

## HISTORY OF MCC

Metropolitan Community College (MCC) is a comprehensive, full-service public community college supported by the taxpayers of Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy and Washington counties. Its mission is to deliver relevant, student-centered education to a diverse community of learners.

The present community college system in Nebraska started in 1971 when the Nebraska Legislature created eight technical community college areas across the state. One of these new areas was called the Eastern Nebraska Technical Community College Area, which encompassed Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy and Washington counties. An area vocational technical school operated by the Omaha Board of Education already served part of this area.

Metropolitan Community College was created in 1974 when the Legislature consolidated the original eight technical community college areas into six. That year, the programs, personnel, assets and liabilities of the former Omaha Nebraska Technical Community College Area merged with the Eastern Nebraska Technical Community College Area under a new name stipulated by amended legislative statutes: the Metropolitan Technical Community College Area. In 1992, the Nebraska Legislature voted to change the College's name to Metropolitan Community College Area.

Over the last two decades, two types of expansion initiatives have enabled the College to adapt to the needs of its students and local employers. First, public-private funding partnerships, along with strong industry support, made possible state-of-the-art facilities that serve as centers of excellence across an array of career fields. The Construction Education Center and Center for Advanced and Emerging Technologies on the Fort Omaha Campus, and the Center for Advanced Manufacturing and Automotive Training Center on the South Omaha Campus all stand as top-in-class facilities designed to grow with the industries into the future. Meanwhile, an array of community-based locations brings accessible, affordable education to local neighborhoods. Three MCC Express locations offer workforce training, English-as-a-Second Language, GED, and other non-credit programs, while three MCC locations in Omaha's Millwork Commons offer niche programs designed to meet the needs of learners from all generations. In 2022, MCC is poised to extend these proven models as it gathers community and stakeholder input for its next ten-year master plan for facilities.

### ACCREDITATION HISTORY

During MCC's accreditation history, evaluation teams have visited the College seven times, and MCC has submitted three special reports since it applied for candidacy in 1974.

- MCC had its first evaluation visit in December 1974, which resulted in candidacy status approval in April 1975.
- In November 1976, the College hosted a biennial visit and was approved for continuing candidacy status and for moving toward accreditation.

- After the initial accreditation visit in November 1978, MCC was granted accreditation for five years in April 1979; however, a mandated focused visit was scheduled in 1980-81 to fulfill the requirements of initial accreditation.
- Based on the April 1981 mandatory focused visit, the visiting team thought the College had not yet resolved issues raised earlier: developing a long-range master plan and reducing the Board of Governors' involvement in administrative matters. A follow-up focused visit was scheduled for the following year.
- In March 1982, the visiting team conducted a focused visit and concluded that the College had addressed the master planning concern but had not fully addressed the concern about board involvement in administrative matters. Because of this, the next comprehensive visit was moved forward one academic year to spring 1983.
- In March 1983, the first evaluation visit for continued accreditation occurred. The commission stipulated that the College submit a five-year status report in 1987-88.
- In October 1992, a second evaluation visit for continued accreditation occurred. The visiting team recommended a ten-year continuing accreditation status with the next scheduled visit occurring in 2002-03; however, the College was required to provide a detailed description of its institutional program for the assessment of student academic achievement during 1995-96.
- In May 1996, the college submitted the requested report, which was subsequently approved.
- In October 2002, the evaluation team from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) returned and "enthusiastically and unanimously" recommended another ten years of accreditation. The College was asked to prepare a progress report due in 2005 assessing student achievement and integrating the assessment into curricula development, relevant planning and budgeting processes.
- In May 2013, MCC's institutional accreditation was reaffirmed by the HLC through the 2022-23 academic year. MCC was one of only thirteen HLC member institutions to pilot the new Open Pathway accreditation process.
- In June of 2017, the College submitted its first assurance argument under the new HLC Open Pathway process. The HLC gave the College "criterion met" on all criteria except for two (4b and 4c), which were met with concerns. Criterion 4b and 4c are related to learning outcomes assessment and data analysis. The College completed an interim report in 2019, which was accepted.
- In 2018 MCC joined the HLC Assessment Academy to improve learning outcomes assessment and to fulfill the HLC requirement that the College engage in a quality improvement initiative as part of the Open Pathway accreditation process, Improvement to general education assessment, co-curricular assessment and assessment of dual credit courses were the focus of the Assessment Academy work.
- In October of 2022, HLC will complete the next comprehensive site visit.

## **MCC CAMPUS AND CENTER LOCATIONS**

Metropolitan Community College's (MCC) campuses and centers are as diverse as its students. Campuses and sites change from urban to suburban settings. All campuses provide a complete array of programs and services while centers are focused on areas of specialization or needs of the communities where they are located.

### **Applied Technology Center**

10407 State St., Omaha, NE 68122

The Applied Technology Center opened in 2007 and is home to a number of MCC's trades programs. The space was acquired to accommodate growth in both MCC enrollment and in the trades programs themselves. The new location allows ample space for the special classroom and lab facility needs of trades programs such as CDL-A Truck Driving, Utility Line Technician and Diesel Service Technology.

### **Elkhorn Valley Campus**

North 204th Street & West Dodge Road, Elkhorn, NE 68022

The Elkhorn Valley Campus opened in 1980. EVC provides educational experiences for western Douglas County and portions of Dodge and Washington counties. As a single building on a 51-acre site, the Elkhorn Valley Campus is a full-service facility offering both credit and non-credit instruction in classrooms, and science, computer, and visual arts labs, library services, police, student services, and technical support to staff and students. Located within the campus is the Gallery of Art and Design, a 1,100 square foot space dedicated to exhibiting the works of visual arts faculty and students. Exhibitions change throughout the year and admission is free.

