Over the past few months, the Board of Regents for Higher Education has faced some challenging times. There is new interim leadership at the board office, and the search has begun to find a permanent president to help move the Board of Regents, its campus leadership, faculty, staff and students forward. But no matter the challenges at hand, the focus of this board and its staff remains squarely on enhancing and supporting the academic success of our students, preparing them to compete in a 21st century global economy and to play an integral role as engaged citizens in the economic recovery and revitalization of our state.

In this issue you’ll read about the successful launch of three new manufacturing centers, modeled after the Manufacturing Technology Center at Asnuntuck Community College in Enfield, which enjoys the support of local industry and illustrates what an effective public/private partnership can look like. These centers are preparing students to enter the local workforce with the credentials necessary to help businesses compete and thrive. You’ll also read about how Connecticut received additional funding through the College Access Challenge Grant, which has helped nearly 4,000 students through various programs and support mechanisms. These programs include: sharing information about preparing for college; 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 the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields.

The work that lies before us is great — notably, reforming remedial education and implementing a workable transfer and articulation plan. But especially in times of adversity, the true character and dedication of our campus leadership, faculty and staff have remained steadfast. By focusing on the success of our students, their career objectives and future ambitions, and ensuring that our schools are an affordable and accessible access point for higher education for residents of this state, we can — and will — move forward.
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A Campus of Compassion

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama made an historic visit to Western Connecticut State University’s (WCSU) O’Neill Center after a yearlong series of events culminating in two public talks titled “The Art of Compassion” and “Advice for Daily Life.”

Hollywood actor Richard Gere introduced His Holiness to an audience of 3,500, speaking of the fragility of our lives, the softness of our hearts and the good fortune of His Holiness’ presence.

The Dalai Lama — wearing a blue WCSU visor — received an honorary doctorate of humane letters by WCSU President James Schmotter in recognition of his humanitarian work and to celebrate his dedication to promoting world peace. His visit was in cooperation with Do Ngak Kunphen Ling (Tibetan Buddhist Center for Universal Peace) in Redding.

The 77-year-old Nobel Peace Prize winner reiterated that love, compassion, tolerance and forgiveness are all based on having a sense of loving kindness. WCSU was also designated a “university of compassion.” The initiative is part of the Charter of Compassion that states “we urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world.”

Students learned more about the charter during a creativity and compassion conference held in April in anticipation of the Dalai Lama’s visit. After the two-day conference, a committee was created to start working on the effort. A compassionate university pledges to support the principles of the charter and to encourage events in the next decade to foster a more compassionate society.

Middlesex Committed to Meriden

As part of its commitment to build a comprehensive college presence in Meriden, Middlesex Community College (MxCC) announced its expansion and renovation of the Meriden Center. This effort adds a lending library, studio arts room, tutoring center, computer lab, conference room and community room.

The Allied Health Lab has moved from an expanded space where students in MxCC’s Certified Nurse Aide program and the Patient Care Technician (PCT) certificate program simulate the environment of a doctor’s office, hospital room, and phlebotomy lab.

The new Main Street entrance to the Meriden Center now opens onto a “Welcome Center,” where staff can assist students with enrollment which better integrates the college with the community.

(Above) The Dalai Lama (left) and actor Richard Gere (right) stand with WCSU faculty, staff and students. (Right) Tibetan Buddhist monks held a sand mandala dissolution ceremony to dissolve their completed sand mandala in the Ives Concert Park pond.

Photos by Peggy Stewart
ACROSS THE UNIVERSITIES & COLLEGES

A Day of Service

Hundreds of Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) students, faculty and staff gathered for the sixth annual Dr. Ronald D. Herron Day of Service in September. The group worked as a team to complete community service projects throughout New Haven. The event was sponsored by the Student Government Association and SCSU Service Team in collaboration with the New Haven Police Department.

Students Use Social Media to Help Those in Need

Twelve Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) students created “Further Your Footsteps” as part of Associate Professor Jeffrey Teitler’s communication technologies course, and recruited 5,000 of their peers to collect over 500 pairs of shoes donated to the Hartford Police Activities League and Mercy House Homeless Shelter. The course, which combines social media with basic audio production and photography, had students investigate and design an online initiative.

A College Academy at Northwestern

Northwestern Connecticut Community College (NCCC) will extend its partnership with Region 7 schools to start a College Academy in health careers next spring for students from New Hartford, Barkhamsted, Colebrook and Norfolk.

The partnership program allows eligible high school students to take college courses on a space-available basis at no cost. NCCC will pilot the academy for two years with Region 7 and the Gilbert School. Students will earn three college credits and one high school credit per course.

MCC Brings Art to Main Street

Manchester Community College’s (MCC) Arts and Education Center — MCC on Main — is located in the heart of downtown Manchester at 903 Main Street. Its philosophy is to offer a second college location that will help strengthen the partnership between MCC and the downtown community.

“The idea is to make this a college town and expose our students to the downtown Manchester area,” said Ta’Shema Odoms, MCC’s first program coordinator. “By having a satellite location, it would help us build a partnership with the community at large.”

MCC on Main presents art, music and cultural events and includes an art and video gallery, entrepreneurship center, café and conference room space. The focal point of the MCC on Main initiative is the art gallery that features national and local artists. A variety of programs and services that bring arts, education and the community together will be offered.

