

# Collegian

The Newsletter of The New England College Council

Spring 2013



## President

Dr. Lucille Jordan  
President  
Nashua Community College  
505 Amherst St.  
Nashua, NH 03063  
Tel: (603) 882-6923  
www.nashuacc.edu

## Vice President

Raymond DiPasquale  
President  
Community College of Rhode Island  
400 East Avenue  
Warwick, RI 02886  
Tel: (401) 825-1000  
www.ccri.edu

## Treasurer

Dr. Daniel M. Asquino  
President  
Mount Wachusett Community College  
444 Green St.  
Gardner, MA 01440  
www.mwcc.edu

## Secretary

Dr. Barbara Douglass  
President  
Northwestern Connecticut  
Community College  
Park Place East  
Winsted, CT 06098  
www.nwcc.commnet.edu

## Executive Director

Robert Ross  
(617) 426-1920

The Collegian edited by Robert Ross  
The Collegian newsletter design by  
Dana Armstrong  
The Collegian is available online at:  
www.newenglandcollegecouncil.org

## Celebrating our Success: Students

# MWCC's Pathways and Gateway Graduates Celebrate Milestone

## Mount Wachusett Community College

Whether they came to Mount Wachusett Community College to accelerate the pace of their education or to get back on track after a problematic high school experience, this year's 51 graduates of the Pathways Early College Innovation School and the Gateway to College program have this in common: they each reached a milestone.

Students enrolled in the two dual enrollment programs, which are offered in partnership with the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District, were recognized during a May 22 graduation ceremony in the college's Raymond M. LaFontaine Fine Arts Center theatre. As dual-enrolled students, the graduates all completed the requirements for their high school diploma while simultaneously earning college credits or a degree.

Massachusetts Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education Mitchell D. Chester delivered the keynote address, lauding the students for their success, and their families and friends in the audience for providing ongoing support. He noted that the quality programs are serving as models for other institutions and school districts to replicate.

"What an opportunity. For some of you this was a second chance. You were heading down a path that was not going to lead to a diploma. For others, this represents an accelerated path toward an associate degree. This is an incredible accomplishment. I can't tell you how impressed I am."

Patricia Gregson, Associate Commissioner, Vocational, Workforce and College Readiness Programming for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, who was responsible for launching the two programs at MWCC while serving as Vice President of Access and Transition, also attended the celebration. Guest speakers also included MWCC President Daniel M. Asquino, Michael Baldassarre, Superintendent of the Mahar regional school district, Deborah Bibeau, Assistant Dean of Transitions Programming at MWCC, Pathways valedictorian Claudia Elbourn of Gardner and Gateways valedictorian Ketheny Dutka of Leominster.

***"For some of you this was a second chance...For others, this represents an accelerated path toward an associate degree."***

## Continued from page 1

One of the first two innovation schools created in Massachusetts as part of Governor Deval Patrick's education reform bill and the first early college innovation school, Pathways provides motivated high school juniors and home schooled students the opportunity to accelerate the pace of their academic careers.

The Gateway to College program, established in 2005 as the first Gateway site in New England, provides a second chance for students ages 16 to 21 who have dropped out of high school or are at risk of dropping out. Students simultaneously earn their high school diploma through the Mahar Regional School District, as well as college credits toward an academic degree or certificate in the field of their choice. Approximately 100 students from throughout the area are enrolled in the Gateway program each year. The majority of the graduates will continue their education at MWCC or at another college or university



School choice funding covers the cost of tuition and fees of both programs. During a visit to the MWCC campus earlier this spring, Massachusetts Secretary of Education Matthew Malone praised the programs as models he is interested in replicating throughout the Commonwealth.

## NSCC's National Society of Leadership and Success a Resounding Success

### North Shore Community College

On May 15, North Shore Community College inducted 114 students into its chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success, a rigorous student development program which helps participants discover and achieve their goals.

The Society offers compelling lectures from leading national presenters and a community where like-minded success oriented individuals come together and help one another succeed. In addition to their regular studies, those with a GPA of 3.0 or above choose to complete a minimum of an orientation, a 3.5 hour leadership training session, 3 1.5 hour speaker broadcasts, and a series of Success Networking Team (SNT) meetings. Many also went above and beyond to qualify for a National Excellence in Leadership Award which requires a minimum of 3 additional speakers, SNT's and five hours of community service.

In its second year, the program has proved immensely popular with students - 421 students have participated. Students gain clarity about their future, confidence in their abilities, learn to hold themselves accountable and a belief that they have unlimited potential. For the college, the program has proven to be a huge retention tool and a great way to help students access internal resources and services that can assist them.

NSCC's Vice President of Student Enrollment Management Donna Richemond and Dean of Students Dr. Lloyd Holmes, were instrumental in bringing the program to the college. "We firmly believe that it is the college's responsibility to educate the whole student. While there were leadership development activities going on with our Presidential Scholars program and Student Government, we wanted a program that would engage students on many levels and be accessible to all," VP Richemond noted.

"We researched many models and this program seemed perfect for what we wanted and given student response, what they wanted as well. They like being part of a national program and it gives them the opportunity to engage with other students which adds a social component to the learning," Richemond added. "Recognizing their accomplishments with a ceremony was critical and capped their many accomplishments."

## Tunxis Announces First Graduates of Homeland Security Program

### *Tunxis Community College*

The first recognition ceremony for Transportation Security Administration employees who graduated from Tunxis Community College's homeland security certificate program was held February 6 at the Connecticut Fire Academy.

The graduates received certificates from the Transportation Security Administration, which they can apply toward an associate degree in criminal justice or other programs at Tunxis. The graduates will also be recognized as part of the Class of 2013 during Commencement on May 31.

Tunxis is the only college in Connecticut, and one of approximately 50 colleges from across the country participating in the training program, which encourages TSA employees to further their post-secondary education and attain credentials to advance in their careers.

The Tunxis homeland security certificate program was first offered to TSA employees in fall 2011, and starting in fall semester 2013 will be available to all Tunxis students on the Farmington campus. The courses, originally developed by TSA, include "Intro to Homeland Security," "Intelligence Analysis & Security Management," and "Transportation and Border Security."

From fine arts, health, and technology to liberal arts & sciences programs, Tunxis offers over 60 associate's degrees and certificates, providing critical thinking and problem-solving skills that prepare students for transfer to bachelor's degree programs and employment in areas with industry need.

For more information, please call 860.255.3500, or visit the Tunxis website at [tunxis.edu](http://tunxis.edu). It gives a college bragging rights to say one of its graduating students has earned the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship. But what if two earn it in one year?

## Not One, But Two

### *Bristol Community College*

It gives a college bragging rights to say one of its graduating students has earned the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship. But what if two earn it in one year?

Bristol has these über bragging rights this year thanks to students Mariano Gomes and Craig Velozo. Both were named to this prestigious award, which offers a community college graduate up to \$30,000 a year for three years to earn the baccalaureate at the college of their choice. This year 73 students all over the country received the competitive award. It is highly unusual for two from the same college to be named to this program.

Both students are Commonwealth Honors Scholars, and both are hoping to become doctors. At press time, both are also waiting to hear from a number of transfer institutions. Mariano is in the Liberal Arts and Sciences/Math and Science Program, and Craig is in General Studies/MassTransfer.

Mariano was born and raised in Guinea-Bissau and came to the U.S. to pursue his studies. He purchased a small cleaning business to support himself, and he often worked through the night and attended classes during the day. Mariano worked as a Supplemental Instructor for Introduction to Chemistry with Dr. Cynthia Hahn. He is a Student Senator and a Student Ambassador.

