



Connecticut State Colleges & Universities

At a Glance

Established – 2011

Statutory Authority – Title 10a of the Connecticut General Statutes

System Office – 61 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT 06105-2337

Full-time Employees (Spring 2020) – 5,339

Part-time Employees (Spring 2020) – 8,979 (includes all non-permanents, student workers, and university assistants)

Recurring Operating Expenditures: Operating Fund – \$ 598,053,158

General Fund – \$ 560,260,327

Building Value – Cost Basis: \$2,495,199,000 – Less Depreciation: (\$948,271,000) =
Net Book Value: \$1,546,928

Contents Value – Cost Basis: \$423,905,000 – Less Depreciation: (\$255,727,000) =
Net Book Value: \$168,178,000

Total Student Enrollment (Fall 2019) – 80,000

Organizational Structure – The CT Board of Regents for Higher Education is the governing board for the Connecticut State College and University (CSCU) System. The CSCU System is comprised of 17 public institutions of higher education, including 12 community colleges, four state universities, and one distance learning college.

The Board consists of 21 members, including 15 voting members: nine members are appointed by the Governor, four members are appointed by legislative leadership, and two members are elected by students (the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Student Advisory Committee). The six non-voting, ex-officio members are the Commissioner of the Department of Education, the Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development, the Commissioner of the Department of Labor, the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health, and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Faculty Advisory Committee.

Members (as of 9/1/20)

Matt Fleury, Chair
Dr. Merle W. Harris, Vice Chair
Richard J. Balducci
Aviva D. Budd
Naomi K. Cohen
Felice Gray-Kemp
Holly Howery
David R. Jimenez
JoAnn Ryan
Ari Santiago
Elease E. Wright

David Lehman, Commissioner CT Department of Economic and Community Development**
Kurt Westby, Commissioner CT Department of Labor**
Dr. Deidre Gifford, Acting Commissioner CT Department of Public Health**
Dr. Miguel A. Cardona, Commissioner CT Department of Education**
Dr. David Blitz, Chair Faculty Advisory Committee**
Dr. Colena Sesanker, Vice Chair Faculty Advisory Committee**

**Ex-Officio, Non-Voting

*Two Student Regent seats are currently vacant, pending the election for Student Advisory Council Chair and Vice Chair.

Regional Presidents

Dr. Thomas Coley, Shoreline West Region
Dr. James Lombella, North West Region
Dr. Robert Steinmetz, Capitol East Region

Institution Presidents/CEOs

Dr. Michelle Coach, CEO, Asnuntuck Community College
Dr. Duncan Harris, CEO, Capital Community College
Dr. Zulma Toro, President, Central Connecticut State University
Dr. Ed Klonoski, President, Charter Oak State College
Dr. Elsa Núñez, President, Eastern Connecticut State University
Dr. William Terry Brown, CEO, Gateway Community College
Dr. Dwayne Smith, CEO, Housatonic Community College
Dr. Nicole Esposito, CEO, Manchester Community College
Dr. Steve Minkler, CEO, Middlesex Community College
Dr. Lisa Dresdner, CEO, Naugatuck Valley Community College
Dr. Michael Rooke, President, Northwestern Connecticut Community College
Dr. Cheryl DeVonish, CEO, Norwalk Community College
Dr. Rose Ellis, CEO, Quinebaug Valley Community College
Dr. Joe Bertolino, President, Southern Connecticut State University
Dr. Mary Ellen Jukoski, President, Three Rivers Community College
Dr. Darryl Reome, CEO, Tunxis Community College
Dr. John B. Clark, President, Western Connecticut State University

Mission

The Connecticut State Colleges and Universities contribute to the creation of knowledge and the economic growth of the state of Connecticut by providing affordable, innovative, and rigorous programs. Our learning environments transform students and facilitate an ever increasing number of individuals to achieve their personal and career goals.

Statutory Responsibility

The responsibility of the 17 institutions that make up the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities is to provide access to quality and affordable higher education to the people of the state of Connecticut. The Board of Regents for Higher Education is charged with setting policies to carry out that responsibility while aligning with the following goals:

- to ensure that no qualified person be denied the opportunity for higher education on the basis of age, sex, gender identity or expression, ethnic background or social, physical or economic condition,
- to protect academic freedom,
- to provide opportunities for education and training related to the economic, cultural and educational development of the state,
- to assure the fullest possible use of available resources in public and private institutions of higher education,
- to maintain standards of quality ensuring a position of national leadership for state institutions of higher education,
- to apply the resources of higher education to the problems of society, and
- to foster flexibility in the policies and institutions of higher education to enable the system to respond to changes in the economy, society, technology and student interests

Public Service

The chief beneficiaries of CSCU's work are the students served by our institutions. CSCU gauges its effectiveness by engaging in a variety of continuous improvement activities that surround assessment and the analyses of key performance indicators.

Assessment focuses on a data-driven process of educational change, and assesses student learning outcomes, student employment/income outcomes, courses, programs and the institutions that make up CSCU. The analyses of key performance indicators track opportunities for improvement in numerous areas, for instance; student success measures at different points in the post-secondary experience, student retention and graduation rates, changes in the diversity of the CSCU student, faculty and employee populations, as well as peer institution/system comparisons.

About Connecticut State Colleges and Universities

- In the last two decades, CSCU institutions have conferred over 260,000 degrees and certificates.
- CSCU educates Connecticut students and a small but growing number of out-of-state students. More than 97% of CSCU students are Connecticut residents.

- With over 80,000 students, the CSCU system is the second-largest public college system in New England.
- About 45% of all college students in Connecticut attend a CSCU institution.
- Approximately 87% of CSCU graduates remain in Connecticut after receiving their degrees.
- Non-credit programs, such as those targeting workforce training, serve an additional 30,000 students.

Improvements and Achievements for Fiscal Year 2020

Connecticut State Colleges and Universities

- CSCU, through a vote of the Board of Regents, held tuition and fees flat for the 2020-2021 school year for community college and Charter Oak State College students. University students experienced a 4% increase in tuition but keeping the cost below comparative institutions.
- CSCU received a \$350,000 grant through the Lumina Foundation to support quality program evaluation and the improvement of teaching and learning for equitable students success.
- CSCU institutions partnered with UConn and CCIC institutions to support College Board AP Exam changes in response to coronavirus, and promote acceptance of AP credit at the colleges and universities.
- In March, CSCU institutions pivoted to fully remote operation due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of this shift, President Mark Ojakian directed the four Connecticut State Universities to credit student accounts for unused room and board.
- CSCU played an integral part of the state's response to COVID-19. As part of this response, Southern CT State University and Western CT State University facilities were converted into mobile hospitals by the National Guard to assist with the anticipated surge of patients affected with COVID-19. Residence halls and rooms were also made available for emergency use for medical personnel and non-critical COVID-19 patients. In addition to making space available, institutions donated personal protective equipment (PPE) to local hospitals and frontline health care workers. CSCU donated approximately 211,925 gloves, 12,209 masks, 2,184 gowns, and 15 ventilators.
- Additionally, CSCU institutions repurposed advanced manufacturing technology centers to meet the state's need for personal protective equipment, creating face shields and devices for CT health care providers.
- Foundations at the colleges and universities supported CSCU students affected by COVID-19, particularly to make sure that students have access to food, housing and technology necessary to continue their education throughout this public health crisis.
- CSCU President Mark Ojakian was asked by Governor Lamont to serve as the state lead the higher education reopen strategy for the state working closely with the administration to support reopening all public and private institutions of higher education.

- CSCU also announced that it would fund the Fall 2020 semester of PACT, Connecticut's tuition and fee free community college program. Interest has been very strong, with approximately 3,000 students eligible for \$3 million in grant awards.
- In Fall 2019, President Ojakian called for the formation of a CSCU Transfer Task Force with membership from all four state universities, Charter Oak State College and the community colleges. The Task Force was asked to share data and updates on the current state of transfer of student from the community colleges to the universities and Charter Oak; review the New England Board of Higher Education's proposed Independent College Transfer Guarantee initiative; and make recommendations for changes to current policies and practices that would further facilitate transfer.
- In Fall 2019, the Board of Regents recommended the formation of a CSU Task Force to articulate the role of the CSUs collectively and individually; describe the economic, cultural, and social development contributions of the CSUs; explain the what distinguishes the CSUs and compare outcomes and impacts; outline possible initiatives to strengthen CSU role in Connecticut; and propose any needed changes to the role of CSUs.

Students First Update:

Students First is CSCU's long-term strategy to improve student outcomes and put the community college system on a sustainable fiscal trajectory. It will unify the existing 12 community colleges into a single accredited institution – maintaining access to all current campuses and satellites – while implementing a Guided Pathways approach to improve student success, particularly for minoritized populations.

Over the last year, several key milestones in the Students First plan have been achieved:

- On June 23, 2020 President Ojakian, Chairman Fleury, Interim President of Connecticut State Community College, Dr. David Levinson and other members of the CSCU team met with the New England Commission of Higher Education to review the report submitted by CSCU regarding the progress the system has made in establishing and implementing its initial plans to consolidate the 12 community colleges into the Connecticut State Community College.
- The Board of Regents officially adopted the name Connecticut State Community College as the name of the merged institution. The BOR appointed a senior leadership team which began work to prepare the future college for opening, naming Dr. David Levinson as the interim President of Connecticut State Community College. The BOR additionally named an interim provost, Dr. Michael Rooke, interim chief financial officer, Kerry Kelleyas required by NECHE standards.
- Additionally, the BOR adopted a general education core curriculum for the single college. A core component of Students First includes the alignment of college curricula statewide, including the adoption of a statewide general education curriculum. This is not only required by accreditation standards, but the single curriculum is an important part of the student success efforts under Students First. Once all curricula are aligned, students can begin any course at their home campus without having to worry about going through the bureaucratic steps of transferring to another college and having to take additional classes to complete their general education requirement.

- The Board of Regents appointed five campus Chief Executive Officers who are responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of Capital Community College, Gateway Community College, Housatonic Community College, Manchester Community College, and Middlesex Community College. These CEOs will work with the regionalized leadership team to administer the support the 12 colleges today and the under the new institution in the future.
- The three community college regional presidents of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system announced the selection of three Chief Workforce Development Officers and three Chief Regional Fiscal Officers. The Chief Regional Workforce Officers are responsible for the creation and administration of comprehensive workforce development strategies and initiatives that will serve the needs of students/job seekers and the region's business community. The Chief Regional Fiscal Officers are responsible for regional strategic budget planning and development, fiscal administration and reporting, accounting, and finance services. Both positions work closely with the campuses in the regions to secure and maximize resources and build partnerships with state, regional and local entities.