Opportunities for Youth

Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) received a grant through Capital Workforce Partners to offer eligible 17 to 21 year-olds training in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) career fields with no cost to participants. Those enrolled in the “Social Enterprise & Workforce Development Project” will receive advanced training certifications in Emergency Medical Responder (EMR), basic technical manufacturing technician, or web based programming/website design.

Tunxis Community College (TXCC), the Human Resources Agency of New Britain, and Capital Workforce Partners partnered to offer “Education in Allied Health” for 16 to 21 year-old qualified out-of-school youth to train for an allied health career. Participants will earn 28 college credits by completing allied health and health career pathway certificates while gaining work experience.
Norwalk Community College’s Hospital Simulation Unit and Patient Mannequins

Norwalk Community College’s (NCC) latest teaching tools can breathe, cough and tell you where it hurts. A remarkable feature of the college’s new $38 million Center for Science, Health and Wellness, which opened last year, is a hospital simulation unit complete with patient mannequins called Sim-Men.

Costing up to $100,000 each, these patient simulators can be programmed to display realistic symptoms and are used to teach students a variety of care scenarios. Sim-Men have heartbeats, make lung and abdominal sounds, and can even perspire or turn blue. Interchangeable body parts are added to simulate wounds and burns.

“The faculty or lab staff create patient care scenarios that we want the mannequins to perform,” said Mary Ann Tessier, Nursing Department chair. “The advantage of using simulation in nursing education is that students can practice, make mistakes or do things extremely well in a controlled setting. This allows for feedback and retraining.”

Simulation learning is the latest innovation in healthcare education. NCC’s Sim-Men (and women) include eight adults, a child and an infant. This cutting-edge technology is housed in the Nursing and Allied Health wing in the new 55,000 square-foot Center for Science, Health and Wellness.

The hospital simulation unit is used by students in NCC’s nursing, medical assistant, medical office management, physical therapist assistant, respiratory care and non-credit certificate programs. It features a unique suite of hospital rooms that have been designed to resemble patient rooms at area hospitals.

NCC faculty worked with Greenwich, Stamford and Norwalk hospitals to set up hospital rooms which mimic what students would see in these hospitals. NCC shares this technology with the community. Physicians from Norwalk Hospital bring their staff to the hospital simulation unit to practice trauma procedures on the Sim-Men.

Community College Dental Programs Expand

Tunxis Community College (TXCC) received a $5,000 grant from Liberty Bank Foundation to purchase equipment to expand its mobile dental hygiene program for underserved populations; Manchester Community College (MCC) offers a new program dedicated to training dental assistants; and Asnuntuck Community College (ACC) is offering open enrollment for its new dental assistant program.

At TXCC, the mobile dental units are part of its outreach to nursing homes. Each unit is equipped for cleanings, cancer screenings and dental radiographs, under the supervision of TXCC staff. At MCC, the new certificate program helps students become certified by the Dental Assisting National Board and supplies area dentists with assistants.

ACC’s course includes classroom and hands-on learning in a Dental Operatory lab to prepare students for the Dental Assistant National Board exams. An optional externship will allow students to work with ACC’s dental practice partners.
Charter Oak Names New HIM Program Coordinator as College Launches New Major

Dr. Frank M. Valier joined Charter Oak State College (COSC) as its new Health Information Management (HIM) program coordinator, as the college recently launched its first major, an online bachelor’s degree completion program in HIM, which equips students for the electronic management of sensitive patient health information and healthcare revenue cycles.

Valier has 30 years of experience in the IT field, is an adjunct professor and teaches courses in the American Healthcare System and Healthcare Information Technologies.

In September, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) approved COSC to offer the HIM degree. The program received Board of Regents approval last spring.

Tunxis Chosen to Deliver CNA Training

Tunxis Community College (TXCC) was chosen by the Metro Hartford Alliance for Careers in Healthcare (MACH) to deliver accelerated Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) training as part of a pilot initiative responding to employer demand for CNAs with enhanced skill sets.

The program includes job readiness training, an accelerated technical training program and paid work experience. At completion, students will take the state certification exam.

MACH’s program covers tuition, books and materials and is managed by the Connecticut Women’s Education and Legal Fund. MACH is a partnership of hospitals, community-based care providers, long-term care facilities, educators and public agencies.

Workforce Solutions Collaborative of Metro Hartford will fund the program pilot with support from Capital Workforce Partners.

See www.workforce-solutions.org for more information.

Health IT at Capital: A Success Story

The success of Capital Community College’s (CCC) Health IT workforce development certificate program is simple to quantify statistically: 150 students have completed the program, 71 of whom did not have jobs when they started. Forty of those students are now working in either paid positions or internships. Six additional students — already employed in the industry — have received promotions as a direct result of this intensive training.

The program, which uses a federally-developed curriculum to train people with experience in either health care or IT to work in a health IT setting, is also a success on a personal and professional level for many of its graduates.

Robert Anderson is one of those success stories. Carol Vassar, a nationally certified health IT instructor with CCC’s program, worked with him at a branch of Unisys, an international computer company. Last year, after being downsized at Unisys, he was seeking a fresh start and entered the program.

“This opportunity was well timed for him professionally, since there is now a great demand for health IT professionals as the industry moves health records from the paper format to the electronic format,” said Vassar.

After his training, Anderson landed a job in a physician’s practice associated with a major Connecticut hospital. The practice recently underwent a system upgrade, which necessitated his overnight on-site attendance to monitor its progress. “He likened it to what he’d done for the entirety of his career, only in a health care setting,” Vassar said.