Craig is a decorated Iraqi veteran who served in the U.S. Army for nine years. While on active duty and deployed overseas he took college courses and the guardian for his brother. As his capstone project for the Commonwealth Honors Program he created the Commonwealth Honors Mentor Program, where students get advice on creating presentations, applying for competitive awards, and other skills needed for success. He is called an exemplary scholar with wide-ranging interests.

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship makes it possible for the nation's top community college students to complete their bachelor's degrees by transferring to a four-year college or university. The award is intended to cover a substantial share of a student's educational expenses – including tuition, living expenses, books and fees.

Bristol Community College has had two recipients in the past few years, but it is quite unusual to have two in one year.

## MassBay Community College Scholarships Help Fund Student Dream Seekers

### MassBay Community College

When she heard that her son Patrick would be going to college for free, Enive Dieudonne could not believe it. “Are you sure they’re not taking money from your account?” she asked him. But we weren’t.

Thanks to the dedicated members of the MassBay Foundation, Patrick Dieudonne is one of dozens of MassBay students who benefit from scholarship monies available every semester. Led by James McKenzie, whose father John F. McKenzie was MassBay’s president when it first opened its doors in 1961, the MassBay Foundation is comprised of 13 business leaders and members of the MetroWest community who have volunteered their time and talent to provide the funds students like Patrick Dieudonne need to pursue their dreams.

Patrick, his two brothers, and their mother came to America from Haiti in 2010, receiving political asylum here after their father, who was a politician, was assassinated. Settling in Norwood, Patrick spent his senior year at Norwood High School. By earning a 3.65 Grade Point Average (GPA) at Norwood High, Patrick finished in the top-ten of his graduating class. In doing so, he became eligible for the President’s Top Ten Scholarship, which is awarded to two students every year. The Scholarship provides two years of free tuition and fees to MassBay students who graduate with a 3.0 GPA or higher and/or finish in the top ten of one of the public high schools in the 27 cities and towns MassBay serves.

In its September 2012 Vision Project report, Time to Lead, the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education notes that by 2018, 70% of jobs in Massachusetts will require at least some college – the most of any state in the nation. Like his father before him, Jim McKenzie understands the fundamental mission of community colleges as an affordable gateway for MassBay students of all ages to get these jobs, and the sustainable careers they will provide for thousands of Massachusetts citizens.

Scholarship opportunities at MassBay are almost as diverse as our student body. While we present \$1,000 scholarships each year to up to ten students who have economic hardships, we also recognize and reward students of all kinds through these scholarship funds.

In addition to the Top Ten scholarship, MassBay awards thousands of dollars each year through the Sapienza Scholarship in support of a musician or artist; the Maxine Elmont Scholarship, given to students who are coming back to college and who are at least 25 years old; the Leonce Cadet Joseph Award presented to “a deserving international/immigrant dream chaser;” and the John F. McKenzie Scholarship, awarded to one graduating senior from each of the 27 public high schools in our service area who has earned a 2.5 GPA or higher and the recommendation of a guidance counselor.

Scholarship awards are also given to current MassBay students who score a 4.0 GPA, are scholar-athletes, carry a 3.0 GPA and higher and enroll in summer classes (need based), or show the most academic improvement.

At MassBay we are proud to offer needed funds to people like Patrick Dieudonne, who are on our Wellesley Hills, Framingham and Ashland campuses pursuing their dreams. Without them, we know that the jobs of the future may be out of reach.

*MassBay awards associate degrees and certificates in over 70 academic programs in a wide range of career-driven subjects ranging from accounting and automotive technology to forensic DNA science and early childhood education. The College’s facilities in Wellesley Hills, Framingham and Ashland house day, evening and weekend classes that meet the needs of degree-seeking students and career minded life-long learners. Online options provide convenience and allow faculty to facilitate the learning process. Since its founding in 1961, MassBay has been accredited by several governing bodies and strives to meet the needs of the diverse local communities it serves.*



## STEM Internships Get CCV Students Out In Nature and Into Laboratories

### Community College of Vermont

David Gullerat grew up doing what young country kids do: roaming the fields and meadows around his home looking at bugs and crayfish, canoeing and fishing on a local lake, and generally just exploring what nature had to offer. Now, as an adult, he'd like to do that same thing for work, and this summer he'll get a little taste of what that's like.

"I'm really excited about actually doing some work in this field and hopefully it can end up turning into a good career," said Gullerat, a 40 year old CCV Winooski student and Navy veteran. "I'm excited, it should be a really good thing for putting on a résumé and as far as the educational part goes, a little feather in my hat."

Gullerat, along with three other CCV students, has been selected by Vermont EPSCoR to work as an intern this summer in the organization's Research on Adaptation to Climate Change (RACC) program. According to RACC Director Miranda Lescaze, the four students will be working in watershed areas around the state collecting water samples, analyzing data, answering research questions, and creating final presentations that in the end will give them, and the state, a better grasp on the challenges climate change poses for the region.

"With climate change we expect to see more frequent and more severe storms," Lescaze said. "The goal is to better understand the effects of climate change on the Lake Champlain watershed basin."

Lescaze said the RACC internships are multidisciplinary and draw students in from all across the state. The internship process is facilitated through Vermont EPSCoR's Center for Workforce Development and Diversity, which Lescaze said works to expose students to active university research and to encourage those from all walks of life—veterans, first generation students, and others—to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Stephanie Cooke fits that bill. The twenty-year-old Northfield native is a first generation TRIO student who's gearing up for commencement next month, when she'll be receiving an associate degree in liberal studies. After that, she'll be heading on to Vermont Tech to study dental hygiene. But that's after she spends a summer on the Lamoille River with her research team.

"I'll be working in the program based out of Johnson State College called Land Use, Stream Water Quality and Sources of E. coli in the Lamoille River Basin," Cooke said. "That wasn't the one that I applied for, but when I got accepted and saw that they put me in the Johnson program, I read the description again and it definitely sounds like it fits my background perfectly."

That's because while she's earning a degree in liberal studies, Cooke's passion is for science.

"Research in any aspect is interesting to me and it's something that I've wanted to continue with ever since I started taking laboratory classes here at CCV," Cooke said. "I think it will be good for me to learn about different types of research methods that I can use in the future, because I definitely don't plan to stop with a career in dental hygiene, I'd like to become a doctor or a dentist one day."

Back on the western side of the state Gullerat will be working on a project based out of Saint Michael's College titled Effects of Storms on Suspended Sediments in Streams. Gullerat, who's worked as a hired-hand on dairy farms in the past, says he'd like to eventually go on to work with farmers on implementing environmentally conscious solutions to common agricultural situations that can result in harmful runoff entering lakes and streams.



CCV student David Gullerat holds a handful of soil along the banks of the Winooski River in Winooski, Vermont. Photo by Josh Larkin

## Continued from page 5

“I think farmers take a lot of blame for the environmental problems, because everyone knows they put fertilizer on the fields, and they’re like the easiest people to blame,” Gullerat said. “So I’d really like to help to minimize the flak that farmers get and help them implement some of these simple solutions.”

Lescaze said that by the time Cooke, Gullerat, CCV students Lucas Jackson and Patrick Murphy, and the 38 other interns working with Vermont EPSCoR are done this summer, they’ll have spent ten weeks fully integrated into a research teams working around the state on climate change-related projects. During that time, she said, they’ll be in the field collecting samples, they’ll be in labs analyzing those samples, and they’ll be in classrooms researching questions such as: What are the historical trends in hydrographs of streams in the Missisquoi and Winooski watersheds?

