. 1, 2019 through Sept. 30, 2024. Over the next five years, the grant will provide scholarships, research opportunities, internships and mentorship to students pursuing careers as high school math teachers.

“Many MCC students come from the diverse backgrounds that reflect the community in which we live,” Therese Knipp, MCC director of Grants, says. “Identifying and recruiting MCC students for the Omaha Noyce partnership will help broaden the program’s diversity in terms of demographics, life experiences and income, and will enrich the institutional transfer cultures of OPS, MCC and UNO.”
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