ASNUNTUCK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Asnuntuck Community College submitted their Interim (Fifth-Year) Report for continued accreditation with the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE).
- In Spring 2020, 211 course sections in Academic Affairs successfully transitioned to teaching in a remote environment. Through the generosity of the ACC Foundation, ACC purchased and distributed 28 Chromebooks to students in need of technology assistance. The hands-on training aspect of the Spring 2020 courses reconvened starting on June 22, and these courses will be completed over the summer. Furthermore, over 135 instructors actively engaged in professional development to gain iTeach Certification during the Spring and Summer of 2020. In addition, the college switched gears to remote services without significant interruptions. ACC is now prepared with fillable online forms, access to phones via Jabber, etc. Additionally, ACC has moved to providing in-person, by-appointment service option in according with CSCU guidelines and approved campus plans. The Spring 2020 course withdrawal deadline was extended, and the Spring 2020 grade conversion policy was successfully implemented, a student communication plan was enacted, and online-only summer courses were offered. Many Fall 2020 courses were updated to ONLN, HYBR, and LRON delivery methods, and student communications were coordinated with Academic Affairs, Registrar's Council, and other necessary groups.
- The Asnuntuck Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center received certification for ISO 9001:2015 International Quality Management System in July 2019. This certification covers fundamental management and quality assurance practices. It is an excellent foundation of planning, control, and improvement of the AMTC programs. Asnuntuck is one of the few colleges in the United States with ISO 9001: 2015 certification. In the next fiscal year, the program will go through their annual review to continue this certification.
- Asnuntuck Advanced Manufacturing Technology Programs has continued to enroll over 400 students in our certificates and degrees programs in Machine Technology, Welding Technology, and Electro-Mechanical Maintenance Technician over the past year. Also, AMTC provided Business and Industry training to CT Manufacturers for over 300 individuals to improve their advanced manufacturing on-the-job skill sets in such courses as Blueprint Reading, Geometric

Dimensioning and Tolerancing, Manufacturing Math, Metrology, etc. We also offered custom design training programs based on an individual company needs for their employees.

- The Workforce Development and Continuing Education department continues to expand its offerings to include licensure programs for in demand careers. Asnuntuck became the first Connecticut Community College to be an approved Cosmetology school. Also, the Workforce Development and Continuing Education department was granted a \$125,000 portable Mechatronics lab, along with a \$5,000 scholarship, from 3M to train manufacturing students. The college will have the use of the 10-station lab for 34 weeks per year. The remaining weeks will support programs at Stafford High School and Enfield High School.
- The Registered Medical Assistant Certification and A.S. degree programs were both reaccredited for licensure by the Board of Regents. Both programs have a 100% passing rate on the American Medical Technologist certification exam and a 95% employment rate for graduates.
- *G.I. Jobs* has been again selected Asnuntuck Community College to be designated as an official Military Friendly School. This honor has been achieved every year since 2009. This honor ranks Asnuntuck in the Top 15-20% of all colleges and universities nationwide as a Military Friendly School. On Friday, March 6, 2020, ACC hosted a “No Wrong Doors” event in conjunction with the Farmington Valley Health district and the Resilience Grows Here organization. Over 60 college and community members participated in this day-long training on issues related to veterans. The day featured discussions on topics such as emerging trends in in veteran services, burn pit and anthrax vaccine information, and PTS/TBI impacts on student veterans. Additionally, attendees were able to engage in a veteran student panel and participate in an optional QPR (Question, Persuade, and Refer) suicide prevention training.
- The solar panel canopy project was completed in May 2020. This newly constructed carport is approximately 150 feet by 130 feet constructed over 59 existing parking spaces and supports a solar panel array of 864 modules that will reduce energy consumption and decrease operating expenses.
- In conjunction with the CSCU System Office, a \$1.5M project addressed concerns related to mold remediation and indoor air quality. A team approach is being utilized for this project involving six separate vendors – Innovative Environmental, Air Temp Mechanical, vanZelm Engineers, ATC, TRC, and AAIS – to provide services for abatement, mechanical services, engineering, air/water balancing and testing. This project covers inspection and corrective actions as required. To date the mechanical systems serving rooms on the North corridor from the Lobby to the Library and areas on the South/East portion of the building have been corrected.
- A new First Year Experience Dual Enrollment Program partnership was established with CREC Civic Leadership HS. Building off the value CLHS found in ACC’s on campus High School Partnership Program, ACC launched the FYE Dual Enrollment Program with CLHS where all members of the senior class enroll in an FYE course taught by ACC instructors at the high school. Three sections of FYE were held in the fall 2018 and fall 2019 semesters, serving nearly 70 of their students each semester, which is mostly comprised of a demographic that is more racially and economically diverse than the state with a significantly high minority enrollment, and many of whom are potential first-generation college students. These seniors were able to gain valuable college-readiness skills and learn about the resources that will assist with their transition to college.

Additionally, ACC also offered Public Speaking to selected seniors at CLHS in spring 2020 as part of this partnership. CREC is funding the program through a 3-year grant.

- Asnuntuck Community College’s Phi Theta Kappa Chapter, Alpha Lambda, Zeta, received many International awards and honors:
 - Distinguished Chapter Officer: Victoria Orifice
 - Distinguished Regional Coordinator: CEO Michelle Coach
 - Distinguished College Project Award (one of 51 awards)
 - Distinguished Honors in Action Project Award (one of 51 awards)
 - Distinguished Honors in Action Project Theme Award (one of 3 chapters for theme 3)
 - Distinguished Chapter Award (one of 37 awards)
 - Victoria Orifice has been named the International Vice President for Division 1. <https://hallmarkawards.ptk.org/international-officers/>
 - Asnuntuck Community College was awarded fourth place for the Most Distinguished Chapter in the world. <https://hallmarkawards.ptk.org/most-distinguished-chapter-finalists/> There are about 1300 chapters across 9 nations.

CAPITAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- On the campus CCC expanded relationships with employers at a restructured career development center at its School of Workforce & Continuing Education. The L.E.A.D. (Leadership, Excellence, Achievement and Development) Center opened as a one-stop place for prospective students to secure “a first job or a better job” and to build on strong paid internship and apprenticeship programs in the insurance industry and clinical practicums in health care and nursing.
- Under the auspices of the Chief Executive Officer and grant support, the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Center (EDI) also formally opened where college departments and community partner agencies work collaboratively to serve, educate, empower and support members of the college community and to improve retention and persistence.
- Capital became an education partner to the Hartford Working Cities challenge initiative funded by the Boston Federal Reserve and Catholic Charities’ Kresge Foundation funded Boosting Opportunities for Social and Economic Mobility for Families (BOOST) project to promote youth employment and to deliver training and transition services in Hartford neighborhoods.
- The Hartford Heritage Project, Capital’s place-based learning initiative, continued despite a shortened season because of the college closure. Sixteen events engaged the college community in the arts and humanities (e.g. art gallery openings, actor visits and theater workshops, musical concerts, lectures) that drew approximately 2,500 students, staff, and faculty. Likewise, place-based courses were offered through the HHP at the Wadsworth Atheneum, the Bushnell Center for Performing Arts, the Old State House, and the Mark Twain and Harriet Beecher Stowe museums. For a third year the Liberal Arts Action Lab paired Capital students with Trinity College students focusing on urban issues and neighborhoods.
- When COVID 19 hit in March, the Capital campus responded in a number of ways. Our faculty converted all of their classes to an online format and our student affairs staff converted supports to a distance format so our students could complete their studies. Nursing and Health programs

donated personal protective equipment (PPE) to St. Francis and Hartford Hospitals for their front-line workers. Grant funds from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving and CCC Foundation to purchase computers for students that needed them and to provide them with short term emergency grants for basic needs. Dr. Cleo Rolle, the coordinator of CCC's biotechnology program and Dr. Adolfo Sanchez-Blanco, biology professor, put together a workshop for faculty, staff, and students on COVID 19 facts and information that became a YouTube video series for broadcast and community-wide dissemination.

- A successful summer bridge program for Fall 2019 bridged 30 incoming first generation students into Capital. A realignment and staff re-assignments for first-year advising led to more intense outreach provided to students registering, capturing 90% of first semester students for their second semester registration. New, smaller New Student Orientations (NSOs) to replace the "cafeteria style" large group sessions. The College received a Healthy Campus Initiative grant for opioid prevention. In response to the pandemic online student activities and services were accelerated with a centralized web page. In the transition to online more than 60 loaner computers were provided to students in need and the Capitals Cares microgrant fund provided financial support to students facing hardship.
- CO2 emissions decreased 32% and an 8% drop in energy use saved \$148,882. Lower parking costs at the Morgan Street Garage saved \$68,700. New signage and lighting enhanced the visibility of the 19-year-old downtown campus. New furnishings and scheduled renovations improved classrooms and meeting spaces at the Arthur C. Banks, Jr. Library and the School of Workforce and Continuing Education.
- During the 2019-20 academic year, college faculty developed or enhanced program curriculum in Biotechnology, Business Management, Computer Information Systems, Computer Networking and Cyber Security, Construction Management, Data Science, and Health Science. In addition, the Nursing Program implemented a new concept-based curriculum, the Radiologic Technology Program opened a new Advanced Medical X-Ray lab, and the Paramedic Program acquired a new full-scale SimRig Ambulance Trainer lab. new instructional formats were also launched this year including live remote online (LRON) instruction, 8-week accelerated fall/spring courses, and fully online lab science courses.
- The Academic Success Center (ASC) expanded in-person and online support programs for students including a series of "College Success to Go" workshops that offered targeted instruction in academic skills mastered by successful students. New services include easy-to-access online "Tech Tips" workshops on navigating One Drive, college email, MyCommnet, Blackboard and online platforms required in courses; and "ASC 101" orientation sessions to help students learn how online tutoring works. ASC's College Academic Transitions (CAT) Program provided year-round support for students needing to improve their skills for placement and success in required English and math courses. Office of Higher Education funds from a state-wide PASS (Promoting Academically Successful Students) grant awarded enabled ASC tutors and staff partnered with advisors and counselors to provide targeted support to qualifying students on academic probation, greatly enhancing the communication and collaboration between the ASC and Student Services.
- The nursing and early childhood education programs, two of six nationally accredited programs, received re-accreditation from Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) and

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The College became a member of NC-SARA (National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements) in order to ensure academic compliance for out-of-state students; and the college became an approved Microsoft Technology Associate (MTA) testing site that enables Capital to proctor IT industry certification exams to students on-campus. Additionally, the college started local chapters of the Alpha Beta Gamma Business Honor Society and the Organization of Associate Degree Nurses (OADN) Alpha Delta Nu Honor Society.