“It’s an intense experience, full-time research,” Lescaze said. “But we’ve had great feedback from past interns, and they’ll leave with real research skills.”

Which sounds exactly like what Cooke and Gullerat are after.

“I am really interested in the new, emerging techniques used in science these days and all of the scientific and medical advances our society is making,” Cooke said. “I’d love to be a part of that, and I’d love to eventually use my education to do research in a medical field.”

“I’m a physical guy,” Gullerat says, “and this is a hands-on project out in the field, so that’s exciting.”

And for both Gullerat and Cooke, the internship, and their CCV educations, are a means to an end, that end being a career in a STEM field.

“If I could get paid for going out and walking around in nature,” Gullerat says, “exploring and taking samples from streams and rivers, if I can get paid for that, yeah, that’s like a dream job.”



Stephanie Cooke, a CCV student from Northfield, Vermont, will be working on land use, stream water quality and sources of E. coli in the Lamoille River Basin in her summer internship with Vermont EPSCoR. Photo by Josh Larkin

## Close to 1500 to Graduate from Northern Essex

### Northern Essex Community College

Northern Essex Community College will hold its 51st Annual Commencement Exercises on Saturday, May 18 at 11 a.m. under a white tent on the quadrangle on the Haverhill Campus, 100 Elliott St. Close to 1500 graduates will receive certificates and associate degrees.

Carmen Ortiz, the U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts, will be the featured speaker.

“U.S. Attorney Ortiz has dedicated much of her professional career to public service, and she is a role model for our students,” says NECC President Lane Glenn. “She holds the distinction of being the first Hispanic and the first woman to represent Massachusetts as U.S. Attorney.”

U.S. Attorney Ortiz visited Lawrence last winter as part of the White Fund Lecture Series presented by Northern Essex Community College. Her presentation was inspiring, said Glenn. “She talked about growing up in New York with immigrant parents, her family’s focus on education, and the obstacles she has had to face in her life and her career.”



## Continued from page 6

David De Jesús of Lawrence has been selected as the student commencement speaker. De Jesús, who works full-time at a medical device company while pursuing his associate's degree full-time, will graduate with high honors and an associate degree in General Studies: Music. He is a 1996 graduate of Greater Lawrence Technical High School.

While attending Northern Essex, De Jesús was a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society; the Pathways to Academic and Career Excellence (PACE) Program, a federally funded student support program; and the Student Leadership Program. He also served as a supplemental instructor in Music Theory 2, leading weekly review sessions for students.

A talented guitarist, De Jesús performs frequently at Northern Essex, and is actively involved in his church community.

A highlight of the commencement ceremony will be the awarding of emeritus status to a retired college employee based on recommendations made by the college's emeritus committee and approved by President Lane Glenn. This year's recipient is Nancy Sabin of Plaistow, NH, a retired dean of enrollment services. Herself a graduate of Northern Essex, she went on to earn a bachelor's degree from New Hampshire College and a master's degree from Plymouth State College. She held numerous positions at NECC from 1970 until she retired in 2010. She continues to teach computer science at NECC on a part-time basis.

Also performing will be the Stuart Highland Pipe Band. NECC president Lane Glenn will preside over the ceremony.

For additional information contact Ernie Greenslade, NECC Director of Public Relations at 978-556-3862 or [egreenslade@necc.mass.edu](mailto:egreenslade@necc.mass.edu)

With campuses in Haverhill and Lawrence and extension sites in Methuen and Groveland, Northern Essex Community College is a state-assisted college, offering over 70 associate degree and certificate programs as well as hundreds of noncredit courses designed for personal enrichment and career growth. More than 9,600 students are enrolled in credit associate degree and certificate programs on the Haverhill and Lawrence campuses; and another 5,500 take non-credit workforce development and community education classes on campus, and at businesses and community sites across the Merrimack Valley. Northern Essex is the only state college located in the lower Merrimack Valley Region of Massachusetts. For more information, visit the website at [www.necc.mass.edu](http://www.necc.mass.edu).



## Monica Castro: Destination – The New School

### *Middlesex Community College, Connecticut*

As Associate Professor of English, I occasionally meet a student who is clearly destined for success. In the fall 2012, that student was Monica Castro. From the start, her work in my Journalism class was extraordinary – and, as the term progressed, her writing and editing skills grew stronger and stronger.

Clear, concise, and thoughtful, Monica's articles were consistently superb. She easily earned an A in the class – her attendance was perfect, and she completed all assignments– always doing more than was required.

Monica also joined the Journalism Club, which publishes our college newspaper, The Flying Horse. Monica jumped aboard, writing several major articles as well as serving as copy editor. It is not an exaggeration to say that The Flying Horse would not have soared without Monica's assistance.

In the spring of 2013, Monica enrolled in my Public Speaking class, and, once again, her work has been superlative. A fierce advocate for women's rights, her presentations have focused on serious issues confronting women today. Her deep research and careful analysis of sources made her speeches compellingly powerful.

How did Monica come to Middlesex? Ironically, a personal tragedy brought her to us. Granted a medical leave from Loyola Maryland, she took some time off to heal, enrolling at Middlesex Community College the following semester. At MxCC,

## Continued from page 7

Monica clearly found her footing, resulting in a 3.86 GPA – and much more. This semester, she worked as a Supplemental Instructor for the college’s developmental courses in addition to her part-time job – and she continues to write for the Flying Horse.

Now it’s time for Monica to move on. Journalism and other fields of communication are calling to her – and she is answering the call – but, before she leaves, she has a few words to share:

“My experience here at Middlesex Community College has been a pleasant and unexpected whirlwind of new experiences and people who I will never forget. Though I only attended for one year, I have made countless valuable friendships with students as well as with professors who have shaped me into who I am today. Since starting at MxCC in the fall of 2012, I have grown multitudes as a person, student, and friend – I can confidently attribute most of that growth to this college.

I am very happy and excited to say that I will be attending The New School in New York City in the fall of 2013. My major is Cultural and Media Studies, and I am hoping to add some journalism into the mix as well. The New School is organized into seven different schools, mine being Eugene Lang College for Liberal Arts. The New School is unique because it has a “student-directed curriculum,” wherein its undergraduates are not required to take general education courses. It is definitely not a typical college experience and that is what makes it the perfect place for me.”

## Jessica Accardi: Bound for Smith College

### *Middlesex Community College, Connecticut*

I first met Jessica Accardi in my Introduction to Literature class in the spring of 2012. Her contributions to our class discussions were consistently insightful, and she offered guidance to students who were challenged by difficult readings. While she has a passion for literature and the arts, Jessica’s academic talents are not limited to the humanities. Frankly, she excels in every discipline.

At Middlesex Community College, Jessica Accardi has been a superstar. She has earned a perfect GPA, which is an accomplishment under any circumstance. But when Jessica shared her personal journey with me, all I could say was, “Wow.” Here’s a glimpse of her story:

Jessica writes, “I came to Middlesex Community College in the fall of 2011. Previously I had been, with occasional forays into self-employment, a stay-at-home mother for over 20 years, who home-schooled all five of my children.

After my marriage fell apart, the realization that a college degree would be financially beneficial was rudely brought to my attention; without a degree or a solid employment history, I was virtually unemployable. I feel extremely fortunate to find myself at MxCC. The encouragement that I have received here has truly transformed my life.

When I began, my aim was to earn a piece of paper certifying my legitimacy in the workforce, but, in the last two years, I have discovered within myself true inner legitimacy – and a desire to continue my education and share my love of learning with others.

