Another academic year has come and gone. Many students have left our campuses with a new degree or certificate. Others transitioned into the workforce or to another institution of higher education. Still others joined our system to update or learn a new skill set and left after achieving a personal or professional goal. No matter the reason they first chose to come to our institutions, our students leave the Connecticut State Colleges & Universities as engaged citizens, better prepared for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead on whatever path they may choose.

We would like to take a moment to thank the great faculty and staff — many of whom you will read about in the following pages — on the front lines of student outreach, research, support and instruction. Regardless of budgetary issues and the work involved in a large-scale reorganization, our faculty and staff remain steadfastly committed to the needs of our students.

We are pleased to report that, at the end of the legislative budget process, our system has received $25 million in additional funding over the biennium to support new faculty and counseling positions at our state university and community college campuses. In addition, the legislature has authorized more than $124 million in bonding over the biennium for the community colleges for — among other things — new and replacement research and lab equipment, technology projects and renovations, as well as other improvements to existing facilities. The package also includes $44 million for the planning, design and construction of a new academic building at Middlesex Community College. Of course, the CSUS 2020 projects continue to be funded as proposed. This is great news for our system, and we thank Governor Dannel Malloy and the legislature for their support.

Over the coming weeks, our system will welcome its new leader, Dr. Gregory Gray. This is an exciting time for the Board of Regents, campus presidents, faculty, staff, students and our partners in the private sector. To be sure, our new leader will have much on his plate, but along with this new role comes passionate faculty, committed staff, and energetic, inquisitive students to help with the transition and guide the work ahead. Thank you for your continued support of the Connecticut State Colleges & Universities.

LEWIS J. ROBINSON  
Chairman, Board of Regents for Higher Education

PHILIP E. AUSTIN, PH.D.  
Interim President, Board of Regents for Higher Education
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The Connecticut State Colleges & Universities are prepared to help students gain the knowledge, skills and behaviors to be successful after high school.

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Eastern Unveils TIMPANI Toy  >

Acuity and student researchers at Eastern Connecticut State University named DUPLO bricks, plastic, interlocking building bricks made by the LEGO Group, as the Third Annual TIMPANI Toy (Toys That Inspire Mindful Play and Nurture Imagination). Rainbow People, a set of 30 colorful wooden figures made by Environments, Inc., received an honorable mention. Eastern researchers announced the results of the 2012 TIMPANI Toy Study last November in the University’s Child and Family Development Resource Center.

The annual TIMPANI Toy Study, conducted through Eastern’s Center for Early Childhood Education, examines how young children in natural settings play with a variety of toys. Nine toys were selected for this year’s study, based on recommendations from parents, teachers and faculty. After the toys were chosen, they were placed in the Center’s preschool classrooms and rated on three subscales: thinking and learning, cooperation and social interaction, and self-expression and imagination.

“DUPLO bricks pose many problems for children to solve, so there’s a lot of deep thought that goes into building,” said Jeffrey Trawick-Smith, the Phyllis Waite Endowed Chair of Early Childhood Education at Eastern and the study’s principal researcher.

“Today’s announcement of the top scoring toys demonstrates the quality of research occurring at our Center for Early Childhood Education,” said Eastern President Elsa Núñez. “At the same time that we are identifying and testing toys that promote the intellectual, social and creative development of children, we are also helping our students prepare for careers as professional early childhood educators.”
Asnuntuck Foundation Funds New Mac Computer Lab

Asnuntuck Community College, with financial support from Asnuntuck Community College’s Foundation, installed a Mac computer lab that includes 28 workstations. The $75,000 project received $25,000 in funding from the foundation. A ribbon cutting was held in January.

“The Asnuntuck Community College Foundation is pleased to step forward in such a meaningful way to support the establishment of a state-of-the-art Mac lab at the college,” said Karen Jarmoc, ACC Foundation chairman. “Such a move will significantly enhance the quality of learning for students at Asnuntuck and allows our board to better fulfill its mission to support student academic achievement.”

Martha McLeod, Asnuntuck president, said the lab showcases the college’s commitment to technology by training students in both Mac and PC operating systems.

NEASC Recognition for Middlesex Community College’s Meriden Center

The New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) has recognized Middlesex Community College’s Meriden Center as an “additional instructional location.” With this new recognition, students can now complete a degree or certificate program at the center which will now offer full degree programs in general studies and manufacturing. Middlesex is also considering business administration, criminal justice, early childhood education and human services degree programs at this location.

Before this, students could only complete 50 percent or less of a degree program at the center before finishing their degree at the Middletown campus. Since 2010, the college has added a Meriden Center director of academic initiatives, retention specialist and learning lab coordinator. “This recognition aligns with the college’s mission to provide high quality, affordable, and accessible education to a diverse population,” said Middlesex President Anna Wasescha.

Workforce Development at NCCC

The Community Foundation of Northwest Connecticut, Inc. awarded a $2,500 grant from The Draper Foundation Fund to the Northwestern Connecticut Community College Center for Workforce Development. This grant will help remove barriers that prevent students from successfully completing their work skills training programs and will support student retention. The grant will offer child care and transportation support to women enrolled in a non-credit workforce development certificate program, with a focus on manufacturing and technology training.

