

# MCC Partners with County To Attract, Keep Businesses

by Ross Raybin

Macomb Community College has long been a staple of education in Macomb County and was recently recognized by officials for their commitment to Macomb.

The college was named the 2013 Economic Development Partner of the Year by the Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development during the first-ever Macomb Business Awards held last month.

"It was a great surprise to all of us," said Holger Ekanger, director of workforce and continuing education, engineering and advanced technology at MCC. "I don't think anyone expected the award."

The college has partnered with the county for roughly 25 years now and helps attract and retain businesses to the area.

"We all work together to make the county an attractive place to live and work," said Ekanger.

It's done through something called 4M, which includes the Macomb County Planning and Economic Development Department, Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Macomb/St. Clair Workforce Development Board (Michigan Works!) and MCC.

According to Ekanger, 4M was formed about two-and-a-half years ago and is a smaller, solidified version of a former entity geared specifically to Macomb County.

"We know each other well," he said. "We look at the unique needs of employers and how to best meet those needs."

One way they achieve this is through development programs at the college. Some of the programs are designed specifically to address the certain needs of employers.

"What we have seen is that we've been working together very effectively," said Ekanger. "The college plays a key role by helping develop programs to address employers' needs."

Ekanger says that 4M is constantly asking how to assist in the attraction and retention of businesses and how to connect that to education and training.

One way the organization is able to assist is through grants re-

ceived at the state and local levels.

"We're able to build programs that employees need," he said. "MCC is a resource to help meet employers' needs and ensure the skill sets of employees meet the needs of the employers. It's not only education and training."

The size of the company doesn't matter - small, medium, large - the goal is to help companies in Macomb County be successful.

"We know what each partner brings to the table so we're really able to steer companies in the right direction and meet their individual needs," said Ekanger.

According to a press release by the Macomb County Planning and Economic Development Department, the college's "excellent entrepreneurial training programs have been instrumental in helping businesses establish a strong foundation."

## Symposium Set On Great Lakes

Registration has opened for the 10th Biennial Lake Superior Youth Symposium May 16-19 at Michigan Technological University in Houghton.

The four-day symposium is for 8th to 12th grade students and teachers who are concerned about the Great Lakes and their watersheds.

The symposium will highlight the Great Lakes stewardship efforts of middle and high school students and teachers throughout the Great Lakes watershed and showcase the cutting-edge research conducted at Michigan Tech's new Great Lakes Research Center.

Activities include hands-on workshops, art, music, field trips, challenge courses and exploration of careers that help protect the Great Lakes.

The \$140 symposium includes three nights' lodging, Thursday dinner through Sunday breakfast, all field trips and activities. Registration deadline is April 15 at <http://lakesuperioryouth.org>.

For more information, contact Joan Chadde, [jchadde@mtu.edu](mailto:jchadde@mtu.edu), or call at 906-487-3341.

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\*Leases 2013 Terrain \$1680 due at signing, 2013 Verano \$2098 Total Due At Signing, 2013 Acadia \$1820 Total Due at signing, 2013 Regal Turbo \$1825 Total due at signing, 2013 Enclave \$2068 Total due at signing, 2013 Sierra ext cab \$1965 total due at signing. \*\*All prices plus tax, title, lic, doc, zero sec deposit. For 2 years receive free maintenance, free OnStar, free XM Radio on 24 month leases only. Programs subject to change. Photos may not represent actual vehicle. Expires 3/31/13. \*\*GM \$500 Match money. Must be GM Employee or qualified family member under the age of 25 to qualify. For lease loyalty rebate customer must be in a GM lease set to expire by 12/31/2013. Do not have to trade in lease to qualify. See dealer for details.