This spring my acceptance into the Ada Comstock Scholars program at Smith College has encouraged me to believe that the leap that I made was not as crazy as it felt two years ago. Although there are moments when I feel as though I am frantically flailing through the air, with children to care for, homework to complete, and a collection of low-paying jobs which keeps food on the table, with the help of the MxCC professors, fellow students, and friends, I have found the courage to let others help me. I am beginning to realize what I am capable of. The support at MxCC has been an essential part of the success I have achieved.

I hope to earn a doctorate someday. My aim is to work towards being a professor: it is a long trajectory, and one never really knows where the arrow will hit, but it is essential that we let go of a drawn bow and begin the journey.”

Needless to say, I am a devoted fan of Jessica’s. To successfully juggle parenting, employment, and a rigorous academic schedule requires extraordinary energy, will-power, and intelligence – Jessica has all three. It has been an honor to work with her at Middlesex, and I look forward to the day when I will call her Professor Accardi.

## Our Shining Example

### **Bristol Community College**

Before learning about his scholarship, Mariano Gomes was selected as BCC's "29 Who Shine" for 2013. Each year, the Department of Higher Education honors a student from each of the 29 public colleges and universities to demonstrate the talent and contributions of those about to graduate from the public higher education system.

At a ceremony hosted by Governor Deval Patrick in May, Mariano was honored, followed by a luncheon where he was able to recognize his faculty mentor, Dr. Cynthia Hahn. Mariano worked with her as a Supplemental Instructor for Introduction to Chemistry.

This is the third year, the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education has held "29 Who Shine," a program to recognize outstanding students representing each of our 29 public campuses who are recognized as those who will contribute to the civic life and economic well-being of the state.

## Celebrating our Success: Staff

## Tunxis Librarian Honored with National "I Love My Librarian" Award

### **Tunxis Community College**

Tunxis Community College librarian Rachel Hyland was one of ten librarians in the country to receive the 2012 Carnegie Corporation of New York/New York Times "I Love My Librarian" Award on December 18 during a ceremony at The Times Center in New York City.

The annual award recognizes the contributions of exceptional public, school, college, community college and university librarians. Hyland received the honor for changing the way students, faculty and administrators think about information literacy at Tunxis, and her skill for finding relevant, authoritative material to share with the college community.

"I am thrilled to represent community colleges, and specifically Tunxis Community College, in receiving this honor of a lifetime," said Hyland. "I am grateful for the warmth and generosity of those in the Tunxis community who nominated me and all who support me and our students every day of the year," she continued. "It is immensely gratifying and humbling to be recognized by my peers."

Hyland received a plaque and \$5,000 cash award, which will be donated to charity, including the Tunxis Community College Foundation's scholarship fund.

Among her recent accomplishments during her 12-year tenure at Tunxis, Hyland leads information literacy collaboration with faculty, directed design of the Library's interactive website, and created a library blog. She heads collection development, and has improved the relevancy and vibrancy of the library's collection by using a "just in time," "just in case," and "just for you" philosophy. She also leads a monthly short story lunch group for Tunxis faculty and staff. Hyland holds a master of library science degree from Southern Connecticut State University. She resides in West Hartford.

Full nominations for Hyland are available at <http://atyourlibrary.org/ilovemylibrarian>.

The award is a collaborative program of Carnegie Corporation of New York, The New York Times and the American Library Association.

Located in Farmington, Tunxis offers over 60 associate's degrees and certificates, providing critical thinking and problem-solving skills that prepare students for transfer to bachelor's degree programs and employment in areas with industry need. For more information on programs at Tunxis, call 860.255.3500. Visit the Tunxis website at [tunxis.edu](http://tunxis.edu).



## Celebrating our Success: Staff

# NSCC's 47th Commencement Will Be Last for President Burton

### North Shore Community College

North Shore Community College's 47th Commencement will not be business as usual this year. This year's ceremony will be bittersweet as it will be the last for retiring President Wayne M. Burton and Paul Frydrych, Vice President of Academic Affairs. Burton was with the college for 13 years, Frydrych 42.

The college's Board of Trustees have voted to bestow "President Emeritus" status on Dr. Burton. A nationwide search is underway to find NSCC's fourth president, while the hiring of a new academic VP is on hold until a new President is hired.

This year's graduation will be held Thursday, May 26 at which time nearly 1,000 students will receive associate degrees and certificates.

Nicholas Lovasco, 2010 Danvers High School graduate and Salem resident, will be the student speaker. Lovasco was recently honored as NSCC's representative at the state "29 Who Shine" ceremony recognizing outstanding public college students for their academic achievement and community service.

Lovasco's academic achievement and enthusiastic participation in a broad array of student life initiatives made him the perfect choice for these roles. He excelled in a demanding Honors Program in Liberal Studies at NSCC with a near-perfect grade point average. Outside the classroom, Nick engaged fully in college life, including being elected President of NSCC's Student Government Association, Student Trustee, participating in social and charitable activities of clubs and organizations, performing with his band at the Student Talent Show, and having his poetry and essays included in Spark, the college's literary magazine.

Nick's interest in government prompted him to apply for the Senator Frederick E. Berry scholarship, which he parlayed into a summer internship with the Senate Majority Leader. His work drew high praise from Senate Office staff. As a result, he was chosen to intern for Governor Deval Patrick's office of Community Affairs, where he helped coordinate the Governor's Youth Council, among other duties.

Nick plans to continue his education at Salem State University to pursue a bachelor's degree in biology, with the goal of a career in community development or law.

NSCC Professor Emeritus John Nelson of Ipswich, an English Professor for 31 years who upon his retirement became a member and three time Chair of the college's Board of Trustees, will be the Commencement speaker.

Professor Emeritus Nelson, a graduate of Harvard University, aligned his career with community college education and his belief in the democratic mission of community colleges to provide quality, affordable educational opportunities to all citizens. Throughout most of his teaching career he participated as a faculty member and curriculum coordinator in TRiO programming – serving those students most at-risk and most in need of support—and he is keenly aware of the diversity of community college students and the richness they bring to campus life.

For his excellence in teaching he received two Outstanding Service Awards from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and a Teaching Excellence Award from the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development at the University of Texas at Austin.

As a longstanding professor, then Professor Emeritus, Professor Emeritus Nelson brought a unique dimension to his service as a trustee as he was able to identify, understand, and reconcile the needs of all the components of a college community—students, faculty, administrators, and the local communities served by the college.



Retiring NSCC Vice President of Academic Affairs Paul Frydrych and President Wayne Burton

## Continued from page 10

Sherri Raftery '09 of Saugus will receive the NSCC Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumnus Award. The award is presented annually at Commencement to a graduate whose professional and personal achievements bring honor to themselves and the College. Candidates are chosen on the basis of integrity, character, professional accomplishments, and college or community service.

Raftery is a graduate of NSCC's Substance Abuse Counseling Program and also holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Performing Arts and Communication from Emerson College, and a Master's Degree in Education, Arts & Learning from Endicott College. She is passionate about education and volunteers as a Special Education Surrogate Parent for students in the care of the state's Children & Family Services, acting as an advocate for these students. Sherri also volunteers for Boston's Home for Little Wanderers, a place she called home as a preteen. She credits the organization with giving her support and guidance at a pivotal point in her life, particularly with accessing opportunities she would not otherwise have had, including education and the joy of being a parent herself. She gives back as a Board of Ambassadors spokesperson for the home, representing a wonderful success story.

Sherri has worked as a teacher, a tutor and a swim and soccer coach. She has her own speaker's business, Find Your Platform, which she runs in addition to her career with the East Boston Chamber of Commerce. Sherri's commitment to helping others, her passion for education and leadership by example are some of the ways that she has distinguished herself.

