

## What's Inside:

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Boston Scientific supports Jump Start

Connecting students with industry

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## Letter from Phil Davis

Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC) was folded into the new Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system as two individual colleges in 1995, along with the other state universities, community colleges and technical colleges, that together comprised this newly formed higher education system. In 1996, Minneapolis Community College and Minneapolis Technical College merged to formally become MCTC. As many of you recall, it was a time of change and transition for our institution and for higher education in Minnesota.

For the last 10 years, the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system has been led by Chancellor James H. McCormick. During his tenure, Dr. McCormick provided the leadership, stability and stewardship needed to build the fifth-largest higher education organization in the United States into the united 31-institution system we have in place today. Dr. McCormick retired this summer and was awarded emeritus status by the MnSCU Board of Trustees as a special honor for employees who have served with great distinction. We will miss Chancellor McCormick's dedication, passion and commitment to serving students, and we wish him well in his retirement.

Following a national search, Dr. Steven J. Rosenstone was appointed chancellor of MnSCU on Aug. 1. I have had the pleasure of meeting with Chancellor Rosenstone at MCTC on two occasions and have been impressed and energized by his vision. At the MnSCU Board of Trustees meeting this fall, he formally laid out his vision, emphasizing that Minnesota is counting on us to prepare a skilled workforce—despite serious fiscal challenges.

Chancellor Rosenstone pledged to make tough choices and design new ways of doing business to keep tuition affordable. "We must think differently and work together differently. The biggest risk we face is the risk of business as usual," he said.



President Phil Davis

Outlining his new strategic framework, Dr. Rosenstone said the MnSCU system has three core commitments:

- ▶ Ensuring access to an extraordinary education for all Minnesotans;
- ▶ Being the partner of choice to meet Minnesota's workforce and community needs; and
- ▶ Delivering the highest value and most affordable option for higher education to students, employers, communities and taxpayers.

These are bold challenges that will require a lot of hard work and goodwill from our faculty, staff and the entire community. In many respects, it is a new day in higher education, but I firmly believe MCTC is ready to deliver on this vision.

I look forward to working with you as we focus on improving on the extraordinary education we offer at MCTC. I believe that together we have the will and the capacity to create a more prosperous and educated community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phillip L. Davis". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Phillip L. Davis, President  
Minneapolis Community & Technical College

### Connect with MCTC!



Minneapolis Community & Technical College



MCTCtweets



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mctcnews.wordpress.com

## Carolyn Harris

### Food plant lay off leads Harris to pursue nursing career

Career inspiration can emerge where and when you least expect it. For MCTC student Carolyn Harris, it happened a few years back in the delivery room of Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis. As she went through the process of giving birth to her daughter, she was impressed and moved by the work of the nursing staff. “It was inspiring,” she says. “The doctor came in and did the actual delivery, but the nurses were the ones who made the experience really positive for me.”

At the time, Harris was a seven-year veteran assembly line worker at the Ford truck plant in St. Paul—the latest in a series of jobs she’d had since graduating from Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design in Colorado. However, she realized that nursing was her calling.

Thanks to MCTC—and the unexpected twist of a corporate restructuring—she’s well on her way to that goal.

In 2006, Ford Motor Co. announced plans to eventually close its St. Paul manufacturing facility, and later began offering educational buyouts to employees. Suddenly, Harris had her opportunity to go to nursing school. She looked into programs at Twin Cities-area colleges and universities, and quickly realized that MCTC offered an ideal combination of affordability and a well-respected program. While she hasn’t been disappointed in her choice, she has been surprised at the rigor of the coursework in the two-year RN program. “The classes are challenging,” she says. “They’re a lot harder than I expected, but the faculty members and staff have been incredibly supportive. After I’ve gotten to know them and the rest of the students, it’s begun to feel like a family to me.”



Carolyn Harris

The MCTC program has also helped shape Harris’ nursing career aspirations. She’d originally thought about going into obstetrics, but a course called Transcultural Nursing: A Service Learning Approach helped change her mind. “It was a spectacular class that examined nursing in different cultures and also had us do a service-learning project,” she says. “It also made me want to contribute to the local community. I’ve thought about working with sexual assault victims, returning military veterans and people with post-traumatic stress.

