



CONNECTICUT STATE
COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

At a Glance

MARK E. OJAKIAN, *President, Connecticut State Colleges & Universities*

Estela Lopez, *Interim Provost & VP for Academic and Student Affairs*

Elsa Núñez, *Vice President for State Universities*

David Levinson, *Vice President for Community Colleges*

Established – 2011

Statutory authority – Title 10a of the Connecticut General Statutes

System office – 39 and 61 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT 06105-2337

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 10/13/15)

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Dr. Jewel Mullen**
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*Student Regent **Ex-Officio, Non-Voting

Institution Presidents

James Lombella, President, Asnuntuck Community College
Wilfredo Nieves, President, Capital Community College
John W. Miller, President, Central Connecticut State University
Ed Klonoski, President, Charter Oak State College
Elsa Núñez, President, Eastern Connecticut State University
Dorsey L. Kendrick, President, Gateway Community College
Paul Broadie, President, Housatonic Community College
Gena Glickman, President, Manchester Community College
Anna Wasescha, President, Middlesex Community College
Daisy Cocco De Filippis, President, Naugatuck Valley Community College
Michael Rooke, President, Northwestern Connecticut Community College
David L. Levinson, President, Norwalk Community College
Carlee Drummer, President, Quinebaug Valley Community College
Mary A. Papazian, President, Southern Connecticut State University
Mary Ellen Jukoski, President, Three Rivers Community College
Cathryn L. Addy, President, Tunxis Community College
John B. Clark, President, Western Connecticut State University

Full-time employees (Fall 2015) – 5,600

Part-time employees (Fall 2015) – 5,446

Recurring operating expenditures: Operating Fund – \$590,324,775

General Fund – \$573,251,835

Building Value – \$2,955,335,932

Content Value – \$357,686,093

Total Student Enrollment (Fall 2014) – 91,184

Mission

The Connecticut State Colleges & 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.

About Connecticut State Colleges & Universities

- In the last two decades, CSCU institutions have conferred over 245,000 degrees and certificates.
- Connecticut State Colleges and Universities educate Connecticut students. More than 97% of CSCU students are Connecticut residents.
- With over 91,000 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.

Notes and Achievements in 2014-2015

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

In September of 2015 Mark Ojakian was appointed as President of the Connecticut State Colleges & Universities (CSCU) by the Board of Regents. President Ojakian's immediate objectives are to re-establish productive relationships with all of the organization's stakeholders. He began his tenure by visiting each of the campuses in the system to meet with faculty, staff and students. He is also in the process of meeting with a growing list of General Assembly members, business leaders, CSCU corporate partners, and reporters and editorial boards around the state.

Consistent with the organization's mission, the CSCU leadership team is focused in a laser-like way on achieving the objectives identified in the mission, and on meeting the future demands of the state's students and businesses. To do so, the team is continuing to enhance all of CSCU's educational programs, including core liberal arts and sciences that will challenge our students and expand their horizons (for learning and for life), workforce-based programs that will prepare our students for careers with Connecticut's businesses, and developing new programs that will stimulate economic growth for the state.

At the same time we are actively reviewing financial aid incentives to support low income students, offering dual credit programs to high school students in a number of career pathways so students can finish associate degrees sooner, and offering workforce programs in partnership with business and industry to help meet their needs going forward.

The Board of Regents for Higher Education and the CSCU leadership team are all fully committed to improving academic quality and the overall student experience this year and in the years to come. If we achieve this objective, we are confident we will contribute to a better Connecticut, by preparing our students to emerge as productive members of their communities.

ASNUNTUCK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Asnuntuck's Early Childhood Education program was recognized as a standard of excellence in the field, with students becoming eligible for the Early Childhood Teacher Credential from the State of Connecticut Office of Early Childhood in either Infant/Toddler or Preschool.
- In 2015, Asnuntuck opened a new 6,500 SF welding and fabrication center that will provide opportunity to, annually, 80 to 100 welders and fabricators to career positions in the aerospace and other manufacturing sectors.
- The U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women awarded a \$749,096 three year consortium grant to Asnuntuck Community College (ACC) as part of the government's Grants to Reduce Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking on Campus Program. ACC will serve as the lead institution for CSCU SAFE, the consortium grant that includes all 17 CSCU institutions and partners with the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, the Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund and CCADV and CONNSACS community partners.
- Asnuntuck received two major scholarship awards totaling \$25,000 from Pratt and Whitney and the Haas Foundation and raised an additional \$40,000 from the aerospace and manufacturing communities for Advanced Manufacturing Technology Students.
- *Military Times Edge* rated Asnuntuck Community College as one of the "101 Best Colleges and Universities for Veterans" every year from 2011 through 2015. Over 4,000 accredited institutions were invited to participate in this survey and Asnuntuck was selected based upon the services offered to our military and veteran students, ranging from programs, policies, resources, support services, and campus culture.
- ACC's Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center continued to build the 5th year program with the addition of Bloomfield and Granby school systems. The college this year is in five school systems and will impact more than one thousand middle and high school students with project-based learning in advanced manufacturing technology.
- Asnuntuck provided incumbent worker training and education services to more than 500 employees including 200 members of the Pratt and Whitney workforce. Programs and courses ranged from 20-hour metrology and geometric dimensioning and tolerancing to

seven week, 272 hour systems in CNC machining that insured employee transition to long-term, gainful employment.