- The College's nonprofit Foundation provided \$85,000 in grants in support of programs and initiatives including operating support for the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Center, a summer bridge program, the Capital Cares Microgrant Fund and 21st Century Endowment Fund supported faculty and staff projects. The Foundation raised funds for programs and scholarships at its 14th Changing Lives Gala where the College's Alumni Wall of Fame was launched. Students received more than \$90,000 in scholarships in 2019-2020 from Foundation donors and endowments. The College received \$392,000 in new grant funding from Travelers, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving and its donor advised fund, Eversource, the Connecticut Minority Advancement Program and the CT Health and Educational Facilities Authority (CHEFA). To expand child care center hours for the children of students a renewable federal grant of \$68,983 a year was awarded from the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) program.

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

- In one week, Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) pivoted from a primarily on-ground, comprehensive university with 10,262 enrolled students and five percent of its courses offered online, to successfully offering 100 percent of its courses online. Academic and student support services and administrative services moved to remote operation while prioritizing the health and safety of students, faculty and staff in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In January 2020 the University opened the Huang Recreation Center. The new 70,000 square foot facility was designed to meet the educational, athletic, recreational, wellness and social needs of the University community. Features include sport and multipurpose activity courts, an elevated wellness track, studio space, and exercise and fitness areas.
- The University broke ground on the new Engineering building in the fall of 2019. This four-story building will house much of the engineering academic departments, as well as mechanical, civil, electrical and robotics laboratories. Also included is an Innovation Design Center, student collaboration rooms, faculty offices, and classrooms.
- The University created the Circle of Care to support students facing food and housing insecurity. On May 5, 2020 a fundraising event for this initiative was held, and a significant contribution from the Eversource Foundation was secured.
- CCSU continued its involvement with the Travelers EDGE Scholars Program. Travelers contributes approximately \$475,000 per year to fund the program, which currently serves about 25 students each semester. Approximately 80 percent of the students in this program have GPAs in excess of 3.0, 65 percent of the students made the Dean's List (GPA 3.5+) in Spring 2020, and a few of these students have been continually named on the President's List. Graduation

rates have also remained high for participants. Due to its tremendous success, CCSU's program is recognized as the flagship university program by Travelers.

- The University awarded about \$2 million in privately funded scholarships to 1,396 non-athletic recipients. Another \$150,000 was awarded to 267 athletes.
- In September 2019, CCSU officially opened its eSports Center – the first facility of its kind at a public or private university in the state. The Center, equipped with Respawn gaming chairs, Dell Alienware Computers, Xbox, Nintendo and PlayStation consoles, a multimedia shout casting booth, and ADA-compliant tables and controllers, supports both academic and recreational eSports programs at CCSU. In the first year, the University saw over 20,000 student visitors to the eSports Center. CCSU fielded six varsity teams and numerous club-teams. In addition, the University provided six faculty grants which led to the development of courses that utilize eSports ranging from Computer Science Courses in “Serious Simulations and Gaming” to courses music, business, and construction management. The Center will also serve as the hub for research and development in emerging fields such as interactive media design and game development.
- After the start of COVID-19, CCSU made a strategic investment in technology to transform teaching and learning and support faculty and students who needed access to high-quality distance education. The University developed 35 HyFlex classrooms, four large auditorium spaces, and 30 specialty “lab” systems to support the development of HyFlex learning. HyFlex is a new modality that combines the best of both worlds, providing students the opportunity to learn in the classroom or fully online in the same class by using lecture capturing and broadcasting capabilities. These rooms will support the offering of more than 400 HyFlex courses in Fall 2020 to engage CCSU students.
- Following a year-long collaborative process, the *Strategic Plan 2030: Changing Lives, Building Communities; Central to Connecticut* was approved. On April 16, 2020 the Board of Regents (BOR) approved the new vision statement contained within the plan.
- In November 2019, the Center for Public Policy and Social Research and Governor William A. O'Neill Endowed Chair conducted a well-attended forum on “Overcoming Gender Pay Inequity in Connecticut.” Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz was a keynote speaker, and her office was involved in the forum planning. A wide range of speakers, panelists and moderators from all arenas – higher education, state government, advocacy organizations, business, labor and the legal profession participated. Students played key roles in forum planning, research and conduct, including serving as co-moderators for each panel discussion.
- CCSU developed a new financial aid packaging strategy integrating all scholarships, grants and other awards that students receive through the institution, the Foundation, and outside resources. Using a standardized formula to ensure equitable distribution, the University redesigned and developed a strategy to leverage both need- and merit-based financial aid. The new model was created to help the University to be more transparent, as well as to maximize enrollment and stay within budget parameters.
- The BOR granted approval for CCSU to deliver upper-division business courses online and on-ground at Tunxis Community College. This program will allow students completing the

Business TAP program at Tunxis to obtain their entire CCSU bachelor's degree with a major in management while at Tunxis campus.

- CCSU and banking technology firm COCC established an academic partnership to offer CCSU's Certificate Program in Business Leadership, designed specifically for COCC employees. The two-year cohort-based program leads to a certificate, and once completed, participants will have twelve graduate-level credits that can be applied toward the MBA program at CCSU.
- For fiscal year 2019-2020, CCSU faculty and staff submitted proposals requesting \$11,860,686, of which \$11,923,760 was awarded, reaching a record in the history of the institution.
- The University created the *Equal Access to Learning Program*, which provides a computer and quality internet service to students with financial needs.
- The Fiscal Division implemented the following technological solutions to enhance efficiency and improve customer service:
 - Creation of an online payment portal for part-time lecturers to pay for their insurance, automating an archaic paper check process that had been in existence for a significant time.
 - Implementation of ShareFile for the campus, vendors, and campus community, which allows vendors, students, employees, to upload sensitive data files, such as W-9s, ACH enrollment forms, payroll forms, etc., via a secure and encrypted PII site and transmission protocol.
 - Utilization of technology to issue ID cards, parking passes and U-passes to students via the email.

CHARTER OAK STATE COLLEGE

- Charter Oak successfully transitioned to working at home when the pandemic hit. The College decided it would work with the students individually to ensure that they were not impacted negatively in their courses or financially. As a result, the College issued \$67,000 in refunds for students to take courses in Summer 2020 or Fall 2020.
- Credit hours in FY20 are up for the second year in a row. Over the past two years, credit hours rose 11.5%, from 26,070 in FY18 to 29,075 in FY20. The increase in credit hours, stabilization of costs and the execution of the College's strategic plan have strengthened the competitive and financial position of the College elevating its financial reserves closer to a level consistent with accreditor and industry expectation.
- The College converted its Human Resources and Organizational Leadership concentrations to majors and also gained approval for an associate degree in paraprofessional studies.
- The College launched its Health Care Administration master's degree in Spring 20 with 20 students. It launched its RN to BSN degree in Fall 19 with 37 students, currently there are 79 students.

- The Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Office, with funding from the Foundation, granted 26 scholarships totaling \$5289.86 to students who collectively earned 95 credits for exams, credentials, and portfolios, effectively costing \$55.68 per credit hour earned and saving students the cost of tuition.
- Charter Oak, as part of its corporate outreach effort during the pandemic, started a webinar series called Always Learning to showcase its faculty. It not only has connected us with the corporate world, but it has kept us connected to our students and applicants.
- The Financial Aid Office saw a decline of 3.47% in financial aid applications, which was about 11% below the national trend line. The College awarded 182 community college tuition match scholarships, an increase of 97 over last year, saving the students \$520,354.
- Charter Oak celebrated 46 years of serving adult students and its 21st graduation of participants in the Women in Transition (WIT), a program that assists low-income single mothers earn a college degree with no or minimal debt. In fiscal year 2019/2020, we served 23 women and graduated 15 and awarded a total of \$76,000 In partnership with the COSC Foundation; grant funding was received from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, the Widows' Society, and the Leipold Foundation, totaling \$78,000.
- The Charter Oak State College Foundation, committed to assisting Charter Oak students achieve their academic and career aspirations, provided \$117,189 to over 194 students in the form of scholarships, grants, and student crisis and emergency funding. In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic the Foundation started a Charter Oak Cares emergency relief fund and sent \$40 visa gift cards to students who were financially impacted by the pandemic, sending out almost \$2,000 in just 2 weeks.

EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

- Eastern was ranked as the top public regional university in New England in U.S. News and World Report's 2020 "Best Colleges" rankings.
- The University was also ranked in U.S. News and World Report's 2020 "Best Colleges" rankings as the "best value" public regional university in New England based on academic performance and affordability.
- The University advanced or completed critical institutional initiatives in 2019-20, including (1) the completion of the 2020 Strategic Plan to guide Eastern's next five-year operational cycle; (2) the completion of the work of the Employability Council to enhance the career readiness and competitiveness of Eastern graduates, including the identification of employability liaisons in each academic department; the expansion of applied learning opportunities; and other employability supports; and (3) the completion of the University's reaccreditation Self-Study in preparation for a 2020-21 site visit by the New England Commission on Higher Education.
- The Liberal Arts Core Learning Outcomes Revision Committee completed its work to refine and identify five new learning outcomes for Eastern's liberal arts core, including the creation of assessment rubrics that will measure and evaluate student learning in the core curriculum. This

summer, Eastern received a two-year, \$245,000 grant from the Davis Educational Foundation to help implement the new learning outcomes, and is a participant in a Lumina Foundation grant on Employability.