CCC’s health IT program is currently recruiting students for its next cohort. Applicants must have an associate’s degree or higher, and experience in either health care or IT. The program is underwritten in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

“This opportunity was well timed for him professionally, since there is now a great demand for health IT professionals as the industry moves health records from the paper format to the electronic format,” said Carol Vassar, a Capital Community College Health IT Instructor.
Powering Up at Eastern >

Eastern Connecticut State University President Elsa Núñez joined representatives from UTC Power, the Connecticut Energy Finance Investment Authority (CEFIA) and other guests to formally dedicate the university’s new fuel cell power plant on Oct. 4 in the Science Building.

Under a 10-year Energy Services Agreement, UTC Power has installed a PureCell system combined heat and power fuel cell. This was made possible by a federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant through the Clean Energy Fund.

Eastern will use 100 percent of this energy to provide a majority of the power required for the Science Building while maximizing the use of the heat output available from the plant. By generating power with a PureCell system, Eastern will reduce its “carbon footprint” by more than 1,356 metric tons of carbon dioxide annually.

Sustainable Garden Sets Roots at MxCC >

Middlesex Community College (MxCC) faculty, students and staff gathered to plant the first herbs, perennials, and shrubs in the new Mabel Burchard Fischer Grant Foundation sustainable garden on the MxCC campus. The garden is one more step towards creating a sustainable campus as outlined in the American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment which MxCC signed last April. Since then, the college has made major efforts in promoting environmental education, awareness, recycling, and landscaping projects on campus.

“We are infusing sustainability across the curriculum, and providing opportunities for our college community to engage in activities outside the classroom. The support for this garden is a wonderful illustration of the things we can accomplish when working together,” said MxCC President Anna Wasescha.

Game Day Challenge >

In November, Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) repeated last year’s effort to get tailgating football fans to recycle, and ranked third for waste minimization in the Northeast Conference NCAA Division I school category. In 2011, CCSU was named National Minimization Champion.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sponsored Game Day Challenge, a competition among U.S. colleges and universities with the goal of lowering waste generated at college games and increasing the awareness of waste reduction programs.

In 2011, 78 participating colleges and universities and 2.7 million fans diverted more than 500,000 pounds of waste from football games, preventing nearly 810 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions equivalent to the annual emissions from 159 passenger vehicles.
Norwalk Community College (NCC) was one of 10 colleges nationwide to receive a “Sustaining Innovation Award” from the Annie E. Casey Foundation and MDC Inc. for four years of work with the Centers for Working Families. NCC’s Family Economic Security program helps support students who are parents. The award was presented at the National Center for Working Families at Skyline College. NCC President David Levinson served on a panel with nine college presidents speaking on reducing poverty and strengthening families through education.

Fuel Cell Installation to Provide Clean Power for Connecticut State Universities

Western Connecticut State University (WCSU) stands to reap significant energy cost savings and enhanced electricity and heating efficiencies thanks to a project currently under way to install a fuel cell power unit for the Science Building on the university’s Midtown campus in Danbury. Site preparation for installation of the fuel cell system by UTC Power, a United Technologies Corp. unit in South Windsor, began in October under terms of a power purchase agreement signed this summer between WCSU and UTC. The PureCell Model 400 system will be installed on university property adjacent to the Osborne Street side of the Science Building. Completion of the project is targeted for January 2013.

In July, Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) also switched on its FuelCell Energy fuel cell, which will provide up to one third of the campus’s electricity needs. Fed by natural gas and configured for combined heat and power use, the plant will provide both electricity and steam for heating and cooling campus buildings, reducing the university’s carbon emissions and power costs.
The official opening of new manufacturing centers at three community colleges brings hope for a skilled manufacturing workforce to both potential students and manufacturers.

Governor Dannel P. Malloy, officials and business people came together on Oct. 3 to formally dedicate new advanced manufacturing centers at Housatonic Community College (HCC) in Bridgeport, Quinebaug Valley Community College (QVCC) in Danielson and Naugatuck Valley Community College (NVCC) in Waterbury.

“Turning the corner on decades of economic decline means we have to prepare our students with the high-tech skills that Connecticut companies need to compete globally,” said Governor Malloy. “We must ensure that our workforce has the strongest possible foundation — that is how Connecticut will regain its competitiveness, create good-paying jobs with good benefits, and strengthen our economy.”

The manufacturing centers were funded by a $17.8 million allocation from the Governor’s bipartisan jobs bill. The colleges will also be responsible for providing measureable outcomes — which include students graduating from the manufacturing program and final job placement in the state’s manufacturing industry. The model for the new centers and certificate programs was the Manufacturing Technology Center at Asnuntuck Community College (ACC) in Enfield.

The colleges recently unveiled a 34-credit Manufacturing Machine Technology certificate program with additional non-credit modules interspersed throughout the year-long program. The program will prepare students for advanced manufacturing positions that include machine operator, Computer Numeric Control (CNC) operator, CNC programmer, assembler and quality control inspector. New equipment will enable students to gain experience operating both manual and CNC equipment.

The year-long program — which requires a 35-hour-per-week commitment from students — will lead to a basic manufacturing certificate and an advanced manufacturing certificate. Students will spend approximately half their time in classroom activities and half in the manufacturing lab with hands-on projects.

“WE MUST ENSURE THAT OUR WORKFORCE HAS THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE FOUNDATION — THAT IS HOW CONNECTICUT WILL REGAIN ITS COMPETITIVENESS, CREATE GOOD-PAYING JOBS WITH GOOD BENEFITS, AND STRENGTHEN OUR ECONOMY.”