## MWCC Vice President Receives National Award

### Mount Wachusett Community College

Mount Wachusett Community College Vice President of Marketing and Communications Robin A. Duncan has been recognized with the 2013 Communicator of the Year Award by the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations.

Duncan, who was named NCMPR District 1 Communicator of the Year last fall, was selected for the top national award from among the organization's seven district award recipients. The Communicator of the Year Award honors a two-year college marketing professional who has demonstrated leadership and ability in college communications.

The award was presented March 11 during NCMPR's national conference in Chicago. In addition, MWCC's Marketing & Communications division received a gold Paragon Award in the direct mail category and a silver Paragon Award in the student handbook category. An affiliate of the American Association of Community Colleges, NCMPR is the only organization of its kind that exclusively represents communications professionals at community and technical colleges.

"Robin is a highly motivated professional who works diligently with her team to consistently deliver a positive and impactful message in support of the important work that occurs at our college," said MWCC President Daniel M. Asquino.

She was recognized by NCMPR as a "change-maker" who accomplishes goals by employing a big-picture vision of integrated, strategic, and results-driven marketing. Under her leadership at MWCC, blogging, tweeting, Facebook and online advertising have become key components in the communications mix, along with consistent, coverage in traditional media, a monthly radio program, and many other initiatives.

This past year, she led a system-wide analysis of the marketing and communications at the college, engaging staff, faculty, students, and the greater community, which led to systemic changes, including rebranding the college, the redesign of the college's website, and incorporating analytics to more effectively measure the return on marketing investment.

Duncan holds a bachelor's degree in marketing management from the State University of New York and a master's degree in business administration from Anna Maria College. Among her community activities, she serves on the board of the Boys and Girls Club of Fitchburg and Leominster.



Continued from page 11

“It truly is an honor to receive this award in recognition of the work we are doing at MWCC,” Duncan said. “I’m proud to be working with a talented group of people who are helping the college change the paradigm in the way in which we market and target our audiences. It’s important that our projects look good, but it’s even more important that we are measuring the outcomes to ensure our initiatives are actually working for us. I’m proud that we work toward that end every day.”

## Tunxis Administrator Receives AmeriCorps Award for Dedication to Service

### *Tunxis Community College*

Tunxis Community College AmeriCorps VISTA coordinator Susan Dantino, was presented with a Champions of Service 2013 “Above and Beyond Member” Award from Connecticut AmeriCorps Alums on April 2 during an award presentation at Tunxis.

The award was given in recognition of her dedication to service in Connecticut and for her commitment to creating opportunities for civic engagement and service in her role at Tunxis Community College.

“I’m honored to receive this award, which to a great extent was made possible through the efforts of our real champions of service at Tunxis Community College— the dedicated faculty, staff, and students who enthusiastically serve our communities,” said Dantino, who resides in Southington. “I believe we honor the best part of ourselves when we serve.”

Through special course work and the Tunxis Service Learning Club, Tunxis students have opportunities to make a difference through volunteer service to local underserved communities. Recent Tunxis VISTA (Volunteers In Service to America) projects have served organizations such as Bristol Board of Education, Main Street Community Foundation, hawkwing, inc., UConn Health Center Auxiliary and others.

Located in Farmington, Tunxis offers over 60 associate’s degrees and certificates, providing critical thinking and problem-solving skills that prepare students for transfer to bachelor’s degree programs and employment in areas with industry need. For more on Tunxis programs, please call 860.255.3500, or visit the Tunxis website at [tunxis.edu](http://tunxis.edu).



Susan Dantino (second from left) received the award from VISTA program manager Katie Coutu. They are shown with (l to r) Brandon Cirillo, VISTA leader, Kimberly James, Tunxis VISTA site supervisor, and Sam Rigotti, VISTA leader.

## Manchester Community College Named a 2013 National Top Work Place

### *Manchester Community College, Connecticut*

Manchester, CT (January 31, 2013) - Manchester Community College today announced that it has been named one of America’s Top Workplaces by WorkplaceDynamics. MCC was ranked #135 nationwide among 872 organizations with more than 1,000 employees that participated in regional top workplaces programs.

The National Top Workplaces list was determined solely by feedback gathered through an objective employee survey. The survey was conducted by WorkplaceDynamics, LLP, the leading on-demand employee survey provider, in conjunction with 30 leading regional newspapers. MCC participated in The Hearst Media Groups and Hartford Courant/Fox CT Top Workplaces Top Workplaces 2012 program.

## Continued from page 12

The survey uses a proprietary set of 22 questions to rank companies. The survey data showed that employees most want to work at companies with high levels of organizational health. Companies that set a clear direction for their future; execute well; and bring real meaning to work are the healthiest.

Details about the National Top Workplaces, a full list of the Top 150 companies, the survey methodology, and factors that drive organizational health are available at [www.topworkplaces.com](http://www.topworkplaces.com).

Founded in 2006, WorkplaceDynamics is the fastest-growing employee survey provider in the United States. Based on their “on-demand” employee survey, last year they surveyed more than 5,000 organizations, polled 1.7 million people and handled over a million employee responses.

The Top Workplaces program accurately reflects the opinions of employees through measurement of engagement, organizational health and employee satisfaction. The survey is utilized year after year by human resource professionals and C-suite executives nationwide as the gold standard in internal measurement of organizational health and employee satisfaction.

Students of any age who possess the desire to pursue higher education are welcome at Manchester Community College. MCC is proud of its academic excellence, new facilities, flexible schedules, small classes, low tuition and faculty with both academic and “real world” credentials. The College offers over 60 programs, transfer options, financial aid and scholarships, as well as access to baccalaureate degrees through guaranteed admissions programs with several universities. MCC is situated on a park-like campus and is easily accessible from I-84.



## Celebrating our Success: Programs

# Mount Wachusett Community College Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence

### *Mount Wachusett Community College*

Much has transpired over the past five decades as Mount Wachusett Community College evolved from a fledgling institution to multi-campus college providing academic, workforce development and personal enrichment programs to more than 12,000 credit and noncredit students each year. Since its founding, more than 100,000 students have attended “the Mount” under the continuous leadership of just two presidents.

Throughout the year, MWCC is celebrating its 50th anniversary with special events planned for the public, alumni, students, faculty, staff and others who collectively make up the college community. “Honoring the past, generating the future” is the theme of the celebration.

“Our golden anniversary is a remarkable milestone,” said President Daniel M. Asquino. “We are eager to celebrate our past, present and future with the college community and the greater community as we continue to find new ways to enrich the lives of all those we serve. While much has changed, some things remain the same. Today’s students benefit from the same commitment to their success, dedicated faculty and superior student services.”

Long-serving faculty members Dr. Vincent Ialenti, dean of academic and institutional technology, and Professor Gail Steele, director of MWCC’s Theatre at the Mount, are co-chairing the 50th anniversary committee.

“It would be difficult to find an individual in Central Massachusetts who doesn’t have a connection to MWCC in some way, whether they have taken classes, attended theatre productions, visited the fitness center, or participated in community events on campus,” said Professor Steele, who joined the MWCC faculty in 1977. “Mount Wachusett Community College is truly part of the fabric of our community.”

## Continued from page 13

Dr. Ialenti, the college's de facto historian, has been at MWCC for 43 years. "It has been a lot of fun to look back over the last half century. For those of us who were there, it is nostalgic to remember the 60s when the college was founded. For those who are too young to remember, it is fascinating to compare 'then' with 'now,' " he said. "I was not there from the very beginning, but I was fortunate to get to know all of the original players involved in the college's founding."

