



MPTA School News

Summer 2009 *Shorelines*

Macomb Community College

Submitted by Bob Mele, PT, ACCE

Macomb Community College-PTA program is vibrant with spring and a year full of challenges and student activities. As our 1st year students are completing their final exams our 2nd year PTA students are in the process of completing their final clinical rotations and excited to begin their prospective careers. This year, the buzz around campus was the impact of SB 151. As part of commitment, our students participated in a letter writing campaign in the fall and in the spring. Each student was asked to contact their local legislatures encouraging support for this bill. The effects were astounding as students received numerous calls from their representatives endorsing their support of our initiatives. For many students this was their first experience with politics and the MPTA. The impact affected students who began to realize that change begins with collaboration and many voices. As we wrap up another year, the expectation is the passing of this licensure bill.

In addition, this year, one of our strong community sponsors, Wright & Filippis, was honored for their support of our program. Our PTA students for the past eight years have participated in “training for life”. This program promotes healthy living, for amputee clients who have limited healthcare insurance. PTA students provide exercise programs, family support and educational resources. This has been such a successful event that our past alumni continue to return to participate in these proceedings. This year, the state’s service learning organization, the Michigan Campus Compact honored our involvement and commitment to this service learning initiative. We are very proud of our PTA students.

Currently, we are in the final stages in a collaborative plan to expand our MCC-PTA program into northern regions of the Lower Peninsula. Students from both Alpena Community College and North Central Michigan College are expected to participate in this collaboration. In February a directed study was submitted to CAPTE and pending their approval a fall 2009 class is being planned. The curriculum will be delivered in a combination of on-ground laboratory classes in Gaylord, Michigan and on-line PTA lecture classes. This has been a year of both challenges and growth for PTA students and faculty. Thank you!