

August 17, 2007

A Personal Statement from MCC President Dr. Sarah H. Pappas

Subject: Retirement Announcement

After 40 exciting years in Florida's public higher education system, it is time for new adventures. My last day as the fourth president of Manatee Community College will be June 30, 2008.

Next month MCC concludes a hugely successful year-long celebration of its first 50 years, and next year I will complete 11 years of service at this wonderful college. My time as MCC president has been fantastic, full of exciting changes and energizing challenges. I have loved every day.

Throughout my tenure and particularly during the anniversary celebration, it has been my privilege to know community supporters, good friends, students, and especially the inspired faculty and staff who make MCC a truly excellent college. Without their support and dedication, our college's unprecedented expansion and progress during my tenure would not have been possible. To all of you, I say "thank you" for your encouragement and for sharing the vision.

I decided to announce my retirement date in advance to allow ample time for the board of trustees to organize and conduct a search for MCC's fifth president. That topic will be discussed at the September 19 meeting of the board of trustees.

In the next 10 months, I will remain focused on my responsibilities as president. Our college is facing challenges as we contemplate continuing to deliver MCC's quality education in the face of shrinking budgets and growing enrollment, changing demographics, keeping up with technology and more. Our talented MCC staff is working with me to find solutions, and I intend to keep on working with full and focused energy until the last minute of the work day, June 30, 2008.

I view retirement as a transition, not a farewell. This is home for George and me. We plan to stay in the community and continue our involvement in public service activities. And we always will remain Lancers fans.

Thank you for your support over the years. I will appreciate your continued dedication and commitment to MCC during this academic year.

Sincerely,

Sarah H. Pappas