- Asnuntuck provided more than 100 internships in the advanced manufacturing sector, the vast majority of which resulted in career employment opportunities after graduation from programs in machining, welding, electronics, and electro-mechanical technologies.
- Asnuntuck partnered with Capital Community College, Hartford Healthworks and the Biomedical Consortium (BEACON) to win a major competition to introduce new and innovative economic development programs in Hartford's north end. Asnuntuck will lead a consortium of colleges to establish an advanced manufacturing curriculum designed to impact 2,000 elementary, middle, and high school students starting in the 2016 school year. Asnuntuck, in conjunction with its partnering agencies, will establish a 20,000 square foot advanced manufacturing facility that will operate 14 hours daily to impact the aforementioned in-school population and men and women who are unemployed and underemployed and reside in the Hartford community. College partners include Capital CC, the U of Hartford and Trinity. Several national and international bio-medical industries are committed to the effort and interested in locating manufacturing facilities in the Homestead Avenue area.
- Via the use of creative cost-saving measures (e.g. consortium pricing, competitive quotes, etc.), ACC increased year-to-year vendor service savings by 22% in FY2015.

CAPITAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Capital Community College (CCC) was again designated a “leader college” by *Achieving the Dream*. The College is among a select group of two-year schools in the nation recognized for its efforts to reduce achievement gaps among educationally disadvantaged students. Under the leadership of the College’s Core Team, reforms and new interventions are continuing. The reforms and interventions focus on the development of a holistic based model to bridge educational gaps.
- The *Capital Community College Magnet Academy* was established and provides 11th and 12th graders the opportunity to earn their high school diploma and complete credits for an associate degree at the same time. There were twelve graduates in the founding class; all had completed at least one college course and all were going on to college.
- The SNAP-ET education program at the College provided 715 students receiving food stamps free workforce training in programs such as Administrative Medical Assistant, Community Health Worker, Culinary Arts, EMT-B, and Pharmacy Technician; 76% of these students successfully completed their program of choice earning a workforce development certificate and industry recognized credentials.

- Through funding from the Newman’s Own Foundation, the College’s Urban Farming Certificate and Nutrition Program has begun in the City’s Upper Albany area. The program is offered in partnership with the Center for Urban Research, Education, and Training (CURET), Knox Parks Foundation, and Hartford Food Systems. The pilot cohort has 25 students, exceeding the grant’s goal, with a waiting list of students interested in enrolling in the program.
- CCC, as part of the Northeast Resilience Consortium to aid workforce development grant from the Trade Assistance Act and the Labor Department, has expanded academic programs with a focus on veterans and dislocated workers making us more responsive to workforce needs and the state economy. The Resilience grant follows receipt of an earlier Labor Department grant for a Health Careers Initiative. New associate degree programs resulting from these initiatives include Biotechnology and Cybersecurity.
- Capital Community College for the third consecutive year received a Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award. The award demonstrates consistent efforts and activities at CCC that promote respect for different cultures and traditions and embraces diversity as a strength in teaching and learning.

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

- The Endowment reached an unprecedented high of \$63 million, and over \$1,020,000 was awarded in privately funded scholarships to 547 students. This represented a 30+% increase in dollars, and a 20+% increase in number of students receiving scholarships.
- Enrollment increased each of the last two years. From Fall 2013 to Fall 2015 the total headcount increased by 221 students and total FTFT by 149.
- The Student Center was recognized as one of the “30 Most Amazing College Unions & Campus Centers” in the nation
- Student Jazz Ensemble won first place at the prestigious Villanova Jazz Festival for the third time in last five years
- Faculty members produced nationally recognized scholarship, including Professor of English Rob Dowling’s two-volume biography of Eugene O’Neill, which was short-listed for the *LA Times*’ book of the year (biography). Alum and adjunct professor of English William Mann ’84 won the Edgar Award for his book *Tinseltown: Murder, Morphine, & Madness at the Dawn of Hollywood*

- A new 637 bed residence hall was opened. It is one of the largest in the State of Connecticut.

CHARTER OAK STATE COLLEGE

- Gained state approval for our first master's degree—Master of Science in Organizational Effectiveness and Leadership.
- Achieved a 17.2% growth in unduplicated registered students and an overall enrollment growth of 11.9%.
- Selected as an Experimental Site by the U.S. Department of Education for financial aid for prior learning assessment.
- Selected to participate as a founding institution in the [Alternative Credit Project](#) sponsored by the Gates Foundation and the American Council on Education (ACE).
- Exceeded our deliverables for the Department of Labor funded HL-SCI grant. Charter Oak conducted the prior learning assessments for non-credit health related programs offered by the community colleges and health related credentials.

Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium (CTDLC)

- Launched the CT Education Academy program, designed to facilitate state employee training and professional development through an online learning platform. An Active Shooter Response course is currently being consumed by over 20 agencies.
- eTutoring.org online tutoring program continues to expand across North America, serving 146 institutions across 15 states and two Canadian provinces collaboratively.
- Continues to lead an Open Education Resources (OER) awareness campaign throughout the State of Connecticut to reduce the cost of college textbooks. CTDLC testified in support of Special Act 15-18 and was named to serve on the OER Task Force as well as to continue awareness building for the state.
- Continues to lead the Northeast OER Consortium with sister consortia and institutions from Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, and New Hampshire. The Northeast OER Consortium was developed to build awareness; provide training opportunities; and model effective development practices in support of the adoption of open education resources.
- Continues to provide a virtual high school program for the Adult Education centers throughout the state. This partnership program with the State Department of Education provides online high school courses for adults seeking to complete their high school diploma.

EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

- Eastern is ranked 27th among public universities in the North in the most recent edition of U.S. News and World Report's "Best Colleges" Guide. This is Eastern's highest ranking ever and was the best ranking among the Connecticut State Universities.
- Eastern was named to the national Honor Roll of the "Great Colleges to Work For" program of the Chronicle of Higher Education, earning recognition in nine of 12 evaluation criteria. Eastern has been named a "Great College" in each of the six years we have participated in the program. The University is the only four-year institution in Connecticut to earn this accolade and the only public four-year institution in New England.
- Eastern received the coveted Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement in January 2015 from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.
- The Institute for Sustainable Energy, which received an Energy Star Award earlier in 2015 from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Environmental Protection Agency, is partnering with Eastern's Center for Sustainable Energy Studies on a \$2 million DOE research grant to maximize energy efficiency in new building construction.
- The five new majors introduced at Eastern in fall 2014 (health sciences, finance, new media studies, liberal studies, and philosophy) now have more than 350 students enrolled.
- In April 2015, Kristalyn Salters-Pednault, professor of psychology, received the statewide Board of Regents Research Award for her work with victims of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). She is currently involved in a project funded by the Departments of Defense and Veteran Affairs totaling more than \$1.5 million that is designed to evaluate treatment techniques for PTSD among returning veterans
- Math student Richard Magner and his faculty mentor Mizan Khan, professor of mathematics, presented their research on Number Theory at the Posters on the Hill Conference this past April in Washington, D.C. Magner's research was one of 50 submissions selected from more than 500 applications. He is now in a PhD program in mathematics at Boston University. (Of the years when a Connecticut institution was selected to present at the conference, Eastern has been the representative four of nine times. Only the University of New Haven has been selected more than one time in the past 10 years.)
- A number of junior faculty members have received statewide and national attention:
 - Computer Science Professor Garrett Dancik's work in bioinformatics to personalize treatment plans for bladder cancer patients was highlighted in the Hartford Courant.
 - History Professor Tom Balcerski is appearing on C-SPAN.
 - Environmental Earth Science Professor Brian Oakley was interviewed about his work on erosion on the Long Island Sound on a national television show hosted by Jacques Cousteau's grandson, Phillippe.
 - Anthropologist Sarah Baires is working with the Smithsonian Institute on a video production highlighting her archeological work in Colombia.

GATEWAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- GCC’s GREAT CENTER (Gateway’s Resource Education And Training Center) has partnered with the Workforce Alliance and **ACE New Haven** on an initiative to recruit, train and provide career navigation and job development to basic-skills deficient individuals who otherwise would not have access to community college and who are unemployed or under-employed. This grant, funded by the U.S. Department of Labor and the Annie E. Casey Foundation. ACE uses the I-BEST (Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training) model to co-teach subject matter with contextual math and reading skills, plus intensive career navigation and social supports to ensure successful completion of training and employment in growing industries.
 - 192 students completed **new** programs in:
 - Patient Care Technician
 - Community Health Worker
 - IT Help Desk
 - Professional Food & Beverage Server
 - Small Engine Repair & Technology
- United States Surgeon General, Dr. Vivek Murthy, held an informal discussion on the Impact and Outcome of over 40 years of Anti-Smoking legislation at Gateway Community College on September 17. Dr. Murthy’s visit was made possible in partnership with the Yale University School of Public Health and the New Haven Community Services Administration. The informal discussion was moderated by Byron Kennedy, MD, PhD, MPH Director, New Haven Department of Health. Participants include Roderick Bremby, Connecticut Commissioner, Department of Social Services; Miriam Delphin-Rittman, PhD, Connecticut Commissioner, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; and Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA. Connecticut Commissioner, Department of Public Health.
- GCC Dean of Workforce Development and Continuing Education, Victoria Bozzuto, was honored by the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce on September 22 with their the Leadership Center Alumnus Award at the Annual Leadership Awards Luncheon. Dean Bozzuto received the award for her accomplishments and contributions to the business community.
- Gateway Community College won the GoNewHavenGO competition for “active participation percentage among large employers with 76 Gateway employees logging in trips actively on NuRide throughout September!”
- Kim Sorrentino, Assistant Professor of Diagnostic Medical Sonography received an award at the SDMS Conference for being the “Best” Sonography Research Institute

Young Investigator for the paper that she wrote for the Journal of Diagnostic Medical Sonography.

- GCC President, Dr. Dorsey Kendrick was selected by the New Haven Chapter of Links, Inc., to be honored at their 2015 Gala, *We Are All Connected*, for “her commitment to the community’s health and education.” Yale President, Peter Salovey presented Dr. Kendrick with the prestigious Elm Award during the 2015 Seaton Elm-Ivy Award ceremonies in April.

HOUSATONIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- **Family Economic Security Program (FESP):** Housatonic Community College has received a grant of two million dollars over the next four years for the Family Economic Security Program (FESP). This is a collaboration with the Fairfield County’s Community Foundation through its Fund for Women and Girls. The programs began in the Fall 2015 semester.
The program will provide academic coaching, life coaching career advising, financial literacy and scholarships to 400 students balancing college, work and family over the next four years.
- **Laurie Noe**, Professor/Chairperson of the Behavioral and Social Sciences Department, received the 2015 Elizabeth Roberts Changing the Odds for Children Award from the United Way of Coastal Fairfield County. Connected the HCC ECIE Program to a bi-cultural, bi-lingual pre-school in China where our graduates are now able to work for a year 2015.
Created the concept for the HCC 21st Century video-conferencing room and piloted the inaugural video-conference. Wrote *Internationalize your early childhood program and reap the benefits of cultural connections, deep discussions, and maybe even some international travel published in NAEYC Young Children*, November 2014. Traveled to Peru on the Fulbright Specialist Program to work with Early Childhood professors at the Pontificio Universidad Catolica of Peru, 2014.
- **Richard Dupont**, Program Director of Advanced Manufacturing Center, launched our College Connections program in partnership with Bassick High School that has allowed us to enroll “rising juniors” into the Advanced Manufacturing Machine Technology Certificate Program. These high school students will earn dual credit during their junior and senior years at Bassick and Housatonic Community College. By the time they graduate Bassick High School, they will have earned up to 18 of the 34 credits required to earn the Advanced Manufacturing Center certificate.
- In addition, we are now partnered with the CT Department of Labor for building pathways to Apprenticeships in manufacturing-based employment.