“This entire experience has been a huge life change,” she adds. “I’m still figuring out what my next steps will be, but I’m tremendously grateful that I found MCTC, and that I have the opportunity to do what I’m doing now.”

**“The classes are challenging,” she says. “They’re a lot harder than I expected, but the faculty members and staff have been incredibly supportive. After I’ve gotten to know them and the rest of the students, it’s begun to feel like a family to me.”**

—Carolyn Harris

### Stay connected to what’s happening at MCTC

Sign-up to receive MCTC email news and updates at [www.minneapolis.edu/AlumniandFoundation](http://www.minneapolis.edu/AlumniandFoundation).

## Megan Longo

### A once struggling youth discovers her talent for sculpting

As a child, Megan Longo loved drawing and other forms of artistic expression. Over the years, she continued on that path, doing screen printing for nonprofit organizations and taking photography classes. Still, she never thought of herself as an artist until she took an MCTC sculpture class—a move that would radically transform her life.

Longo came to Minneapolis after graduating from an alternative high school in Racine, Wis. It was the right move, she recalls. “I never felt at home in Racine,” she says. “That changed when I moved to Minneapolis. I started working at a youth center that caters to homeless GLBT teenagers. For the first time, I was in a supportive environment with people who understood me.”

Just the same, times were tough for Longo; she lived under a bridge for a while. “I wanted to get an education, but I thought I couldn’t afford college,” she recalls. “I didn’t know anything about financial aid. I even considered going into the military as a way to get an education.”

Around that time, she discovered MCTC. She attended the college on and off for nearly a decade. Needing art credits to complete the requirements for her A.A. degree, she signed up for a metal sculpture course with MCTC instructor Barbara Hager. That’s when everything changed. Without warning, she found that she had an aptitude—and a passion—for the work. “The studio became my home away from home. I couldn’t spend enough time there,” she recalls. “Initially, I wasn’t sure about myself, but when I asked Barbara if I should keep at it, she told me, ‘Absolutely—you need to do this.’”

With Hager’s encouragement, Longo dove headlong into art, changing her MCTC major to fine arts and immersing herself in her new passion. “Sculpture changed the way I view my environment,” she says. “I see value, beauty and possibility at every turn.”

Hager wasn’t the only one who saw Longo’s potential. Shortly before graduating from MCTC, she earned a scholarship to the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC). Longo graduated from SAIC with a bachelor’s degree in fine arts earlier this year.



Megan Longo

While she is now taking steps to apply for a master of fine arts degree program, she says she’s profoundly grateful to MCTC for helping her to discover her talent. “My instructors went above and beyond to help me,” she notes. “I’m just beginning to understand the power that art possesses, and I can only dream of the day when something I create provides a spark of change or inspiration greater than one person alone can make.”

“Sculpture changed the way I view my environment,” she says. “I see value, beauty and possibility at every turn.”

—Megan Longo

## David Berg

### Company president connects students with industry

For five generations, South St. Paul Steel Supply Company has been providing steel, aluminum and galvanized products to local and national customers. For almost as long, they've been helping out local colleges with products, recycling and expertise.

David Berg, the company's president, remembers dropping metal product donations to local colleges as early as the '60s, when he was just a teenager. This past spring, MCTC joined that group of colleges through a new partnership.



South St. Paul Steel Supply provides a range of services to the College including free, custom-built containers that academic departments and maintenance staff can use to recycle metal products. Under the enthusiastic direction of MCTC Welding and Metal Fabrication instructor Todd Bridigum, students get

hands-on learning about hot topics in the industry, including finding more environmentally friendly ways to work and more Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design (LEED) certification programs. In addition, Berg's company contributes steel products to statewide welding competitions in which MCTC students participate.

But Berg is quick to point out that his role goes beyond just handing out supplies. "We don't just write a check or simply provide materials," he says. "If we're invited—to the skills competition for welding students, for example—we come and help support activities. We offer as much education to instructors as they're comfortable taking."



