

NEWS FROM OUR GRADUATES:

We are again delighted to hear from some of our recent graduates from the Class of 2008:

Jeff Ahadian of North Andover feels that the internships he had in the Transition Program prepared him to work in an office. There were two courses that helped him the most: the computer classes in which he learned Microsoft Word and Excel, and the classes in which he developed a resume and did mock interviews. He recently got a full-time, temp job at **Tufts Health Plan** in Watertown in the claims department. He hopes that the job will become a permanent position. He is doing clerical work such as: scanning, opening mail and filing claims. Jeff stays in touch with a lot of the friends he made in the program and tells us that he just returned from a trip with his family to California.

Stephen Glidden of Chelmsford feels that the internships in the Transition Program helped him to be a better communicator. This is especially helpful in his current job at **Hannaford's**. Steve is currently holding down two part-time jobs: at **Hannaford's** and delivering the **Lowell Sun**. The course that was most helpful to him was the one in which he learned how to save and budget money, especially helpful now that he is earning a weekly paycheck. Steve is an avid bowler. He also plans to pick up a few extra hours this summer doing maintenance at **Gold's Gym**.

Kevin LeFort of Waltham tells us that what helped prepare him the most for his current job as a transporter at Lahey Clinic was the Transition internship that he did in that department during the Spring 2008 semester. Kevin is currently working at **Lahey Clinic** in Burlington in the Messenger/Escort Department as a Transporter. As an employee, he has mastered some tasks

independently that he was not prepared to do on his own as an intern. He also has gotten to know a lot more people there. During the winter, he worked part-time at a hockey rink in Waltham doing cashiering and cleaning. There were two courses in the Transition Program that he feels helped him the most: the Internship Seminar, in which he learned how to do a job search online, learned about job opportunities and how to interview, and his Business Math class in which he learned about "direct deposit." Kevin likes the fact that his paycheck can go into direct deposit. He keeps in touch with his friends from the Transition Program, mostly through e-mail, and enjoys working-out at the gym.

Keith Ruehrwein of Wakefield is pleased to tell us that the Transition Program internship helped prepare him for his two jobs. He works as a Maintenance Assistant at **Home Depot** and at **TJ Maxx**. Keith credits the skills he acquired in the program for his ability to fill out online applications. This used to make him nervous and now he is very comfortable using his computer skills. Keith is thrilled that, through the money he has saved at his jobs, he is now the proud owner of a 2009 Toyota Corolla. He tells us he still has time to hang out with his friends at night.

Our thanks to all the grads who have kept in touch and provided these wonderful updates. We want to add a special thanks to Instructor Sharon Winn for her great photos.



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MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Transition PROGRAM

NEWSLETTER

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2009 GRADUATES

MAY 2009

Welcome to the 2009 edition of the Transition Program Newsletter. It was written and word-processed by the Class of 2009, with direction from the Transition Program faculty. We want to thank the MCC Office of Marketing and Publications for editing, production and design.

The Middlesex Community College Transition Program is an innovative, two-year, noncredit certificate program designed for students with significant learning disabilities who would find traditional college classes too challenging. The program helps students reach their potential, through specialized coursework and hands-on experience. Students attend classes three-days-a-week and on the other two days work at unpaid internship placements in competitive work environments. Graduates of the Transition Program receive a Certificate of Completion in Office and Business Support.

The Transition Program is a nationally recognized Exemplary Program Award-winner, and is the only community college program of its kind in Massachusetts. The program has been in operation since 1985 and continues to attract students from a wide geographic area. To learn more about the Middlesex Community College Transition Program, call 781-280-3630.



Meet the 2009 Middlesex Community College Transition PROGRAM Graduates...



Abby Andress
Lexington, Mass.

Abby tells us that one of the things she enjoyed most was role-playing in the Internship Seminar. She also enjoyed the projects she did in the Personal and Social Communication Skills classes. She feels that it taught her how to work better with other people. Abby also values the work she does in her computer class.

Abby's internships at **Lahey Clinic** in Burlington provided her with experience in filing, data entry, and collating packets, as well as locating patient identification numbers, opening and sorting mail, and sending out letters to patients. Abby's favorite part about working at Lahey was doing data entry. Abby comments that she has gained independence since starting the program. When she first started the program she was not as independent as she is today. For example, she now utilizes public transportation. She also learned how to find a job through accessing websites, how to produce a resume and how to talk about a weakness in a positive way. Abby's hope is to work in an office setting such as a hospital or another type of business.

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Thomas Daniell
Tewksbury, Mass.

Tom especially enjoyed making new friends, the classes, and doing projects with others. Tom had two very successful internships. He participated in an internship at **The Career Center of Lowell** where he worked as an Administrative Assistant. Among his duties were: helping in the reception area and assembling packets for seminars. At his internship at **Saints Medical Center**, Tom worked in the Billing Department where he filed and assembled account batches, entered data into a computer, photocopied and shredded documents. Tom tells us that he liked the "hands-on-learning" and the opportunity to increase his responsibilities and his independence. He feels prepared to enter the work-world and feels that the program taught him the importance of good attendance and punctuality, dressing for success and working as part of a team. Tom hopes to work and take additional business courses in the future.



Ashley DuHamel
Chelmsford, Mass.

What Ashley liked best about being at Middlesex Community College in the Transition Program was learning how to do database projects. Her most recent internship at the **Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell** gave her experience typing, photocopying and faxing. Ashley was a big help to the **Boys & Girls Club** by helping to put together their new employee handbook. Her first-year internship at **Saints Medical Center** in Lowell provided her with training in the Transport Department where she learned to transport patients and deliver lab samples. She tells us that she learned the importance of always being polite and having a nice smile.