- The class of 2015 was 37 graduates, average age was 34, 7 were women and 100% of our grads were placed in manufacturing jobs. A number of them are already reporting advancement opportunities.
- **Alexis Smith** was a recipient of the 2015 New England Psychological Association Honorary Undergraduate Scholar (HUS) award. Alexis Smith (Housatonic Community College), the only community college awardee on the list. She received it for all her academics, research on GRIT, and work with Psychology Club and Psi Beta as a President. HUS is a designation we give to outstanding undergraduates who meet high standards of performance in course grades, research productivity, and various extracurricular and service activities.
- **Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) Grant Summary:**
The grant has purchased a Medical Patient Simulator that will be used in multiple non-credit and credit Healthcare Programs and classes. This gives students an opportunity to have hand on experience in the classroom.
A great accomplishment of the Housatonic Community College TAACCCT grant is the creation of career pathways for students made possible by articulation of non-credit with credit programs in Information Technology and Healthcare. This is accomplished through direct collaboration of credit and non-credit faculty, as well as the evaluation of programs and assessment of equivalent credits for non-credit programs, through the Connecticut Credit Assessment Program at Charter Oak State College. This is a recognized Best Practice by Achieving the Dream and Housatonic Community College has been asked to present this at Dream 2016.

MANCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Manchester Community College (MCC) is the lead college in the CAMI grant and was allocated \$5.9M million of the total \$15 million federal grant for the Connecticut Advanced Manufacturing Initiative (CAMI) to support its leadership role in the consortium working collaboratively with the other 11 Connecticut community colleges, Charter Oak State College, and the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) System office to expand manufacturing education to every community college in Connecticut.
- The Class of 2015 includes MCC's first Honors College graduates, whose diplomas carried the distinction "with honors" at the 51st Commencement exercises.
- Great Path Academy, the middle-college high school on the MCC campus, was awarded a Magnet School of Distinction award from Magnet Schools of America. Honorees are recognized for their commitment to high academic standards, curriculum innovation, school diversity and integration, specialized teaching staffs and parent and community engagement.

- MCC is one of six community colleges and university partners nationally selected to take part in a research study conducted by the Aspen Institute and the Community College Research Center on community college graduates who successfully complete baccalaureate degrees.
- MCC students created MCC Unites, a week-long program of speakers, activities, and events to celebrate diversity in response to racial and ethnic inclusion concerns nationwide.
- Dr. G. Duncan Harris, dean of student affairs and enrollment management, was elected president of the National Council on Black American Affairs (NCBAA).

MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- **Veterans:** During 2014-15, Middlesex enrolled 103 Veterans who received the GI Bill. In addition, we served approximately 75 Veterans who were either on the Connecticut Tuition Waiver or were attending Middlesex without Veterans Administration support. Middlesex received the continuing designation as a Military Friendly School for our dedication to our Veterans. This can be seen through our caring faculty, staff and administration, our Veterans Outreach Activities, our Veterans Club, our Veterans Oasis Center, our collaboration with the Veterans Administration and the smooth transferability of military transcripts.
- **Great Colleges To Work For:** For the fourth year in a row, the employees of Middlesex Community College (MxCC) responded affirmatively to a survey that asked if this was a good college to work for. This annual recognition, which compares our college to institutions across the country, confirms what we know in our hearts and minds about the college we all care about so deeply. Middlesex Community College is a special place and most people feel that the minute they step on campus.
- **Publications:** Victor Triay, Professor of History, published the third book in his historical fiction series, *The Unbroken Circle*. Book Three is entitled *On Freedom's Shores*. Set in 1961, it is a continuation of the story of several Cuban families who resisted Fidel Castro's totalitarianism and ultimately fled or were transported to the United States.
- **Eastern Connecticut State University's Summer Undergraduate Research program:** Four MxCC students participated in this full-time, intensive summer research program. Three worked in the Building Healthy Communities track and one worked in the Bioscience: Search for Cures track. Support for these students came from the Department of Labor Health and Life Sciences grant that Middlesex has participated in for the last three years.
- **Climate Action Plan:** In February 2015, MxCC submitted its first Climate Action Plan to the Climate Leadership Network (formerly the ACUPCC), outlining goals in the areas of education, campus and community engagement, and operations that will have a direct impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and achieving carbon neutrality by 2040.

- Largest enrollment, largest graduating class: In the Fall of 2014, Middlesex Community College enrolled its largest class in the history of the institution. The following spring, Middlesex Community College graduated its largest class in the history of the institution.
- Center for New Media: After many months of constructions, the Center for New Media was finally completed. MxCC students, faculty, and staff were invited to a ribbon cutting for the brand new Center for New Media on September 22, 2014. The new facility includes four high-tech classrooms, a high-def studio, a video control room, an audio production studio, editing suites, and a green room.
- The Pavilion at Founders Hall: Designed by Amenta/Emma, the Pavilion is a 3,413 SF glass walled addition that provides students with a place to gather outside of class. The first new construction on the MxCC campus since 1992, the Pavilion opened in the spring semester of 2015 and has already become a center of student life as well as a space for poetry readings, the annual Academic Convivium, activities organized by students, and meetings for the Foundation and community groups.
- Academic Convivium: The first annual Academic Convivium was a venue for Honors students to display their long-term research Capstone Projects and was also open to all MxCC students who have produced academic work that went above and beyond the scope of their regular coursework. There were 52 presenters covering nearly all the academic disciplines offered at Middlesex.
- PTK: Ninety-two new members were inducted into the Beta Gamma Xi (MxCC) chapter. This number was the highest since the chapter was chartered, and was 33% higher than the previous year. Two chapter members received the All-Connecticut Academic Team Award and were honored at the State Capital with medals and certificates signed by Governor Malloy. At the PTK New England Regional Conference, MxCC student Elena Sanchez won First Runner Up Fine Arts Award for her work "Beyond Skin Deep," a Public Service Announcement video that was part of the Honors in Action project completed by Chapter members and our Beta Gamma Xi Chapter won the Three Star Level Award.

