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Essays offer insights behind collegial concept

By: Staff

Manchester Community College recently released, *Entering the Community: Essays and Experiences*, a collection of writings by MCC faculty, and staff.

The 118-page book provides a firsthand perspective into the experiences of teaching and working in a community college environment.

"There is a need for a book like this because of a perceived gap in the canon of writings about the community college experience," said Jonathan M. Daube, outgoing president of MCC. "There is little narrative about what one should expect when working in a community college environment."

Through essays and recollections, *Entering the Community: Essays and Experiences* explores multiple ways community college administrators, faculty, staff, and students interact with one another and with the larger community. Using community as the theme, the editors of the book Dr. James Gentile, co-chair of the English department and professor of English, and Patrick Sullivan, professor of English were tasked with linking the essays from various members of the campus community and developing its framework.

"The book embodies the spirit of Manchester Community College - our mission, our commitment to students, our bond with one another," stated Dr. Gentile of East Hartford.

"It was clear that two threads were present throughout the collection - the strong sense of commitment to our mission and the bond of community which informed that commitment. I learned a lot about my colleagues and their remarkable and varied contributions to student learning and to the college itself."

The book is dedicated to Eleanor P. Coltman, a founder, professor and trustee of the college who passed away in 2007.

*To obtain a copy of **Entering the Community, Essays and Experiences, Manchester Community College**, write to Endia DeCordova-Murphy, MCC, Great Path MS#5, PO Box 1046, Manchester, CT 06045-1046 or email edecordova-murphy@mcc.commnet.edu*