- Governor Dannel P. Malloy
In Bridgeport, Housatonic Community College (HCC) President Anita T. Gliniecki called the ribbon-cutting ceremony a landmark moment for the college and business community.

“The Regional Advanced Manufacturing Center is coming online just as manufacturing activity in the region is picking up,” said Gliniecki. “The center will prepare students for well-paying jobs in a growing field while providing area manufacturers with the skilled workers they need to sustain their growth.”

The center will feature an advanced manufacturing laboratory and engineering design studio to support the college’s credit and non-credit manufacturing courses. Its first offering was a two-certificate Advanced Manufacturing Program that will prepare students for manufacturing positions that include machine operator, Computer Numeric Control (CNC) operator, CNC programmer and quality control inspector. Jobs will be available for students after graduation.

Bill Griffin, HCC’s academic coordinator, was honored at the college for his foresight in laying the groundwork for the center. Griffin, who has long predicted the return of manufacturing to the United States and the region, has brought campus groups together to identify lab equipment and resources, build partnerships with educational and manufacturing partners, design the lab and adjoining studios, hire faculty and staff, and recruit students.

“Manufacturing in the area and the nation is leading economic growth,” said Griffin. “Through the application of state-of-the-art technology, manufacturers are more competitive, but they need to hire more workers with advanced manufacturing skills. HCC’s new manufacturing program is designed to meet this industry need.”

Kathy Saint, president of the Schwerdtle Stamp Company in Bridgeport, said manufacturing workers must adapt to the changes happening within the industry. “We need people with good skills — both hands-on work and problem-solving knowledge. This program will teach these students the skills they need to have endless opportunities in the job market.”

Connecticut State Colleges & Universities

Early College Experience at Asnuntuck

Last summer, Asnuntuck Community College (ACC) offered students — going into seventh or eighth grade — the opportunity to learn about machining at the college’s Manufacturing Technology Center. The 2012 Summer College of Technology for Pre-Teens program allowed students to get welding experience and use a vertical milling machine to create their own tic-tac-toe boards.
At Quinebaug Valley Community College’s (QVCC) dedication ceremony, State Senate President Pro Tempore Donald E. Williams Jr., D-Brooklyn, told the large gathering in the college atrium that QVCC’s Manufacturing Technology Center — as well as the others at the community colleges — will help Connecticut compete in the global market.

Preliminary architects’ drawings of the facility were unveiled during the program and college officials hope to begin construction next summer.

The manufacturing training center — which has enrolled 51 students since September, both at QVCC and nearby Harvard H. Ellis Technical School — awaits construction of its own classroom and shop facilities. The center will be located near the arts complex on the back side of the college.

The center will support enhanced manufacturing laboratories and equipment to address the state’s growing need for a skilled manufacturing workforce. The college, which already has strong partnerships with area manufacturing firms, will have a positive impact on the region’s high unemployment rate and provide opportunities for students and working adults to obtain the skills needed to serve the state’s vital manufacturing sector.

The center will serve students in a 43-town area that extends from the New York State line to the Connecticut River and north to the Middletown, Meriden and Danbury areas. Jacob Hudson was one of the first 50 students to enroll.

“The manufacturing program will provide us with greater skills when looking for jobs or developing a career,” said Hudson. “This program will ensure that students will be properly skilled in the workforce.”

“By investing in the education and training of its workforce, we will ensure our residents are able to compete not only for the jobs of the future, but for the precision manufacturing jobs that are available today in northeastern Connecticut.”

- State Senate President Pro Tempore Donald E. Williams Jr., D-Brooklyn

**QUINEBAUG VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

> **Housatonic Community College (HCC)** worked with Shelton manufacturer Lex Products Corp. to develop a customized “Shop Floor English as a Second Language” course for its largely Spanish speaking workforce. Lex Products, which makes cable assemblies and power distribution boxes, called upon HCC’s new business consulting service, the Strategic Solutions Group, to create the course and help bridge the language gap. The result was 80 hours in the classroom and 18 hours in labs. HCC also developed the textbook used in the class.

HCC instructor Ann Rodgers (center) with Lex Products employees Felipe Sam Ixuna (left) and Saudi Pinto (right) during HCC’s Shop Floor English as a Second Language course.

**Connecticut State Colleges & Universities**

> **HCC Develops Second-Language Training Course**

Housatonic Community College (HCC) worked with Shelton manufacturer Lex Products Corp. to develop a customized “Shop Floor English as a Second Language” course for its largely Spanish speaking workforce. Lex Products, which makes cable assemblies and power distribution boxes, called upon HCC’s new business consulting service, the Strategic Solutions Group, to create the course and help bridge the language gap. The result was 80 hours in the classroom and 18 hours in labs. HCC also developed the textbook used in the class.
The Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center at Naugatuck Valley Community College (NVCC), which occupies most of the fourth floor of NVCC’s Technology Hall, was dedicated in a ceremony that featured comments from Governor Malloy and Waterbury Mayor Neil M. O’Leary.

Built on the region’s manufacturing roots and enhanced with modern advancement in technology and innovation, the center will continue to feature manufacturing and technical education.

Close collaborations with NVCC’s Job Placement Center and the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board will provide students with internships and industry partnerships that will produce highly skilled graduates ready to meet the challenges of 21st century product design, innovation and manufacturing.