WCSU’s Grad Student’s Invention Earns Top Prize

With an award-winning business plan and a patented product waiting to hit the market, Western Connecticut State University graduate student Michael Carpanzano’s latest idea could someday be found in every household across the country. The invention, “nuplug,” earned Carpanzano first place in the personal business model category in a statewide competition sponsored by The Entrepreneurship Foundation in Fairfield. The winning model was selected from 10 finalists. The “nuplug” is an extension cord that clamps onto furniture for “smart” device charging convenience, allowing the user to comfortably use the device as it is charging.
Community connections

> University-Museum-Community Collaborative

Central Connecticut State University will continue to support the New Britain community with the University-Museum-Community Collaborative (UMC) event at the New Britain Museum of Art, sponsored by Central and community partners.

This year’s UMC initiative, titled “A Home of One’s Own,” is aligned with the commitment to end homelessness in the city.

The April event included videos about homelessness produced by New Britain High School students and Central technology and engineering students in partnership with city officials. Department of Design students have partnered with the New Britain Industrial Museum to construct a large-scale map of New Britain. History department students built a life-sized Native American dwelling. The UMC Collaborative also partnered with the organizers of “Hoops for the Homeless” for a fundraising event. Proceeds from the event will support local shelters and the Mayor’s Workplan to End Homelessness.

> Smaller Manufacturers Association Moves to NVCC

The Smaller Manufacturers Association (SMA) officially relocated its headquarters to Naugatuck Valley Community College in January. Cynthia Zoldy, SMA executive director, is now located in Technology Hall, which also houses the newly built Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center, engineering programs and labs.

David Mieczkowski, SMA president and C.O.O. of Platt Brothers, Inc., said the partnership is something that area manufacturers have pushed for a long time. “Technology Hall is a modern and convenient location and it’s filled with the people we want to hire,” said Mieczkowski.

“It’s a perfect partnership and we’re very excited to see it happen,” said Mieczkowski.

> Community Eye Care Day at Middlesex

Middlesex Community College held its annual Community Eye Care Day, providing free ocular health services to local residents in need. Ophthalmic Design & Dispensing program students provided about 75 people with eye exams and eyewear they could not have otherwise afforded.

Each patient’s treatment began with an ocular health assessment. Students took measurements, and manufactured and dispensed the eyewear which were completed in the on-campus eyewear clinic.
> **Connecticut State Colleges & Universities**

> **Gateway Students Collect Eyeglasses for Community**

Two Gateway Community College students started an eyeglass donation drive as a service project in their learning in the clinical environment class and members of the Gateway community have donated more than 220 pairs. The used glasses will be donated to the Lion’s Club Low Vision Center in Bristol to be recycled, refurbished and given to people who need them. “We wanted to do something different and glasses are extremely important to people,” said Gateway student Derek Wijaenbeek, who worked with student Katie Kyte on the project.

> **Homeland Connect at WCSU**

Western Connecticut State University hosted its 6th annual Homeless Connect event, part of the National Homeless Connect Project. The event was a one-stop housing and service fair that brought together area agencies that provided immediate assistance to individuals who are homeless or at risk of being homeless.

> **Veterans Get Room to Grow**

Western Connecticut State University is participating with Workforce Opportunity Services (WOS) to help military veterans enter the workforce with more management skills. The company helps young adults in inner-city, rural and underserved areas chart their paths to personal, professional and financial independence through scholarship programs.

Veteran students will complete a six-month certificate in project management training at a satellite campus of WCSU. WOS then matches students with corporations where they can receive on-the-job training. Upon completion, students are expected to enter a bachelor’s degree program paid for by WOS or the employer corporation.

At Three Rivers Community College, the Veterans Organization, dean of students and president, teamed up to expand the Veterans Oasis Center to accommodate 75 to 100 veterans who use the space to study, utilize computers and relax. Transfer Enterprises Inc. provided the furniture, and the Center is managed by Michael Pinkerton, a U.S. Navy veteran.

“It’s been a sanctuary for them,” said Brent Walker, vice president of the Veterans Organization of Three Rivers Community College and an Iraq War veteran. “We bring in speakers and let everybody get as much information as possible on what they’re entitled to.”
Telescopic Device Produces Clear Images of Pluto and its Largest Moon

Elliott Horch, associate professor of physics at Southern Connecticut State University, built a cutting-edge instrument four years ago that could be placed on telescopes to improve the crispness of images 20-fold. The device — called a Differential Speckle Survey Instrument (DSSI) — includes two cameras and a scanning mirror system inside a rectangular box. It has been used by astronomers to get a clearer picture of binary stars throughout the Milky Way Galaxy, and to offer new insight into the formation of our solar system. The device is used at the Kitt Peak Observatory, a national center for optical astronomy in Tucson, Ariz.

Last summer, Horch traveled to the Gemini Observatory in Hilo, Hawaii, where his device was attached to one of its powerful telescopes to identify potential earth-like planets in the Milky Way. Horch, along with a team of astronomers led by Steve Howell of the NASA Ames Research Center, was able to use the DSSI to take images of Pluto and its largest moon, Charon. Horch says as a result of the success of the device, it may be used in the future to examine asteroids.
MxCC Students Accepted into the Life Support and Sustainable Living Program

For the first time, two Middlesex Community College students were accepted into the Life Support and Sustainable Living (LSSL) program. The students, Florian Orleanu, an information systems major, and Gabriel Geist, a general studies major, were among 35 students that were selected from 60 applicants statewide.

