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## Milestones and Accomplishments 2016-Present

Over the past six years, Morton College has significantly expanded investment in facilities, programs, and services to serve the college community better and be a nationally-recognized leader in the community college sector of higher education. As we anticipate celebrating the College's 100th anniversary in 2024, it is an excellent time to reflect on the many accomplishments and milestones over the past several years that have been the result of an exemplary vision, careful planning, implementation, and collaboration.

- Led the institution through several Higher Learning Commission reviews that ultimately led to the removal of "On Notice" and a return to full accreditation
- Maintained financial stability that has earned the institution top marks from external audits resulting in no findings for FY20 and FY21
- Developed multiple pathways for entry to reduce barriers to enrollment, ensure seamless student transitions and improve student academic achievement and goal attainment.
- Created a learning and working environment that is sustainable, welcoming, safe, and dynamic irrespective of location (*physical or virtual*) and that leads to improved student success and community engagement.
- Promoted literacy and civic responsibility by creating relationships and non-academic programs that meet our community's needs, increasing understanding of diversity and tolerance, and fostering a welcoming campus climate that promotes and celebrates the vibrancy and culture of our surrounding population.
- Opened a \$5 million classroom addition
- Launched an IOS coding certificate and degree program
- Launched 1:1 Apple initiative in the Health Careers Department.
- Established strong partnerships with the high school districts
- Established a Senior Plus Program in collaboration with West40.
- Significantly expanded the dual and concurrent enrollment programs
- Morton College has grown to offer 17 Associate Degrees in Applied Science, five Transfer Program Degrees, and 40 Career Certificates.
- Hired 35 new full-time faculty
- Expanded programs and courses based on market needs and student demands:
  - Associate in Engineering
  - Welding
  - Paralegal
  - Cannabis
  - CDL

- Initiated the most significant capital improvement project on campus since 1974. Improvements include:
  - A new 4,100-square foot state-of-the-art Fitness Center opened in the Fall of 2019 that is free of cost to the entire 527 district community.
  - Solar Panels
  - Planetarium
  - HVAC Units
  - Main Entrance
  - Athletic Sports Fields
  - College-wide Hallway Floor
  - Biology Science Lab Upgrades
  - New Anatomy Table
  - Access Control and Security Cameras
  - Innovation Room
  - Campus Elevators
  - Restrooms
  - JPAC Theatre
  - Updated Health Sciences classrooms
  - New Welding Lab
  - A STEM Center
  - Stairways
  - Athletic Facilities
  - Spirit Store
  - Panther Pantry
  - One Stop Student Services Area
  
- Technology Upgrades
  - Increase the number of Cisco switches to support the increase in staff & students.
  - Become one of the first and only community colleges in Illinois to participate in the Apple Initiative.
  - Implemented new and secure technology to safeguard the network infrastructure (*Barracuda*)
  - Redesign the entire Morton College website
  - Upgraded college as a whole printing fleet
  - Restructure the IT department cutting cost of over \$500,000
  - Increase Wi-Fi
  - Updated TV monitors around campus
  - Upgraded students' computers.
  - Increase memory (NetApp) and upgraded major IT components (VMware)
  - Migrated all college employees to Office 365
  
- Morton College has been awarded multiple grants:
  - a \$3.6 million U.S. Department of Education Title III grant to strengthen STEM programs
  - A \$354,643 Perkins Grant
  - A \$30,000 Adult Volunteer Literacy Grant to be used for the Project Care Literacy Program
  - Nursing Department received a special population support \$10,000 grant
  - A \$ 749,682 STEM grant in partnership with National Louis University
  - A \$620,00 grant in collaboration with School Districts 99 and 100 to offer quality

- preschool
  - \$1.2 million FIPSE grant to improve the quality of online courses
  - 1.2 million REMOTE Grant- US DOE
  - \$25,000 Google- HACU Grant
  - HEERF
    - Student Portion - \$7,592,953
    - Institutional Portion - \$10,736,218
    - MSI - \$1,000,314
  - IL State Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEERF) - \$674,531
  - IL State Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund II - \$317,989
  - IL State Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund Early Childhood - \$14,638
- Increased Student Resources
  - Established the Student Emergency Fund
  - Creation of Free Laptop Program
  - Development of Panther Pantry
  - Implementation of the Meal Voucher Program and the Transportation Assistance Program
  - Provide free feminine products in the women's bathroom throughout campus
  - Established the Counseling Office and Office for Student Accommodations
- Increased the number of Student Success Coaches to reduce the caseload per advisor.
- Increased athletic scholarships to include up to 32 credit hours, books, and supplies.
- Increased resources for student activities, clubs, and organizations to improve student life and engagement.
- Developed the Institutional Advancement Office to streamline the institution's marketing, public relations, and communications. Marketing and Communication initiatives are supported through multiple communication outlets that share our resources, student successes and build stronger campus and community connections:
  - Direct Mail
  - Radio and TV Advertisement
  - Magazine and Newspapers Advertisement
  - Mobile and Digital Advertisement
  - Geofencing Advertisement
  - Social Media Campaigns
  - On-Campus Advertising (*light post banners, posters, fliers, email/web graphics, monitor graphics, and fitness equipment monitor graphics*)
  - Ad Placements on Billboards
  - Public Transportation and Ride-Sharing Vehicles Ads
  - Mall Advertisement
  - Theatre Advertisement
  - Sponsored Content
  - Community Outreach Initiatives
  - Panther Portal
  - Panther Newsletter
  - Mobile App

- Continue to provide a resource to the college community through Community and Continuing education courses
- Implemented and hosted annual events:
  - College Fair, Open House
  - Parent Night
  - Job Fair
  - New Student Orientation
  - Alumni Networking Events
  - Women's EmpowHERment Conference
  - STEAMers Summer Camp for young learners
- Established the Latino Thought Makers 2021 Fall Residency
- Established the Panther Food Pantry for college community members with food insecurity
- One of the lowest tuition rates in the state of IL for community colleges.
- The Morton College Nursing program has been designated as an NLN Center of Excellence in Nursing Education for 2021-2025.