David Berg

In addition, Berg sits on the school's Welding Advisory Committee—one of several advisory committees in which he participates. "It helps us provide, from a private-sector viewpoint, what the industry is looking for from students taking [welding] courses," he says. "We can help implement different kinds of ideas and procedures." He'll even give pointers on the interviewing process for students who are looking for jobs in the field. In turn, Berg knows that he'll likely have a ready supply of top-tier talent available as his company grows and hires more employees.

Berg suspects he might be the only metal supplier in the state who can bandy about educational jargon like "full-year equivalent" (FYE) or chat with the chancellor of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU). But for him, providing assistance in all the ways he can is part of his larger role as being a positive part of the community. "Anybody can come in and pick up [a college's] scrap or provide steel product for classroom instruction," he says. "But for us, being a bigger part of that process, and giving back to the community, is what it's all about."

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—David Berg

# MCTC's Alumni Hall of Fame 2011 Inductees

- ▶ The “Distinguished Alumni Award” is the highest honor bestowed by MCTC to recognize alumni who have made outstanding personal and professional contributions in their careers and in their communities.

## David Brumbaugh—Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient

### HR VP begins global career at MCTC

David Brumbaugh is no stranger to business challenges. As vice president of human resources for Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota, the Minneapolis native oversees a 45-person staff and leads all human resources functions for the organization's 4,300 employees. Those duties include everything from staffing, compensation and benefits and organizational development to employee and labor relations, human resource information systems, payroll and volunteer services.

While it's a complex job, Brumbaugh's career experiences and educational background have prepared him well for its rigors.

Brumbaugh's educational path started with an unsettling development. Shortly before graduating from high school in 1971, his father was laid off from his electrical engineering job. “That really affected me,” he notes, adding that MCTC quickly emerged as a logical choice for his ongoing education. “It was a low-cost option. I could live at home and work 40 hours per week. It also provided a quality educational experience in a supportive environment.”

Brumbaugh used his MCTC experience as a springboard, transferring to the University of Minnesota's Carlson School, where he earned a B.S. in business administration and completed coursework towards an M.B.A. At the U of M, he found himself increasingly interested in the human resources. “I took industrial relations courses and found myself intrigued with how to maximize individual and organizational performance to meet a business' larger objectives,” he recalls.

After graduation, Brumbaugh got the chance to explore that concept when he joined Honeywell as a compensation administrator. He stayed with Honeywell for 13 years, working his way up to vice president of human resources for the company's Space & Aviation Control business unit.



David Brumbaugh

In 1999, he shifted into a new industry, becoming vice president of human resources for CIGNA HealthCare's Southwest Region. It gave him valuable experience for his move to Children's Hospitals and Clinics in 2003. “My time at CIGNA provided me the opportunity to learn about both the health insurance industry and clinical care, while focusing on leadership development, organizational change initiatives, and much more,” he says.

Over the last 35 years, Brumbaugh's career has taken him around the world and put him in the middle of some of the most fascinating and difficult business issues imaginable. Nonetheless, he retains a strong sense of gratitude to MCTC. “It was the ideal place for me to dip my toes into the college experience without getting lost among thousands of students at a larger institution,” he says. “It also offered a great bridge to a four-year degree. I was able to transfer seamlessly to the U of M and hit the ground running.”

“...[MCTC] also provided a quality educational experience in a supportive environment.”

—David Brumbaugh

## Daniel Pierce Bergin—Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient

### From production assistant to Emmy-award winning producer

By any measure, Daniel Pierce Bergin has had a successful career. As a longtime television producer, media educator and independent filmmaker, he's won multiple awards for his work, including an Emmy for *North Star: Minnesota's Black Pioneers*, a documentary that tells the stories of African-Americans who helped shape the state in its early years.

As with any success story, you can find dozens of influences and turning points that helped mold Bergin's career over the years. But Bergin, a senior producer at Twin Cities Public Television (TPT), says a lesson he learned years ago in MCTC's Media Production (now called Cinema Production) program made a particularly powerful impact on him. "One thing I learned was the value of learning the technology and serving as a team player," he says. "You have to do the tedious things in order to get to the art."