The LSSL program is a hands-on engineering and technology program where students from the partnering institutions of the Connecticut College of Technology work together on real world projects.

Orleanu and Geist attended the LSSL winter intersession at the University of Hartford, and worked on their project through the spring semester. Their project is focused on developing a modern system of delivering directional information to the visually impaired using QR (Quick Reader) Codes and smartphone applications. They will be working with students from Tunxis Community College and the University of New Haven.

“It’s very exciting to see Middlesex students work with professionals and fellow students from other institutions in Connecticut,” said Dr. Lin Lin, instructor of information systems and computer programming. “The program offers a great opportunity for them to learn and explore what they couldn’t do in a classroom-setting. This will enable the students to apply what they’ve learned to ultimately benefit our society.”

Gateway Opens Advanced Manufacturing Engineering Lab

Thanks to the efforts of Eric P. Flynn, Gateway Community College program coordinator of electrical engineering technology, the college is now home to a cutting-edge advanced manufacturing laboratory.

The lab features Computer Numerical Control equipment, 3D Computer Aided Drafting, a Coordinate Metrology Machine, 3D laser scanners for reverse engineering and a 3D printer, capable of creating physical prototypes or production parts.

In the new lab, students will experience the manufacturing process from the inception of an idea through design, creation and quality control. “The lab will help Gateway students become the workforce of tomorrow,” Flynn said. “There is a good deal of high-tech aerospace manufacturing happening in the area, and with this lab, Gateway can provide the future advanced engineering technology students that the companies and universities continue to need.”

Flynn was the only community college faculty member in the state to receive a NASA grant, funded through the Connecticut NASA Space Grant Consortium and administered through the University of Hartford. Flynn and his students will research how low-cost, unmanned aerial vehicles used in aerospace, defense and government are designed and how advanced manufacturing can bring prototypes to testing at a much lower cost.

Western Professor Elected to CASE

Thomas Philbrick, professor of biological and environmental sciences at Western Connecticut State University and a Connecticut State University Distinguished Professor, was elected to the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering (CASE), an organization dedicated to promoting informed public discussion of science-related subjects and student interest in pursuing careers in the sciences. Philbrick is one of 33 new members chosen to join the academy, founded by Connecticut General Assembly action in 1976 and patterned after the National Academy of Sciences. CASE membership recognizes “scientific distinction achieved through significant contribution in theory or application” as well as accomplishments in science and technology.
College Readiness Across ConnSCU

The Connecticut State Colleges & Universities (ConnSCU) are prepared to help high school students gain the knowledge, skills and behaviors they need to be successful after high school, stay in college and be prepared for the workforce.

College readiness is the level of preparedness a student needs to enroll and succeed in credit bearing, entry-level, general education college courses without remediation. But many students — especially at-risk, special education, and minority students — are not receiving an education that adequately prepares them for college-level work. As a result, many students who enroll in college do not graduate with a degree and are not adequately prepared for the workforce.

In fact, by the year 2018, 65 percent of all jobs in Connecticut will require some postsecondary training beyond high school. For students to remain competitive, and for Connecticut to meet its future workforce needs, more students must graduate high school ready for postsecondary education.

Governor Dannel P. Malloy said a new state law — Public Act 12-40, An Act Concerning College Readiness and Completion — will add extra support for college students who need help in their regular courses and ensure that graduating high school seniors are better prepared for higher education. “The strength of our economy depends on the skill of our workforce. The more our college students spend their time and their financial aid preparing for entry into the job market, the better trained our workforce will be,” said Governor Malloy.

Western Connecticut State University student works with a Danbury middle school student.
Several initiatives across ConnSCU align with PA 12-40 by providing the programs, services, and resources to help improve college readiness.

Bridge programs are one way to help students ease the transition from high school to college, and help some students skip remedial classes in mathematics and writing and move into credit-bearing classes.

For example, since the 2004–05 school year, Western Connecticut State University has partnered with Bethel and Danbury high schools on a project called “Building a Bridge to Improve Student Success.” The partnership has helped thousands of high school seniors move successfully to college — and to succeed there.

The majority of students who graduate from Bridges and attend Western are able to skip remedial classes in mathematics and writing and move instead into credit-bearing classes. That means they will be able to earn their university degree more quickly, saving both money and time. And, just as significant, the two-year retention rate for Bridges’ students is 10 percent higher than for students from non-Bridges schools.

In addition, Asnuntuck Community College partners with East Granby High School to offer students the chance to begin earning an associate degree in advanced manufacturing technology within one year of graduating from high school.

Tunxis Community College and Central Connecticut State University partner with New Britain High School to develop an alignment strategy based on Common Core Standards. Northwestern Connecticut Community College hosts Team Success and Foundations which mentors students through high school and are funded by the Northwest Regional Workforce Development Board. Northwestern’s Recruitment and Outreach Committee also hosted 56 juniors and seniors from Torrington High School, The Gilbert High School, Northwest Regional High School, and Explorations Charter School for a hands-on experiential program, titled “Experience College at NCCC.” High school students attended workshops in forensic science, engineering, fine arts, medical professions and veterinary technology.

