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Project to connect high school students with growing IT careers

High school students will be one of the main beneficiaries of the new Prosperity Reaches into Southern Macomb (PRISM) project launched by Macomb with a \$1.1 million grant from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation.

Motivated by data that shows the southern portion of Macomb County lagging behind its neighbors in employment, education and income, Macomb President James Sawyer initiated discussions with the Southwest Macomb Technical Education Consortium (SMTEC), a partnership between the Center Line, Fitzgerald, Van Dyke and Warren Woods school districts, and the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation. PRISM is the result of those discussions. The project is divided into three strands:

- Provide advanced manufacturing training to adults
- Connect high school students to informational technology (IT) careers
- Engage local employers in workforce training programs

Goals of PRISM include training a minimum of 100 adults in advanced manufacturing, introducing a summer IT academy for high school students and developing an employer innovation pilot and identification of opportunities for employer involvement.

Macomb student finds much joy on study abroad trip to Kenya

The first member of her family to travel outside the U.S., Alaiziah Caddell boarded the flight to Kenya last summer with a few fears and an unwavering belief that the trip would change her life. That she often uses the word “joy” to describe the experience suggests that she wasn’t disappointed.

“I was surprised what the media doesn’t show about the most beautiful places of Africa,” says Caddell, a Macomb social work major. “And, the joy and welcoming spirit you get from everyone is one of the things I enjoyed most.”

The study abroad trip to Kenya, an African country with dramatic landscapes and equally dramatic poverty, was organized by Rochelle Zaranek, Macomb social work professor. Students stayed in dormitories and assisted volunteers and staff at three orphanages that shelter and educate children who have lost their parents to violent deaths or disease, or whose parents are without the means to take care of them.



“Just to see how joyful and optimistic about life these children are even though faced with adversities and tragedies was incredibly uplifting,” says Caddell, shown here with children at one of the orphanages. “It shifted my thinking about most things that I have worried about in my life.”

In addition to three credits in directed study, Caddell also gained the confidence to climb up an untrailed mountain despite a fear of heights and to continue on her chosen career path.

“Once getting to Macomb my desire to be a social worker strengthened. Professor Zaranek was my first professor at Macomb and she has been a joy during my journey,” says Caddell. “I hope to become a social justice advocate in Michigan, but I also have the desire to work in the international social work field, especially after my experience in Kenya.”

The trip to Kenya is just one of the study abroad opportunities available to Macomb students. Learn more about how Macomb can show you the world at macomb.edu/study_abroad.

Work study is employment that empowers

Students attending Macomb have a great alternative to waiting tables or washing cars. Work-study positions in many College departments, as well as community organizations, offer not only a paycheck but experience that actually counts for something on a resume.

Students enrolled in at least six credit hours with financial need, as demonstrated on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form, are eligible for part-time work-study positions at Macomb.

Work-study hours accommodate a student’s class schedule and salary is minimum wage or higher, depending on the position.

It’s something to keep in mind if you enroll at Macomb.

Still time to apply for ECM! Early College of Macomb is accepting applications through Feb. 12 for next fall. Ask your counselor for details.

Make a date to Discover Macomb Saturday, Feb. 18

Macomb Community College invites high school students and their families to *Discover Macomb* on Saturday, Feb. 18, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (doors open at 9:30 a.m.), in K Building on the College’s South Campus, 12 Mile and Hayes roads, Warren.

At *Discover Macomb*, attendees will have the opportunity to tour Macomb’s South Campus, meet faculty, staff and students, and learn about:

- The 200 academic degree and certificate programs available
- How starting college at Macomb can save students \$18,000+
- Strategies for graduating from Macomb debt free
- The 225 transfer plans for students interested in earning a bachelor’s degree
- Early admissions opportunities
- Campus life, including student clubs, activities and athletics

For more information and to register, call 586.498.4008 or visit www.macomb.edu/discovermacomb.



Discover. Connect. Advance.™