“Naugatuck Valley Community College is working in concert with industry partners to educate and train workers whose preparation for the workforce responds to the needs of manufacturers in Connecticut,” said NVCC President Daisy Cocco De Filippis. “We will be training students to enter the workforce for the first time and offer training to companies for their incumbent workers.”

The center opened to students in August with 59 enrollees on track for certification in basic and advanced manufacturing. The college attracted students through summer information sessions, the College Connections program, the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board and the non-credit computer numerical control (CNC) Manufacturing program. The cohort includes students from 20 Connecticut cities and towns and shows a wide range of gender, age and diversity.

The new center gives students hands-on access to state-of-the-art manufacturing technology and helps them acquire basic skills and manufacturing knowledge. NVCC has acquired 12 new lathes, 10 milling machines, and six CNC machines, as well as an authentic factory-floor environment.

“We celebrate the opportunity afforded our students by the creation of the NVCC Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center,” said De Filippis. “Optimism at NVCC and in the communities we serve is palpable.”
U.S. Labor Secretary Announces $12.1 Million in Grants

In September, U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis — who recently resigned as the nation’s first Hispanic labor secretary — visited Norwalk Community College (NCC) to announce a $12.1 million federal grant designed to educate state residents for jobs in health care. She also visited Capital Community College (CCC) in Hartford where she hosted a roundtable discussion: “The Economy and the Latino Workforce: A Conversation on Education and Training.”

The grant recipients are CCC, Gateway Community College (GCC), Manchester Community College (MCC), Middlesex Community College (MxCC), NCC, Eastern Connecticut State University and Charter Oak State College (COSC).

The consortium grant proposal was submitted by these institutions for providing certifications, industry-recognized credentials and associate degrees to dislocated workers, veterans and other under-employed workers for careers in the health and life science fields.

Solis emphasized the need for more certification programs in the areas of information technology, manufacturing, health care and related trades. The programs would help displaced workers, returning veterans and those who can’t afford a four-year college. The grant is funded under the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grants Program at the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration.

Over the next three years, the grant will train 3,000 people statewide in science and health-related fields and establish 15 additional degree and career-oriented programs in those fields, said NCC President David Levinson, who is also Board of Regents for Higher Education Vice President for the Community Colleges. NCC, which was the lead grant applicant, will receive $6 million to hire more faculty in biology and health sciences and expand its ability to train people in those fields.
Connecticut Community College Nursing Program: Facilitating Seamless Pathways for Educational Advancement in Nursing

Over the past three years, the Connecticut Community College Nursing Program (CT-CCNP) has finalized articulation agreements with 10 baccalaureate nursing programs and two master’s degree programs in the state to offer seamless transitions from the associate degree in nursing to a bachelor’s degree and higher.

The CT-CCNP is an associate degree program offered at Capital Community College (CCC), Gateway Community College (GCC), Naugatuck Valley Community College (NVCC), Northwestern Connecticut Community College (NCCC), Norwalk Community College (NCC), and Three Rivers Community College (TRCC). The common nursing curriculum, representing four semesters of continuous study, was developed by CCC nursing faculty and leadership and implemented in 2008. The program prepares students as entry-level registered nurses with an emphasis on educational advancement in nursing.

The Connecticut League for Nursing RN to BSN Articulation Plan paved the way for new collaborative agreements between the CT-CCNP and institutions with advanced nursing programs in the state.

Dr. Austin served in the United States Army from 1969 to 1971 and was awarded the Bronze Star, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal during his military duty. Dr. Austin holds an MA and PhD in economics from Michigan State University, and BS and MS degrees in agricultural economics from North Dakota State University. He was previously chairman of the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I board of directors, and president of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

Connecticut State Colleges & Universities

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The CT-CCNP has RN-BSN agreements in place at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU), Fairfield University, Goodwin College, Sacred Heart University, Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU), St. Vincent's College, Western Connecticut State University (WCSU), University of Hartford and University of Saint Joseph. The agreements are in place for CT-CCNP students who graduate with their associate’s degree in nursing from spring 2010 forward.

Sacred Heart University has signed an RN-MSN agreement for CT-CCNP graduates. A Memorandum of Understanding was also signed with the Yale University School of Nursing for an RN-MSN option for CT-CCNP graduates. Agreements with several other RN-BSN and RN-MSN programs in Connecticut will be completed by spring 2013.

Philip E. Austin Named Interim President of the Board of Regents

Philip E. Austin was recommended by the Board of Regents for Higher Education to Governor Dannel P. Malloy to serve as interim president on Oct. 12, 2012.

In 1996 Dr. Austin was appointed as the 13th president of the University of Connecticut with the academic rank of professor of economics. In 2007 he returned to the faculty. In July 2010, the UConn Board of Trustees asked him to return as interim president. In August 2011, he became the interim vice president of Health Affairs. In May 2012, he returned to the faculty.

Dr. Austin also served as chancellor of The University of Alabama System and president of Colorado State University. He was concurrently chancellor of the Colorado State University System, while holding the academic rank of professor in the Department of Economics and the Department of Finance.

From 1978 to 1984, Dr. Austin served as provost and vice president for Academic Affairs and professor of economics and finance at Bernard Baruch College. He was previously director of the Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in Public Policy at George Washington University. From 1974 to 1977, Dr. Austin was HEW Deputy Assistant Secretary for Education in Washington, D.C. and also served as Acting Assistant Secretary for Education. He served as an economist in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget from 1971 to 1974.