In fact, by the year 2018, 65 percent of all jobs in Connecticut will require some postsecondary training beyond high school.
GEAR UP

Last year, the U.S. Department of Education awarded Connecticut a seven-year, $31.5 million Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Program (GEAR UP) grant to improve college access and readiness for Connecticut’s students to ensure that low-income students are prepared to enter and succeed in post-secondary education, and to provide scholarships for eligible high school seniors.

GEAR UP in Connecticut is a partnership among the Connecticut Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) and three higher education institutions — Southern Connecticut State University, Manchester Community College and Naugatuck Valley Community College and their local school districts. The colleges and universities — collaborating with the local school districts — will develop, provide and evaluate services to students, parents and teachers in order to fit localized needs and specific provider strengths.

Southern will serve New Haven seventh graders from the Augusta Lewis Troup School, Brennan Rogers School of Communications and Media, Celentano Museum Academy, King-Robinson Inter-District Magnet School, Lincoln-Bassett School, L.W. Beecher Museum School of Arts & Sciences, Mauro-Sheridan Science, Technology and Communications School and Wexler-Grant School.

Manchester Community College will serve seventh graders at East Hartford Middle School; and Naugatuck Valley Community College will serve sixth and seventh graders at Duggan School, Gilmartin School, Michael F. Wallace Middle School, North End Middle School, West Side Middle School and Reed School.

COLLEGE ACCESS CHALLENGE GRANT

Additional funding through the U.S. Department of Education’s College Access Challenge Grant (CACG) was also awarded to the BOR to help continue to reduce remediation and improve college readiness among underserved populations in the state. For the third year in a row, the state has received $1.5 million through CACG, and these funds are administered by BOR.

“The funding will help us to get ahead of the curve and address the critical issues of remediation and college preparedness before students arrive on our campuses,” said Braden Hosch, Board of Regents Interim Academic Affairs Director. “These aren’t issues that will be fixed overnight, but we’re focusing on community-based partnerships, shared curricula and other support mechanisms to ensure that more students are ready for college-level courses when they arrive at college.”

The CACG has helped nearly 4,000 students through various programs and support mechanisms like sharing college preparation information, financial aid form completion assistance, redesigned high school math and English classes, and after school and summer programming to increase math skills and foster interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields.

The funding will allow Manchester Community College, in partnership with Manchester and East Hartford High Schools, to continue the implementation of their revised curricula developed to address the remedial math and English needs of students. This initiative has also expanded to include Capital Community College, Rockville High School in Vernon, Bulkeley High School in Hartford, and Bloomfield High School. Naugatuck Valley Community College will continue its partnership with Waterbury’s three public high schools — Kennedy, Wilby, and Crosby — to work with targeted seniors to address the same issues.
The CACG has helped nearly 4,000 students through various programs and support mechanisms.

**DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM**

Dual enrollment is a program that allows high school students to enroll in college courses for credit prior to high school graduation, allowing students to transition from high school to college easily. Students can get a taste of what college is like without being overwhelmed with a new environment.

In 2007, Eastern Connecticut State University President Elsa Núñez envisioned a Dual College Enrollment Program that might create opportunities for inner-city high school students. She visited two guidance counselors at Hartford Public High School, identified students with potential who weren’t among the school’s highest achievers, but were on track to finish high school. These students became the program’s first cohort in 2008.

In collaboration with Quinebaug Valley Community College, the Hartford Public High School graduates enrolled in remedial courses in math, writing and reading at Quinebaug Valley and one class at Eastern and lived in Eastern’s residence halls. Additional cohorts were enrolled in the fall of 2009 to 2012. The 2011 cohort included students from Manchester High School.

The program has been a success. From fall 2008 to 2010, 29 students were recruited from Hartford Public High School and 70 percent were still enrolled as of March 2012. Three students from the fall 2008 cohort have graduated.
If I had to choose one thing that I would change about higher education today, it would be the “Achievement Gap” — the gap in academic progress that exists in the United States between middle class, largely suburban white students, and students from low-income families, largely urban students of color. By closing this gap, we could greatly increase the numbers of students who have access to higher education.

Schools throughout the United States assess academic achievement at grades four, eight and twelve as part of the National Assessment of Educational Progress, and minority students, especially those from low-income, urban families, fall below national averages in reading, writing, science and math at all three grade levels. As a result, the college attendance and graduation rates of minority and low-income students also continue to lag national averages. We cannot hope to improve college completion rates if we don’t address this achievement gap.

Even in preschool, we start to see various factors converging to impact educational performance. For Latino children, the language barrier is especially troublesome. Latino preschoolers who enter first grade without English proficiency are at least one grade level behind the day they walk into school.

By grade four, low-income, urban, and minority students are performing 20 to 40 points below their white counterparts in writing, reading, math and science, on National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) scores. The gap only gets wider as students move on. By grade four, low-income, urban and minority students are performing 20 to 40 points below their white counterparts in writing, reading, math and science, on National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) scores. What is most frustrating is that NAEP test scores among many minority students actually get worse the longer the kids are in school. For instance, the gap between white, presumably more affluent students in Connecticut and their Latino and African American counterparts grows four to six points in reading, math and writing tests between the fourth and eighth grades. Latinos and African American students end up with significantly higher high school dropout rates, lower college attendance and graduation rates, and higher poverty rates than whites.