- Eastern was named a Green College by the Princeton Review for the 10th consecutive year.
- Eastern’s two Barnard Scholars included biology major Evelyn Lema ’20, who begins a research program at Stanford University this fall in preparation for a career in medicine, and Stefanos Stravorvadis ’20, who begins his Ph.D. program in microbiology at the University of Massachusetts–Amherst this fall.
- New academic programs include new concentrations in the New Media Studies major and two new majors approved by the Board of Regents: Anthropology and an interdisciplinary Data Science major. Both majors connect to potential career pathways with Connecticut’s community colleges.
- In 2020, Eastern won the Little East Conference’s Commissioner’s Cup—for overall athletic team performance—for the fourth year in a row and won the LEC’s Presidents’ Cup for best cumulative GPA among its athletes for an unprecedented fifth time.
- The ECSU Foundation raised close to \$1.5 million despite the pandemic; the #WarriorsGive campaign during the month of November 2019 was the fourth such annual campaign and yielded \$92,000 from 322 donors. To further support students with unmet financial need, the Financial Aid Office awarded \$6.5 million in merit scholarships and \$18.9 million in need-based aid, including \$8.1 million in Pell Grants.
- Eastern graduated its first cohort of “Opportunity Scholars” in May 2020. Of the 47 students who enrolled in fall 2016, 45 graduated in May or will graduate by this December, a 96% four-year graduation rate. The May graduates had a 3.5 average GPA. This program, funded by TheDream.US, a Washington, D.C.-based foundation created by Donald Graham, former publisher of the Washington Post, provides financial scholarships for undocumented students who are not able to attend public universities in their home states.
- Shafer Hall, built in 1946, was completely renovated for residential use, housing approximately 90 students. It reopened in August 2019.
- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the University sent students home on March 13. Within 10 days, faculty were prepared to offer the balance of the semester online. More than 1,500 course sections were offered, more than 850 telecounseling sessions were delivered, and the 20th annual on-campus research conference took place virtually. More than 1,200 students graduated during the May 19 Virtual Commencement ceremony.

GATEWAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- In October 2019, Gateway Community College received a Childcare Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) grant of \$ 106,000/year for up to four years from the U.S. Department of Education for Gateway’s NAEYC-accredited Early Learning Center. This grant helps to provide scholarships for Gateway student-parents to reduce their childcare costs while helping to retain

the parents in college. In addition, this grant also enabled the Early Learning Center to expand its hours into the evening. These extended hours enabled student-parents to complete necessary courses to help them graduate while providing a safe place for their children while their parents are in class.

- The college developed a new course, HUM 115 - Arts & the Community, that will be offered collaboratively with the New Haven Arts & Ideas Festival. Selective admission is done through the New Haven High Schools and the Arts & Ideas leadership. The course is 4 credits – 3 lecture hours in the spring semesters and 1 credit for an internship in the summer months during the actual Arts & Ideas Festival both under the supervision of the Arts & Ideas instructor. The college also established partnership with area arts organizations, including Long Wharf Theatre and the New Haven Symphony, in order to provide students with greater access to these community through reduced pricing for students. The opportunities for students to engage in arts activities in the community were marketed extensively across the campus as a result of these partnerships.
- In Fall 2018, Gateway and New Haven Public Schools launched the Gateway to College program at GCC with 50 students. The Gateway to College program is designed to help 16- to 20-year-old students who have left high school without earning a diploma to return and earn their high school diplomas while simultaneously earning college credit. In January 2019, the program had its first three graduates. In December 2019, the program graduated 12 high school students and in June 2020, a total of 26 students successfully completed the Gateway to College program. In July 2020, another 5 students were expected to graduate bringing the total graduates in AY 2019-2020 to 43 students!
- The Step Forward programs at Gateway Community College offer young adults with various disabilities a two-tiered comprehensive transition program designed to enhance self-advocacy, interpersonal skills, financial literacy, study skills and work readiness. The program began in 2005 and has worked with young adults (18-21) from across the state of Connecticut. Students work within a cohort model where they receive individualized attention through case management. Students attending the program are funded by their school district and are receiving special education services through an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). The 2019-2020 Step Forward Program served 19 students from 12 school districts and 8 students continued higher education or vocational program, including one transfer to Albertus Magnus and 5 attending GCC full-time.
- Yale University Hiring Initiative with GCC and New Haven Works got off the ground for Fall 2019 semester. Students who complete the program earn the Business Professional with Customer Service Certificate. The completion rate for 2019-2020 approached 87%: we started with 8 students and 7 graduated in January 2020, and we enrolled 7 students for Spring 2020 and 6 completed by July 2020.
- In the Spring 2020 semester, University of Bridgeport entered into a formal transfer articulation agreement in Medical Laboratory Sciences with Gateway, Housatonic, and Norwalk Community Colleges of the CSCU Shoreline-West Region. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the official signing took place in July 2020.

- In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the worked to identify and procure specialized PPE, and implemented numerous measures to bring classrooms, offices and shared spaces into compliance with social distancing requirements. We upgraded our PeopleSoft software to maintain accurate counts of individuals occupying campus buildings and developed an online process for generating College ID Cards. The Educational Technology department trained close to 200 faculty to use WebEx to simulate the classroom learning environment, and they continue to train faculty in the use of WebEx, Microsoft Teams and other programs that will enhance on-line teaching effectiveness. In addition, Student Affairs facilitated a seamless move of the division services to an online format, and has dramatically increased its capacity to communicate with and serve students.
- Also, during this unprecedented time, the Gateway Community College Foundation had three rounds of laptop scholarships granted to students in need of technology assistance to help them navigate the new normal of online learning. Community partners provided much needed funding and to date, over 375 Laptop scholarships have been awarded. These necessary scholarships have made the difference for our students, many of whom did not previously have this technology on hand, and it is helping them to complete their coursework and stay on their educational path towards their Associate Degree and/or Certificate. In addition to other donors, this program included a \$26,000 grant/partnership with Yale University.

HOUSATONIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Housatonic Community College would like to recognize the entire IT Department in their valiant effort to support Faculty, Staff and Students in the jump to “light speed” online learning. Beginning on March 10, the HCC IT Department stepped up to an unknown challenge to aid any and all requests in providing IT support to all in need. Fantastic job by all!
- During Fall 2019-Summer 2020, the Housatonic Community College Foundation raised nearly \$1 million and supported over 1,000 students through scholarships, book funds, emergency awards, and academic enhancement programs. A few highlights include the following:
 - FESP (Family Economic Security Program) completed its fifth year on the HCC campus as a model wrap-around support initiative focused on student retention and success. To date, of the 413 that have participated in FESP, 156 graduated, 63 transferred and the remaining students are still in the program at HCC. Of note, 75.8% of the students have persisted at HCC which is a much higher rate than the general population of students.
 - HCC Foundation rapidly responded to students impacted by the pandemic through securing nearly \$80,000 in emergency funds for grocery gift cards, rent and utility payments and chrome books.
- The Housatonic Museum of Art received a collection of photographs by a renowned Sports Illustrated photographer valued at just over \$1 million. An exhibit will showcase this collection in late 2021.
- Giving Day at Housatonic, a one-day giving event, engaged hundreds of students, faculty and staff through social media contests, on-campus activities and educational opportunities to learn

more about philanthropy and area non-profits. A total to \$35,000 was raised in 24-hours to support HCC students.

- Since January 2020, Housatonic Community College is the recipient of the Federal Grant – SAMHSA Garrett Lee Grant SPEAK (Suicide Prevention Education Awareness and Knowledge) to the amount of \$306,000 for 3 years (\$102,000 for each year): 2020 to 2023. The grant specifically supports programs, services, resources and training to:
 - Promote campus-wide mental health outreach through awareness, education, and resources.
 - Minimize social stigma, increase help seeking behaviors and develop peer connections.
 - Prevent suicide and severe substance abuse via out-reach programs and services including COVID-19.
 - Provide/offer prevention training for student peer leaders, faculty, and staff.
 - Build infrastructure and sustainability.
- In 2019, the Counseling and Wellness Center was awarded a continuation grant from the Connecticut Healthy Campus Initiative’s Campus (CHCI) Opioid Education and Awareness Program for the amount of \$20,000. Housatonic Community College was one out 18 colleges in the state of Connecticut who received this grant.
- The CHCI Opioid Education and Awareness Program is a part of the State Opioid Response (SOR) to the Opioid Crisis grant and is funded by the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) with support of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA).
- Each grant recipients developed an opioid and substance abuse prevention plan implementing educational and intervention services on the individual campuses. HCC facilitated the workshops and trainings for students, faculty and staff on topics related to substance misuse and addiction, medication safe storage and safe medication disposal, as well as opioid overdose and Narcan administration.
- In Spring 2020, Housatonic Community College partnered with the Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR) and started the first HCC AI-Recovery Campus Group Meeting. Students, faculty and staff could drop-in and access support and information pertaining to recovery, sobriety, addiction and mental health from CCAR’s Certified Recovery Coaches.
- In March 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, HCC’s Counseling and Wellness Center transferred services to an online tele-health format where students could continue to access synchronous counseling and wellness services via video conferencing or via telephone.
- In an attempt to follow ethical standards, all counselors participated in tele-health training as well as training in utilizing the video conferencing platforms such as doxy.me, Microsoft Teams as well as WebEx for meetings with students. Counselors were assigned schedules to monitor department phones and any departmental inquiries via email.

- Counselors were also trained in new departmental protocol for servicing students online in compliance with the state of Connecticut and CDC COVID-19 quarantine and social distancing orders.

MANCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Presented face-to-face Diversity, Sexual Harassment, and Title IX training for all community college personnel on policy and legislation regarding diversity, affirmative action, sexual misconduct, and Title IX. 84 state employees attended. Also presented *Bringing in the Bystander*, a national training program on sexual harassment and assault prevention, as part of the SAFE grant.
- MCC served as a pilot campus for the implementation of the Alma automated fulfillment network for the college library. The fulfillment network was implemented for all CSCU institutions in January 2020. This project resulted several usability improvements to the requesting of library materials owned by other CSCU institutions, both for library patrons and staff.
- The Academic Support Center recruited four new volunteer tutors this year: Two professional-level tutors in the Writing Center, one peer tutor in the Writing Center, and one professional-level in the Walk-In Math Lab.
- Implemented improvements to online installment plan functionality which provides students the ability to more effectively manage their tuition installment plans and allows the college online capability to efficiently invoice and track these payment plans.
- Realized over \$30,000 in annual savings from the solar energy initiative. Completed several key deferred maintenance projects including the recommissioning of the HVAC systems on the south side of campus, the design of dedicated Air Conditioning units for IT closets which will extend technology system life and provide energy efficient operations, and completion of the roof and building envelope for the AST Building designed to extend useful life.
- Expanded and enhanced our VDI core infrastructure to support over 75% of end-user computer requirements. Supported the college through the COVID-19 pandemic with remote technology requirements, technical support, core systems maintenance and training, and remote deployments.
- MCC was awarded a second 7-year GEAR UP grant, with funding over \$25 million, in partnership with East Hartford Public Schools.
- Faculty Hires in Biology, Early Childhood Education, Manufacturing, English. Division Directors in STEM and SBP returned to faculty and Liberal Arts DD was appointed to faculty position; responsibilities were moved to Academic Associates and Academic Dean. Associate Dean of Faculty hired
- Provided workforce development education in these areas: Pharmacy Tech (2 cohorts); Pre-Manufacturing (2 cohorts); Real Estate Certification (2 cohorts); Advanced Manufacturing (2 cohorts); Medical Office Assistant.

MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Middlesex, Manchester, and Naugatuck Valley Community Colleges received a seven-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education to implement Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (“Gear Up”) initiatives with partner school districts. MxCC was awarded \$4.5 million, which will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the college, the MxCC Foundation, and the Meriden Public Schools, to provide intensive services to over 550 students from 7th grade until their first year in college. The services, which are free to participants, focus mainly on academic success, mentoring, college readiness and exposure, career exploration, and college financing.
- For the first time in its 50-year history, the MxCC Radiologic Technology program has a fully energized teaching lab dedicated for the use of program students and faculty. The Connecticut Health & Education Facilities Authority (CHEFA) awarded a \$72,000 grant to MxCC to purchase equipment toward completing a major renovation of the college’s Radiologic Technology clinical teaching lab housed at Middlesex Health in Middletown. This grant was matched with college capital bond funds and physical renovation and infrastructure improvements completed by Middlesex Health.
- The Center for Prison Education partnership between MxCC and Wesleyan University continues to attract regional and national attention. Seven women at the York Correctional Institution earned MxCC associate degrees during Commencement exercises held at the Niantic facility in December. Campus CEO Steven Minkler joined colleagues from Wesleyan and Bennington College to present best practices in prison education programs as part of a workshop held during the Annual Meeting of the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) in December. U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy visited York Correctional in February to meet with MxCC students and faculty, while senior staff in U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro’s office sought information that was incorporated in a bill that would fully restore Pell grants to incarcerated students.
- More than 50 students and staff members volunteered in the local community on November 22, 2019. Dubbed as the first “MxCC Day of Service,” they raked yards, restocked shelves, moved furniture, painted walls, washed tables, cleaned windows, and many other tasks at seven nonprofit facilities. These included ABC Women’s Center, Cat Tales, Gilead Community Services and Russell Library in Middletown; Ädelbrook and Middlesex Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Cromwell, and the Meriden Soup Kitchen.
- For the second year in a row, MxCC took home the Best College Award from the Meriden Record Journal Readers' Choice competition at a recognition ceremony held October 9, 2019.
- The Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM) awarded Initial Accreditation to MxCC's Health Information Management (HIM) associate degree program—the only nationally accredited HIM associate degree program in Connecticut.
- Middlesex Community College and the MxCC Foundation launched the “MxCC Cares Fund” to support students affected by the COVID pandemic. In five months, the fund raised \$15,000 and

added a major sponsor in Stop & Shop, which donated \$5,000 in gift cards. These were distributed to student shoppers of the college's food pantry The Magic Food Bus, which closed from March through August when the campus was shuttered due to COVID.

- The MxCC chapter of the international honor society Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), Beta Gamma Xi, continued to earn regional and national honors for excellence as a chapter and among individual student members. Awards received this year included Most Distinguished Chapter Member (first place), Regional and National; Honors in Action Distinguished Theme Award (second place) (Theme 8: World of Work); Five-Star Level Award for Five-Star Chapter Plan; REACH Reward Chapter; New Century Workforce Pathway Scholar (Abigail Ingalls); and All-Connecticut Academic Team (Joshua Budney, John Guillamon, Abigail Ingalls).
- The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) proudly announced that MxCC Professor of History, Dr. Victor Andres Triay, was selected for an Honorable Mention (Local History category) by the AASLH's Leadership in History publication awards committee for the book, *The Mariel Boatlift: A Cuban-American Journey*. The AASLH Leadership in History Awards, now in its 75th year, is the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history. *The Mariel Boatlift* presents the stories of Cuban immigrants to the United States who overcame frightening circumstances to build new lives for themselves and flourish in their adopted country.

NAUGATUCK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- NVCC became the first community college in Connecticut to award a total of more than 1,000 associate degrees and certificates in 2012. Despite the challenges that the COVID-19 presented, this achievement was repeated for the ninth year in a row in 2020 when NVCC conferred 1,041 awards. Since Fiscal Year 2007-2008, the College has seen a 95% growth in the number of graduates, a 133% increase in the number of male graduates, and a 581% increase in Hispanic student graduates.
- The NVCC Center for Early Childhood Education received another Waterbury School Readiness Grant as well as a CCAMPIS grant (Child Care Access Means Parents in School program). The CCAMPIS grant provides funds eligible NVCC students' children to attend the Center for free.
- NVCC was awarded \$150,000 to support the Promoting Academically Successful Students (PASS) program. The program is an initiative of the Minority Advancement Program (MAP) at the Connecticut Office of Higher Education to address students of color who are placed on academic probation and need additional support to redress their academic standing.
- CT Health and Educational Facilities Authority (CHEFA) awarded NVCC the FY2020 John Biancamano grant of \$71,662 to support the Danbury Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center.
- NVCC is one of three Connecticut community colleges collaborating with local public schools to implement the seven-year, \$25.8 million GEAR UP grant from the U.S. Department of Education. NVCC will work with the Waterbury Public School system to support approximately

1,200 students in seven middle schools starting in seventh grade to increase the number of low-income students prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. Through this alliance, students from high-need areas will receive early college awareness and support activities like tutoring, mentoring, academic preparation, financial education, and college scholarships to improve access to higher education for low-income, minority and first-generation students and their families.

- The NViSiON program of the five-year NSF-STEM grant provided STEM students with over \$25,000 in scholarships during the regular 2019-2020 academic year, with another \$3,200 distributed to support summer 2020 coursework.
- Professor Sandra Valente was awarded a \$20,000 grant for the 2019-2020 academic year for the CT Healthy Campus Opioid Awareness and Education grant program through DMHAS and Wheeler Clinic. This is the third year Dr. Valente has received this grant and she has implemented various educational activities, conferences, NARCAN trainings and developed and distributed resources and pamphlets to address addiction/mental health treatment, and prescription disposal. In addition, Dr. Valente organized a conference, *Social Recovery in an Age of Isolation: Trauma, Addiction and Connection* held on campus on November 22 that highlighted our need for social connection, the impact of ACES and its contribution to later onset of mental health and addiction issues and addiction among the LGBTQ community.
- Under the leadership of Professor Chris Tuccio with the assistance of Michael Schwartz, the NVCC Horticulture program won several awards at the 2020 CT Flower Show in Hartford including the highest honor awarded: Excellence in Design from the CT Horticulture Society. The Horticulture program also won: Most Educational Landscape, Most Environmentally Sensitive Landscape, and Best Fulfillment of Intent at the show.
- The NVCC Foundation Board of Directors, in collaboration with President De Filippis, established the NVCC Foundation COVID-19 Student Emergency Fund to assist NVCC students struggling with financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The fund helped students meet their immediate needs during the crisis. The NVCC Foundation allocated \$30,000 to support this initiative. A community fundraising appeal raised over \$25,000, for a \$55,000 total to support NVCC students with emergency support during the pandemic.
- The *Washington Monthly* magazine ranked NVCC 25th in 2019's "Best 2-Year Colleges for Adult Learners." This guide is based on the contribution to the public good that colleges make in social mobility, research, and service.
- The Connecticut Society of Professional Journalists honored NVCC's student newspaper, *The Tamarack*, with six *Excellence in Journalism* awards in the Collegiate Division of its 2020 contest. The award-winning newspaper had received five *Excellence in Journalism* awards in 2019, and six in 2018. This most recent set of accolades marks another milestone for the paper.

NORTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Northwestern received the highest ranking among Connecticut's community colleges for the fourth consecutive year by the website Wallethub.com. Rankings are based on three key criteria: Cost and financing, educational outcomes, and career outcomes. Additionally, Northwestern was identified as the number one ranked community college in the country for having the lowest

student-loan default rate, which was stood at zero percent.

- Northwestern and Western Connecticut State University signed a memorandum of understanding agreement establishing an opportunity for WCSU students seeking a Bachelor of Business Administration degree who reside in the northwest corner an opportunity to attend their classes at NCCC without having to commute to Danbury. It is the first time since the University of Connecticut closed the Torrington campus that students will have an opportunity to attend baccalaureate classes in the region.(The program was scheduled to start Fall 2020 but has been temporarily postponed due to the pandemic.)
- Northwestern was ranked among the best Nursing Schools in New England by Nursing School Almanac; rating #55 in the New England region out of more than 3,000 total institutions ranked overall. Ranking criteria included; academic prestige and perceived value, the breadth and depth of nursing programs offered, and student success, particularly on the National Council Licensure Examination - Registered Nurse (NCLEX-RN). Over the past eight years, NCCC graduates have achieved a strong 91 percent first-time pass rate on the exam.
- Last fall, Northwestern Connecticut Community College launched its new Data Science Degree and Certificate programs and students in The Capstone Research Project Course got the opportunity to apply their newly acquired knowledge using a real-world problem that combines business marketing and data science statistics. Professors. Stacey Williams and Crystal Wiggins used the Capstone Research Project platform to have students work with a start-up company, HealthLynxIQ to solve actual business problems that the company was facing. During the project, students vetted the company’s business model, focused market segment and barriers to adoption by engaging their team, researching the area, and analyzing real data to produce a set of recommendations. Professor Crystal Wiggins, faculty advisor for the Data Science portfolio at NCCC, said that this Capstone Research Project mimics an internship, where students learn to interact in a business setting, manage deadlines, produce technical documents, and think critically to find solutions. At the end of the course, students produced a report with their solutions and presented it to their client.
- In an effort to make a difference and to help alleviate the existing shortage of Personal Protective Equipment and supplies in the fight against the growing spread of the COVID-19 disease, the Science, Nursing, Allied Health, Art and Veterinary Departments of Northwestern Connecticut Community College voluntarily donated supplies to Charlotte Hungerford Hospital (CHH) and Trinity Health of New England EMS, both located in Torrington. A large quantity of gloves, surgical masks, respirator masks, surgical gowns, surgical duckbill masks, goggles and applicator swabs were delivered to Charlotte Hungerford Hospital, while Trinity Health of New England EMS received respirator masks, nitrile gloves and examination gowns. CHH responded with gratitude to the NCCC community since it had been facing a critical shortage of the donated items. Employees of Trinity Health, via video, expressed their appreciation for the much-needed PPE materials.
- In an effort to help alleviate the state’s need for personal protective equipment (PPE), Northwestern Connecticut Community College’s National Science Foundation (NSF) Advanced Technological Education (ATE) Grant Project, ***Engaging Students from Classroom and Campus to College and Technical Careers***, provided students with the opportunity to apply

