

Ben Weller awarded MCC degree through reverse transfer

By Shelly Springborn

There's no timeframe on earning a college degree.

Just ask Ben Weller, of Ionia. He's thrilled that 23 years after he started his education at Montcalm Community College, he was awarded an associate degree in Business Management through reverse transfer.

Reverse transfer allows former students, who have continued their education at other accredited institutions, to transfer classes back to Montcalm Community College to apply toward a degree, certificate or job training credential.

"Outside of my wife and kids, earning my degree is one of my biggest accomplishments," Weller said. "I can't thank the college enough for the great experience I had there."

Weller graduated from Ionia High School in 1998 and began taking classes at MCC in fall 1999. Then life happened. He and his wife, Sarah, had their first child, and they both were working and juggling their family responsibilities.

"I attended MCC at night for almost three years," Weller said. "My parents helped us a lot with babysitting our son while we worked and I went to school. But, it just got kind of tough to keep that balancing act up."

Weller began a career in banking in 2005, and in 2008 he took a position with PFCU Credit Union, which he said changed his life.

"It's a perfect fit for me. I love what I do!" said Weller, who serves as one of the credit union's two Community Engagement Coordinators.

He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in Business Management from University of Phoenix. With his career on track and one degree under his belt, he said he still felt part of his education was missing.

"It was just on the back of my mind that I wished I had earned my degree from MCC," he said.

Luckily, he learned about reverse transfer and connected with MCC's Registrar's Office. In May, he was awarded an Associate of Applied Science in Business Management from MCC.

"I think people are getting tired of me talking about it," Weller said with a laugh. "I loved MCC. I had Bob Campbell as an instructor. I know he has passed away, but I still remember him. He made a big impact on me. He had a way about him where he made personal connections with students.

"I felt like I mattered at MCC," Weller added. "I had a great experience all the way around." ■

For more information:

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