Bergin carried that lesson with him when he joined TPT more than 20 years ago. Starting out in the decidedly nonglamorous role of a production assistant, he gradually took on more responsibilities. By the early '90s, he'd moved into a much larger role, producing *Don't Believe the Hype*, an Emmy-winning youth media program. In the years since, he's continued to work on a wide range of projects, nearly all of which have focused on current and community affairs. "I'm fortunate to be able to help community organizations share their stories and turn them into compelling television and cinematic programs," he says. "It allows TPT to respond to the community's needs and issues, which is part of our mission."

While Bergin graduated from the University of Minnesota with a bachelor's degree in media studies (and won national filmmaking awards while there), MCTC played a critical role in his education. Even after transferring, he continued to use MCTC's media facilities (which were "far superior to the U's at the time," he notes), and ended up designing his U of M major with input from MCTC faculty members.



Daniel Pierce Bergin

"MCTC has long had a first-class operation and dynamic faculty members such as Bruce Mamer, who influenced numerous important filmmakers over the years, and Hafed Bouassida, who has continued his stewardship of such a highly regarded program," Bergin says. "MCTC also has a tremendously diverse student body, which helped my love of cinema and media and my interest in community involvement come into focus for the first time. The school made a powerful impact on my career."

"MCTC also has a tremendously diverse student body, which helped my love of cinema and media and my interest in community involvement come into focus for the first time. The school made a powerful impact on my career."

—Daniel Pierce Bergin

## Susan Niz—Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient

### Author, alumna publishes new novel

If Susan Niz's new novel about a troubled teenager living on the streets of Minneapolis seems gritty and realistic, there's good reason. "I wrote the story based on my own experience running away when I was 16," she says. The book, *Kara, Lost*, which was published this past summer, has been earning praise from local literary heavyweights including Alison McGhee and David Housewright for its raw authenticity.

For Niz, the book was the culmination of a years-long odyssey that took her from the street to college to literary success. Though she had always wanted to be a writer—at age three she was scribbling on scrap paper and stapling it together to make "books"—it wasn't until much later that she began seriously thinking about crafting her first novel.



MCTC, she says, was a turning point in that journey. Though she had run away from home, she knew that getting an education was important, and she eventually landed at an alternative high school in Minneapolis. In 1994, she had an opportunity to attend MCTC.

"Going to [MCTC] was like a fresh start," she says. "I didn't feel like anything I had or hadn't done in the past limited my chances to do well in that setting—it was about what I did right then and right there." She excelled in her classes, including composition courses, before transferring to the University of Minnesota to study English and Spanish.

She went on to become an English as a Second Language teacher but never forgot about her writing dreams. Six years ago, she began to get more serious about getting published. She began taking classes at the Loft Literary Center and joined a writers' group. Before long, she had earned an honorable mention in the Loft Mentor Series competition and had short stories published in *Summerset Review* and *flashquake*, which helped give her the confidence she needed to push through drafts of *Kara, Lost*. This past June, the book was published by North Star Press.



Susan Niz

The publication of the book is just the beginning of achieving a larger goal for Niz. As she develops her voice as an author, she wants to continue tackling difficult subjects—while still offering hope to her readers and others. "I want to be able to inspire other people who have had difficult times in their lives. With hard work, with education and with belief in one's self, things really can get better."

"I want to be able to inspire other people who have had difficult times in their lives. With hard work, with education and with belief in one's self, things really can get better."

—Susan Niz

To read more about Niz's book or to read her published stories, visit her website at [www.susanniz.com](http://www.susanniz.com).

## It All Adds Up

### MCTC and Boston Scientific prepare high school students for college-level math

When MCTC mathematics instructor Ed Dillon instructs a roomful of precollege students on solving quadratic equations or factoring polynomials, he knows he's doing more than just helping them understand abstract mathematical concepts. He's preparing them for success in an economy that increasingly requires its workers to have a strong math and science background.

Thanks to funding from Boston Scientific, which partnered with MCTC's highly successful Jump Start to College program, Dillon spent several weeks of steamy summer mornings working with more than two dozen high school students and recent graduates in an intense math-readiness class that will prepare them for college-level coursework. "It's ambitious," he admits. "We cover what is effectively a year of mathematics in high school in just six weeks."

The course represents one stepping stone in a pathway that will encourage more Minneapolis high school students to pursue science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) careers.



