



Former and current MCC presidents Albert Lorenzo and Jim Jacobs.

MCC Guys Lay Out Economic Impact College Has on County, Community

Tech Center News story

Based on recent statistics, you can perhaps think of Macomb Community College (MCC) as a public college that is beginning to have the impact of a university.

That was the gist of a set of briefings about current events at MCC and in surrounding Macomb County given by MCC President Jim Jacobs and Kurt Metzger, director, Data Driven Detroit, at the school's Warren campus last week.

As it turns out, MCC contributes significantly to the economic vitality of Macomb County, providing an impact of up to \$108 million annually – and a return of up to \$3.18 for each tax dollar invested in the college.

These findings were among those presented to business and community leaders last week during an event marking the 50th anniversary of the college's expansion beyond a local K-12 school district into a countywide educational force to be reckoned with.

"Macomb Community College directly connects students to workplace needs, placing a special emphasis on education and training that prepares individuals for high-demand career fields," Jacobs said.

"At the same time, the college works closely with business and industry to leverage strengths while seizing opportunities in emerging industries to support economic vitality."

Jacobs further focused on growing economic impacts on Macomb County that can be attributable to the college, including how graduates' earnings are enhanced, return on investment to taxpayers and overall economic benefit to the community.

Jacobs also identified three key industry growth sectors for Macomb County, including advanced manufacturing and automotive, health care, and professional and technical services.

He noted that 3,800 individuals completed Macomb programs over the last five years that have prepared them for careers in these high-growth industries in particular, earning them an estimated \$22.1 million more annually than they would have without completing those MCC credentials.

Note that MCC was founded back in 1954, when it operated mostly K-12 level of instruction at Lincoln High School in south Warren.

It was an Aug. 7, 1962, millage – that passed, of course – that allowed MCC to broaden its impact by buying the land in Warren and eventually Clinton Township needed to support a major community college. Its first performing arts center at Clinton Twp. was actually a rural barn.

Of about 1,300 community colleges in the U.S., Jacobs said MCC was ranked 25th in terms of number of graduates, their job acquisition rate and related measurement factors.



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