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COMMUNITY ANTI-POVERTY PROGRAMMES

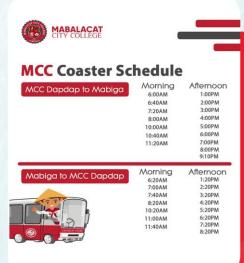
Mabalacat City College (MCC) has shown a strong commitment to addressing community challenges through a variety of anti-poverty programs aimed at reducing barriers to education and empowering students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. These initiatives focus on alleviating financial hardships, providing essential resources, and creating opportunities for students to succeed academically and professionally, regardless of their socio-economic status.

One of the core community-focused initiatives at MCC was the introduction of the MCC-Free Shuttle Service. This program directly addressed transportation challenges faced by students who struggled with the costs of commuting to campus. Recognizing that the lack of affordable transportation could hinder students' ability to attend classes regularly, MCC provided a free shuttle service to ensure that all students, particularly those from low-income families, could access education without the added financial burden. This program was an essential step in reducing inequality and ensuring that every student had the opportunity to pursue their studies.

In addition to transportation support, MCC also implemented a Financial Literacy Program aimed at helping students manage their personal finances more effectively. This program, which was attended by students from various academic programs, including Bachelor of Science in Information Technology (BSIT), Bachelor of Science in Biology (BSBIO), Bachelor of Arts in History (AB History), and Associate in Computer Technology (ACT), equipped students with the knowledge and tools necessary to make informed financial decisions. By providing financial education, MCC sought to empower students to break the cycle of poverty by fostering skills in budgeting, saving, and managing debt—tools that are essential for long-term financial stability.

Moreover, MCC organized a Career Expo as part of its efforts to bridge the gap between education and employment opportunities. The event invited various companies to campus, creating a platform where students could directly connect with potential employers. This initiative was particularly impactful for students from low-income families, as it offered them a pathway to secure employment and achieve financial independence upon graduation. By facilitating these connections, MCC aimed to empower its students to overcome socio-economic barriers and build promising careers.

Additionally, MCC partnered with organizations such as VXI and L&T to offer certificate programs to students. These programs provided students with marketable skills in fields like customer service and technical support, which are in high demand in the workforce. For students from impoverished backgrounds, these certificates represented an opportunity to acquire skills that could improve their job prospects and earning potential, thereby contributing to breaking the cycle of poverty and creating a pathway toward economic mobility.







PROPORTION OF STUDENTS RECEIVING FINANCIAL AID

Mabalacat City College (MCC) has made significant progress in expanding its financial aid programs, providing essential support to students facing financial challenges and ensuring that higher education remains accessible to all. Through the years, the college has increased the number and variety of scholarships available, significantly enhancing the proportion of students who benefit from these opportunities. This expansion reflects MCC's commitment to breaking down financial barriers and empowering students to pursue their academic goals regardless of their socioeconomic background.

For the academic year 2023-2024, MCC provided financial aid to a large proportion of its student body, underscoring the institution's focus on ensuring that students have the resources they need to succeed. In the first semester of the academic year, 3721 students received UNIFAST scholarships, while 3479 students were awarded the same scholarship in the second semester. These scholarships, part of a national initiative aimed at providing financial assistance to students from low-income families, played a crucial role in enabling students to continue their studies without the burden of financial constraints.

Beyond the UNIFAST scholarships, MCC has continued to expand its financial aid offerings to cater to a broader range of students. Among the key scholarship programs offered was the Bernice and Henry Giskin Memorial Scholarship Grant, which provided \(\omega 5,000 \) per semester to deserving students. This scholarship served to support those who might otherwise struggle with the costs of their education, helping to alleviate some of the financial pressures students face.

Additionally, the Governor Dennis "Delta" Pineda Student-Leaders Assistance Scholarship Grant provided \(\tilde{\tilde{D}} \),000 per semester to student leaders, further encouraging students to engage in leadership roles while pursuing their academic goals. This initiative not only supported students financially but also fostered the development of leadership skills among recipients, preparing them for future professional challenges.

MCC also partnered with Soroptimist International of Pampanga, a global volunteer organization dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls, to offer the Soroptimist International Scholarship. This scholarship aimed to support women in the community, allowing them the opportunity to pursue higher education and create positive change in their lives and the lives of others. Under the leadership of Ms. Corazon Baluyut, the president of Soroptimist International of Pampanga, this scholarship has become a vital resource for women pursuing their academic goals at MCC.

For students in specialized fields, such as Information Technology (IT), the Guided Outsourcing Company Scholarship Program provided targeted financial support. Exclusively available to fourth-year IT students, this scholarship offered a stipend of $\boxtimes 5,000$ per semester to recipients, selected based on academic performance, commitment to the IT field, and socioeconomic background. This scholarship not only provided financial assistance but also aimed to cultivate future leaders in the IT industry, ensuring that students in this field had the resources needed to succeed.

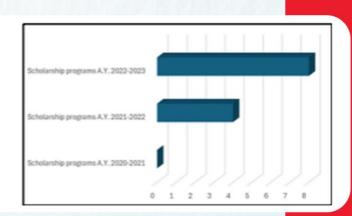
Furthermore, the SMART Grant Program was available to eligible students enrolled in undergraduate programs for the 2023-2024 academic year. Part of the National Employment Recovery Strategy, this initiative offered a one-time fixed grant of \text{\text{\text{\text{MST}}}} 65,000 to students, helping to ease the financial burden caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The SMART Grant aimed to ensure that students could continue their education and ultimately graduate despite the challenges posed by the global health crisis.