So what can we do about it? States need to enact multiple initiatives simultaneously — policies that will help to create a comprehensive and cohesive policy framework. Common strategies include health care reform, nutrition, pre-school literacy, parental involvement in education, adult literacy, after-school programs, workforce training and other family support systems. Additional initiatives should include improving the college readiness of high school graduates; better data collection; stronger partnerships between K-12 school districts, community colleges, and universities; and strategies at our colleges and universities to improve retention and graduation rates.

Even as we look at statewide strategies for impacting the achievement gap, the reality is that all change occurs locally.
Here are some ideas that we can incorporate into our local schools:

> Early childhood education and preschool literacy must be components of local achievement gap efforts. Children who attend preschool are 30 percent more likely to graduate from high school and twice as likely to go to college. Nutrition, socialization and intellectual stimulation are all cited as being important for all young children. For Latino children, preschool English literacy instruction is fundamental. Effective literacy education must also include literacy programming for parents and other family members.

> We need to forge stronger ties between community colleges and local universities. In Connecticut, we have developed an initiative between the 12 community colleges and all four state universities so that entering freshmen will be able to know that their full associate degree transfers without incident when they enter a state university as juniors.

> We need to build stronger commitments from local educational and community leaders. In El Paso, Texas, where 80 percent of the students are Hispanic, the local school district, the local community college and the University of Texas-El Paso have come together to address the educational achievement issue. The business community and several nonprofit agencies have also joined in the effort. There is a role for everyone — a community collaborative of businesspeople, parents and other adults provides additional support to teachers in the school system.

States need to enact multiple initiatives simultaneously — policies that will help to create a comprehensive and cohesive policy framework. Common strategies include health care reform, nutrition, pre-school literacy, parental involvement in education, adult literacy, after-school programs, workforce training and other family support systems.

Closing the achievement gap is a social challenge that will not be solved until all of us, not just educators, government officials and the families that are impacted, meet the challenge head on. Whether we look at it as a moral imperative to give those less fortunate than us a better chance of living the American dream, or we see this in stark economic terms — experts suggest that closing the achievement gap between America’s haves and have-nots could add as much as 2-4 percent to our Gross Domestic Product — improving academic performance among at-risk groups is good public policy for those experiencing it as well as society at large. Closing the Achievement Gap is not solely an educational reform issue, it’s everyone’s business.

This article originally appeared on the Huffington Post website on Jan. 16, 2013

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**Education News Across the Universities and Colleges**

> Early Learning Partnerships

**Norwalk Community College**, Stepping Stones Museum for Children, Norwalk Housing Authority and Literacy How, Inc. launched the Early Learning and Literacy Initiative (ELLI), a public-private, community partnership whose cornerstone will be pre-kindergarten lab schools for children.

The ELLI Lab School pilot was launched at Stepping Stones Museum in December to offer 3 to 5 year-old children play-based experiences that are the developmental precursors to reading and writing. The Lab School will serve as a training site for teachers, parents and caregivers; and provide opportunities for conducting educational research-to-practice studies. ELLI’s curriculum includes best practices from the college’s Child Development Laboratory School curricula.

**Middlesex Community College** is piloting a collaborative Early Childhood Education program with Meriden Public Schools, the Meriden Health Department, and the Meriden YMCA. The college will offer the Introduction to Early Childhood Education class in both Platt and Maloney High Schools for high school students who will receive dual credit toward high school graduation and three college credits. The Meriden YMCA opened a pre-school program at both high schools for job site field experiences.
Community College Presidents Announce Retirement >

Martha McLeod, president of Asnuntuck Community College, and Grace Sawyer Jones, president of Three Rivers Community College, both announced their retirements effective June 30, 2013.

Jones came to Three Rivers in 2001 after five years as president of the College of Eastern Utah in Price. Her education career began in 1978 in Pittsfield, Mass. In 2003, Jones saw Three Rivers through a $65 million consolidation of its New London Tumpike campus and Mohegan campus, both in Norwich. She also played an active role in the development of a new, state-sponsored magnet high school last fall.

McLeod came to Asnuntuck in 2003 after serving as the founding president of Bay Mills Community College, a tribal college in Michigan. McLeod sat on the President’s Advisory Board for Tribal College and Universities from 2003–11; is on the boards of The North Central Chamber of Commerce’s Marketing Committee and The Literacy Volunteers of America. She sits on the Strategic Management Committee of Capitol Workforce Partners and Enfield Economic Development Commission. She has chaired the Town of Enfield’s 10 year Plan of Conservation and Economic Development. She is a member of the American Association of Community Colleges Commission on Diversity, Kappa Delta Pi, Epsilon Pi Tau and Rotary International.

> Charter Oak State College Celebrates Its 40th Anniversary

Celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, Charter Oak State College is proud to be at the forefront of 21st century higher education, serving as Connecticut’s only public online college.

