

MCC professor honored by Women's Caucus

By Madi Van Den Eynde For The Journal Inquirer | Posted: Tuesday, July 18, 2017 1:53 pm

MANCHESTER — Professor Francine Rosselli-Navarra, who chairs Manchester Community College's academic Senate and has taught in the psychology department for 14 years, was named the outstanding woman of the year by MCC's Women's Caucus.

The award is given annually to a female faculty or staff member who has made an important contribution to the achievements of women at the college, exemplifies leadership qualities, and acts as a role model and mentor through her activities on campus.

The award alternates annually between faculty and staff, going to a staff member in the even-numbered years and a faculty member in the odd-numbered years.

Rosselli-Navarra, a resident of Vernon, also chaired MCC's curriculum committee for three years.

She joined MCC in 2003 as an adjunct psychology professor and was hired full-time in 2004.

Professor Maura O'Connor, chairwoman of the graphic arts program, who nominated Roselli-Navarra, said she is deserving of the honor.

"Fran has served during a tumultuous time for the college and university system," she said. "She has risen to the occasion numerous times to meet the challenges that the college faces."

Professor Deborah Simmons, coordinator of the music studies program, supported the nomination.

"As a leader she continually reflects an awareness and understanding of what MCC stands for students."

For her part, Rosselli-Navarra believes that the main agenda for the academic Senate and the college going forward is maintaining the integrity of college curriculum

The goal always is to support MCC's widely diverse and impressive student body, she said.

"It is students who keep me coming back every semester," she explained. "They are the reason we keep teaching. I am continually amazed by our students — by the individual and wonderfully varied experiences they bring to the classroom and by the sacrifices so many of them make to pursue their education."

She added that everyone at MCC, including the staff, faculty, and students, contributes to a unique college culture.

"There is a sense of respect, compassion, and comradery that permeates MCC, and those qualities are not found in every institution and workplace," she said.

She regularly volunteers with activities on campus, including Evening of Fine Wines and ushering at the annual Academic Awards ceremony.

In addition, she has been involved in research outside of MCC, as the project director for a federally-funded investigation on the effectiveness of cognitive-behavioral guided self-help treatment for binge eating disorders. She also serves as a research adviser for the Quantitative Analysis Center Summer Research program at Wesleyan University.

Rosselli-Navarra had some advice for female colleagues and students:

“A strong support network increases resiliency and helps people to not only cope with day-to-day challenges, but to continue to persevere when faced with major obstacles,” she said. “So whatever your current position or career goals, take the time to nurture your professional relationships just as you would your personal relationships.”