NAUGATUCK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Naugatuck Valley Community College (NVCC) became the first community college in CT to award more than 1,000 associate degrees and certificates in 2012, an achievement surpassed for the fourth year in a row in 2015. At the 2015 commencement, the College conferred 1,259 awards, including 849 associate degrees and 410 certificates to students from 80 municipalities across Connecticut and 7 states in total.
- Naugatuck Valley Community College has been designated an Eligible Institution by the U.S. Department of Education under Titles III and V of the Higher Education Act of 1965. This distinction allows the College to pursue grants under the Hispanic-Serving Institutions

(HSI) Program to expand educational opportunities for and improve the attainment of Hispanic students through enhanced academic offerings. The HSI Program seeks to help large numbers of Hispanic students complete postsecondary degrees.

- In Academic Year 2014-2015, NVCC offered credentials from the National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) to Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center (AMTC) students for the first time. NVCC students completed 127 credentials- the highest amount of NIMS credentials issued in the state of Connecticut. These nationally recognized, portable, stackable credentials are often used by manufacturers to identify qualified candidates for employment.
- The NVCC “Student Jobs on Campus” initiative received additional support in Spring 2015 with \$10,000 donated to the College to hire students to work on campus and was able to expand the original program that provided scholarships to 12 students. The College received a \$100,000 scholarship donation from Fairfield County’s Community Foundation’s Anne Leonhardt Scholarship Program in June 2015 and will expand the initiative to our Danbury Campus.
- The National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) honored NVCC with prestigious awards in October 2015 for marketing publications that promote the College, including three gold medals in NCMPR’s regional competition in the categories of College Promotional Video, E-Card and Wildcard. The NCMPR District 1 Medallion Awards are the only regional honors of their kind to recognize excellence exclusively among marketing and PR professionals at two-year colleges.
- NVCC began the three-year celebration of the 50th anniversary of its merged campus (Mattatuck Community College and Waterbury State Technical College) in September of 2014. The College hosted a number of distinguished speakers who spoke to NVCC faculty, staff and students on the important role of community colleges and higher education.
 - Dr. Martha Kanter, Distinguished Visiting Professor of Higher Education and Senior Fellow at New York University and former U.S. Under Secretary of Education
 - Dr. Tom Angelo, a nationally recognized expert on teaching in higher education
 - Distinguished NVCC Alumnus Colonel Robert McNamara, Ph.D., Associate Provost of Graduate Studies at The Citadel
 - Dr. Judith Summerfield, Professor of English Emerita, Queens College, CUNY and former CUNY University Dean for General Education
- Scott Colvin, Professor of Accounting at NVCC, won the Connecticut Society of CPAs’ annual award for Best Accounting Faculty Member at a Community College.
- President De Filippis was nominated and confirmed to the Connecticut Technical High School System Board, and chosen to be a member of Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty’s STEM Education Advisory Board. In addition, President De Filippis was honored as a Stellar Alumna at the *Dominican Intellectual Legacy Gala* in December 2014 and

recognized as a prolific writer for her valuable contributions to Dominican writing at the Ninth Annual Dominican Book Fair in September 2015.

NORTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- In its report, *Vision and Change in Undergraduate Biology Education: Chronicling Change, Inspiring the Future*, released by The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), projects from colleges and universities across the country are highlighted in order to document the positive, far-reaching effects of their *Vision and Change* initiative, which is aimed at improving undergraduate biology education. Yale University and Northwestern Connecticut Community College (NCCC) were distinguished by being the only 2 Connecticut institutions featured in the report. The AAAS report, *Vision and Change in Undergraduate Biology Education: Chronicling Change, Inspiring the Future*, can be found online at <http://visionandchange.org/chronicling-change>.
- The Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board generously committed \$217,969 to sponsor Team Success Scholars, a college success program at Northwestern Connecticut Community College. Team Success Scholars, the college program, is a mentoring scholarship that provides college students with mentoring, jobs on campus and in the community, internships, leadership training, professional conferences, and financial support during college. Our current participating students have a 2.88 average GPA and 100% retention rate.
- Northwestern Connecticut Community College kicked off its 50th Anniversary Celebration this spring with a Welcome Back Open House. In September 1965, NCCC welcomed its first class of 145 full-time and 12 part-time students through the doors of the former Gilbert School. On May 15, 2015, the Inaugural Event of this Anniversary Year was highlighted by the opening of a time capsule that was buried 25 years ago.
- The Carlton D. Fyler and Jenny Fyler Fund, a fund of The Community Foundation of Northwest Connecticut, generously committed \$6,600 to sponsor the tuition costs for the summer portion of the Foundations High School Youth Program at Northwestern Connecticut Community College through its Academic Success Center. This past summer, area high school students took a 3 credit college-level course on World War II and Korea.
- Beardsley & Memorial Library, in collaboration with Northwestern Connecticut Community College were recipients of a \$15,000 grant to host The Big Read. A program of the National Endowment for the Arts, The Big Read broadens our understanding of our world, our communities, and ourselves through the joy of sharing a good book. Managed by Arts Midwest, this initiative offers grants to support innovative community reading programs designed around a single book. The local Big Read will focus on the novel *When The Emperor Was Divine*, by Julie Otsuka. Activities will run between

September 2015 and June 2016, and will include companion reading programs for children and youth.