### **Fort Omaha Campus**

5300 N. 30th St., Omaha, NE 68111

Located minutes from the North Freeway to the south and I-680 to the north is the historic Fort Omaha Campus. Obtained from the federal government in 1975, the campus is the oldest campus and serves as the second highest-enrollment site for credit and non-credit students and programs and services.

The majority of administrative and maintenance staff provide area-wide services from this location. The campus sits on 73 acres of land and contains 34 buildings, which encompass 377,701 square feet of space. Five of the buildings serve as instructional space; while others provide unique programs and services to the community. Historical buildings are maintained in the original 19th century architectural theme while new state-of-the-art buildings provide learning experiences infused with new technology and equipment to meet the educational needs of the 21st century.

### **Fremont Area Center**

835 N. Broad St., Fremont, NE 68025

The Fremont Area Center serving Dodge County opened in 1986 in a leased, store-front location. The Fremont Center moved to its new home in 2007, housed in a former junior high school building. The center offers 11 classrooms, student services, computer labs, and a state-of-the-

art certified nursing assistant lab. Additionally, the center anchors the Data Center Management program; a data center lab connects students both physically and digitally to courses.

### **MCC at The Mastercraft**

1111 N. 13th St., Omaha, NE 68102

Once a bustling furniture factory, the Mastercraft building has been reimagined as office and community space for more than 50 startups, nonprofit organizations, creatives and other entrepreneurial businesses. The Mastercraft is a place people come together to work, collaborate. and connect. MCC at The Mastercraft offers a multitude of non-credit offerings including remodeling and repair workshops, a lost arts series in upholstery and sewing, and community DIY projects.

### **MCC Yates Illuminates**

3260 Davenport St, Omaha, NE 68131

Tucked inside the Gifford Park neighborhood on 32nd and Davenport is the Yates Community Center. The more than century-old, 30,000-square-foot structure offers classrooms, offices and multi-purpose spaces, a commercial kitchen, and an auditorium with a stage. During 2022, MCC will open operations within the space. MCC is proud to be a part of a coalition of organizations working together to elevate and promote the lived experience of our diverse community. A unique programming opportunity will be available through an innovative Freight Farm MCC will install on-site.

### **MCC IT Express - Millwork Commons - The Ashton**

1218 Nicholas St., Omaha, NE 68102

MCC IT Express at the Ashton opened its doors in 2021. Millwork Commons is a collaborative community designed to inspire and support the work of innovators and creators by providing engaging spaces to work, live, connect, and explore. The Ashton building is a hub for community growth, art, design, entrepreneurship, innovation, and technology. With a focus on IT, MCC opportunities at the Ashton will be real world-upskilling, COMP TIA A+, Rapid IT Employment Academy, and many other IT and upskilling offerings.

### **MCC North Express**

2112 N. 30<sup>th</sup> St., Omaha, NE 68111 (Highlander Accelerator Building, third floor)

MCC North Express encompasses more than 9,000 square feet on the third floor of the community Accelerator building. This center is strategically positioned in the middle of the neighborhood, enabling students and community members the ability to have educational resources close by. Services provided are purposefully designed as stepping stones to initiate the next steps toward college or a career. The MCC North Express location currently houses Nebraska's only Science on a Sphere. In collaboration with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, MCC has developed a multitude of informative and engaging SOS programs that appeal to the community and school audiences. The visually stunning display engages students by showing educational "movies" starring science. Topics include space,

atmosphere, ocean, land, astronomy, and climate.

### **MCC South Express at Vinton Square**

3002 S. 24th St., Omaha, NE 68108 (Vinton Square)

As a one-stop-shop for Adult Education services at the neighborhood level, MCC Express addresses a critical need for GED, English-as-a-Second Language (ESL) and transition services in Omaha. Opened in 2012, MCC Express aims to help individuals master basic skills, set educational and career goals and access occupational programming or employment. In addition to traditional Adult Education classes, MCC Express offers special programs and support services individualized and streamlined to fit the needs of each student. This more personalized approach is meant to increase students' abilities to persist, master course content and attain their educational goals.

### **Sarpy Center**

9110 Giles Road, La Vista, NE 68128-3081

The Sarpy Center and La Vista Public Library is a partnership between Metropolitan Community College and the city of La Vista to combine resources to serve students, city library users, and the community. The Sarpy Center opened in 1999 and is located in the heart of one of the fastest-growing counties in Nebraska.

The Sarpy Center offers an array of general education/academic transfer, and career education courses. A one-stop student services area provides personalized service and attention to help students get started and stay on track to reach their educational goals.

### **South Omaha Campus**

2909 Edward Babe Gomez Avenue, Omaha, NE 68107

In 1975, the College purchased the site which is currently the South Omaha Campus. It consists of four buildings located on 40 acres in the heart of South Omaha. It has the largest and most diverse enrollment of MCC locations and offers a full-array of both credit and non-credit programs and services.

Nebraska State Legislator Eugene T. Mahoney had an active interest in the revitalization of South Omaha and the creation of jobs and job training in the former packing plant area. He was responsible for passage of legislation funding the College's purchase of land in the earlier developed stockyard area. The Mahoney building, named after State Legislator Mahoney, opened in 1978. The College's Industrial Training Center was constructed in 1979 with a federal grant under the Federal Government's Economic Development Act of 1976. Construction on the Connector building began in December 2005 and the building opened to students in July 2007. The Connector building is a unique partnership with the Omaha Public Library and Metro Area Transit.

In 2021, the Industrial Training Center was revitalized and opened as the Center for Advanced Manufacturing. In addition, a new 100,000 sq. ft. building, the Automotive Training Center opened.