Ashley comments that she appreciated that the internship was like having a real office job where she was doing and learning a lot of the same tasks that she learned in class. Ashley credits the program and teachers for helping her to learn to deal effectively with anger, what to do on an interview and improve her data entry and typing skills. Her hope is to continue to improve her skills and get a good job after graduation.



Greg Getchell
Wilmington, Mass.

Greg tell us that what he enjoyed the most about being at Middlesex Community College was working as part of a team on projects and getting to know his classmates. He feels that being a part of The Transition Program provided him with a lot of new experiences and hard tasks, but it was very interesting. He enjoyed learning new material and learning how to express his feelings. Greg's internship at the **Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)** in Burlington provided him with experience doing data entry, checking e-mail, filing, scanning documents, photocopying and making telephone calls. When Greg interned at **The Career Center** of Lowell he assembled packets, greeted customers and performed a variety of clerical tasks.

Greg feels that he has changed in a variety of ways, including not being quite so shy and improving his communication skills. He feels better prepared for the work-world having learned how to prepare a resume, interview effectively and write cover letters. After graduation, Greg will work part-time at the **FAA** in Burlington.



Ryan Gleason
Lowell, Mass.

Ryan has especially enjoyed coming to the campus and his teachers in the program. He successfully completed two Internships in the mailroom at **Saints Memorial Medical Center** in Lowell, where he excelled in the distribution of mail. Ryan learned his way around the hospital quickly and mastered his daily routine of mail pick-ups and deliveries. He learned how to operate a postage meter; a great skill to be included on his resume. He also has learned the importance of being on time and being helpful to his supervisors. Ryan hopes to get a job after graduation.



Nairn Goodridge
Randolph, Mass.

Nairn tells us that his experience at the Transition Program was very enjoyable. Nairn's internships at **Suffolk University** and at **RJ Vanderweil** in Boston provided him with experience working in a mailroom. His responsibilities included: sorting and delivering mail and packages, opening supplies, and logging-in packages. Nairn comments that his favorite part of the internship was meeting new people. Since starting the program, he feels that he has changed a lot, has opened up more, has a better sense of humor and learned the importance of calling if you are going to be late. Nairn hopes to join the workforce in Boston after graduation.



Kevin Mahoney
Waltham, Mass.

Kevin has had two successful years in the program. He tells us that he especially liked meeting new friends, his teachers and the classes. Kevin's internships at **The Career Place** in Woburn and **The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)** in Burlington gave him skills and experience collating packets, shredding, photocopying and making customer telephone calls. Kevin says that he feels that he has become more independent. He hopes to get a job in a Public Safety office after graduation.



Jen McCarthy
Billerica, Mass

Jen tells us that the Transition Program taught her the importance of being on time for her internship and school. Her internship at **Saints Medical Center** in Lowell gave her experience working in the Dietary Department. Along with food prep, Jen has learned a lot about customer service. She also learned to operate various kitchen equipment, such as a slicer and a buffalo mixer. She has mastered working in a fast-paced environment and hopes to continue working in this area after graduation.



Patrick McCarthy
Hudson, NH

Patrick commented that he found the program to be both affordable and a good fit to his learning style. He appreciates that there were no essays, mid-terms, or final exams. Pat's internships at **Southern NH Medical Center** in Nashua provided him with mailroom and materials distribution experience. While there, he mastered sorting mail, sending outgoing mail, using the postage meter, picking up and delivering items, and doing inventory. He especially enjoyed getting to know his co-workers in Distribution and has made some great friends in the program. Pat has continued working at his part-time, paid job at **Market Basket** and values the importance of being on time for his internship. Pat feels prepared for the work-world by knowing how to take initiative at work. Pat plans to continue to work at **Market Basket** while looking for a job in a mailroom.



Becky Robinson
Concord, Mass.

Becky tells us that she feels the program helped her to obtain the skills she needs to look for a job and to get a job. She feels that she learned the most from the Consumer Skills and Communication classes. Her internships at **Mount Auburn Hospital** in the Hematology and Oncology Departments and Medical Records gave her experience in filing numerically and alphabetically, as well as working with an electronic filing system. Becky reports that she has changed by learning to get her work done, handing it in on time, being punctual and communicating on the telephone. Her goal for the future is to get a job and to live on her own.



Ben Sieber
Wayland, Mass.

Ben comments that he enjoyed doing role plays in the Internship Seminar to practice real work experiences. He especially enjoyed his classmates and teachers. Ben's Internship at **Inscribe** in Woburn provided him with training and experience in printing operations, to include: changing paper for machines, filling up ink cartridges and cleaning printers. He also liked the people he works with at Inscribe. He feels that his computer skills have improved and hopes to work in the future.



Laura Tremblay
Methuen, Mass.

Laura tells us that she liked the atmosphere of the college campus. She feels that she has learned a lot of new things and that her teachers were very helpful. She feels more accomplished and confident. Laura's internships at the **Social Security Administration** in Lowell and **Saints Medical Center** gave her experience faxing, photocopying, record-filing and doing data entry. She participates more in class and actually enjoys working in an office. The internships and classes prepared her by showing her the options she has in an office setting, how to improve her data entry skills and how to act during an interview. She hopes to get a job in a hospital or an office.

Congratulations to the Class of 2009!
They are now ready to take on new challenges!