Ed Dillon

Though the students in Dillon's class—low-income students and students of color from Minneapolis public schools—may have slipped through the cracks in their high schools, all of the participants were more than willing to forgo some of the pleasures of summer for the

rewards of the classroom. Aisha, a recent Southwest High School graduate, appreciated the rigor of the class. "It prepares you for what is to come—a taste of college life before actually being in college," she says. "I think this is the opportunity of a lifetime."



Math class

To help them synthesize the material quickly, Dillon arranged the four-hour daily lessons so that he could assess students' learning long before they took the final test. With the help of technology called TurningPoint, Dillon shared practice problems with the class and could see, in real-time, which students were correctly solving the problems and which were struggling with particular concepts.

In addition, Dillon had assistance from Minneapolis Public Schools high school teacher, Patti Hosfield, who sat in on the class and offered supplemental instruction.

Dillon says he's inspired to work hard for these students. "It's not just that I want to help the community," he says. "This is a critical part of our state's future. The more people we can get college-ready, and the more people we can get to have STEM degrees, the more likely they are to have successful careers."

**"It prepares you for what is to come—a taste of college life before actually being in college," she says. "I think this is the opportunity of a lifetime."**

*—Aisha, a recent Southwest High School graduate*

## In Loving Memory of Maxine Nathanson

### **MCTC Foundation board member and advocate for community and technical college education passes away**

Maxine Nathanson, longtime board member of the Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC) Foundation, passed away Sunday, Sept. 11 at age 89.

Nathanson played an important role in advocating for educational access for Minneapolis youth and adults over a period spanning six decades. In the early 1960s, Nathanson served alongside Minneapolis Mayor Arthur Naftalin on the Junior College Action Committee that was charged with recommending the location of the first community college in Minneapolis. Based on this committee's deliberation and Nathanson's support, Minneapolis Community College, first known as Metropolitan State Junior College, opened its doors in 1965 on the first floor of Minneapolis Central High School.

Nathanson continued her community leadership roles in higher education, including serving on a Citizens League committee in 1967 that recommended merging Minnesota's community and technical colleges—an action that ultimately transpired decades later through the creation of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System (MnSCU). In 1977, when construction began on the first permanent new building of Minneapolis Community College (now Kopp Hall), Nathanson led the groundbreaking ceremony.

Nathanson was also prominent in advocating for Minneapolis Technical College. In the 1970s, Nathanson worked closely with community, business and public school leaders to pass a bonding referendum to fund the construction of a new technical college building and relocate the technical college to Hennepin Avenue.

The building was completed in 1980 and is the current T Building of MCTC. Nathanson also was a longtime member of the Minneapolis Technical College's Board of Advisors and was a founding member of the Minneapolis Technical College Foundation Board of Directors in the 1990s.



Maxine Nathanson

Nathanson also served on the Minneapolis Community College Foundation in the 1990s and continued her service as a foundation director when the community and technical college foundations merged in 1996. In all, Nathanson served over two decades as a foundation director and an advocate for scholarships and funding for low-income students.

"Maxine's spirit and passion for MCTC's students will be sorely missed," stated Phil Davis, president of MCTC.

In addition to educational advocacy, Nathanson was an activist during the Civil Rights Movement and participated in Wednesdays in Mississippi in the early 1960s—a program in which women of different races and faiths traveled to Mississippi to create bridges of understanding across regional, racial and class lines. As part of MCTC's annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration, Nathanson retold her experience to hundreds of MCTC students.

Nathanson served other important roles in the community including leading the Citizens Committee on Public Education for 15 years. Nathanson also was a longtime member of the University of Minnesota's Women's Athletics Advisory Council and served on boards and committees of the National Council of Jewish Women, the Urban Coalition of Minneapolis and the Minnesota Council for the Gifted.

"Maxine's spirit and passion for MCTC's students will be sorely missed."

—Phil Davis,  
President of MCTC

## MCTC Foundation

Dear Friends:

Fall is my favorite time of year. Our semester is now in full swing and it is a joy to come to work every day among the bustle of student activity. Fall is also a time for the MCTC Foundation Board of Directors to meet, assess progress from last year and get focused on what we do best—provide resources for students who have financial need.

