

RIT adds connection with MCC to help city students**Program****JAMES GOODMAN** @GOODMAN_DANDC

Alejandro Baquero didn't get accepted earlier this year when he applied to the Rochester Institute of Technology, but the college's response paved a pathway for admission.

RIT officials were impressed with Baquero — saying that his application “shows potential for success” — so they offered him a spot in a new program with Monroe Community College that is designed to strengthen his credentials.

Baquero, 18, who graduated from Wilson Magnet High School in June, will attend MCC for a year, and if he maintains a 2.5 grade point average, he then will be eligible to transfer to RIT.

“They said the transition from high school to college could hit you hard, so they will help me with tutoring,” said Baquero.

The RIT/MCC/RCS D Transfer Connect Program, which takes effect this coming school year, is being offered by RIT in partnership with MCC for graduates of the Rochester City School District.

It is designed for a select group of city high school graduates who have applied to RIT but “are not judged fully ready for the rigors of RIT without a transition year of college,” according to a summary of the program provided by James Miller, senior vice president of enrollment management and career services at RIT. Fifteen students are participating in the program's first year.

See **PROGRAM**, Page **12A**

Continued from Page 1A

Miller added that the students in Transfer Connect were considered “close to ready based on interest, performance, motivation and recommendations.”

RIT, Miller noted, worked with MCC in developing this program and was interested in creating an additional pathway for graduates of the City School District.

Students accepted by RIT after a year will have their financial aid packaged individually based on information on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

Other initiatives

The Transfer Connect program complements the Rochester City Scholars program, which guarantees that financially eligible students from the Rochester school district who get admitted to RIT as freshmen won't have to pay out-of-pocket tuition.

Rochester Scholars was launched by RIT President Bill Destler and his wife, Rebecca Johnson, in 2010. The first class in that program had 27 students. Since then, 152 more students have been accepted, including 23 for the coming school year. Many of the students who started Rochester Scholars are still enrolled at RIT, while 49 have graduated. Transfer Connect is the latest transfer program MCC has with other colleges. In all, MCC has 2+2 dual admissions programs with 21 colleges, along with other variations of transfer programs with four other colleges. About 350 students were enrolled in 2+2 programs this past school year.

These transfer programs are with four-year colleges. And while they vary with the institution, the programs allow the students to transfer, usually two years after starting at MCC, so long as they meet the requirements of the particular agreement, said Randy Bowen, associate vice president for enrollment management at MCC.

The agreements have proved to be money-savers because MCC often has cheaper tuition than the four-year colleges. Students also come to these colleges better prepared than if they enrolled right out of high

school. MCC, said Bowen, is considered a leader in these transfer agreements.

Program details

As part of Transfer Connect with RIT, MCC will provide academic support services, including tutoring, and will provide each participant with an academic adviser as well as a financial aid package. Students in Transfer Connect will have the same support services when they transfer to RIT as students in the City Scholars program get from the college's Multicultural Center for Academic Success program.

These transfers can also obtain an associate's degree from MCC by having credits earned at RIT transferred back to MCC.

For many students in the program, the MCC Foundation is providing scholarships of about \$3,000. Most of the students will be staying in residence halls, with the idea of creating a learning community.

In Baquero's case, he qualified for a \$5,815 federal Pell Grant and \$3,306 from the state Tuition Assistance Program as well as a \$1,200 educational opportunity grant. He also expects to take out a \$3,500 subsidized loan from the federal government.

Baquero wants to major in business — one of the academic programs that will transfer to RIT under this pilot program.

Wilson Magnet classmate Nature Henderson also has been accepted in the new Transfer Connect program. “They put me in the program because they saw the possibility I could reach my potential,” said Henderson. Henderson, 17, who wants to major in computer science at RIT, will be taking a course load at MCC that includes introduction to computer science and pre-calculus.

“MCC is going to provide tutoring all yearround and there will be a representative from RIT to contact,” he said. “This program is providing me with the best opportunity.”

JGOODMAN@ Gannett.com

**Wilson Magnet graduate Alejandro Baquero****Wilson Magnet graduate Nature Henderson****RIT senior vice president James Miller**

Program

Continued from Page 1A

Miller added that the students in Transfer Connect were considered "close to ready based on interest, performance, motivation and recommendations."

RIT, Miller noted, worked with MCC in developing this program and was interested in creating an additional pathway for graduates of the City School District.

Students accepted by RIT after a year will have their financial aid packaged individually based on information on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

Other initiatives

The Transfer Connect program complements the Rochester City Schol-

ars program, which guarantees that financially eligible students from the Rochester school district who get admitted to RIT as freshmen won't have to pay out-of-pocket tuition.

Rochester Scholars was launched by RIT President Bill Destler and his wife, Rebecca Johnson, in 2010. The first class in that program had 27 students. Since then, 152 more students have been accepted, including 23 for the coming school year.

Many of the students who started Rochester Scholars are still enrolled at RIT, while 49 have graduated.

Transfer Connect is the latest transfer program MCC has with other colleges. In all, MCC has 2+2 dual admissions programs with 21 colleges, along with other variations of transfer programs with four other



Wilson Magnet graduate Alejandro Baquero

colleges. About 350 students were enrolled in 2+2 programs this past school year.

These transfer programs are with four-year colleges. And while they vary with the institution, the programs allow the students to transfer, usually two years after starting at MCC, so long as they meet the requirements of the particular agreement, said Randy Bowen, associate vice president for enrollment management at MCC.

The agreements have proved to be money-savers because MCC often has cheaper tuition than the four-year colleges. Students also come to these colleges better prepared than if they en-



Wilson Magnet graduate Nature Henderson

rolled right out of high school.

MCC, said Bowen, is considered a leader in these transfer agreements.

Program details

As part of Transfer Connect with RIT, MCC will provide academic-support services, including tutoring, and will provide each participant with an academic adviser as well as a financial aid package.

Students in Transfer Connect will have the same support services when they transfer to RIT as students in the City Scholars program get from the college's Multicultural Center for



RIT senior vice president James Miller

Academic Success program.

These transfers can also obtain an associate's degree from MCC by having credits earned at RIT transferred back to MCC.

For many students in the program, the MCC Foundation is providing scholarships of about \$3,000. Most of the students will be staying in residence halls, with the idea of creating a learning community.

In Baquero's case, he qualified for a \$5,815 federal Pell Grant and \$3,306 from the state Tuition Assistance Program as well as a \$1,200 educational opportunity grant. He also expects to take out a \$3,500 subsidized loan from the federal govern-

ment.

Baquero wants to major in business — one of the academic programs that will transfer to RIT under this pilot program.

Wilson Magnet classmate Nature Henderson also has been accepted in the new Transfer Connect program.

"They put me in the program because they saw the possibility I could reach my potential," said Henderson.

Henderson, 17, who wants to major in computer science at RIT, will be taking a course load at MCC that includes introduction to computer science and pre-calculus.

"MCC is going to be provide tutoring all year-round and there will be a representative from RIT to contact," he said. "This program is providing me with the best opportunity."

JGOODMAN@Gannett.com