## business

By Shelly Springborn

he opportunities are endless with a degree in business.

Do you like working with people? What about numbers? How about computers and technology? Or would you like to be self-employed? If you said "yes" to any of these questions, a business degree may be just the right t for you.

Montcalm Community College Accounting and Business Instructor Bill Bishop said the college strives to prepare students for a broad range of opportunities available in the current and projected workforce.

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-- Bill Bishop

"It doesn't matter if you want to work in project management, nance and accounting, information technology, health care administration, human resources, marketing, general management or be an entrepreneur – understanding the language and possessing certain skill sets required of business leaders provides a distinct advantage," he said. "All the business degrees o ered at MCC emphasize the knowledge and skills employers are looking for now."

Bishop said many of the hottest projected job market opportunities in the next decade center around accounting and nance, management, marketing and IT.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the job outlook is good for a variety of business professions over the next 10 years.



Mandy Christian happened to be in the right place at the right time when she applied for an accounting position at Greenville Tool and Die (GTD).

Christian was living in Belding at the time and commuting to her job as an accounts payable clerk in Grand Rapids. While she was open to seeking a position closer to home, she wasn't heavily searching for a new opportunity.

"Every time I drove by Greenville Tool, I thought I would apply if they ever were hiring a position I was quali ed for," Christian said. "I had always heard it was a great company to work for."

Then it happened – she saw a message from a recruiting company that GTD was advertising for a sta accountant. She applied that day and was quickly contacted for an interview.

"I got very lucky. For the position I applied for, I didn't have all the skills or even a majority of the skills that they wanted," Christian said.

One thing she did have was the desire and willingness to learn.

"When I went for my interview, they asked if I would be willing to go back to school for accounting," she said. "Until that time, my only experience in accounting was as an accounts payable clerk. So, I didn't really know anything about debits or credits or the details of accounting. They chose to send me to MCC.

"I loved it. It was a great school for me," she said. "A lot of the classes I needed were o ered around my work schedule and if not, my employer was very generous with letting me work around my work schedule."

It was a perfect match for her with a company that has a long history of investing in its employees through education. Christian started at GTD in March 2016, and by fall, she was enrolled at MCC.

While she had attended Indiana University, where she studied psychology, Christian said she was a bit apprehensive about returning to school. Then she met Business Instructor Bill Bishop and Math Instructor Dan Long.

"They both were very patient. If I needed help, they would help me. I appreciate that. They were great," she said.

To earn her associate degree in accounting, Christian took two classes most semesters and occasionally three, as well as summer classes. Plus, some of the classes she completed at Indiana University reverse transferred to MCC, and were applied toward her degree requirements.

"Most of my classes were at night. It de nitely made for long days, but it wasn't bad," she said.

Christian has been with GTD for more than ve years and currently is a sta accountant and human resources assistant.

Her advice to others is "take a chance. Apply for the job you don't think you are quali ed for or might be out of your comfort zone because you might get the opportunity," she said. "That's what happened to me. It has done wonders for me all the way around. I love my job