Dr. Austin served in the United States Army from 1969 to 1971 and was awarded the Bronze Star, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal during his military duty. Dr. Austin holds an MA and PhD in economics from Michigan State University, and BS and MS degrees in agricultural economics from North Dakota State University. He was previously chairman of the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I board of directors, and president of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.
Transfer and Articulation Policy

The Transfer and Articulation Policy (TAP) — approved by the Board of Regents for Higher Education in March — is moving forward toward implementation. The innovative program specifies competencies that students must develop and demonstrate, rather than courses that must be completed.

Competencies include quantitative reasoning; knowledge and understanding of science, history and social phenomena; written and oral communication; aesthetic dimensions; critical thinking; information literacy; and ethics.

Faculty groups will further develop the methods and standards that will be used to measure competency. The policy will help students more easily transfer across the state's 17 Connecticut State Colleges & Universities (ConnSCU). Key elements of the Transfer and Articulation Policy include:

- The development of a common general education core.
- Common lower division pre-major pathways which include 30 credits of transferable general education credits common to all 12 Connecticut community colleges.
- Junior year status upon earning an associate transfer degree.
- Guaranteed or priority university admission.
- Associate and bachelor degree credit limits.

College Access Challenge Grant

Additional funding through the U.S. Department of Education's College Access Challenge Grant (CACG) was awarded to the Board of Regents for Higher Education to help continue to reduce remediation and improve college readiness among underserved populations in the state. The Board of Regents is entering year three of the five-year grant, which is funded at $1.5 million per year.

The College Access Challenge Grant has helped nearly 4,000 students through various programs and support mechanisms, including sharing information about preparing for college, 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.
Culinary Arts at the Community Colleges

Billings Forge Community Works in Hartford has partnered with Capital Community College to introduce a new certificate program — the certificate in culinary food and arts safety — that combines classroom instruction with on-site experiential learning so participants can enter the professional culinary arts field.

Jane Stern, who has written about food for 40 years, will teach “Special Topics: Food Writing” at Gateway Community College this spring. Students, she said, must simply want to tell stories about food.

Stern is author of more than 40 books, including the best-selling Roadfood series she writes with her former husband Michael Stern.

Music News at WCSU

Western Connecticut State University (WCSU) was delighted when Connecticut native, Jimmy Greene, was able to return to his roots when he joined the music faculty.

Greene, a master of jazz performance and composition whose recordings have earned international acclaim, was named assistant professor of music and assistant coordinator of jazz studies. He previously held a music faculty position at the University of Manitoba.

Greene’s family was personally affected by the tragedy in Newtown, so in response, WCSU has created the Ana Marquez-Greene Music Scholarship Fund in memory of his daughter.

Kevin Jay Isaacs, a professor of music and music education at WCSU, earned an Award of Merit in composition from the Global Music Association. His work is a four-movement composition called “Skookum Suite Op. 112.” The Global Music Association is a top-tier music competition based in California that honors talented musicians around the world.

Scholarship Program to Develop Engineers

An agreement for a new Pratt & Whitney Aircraft (P&WA) Quality Engineering Scholarship Program at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) will help meet the state’s growing need for quality engineers.

A memorandum of agreement between CCSU and P&WA was signed by CCSU President Jack Miller (front right) and Mary Anne Cannon (front left), P&W vice president of quality, environment, health and safety. CCSU already has an industrial engineering program curriculum closely aligned with P&WA’s needs. Students will be chosen based on academics, interpersonal skills and ability to interact with others.
Middlesex Community College (MxCC) was awarded a $2.5 million U.S. Department of Labor Trade Adjustment Act Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) Grant for a New Media Studies initiative to help establish and support specific pathways in this growing career field.

This funding is in addition to $12 million awarded last September from the U.S. Department of Labor for the ConnSCU health and life sciences consortium grant. The New Media Studies initiative will have an interdisciplinary approach, combining faculty expertise and curriculum across three distinct program areas of the college — broadcast cinema, communication and multi-media studies.

Grant funds will be used to reallocate existing campus space, enhance existing curriculum, collaborate with industry experts, purchase appropriate equipment and establish a stronger collaboration with the New Haven Innovation Hub Ecosystem.

Tunxis Community College (TXCC) has developed a new “Disability Awareness, Inclusion and Accessibility” training workshop to help organizations enhance their responsiveness to the needs of customers with physical and mental disabilities. The workshop covers topics such as stereotypes and stigma about disabilities, guidelines for interaction with people with disabilities, barriers to accessibility and inclusion, and requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Gateway Community College (GCC) created the state’s first Patient Navigator Program in which students are trained to help people get the health care they need.

“There’s a growing demand for patient navigators,” said Vicki Bozzuto, dean of workforce development at Gateway Community College. “You might find a Patient Navigator in an emergency room; you might find them in a homeless shelter; you might find them on a street or in a doctor’s office.”

Gateway’s program involves 24 hours of lecture work and 24 hours of observation at different clinical sites. Navigating patient care is sometimes folded into the responsibilities of an already existing job or can become a new full-time position. A patient navigator teaches people how to advocate for their own health care, improve patient outcomes and reduce the frequency of visits to emergency rooms for non-emergency care.

Housatonic Community College’s (HCC) Early Childhood Laboratory School has earned accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The school received scores of at least 100 percent for its performance in all areas.

In addition, HCC received the Bridgeport Regional Business Council’s Regional Impact Award in Education for creating the new advanced manufacturing program. HCC’s Advanced Manufacturing program also captured national attention in an August article in “League Connections,” a newsletter published by League for Innovation in the Community College based in Arizona.
Eastern Connecticut State University was recognized by The Education Trust — a national education advocacy group — as the number one public university for the improvement of six-year graduation rates of Hispanic students among public colleges and universities from 1998 to 2004.

