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MSCC Students, Staff Participating in ‘Support Our Soldiers’ Care Pack Drive

Students and employees at Mid-South Community College are working together to provide a boost to a U.S. soldiers serving on foreign soil. Fueled by student interest, MSCC is conducting a “Support Our Soldiers” Care Pack Drive through March 25.

“Michael Leslie (a student) came to my office one day and said he wanted to do something to help our soldiers,” said Tony Wilson, Student Activities Coordinator at the college. “He has a friend in the service, and he had been talking to him about the needs that they have and wanted to know if the college would be interested in participating.”

“I told him to submit a proposal, and he came right back with it. I saw the seriousness of what this meant to him, and everyone at the college agreed that demonstrating support of our service men and women with a care pack drive would be a great project. We appreciate what the soldiers are doing for our country, and this is a way for us to express our gratitude.”

MSCC is collecting everything from mouthwash and sunscreen lotion to writing pens and notebooks, and project workers have distributed a comprehensive list of needed/wanted items to students and staff.

Item drop boxes have been placed in the Learning Success Center in the Donald W. Reynolds Center, the Student Lounge, the Workforce Technology Center, the Allied Health building, the University Center, the Administration Building/President’s Office, the Maintenance building, and the Workforce Center.

“Before we even set up the drop boxes, we had people bringing items for the drive,” Wilson said. “The response has been great.”

MSCC is collaborating with the Arkansas Army National Guard to ensure that the items are delivered to units with connections to the Mid-South region.

“We’re not just focusing on one soldier or even one unit,” Wilson explained. “We’re trying to gather enough supplies that we can help several units from our area.”

Wilson said SFC Shonnon Sims, Recruiting & Retention NCO for the local National Guard office, is assisting with the project.

“When I talked with Sergeant Sims, he was right on top of it,” Wilson said. “He already has great rapport with our students and staff, and he is going to help us make sure we send the items to the right places.”

While the initial plan did not include taking monetary donations, numerous phone calls and emails led to an expanded effort.

“Several people wanted to give money, and that added another dimension to what we’re doing,” Wilson said. “As we get closer to our deadline, we’ll see what we’ve collected and will let our students purchase other items that are the most needed.”

Wilson said the spring community service project fits well with the overall goal of the Student Activities department.

“It’s a student-driven project and that’s one of our major areas of emphasis this academic year,” he explained. “We’ve been encouraging students to develop ideas with campus-wide appeal and then to make things happen. Our students are very sharp and have great ideas, and this is just one example.”

“A lot of colleges don’t do much around mid-term exams and Spring Break, but our students are serious about helping our soldiers,” Wilson continued.

For more information about the Support Our Soldiers Care Pack Drive at MSCC, contact Wilson at (870) 733-6702 or arwilson@midsouthcc.edu.