



Members of WID's Corporate Training team communicating through a Zoom call.

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MCC Workforce Innovation Division

WID: BUSINESS AS UN-USUAL

Dr. Tom Pensabene

Associate VP for Workforce and IT Innovation

As the college as a whole is shifting with the pandemic paradigm, so is the Workforce Innovation Division (WID). Literally within hours of getting the word to move students and clients off campus, the Corporate Training unit, working with instructors and contractors, moved three fourths of our offerings from face-to-face to remote e-Learning. As more and more of our clients are working from home, we are pivoting to meet that need reallocating resources towards emerging topics of interest (e.g., online sales), live and recorded webinars and short online offerings. Adult Basic Education (ABE) quickly activated remote learning opportunities including printing and mailing packets for a two-month span. While other programs in our state are effectively shut down, MCC continues to provide effective services. At this time, all WID staff are fully deployed, some re-deployed and, most importantly, employed.

I believe we are in the midst of a sea change and, while others feel my outlook is a bit rose-colored, this paradigm shift is an opportunity to expand our reach while uplifting the workforce.

Finally, we must bid adieu to Victoria Novak. She took the work Pam Perry started and worked tirelessly to put processes in place that will allow Corporate Training to focus on what truly matters—our clients.



Fremont Methodist Hospital utilizing one of the face shields made by the PROTO Design Lab.

FOCUS ON COMMUNITY

The PROTO Design Lab, along with several staff at the college, worked together to make 19,270 face shields to help healthcare professionals working on the frontlines in the fight against COVID-19.

A simple prototype started the wheels turning and soon the CAET building was full of socially distant MCC employees and volunteers each doing their part to help support the health care workers in our region. Recipients of the shields included UNMC, CHI, Methodist, Childrens, the VA, One World, Visiting Nurses and multiple nursing homes. WID would like to thank all who helped make this possible!

PROTO PORTAL

With the COVID-19 outbreak, MCC credit programs have had to adapt to teaching remotely and that includes the Prototype Design degree. Since the degree focuses solely on projects and use of laboratory equipment, this change has been more than challenging. As students do not have access to any of the equipment, they have had to be very creative in approaching the various projects. The nature of the program has the students thinking outside of the box, which hasn't changed, and this has proven to be our saving grace. Students have come up with various projects, including designing and building a self-driving RC car using a raspberry pi. This project will be rolled over into next quarter as well, where the student will develop curriculum alongside his instructor and turn this project into a special topics course. This course will then be reviewed by the instructional designers within the WID group for further refinement.

Students are still learning to cope with the change in curriculum deployment. With all of the resources and staff, including the fabulous coaches and designers, students are finding ways to thrive. This will prove to be extremely valuable in the coming quarters as the new way of life continues to adapt and change the way the college does business. The next steps involve adapting all of the current course offerings into competency-based education (CBE). Compliant courses will allow students to work from home as much as possible. Limiting social interactions may be the new normal for the coming years, so the Prototype Design Degree is striving to continue deploying the same quality of education remotely.

CAREER & SKILLS PLACEMENT



The MCC Adult Education program quickly transitioned to Hybrid e-Learning and Correspondence Courses to accommodate the 1,218 students enrolled in GED and ELL classes. Instructors quickly pivoted to using Zoom meetings as a way to communicate and provide instruction to Adult Education Students. In this e-Learning delivery system, students engage in a bonafide curriculum to increase learning gains.

Career readiness is also a focus, and a new Career Advancement video will be played via Zoom to assist students with accessing Career Skills Coaches and developing their educational plans after completing English Language and GED courses.

CORPORATE ONLINE

This month, the Corporate Online team has been focused on four areas:

Online Courses Serving Our Corporate Partners

- Fundamentals of Problem Solving
April 1 - April 8, 2020

Online Courses Serving MCC Faculty

- Creating an Online Community - ongoing until June 2020
- Digital Pedagogy - ongoing until June 2020

Online Certificate Program Serving Metro-Area Learners

- Facebook Digital Marketing - ongoing until September 2020
- Facebook Digital Marketing - New cohort beginning May 4, 2020

Online Networking Serving the Omaha Online Community

- Host of Omaha Canvas Users Group - April 13, 2020

PROTO DESIGN 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.

Connect with us:

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