MWCC was established on November 8, 1963 by the Massachusetts Legislature as one of the first eight of 15 community colleges in the state, bringing to fruition a long-held dream of then-governor Foster Furcolo to provide all of the services community colleges now offer – from affordable access to quality higher education to workforce development training and lifelong learning opportunities.

Founding President Arthur F. Haley and his administrative team established a college that emphasized two paths that are still key today: those that prepare students directly for the workforce and those that enable students to transfer their associate degree credits to a four year college or university.

He served until 1987 and was succeeded by Dr. Asquino, who is now in his 26th year as president of the college. Under President Asquino's leadership, MWCC has continued to progress with expanded programs, satellite campuses, and state, national and local recognition in areas such as civic engagement, college access and transition, and renewable energy.

For more information and a look back in time, visit [mwcc.edu/50th](http://mwcc.edu/50th).



In April, MountWachusett sponsored a Free College Day for the community as part of its 50th anniversary celebration. The weekend event featured more than 50 free workshops ranging from art to technology.

# Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology Announces New Degree Program in Health Information Technology and Rebrands other Programs

## *Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology*

In response to the growing demand for a skilled workforce in health information systems, Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology (BFIT) has developed a new interdisciplinary Bachelor of Science degree in Health Information Technology, the only degree program of its kind in the state of Massachusetts.

Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology's approach to curriculum development and refinement is modeled on industry partnerships. The College's long standing relationship with the Boston Private Industry Council (PIC) is one such example of how the College utilizes the knowledge economy to model its curriculum. PIC's Boston Healthcare Careers Consortium (BHCC), of which Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology is a member, highlighted the critical importance of networks and other information technology in improving the quality and reducing the cost of healthcare. Comprised of healthcare organizations, educational institutions, labor organizations, the public workforce system and others from the city of Boston, the Consortium's raison d'être is to recruit, train, and connect talented youth with in-demand health occupations. Having identified healthcare as the largest single employment sector in the city, the College saw the impetus for creating a B.S. degree program in Health Information Technology.

## Continued from page 14

The federal government has been pushing healthcare providers to transition patient records and other information into electronic formats. Under the Affordable Care Act, changes in the way the Federal Government reimburse providers will give a big advantage to hospitals and doctors who can leverage information technology to improve and streamline care. Dean of Academic Affairs, Anthony Benoit, states that “BFIT noticed that no one in Massachusetts had yet launched a bachelor’s program in Health Information Technology, though there are several associate degree and master’s degree programs. Building on the College’s strength in computer technology, BFIT has taken the lead and created a BS in Health Information Technology.” The first graduates of the program are expected in 2015.

Current and anticipated need at the national level as assessed using Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS) data suggest that jobs in the field of Health Information Technology (HIT) are expected to grow by 20% over the years 2008 to 2018, placing HIT in the highest category of anticipated growth for the years ahead ([http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos103.htm#projects\\_data](http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos103.htm#projects_data)).

The new HIT program blends learning on health care systems, databases, security & confidentiality, electronic health records (HER’s), HL-7 messaging, communication, and management to prepare graduates to implement electronic health records on desktop systems and other devices across networks and web services within hospitals and other patient care settings. Students will be ready to enter employment as information technicians at agencies, hospitals, and practices that provide healthcare or at companies that create, develop, integrate, or maintain health information systems. Health Information Technology encompasses the hardware and software as well as the procedures and policies that underline the storage, retrieval, availability, and security of information to support healthcare delivery and decision making.

Graduates of this new BS program will be able to manage, plan, design, and monitor health databases. In support of this work, they will also understand electronic health record (EHR) documentation guidelines and will operate within organizational and industry-wide regulations and standards for healthcare information. Employment in this field has a range of titles, but generally focuses on the interaction of healthcare information with storage and retrieval systems. Median annual wages range from \$50,000 to \$80,000 (Occupational Outlook Handbook <http://www.bls.gov/oco/>).

The interdisciplinary flavor of the program stems from the application of technology principles to healthcare information. Therefore, both students new to this program and those who are transferring with previous credits in related fields are eligible to enroll. The curriculum will be explored through classroom and laboratory settings, making use of the College’s online portal to enhance learning through hybrid content, as well as a senior workplace internship. The Capstone Project will require problem-based learning in which students tackle a challenge drawn from industry. Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology has strong industry connections with many major hospitals in the Boston area that will be hiring graduates of our programs.

### *Rebranded Programs in Biomedical Engineering Technology and Building Technology & Design*

In response to requests from students, graduates and employers, Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology has renamed one of its well-established programs to Biomedical Engineering Technology. This associate degree program prepares graduates for job opportunities in the medical field maintaining equipment that is essential to health care and saving patients lives. Students gain hands-on experience through internships and classes held at world-class hospitals in the Boston area including Massachusetts General Hospital, Children’s Hospital of Boston, and Tufts Medical Center. The Biomedical Engineering Technology program is the only one of its kind in New England with internships and classes offered at hospitals.

The College’s program in Building Technology & Design is chaired by a licensed architect with substantial work experience in construction management. Since his hire in August 2011, Eric Larsen has been adjusting the curriculum so that it reflects the interdisciplinary nature of building today. Architects, construction managers, and contractors work as a team to deliver a built environment to a client. The involvement of these professionals continues across the lifecycle of a structure, so facilities

**“Building on the College’s strength in computer technology, BFIT has taken the lead and created a BS in Health Information Technology.”**

## Continued from page 15

managers are also part of the team. The Building Technology & Design program was previously called Architectural Technology, but that name did not reflect the interdisciplinary role of building design staff. The updated program includes three courses on building information modeling (BIM), a multi-dimensional computer tool for managing the creation and operation of buildings. Graduates of this program put their BIM and CAD knowledge to work for architectural firms, construction management companies, and facilities management operations. They are well qualified for a variety of technician-level jobs in the construction industry.

### *About Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology*

As the only private, non-profit, primarily two-year technical college in Massachusetts, Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology is one of New England's oldest colleges of engineering and industrial technologies. Started with a bequest from Benjamin Franklin and a gift from Andrew Carnegie, the College's goal is to create a career path by developing a learning environment through industry partnerships, shared resources, and effective classroom and laboratory practices, which sets the standard for a job-oriented technical education at both the associate and bachelor degree level. The College attracts a diverse student body, racially, ethnically, and economically. The College places a great deal of emphasis on student success and appropriates resources accordingly, offering a comprehensive student support system to ensure retention and graduation. The College's graduation rate is double the national level and nearly triple that of peer MA colleges. 90% of the College's graduates find employment in their field or continue their education.

## Massasoit Community College Brings New York Times Bestselling Author Wes Moore to Campus

### *Massasoit Community College*

On April 4th, author Wes Moore spoke on the Value of Education at the Anna Buckley Performing Arts Center of Massasoit Community College to a packed audience of students, faculty, staff and members of the Brockton community. His presentation was the culminating event of the 2013 One Book One College Program at Massasoit.

### *Development of the One Book Program at Massasoit Community College*

For the past seven years, Massasoit has joined a number of colleges and universities that promote the reading of one book among their college communities. A committee selects a book, offers access to copies through the college Libraries and presents discussion and events related to themes of the book to students, faculty and staff throughout the semester. The goals of the program are community reading and discourse.

Since the first selection in 2006, the Massasoit program has evolved into one that encourages faculty to include the selection in syllabi to invest students in the book. Community colleges, by their nature, are commuting schools, including a demographic of students who have family responsibilities and often work full-time jobs. To add to students' workload with an outside reading is difficult. Having faculty accept the book in their courses lends legitimacy to the choice and involves the professor and the student in the related activities.