In the report, “Advancing to Completion: Increasing Degree Attainment by Improving Graduation Rates and Closing Gaps for Hispanic Students,” The Education Trust examined the graduation rates of 391 public and private colleges and universities nationally. Eastern’s 37.8 percent improvement in the graduation rate of Hispanic students over the six-year period was the largest among the 228 public institutions in the study. At Eastern, for the class of full-time, first-time students entering in fall 1998, the six-year graduation rate was barely 20 percent for Hispanic students. But for Hispanic students entering in 2004, the proportion who had graduated by 2010 was 57.8 percent — the most significant improvement among the 228 public institutions in the study. Eastern’s 57.8 percent graduation rate for Hispanic students is actually above Eastern’s overall graduation rate of 52.4 percent for the entire entering class of 2004.
Excellence in eTutoring

James Gentile, professor of English at Manchester Community College (MCC), received the first Diane J. Goldsmith Award for Excellence in eTutoring from the Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium (CTDLC) — a division of Charter Oak State College (COSC). Gentile was honored for “his years of dedication to the eTutoring program and countless hours and efforts given to developing the online writing lab.” He has been at MCC since 1993, and received his bachelor’s, master’s and doctorate degrees from Columbia University. Gentile served as English department chair, Center for Teaching of the Community College System chair and co-director of the Connecticut Poetry Circuit.

Vision and Change

Sharon Gusky, biology professor at Northwestern Connecticut Community College (NCCC), was selected as one of 40 Vision and Change Leadership Fellows for The Partnership for Undergraduate Life Sciences Education (PULSE) program. The program is a joint initiative of the National Science Foundation, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and the National Institutes of Health. The effort supports a year-long program in which Vision and Change Leadership Fellows consider and recommend models for improving undergraduate life sciences education.

Grants Resource Center Announces Fellowship Winner

Barbara Murdoch, assistant professor of biology at Eastern Connecticut State University, was awarded a $1,000 fellowship by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) Grants Resource Center (GRC). The fellowship is for her participation in two national workshops during the 2012-13 academic year. She attended “The Department of Defense: A Researcher’s Primer” at the University of Illinois at Chicago and will lead a GRC session in Washington about insight gained while seeking grants, managing an independent research career and focusing on undergraduate teaching.

ConnSCU’s Military Friendly Schools

Victory Media, the media entity for military personnel transitioning into civilian life, named seven of the Connecticut State Colleges & and six community colleges to the Military Friendly Schools® list that honors the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools doing the most to embrace America’s military service members, veterans, and spouses to ensure their success on campus. The ConnSCU institutions named were: Charter Oak State College, Asnuntuck, Capital, Manchester, Middlesex, Quinebaug Valley and Three Rivers Community Colleges. Charter Oak State College, for example, partners with the U.S. Navy as a member of the Navy College Program Distance Learning Partnership. It also partners with the U.S. Coast Guard and the Army National Guard Education Support Center to facilitate degree completion for service members and their spouses. Charter Oak is also a member of the Servicemembers Opportunities Colleges.

Celebrate CT!

Connecticut’s top economic development projects, programs and leaders from across the state were honored at the annual 2012 CELEBRATE CT! event recently hosted by the Connecticut Economic Resource Center, Inc. (CERC). Among the award recipients were Gateway Community College and Quinebaug Valley Community College’s Manufacturing and Technology Center. GCC and Central Connecticut State University were among the event sponsors.

Catherine Smith, state Department of Economic and Community Development commissioner and ex-officio Board of Regents member, presented an update on state efforts.

NVCC’s Fulbright Scholar-In-Residence

Pascal Meccariello is Naugatuck Valley Community College’s (NVCC) first Fulbright Scholar-In-Residence. Meccariello, a native of the Dominican Republic, is an accomplished visual artist who teaches ceramics and Caribbean art and culture at NVCC. His work — in ceramics, engraving, drama, dance and puppets theatre — has been featured in exhibitions throughout the Dominican Republic, South America and the United States. He is a member of Quintapata Contemporary Artists Group and Coda Dominican Artists College. Next semester Meccariello will help his students create a ceramic mural, both as a learning experience and symbol of the college’s commitment to international cultures.

Excellence in Diversity

Capital Community College (CCC) received the inaugural “Higher Education Excellence in Diversity” (HEED) award from INSIGHT into Diversity magazine. The national award was based on the college’s diversity and inclusion initiatives. Capital was designated as an Hispanic Serving Institution and enrolls the second highest percentage of minority students among 252 New England schools and colleges. Capital was featured in the magazine’s December 2012 issue, and of the 47 recipients, only five were community colleges.
Carnegie Foundation Professor of the Year

Deborah Carroll, Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) professor of psychology, was named the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching Connecticut Professor of the Year. Carroll has taught full-time at SCSU since 1994 and also received the 2012 Board of Regents/Connecticut State University Teaching Award and SCSU's J. Philip Smith Outstanding Teaching Award in 2011.

Champion of Change

Rebecca M. Townsend, associate professor of communication at Manchester Community College (MCC), was honored as a Transportation Champion of Change at the White House in July. The designation is for leaders who have devoted their time and efforts to helping their communities reach new heights through transportation innovation. Townsend serves as the Principal Investigator for the Partnership for Inclusive, Cost-Effective Public Participation. She involves community service learning, cultural communication, and productive deliberation in transit planning public involvement efforts.

