Muller Field Station

FINGER LAKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE
HONEOYE, NY

2021-2026 Strategic Plan
Acknowledgement of The Seneca Nation

Muller Field Station sits upon the traditional homelands of the Onondawaga (O-non-dowa-gah), The Seneca Nation. The Seneca Nation is one of the six nations of the Haudenosaunee, or Iroquois Confederacy. Acknowledging The Seneca peoples reminds us of our connection to the fertile land in which we live, learn, and work. We recognize, honor, and respect The Seneca peoples as the original stewards of the lands and waters on which MFS is situated upon. We express our deepest gratitude towards the traditional caretakers of this land. MFS is committed to establishing meaningful relationships and connections to The Seneca, and Haudenosaunee, peoples through advocacy, allyship, and collaborations that uplift indigenous stories, wisdom and voices.

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FLCC Field Experiences
MFS serves as a site for hands-on field experiences in a wetland setting for FLCC academic programs in the Environmental Conservation and Horticulture departments. Facilities include lab and classroom space along with a fish culturing station. FLCC students have the opportunity to engage in robust applied learning at MFS through curricular and co-curricular experiences that help to prepare FLCC students for transfer to a four year institution or to enter the workforce in a diversity of potential positions.

K-12 Programming
MFS is a destination for elementary, middle, and high school classes from the Rochester/Genesee/Finger Lakes region to further their environmental education experiences. Students have the opportunity to participate in programs tailored to their curriculum and are in accordance with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). MFS field trip experiences offer youth a positive experience with nature that is empowering and memorable. Students learn about the importance and function of wetland habitat and are introduced to professional wildlife management techniques that are used in scientific investigation.

Biological Field Station
FLCC is uniquely situated as a Community College to have access to two field stations: Muller and the East Hill Campus in Naples. As a member of the Organization of Biological Field Stations (OBFS), the programming and opportunities at MFS emphasize Education, Research, Discovery, and Stewardship. Like an ecosystem, the guiding principles are dependent on each other.

Community Resource
MFS serves as a resource for community organizations seeking a meeting or training location. A wide range of hosted and structured educational activities are offered to the general public throughout the year utilizing both the inside and outdoor resources of the Station including our popular Speaking of Nature lecture series.
Mission

MFS is a leader among community college field stations making environmental conservation education and stewardship science accessible to everyone through collaborative learning experiences.

Vision

Muller Field Station provides immersive, experiential education for students and community members and strengthens people’s connections to land and water through a commitment to regional partnerships and a culture of inquiry.
Strategic Objectives

1. FLCC student usage of MFS will increase by 50%.

How will we do it?

- Provide curricular and co-curricular opportunities for students to enhance their understanding and connection to the natural world.
- Create a MFS Internship Program to accommodate 20 paid internships for students annually.
- Support FLCC students through on-site conservation career and leadership building activities.
- Implement collaborative cross discipline programming for students and faculty in two departments outside of the Environmental Conservation and Horticulture.
- Create a plan to reduce barriers to student access at MFS including transportation from main campus to the site.

2. Increase the quantity and efficacy of all research and monitoring taking place at MFS as a resource for FLCC and K-12 students, regional communities and associations and the broader scientific community.

How will we do it?

- Finalize a research proposal procedures and implementation plan by Spring 2021.
- Create and institutionalize the use of an accessible and centralized geo-referenced database for Environmental Conservation and Horticulture Department research at MFS and beyond.
- Initiate two new long-term monitoring projects at MFS.
- Engage FLCC and K-12 students in regular research and monitoring activities.
- Launch a MFS Research Day by 2024 that would engage FLCC and K-12 students as well as community members.
3. Increase K-12 student nature experiences at MFS, especially for historically underrepresented students.

How will we do it?

• Increase outreach to students, educators and parents in urban K-12 school districts regionally.
• Create K-12 programming that aligns with NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) and Common Core curriculum to increase value of our programs in the eyes of teachers and administrators.
• Form partnerships and collaborate on long-term projects with at least three organizations that support and provide equitable outdoor experiences and education for Black, indigenous, and youth of color.*
• Develop and implement a summer camp experience at MFS.
• Increase virtual programming in order to expand our reach to students outside of this region.

4. Keep MFS modern and usable by adding, upgrading and maintaining facilities as well as regularly reviewing and updating policies and procedures.

How will we do it?

• Edit and update the MFS “Using Our Facilities” document for students, faculty, staff and community members.
• Create a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) manual for all mechanics.
• Create calendar of biennial/annual maintenance practices and procedures.
• Write a “current conditions report” that allows for annual updates including: dates/age of projects completed, warranties of items and workmanship, incomplete projects, and pending projects.
• Create and maintain inventories: canoes and related items, lab equipment, fisheries equipment, technology items, all hand tools and grounds maintenance equipment.
• Create a rotating schedule of consultations of skilled FLCC personnel to guide MFS on current and upcoming best practices i.e. technology, electrical, hvac, maintenance mechanical, etc.

* The term Black, indigenous, people of color (BIPOC) is increasingly being used to acknowledge that people of color face varying types of discrimination and prejudice. It emphasizes that systemic racism continues to oppress, invalidate, and deeply affect the lives of Black and Indigenous people in ways other people of color may not necessarily experience. Lastly and significantly, Black and Indigenous individuals and communities still bear the impact of slavery and genocide.
5. **Diversify the MFS funding stream to ensure the long term stability of the organization.**

**How will we do it?**

- Create a transparent budgeting process and set tangible annual fundraising goals in collaboration with the FLCC Foundation.
- Secure funds from at least two additional grant making institutions.
- Increase smaller ($1-$500) one-time and/or recurring donations from individuals.

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**In Conclusion**

Guided by this Strategic Plan, the MFS stewards - FLCC faculty and staff - will strive to cultivate education, research, discovery and sustainability. These goals identified above set out a 5-year vision for MFS. During this time, additional action steps will be identified as part of our ongoing strategic thinking—especially in the process of developing annual work plans. This Strategic Plan is not a static document, but will serve as a guide as we navigate the next five years even as conditions may shift and change.

At the heart of this work stands our ongoing dedication to the values that animate the Mission and Vision of MFS - the joy of seeing students get excited about and be successful in their learning and a desire to build and strengthen people’s connection to land and the outdoors.

We are excited to have you join us to ensure that MFS rises to the challenge of meeting our goals and fulfilling our mission.
Many thanks to -

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Our Community Partners