



Metropolitan Community College  
**40 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE**

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### **MCC receives grant to support new automation systems degree option**

OMAHA, Neb. — Metropolitan Community College has been awarded an \$823,366 grant in support of creating a Building Automation Systems option under the Information Technology associate degree. The new option is part of the College's project Automate!, a plan designed to help meet the needs of today's workforce by preparing skilled workers for a wide range of IT-enhanced careers.

The three-year grant was awarded by the National Science Foundation's Advanced Technological Education program, which focuses on educating technicians for high-technology fields at two-year institutions.

"Building systems have merged with IT in fascinating, complex ways, and the need for qualified IT workers in this area is growing rapidly," said Tom Pensabene, executive director of MCC's Workforce Innovation Division. "Automate! will open up the world of IT-savvy technicians to a potentially large, new group of employees who learn best by doing."

The grant comes at a time when MCC is preparing to construct the Center for Advanced and Emerging Technology, part of the new \$90 million Fort Omaha Campus expansion project. The BAS option is expected to be an anchor program in CAET, which will be a regional hub for education, innovation and economic growth — a place where business and education thrive together by training today's and tomorrow's workforce.

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Metropolitan Community College, accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, is a comprehensive, public community college that offers affordable, 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 unique credit and noncredit students.