Over the years, the committee has evolved as well. Where the initial impetus for the program came from the Library, faculty have joined to provide a more focused academic approach. An essay contest every year fosters student writing. To provide



## Continued from page 16

faculty with an early notification of the selection for the spring, the committee began announcing the book in the fall and presenting information at a First Friday event where faculty gather for lunch and discussion.

### *Selecting a Book for the One Book Program*

The committee solicits the campus for selections, making the final choice over the summer. In the early years of the One Book at Massasoit, the committee decided on several criteria. The book must be of interest to students, faculty and staff; should include a variety of disciplines; and should be of manageable length for inclusion in a course syllabus.

### *The One Book One College Program 2013*

This year's book, *The Other Wes Moore*, explores fate and choices. The committee felt that the message in the book would resonate at a community college where making good choices is tantamount to a student's future.

Our initial preparation involved the intention to specifically involve Massasoit's Gateway to College Program, a Bill and Melinda Gates initiative reaching out to at-risk students. The focus was to be on these teens who need to learn to make good choices to change the directions of their lives. Inclusion of several other student groups such as Phi Theta Kappa members and Student Senate was also very important. Some of these students previously met Wes Moore and were anxious to reconnect with the author. The Student Senate even voted to help fund the author's visit.



Because of the universality of the story and because of Massasoit's location in the city of Brockton, the committee decided to expand the reach of the One Book this year. We invited local high schools, charter schools and youth groups to the author presentation on April 4th. We sent out copies of the book to these groups to share with teachers and students in preparation for the author visit. Our college communications department placed notices of the event in local publications and our TV studio created a video of students discussing their take on the book <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xOg8DbHIvPg>.

As has been customary over the past few years, we presented at the faculty First Friday in a kick-off for the One Book. The Library ordered enough copies of the book to offer loans to several classes reading *The Other Wes Moore* in their courses.

Because of the time commitment in making the author visit successful, the committee focused on fewer events than usual. We chose a philanthropic cause, a food pantry, and set up a service auction with a faculty member as auctioneer. The auction garnered several hundred dollars of seed money for the new college food pantry.

Because several of our college programs include service learning in their coursework, we organized a Volunteer Fair for students, faculty and staff needing or wanting to add charity work to their schedules. Students held a bake sale at the Fair, bringing friends and classmates into the area. Both of these events drew their focus from the author's commitment to giving back, a message strongly expressed in the book.

We continued the writing contest and the ESL panel discussion, which offered the opportunity for students to articulate their feelings about the book.

The committee engaged the author for two presentations. One, a community-wide event with Mr. Moore speaking on the power of education, took place in the college theatre to a full-house. Students, faculty, staff and community members attended and community based youth organizations and schools brought groups of students. The audience was given an opportunity to interact with Mr. Moore through what turned out to be an inspirational and profound question & answer segment. The next morning was a more intimate event about making choices, designed for our Gateway to College students, members of the Student Senate and Phi Theta Kappa. Mr. Moore both engaged and inspired his audiences, emphasizing to

## Continued from page 17

them the importance of making good choices and having high expectations for themselves. “We are not the products of our environments- we are the products of our expectations,” he told them, “it’s about all of us (the story). It’s about the decisions we make in our lives. It’s not just about these two kids; it’s about so much more.”

### *How We Did*

The committee feels the One Book One College Program fulfills its mission of bringing the college together for reading and discourse, but this year’s program surpassed all expectations. The book was accepted by more faculty for their coursework than in previous years and the students read and enjoyed the book and participated in the activities to a greater extent than in the past. Having the author on campus brought new meaning to the project and the students’ involvement in preparation and participation added the feeling of community to the program. Our inclusion of local groups brought city and townspeople to campus who may not have known what we do here.

What was it that made this One Book even better than previous years’? Was it the selection itself or the author’s obvious enjoyment of the student audience? Was this year better because more students were involved than in previous years or because more faculty used the text in class? We do not know yet. However, we are talking now about next year and hope to replicate the feeling of community that made this year’s One Book One College Program so special.

# Manchester Community College Opens New Advanced Manufacturing Program

## *Manchester Community College, New Hampshire*

### *Local Companies Call it a Pipeline for Well-Trained Workers*

Manchester – The glimmering production line with robotic controls has replaced an aging automotive tech lab, another demonstration of Manchester Community College’s (MCC) evolution to meet the changing needs of New Hampshire’s workforce. MCC recently opened its new advanced manufacturing lab — which simulates a fully automated production line — designed to train people to meet increasing demand in a growing field. (The auto lab is now housed in a state-of-the-art Automotive Technology Center on campus.)

“Advanced Manufacturing Technology” describes flexible manufacturing systems that use innovative technology to improve the design and manufacture of products and processes. In MCC’s new half-million dollar manufacturing lab, students will learn to program, trouble-shoot problems, analyze results and review quality control for production. Students will create products using the same processes major manufacturing companies do every single day.

This automated manufacturing system allows students to learn the manufacturing process from design to production, using industrial robots, CNC machines and CIM management software. The curriculum theory is delivered online, making this program accessible to more students with varying schedules, who only need to travel to campus once a week to put their new knowledge into practice in the new lab.

“Our mission is to prepare graduates to compete and succeed in the 21st century with skills they can use right now to find a good job,” explained Dr. Susan Huard, President of Manchester Community College. “Before investing upwards of \$500,000 to build this lab, we sought feedback from the business community about what today’s graduates need to know, and we built an advanced program to specifically meet those needs.”

The professors at MCC have created a real environment for manufacturing. Robots are programed in advance with glitches, which will challenge students to trouble-shoot problems and figure out real-time solutions. Raw materials are provided to allow students to design and create a real product.

## Continued from page 18

Bill Hoeker, chair of MCC's new Advanced Manufacturing Technology Advisory Board, says "MCC's new programs provide exactly the type of skills training the industry needs. These graduates will have the know-how to program, troubleshoot, repair and operate the high-tech equipment NH's manufacturers rely on to remain competitive. We applaud MCC for making this investment that will provide properly trained employees, an increased labor pool of qualified applicants and will raise the visibility of manufacturing as an attractive career choice."

Hoeker, a member of the senior staff at Boston Partners Group, has extensive experience in high-tech manufacturing, business and operations management and finance. He was the VP of Operations at PH Precision Products, Pembroke, NH and has held executive level positions at major U.S. manufacturers.

Staff at MCC say that area companies have already expressed interest in hiring the students in the labs to design and build products that will be used or sold throughout the state...offering a real world project with results that matter inside and outside the classroom. "We will also teach the students hands-on skills in manufacturing, so they understand when the production line goes down, the process must still continue," says Phil Przybyszewski, project coordinator for the Advanced Manufacturing Lab.

The new program includes a degree in Advanced Manufacturing, as well as certificates in Mechatronics and Computer Aided Drafting.

Graduates will not only be trained in a high-demand career, but these are good paying jobs. Statistics from regional employment data suggest the average salary for an advanced manufacturing job is around \$53,000 a year in New Hampshire. Wages are similar for the same types of jobs throughout Northern New England. "The jobs are out there," says Huard. "From electro-mechanical assembly to mechanical designers, this program will be a pipeline to employment for students wishing to learn these valuable skills."

### *About Manchester Community College of New Hampshire*

Since 1945, Manchester Community College has been the choice for thousands of students seeking a better life for themselves and their families. MCC enrolls about 3,300 students per semester from more than 50 countries, preparing them to transfer to four-year colleges to complete their bachelor degrees, or to go directly into the workforce with the skills they need to be successful in their chosen careers. Students choose from more than 50 degree and certificate programs as well as workshops and professional development programs on the campus; dozens of courses are also offered online.