- Todd M. Bryda, Academic Coordinator for the Humanities, NCCC, was a 2015 recipient of the Mosal Award, a professional award given by Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the International Honor Society for two- year colleges. The Mosal Award was established in 1984 and is named in honor of Dr. Margaret Mosal, the Society's first executive director. The Mosal provides financial support to advisors for the completion of projects that lead to personal professional and leadership growth. Each award carries a \$5,000 stipend.
Todd's Project Title: *Power and Piety in Ireland, Wales and England: The use of military and religious structures to intimidate, pacify and assimilate native populations.*
- Michele Better, Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education/Program Coordinator is the 2015 recipient of the Education Excellence Award. Michele will travel to Finland and Sweden in May 2016, to visit and explore the Pre-K and Elementary school systems, observing classes and meeting with teachers and administrators. She will also visit one of the forest kindergarten outdoor classrooms.

NORWALK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- **Pathways in Technology Early College High School**

The Norwalk Early College Academy opened in September 2014 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by CT Governor Dannel Malloy. Norwalk Community College (NCC) jointly founded the grades 9-14 model school with IBM and the Norwalk Public Schools. The technology-based program, housed at Norwalk High School, enables students to enter high school in ninth grade and earn both a high school diploma and an Associate in Applied Science degree from NCC within six years.

- **Healthy Workplace Award**

In February, NCC earned the Best Practices Healthy Workplace Award from the Business Council of Fairfield County for its commitment to employee health and well-being. NCC placed in the Platinum Category, the highest level of recognition.

The college also earned a 2015 Gold Achievement Award from the American Heart Association for being a Fit-Friendly Worksite in June 2015. The Association's Fit-Friendly program recognizes employers who champion the health of their employees and work to create a culture of health in the workplace.

- **TRIO Program to Receive \$1.7 Million Over Five Years**

In August, 2015 NCC's Student Support Services TRIO Program received a total of \$1.7 million in annual funding that will be used over the next five years through a renewed federal grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

The grant will provide \$339,443 to the budget each year, beginning September 1, for the budget year. TRIO funding will be used to provide comprehensive support services to 240 NCC students.

NCC's Student Support Services TRIO Program is an academic support program designed to retain students until graduation and transfer to a four-year college or university.

- **Food Pantry**

Just weeks after opening its doors in February 2015, the NCC Food Pantry was named one of four college projects nationwide to receive a \$500 **Innovation through Collaboration Award** for Service-Learning Projects. Kynamatrix Research Network presented the award to NCC for recognizing the problem of student hunger and providing a solution.

- **Horizons National Summer Enrichment Program**

In September 2014, NCC's Horizons National Summer Enrichment Program was featured in the documentary *American Graduate: Let's Make It Happen*, which aired on WNET Channel 13. The all-day broadcast was hosted by Horizons National Board Chair, Jane Williams and her husband, Brian. The PBS filmmakers chose NCC's Child Development Laboratory School as the backdrop for an interview on how non-profit organizations impact student success.

- **RN to BSN Program**

To address the ever increasing need for nurses to have a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree, Western Connecticut State University (WCSU) brought their RN to BSN program to Norwalk Community College. The transition program enables registered nurses with an Associate Degree to complete the BSN at the NCC campus. Under the tutelage of WCSU professors, students complete an enhanced program of study which builds upon their existing skills and knowledge.

- **Veterinary Technology**

In fall 2014, NCC debuted the first courses in the new Veterinary Technology Associate Degree program. The program expects to enter the American Veterinary Medical Association Accreditation process within the next year, as it builds toward a full-time two-year degree curriculum. This program is funded by the Connecticut Health and Life Sciences Career Initiative and the NCC Foundation.

- **Health and Life Sciences Career Initiative – NCC Update**

NCC has fostered partnerships with local employers to promote skills development in fields including nursing, allied health, biochemistry, biotechnology, environmental sciences and medical records technology.

More than 367 students were enrolled in HL-SCI classes in 2014-2015, including 60 students new to NCC. New courses were developed, and the Nursing, Physical Therapist Assistant and Exercise Science programs were revised.

Seventeen new Developmental Math and Science Booster modules were also developed. These online enrichment programs have helped more than 800 students enhance their knowledge of basic math and science topics and have prepared them for more challenging courses.

- **Genomics Workforce Consortium**

NCC began a collaboration with the Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine in Farmington, Connecticut. The Laboratory is working to discover the precise genomic causes of disease, develop individualized treatments and cures, and help build Connecticut's

bioscience industry. They are providing NCC with genomics-centered services including curriculum development, faculty professional development, and student internship and research opportunities.

In the future the company will offer students career fairs and job placement services in “middle skill” bioscience fields that don’t require a Bachelor’s degree.

- **Outstanding personal achievement/awards on part of any NCC community member:**

NCC Professor **Robert Emigh** received the 2015 President’s Choice Award from Connecticut Campus Compact (CTCC), a national coalition of 1,100 colleges and universities committed to campus-based civic engagement. Each year, CTCC honors an individual who exemplifies its goals and nurtures a culture of social service. Professor Emigh teaches English as a Second Language and is advisor to the NCC Chapter of the Student World Assembly.

Professor **Cathleen Caulfield**, RN, MSN, MS, Simulation Coordinator for the NCC Nursing and Allied Health Division, became one of only 400 health professionals in the nation to achieve the Certified Healthcare Simulation Educator designation by the Society for Simulation in Healthcare. Caulfield is an expert in using computerized patient mannequins to replicate clinical scenarios.

NCC alumna **Rachael Lederman DiPietro**, who worked at NCC as the Connecticut Campus Compact AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer, received a Newman Civic Fellows Award from the KPMG Foundation in February 2015. The Newman Civic Fellows Award honors inspiring college leaders who have demonstrated an investment in finding solutions for challenges facing communities throughout the country.