their technical skills and knowledge, usually gained during an internship and industry interactions, in making face shields for health care workers. Six students, along with their Math and Engineering Professor, Dr. Douglas Hoffman, and Biology Professor and principal investigator, Sharon Gusky, made up the “Print Platoon”. Through the dedicated efforts of the “Print Platoon”, the following area health care workers, fire departments and first responders received face shields: Foothills Visiting Nurses Association (5), Norwalk Hospital (46), Charlotte Hungerford Hospital (134), Hartford Fire Department (50), Bristol Hospital (6), Starling Oncology (15), St. Francis ICU (60) and several local EMS systems operating from New Hartford to Colebrook to Norfolk have received 46 face shields.

- Northwestern Connecticut Community College hosted a Virtual Open House Week from Monday, April 20 to Friday, April 24. On Monday, April 20 prospective students and families logged in to learn about Admissions, PACT, and FAFSA, as well as Team Success Scholars, Student Activities and more. The following evenings, faculty were available to share information about our Academic Programs. Attendees were able to ask questions in real-time and learn all about NCCC.
- President Michael Rooke compiled the videos and photographs and produced Northwestern Connecticut Community College’s Virtual Graduation 2020 Ceremony. The video included student speeches and special speakers such as Governor Ned Lamont, Board of Regents Chair Matt Fleury, CSCU President Mark Ojakian, JoAnn Ryan, member of the Board of Regents, Brian Mattiello from Hartford Healthcare and Dean Dave Ferreira, all invited to deliver a congratulatory message. There were quite a few students who submitted a video clip or a photograph, and a healthy number of faculty and staff participated as well. In a subsequent interview, President Rooke paid homage to the 162 graduates, “This year’s graduates exemplify the grit and determination of our students. This was undoubtedly one of the most difficult semesters in the College’s and the Nation’s history, and many of our students have had to navigate losing their jobs, not having enough to live on or enough food, having family members get ill or worse, and on top of that they have had to complete their courses and maintain good grades in order to get to this point. I am in awe every year of what our students achieve, but this year especially.”
- Northwestern was awarded a \$30,000 grant; \$10,000 each year for three years, from Northwest Community Bank to support Team Success Scholars (TSS), Northwestern's highly accomplished college success program. TSS students hold higher grade point averages, stay in college, and graduate sooner than non-TSS students. TSS is primarily supported through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), whose funds are administered through the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board. The grant allows the program to serve more students beyond those eligible under WIOA, many facing barriers such as poverty, homelessness, disabilities, and English language fluency.
- Northwestern was awarded a \$15,000 grant from the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation, the Covid-19 Rapid Response Fund and the Neighbor to Neighbor Fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. The grant funds will be used to support and aid students who have been, and continue to be, affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Grant funds will be distributed through Northwestern's Student Emergency fund and is expected to help approximately 30 students in a variety of ways, which may include supplying grocery cards and

assisting with monthly living expenses, including technology expenses needed for online study due to the pandemic.

- Northwestern Connecticut Community College students, Joseph McElroy and Joseph Axiak, who were enrolled in the college's Data Science Program, have been offered summer internships with Los Angeles based, Objection Company, which conducts Review Fraud Detection. It identifies and disputes illegitimate online reviews in order to protect businesses and consumers against fake reviews. The two remote internships began on June 1, and ran for 12 weeks, 20 hours per week. Curtis Boyd, CEO of Objection Company guest lectured in Professor Crystal Wiggins' *Introduction to Machine Learning* course this past semester, and after meeting McElroy and Axiak, created the two internship positions for the students. The students are part of the *From Classrooms and Camps to College and Technical Careers* program, a National Science Foundation Grant-funded program at the college (NSF Award #1801062). Professor Wiggins, faculty advisor for the Data Science portfolio at NCCC exclaimed, "Internships in Data Science at the Associates' level are unheard of and revolutionary!"
- Northwestern Connecticut Community College announced that Robert Fecteau, a History student and member of the History Association, is the recent recipient of a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program is a program of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs with funding provided by the U.S. government, and is supported in its implementation by the Institute of International Education (IIE). "The applicant pool was highly competitive," the U.S. State Department affirms, making Fecteau's selection "an impressive accomplishment." Fecteau was awarded the scholarship to participate in a study abroad trip to Germany with Northwestern Connecticut Community College's Study Abroad program. The trip is scheduled to take place in June of 2021. As a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship recipient, Robert Fecteau will also engage in a service project following completion of the trip and looks forward to sharing what he has learned with the community.

NORWALK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

NCC Student Named a 2019 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholar

NCC Phi Theta Kappa student named Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholar. 42 year old NCC Student enrolled at NCC at the same time as her 20 year old daughter so that they could motivate each other to as the pursued the educational goals. On August 13, 2019 Norwalk Resident Tameeka Young received the honor of being selected from close to 900 applicants- and the Coca-Cola scholar.

The Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholarship Program helps new Phi Theta Kappa members defray educational expenses while enrolled in associate degree programs. Phi Theta Kappa is the national honor society for students enrolled in two-year colleges.

NCC launches NASA's Community College Aerospace scholars program

Norwalk Community College selected to offer NASA's Community College Aerospace scholars' program (NCAS). NCC will receive a \$25,000 award that will be made as part of the Connecticut Space Grant for fiscal year 2020. The goal of the program is to attract and retain more students in

STEM programs. Funds will be used to increase diversity in science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields.

NCC students will also have opportunity to participate in a four-day engineering design and robotics competition. This experience will connect NCC students early in their academic career to NASA content and experts in the STEM field. The NCAS will open the door for community college students to get a closer look at NASA's mission and research in preparation for their future STEM careers.

Congressman Jim Himes announces NCC to receive \$404,073 from Department of Education Grant

NCC will receive \$404,073 in aid to support TRIO. NCC Trio program serve NCC students from disadvantaged backgrounds with one-on-one tutoring, free courses, assistance in course selection, cultural events, as well as personal counseling, career, and transfer counseling.

Ribbon-Cutting for myPath on Oct. 10

NCC hosted a ribbon-cutting to announce myPATH, a new student success initiative and welcome students back to the redesigned West Main Street”.

myPATH is a grounding framework for a student's journey at Norwalk Community College. Students are encouraged to become the “owners of their own vision and agents for their own success.” PATH stands for:

(P) PLAN AHEAD for their academic, career, and financial success. Students connect with advisors, explore major & career interests, evaluate transfer opportunities, and learn about financial options.

A. **ACCESS RESOURCES** to strengthen their academic and leadership skills. Students learn with their peers, join student clubs, connect to campus services, and are called to be active in their education.

(T) THINK CRITICALLY about their community at NCC and beyond. NCC asks students to reflect on their experiences, connect with people from different backgrounds, build their support network, and always consider the source of their information.

(H) HEAD OUT confidently on their path to success. As they work toward their goals, students commit to their own success, create their future, inspire others to make a difference and stay connected.

Each of the areas contains connections and benchmarks to specific resources and offices that students can access as they move toward degree completion. NCC's retention rate increased 5 percentage points over the preceding year, indicating that NCC is moving in the right direction

This initiative is funded by a grant from the Title V Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program funded by the U.S. Department of Education. myPATH brings visual cohesion to the student support offices along West Main Street corridor and now offers a remodeled student learning commons.

NCC Physical Therapist Assistant Program

The physical therapist assistant program continues to have a 100% employment rate.

NCC NCLEX Pass Rates

NCC Nursing Program celebrates a 91% pass rate on the first attempt for NCLEX for 2019-2020 calendar year.

NCC Respiratory Care Program- First in the nation.

The RSP program will be the first in the country to host a virtual site visit for reaccreditation. There will be commissioners from COARC and other site visitors to observe the process for training purposes during the process of documentation/evidence review for standards and interviews with key personnel and NCC administration.

2020 Ranking NCC as one of the Best Colleges and Universities in Connecticut

EdSmart.org, a nationally recognized publisher of college resources and rankings, has added Norwalk Community College (in Norwalk, CT) to its 2020 ranking of Best Colleges and Universities in Connecticut.

EDsmart's ranking of the Best Colleges & Universities in Connecticut is the most comprehensive and well-rounded to date. The ranking includes only fully accredited schools. Rankings are based primarily on affordability, while also considering factors such as graduation and retention rates and post-graduation salaries according to NCES College Navigator reporting and post-graduation salaries according to College Scorecard.

NCC and Quinnipiac University Sign Transfer Agreement

Graduates of Norwalk Community College are now able to seamlessly transfer to Quinnipiac University under a new agreement. The agreement covers transfer students between the schools, honors students, dual-enrollment students and online students.

Under the agreement, Norwalk Community College graduates are guaranteed admission into a bachelor's degree program with third-year (junior) status at Quinnipiac once they graduate with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 and an associate degree in arts or an associate of science in business, nursing, computer science, criminal justice, allied health or from the college of technology engineering science. Norwalk Community College students also must satisfy all other Quinnipiac transfer admission requirements and requirements for the intended major.

While still at NCC, students can also take up to three Quinnipiac courses free of charge.

NCC & NCC Foundation completes first successful year of corporate mentorship program with Bridgewater Associates

Bridgewater Scholars programs provide corporate mentors to young women attending NCC.

