



Pam Ingraham, Prototype Design Lab student, maker of face shield

WID RESPONDS TO COVID-19

In response to the social distancing recommendations of the State of Nebraska, Douglas County and the CDC to COVID-19 pandemic, Workforce Innovation Division rapidly responded with an individualized approach to its delivery of various non-credit workforce training offerings. The majority of spring trainings transitioned to an e-learning delivery, whereas some programs which required hands-on activity using equipment and tools was postponed until summer quarter. For the e-learning transition, staff and instructors are providing ongoing support to students to ensure minimal disruption to the learning process.

One example of how WID took a specialized approach to supporting students with the e-learning transition is the Pharmacy Technician training program. This four month training program provides a pathway for individuals to obtain a federal and state recognized certification allowing them to legally work in Nebraska as a pharmacy technician. To support the students, individuals who met income requirements and did not have access to a reliable computer were loaned a laptop to provide them with the necessary technology to complete the online content. In other programs, such as Project Management Academy, WID loaned headsets to students in need to support a live-virtual course delivery. Moreover, WID remained proactive and creative in effort to help MCC students maximize their learning experience.

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MCC Workforce Innovation Division



Kenneth Heinze, Lab Coordinator

FOCUS ON EXCELLENCE

We are proud of our team member Ken Heinze, Lab Coordinator for MCC's Prototype Design Lab. The lab has been working with Nebraska Medicine in the fight against COVID-19 by producing vital facemasks. It began with a call for assistance from Nebraska Medicine. Once Heinze 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, are lending a hand to help assemble the masks. Thousands of face shields have now been assembled, which can be used by health care workers on the front lines of the pandemic.

Watch the recent WOWT news coverage of the production of the face shields [here](#).

WID WIDSOM

Tammy Green

Director of Workforce IT & Innovation

Career Skills & Adult Education

In today's economy, workforce training and development fuel economic growth. Workforce Innovation Division ensures that career seekers have the skills and knowledge to support current and future business growth. These skills, however, also benefit workers themselves, giving them the tools they need to be successful and competitive in the workplace.

The Career Placement Program connects to business, supports individuals through advance training, and assists Adult Education students. In this program, we enhance the skills of those already in the workforce and provide relevant skills to Career Seekers. To alleviate the cost of the training programs, Gap assistance has approved over 40 programs that are designed to educate and train students in high-demand fields; programs range from Code School, Facilities Maintenance, Pharmacy Technician to IT Operations Specialist training. To date, Gap financial assistance supporting short term training programs for 276 students leading to successful employment.

The current situation with the Pandemic we are facing make these program more important than ever. By focusing on nontraditional workforce, economic, and community development programs, WID transforms retention rates by linking students to training.

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In January of this year, 79 students at Fremont High School completed the full battery of the National Career Readiness Certification (NCRC). Following this, students earning 70% and under were given the homework of utilizing WorkKeys to improve upon their performance. Retakes were done in early March and already, 220 of 46 improved scores, with a 47.8% increase for the group. Retakes are not complete yet, so we expect to see even more improvement. Kudos to these students and FHS teachers and administration for supporting this initiative.

CAREER & SKILLS PLACEMENT

With students and their busy schedules in mind, two members of WID staff, Kim Chatham and Rita Laughlin, designed an online version of MCC's Career Placement Program. There are currently twelve Project Management students enrolled in the online. While working through the five modules, participants will earn their Customer Service and Work Ethic Certification, create and revise their resume, and participate in a video interview.

By offering this program online, participants who hold day-time employment still have the ability to learn the skills and earn the certifications to upskill for future positions while working through the program at their own pace.

PROTO LAB

Lab memberships are open to anyone over 16 for as low as \$15 per month and include free training on more than 100 types of equipment. Membership is free to credit students.



Metropolitan Community College

**WORKFORCE
INNOVATION DIVISION**

MCC's Workforce Innovation Division drives and directs workforce innovation, advances people, and fuels business growth through accelerated learning opportunities.

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