MCC's new Advanced Manufacturing Technology Lab is sponsored in part by a \$19.97 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment & Training Administration TAACCCT Grant #TC-22504-11-60-A-33. The Community College System of NH is an equal opportunity employer, and adaptive equipment is available upon request to persons with disabilities.

***"...area companies have already expressed interest in hiring the students in the labs to design and build products that will be used or sold throughout the state...offering a real world project with results that matter inside and outside the classroom."***

## Wentworth's Entrepreneurship Program Helps Students Turn Big Ideas into the Next Big Thing

### Wentworth Institute of Technology

It's nearing 5 p.m., and a steady stream of students files into an auditorium at Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston. They settle into groups, huddled around laptops. The room is anxious. Tonight is important. As part of Wentworth's inaugural Accelerate program, a new student business startup competition, student teams have the opportunity to tell a panel of judges about their game-changing ideas and potentially walk away with thousands of dollars in funding.

The lights are lowered and the pitches start. There's a team that wants to start a kind of Netflix-for-moving boxes, offering Boston's massive college market the ability to rent durable, stackable crates rather than cardboard boxes. Another group has plans for a portable speaker system that would offer both a rugged body and clear sound. There's even a team that wants to revolutionize the modern pedi-cab—those human-powered, three-wheeled bicycle rickshaws.

The pedi-cab team—students Eric Crouch and John Pelkey—takes the stage with a presentation they've been fine-tuning for weeks. A few months ago, Crouch and Pelkey's new pedi-cab was an idea for their senior design studio—a cool project, but one whose ultimate purpose was academic. But now? Now it looked like something that could live beyond the walls of Wentworth, meet a market need, and maybe even make money. In other words, Pelkey and Crouch weren't just thinking like students anymore—they were thinking like CEOs.

Every Accelerate team is some variation of the new dorm room-to-boardroom version of the American Dream. Schools across the country are increasingly seeing the untapped potential on campus: the National Business Incubation Association recently reported that about one-third of the 1,250 business incubators in the United States are at universities, up from one-fifth in 2006.

Monique Fuchs, associate vice president of teaching and learning, and Fred Driscoll, dean of the College of Engineering and Technology, had long believed that Wentworth students had an appetite for entrepreneurship. Fuchs spent many days in 2010 perched outside the Beatty Hall cafeteria, coaxing students into filling out surveys that covered everything from their technology use to who influenced their decision to attend Wentworth. She and Driscoll were particularly interested in how students answered Question 22: "What size company do you prefer to work for?"

Most responded that they preferred a mid-size company or that it didn't matter. But 21 percent said they planned to start a company at some point in their career. "That's when we said, 'OK, let's test it out,'" says Fuchs. She and Driscoll had been talking for some time about creating some kind of entrepreneurship and innovation program on campus and answering the Institute's call for more interdisciplinary, project-based learning. "How can we make this happen?"

Their answer was Accelerate: a student startup competition focused on interdisciplinary interaction (each team must include students from at least two different majors) and informed by the Boston tech ecosystem. "Students here excel when we ask them to take something and build it," says Driscoll. "This program has them ask the question: Should you build it?"



## Continued from page 20

By mid-April 2012, Driscoll and Fuchs got the go-ahead to launch. With only two weeks before the start of the summer semester, their expectations were guarded. “We thought that if we got 10 people interested, that would be cool,” says Fuchs. They had 50.

For the student teams, the Accelerate program resembled an entrepreneurship boot camp. Co-op advisor Sean Smith, BCNS '13, would lead them through a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis, talk shop, and help them refine their idea. Ten late afternoon workshops featuring startup veterans, intellectual property lawyers, and Boston tech gurus offered advice and training. In all, the teams had four weeks of preparation, training, and coaching leading up to a final, critical challenge for their new business: selling it.

On that nervous night in the auditorium, each team is given five minutes to make its case and five minutes to answer questions from a panel of judges. After each presentation, the judges fire away. “How will this make money?” “How are you different from your competitors?” “Have you tested this?”

The panel deliberates immediately after the pitches wrap up. The next day, an email announces that five teams will be funded. Pelkey Designs is the biggest winner, taking in \$10,000 to help build a prototype for their new pedicab. To Pelkey and Crouch, it's another step closer to their dream. To Fuchs, the money is an educational investment. “In the end, we really didn't fund for the product,” she says. “We funded the learning experience.”

# Early Childhood Education Program and Children's School Celebrate 40th Anniversary

## Quinsigamond Community College

The Early Childhood Education Department and Children's School celebrated a milestone in June, 2012 – an historic 40th Anniversary. Two evenings of celebratory events began with an alumni reunion reception, followed by a professional development workshop on June 5. The workshop, co-sponsored by Edward Street Child Services, Worcester Area Association for the Education of Young Children (WAAEYC), Center for Childcare Careers, and Massachusetts Community College Educators (MCCECA), was presented by Bev Bos, an internationally renowned expert on the importance of play in children's lives. Hundreds of Early Childhood Education classmates, alumni and professors were able to re-connect and network with Early Child Care professionals from all over Massachusetts. The second evening of the Anniversary celebration on June 6 featured a family reception with ribbon cutting ceremony for the school's new climber, with remarks by Worcester City Councilor, Tony Economou. The event concluded with a Family Concert featuring Bev Bos and co-presenter Michael Leeman, a talented child development specialist, teacher and musician and frequent collaborator with Bev Bos.

A new climber was installed in the Children's School play area this past spring. The climber is a welcomed addition to the playground and rounds out the current equipment consisting of swings, a fire truck climber, a wooden play house and a large sandbox. The climber, a sturdy piece of multi-purpose playground equipment, is a new adventure for Children's School students! At an expense of approximately \$20,000, the climber was funded through a GameTime matching grant, the Carol Lawson Memorial Garden Fund and a generous family gift. The Early Childhood Education Department hopes to continue playground development with a new swing set, bike trail and vegetable garden to enhance the learning experience for both children and QCC students.



Bev Bos shares a moment with a curious, young, audience member

# The Joyful Conspiracy

## Greenfield Community College

A Presidents' Roundtable Meeting and Developmental Math Conference Co-Sponsored by the New England College Council and Greenfield Community College

Community and four-year colleges across the country are grappling with the challenge of increasing student success and completion. Reforming developmental and gateway mathematics programs is a primary focus in this work. Based on decades of experience as a mathematics educator and leader in educational reform, Uri Treisman advocates for systemic approach to this work, which he calls the "Joyful Conspiracy."

On April 26, 2013 Dr. Treisman and his colleague Amy Getz of the Charles A. Dana Center at the University of Texas at Austin, provided teams of mathematics faculty and academic leaders from across New England an overview of the major reform efforts in the country including the Dana Center's work on the New Mathways Project. The teams gathered at Greenfield Community College and hailed from public and private colleges in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.

"The Conspiracy" is among college and system academic leaders, students support service providers, mathematics departments and the programs they serve. The emerging evidence is when a true collaboration takes place and curriculum is organized around the real world needs of the workforce, change can occur and students can succeed and graduate.

They provided a framework for planning and implementing meaningful change based on the Dana Center's work with the New Mathways Project. An animated exchange of questions observations and data made for an exceptional afternoon as the teams considered possible application within their institutional environments.

A video of Dr. Treisman's remarks will soon be available via YouTube at both the Greenfield and NECC websites.

For more information about the Dana Center's work in Higher Education and the Joyful Conspiracy, visit the website at <http://www.utdanacenter.org/higher-education/>.

