

## **Final Report**

Ethan Fisher presented *Life CONsequence* at North Platte Community College and McCook Community College campuses on February 24 and 25, 2016 to audiences totaling 285 students, faculty, staff, and community members. Fisher's experiences and life lessons were well received and relatable to MPCC students. Fisher provided a unique perspective that connected and engaged all who attended the events at the two campuses.

Between 2014 and 2015, Mid-Plains Community College (MPCC) had a total of 30 encounters with students misusing or disregarding the MPCC campus drugs and alcohol policy and, so far, there have been 8 incidents during the 2015 – 2016 school year. Examples of possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students on MPCC campuses include:

- A student who was rushed to the emergency room because he/she had alcohol poisoning and was left unaccompanied in their dorm room. Fortunately, a concerned member of our community informed the Assistant Housing Director and the student was taken to the hospital and his/her life was spared.
- Multiple cases of possession and use of marijuana on campuses. In such cases, MPCC Student Life and Activities staff involve local law enforcement to cite involved students and confiscate drugs/paraphernalia for transfer over to the proper authorities.

North Platte is approximately 60 miles from the Colorado border where marijuana is legal to use and purchase. The close proximity and accessibility of legal marijuana is tempting to MPCC students who are at an age where drug and alcohol use is often viewed as a "rite of passage." Along with underage alcohol consumption, marijuana usage is an issue MPCC will continue to fight against.

Through information and data collected from student focus groups and input sessions, and the demonstrated lack of incidents and reports of drug and alcohol use by MPCC students in College housing facilities, most students attending MPCC do not use drugs and alcohol on a regular basis, but when they do, it is in excess. MPCC Student Life and Activities staff work hard to proactively address potential drug and alcohol incidents by offering programs that help students understand that alcohol does not help, but actually hinders a community. Educational speakers

provide unique perspectives and statistics to deter the use of illicit drugs and alcohol and inspire MPCC students to make safe and legal decisions.

Lesser-known speakers like Ethan Fisher have the ability to connect to and engage community college students with a much greater impact. Fisher is a former college athlete who competed in the same region as MPCC. The close proximity and similar life of Fisher made his story relatable to MPCC students and athletes who, if they resided on campus, were required to attend one of the two presentations. Off-campus students received notice of the Fisher presentations through flyers, mailed postcards, and word of mouth. Invitations to the presentations were extended to community members through subscribed newsletters created by the MPCC Marketing Department.

During his presentations, Ethan Fisher addressed the following topics:

1. Alcohol
2. Drugs
3. Academics
4. Athletics
5. Life consequences on the choices we make

Each of Fisher's presentations concluded with a Question and Answer session. Fisher answered questions ranging from what influenced him to first experiment with marijuana, to facing disappointment from family and friends and how he overcame that disappointment. Post-presentation feedback from students included, "Ethan needs to come back again" and his presentation was "powerful and relatable." MPCC faculty and staff found Fisher to be such an inspiration they expressed a desire to bring Ethan back to North Platte and McCook to expand the impact of his story by sharing it with entire communities.

In compliance with the 1998 Jeanne Clery Disclosure Act, Student Life staff at each MPCC campus track the number and nature of drug and alcohol-related incidents on each campus location and at college-affiliated functions each year. The success of adding Ethan Fisher to the 2015-2016 line-up of MPCC educational speakers will continue to be measured by the number of drug and alcohol-related incidents tracked following the 2015-2016 school year at MPCC residence halls, campus locations, and at college-related events. These numbers will be compared to the 38 similar incidents, during the same time frame, since 2014.