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Hall of Fame induction tonight

by Evening News staff , last modified December 03, 2008 10:32AM

The Monroe County Board of Commissioners will host a ceremony tonight to formally induct its newest Hall of Fame nominees.

Dr. Ronald Campbell, the founding president of Monroe County Community College, and Theresa Maxis Duchemin, a co-founder of Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, were selected in June to be honored as Monroe County's finest by the Hall of Fame Task Force.

The five-member panel whittled a list of prospective honorees, and the county board will hold a brief ceremony to memorialize and honor the two candidates at 7 p.m. at the Monroe County Courthouse, 125 E. Second St.

Sister Duchemin arrived in Monroe in 1845 after co-founding the first U.S. congregation of Catholic Sisters for women of color in Baltimore. She came to the area at the request of Father Louis Florent Gillet, then pastor of St. Mary Catholic Church.

She became the IHM's first superior and a year later opened St. Mary's Young Ladies Academy.

Some disagreement between Sister Duchemin and then-Bishop Peter-Paul Lefevere in 1859 saw Sister Duchemin sent to Pennsylvania, where she went on to found two other IHM orders.

All three IHMs still are active today.

Dr. Campbell was one of 24 candidates originally seeking the first presidency at the community college. At the time, in 1965, he was the dean of instruction at Henry Ford Community College.

The [University of Detroit](#) and Wayne State University graduate had a hand in designing seven new buildings while working at the Henry Ford campus, making him an ideal candidate for building the local school, according to literature about MCCC.

A short reception will follow the induction ceremony. The public is invited to attend.

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