In 2012, Charter Oak introduced its first major, the Bachelor of Science degree in Health Information Management, after market research showed this was one of the fastest-growing fields today. More than 12,000 people have graduated from Charter Oak over the past four decades including Connecticut news anchor Al Terzi, state Comptroller Kevin Lembo, and Connecticut Science Center President and CEO Matt Fleury, who also sits on the Board of Regents.

“We were funded to validate prior learning by examining our adult students to see if they knew what they would learn from college courses,” said Charter Oak President Ed Klonoski. “I offer my congratulations to the college, to our current staff and students, to our 12,000 alumni, and to all those who helped grow this wonderful institution over the past 40 years. Here’s to 40 more.”

> A Golden Anniversary at Three Rivers Community College

Three Rivers Community College celebrated its 50th anniversary on May 8 as Governor Dannel Malloy toured the college with President Grace Sawyer Jones, and spoke to members of the school community.

Malloy praised Three Rivers for its decades of success in providing affordable post-high school education to thousands of students, as the state’s community college system is integral to economic development. “This has been an institution that has been so important to this region, and has accomplished so much,” said Malloy.

Bob Niedbala, the college’s historian, spoke about the school’s history and a video was shown about the history of the college, past and present. This video was created by Betty Baillargeon, director of Institutional Advancement, Emeriti Elaine Pelliccio and Mary LaMattina.
New at ConnSCU >

Beginning in the fall of 2013, Middlesex Community College will launch its first veterinary technician program, designed to produce certified veterinary technicians. The college joins Northwestern Connecticut Community College as the second school in the state to offer an associate degree in the field. Kristen Fratamico DVM, of the Pieper-Olson Veterinary Hospital, will serve as the head of the program.

Other new programs across ConnSCU include a new non-credit certified massage therapy program at Asnuntuck Community College. There are three new credit programs at Quinebaug Valley Community College: an associate degree in business administration, health care management; an associate degree in computer services, web development; and a certificate in web design. Manchester Community College is offering an associate degree program in video game design. Middlesex Community College now offers two Chinese courses that include elementary Chinese and elementary Chinese II; and Eastern Connecticut State University is offering a new major in women and gender studies to help students understand the historical factors that impact the status of gender in America.

Central Connecticut State University will offer the Sandy Hook Memorial Scholarship Fund this fall in honor of the courageous teachers, administrators and students who lost their lives at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Central will award the scholarship with funding from the CCSU Foundation Scholarship Endowment Fund. Candidates must be first-year students in the top 25 percent of their class and preference will be given to Newtown High School graduates. Other scholarships include the Victoria Leigh Soto Memorial Endowed Scholarship at Eastern Connecticut State University and the Ana Marquez-Greene Music Scholarship Fund at Western Connecticut State University.

Charter Oak State College has partnered with the nonprofit Excelsior College to expand credit-by-examination options for Charter Oak students. Through an agreement reached with Excelsior College, Charter Oak will offer registration for Excelsior College Examinations on its website. Students who register for exams will take them at a secure Pearson VUE testing center. Students can review the new exam offerings and register online at www.CharterOak.edu/examreg. Excelsior offers 33 exams in topics ranging from basic genetics to financial accounting and English composition.

Tunxis Community College held its first recognition ceremony at the Connecticut Fire Academy for 13 Transportation Security Administration (TSA) employees who graduated from the college’s homeland security certificate program. The graduates received certificates from the Transportation Security Administration, which they can apply toward an associate degree in criminal justice or other programs. 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 educations and attain credentials to advance in their careers.
Manufacturing Summit at Three Rivers

Grace Sawyer Jones, president of Three Rivers Community College and her Workforce Development – Business & Industry Services Department, hosted a Manufacturing Summit with representatives from two dozen regional manufacturers, officials from Quinebaug Valley Community College, Central Connecticut State University, the Eastern Workforce Investment Board, Southeastern CT Enterprise Region, Norwich Community Development Corp., Killingly and City of Norwich.

The benefit of creating a regional Manufacturers Council or becoming active members of the existing Quinebaug Manufacturing Institute (QMI) were discussed. QMI is a partnership between Quinebaug Valley Community College and area manufacturing companies to provide programs preparing people to work in the plastics and other manufacturing industries and upgrade the skills of the existing workforce.

A proposal was also made to invite TRCC and New London companies to join QMI. “Our involvement with QMI and QVCC has allowed me the time to focus on strategic planning for my company and has increased our overall productivity and profits,” said Ray Coombs of Westminster Tool Inc. in Plainfield and QMI president.

Eastern Chosen for Homeland Security Initiative

Eastern Connecticut State University was chosen by the Department of Homeland Security to take part in the Campus Resilience Pilot Program — a nationwide emergency preparedness initiative.

The program was announced on April 2 by Janet Napolitano, Secretary of Homeland Security.

Eastern is one of seven schools that have been selected to take part in the crisis prep program designed to help colleges share best practices and develop new and innovative ways of dealing with natural or man-made disasters.

The other schools taking part are Green River Community College in Auburn, Wash.; Navajo Technical College in Crownpoint, N.M.; Texas A&M University; Drexel University in Philadelphia; Tougaloo College in Jackson, Miss; and the University of San Francisco. The schools were chosen to represent the range of differences between institutions across the nation.

