

Seth Thomas Sutton
Faculty – Arts & Humanities

Faculty Roles and Departmental Responsibilities:

My role as a faculty member in the Arts & Humanities department of Montcalm Community College consists of curriculum development and assessment, overseeing transfer articulation agreements, maintenance and implementation of course content, as well as hiring and mentoring adjunct faculty for the department. Although community outreach is not specifically in my job description, fostering and maintaining relationships within our educational and business communities is a must; it helps to make the Arts & Humanities program competitive and top of the line with the newest practices.

As a faculty member of the college, it means that I am the physical extension of the college's mission. I am here to educate my community and represent the college in a good faith capacity. As faculty I have the opportunity to foster professional relationships with colleagues from different disciplines, as a way to grow and expand my knowledge base, so I can give my students a more well-rounded and authentic classroom experience.

I believe as a faculty member one of the many responsibilities are to my students. To make sure they are given every opportunity to better themselves and to be their advocate along their journey. I have the responsibility to my students and to my colleagues to make my classroom a safe and inclusive learning environment. I feel that this is paramount to the success of the college. This responsibility extends into all avenues such as campus rules, regulations, policies, and more.

Committee Appointments:

- *Curriculum Committee:* We are an advisory committee that oversees, discusses and makes recommendations on course content. Including, but not limited to, new courses, revised courses as well as course prerequisites and program criteria for all academic disciplines.
- *Co-Curricular Committee:* This committee is responsible for enriching the academic experience for the MCC student by broadening their social awareness to contemporary issues and refocusing their cultural experiences. The committee oversees and coordinates all cultural events on campus.
- *Diversity Committee:* (

ie. Indigenous Heritage Celebration.

I, along with MCC's NAC, collaborate with Grand Valley State University's Native American Student Association (NASA), for the observed 'Native American Heritage Month' in

November. Between the two schools, we are able to hold, on average, 20 + scheduled events. We have had a wide range of interactive and community involved events, such as:

- Panel discussions
- Film Screenings
- Lectures
- Musical entertainment
- Poetry Readings
- Artist Exhibits (myself) at MCC and the Grand Rapids Art Museum.
- Social Media / community engagement
- Language videos

Extra-Curriculars:

Advisor - ART Club

The *ART Club* provides a platform for creative expression. Artists develop collectively as well as individually while gaining the personal, cultural and global awareness needed to navigate our complex, contemporary society.

Students participate in on campus and community events, such as:

- Event photography
- Graphic design
- Promotional materials
- Documentary needs

Advisor – Native American Club (NAC)

As an organized body of Indigenous and non-Indigenous student advocates and allies, the mission of the *Native American Club (NAC)* is to support the development of an inclusive culturally pluralistic campus environment, where Indigenous heritage is accepted and celebrated. The NAC strives to preserve, educate and explore local Indigenous culture while providing a strong, diverse atmosphere that encourages personal development and academic achievement, as well as raising awareness for political and social issues that affect Indigenous communities and communities at large.

- Film Screenings
- Cultural Events
- Field Trips
- Lectures
- Workshops

- Camps
- Community Service
- Local and Regional Conservation Projects

Outside of MCC:

Grand Valley State University - Native American Advisory Council

This council oversees the creation and regulating of curriculum and policy put forth by the office of Multi-Cultural Affairs through GVSU in regards to Native American Student populations.

NAAC also oversees and advises GVSU's Native American Student Association, NASA. We are responsible for the coordination and implementation of native derived community involved events. Including but not limited to:

- Annual *All Walks of Life Traditional Pow Wow*.
- Norton Mounds clean up
- Grand River cleanup projects
- Local and Regional conservation projects
- Events and activities through the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs.

C-THEM (Collaborative of Tribal and Higher Education in Michigan) – Board Member

This collaboration seeks to improve Indigenous student outcomes by combining the strengths and resources of Michigan's two-year, and four-year colleges and Indigenous communities to build relationships, foster collaborations, share resources and create new infrastructures to better support Indigenous students at all phases of their academic journey. *C-THEM* is a sub-committee within *CMTED (Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors)*

FNMIÉAO (First Nations, Métis & Inuit Education Association of Ontario) – Member

The First Nations, Métis & Inuit Education Association of Ontario is a subject association for educators teaching First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies, and Native Languages in Ontario, Canada. We support and help all educators understand issues related to First Nation, Métis and Inuit Peoples in Canada and the Great Lakes Basin, as well as offer strategies for teaching this content to all learners.

Our purpose is to support and promote the provision of quality education on histories, worldviews, and knowledge systems that is rooted in the experiences and perspectives of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples.

Goals

- To promote strong First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Studies and Language programs across Ontario and the Great Lakes basin
- To provide a forum for the exchange of ideas among those involved in First Nations, Métis, and Inuit education
- To provide leadership in and advocacy for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit education and languages
- To create and facilitate authentic learning opportunities and professional development
- To liaise with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit educational organizations
- To collaborate with community partners to create high quality, comprehensive resources
- To support the process of reconciliation in classrooms and school communities