

Professors encourage students to draw on the walls at MCC

By **Jennifer Coe - ReminderNews**
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Matt Hewseremet, an MCC student, creates what he calls a 'character face' on the wall. He is a visual fine arts student. Photos by Jennifer Coe.

"Drawing is the most important thing on earth," said Manchester Community College professor Pat Carrigan. "It is the very first thing you do when you create art."

Usually drawing on the wall is a bad thing, but it's this conviction about drawing's importance that led Carrigan and fellow professor Linda Bradley to host an open drawing event at the college on Friday, Feb. 10. As the walls had been covered with white paper, they were ready to be adorned in whatever colors and designs the 20 or so young men and women who attended decided was best.



"Because we have a very large drawing program here, I started to feel like we were being very formal," said Carrigan. "I wanted them to loosen up and work."

About 10 minutes after the event began, the artists' hands were already flying.

Students from Great Path High School and a Job Corps. Program came to draw on the walls, as well. "We always try to integrate the high school students in whenever we can," said Carrigan.

Another colleague hosted a similar type of event last year and found it to be a success. Carrigan pursued a grant for this year's drawing event to cover supplies and food for the artists. But, it didn't take a lot of extras to make the event a success, as many students were eager to create.

Being that the campus is heavily commuter-based, the teachers find it somewhat difficult to build a sense of community between the over-scheduled students and themselves. They both felt an event like this would go a long way in assisting the students and professors in connecting and making lasting relationships. "We wanted them to get to know their instructors outside the classroom, in a more informal environment," Carrigan said. "To not have any restrictions, per say."

Within a half an hour, the white canvas was disappearing, and even more importantly, so was any divide between teacher and students.

