



Metropolitan Community College  
**40 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE**

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### **Nebraska Arts Council recognizes MCC's commitment to the arts**

OMAHA, Neb.—The Nebraska Arts Council will recognize Metropolitan Community College's contribution to the arts at its 2014 Governor's Arts Awards on March 25.

MCC received the Thomas C. Woods III Partner in the Arts Award for its outstanding commitment to the arts. The award recognizes MCC for its continued support of the arts through time, energy, expertise and financial support.

MCC believes the arts improve student learning, creativity and the health of the community. College efforts to support the arts have included establishing a Master Plan for Public Art in 2010 to add artwork to MCC's campuses and centers; the development of the Elkhorn Valley Campus Gallery of Art and Design; and the integration of art into a variety of disciplines, classrooms and educational experiences. MCC also offers cultural and artistic events such as the Fort Omaha Intertribal Powwow, Great Plains Theatre Conference, Cinco de Mayo Celebration, International Fair and others. These events give students and the public the opportunity to experience art and performance firsthand and at no cost.

Steve Tamayo, an MCC faculty member, artist and scholar, received the Heritage Arts Award for exemplifying authenticity and excellence within a cultural tradition. Tamayo is a traditional Sicangu Lakota artist whose family originates from Milk's Camp on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. Tamayo leads study and service groups on the Rosebud Reservation and travels throughout the country to identify historic methods of artifact construction and preservation. In 2012, Tamayo and MCC students produced a winter count — a traditional way of documenting history among several Native American Plains tribes — by painting a brain-tanned buffalo hide Tamayo gave to the College. He is artist-in-residence and a cultural consultant at Omaha Public Schools.

Since 1979, the Nebraska Arts Council, in partnership with the governor of Nebraska, has recognized Nebraska arts organizations, arts professionals, people and businesses that support

the arts in Nebraska. The Governor's Arts Awards event is held biennially. This year's event celebrates the Nebraska Arts Council's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. [Nebraskans for the Arts](#) and the [Nebraska Cultural Endowment](#) join the Nebraska Arts Council in hosting the event.

The Governor's Arts Awards are determined by a nomination and selection process. For a full list of winners, visit [www.nebraskaartscouncil.org/services/governors\\_arts\\_awards](http://www.nebraskaartscouncil.org/services/governors_arts_awards).

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Metropolitan Community College, accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association, is a comprehensive, public community college that offers affordable and quality education to all residents of Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy and Washington counties. Founded in 1974, MCC has the largest enrollment out of six community colleges in Nebraska and is the second largest postsecondary institution in the state. MCC serves more than 40,000 students annually.