The MCTC Foundation's mission is to provide philanthropic support for scholarships for students who have financial need and to raise funds for College programs that focus on increasing graduation rates. Financially, the Foundation exceeded its revenue goal last year, increased net assets and increased its return on investment (ROI) of public dollars. The Foundation delivered over \$350,000 in scholarships to nearly 300 students, provided more than \$60,000 in emergency student grants and funded programs including the Power of YOU and Jump Start to College, which are helping to improve student success and graduation rates.

But the true measure of what we do is witnessed through our students. Each fall the MCTC Foundation hosts a Scholarship Breakfast, when student scholars, donors and friends come together to visit and learn from one another.



Reede Webster

As part of the breakfast, we get to hear from the scholarship recipients. Their words are always amazing, their life stories compelling and their journeys remarkable. They make me proud to work at this institution of higher learning. MCTC's hallways and classrooms are filled with these real-life stories of students—immigrants from war-torn nations, displaced workers who are seeking re-training, and first-generation college students.

These students, their journeys and success stories exemplify the true mission of MCTC and the MCTC Foundation. We hope you can become a part of our mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Reede Webster". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Reede Webster  
Executive Director

### Give to the MAX Day—Nov. 16



Give to the Max Day is a day for Minnesotans to come together to raise as much money as possible for nonprofits—starting at midnight on Nov. 16 through midnight of Nov. 17.

The Foundation is participating again this year. Please support MCTC students and join fellow Minnesotan's in this tremendous philanthropic event by donating to the MCTC Foundation.

**To maximize your gift, please visit [www.givemn.org](http://www.givemn.org), and search for Minneapolis Community and Technical College Foundation. You can donate there.**

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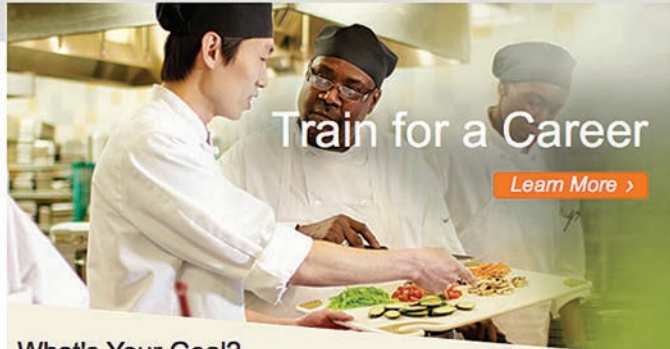
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Please join us for the *taste of* **MCTC**



Tuesday, Nov. 15, 5–8 p.m.

## MCTC Highlights

### New website for prospective students

MCTC has launched a new website that aims to improve the experience of prospective students and community visitors. The new site has been designed to improve navigation and content and better showcase the College's programs, as well as feature stories about students, faculty, alumni and community partners.

The site focuses on improving information about degree options at MCTC, four-year transfer opportunities and workforce development programs.

The content has been streamlined to make it easy for new students to understand the process of preparing for and starting college. Check it out at [minneapolis.edu](http://minneapolis.edu).

Let us know what you think!  
Send feedback to [webmaster@minneapolis.edu](mailto:webmaster@minneapolis.edu).

### Open House–Taste of MCTC!

▶ Alumni and friends: Please bring a colleague or a friend to our Open House event! To register visit [www.minneapolis.edu/TasteofMCTC](http://www.minneapolis.edu/TasteofMCTC).

Additionally, we are seeking alumni volunteers who can share their MCTC experience with prospective students. See event details below. To volunteer, please contact Marni Harper at 612-659-6311 or [Marni.Harper@minneapolis.edu](mailto:Marni.Harper@minneapolis.edu).

Tour labs and classrooms for a unique sensory experience—see our students in action.

Meet with advisors, faculty, students, alumni and others as you experience the full flavor of MCTC! Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served.

Learn about student life clubs, resources, academic support services, career services and financial aid.

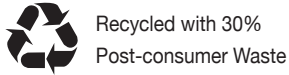


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If you would like to learn more about making a planned gift to the MCTC Foundation, please contact us at 612-659-6316 or email [reede.webster@minneapolis.edu](mailto:reede.webster@minneapolis.edu).

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