NCC host Community Conversation on Gun Violence

NCC welcomed Congressman Jim Himes (DEM-4th District) to participate in a discussion with students, staff and community members on the importance of gun violence prevention and political participation. Himes is an active supporter of anti-gun legislation. He serves on the House Financial Services Committee and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. In 2009 and 2010, he served on the Homeland Security Committee. He was elected to Congress in 2009.

NCC Instructor organizes BLM Street Mural Event in Stamford

NCC instructor Valerie Cooper, organized Stamford BLM Street Mural Project. The mural project seeks to use protest art as a peaceful vehicle to stand against the systemic racism and injustice that African-Americans face in today's society.

Black Lives Matter Community Conversations In the wake of all of the racial unrest, NCC hosted weekly Black Lives Matter virtual forums. NCC faculty, staff and students had opportunity to log on weekly to engage in conversations on race, Being Black on campus, and maintaining your mental health during difficulty times.

“60 Minutes” Scott Pelley Visits NCC

Scott Pelley, the most awarded correspondent in the history of the “60 Minutes” television show and former anchor and managing editor of the CBS Evening News, visited NCC in October to talk about his storied career and sign copies of his new memoir, *Truth Worth Telling*. The event was sponsored by the NCC Foundation.

After his presentation, Mr. Pelley toured NCC's film and television studio, and met with students in the program. He shared with them helpful advice and words of encouragement for pursuing a career in the industry.

NCC Gives Back! NCC Donate PPE To Frontline Health Care Workers

Norwalk Community College's Allied Health programs and Science department donated Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to frontline health care workers caring for victims of the COVID-19 virus in Connecticut. NCC has donated 15,0000 medical gloves, 919 masks, and 130 gowns, and has lent three ventilators.

Free Citizenship Classes

NCC obtained a federal grant to offer free citizenship classes to 40 community members. Class included both NCC students and local community members.

NCC Receives award for Healthy Workplace

The College was named a Platinum Healthy Workplace Employer by the Business Council of Fairfield County and awarded Silver Level recognition by the American Heart Association's Work Place Healthy Achievement Index for investing in the health and well-being of its employees. NCC promotes physical activity, nutrition, and stress management through events, lectures and competitions to prevent disease and encourage healthy living.

NCC & National Science Foundation partner to increase number of women Engineering Program

NCC conducted workshops for HS counselors to discuss initiatives designed to increase women in STEM. The event ended with a presentation/workshop by Pamela Silvers, PI of the NSF ATE project "Skilled Workers Get Jobs 2.0: Appalachian Impact". The title of her talk was Helping Today's Students Find Their Place. The workshop discussed barriers for women to pursue careers in STEM and technical fields. The partnership includes funding to support programs, like the Women in Stem Speaker Series. One of the most popular events on campus, the series We continued our Women in STEM Speaker Series this year with two speakers. The Office of the CEO & NCC Center for Teaching hosted Dr. Cheryl Calhoun, Dean of Access and Inclusion at Santa Fe College, FL. The title of her talk was Broadening Participation—How Gender and Race Theory Informs Our Work, designed for an academic audience from all majors and departments. She spoke about gender

and race theory and how it can help the academic community in understanding the way underrepresented students pursue higher education. She presented a framework to identify systemic inequity around race and gender that can help the faculty and staff focus their efforts in areas most needed.

NCC Offers Café Dining Course

Back by popular demand, Norwalk Community College is offered a 3-credit Café Dining course that combines hands-on instruction in the college’s professional kitchen with work experience running an in-house “restaurant” for customers in the Culinary Arts Dining Room.

The 15-week course is offered only during the spring semester. The “restaurant” component of the course opens to the public midway through the semester.

“The course mimics a real world atmosphere in an ala carte café/bistro style restaurant. Emphasis is placed on student practical experience in all aspects of food service – ordering, production, menu planning and writing, pricing, point of purchase systems, quality control, marketing, customer service and team building skills,” said Justin Davis, an instructor in the Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management programs.

NCC FOUNDATION

The NCC Foundation- awarded over \$3 million in scholarships and college advancement programs for the 2019-20 academic year. 433 students were awarded scholarships, and 1,140 hours of mentoring and success coaching was provided.

NCC Foundation continues to support critical student success programs like Summer Bridge Intensive Math, the REAL Program for first-generation students, and workforce development initiatives through entrepreneurship and continuing education industry certification programs. During the COVID-19 pandemic the NCC Foundation donated over 200 laptops to and provided over 400 gift cards to students to purchase groceries and personal care items during the pandemic.

QUINEBAUG VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Lessened the negative impact of high textbook costs on student success by launching an initiative to purchase high-cost textbooks for high-enrollment courses, making those texts available for short-term loan as course reserves in the QVCC library.
- Initiated a hotspot-lending program to enable students lacking Internet access to complete their spring 2020 coursework.
- In collaboration with the IT Department, initiated a laptop-lending program to aid students in the transition to online instruction.
- Expanded the existing virtual library (e-resources) to include virtual librarians, providing direct, one-on-one assistance to students via text, chat, phone, and videoconferencing.
- QVCC hosted the Haas Technical Education Conference October 2019 with 75 attendees from New England Educational Institutions

- QVCC presented the 6th annual Manufacture Your Future event hosting 160 students from 11 area high schools for a morning of workshops and interacting with 25 area manufacturing businesses
- QVCC awarded \$11,680 from the Advanced Manufacturing Endowment Fund to students in scholarships 19/20
- Alumni Office has been doing a great job at outreach, relationship building to alumni body has led to increased opportunities for current students and sponsoring events such as: “Pancakes and Handshakes” a Career Fair and the creation of a Career Mentoring Program.
- QVCC Foundation provided over \$300,000 to QVCC students and programs which include: scholarships, block grants, ESL support and \$50,000 in funds for students impacted by COVID-19 to take and catch up on summer classes.
- QVCC was approved for a continuation on the Connecticut Healthy Campus Initiative (CHCI) grant in the amount of \$20,000 for a Campus Opioid Education and Awareness Program funded by the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) with the support of the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA).
- The funds from the CHCI grant, permitted QVCC to increase opioid awareness and education, decrease the stigma associated with mental health disorders and addiction, and build capacity to support the college community. During the 2019-2020 school year QVCC was able to provide mental health and opioid awareness/education trainings to staff, faculty, students, and community members, including Naloxone trainings; where, each participant received a Naloxone kit.

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

- Southern’s state-of-the-art Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) degree program earned full accreditation this spring by the American Library Association (ALA), earning it notoriety as the only accredited program of its kind in Connecticut and one of just three in New England. With an emphasis on technology, the program is designed not only to prepare professionals to implement and manage library and information services, but with COVID-19 shaping the way people interact with physical spaces, like libraries, it also will help future librarians steer the changing landscape.
- The product of a unique partnership with the City of New Haven and the city’s school system, the Barack H. Obama Magnet University School opened on Southern’s campus Jan. 7. The \$45 million, 64,000-square-foot school, at 69 Farnham Ave., is the first New Haven school teaching early education on a university’s campus, serving pre-K through fourth grade, with almost 500 students. The partnership will place Southern students pursuing a degree in education into Obama School classrooms, offering excellent opportunities for experiential learning.
- Asma Rahimyar, a junior at Southern Connecticut State University, has been awarded the prestigious Harry S. Truman Scholarship for her “outstanding potential for leadership, commitment to public service, and academic excellence.” Awarded by the Washington, D.C.-based foundation named for the 33rd president of the United States, this highly competitive

national scholarship was awarded to 62 outstanding students from 773 applicants nationwide and grants recipients up to \$30,000 for graduate studies. The first Truman Scholar in Southern history, and the first among the four Connecticut State Universities, Rahimyar has worked to promote equity, social justice, and inclusion both on and off campus. Post-higher education, she plans to take that courageous commitment worldwide, by practicing international human rights law.

- Southern will soon be training the next generation of nursing students using a healthcare simulation center that will closely mimic a hospital floor and enable students to visually review how they handled themselves in treating “patients.” That will be among the highlights of a new College of Health and Human Services building scheduled to be completed by fall 2021. The four-story, 94,750 square-foot brick building, which broke ground in March, 2020, will house most departments within the college. These include the departments of Nursing; Communication Disorders; Health and Movement Sciences (formerly Exercise Science); Public Health; and Recreation, Tourism and Sport Management. The building will provide students and faculty with additional classrooms, state-of-the-art teaching and training spaces, lecture halls, increased office space, collaborative spaces, a demonstration kitchen and modern human performance labs.
- Elliott Horch, professor of physics, was named a Connecticut State University Professor by the state Board of Regents for Higher Education, one of the most prestigious honors in the the Connecticut State Colleges and University System. Among his accomplishments, Horch developed a super-powered device for telescopes that enabled astronomers to snap photos of celestial objects many times clearer than had ever been taken. He was tapped by NASA to assist with the Kepler Mission – a project to find potential “new Earths” in the Milky Way Galaxy. And he has assembled a stellar teaching record and demonstrated a strong commitment to student success since he began teaching at Southern.
- Southern’s Department of Music hit one of its highest notes when it received accreditation from the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) and became one of just five schools in Connecticut to hold the prestigious distinction. Now the department, known for its excellence and innovative curriculum, is on chord to develop a new degree program in Music Therapy – the first in Connecticut.
- Southern’s Blue Economy project in Long Island Sound is gearing up to have a profound green impact. The Project Blue Hub, spearheaded by the Department of the Environment, Geography and Marine Sciences at SCSU, is the initial step towards creating a Blue Economy research, tech transfer and innovation hub in New Haven. By expanding the market for locally grown kelp and developing potential innovations aimed at the processing and marketing of kelp, the project will focus on the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved lives, and ocean ecosystem health.

THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- The Three Rivers College Foundation provided \$425,000 in funding for 174 student scholarships as well as providing summer scholarships to support students and to improve persistence and graduation rates.

