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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MCCC Joins Chamber, Community Leaders to Launch Training
for 'PerkUp' Workforce Development Consortium**

March 3, 2010, Blue Bell, Pa.— Montgomery County Community College, in coordination with the Upper Perkiomen Valley Chamber of Commerce, launched its first training program for the PerkUp Workforce Development Consortium on March 1 at Brown Printing in East Greenville, Pa.

The program, "Leading in Challenging Times," will provide 20 hours of instruction on strategies and processes for creating high performance work teams and managing change. Participants will develop an Individual Action Plan that can be used to monitor progress and apply the lessons from the program in their work.

The first class is comprised of 16 participants from eight area companies and organizations, including Blommer Chocolate, Upper Perk Chamber of Commerce, Brown Printing, Knoll, Inc., Suppression Systems, Horizon Engineering, US Tape, and the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

A second section of "Leading in Challenging Times" will begin in April, and two sections of "Root Cause Analysis," a 24-hour program that will train participants on how to use root cause analysis as a problem-solving process, will begin in March and May

The Montgomery County Workforce Investment Board is providing funding to offset the cost of the training for the participating companies and organizations.

College President Dr. Karen A. Stout addressed the program's participants prior to the start of their first training class on March 1.

"Montgomery County Community College is honored to be part of developing a 21st century workforce—where educators and business and industry leaders partner to strengthen the community in these challenging economic times," she said.

Through the PerkUp initiative, the Chamber and community leaders conducted a two-year community assessment process that resulted in an economic development plan. Workforce development was among the initiatives identified as necessary to strengthen the region.

The College and the Chamber formed the PerkUp Workforce Development Consortium to address the workforce education and training needs identified in the PerkUp initiative. By meeting the training needs of the area's employers, the Consortium looks to improve the productivity levels of the workforce in the region.

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“Once in a while, the stars align and you’re able to do a program like this,” Pennsylvania Senator and PerkUp Steering Committee Chair Bob Mensch, told the class. “In this case the stars are the community college and the business community who are driving this first-class education initiative.”

Executive Director of the Upper Perkiomen Valley Chamber of Commerce Luanne B. Stauffer agreed.

“In a couple of years, we’re going to look back at this moment and know that we’ve started something really special,” she said.

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