

Campus News

Peer Mentors: Who We Are & What We Do

By Nikeisha J. Williamson
Peer Mentor

Students on campus may (or may not) notice the white poster boards located in the Parkhouse main entrance downstairs (at the bottom of the stairways) and in College Hall (upper floor by stonewall well and downstairs); if not, now you will! Those post boards advertise several workshops supported by the Student Success Center. Who makes them? How on earth do they appear there? The answer: Peer Mentors! No, Peer Mentors are not a group of starving artists seeking recognition or possibly even extra credit in an art course. The workshops are a part of the Leadership Series Workshop for this Fall semester and Peer Mentors take part in assisting the facilitators and also design and present workshops ourselves. Topics include: Blackboard and Web Advisor, Study Skills and Time Management. Though, this is just a part of what we do and our interaction with faculty and students on campus.

Peer Mentors are trained to more effectively use tools and learn about campus resources such as Blackboard and Web Advisor, the college catalog, Learning Assistance Lab, tutoring, on-line tutorials and disability services accommodations. Our mission is to help other students become more familiar with these tools and resources, thus helping create a positive and confident student. It should be emphasized that Peer Mentors are not Advisors so we can not assist current or prospective students in selecting their courses or major BUT we are readily available to help gear students in the right direction, especially, during registration when the process can potentially become stressful and nerve wrecking when

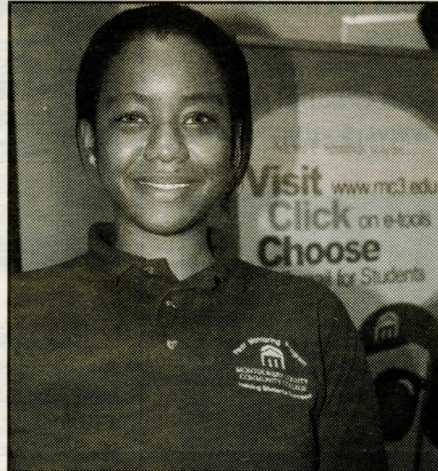


Photo courtesy of MCCC PR Office

Nikeisha Williamson

waiting on those long lines. Ways we help students utilize their resources can include instructing how to register online for classes, navigate through Blackboard and Web Advisor to check class assignments, announcements, grade reports and program evaluation, just to list a few.

From the beginning of the semester to the end, a Peer Mentor will be there to help! We now help conduct "Open House" campus tours, participate in other college outreach events and we also plan on hosting a blog for the student body to post questions, concerns and suggestions for even more interaction.

Peer Mentors are students too! And again, we are here to help. In fact, we love it when we get noticed! (Ok, so we do have something in common with that starving artist). Peer Mentors are just that – a mentor to our peers. So if you see anyone walking around with either a white or burgundy polo shirt with the MCCC logo and Peer Mentoring Program in print, feel open to ask any questions you may have concerning your college experience thus far.

Have a great, relaxing Thanksgiving break!

'Learn Over Lunch' Pilot

By Carol Messer
Reading Instructor

As part of the College's Strategic Plan, there is an ongoing effort to enhance faculty-student engagement for the purpose of increasing student success. This Fall, the Student Success Center launched the Learn-Over-Lunch program to help students and faculty make effective connections inside and outside of the classroom. Research shows that when students are able to make personal connections with faculty it increases persistence and satisfaction with enrollment in college. And when faculty know their students, they find teaching more enjoyable and can better meet their academic needs.

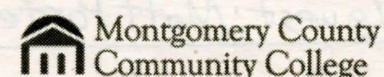
In an effort to foster these relationships, the Student Success Center is sponsoring lunches with faculty and students recognizing that throughout history, people have been establishing and building relationships over meals together.

This semester 15 faculty members teaching First Year Courses at the Pottstown Campus will be selected to participate. On Oct. 11, "Learn-Over-Lunch" was held. Carol Messer, Reading Instructor at the Pottstown Campus, met with

her Reading class, comprised of 15 students, at Grace's Caribbean Kitchen on High Street in Pottstown to conduct a very casual evening for food and conversation among the students and instructor. It was a unique experience due to the fact that the restaurant was owned and run by one of the students, Monique Harrow, and her parents. Monique helped to prepare the food for the class.

Messer states that "The class was very excited about this time, and they were able to converse freely and find more information out about each other. My class is very diversified, including three students from Jamaica, one student from Brazil, and one student from Kenya. Classmates shared information about themselves, their work, their majors in school, their backgrounds, their families, and their hobbies. I also shared information about myself with them."

"The evening was a blend of Caribbean music and a variety of Caribbean food. Many of the dishes were described by Monique to those who were unfamiliar with them. An enjoyable time was had by all involved, and this event turned out to be a very positive educational and social experience," she explained.



BUS TRIPS FOR STUDENT ACTIVITIES FALL 2007

NOVEMBER 10, 2007

BUS TRIP TO NEW YORK

The trip to New York City for shopping and sightseeing **ON YOUR OWN!**

Bus Time Frame:

Depart MCCC: 9:00 a.m.

Depart NYC: 6:00 p.m.

Cost:

\$20.00 for students

\$40.00 for non-students