

John Wadach (Monroe Community College)

Since I started my career at Monroe Community College in 1984, I've remained focused on dedication to students and excellence in teaching, both inside and outside the classroom. As a faculty member at MCC, I've grown to understand that excellence in teaching involves constantly re-evaluating what I'm teaching and how I'm teaching it while continually striving for the most creative and effective methods to maximize student learning and student success.

I believe that excellence in teaching and dedication to students must go beyond the walls of a classroom. During my lunch hours or between classes, I'm typically in the Engineering/Physics Learning Center, advising and tutoring students or assisting with group projects. Advising engineering students early in their academic career is essential in helping them navigate through a degree program to completion. I helped institute a policy in the MCC Engineering Science Department that requires students to meet with their academic adviser before registering for classes. To better advise students of their transfer options, I regularly review MCC's engineering coursework with faculty at neighboring institutions and State University of New York institutions to ensure that MCC is at the cutting edge of technology and pedagogy in the field. This work has led to a more seamless transfer of MCC students to schools such as the Rochester Institute of Technology, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Binghamton University and Clarkson University. Because these institutions are familiar with our curriculum, they know that the students they admit from MCC's engineering program are completely prepared to handle the rigor of their upper-level engineering courses.

In support of increasing the awareness of engineering and pathways for high school students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields, I travel to local high schools in Rochester, New York, to talk with parents and prospective students about engineering and MCC's program. For more than 13 years, I've coordinated an annual high school engineering competition, which attracts hundreds of high school students from as far away as Connecticut. They come to MCC for a day of friendly competition and hands-on learning about engineering principles. In addition, I developed an engineering and technology "High Tech Career Fair," a collaborative effort between MCC's Engineering Science and Physics and Engineering Technology departments. This event brings together area colleges, employers and prospective students to showcase all of the opportunities in the fields of engineering and technology.