Three Rivers Partners with Albertus Magnus

Three Rivers Community College (TRCC) entered into an articulation agreement with Albertus Magnus College in New Haven. Business students can complete their studies toward a bachelor’s degree in business management while taking classes locally in which all 63 credits transfer to the Albertus Magnus’ baccalaureate program.

Founding QVCC President Returns as Interim President

Dr. Robert E. Miller, the founding president of Quinebaug Valley Community College (QVCC), was appointed interim QVCC president following the departure of Dr. Ross Tomlin.

Miller was first appointed in 1971 to open QVCC, retired in 1992, and served as interim president at community colleges in Manchester, Middletown, New Haven and Norwich.

CCSU’s Study Abroad Recognized

In the Institute of International Education’s review of college study abroad programs, Central Connecticut State University’s (CCSU) Study Abroad program ranked 23rd among master’s granting institutions for the number of students studying abroad. CCSU’s short-term, faculty-led Course Abroad ranked 11th in the nation among master’s-level institutions. The CCSU Course Abroad program serves more than 500 undergraduate and graduate students each year.

Cid Receives Accolades

Carmen Cid, dean of Eastern Connecticut State University’s School of Arts and Sciences, was recently honored by several organizations. The Ecological Society of America honored her with its America Diversity Award in appreciation for her 20 years of ongoing work in promoting diversity among current and future ecologists. The Girl Scouts of Connecticut recognized her in the “Trailblazer” category at their Centennial “Woman of Merit” event for being the only Hispanic woman in plant ecology in the United States for decades. The Connecticut Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission also named Cid “Latina Citizen of the Year.”

Lifetime Achievement

Wilson Luna, dean of students at Gateway Community College (GCC), was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Connecticut Association of Latinos in Higher Education. The award recognizes Luna’s years of dedicated service to CALAHE and helping students achieve their dream of higher education.

Great Colleges to Work For

Eastern Connecticut State University and Middlesex Community College (MxCC) were named two of the “2012 Best Colleges in the Nation to Work For” according to a survey by The Chronicle of Higher Education. The results are based on a survey of more than 46,000 employees at 294 colleges and universities. This is the first year MxCC made the list, winning honors in “Compensation and Benefits,” and the fourth year in a row Eastern earned this distinction. Eastern won honors in “Collaborative Governance,” “Compensation and Benefits;” and “Facilities, Workspaces and Security.”
1 Southern Connecticut State University inaugurated its 11th president, Mary A. Papazian, Ph.D., on Sept. 28. 2 Central Connecticut State University's Department of Nursing graduated its first Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) class with 46 students in its Class of 2012 Pinning Ceremony. 3 The Norwalk Community College (NCC) Chapter of the Student World Assembly held a bake sale to raise American Red Cross funds for Hurricane Sandy relief. Pictured are (left to right): David Moran, Deanna Fields, Jake Savona and Aygul Gara Dashly. 4 Dan Rather, former “CBS News” anchor and “60 Minutes” correspondent, kicked off Eastern Connecticut State University’s 2012–13 Arts and Lecture Series on campus with a talk about the 2012 elections. 5 Erin McPike (center), a reporter who covered the presidential election for Real Clear Politics, met with students at Southern Connecticut State University’s forum, “Politics and Apple Pie: A Look Into The 2012 Presidential & Congressional Elections.” She is a guest analyst on MSNBC and FOX. 6 Kaitlyn and Avery St. James joined their father,
In Memoriam

Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) alumna: Dawn Lafferty Hochsprung, principal of Sandy Hook Elementary School (SHES), who also earned her BS from Central Connecticut State University; Mary J. Sherlach, SHES counselor; and Anne Marie Murphy, SHES teacher and mother of a Western Connecticut State University student.

Ana Marquez-Greene, daughter of Jimmy Greene, assistant professor of music, Western Connecticut State University, and Nelba Marquez-Greene, program coordinator and adjunct instructor for the Klingberg/Central Connecticut State University Family Therapy Institute in New Britain. The Ana Marquez-Greene Music Scholarship Fund at Western Connecticut State University has been created in Ana’s name.

Victoria Leigh Soto, SHES teacher and Eastern Connecticut State University alumna, who was also earning her master’s degree at Southern Connecticut State University. Eastern Connecticut State University has created the Victoria Leigh Soto Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund in her honor.


Timothy St. James, Asnuntuck Community College Admissions Director, at the Walk to End Alzheimer’s event held on campus. 7 Governor Dannel P. Malloy was joined by legislators at Norwalk Community College for a ceremonial bill signing for a new state law reforming remedial education. 8 Hosted by Naugatuck Valley Community College (NVCC), STARBASE-Waterbury graduates about 700 Waterbury Public School students annually. Summer students of the John G. Gilmartin Elementary School presented a banner to NVCC in appreciation of its support. 9 Live presidential election night coverage on WXCI 91.7 radio hosted by Charter Communications was provided by a crew of Western Connecticut State University students and faculty members. 10 A groundbreaking ceremony was held in June to commemorate the expansion of facilities for the Quinebaug Middle College and Quinebaug Valley Community College. 11 Artist Scott LoBaido creates “A Warm Light for a Broken Heart” during a tribute for the Sandy Hook Elementary School held at Western Connecticut State University.
Governor Dannel P. Malloy joins dignitaries in the ribbon cutting of Gateway Community College’s new downtown campus in New Haven.