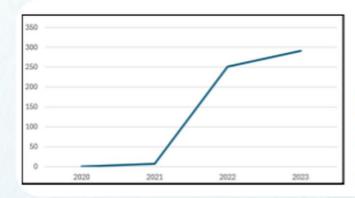
The proportion of students benefiting from financial aid at MCC has grown significantly over the years. At the start of the 2020-2021 academic year, MCC had limited scholarship options, relying primarily on government-funded programs such as the UniFAST scholarship, Tulong Dunong Program (TDP), and the Tertiary Education Subsidy (TES) provided by CHED. However, by the 2021-2022 academic year, the college had introduced additional external scholarships, including the MESAA-MCC Project Scholars and the Bernice and Henry Giskin Memorial Scholarship, significantly expanding the availability of financial aid.

In the 2022-2023 academic year, MCC further increased the number of scholarship programs, introducing the Governor Dennis "Delta" Pineda Student-Leaders Assistance Scholarship Grant, the Guided Outsourcing Company Scholarship, and the Soroptimist International of Pampanga Scholarship. This expansion saw a 66.67% increase in scholarship recipients from the 2020-2021 academic year to the 2021-2022 academic year, and an additional 80% increase from 2021-2022 to 2022-2023. From just one external scholarship program in 2020, MCC expanded its offerings to five external scholarships by 2023. The MESAA-MCC Project Scholars program grew from six recipients in 2021 to 20 additional recipients in 2022, while the Governor Dennis "Delta" Pineda Student-Leaders Assistance Scholarship Grant saw a dramatic rise in recipients, reaching 254 students in 2022, a 3,114% increase from the previous year.

By 2023, the total number of students benefiting from MCC's scholarship programs reached 294, further highlighting the institution's success in expanding access to financial aid. This growth reflects MCC's ongoing commitment to supporting its students and ensuring that a significant proportion of its student body receives the financial support necessary to succeed in their academic pursuits.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS 2020-2023

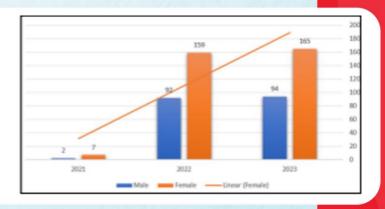




NUMBER OF SCHOLARS 2020-2023

In 2020, MCC students had access to just one external scholarship, the UniFAST scholarship. By 2021, this expanded to two programs: the MESAA-MCC Project Scholars, which awarded six scholarships, and the Bernice and Henry Giskin Scholarship, which awarded one.

NUMBER OF FEMALE SCHOLARS 2021-2023



UNIVERSITY ANTI-POVERTY PROGRAMMES

In 2023, Mabalacat City College (MCC) continued to play a pivotal role in addressing financial barriers and alleviating poverty through its comprehensive support services and anti-poverty programs. These initiatives aimed to empower students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, ensuring they had the resources and opportunities needed to pursue higher education and achieve academic success.

One of the key anti-poverty measures implemented by MCC was the Free Transportation Shuttle. Recognizing that transportation costs could be a significant barrier for students, especially those from remote areas, MCC provided a free shuttle service to ensure that all students had convenient and affordable access to campus. This initiative was essential in eliminating transportation as a financial obstacle and ensuring that students could attend their classes regularly without additional costs.

In addition to transportation, the Tablet Loan Services program was another crucial anti-poverty initiative. With the increasing demand for online learning due to the pandemic, many students lacked the necessary devices to participate in virtual classes. In 2023, MCC continued to provide tablets to students through its loan service, which allowed ninety-one (91) students to borrow devices for their academic work. Recognizing the specific needs of students, the program was also extended to fourteen (14) I Peace students, ensuring that even students in specialized programs had access to the technology they needed to succeed. This initiative was vital in providing equal educational opportunities to all students, regardless of their financial circumstances.

MCC's commitment to combating poverty extended to its scholarship programs, which have been a cornerstone of the institution's efforts to support students in need. One of the standout programs was the Governor Dennis "Delta" Pineda Student-Leaders Assistance Scholarship Grant, which provided \$\infty\$5,000 per semester to student leaders. This scholarship not only helped alleviate the financial burden on student leaders but also encouraged students to take on leadership roles, fostering personal growth and leadership development that could benefit both their academic careers and future professional endeavors.

MCC also collaborated with Soroptimist International of Pampanga to offer the Soroptimist International Scholarship, which aimed to support women in the community. This partnership was focused on empowering women by providing them with the opportunity to pursue higher education and improve their lives. By offering this scholarship, MCC addressed the challenges faced by women in accessing education, providing a means for them to rise above economic hardships and create positive change in their lives and communities.

For students pursuing careers in specialized fields, such as Information Technology (IT), the Guided Outsourcing Company Scholarship Program was introduced. Exclusively available to fourth-year IT students, this program provided a stipend of \$\infty\$,000 per semester to recipients. The scholarship was designed to support students from lower-income backgrounds who demonstrated strong academic potential, ensuring that they had the financial resources to complete their studies and enter the workforce in a highly competitive field. The program also aimed to nurture future leaders in the IT industry, helping to ensure that economically disadvantaged students had access to the opportunities necessary for career success.

Furthermore, the SMART Grant Program was part of the government's National Employment Recovery Strategy, offering a \$\infty\$25,000 one-time fixed grant to students affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This initiative was designed to ease the financial burden caused by the pandemic and enable students to continue their education. By providing this grant, MCC ensured that students facing economic hardships due to the global health crisis had the means to complete their studies without interruption.