QUINEBAUG VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- For the fourth consecutive year, Quinebaug Valley Community College (QVCC) students transferred to a four-year college or university or entered the workforce without any federal loan debt, thanks to the resolute generosity of donors to the Foundation’s scholarship fund and the diligent efforts of the Financial Aid staff.
- QVCC became a partner in the Connecticut Early College Opportunity program with Windham High School in Willimantic. Through this game-changing initiative, Windham High School students have the unique chance to earn an industry-recognized associate’s degree in manufacturing, along with a high school diploma, within four to six years.
- In spring 2015, 25 students enrolled in the advanced manufacturing program earned 97 NIMS (National Institute for Metalworking Skills) credentials. This accomplishment not only reflects the high quality of QVCC’s training but also makes the students highly sought-after talent in the workplace.

- The Robotics Club placed eleventh overall in a national robotics competition sponsored by the American Society for Engineering Education Model Design Competition. In its third year competing not only with other community colleges but also four-year institutions, the Club snagged eighth place in the Exhibition and Poster Session.
- QVCC captured a Paragon Award from NCMPR (National Council for Marketing and Public Relations) – a national competition honoring excellence exclusively among marketing and public relations professionals at two-year colleges. The College received a bronze medal for a special event logo, *Tackle the Trail*.
- QVCC President Dr. Carlee Drummer co-authored a chapter, “Philanthropy and Private Foundations: Expanding Revenue Sources,” published by Wiley in *Budget and Finance in the American Community College: New Directions for Community Colleges*, Number 168.
- Edward Graff, a QVCC engineering student who graduated in 2013 and earned the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship, received the Jack Kent Cooke Graduate Scholarship that will pay up to \$50,000 per year for graduate study at Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

- Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) commences a bioscience partnership with the City of New Haven and its burgeoning biotechnology industry, providing an important link between academia and the science sector. The Biotechnology Academic and Career Pathway, or BioPath for short, will include four academic pathways for incoming students, including a new major in biotechnology with a chemistry minor and graduate-level certification programs in areas such as project management and healthcare or pharmaceutical management. The city will assist in promoting these offerings to industry partners and area educational institutions, support an internship program with area companies and create biotechnology pathways in city schools that will prepare students for entry into Southern’s programs.
- Preparing local students for global lives, Southern has established new international partnerships with institutions in China, Armenia and Liverpool, England, with the potential for expanded study abroad, joint faculty research and dual-taught master’s programs in a wide range of academic disciplines.
- The Werth Family Foundation, which donated \$3 million to support the sciences at Southern in 2013, has contributed to the establishment of an innovative Industry Academic Fellowship program for undergraduate and graduate students. The program provides students with the opportunity to conduct team-based interdisciplinary research — while exploring the business-related side of working in technology. It is coordinated through Southern’s new Office for STEM Innovation and Leadership, headed by Physics Professor Christine Broadbridge, a highly regarded leader in the field of nanotechnology.

- Southern’s sustainability efforts have been recognized at the national level, through a second consecutive recognition by both the Princeton Review (in its 2014 Guide to the 322 Greenest Campuses in America) and Sierra Magazine, which includes Southern in its “Cool Schools” listing of green campuses.
- Six Southern faculty members were collectively chosen by the National Center for Science and Civic Engagement (NCSCE) to receive the 2015 Team William E. Bennett Award for Extraordinary Contributions to Citizen Science. Southern’s honorees were: Vincent Breslin, Susan Cusato and James Tait, (all from science education and environmental studies); Therese Bennett (mathematics); Terese Gemme (music); and Winnie Yu (computer science). NCSCE is the parent organization for SENCER (Scientific Education for New Civic Engagements and Responsibilities), whose methods and strategies have been pursued on campus during the last decade, through courses and programs connecting science, technology, engineering, and mathematics content to critical local, national, and global challenges.
- Professor of English Vivian Shipley was awarded first prize in the national poetry competition in the 2014 Hackney Literary Awards for her poem, “Foxfire.” Dr. Shipley is a Connecticut State University Distinguished Professor who has earned wide acclaim for her work, including the 2011 Paterson Award for Sustained Literary Achievement, and a second Pulitzer Prize nomination for her new poetry collection, *Perennial*.
- Professor of Anthropology Michael Rogers received \$20,000 from the Leakey Foundation to further his field work in Ethiopia at an archaeological dig site where some of the earliest hominid remains have been found. Dr. Rogers has brought small groups of Southern undergraduates with him to Ethiopia for the last few years – including three in January, 2015 – giving them the rare opportunity to work with and learn from some of the top researchers in this discipline.
- Barbara Aronson, Professor of Nursing, secured \$430,673.00 under the federal Health Resources and Services Administration’s Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP). These funds will enable Southern’s Ed.D. and master’s degree students in the nursing program to finance their education with the possibility of excused repayment if they become nurse educators.

THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- **TRCC’s Hali Keeler’s and Marie Shaw’s Books on Library Sciences and Library Technology Published!**

As part of a series of books, Hali R. Keeler, who is an Adjunct Professor at Three Rivers, wrote *Foundations of Library Sciences*, a text for professors who teach library support staff as well as for the support staff in libraries who would use it for a reference guide.

Also as part of the series, Marie Keen Shaw, program coordinator for the Library Technology certificate at Three Rivers, wrote *Library Technology and Digital Resources*.

This book will help provide training for library support staff to become proficient in using and instructing others in the abundance of the digital resources that are available in library environments.

Both Hali and Marie have contracts with Rowman & Littlefield Publishers for books 3 and 4 in the series, Library Support Staff Handbooks. Hali is writing on Collections and Technical Services and Marie's book is on Cataloging and Classification. These books should be available in January 2017.