- Three Rivers College Foundation held an annual golf tournament in September which raised \$42,959 and netted \$25,966. The total assets as of June 30, 2020 were \$6,109,500 in comparison with \$5,625,395 as of June 30, 2019.
- The Three Rivers College Foundation was recently awarded \$5,000 from the Chelsea Groton Foundation to support student tutoring. The College has migrated to an entirely online learning model due to Covid-19 which has created a shift in how students are educated. This learning change has been extremely difficult for many of our most vulnerable students who lack the necessary technology and have trouble successfully engaging in an online learning environment. The funds Chelsea Groton has generously provided will support high demand tutoring services so that students can stay on track to reach their educational goals.
- Three Rivers collaborated with Electric Boat to identify and deliver workforce and EWIB (Eastern Workforce Investment Board) training. Forty-one (41) classes and 711 students were taught through 2,607 hours of instruction. Over 500 students were served with \$898,035 in gross revenue and a net revenue of \$136,525.
- Three Rivers celebrated the opening of the new 8,500 square foot Three Rivers Manufacturing Apprenticeship Center (MAC) at Grasso Technical High School in Groton, Connecticut in October 2019. The MAC serves as the instructional facility for training future workers for Electric Boat's workforce.
- Three Rivers received a biennial approval of TRCC's Affirmative Action Plan that was submitted to the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities in June. The Plan met all the affirmative action hiring goals.
- Three Rivers completed the Civil Rights Compliance Review Audit report which was submitted in March 2020.
- Three Rivers became a member of Achieving the Dream (ATD), a national organization founded by Bill and Melinda Gates to promote diversity, equity and inclusion, the cornerstone of Achieving the Dream. To promote a greater understanding of student equity, a professional development day, facilitated by an external consultant, provided an interactive engaging workshop centered on student equity. Participants examined key terms for building collective knowledge, the environmental elements for organizational equity to thrive, what hinders equity change efforts, and selected strategic actions to advance equity for all. After this workshop on equity, a college-wide committee with five sub-committees was formed to address these issues on campus along with the creation of an Equity Newsletter.
- On June 13, 2020, due to COVID-19 guidelines to social distance, Three Rivers held its first virtual Commencement with approximately 450 graduates receiving degrees and certificates from home with family and friends. Most graduates submitted personal profiles and their photo in cap and gown that ran online concurrently with hearing their name read by President Jukoski and members of the Three Rivers Administration and Faculty. All 2020 graduates will be invited to attend Three Rivers 2021 Commencement as Alums and have the chance to make that "official walk-across-the-stage-moment."

- Three Rivers is now holding virtual open house sessions for prospective students of all ages to attend from the safety of their homes. These events provide prospective students with the opportunity to learn more about Three Rivers and the flexible, affordable college education we can offer. The open house format features speakers from a variety of departments. A financial aid session is offered to demystify the FAFSA process along with options to pay for college through grants, scholarships, and loans. Staff explain how full-time students can finish in just two years, earn an associate degree, and seamlessly move on to a bachelor's degree program as a junior. Attendees learn about the excellent faculty, career-forward programs, fully online programs, transferable credits, and the price tag that is the lowest in the state.
- Three Rivers Early Childhood Higher Education Program earned renewed accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children's (NAEYC) Commission in June 2020 and is one of only thirteen colleges in the nation to earn this renewed accreditation.
- Three Rivers announced the addition of a new certificate program, Data Analytics Certificate, in July 2020. Analytics is one of the most in-demand skills needed to drive strategic decision-making, and data analytic jobs are among the fastest growing and highest paid. Students in this certificate program will learn to gather and analyze data, as well as explore tools and techniques to make better recommendations. Employers will also find this certificate program the perfect way for their employees to gain data analysis skills. Whether learners have limited or no statistical background or work with data already, this certificate is designed to afford new knowledge and hone an industry skill set. The Data Analytics Certificate is designed to be completed in one academic year (two courses per semester).
- Three Rivers announced the new Dental Hygiene Transfer Compact with the University of New Haven. The Transfer Compact is designed to provide special opportunities for individuals who are seeking an Associate in Science or a Bachelor of Science Degree in Dental Hygiene from the University of New Haven.
- Three Rivers Assistant Professor of Nursing Cheryl Gilot was selected as a 2019-2020 Nightingale Award recipient in recognition for her work that has gone above and beyond the call of duty. The prestigious Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing was developed by the Visiting Nurse Association to celebrate outstanding nurses and elevate the nursing profession.

TUNXIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Tunxis and the CT College of Technology received a \$1 million National Science Foundation Award grant to establish a manufacturing resource center last fall to help colleges nationwide in attracting and educating students, and in advancing their manufacturing programs to meet the high demand for skilled workers in the next decade. The only one of its kind on the East Coast, the Next Generation Manufacturing Resource Center will increase the availability and variety of industry-driven advanced manufacturing curricula and resources that emphasize both technical and professional skills through a national network of partners and stakeholders. More: <https://www.tunxis.edu/news/tunxis-and-college-of-technology-receive-national-science-foundation-award-for-manufacturing-resource-center/>

- Tunxis announced a new building was purchased in January 2020 adjacent to campus which will become the college’s new Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center. The 44,000-square-foot former manufacturing building, built in 1968, was purchased by the state of CT for \$1.3 million, and sits on six acres at 21 Spring Lane in Farmington. Tunxis plans to renovate 10,000 square feet of the building initially for the college’s advanced manufacturing technology programs, which will expand the college’s manufacturing classroom and lab space, create training opportunities for advanced manufacturing, and allow room for future program growth.
- Tunxis Community College has been recognized as a **top-ranked best military-friendly college**, receiving the best online award by Intelligent.com for its accelerated online degree and certificate programs. The only public college in Connecticut to receive the honor, Tunxis is listed among 60 other competing public institutions across the nation. The student-focused research guide is based on an assessment of programs at 1,604 accredited colleges and universities which were evaluated based on curriculum quality, graduation rate, reputation, and post-graduate employment. Intelligent.com analyzed 224 programs on a scale of 0 to 100, with only 60 institutions making it to the final list, and Tunxis ranked at #31. The 2020 rankings are calculated through a scoring system which includes student engagement, potential return on investment, and leading third party evaluations.
More: <https://www.tunxis.edu/news/tunxis-ranks-among-top-military-friendly-colleges-in-the-us/>
- Tunxis hosted a second annual “**No Wrong Door**” event in February 2020, a day of training open to faculty and staff of all colleges in the region to explore better ways to meet student veterans’ needs as they pursue their studies and transition back into civilian life. The session included information on the impact of military service, veterans’ education benefits, PTSD, Veterans Affairs benefits and resources, a panel of student veterans and their perspectives, and QPR suicide awareness training. These and other topics were presented by experts from a number of organizations including the Connecticut National Guard, Veterans Affairs, Farmington Valley Health District and Tunxis. The event was the first in a four-part series of distinct topics on student veterans scheduled to be presented by three other CT community colleges in 2020, sponsored with Farmington Valley Health District. Ideas and information shared in the series will be used to develop a white paper that establishes a strategy for making positive changes to the student veteran experience across north central and western Connecticut in 2021.
More: <https://www.tunxis.edu/news/tunxis-hosts-event-on-serving-student-veterans/>
- Tunxis hosted the first [regional adjunct recruitment](#) event on March 5, 2020. Tables were set up by program/discipline and representatives from Tunxis, Asnuntuck, Naugatuck Valley and Northwestern staffed each table. More than 70 potential adjuncts attended.
- Campus CEO, Dr. Darryl Reome, was awarded the Phi Theta Kappa Paragon Award for new presidents. This award is given to new college presidents who have shown strong support of student success by recognizing academic achievement, leadership, and service among high-achieving students at their college.

Tunxis Foundation highlights:

- **2020 Student Scholarship Awards Ceremony and Commencement:** The Tunxis Foundation scholarship committee awarded over \$30,000 in scholarships to Tunxis students. In lieu of an in-person ceremony, the Foundation, along with the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs departments, co-produced a recognition video with the Tunxis marketing team.
- **George Floyd Memorial Scholarship:** In collaboration with the Foundation, created a scholarship named after George Floyd, representing the college's and Tunxis Foundation's commitment to help combat racial gaps and inequities in higher education.

WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

- In October 2019, WCSU signed an agreement with Northwestern Connecticut Community College (NWCC) which allows students to earn a WCSU bachelor's degree in business while taking the courses at NWCC, so they can earn both the associate and bachelor degrees at the NWCC campus.
- On November 2, 2019, Western Connecticut State University hosted the School for Visual and Performing Arts '*Night for the Arts.*' It was an evening celebration featuring performances and exhibits in art, music and theatre in tribute to global star and longtime Danbury resident Marian Anderson.
- WCSU's *Election Connection*, a live broadcast every fall on Tuesday evenings leading up to and including election night, placed in the top 4% of the nation's prestigious Broadcast Education Association's highly competitive media festival. This year over 1,750 submissions from colleges and universities internationally competed. WCSU students took 2nd place in the live Studio/Multicamera category.
- On February 18, 2020, two of our students, Elmar Barrios, a Nursing undergraduate student and Christina Donahue, a Master of Fine Arts student in our Writing Program, testified at the State Legislature's Appropriations Committee hearings. Each told their respective stories of how they achieved their goals and overcame the obstacles they encountered.
- With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic during this past Spring break, WCSU became a virtual university overnight. The university had to convert their entire instructional methodology to all remote, on-line courses. This entailed converting all courses to on-line instructing both students who had never taken an on-line courses to professors who had never taught courses on-line.
- Dr. Neeta Connally, Professor of Biological & Environmental Sciences, was the recipient of the Board of Regents 2020 System-Wide Research Award for the Connecticut State Universities. This award is given to recognize faculty from the state universities who are doing exceptional

research/creative work. Dr. Connally also received the Board of Regents Research Award for Western Connecticut State University.

- On June 12, 2020, WCSU hosted a peaceful protest march was held in the memory of George Floyd. This march was organized by various WCSU student organizations – Student Government Association, the Black Students Union, the Black Social Work Students’ Association and the African-Caribbean Students Association with full support from our faculty and staff.
- The new Higgins Hall opened for classes in Fall 2019 following a complete renovation that included flooring, ceiling-high windows and everything in between. Learning spaces in the 70-year-old building are designed to be flexible so that students can study individually or in groups, with the proper technology within easy reach to nurture cooperation and support.
- A Master of Science in Addiction Studies began in August 2019. The 37-credit program trains counselors in the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders. A nearly \$1.1 million federal grant will help expand internships and fund stipends for students, as well as promote outreach into the community.
- The WCSU Department of Art earned accreditation from the National Association of Schools of Art and Design after four years of work. The program is now one of five accredited art departments in the state. The department offers a Bachelor of Arts in Art with concentrations in graphic design, photography, painting or illustration, and a Master of Fine Arts in Visual Art.