

Transitions Center

Schoolcraft College
Livonia, MI 48152-2696

www.schoolcraft.edu/transitions/
Phone: 734-462-4443, Fax: 734-462-4552

Fall 2009
Vol. 57

Transitions Center

August–May Hours
Monday & Thursday 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

June–July Hours
Monday–Friday
9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Letter from the Director

As the one year anniversary of my arrival at the Transitions Center approaches, I have been reflecting on our many accomplishments. It has been a year filled with opportunities -- we have expanded our services and have had many occasions to build upon our relationships.

We have most definitely expanded our services within the adult population, which is not surprising based on the current economic situation in our area. We have seen increased numbers of adults in our office looking to either return to or begin college. Many of these students are serviced by the state initiatives of MI Works! and No Worker Left Behind. We feel fortunate to be able to assist these students as they redesign and envision their new careers. In order to continue supporting them, in the fall semester we will be introducing a new Schoolcraft College program titled Transition to College: Workshops for Adults. Participants who complete the five week program, designed to give them the skills necessary to successfully begin college, will receive a \$100 tuition credit to be used at Schoolcraft College.

During 2008/09 we hosted several programs and events, including our annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser, a Financial Literacy Series and a Women's History Month program titled Questions for Women of the 21st Century. Plans are already underway for a Women's Health Seminar that will be offered this fall in partnership with the University of Michigan Women's Health Resource Center and the Schoolcraft College Nursing Department.

We are currently working with the Livonia branch of the American Association of University Women on developing a revised version of the Women on the Way (WOW) high school program that provides 9th grade girls the opportunity for personal growth, leadership, and investment in their education and careers. The students will participate in a 3-year program with emphasis on self-discovery, careers and college decision making. As the program is finalized, we will continue to share more of its details.

In addition to unveiling new programs, the coming year should be exciting as our office lobby area is being renovated. We hope you will plan to stop in the Transitions Center to access resources, attend an activity, or just to say hello.

Thank you for your continued support!

Regards!

Stacey Stover

Transitions Center Grants and Scholarships

Each October we take a survey of the previous year's graduates who had been funded by the Transitions Center at some time during their educational experience at Schoolcraft College.

The survey's purpose is to determine the employability of students after graduation. Secondly, we receive some very important demographic information on the types of students who we fund.

Number of Graduates	107
Number of Degrees/Certificates	116
Response Rate	74%
<i>Demographics</i>	
Ethnicity:	<i>White</i> 82%
	<i>Black</i> 10%
	<i>Hispanic</i> 1%
	<i>Asian</i> 2%
	<i>American Indian</i> 0%
	<i>Other/Unknown</i> 5%
Gender:	<i>Female</i> 93%
	<i>Male</i> 7%
Employed After Graduation	73%
Degree Related Employment	59%
Average Annualized Salary	\$36,343.11
Continuing Education	87%
<i>Degrees Conferred</i>	
	<i>Associate Degree</i> 65%
	<i>Certificate</i> 14%
	<i>Skills Certificate</i> 21%

Transitions Center's Marlene Kershaw Retires

After 24 years with Schoolcraft College and touching the lives of over one thousand students, Marlene Kershaw, CHIPS Program Coordinator, retired on July 24.

In 1983, after reading an ad in a local newspaper, Marlene applied for a position as a peer counselor volunteer with the Women's Resource Center. The name Schoolcraft College caught her eye, as her husband, Cass, was a Schoolcraft College graduate. Marlene is a graduate of Kellogg Community College in Battle Creek, and the couple had ongoing discussions about which of the two community colleges was the best. Marlene viewed volunteering as a first-hand opportunity to see what Schoolcraft was really about. In addition, she was attracted to the WRC's volunteer program, because it offered training. She was committed to follow the advice she had read in "What Color is Your Parachute" -- to never volunteer any place that does not provide a formal training program. Trained as a special education teacher, Marlene was eager to continue to learn and to participate in the empathy and active listening course that the Center required of all its volunteers.

Life volunteering in the little yellow house on Haggerty Road (where the restaurants now reside) proved to be interesting. At that time, many teachers were being laid off from their jobs and were interested in returning to school to seek new careers. Marlene ran a "job club," in which women who were anticipating a career change were able to gather, and receive assistance in writing cover letters and resumes. Through the course of the job club, it dawned on Marlene that in addition to the letters and resumes, these women really needed an infusion of self-esteem. Drawing from her formal training as a special education teacher, she wrote a curriculum that met these students exactly where they

were, with the vision of taking them where they wanted to go. This curriculum laid the early roots for what became and is today, the CHIPS program.

In 1985, Ginny Wilhelm, the WRC director at the time, asked Marlene to apply for a grant-funded position coordinating a program called Project HERS. After her interview, she was offered the position, and the rest as they say, is history (or perhaps we should say HERstory?). This program eventually became what is today known as the CHIPS program. CHIPS was named by a student, who in an interview with a journalist, stated, "I feel as though you took me from Chocolate Chips to Microchips."

In 2001, the CHIPS curriculum was expanded to include CHIPS, TOO, a second semester, which includes courses in Microsoft Word and Personal Finance. CHIPS has been recognized nationally as a model program.

A highlight that occurred as result of her work with the women of Schoolcraft College was being nominated as an "everyday hero" and selected to carry the Olympic torch for a quarter mile through Detroit in 1996 on its way to the Olympic Games in Atlanta. She recalls training with her son prior to the run, as the Olympic torch weighed in at 5 pounds, and that was before the fluid was added to it!