MCC Selected for AACEU Roadmap Project

Manchester Community College is one of 10 community colleges chosen by the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) for Phase Two of the “Developing a Community College Student Roadmap Project.” The Roadmap Project is funded by a grant from MetLife Foundation as part of the foundation’s commitment to increasing the success of community college students. The project assists community colleges in creating robust and proactive programs of academic support — tied to expected learning outcomes — that engage students at entrance-level and teach them, from the outset, how to become active partners in their own quest for educational success.

The new cohort of institutions includes: Alamo Colleges (TX), Brookdale Community College (NJ), Chattanooga State Community College (TN), College of the Canyons (CA), Community College of Allegheny County (PA), Community College of Baltimore County (MD), Manchester Community College (CT), Massachusetts Bay Community College (MA), Monroe Community College (NY) and Wallace State Community College (AL).
**NVCC Receives $60,000 to Support Manufacturing Courses >**

**Naugatuck Valley Community College** has secured $60,000 in grant awards to finance the non-credit portion of student coursework in the inaugural year of the advanced manufacturing technology certification program. The awards will support 57 students from age 18 to 57, as they complete the program.

The Leever Foundation awarded $20,000, the Connecticut Community Foundation awarded $10,000, and an anonymous donor gave $30,000 to support the program’s first 12 students.

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**Pathways Program >**

**Capital Community College**’s new Health Information Management Pathways program was developed to address the change in management of patient records from a paper filing system to electronic data entry in the rapidly changing field of health information technology and management.

**Capital, Northwestern Connecticut and Norwalk Community Colleges; Eastern Connecticut State University; and Charter Oak State College** are developing this Health Information Management (HIM) educational pathway from certificate through bachelor’s degree. By fall 2013, these institutions will establish two- and four-year HIM degree programs, as graduating students will be prepared to support the management of electronic medical records and clinical information systems in a healthcare setting and be qualified to take national accrediting certification exams.

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**Early Childhood Education Grant >**

The Windham Area Women and Girls Fund awarded **Eastern Connecticut State University**’s Center for Early Childhood Education (CECE) a $6,446 grant that will enable Ann Anderberg, assistant professor of education, Denise Matthews, associate professor of communication, and CECE staff to train bilingual women and girls on reading strategies to enhance reading among young children, and encourage families to read to children in their first language. Eastern’s Child and Family Development Resource Center (CFDRC) will partner with the CECE for the project.

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**Capital Approved for Second NEH Grant >**

**Capital Community College** has been approved for a $300,000 challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to sustain its Hartford Heritage Program, an initiative launched in 2010 using a $98,645 grant from NEH to incorporate the city’s history, literature and culture into new courses.

The NEH endowment grant supports new Learning Communities, a digital component to showcase student and faculty work and an annual Hartford Bridging Cultures Symposium. To attain the $300,000 NEH award, Capital and its nonprofit foundation will conduct a four-year community campaign to raise $600,000 in private matching funds to support Hartford Heritage activities and establish an endowment fund.
Tunxis Librarian Honored with “I Love My Librarian Award”

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

Housatonic Community College News

Jeanine Gibson was appointed Health Care Academic Advisor at Housatonic Community College in collaboration with the Southwestern Connecticut CareerRx Academy to establish community relationships that help students transition from a certification program into an internship or job. The academy was created by The WorkPlace that provides free healthcare training for area residents.

Housatonic Community College has also received the Bridgeport Regional Business Council’s Regional Impact Award in Education for creating the new Advanced Manufacturing Program, preparing students for manufacturing jobs.

2013 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll

Eastern and Western Connecticut State Universities; and Gateway, Manchester and Norwalk Community Colleges were among 14 Connecticut colleges named to the 2013 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. This designation is an honor for any college or university recognized for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement.

The President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, launched in 2006, annually highlights the role colleges and universities play in solving community problems and placing more students on a lifelong path of civic engagement by recognizing institutions that achieve meaningful, measurable outcomes in the communities they serve.

Gateway President Gets Accolades

New Haven Living named Dorsey L. Kendrick, president, Gateway Community College, one of the region’s 50 Most Influential People in 2012 for her pioneering work in education and for spearheading Gateway’s move to the new downtown campus. She was also named one of New Haven’s 2012 Legendary Women by The Perfect Blend organization, a New Haven mentoring organization.

CCC President Receives Community Service Award

Wilfredo Nieves, president, Capital Community College, was honored with Middlesex United Way’s highest and most prestigious volunteer honor, the Community Service Award. The award recognizes a person’s length and continuity of volunteer service to Middlesex United Way. Since 2002, Nieves has served on and chaired several Middlesex United Way committees, and currently serves on the Board of Directors, Executive Committee and Community Impact Council.

Manchester Community College Named a 2013 National Top Workplace

Manchester Community College was named one of America’s Top Workplaces by WorkplaceDynamics, ranking 135 nationwide among 872 organizations with more than 1,000 employees that participated in regional top workplaces programs. The list was determined by an employee survey conducted by WorkplaceDynamics, LLP in conjunction with 30 regional newspapers. MCC participated in The Hearst Media Groups and Hartford Courant/Fox CT Top Workplaces 2012 program.
Central Graduate is State’s First Hispanic Supreme Court Justice

Justice Carmen Elisa Espinosa, a Central Connecticut State University alumna, became a justice of the Supreme Court on March 6, 2013, having been appointed by Governor Dannel P. Malloy. Espinosa is the first Hispanic Supreme Court Justice in Connecticut, one of only eight Latino state supreme court justices in the United States and the first Puerto Rican.

