



For Immediate Release

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New MCTC Intercollegiate Fundraising Committee launches campaign for basketball teams

Minneapolis, June 25, 2009—Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC) today announced a campaign to raise donations to cover the operating expenses for the MCTC men’s and women’s basketball programs, with an initial goal of raising \$118,000 by March 1, 2010, to fund the programs in the 2010-2011 basketball season.

At its June 22 board meeting, the Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC) Foundation authorized the formation of a fundraising committee and an Intercollegiate Athletic Fund and will administer the dollars that are raised. The fundraising committee will be solely responsible for raising the funds under the direction of the foundation. The foundation board will continue its focus on raising funds for scholarships.

“The basketball program has had phenomenal success both on and off the court with the students who have participated,” said Reede Webster, MCTC dean of college advancement and chair of the

newly formed Intercollegiate Athletic Fundraising Committee. “We want to do all we can to keep intercollegiate athletics running at MCTC.”

The program historically has been funded through college funds, but budget challenges have led to the decision to seek private funding. “MCTC is not in a position to fund intercollegiate athletics through its annual operating budget,” said President Phil Davis. “We’re cutting \$2.5 million from this year’s operating budget, closing programs that have served the community for decades and laying off faculty and staff. Fiscal year 2011 may bring further budget reductions.”

Several other colleges have closed their athletic programs over the past few years due to budget pressures, Davis said. MCTC is one of only four community and technical colleges in the metropolitan area to offer intercollegiate athletics.

MCTC’s basketball teams have earned national recognition. The MCTC Mavericks men’s basketball team played in the NJCAA Division III national championship game in March, marking its fourth appearance in the national championship tournament. The women’s team won the national championship in 2004. Jay Pivec, coach of the men’s team, was named this year’s NJCAA Division III Coach of the Year and the Minnesota College Athletic Conference Coach of the Year.

MCTC Foundation Board Member Harvey Rucker said the basketball program is well known in the community and has received broad support. “The community has long recognized the value of the MCTC basketball teams, and it is our hope that they will now step forward and help fund our

intercollegiate athletics teams.” He will serve as liaison to the Intercollegiate Athletic Fundraising Committee.

“The foundation’s primary mission is to raise money for scholarships,” Rucker said. “But we support the Intercollegiate Athletics Fundraising Committee members in their efforts and believe we can have a win-win situation for everyone involved.”

The MCTC Foundation and its partners have raised more than \$5.4 million in scholarship support over the past three years for the Power of You—a collaboration of MCTC, St. Paul College, and Metropolitan State University. The Power of You has tripled the number of recent high school graduates who have enrolled at Power of You institutions, including more than 500 students of color, according to Rucker.

MCTC men’s basketball Coach Jay Pivec says he is thrilled to have the foundation’s support. “I recognize that the foundation’s primary mission is to raise money for scholarships,” Pivec said. “A great example is the Power of You program, which has provided the opportunity of a college education for hundreds of low-income students and students of color.

“I’m pleased that the members have agreed to oversee fundraising for operational costs for intercollegiate athletics, and I’m looking forward to a successful campaign working with the Intercollegiate Athletics Fundraising Committee,” Pivec continued. “I believe we can provide more students with the opportunity to get an affordable, high-quality education, and to continue the opportunity for students to participate in intercollegiate athletics.”

About MCTC:

MCTC is the most ethnically diverse college in Minnesota. A member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System, MCTC offers more than 80 liberal arts, career and technical programs designed to prepare people for good jobs in high demand professions. Located in downtown Minneapolis, MCTC enrolls more than 13,000 students annually and is an active partner in initiatives to strengthen the social, economic and cultural vitality of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. MCTC is equal opportunity educator and employer.

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