The mother of 4 adult children, Marlene plans to keep busy in retirement and to enjoy time with her family. But, she emphatically states, that does NOT include babysitting for her 6 grandchildren. She's an active grandma, who drives a convertible, and has been known to hang glide, zip line, and scuba dive! Among the many activities she is planning to do in her newfound spare time is to become "reacquainted with her



kitchen" (though she is not even sure she still likes to cook!), to learn to speak Spanish, and to plan extended winter getaways to exotic places such as the Dominican Republic, Panama, and Margarita Island (off the coast of Venezuela). In the summer, she plans to retreat to her Canadian cottage.

Marlene is always positive, with a quiet way and a sincere smile. When asked to reflect on her years with Schoolcraft College, she says in her typical soft-spoken way, "I could have never planned it out so well had I tried." She has truly enjoyed her work, her students, and especially the successful women who she hears from years after they have completed the CHIPS program. The Transitions Center and Schoolcraft College have been enriched through Marlene's significant contributions to our students and community. Though we will miss her, we join in her happiness as she begins this new and exciting chapter in her life.

And by the way... after all these years, Marlene concedes that her husband, Cass, was right: Schoolcraft College truly is the best!

Transitions Center Fall 2009 Luncheon Series

☎ 734 462-4443 ☎

Schoolcraft College • VisTaTech Center (enter the North Parking Lot between Six and Seven Mile Roads)
\$16 per luncheon • 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. — Prepaid registration required, no tickets are issued
Limited seating • Doors open at 11:15 a.m. • Lunch served at 11:45 a.m.



September 18, 2009

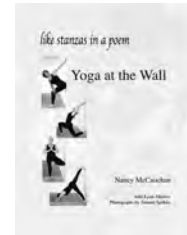
“Up the Rouge! Paddling Detroit’s Hidden River”
—Joel Thurtell, Author

Thurtell and Beck logged more than sixty hours during the first week of June 2005 as they paddled their canoe up more than 27 miles of the Rouge from Zug Island at the Detroit River to Nine Mile and Beech Roads in Southfield. Though the Rouge is heavily polluted by sewage, government agencies have spent \$1.6 billion dollars trying to clean it up. Thurtell and Beck show that despite its environmental contamination, the Rouge is home to wildlife and that its very seclusion makes it a sanctuary.
- Wayne State University Press

October 23, 2009

“The Purple Rose Theatre ”
— Guy Sanville, Artistic Director

Guy Sanville has been the Artistic Director of the The Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea since 1995. He has directed numerous world premieres at the theatre, as well as directing an Off-Broadway production. In addition, he has acted both on stage and in feature films, industrial films, and commercials. He has worked as a writer on two films and has received the Detroit Free Press theatre award for best director three out of the past four years.



December 4, 2009

“Yoga at the Wall”
— Nancy McCaochan, Author

Author and yoga teacher, Nancy McCaochan discusses her book, Yoga at the Wall. Yoga at the Wall is a method of discovering and unblocking oneself from one’s own emotional “wall,” according to McCaochan. Working with the support and resistance of a wall can help identify how negative emotions have been turned into chronic discomfort and then help unlock them. As we work with the resistance in our physical bodies, we stretch and strengthen and we also open ourselves to greater understanding. “The union of opposites: This is yoga.”

Luncheons are \$16 each. All reservations must be prepaid no later than one week prior to the event. Please make the following number of reservations:

_____ **Sept. 18, Up the Rouge!** _____ **Oct. 23, Purple Rose** _____ **Dec. 4, Yoga at the Wall**

Mail to: **Transitions Center, Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, MI 48152-2696**
Call **734-462-4443** for more information. Please enclose a check made payable to **Schoolcraft College.***

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____

Seating is assigned. Friend’s name who you wish to be seated with: _____

There are no refunds, but you are welcome to invite someone to use your reservation.

*If your check is returned from the bank unpaid, we may present it electronically.

Office Use Only: Check # _____ Amount _____ Confirmation _____ Guest List _____

Bulletin Board

Money Matters in Divorce

A certified financial planner from the Center for Financial Planning will be available on the first Monday of each month from 5 to 7 pm at the Transitions Center at Schoolcraft College to discuss financial considerations related to divorce. Clients are served on a first come first served basis. Anyone interested may sign in beginning at 4:30 pm on that day.
Runs from October 5, 2009 through May 3, 2010.

Walk in - Free of Charge!

Divorce Support Group

A Divorce Support Group is open to anyone contemplating, in the process of, or having difficulty adjusting to divorce. Meetings are held the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 7 to 9 pm in the Transitions Center in the McDowell Center. The first meeting of each month is a group discussion; the next meeting features a speaker. Cynthia Koppin, MA, LPC, LLP, facilitates the group discussions. Attorney Patricia Kasody-Coyle is available for private consultation. There is no fee to attend and registration is not required.

Upcoming Dates:

September 8 & 22, October 13 & 27,
November 10 & 24, December 8

Walk in - Free of Charge!

Ask an Attorney

Attorney Laura Reyes Kopack, from the firm of Creighton, McLean & Shea will be available on the second Monday of the month and attorney Marie Pulte, from the firm of Marie A. Pulte, PC will be available the third Monday of the month from 5 to 7 pm at the Transitions Center, Schoolcraft College. Clients will be served on a first come first served basis. Anyone interested may sign in beginning at 4:30 p.m. on that day.

Runs from September 14, 2009 through May 16, 2010.

Walk in - Free of Charge!

Save the Date!

The Transitions Center
Annual Spaghetti Dinner will be held on

**Tuesday
March 9, 2010**

Mark your calendars!

Contact us for more information:

www.schoolcraft.edu/transitions/

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Email: transitions@schoolcraft.edu

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