- **TRCC's Kim Kobelski, MSN, RN is published in the January Edition of ADVANCE!**

We would like to acknowledge the scholarly work of our lab instructor, Kim Kobelski MSN, RN. Kim implemented a simulation activity here at Three Rivers Community College to teach our nursing students about interdisciplinary palliative end-of-life care.

Kim's article was published in the January edition of ADVANCE, a healthcare network for Nurses.

- **Camilla Ross's Emerson Theater Collaborative Featured in INK Magazine's December Issue...in a FIVE Page Article!**

The Emerson Theater Collaborative is a professional theater company that provides our youth and emerging artists an outlet for creating theater for social change.

Camilla Ross is an adjunct instructor (business) here at Three Rivers. She is the founder of The Emerson Theater Collaborative. The website for the INK Magazine is <http://INKCT.com>.

- **Dr. Mary Ellen Jukoski Is Awarded The Education Award By The New London Chapter Of The NAACP!**

President Mary Ellen Jukoski was awarded the Education Award by the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) New London Chapter on December 5th in New London.

Dr. Jukoski was presented this award in recognition of her work to advance education for young people in the New London area. Dr. Jukoski states, "I am greatly honored and deeply humbled to receive this award. Education is my passion and throughout my career, I have been an advocate working to make higher education accessible to those who are the first in their families to earn a college education."

TUNXIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- As they do every year, Tunxis Dental Hygiene and Dental Assisting students, dental faculty, and dental alumni participated in the Connecticut Mission of Mercy's annual clinic, held in Danbury this year. The large-scale multi-chair dental clinic provides free dental care to the underserved and uninsured.

- Tunxis partnered with EDAC Technologies of Cheshire to offer an **Accelerated Advanced Manufacturing Machine Technology Certificate** which provided machine operator training and responds to Connecticut manufacturer demand for a workforce with advanced skills. The program was unique since it was conducted off-site and those who completed the 5 months of training received certificates in Advanced Manufacturing. Most of the students, completed the course and 11 received job offer from EDAC.
- Tunxis CE was involved in developing and teaching a number of programs for HRA, to help disadvantaged urban youth of greater New Britain. In spring 2015, we offered Pharmacy Technician. In Summer 2015, we offered photography which included assembling a photo exhibit that chronicled New Britain history. Today (Fall 2015), a program started to teach entry level manufacturing with classroom and hands-on manual machining training through a partnership. At the conclusion of the program, the youth will be able to apply for entry-level manufacturing jobs. Also in Fall 15, a program for youth interested in getting jobs in customer service, and office positions, resulting in M.S. Office Certification id being offered.
- Tunxis hosted **Fresh Check Day™** on **May 5** from **11 a.m.-2 p.m.** in Tunxis parking lot adjacent to the courtyard and Library. It's an opportunity for students and community to check in and learn about how to get help or provide support to a friend if the stress of life becomes overwhelming. Fresh Check Day was created by the Jordan Porco Foundation, which seeks to help people on college campuses recognize the signs that could lead to suicide and act on this heightened awareness in preventing suicide among college age students.
- On October 3rd Tunxis hosted the first **Makers Fair** that has been held in central Connecticut. CBIA brought together manufacturers from all over New England to demonstrate how items are made, and gave many young children the opportunity to “manufacture” their own products. Also highlighted were the manufacturing programs available in the Connecticut community colleges. Approximately 1600 people attended the fair, held in the courtyard of the campus.

WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

- **New President**

Dr. John Clark began his tenure as president on July 1 promising to engage business, government and the campus community to benefit students from their first day in class to the years after they graduate. Entrepreneurship, intensive career counseling, increased academic course offerings to insure student success in more chosen fields, and an expansion of STEM courses are among his goals.

- **Social Mobility**

A new national Social Mobility Index, designed to calculate how higher education improves students' ability to strengthen their economic standing, ranked WCSU No. 1 in Connecticut and 11th in the U.S., based on a measurement of tuition, enrollment of students from low-income families, graduation rates, salaries upon graduation and financial aid disbursements.

- **VPAC Honored**

The \$97 million Visual and Performing Arts Center that opened in 2014 has collected numerous awards and recognitions over the past year. Collegedegreeseearch.net named it one of “The 25 Most Amazing Campus Arts Centers”; The Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute recognized it for “Design Excellence and Construction Innovation”; The U.S. Green Buildings Council granted it Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver status; and most recently Connecticut Magazine named it the “Best Performing Arts Venue: College.”

- **Honors House**

Farooq Kathwari, the president and CEO of Ethan Allen Inc., endowed the WCSU Honors Program, which has been named in his honor. Kathwari and his family made a gift of \$1 million to the university to support the program and its 250 students. With the donation, the Kathwari Honors Program now has a home on campus and is expected to double the number of Honors students at Western.

- **Payscale**

On a recent list by the financial site Payscale that ranked 1,300 U.S. colleges and universities by their return-on-investment, Western is ranked No. 2 among all in-state public colleges and universities in Connecticut, and seventh of the 19 public and private institutions that offer degrees in the state. WCSU also falls within the top one-quarter of all in-state public universities in the nation in terms of ROI. Payscale calculated 20-year net ROI by comparing the total cost of attendance to the earnings of each school's graduates.

- **Department of Chemistry**

The American Chemical Society commended the WCSU Department of Chemistry for “a solid undergraduate chemistry program (that is) on a good trajectory.” ACS particularly noted the emphasis placed on program assessment, the department's extensive outreach activities, and the Chemistry Seminar (CHE 250) that introduces freshmen to chemistry and outlines the required dedication and skills necessary to succeed as chemistry majors.