

MCC students use science for campus building decor

Interior Design student Brittany Hatch used her sister's fight with a neuromuscular disease as design inspiration for a wall hanging in Mesa Community College's Life Science Building, according to a press release.

Ms. Hatch and other students took science patterns and created attractive designs which were made into custom wall hangings that now adorn the walls of the campus building.

The project began when Andrew Baldwin, life science faculty, approached Janice

Pierson, interior design faculty, and suggested that the halls of the science building badly needed something to both beautify the walls and to inspire students as they study or wait for classes. He didn't think the college should hire or contract art outside of the college when MCC had talented design students right on campus.

"I saw this as a win-win situation," Mr. Baldwin said. "Our students get to display their work on our campus, we get to showcase their work in our halls and make our student soft spaces more educational and friendly. In addition, students get to actually produce products for a real client (us). Two very different departments that each had needs were able to help each other out."

At the beginning of the project, students examined science patterns underneath a microscope to get inspirations for their designs. They sketched the patterns that interested them onto paper, added color and refined the designs.

For some students, the project had personal meaning. Ms. Hatch wasn't sure at first what she would choose for her design, but when she found a neuron pattern, she knew what her project would be. Her sister, Crista, was diagnosed at age 15 with Myasthenia Gravis, an autoimmune disease in which the neurons don't always work correctly and causes muscle fatigue and other symptoms.

"I decided I wanted to make this design about her and her fight," Ms. Hatch said. "She has since overcome it and is in remission now. The project was very meaningful

to both of us."

The student designs were made into custom wool rugs by W.F. Carter and Associates, a trade-only resource. The company is an industry partner and made the rugs for MCC at a fraction of the cost.

Student designers include Brittany Hatch, Peggy Perkins, Stacy Schneider and Sarah Todd.