Espinosa was appointed to the Superior Court in 1992, and was the first Hispanic and Hispanic woman Superior Court Judge in Connecticut. She presided over trials in the Judicial Districts of New Britain, Hartford and Waterbury, and has been involved in judicial education. She was an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut and a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. She received her Juris Doctor from The George Washington University Law School, a master’s degree from Brown University and a bachelor’s degree in secondary education with a major in Spanish and French from Central Connecticut State University.

“It cannot go without saying that she has been a trailblazer. She was the first in her family to graduate from college, the first Hispanic judge to serve in the Superior Court, the first Hispanic judge to sit on the Appellate Court, and now has become the first Hispanic Justice on the Supreme Court.” - Gov. Dannel P. Malloy

TRCC — A 2012 Fulbright Top Producing Institution

Three Rivers Community College was highlighted in the Chronicle of Higher Education as being one of the Fulbright Program’s “top producers.” Fulbright Scholar Program campus representatives Paul Susen, Terrance Delaney and Ann Branchini were recognized for their work in ensuring the program’s success.

A Champion of Change

Yvette Meléndez, vice chair of the Board of Regents for Higher Education, was named a Champion of Change by CTLatinoNews.com for her tireless work to affect change for Latinos and non-Latinos in Connecticut. She is vice president, Government and Community Alliances, for Hartford Hospital and vice chair of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. She has served on boards and agencies serving the community.

Robert Fernandez Appointed Director of Willimantic Center

Robert Fernandez, director of Financial Aid at Quinebaug Valley Community College, was appointed director of the QVCC Willimantic Center. He was also appointed to the state’s Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission.

Grant Awarded to WCSU Professor’s Research Project

The William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund awarded a $25,000 grant to Western Connecticut State University Associate Professor Theresa J. Canada’s research project exploring issues of quality and access in early childhood education, viewed from the perspective of Danbury parents with young children in the education system. Canada’s lead partner in the research project is Danbury Children First, and she is collaborating with school and community organizations to organize a series of focus group discussions.

Southern’s Business School Gets Leed Certified

Southern Connecticut State University’s new School of Business has received LEED Gold certification, only the second State of Connecticut Department of Construction Services project to receive gold-level recognition of “green” construction. LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is a program providing third-party verification of green buildings.

Tunxis Administrator Receives AmeriCorps Award

Tunxis Community College AmeriCorps VISTA coordinator Susan Dantino, was presented with a Champions of Service 2013 “Above and Beyond Member” Award from Connecticut AmeriCorps Alumni. 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. Shown are (left to right): Brandon Cirillo, Vista leader; Susan Dantino; Kimberly James, Tunxis VISTA site supervisor; Sam Rigotti, VISTA leader; and Katie Coutu.
1 Poet Richard Blanco, former assistant professor and poet-in-residence at Central Connecticut State University, was the 2013 Inaugural Poet for President Barack Obama’s inauguration.

2 Capital Community College students and staff take part in the One Billion Rising Flash Mob at the state capitol on Feb. 14 to end violence against women.

3 Eastern Connecticut State University’s 2013 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Distinguished Service Award recipients, with keynote speaker Billie Jean Young (left) and Eastern President Elsa Núñez (far right), are Eastern student Soely Barros; Connecticut Supreme Court Justice Lubbie Harper Jr.; and Indira Petoskey, assistant dean of the School of Continuing Education.

4 Tamika Knight, a fifth-grade teacher at Hartford’s Annie Fisher STEM Magnet School and Central Connecticut State University alumna, won the prestigious Milken Educator Award.

5 Culinary students from Gateway, Manchester (pictured), Naugatuck Valley and Norwalk Community Colleges provided culinary treats for Board of Regents Day at the state capitol in April.
6 Students from Central, Eastern, Southern and Western Connecticut State Universities were honored by the Connecticut State University System Foundation for their academic achievement and community service at the 25th annual Henry Barnard Distinguished Student Awards.

7 Amanda Thomas of the Southern Connecticut State University’s women’s swimming and diving team was named the Division II National Swimmer of the Meet at the end of the NCAA Championships.

8 Tunxis Community College visual fine art students Tracey Deming (pictured) and Megan McCray exhibited their work in “Community,” a juried exhibition of top Connecticut Community College students at the University of Hartford’s Silpe Gallery.

9 Steven Parlato, a writer, illustrator and assistant professor of English at Naugatuck Valley Community College, hosted a book signing of his first major fiction piece, The Namesake. Pictured are (left to right) Michelle Griffis and Parlato.

10 Members of Housatonic Community College’s “You Can Do It” program (left to right) Coordinator Joseph Wickliffe, Roszel Lee, Damon Cook and Kurtis Yates, conducted a clothing drive for people in need.

11 Asnuntuck Community College (ACC) television production students produce ACC President Martha McLeod’s monthly “Changing Lives” program on local Public Access television.
Connecticut State Colleges & Universities

Asnuntuck Community College’s New Computer Lab