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New MCC President Believes College Is A Model

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MANCHESTER —

Gena Glickman believes that Manchester Community College is such a gem, she wants to hold it up as a national model.

The new president of the state's largest community college says she'd like to showcase the college's initiatives in programs, its town-gown relations, its partnership with the work force and Great Path Academy, a magnet high school that provides a transition between high school and college.

Glickman believes the college's initiatives are so striking they should be presented as models for other colleges at national conferences.

"We've sort of stayed at home, but I think that MCC could be a leader nationally," she said.

That, in turn, would help attract top faculty who share the college's values, and help it obtain grants, she said.

Glickman, 56, arrived from Elgin Community College, northwest of Chicago, about a month ago with a vision for the college in suburban Manchester, which serves more than 15,000 students.

Besides putting the college on the map nationally, she wants to develop a long-range plan to determine what programs the college needs and set its direction. She also wants to respond to the economic needs of the work force in the region.

She has had little time to ease into the new job. Since her arrival she has been grappling with galloping enrollment, which is expected to spike by 18 percent this fall, while trying to absorb a 2.9 percent state budget cut.

"One of the things I'm very concerned with is maintaining the same level of service to students," she said.

She is exploring cost-saving measures, such as expanding distance learning and reducing energy

consumption by turning off computer monitors at night and programming printers to print on both sides of a sheet of paper.

Before arriving at MCC, Glickman worked in a provost-like job at Elgin for four years. She previously held administrative and faculty positions at the University of Baltimore, the Maryland College of Art and Design and several community colleges in the Baltimore area.

She said she instantly felt at home at MCC, drawn to its friendly climate, student-oriented atmosphere and relationship with the community.

"When I walked on this campus the first time, there was a sensibility of caring for the student, a sense that we can accomplish anything. It meshed with my individual sensibilities. So I felt like I was coming home," she said

Glickman succeeds Jonathan Daube, who retired in June after 21 years. She is being paid \$165,000 a year.

She describes her management style as supportive, guiding people toward ideas and keeping them focused.

"I tend to want to lead from behind, but I'm a fierce advocate for students," she said. "My hero is more Clark Kent than Superman. I'd rather see other people up front. I want people to lead from their area of expertise and I will provide the stage for them," she said.

Professor Andrew Paterna, chairman of MCC's academic senate, said Glickman has been a "terrific addition" to the campus.

"She's got a collaborative working style, bringing a lot of people into the decision-making process," he said.

Glickman, the first female president of the 45-year-old college, is a strong advocate for mentoring women and is concerned about grooming the next generation of college administrators.

She also has a sense of humor. Her office bookcase is full of mementos and toys, including an Annie Oakley statuette, a miniature voodoo kit and an inflatable red ball called The Big Ball of Blame. At one point, while an administrator at the University of Baltimore, she wrote an anonymous gossip column called "Miss UB" for the student newspaper, dispensing advice about campus buildings and policies.

Glickman grew up on Long Island until she was 12, when her family moved to Manhattan. She left New York at 18 to go to Maryland, and graduated from Maryland Institute College of Art with a specialty in sculpture and drawing. She went on to earn a master's from Johns Hopkins University and a doctorate from the University of Maryland at College Park.

She lives in Manchester with her husband, Joachim Bullacher, a longtime mathematics professor

at Baltimore City Community College; a cat; and a St. Bernard. In her spare time, she says, she likes to read mysteries and window-shop on eBay.

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