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Headed to the hall of fame

Education points the way to success for this MCCC grad

By Brendan Purves
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Community college can offer young people their first real taste of higher education, or it can offer adults the opportunity to further their educations and their careers. For recent Montgomery County Community College [Montco] distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame inductee Karen Jett, Tylersport, Montco was not only where she got her start after high school, but where she was able to get the encouragement and information she needed to begin a new career path as an adult.

"I liked going there because the teachers were really good and I was with people who were interested in learning," Jett said about her educational experiences at MCCC.

When Jett was in high school she was one of the top performers in her class, but as the prospect of college approached she decided that she was tired of school and needed some

time off before she continued her education.

Jett to a semester off, got a job as a cashier and planned to take night classes so she could work at her own pace and keep a full time job.

"It gives people the flexibility to take courses at a slower rate," Jett said about the ease at which she could go back to school after taking time away from academia.

In 1986, Jett graduated from Montco with an associate's degree in accounting, and from there moved on to Temple University where she eventually graduated summa cum laude.

After finishing school, Jett started a successful career as an accountant. She always loved her work in accounting, but as the years went by she realized that her true passion was in working with people and training managers and employees how to do their jobs more efficiently.

In 2004, she started Jett Excellence, a business that offered management training

See **Jett**, Page 5



Karen Jett of Tylersport will be initiated into the Montgomery County Community College Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame for her work in management training and consulting.

Jett heads to the alumni hall of fame

■ **Jett**, from Page 1

and consulting using values based organizational development.

Jett was having success with her small business, but she wanted to take it to the next level, and so she went back to the place where it all started – Montco.

Montco was offering a program for women who own their own businesses, and so in 2005 Jett went back to school to help grow her young business.

“The support that I got from the instructor and the class was fabulous at that point,” Jett said about her second experience at Montco.

The class helped her to form a marketing and business plan, and today Jett Excellence is thriving.

In fact her business is doing so well that in 2008 Jett wrote “Grow Your People, Grow Your Business,” as a supplement to the courses and consulting that she does with local businesses.

With all of her success it was only a matter of time before she was honored for her accomplishments. Jett was nominated by longtime client The Center for Families and Relationships in Philadelphia, and was chosen to be one of five inductees into this year’s Montgomery County Community College Hall of Fame

“It’s very exciting, almost overwhelming,” Jett said. “It’s still hard to believe.”

Jett has come a long way since she first decided to forgo attending a four year college and enrolled at Montgomery County Community College, and although she may not have realized it at the time, MCCC was an im-

portant part of the start of her career, and today continues to keep here at the top of her game.

“When I was there I took Montco for granted. I was only 20 years old,” Jett said about her first stint at the school. “But now I really feel grateful that its there for me and my community.”

Jett will be formally inducted into the Montgomery County Community College Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame Friday, Oct. 2 in the MCCC Advanced Technology Center.