



## We Are the Fed Challenge Champions



**Fed Challenge champions (left to right):** MCC student Scot Weisman, Professor Robert Kaulfuss, students Justin Durso, Robert Searle, Damian Gray, Ben Blieden, and Adam Nichols, Boston Federal Reserve Director of Education George Guild, Professor John Femia, Professor Robert Awkward, and Dean Judith Hogan.

*“It was truly a perfect pairing of dedicated faculty and motivated, hard-working students”*

*- Judith Hogan  
Dean of Business Engineering and Technology, MCC*



**Emergency Preparedness experts (left to right)** Lowell’s Deputy Emergency Management Director Mark Bodrighini and retired Lowell Fire Chief William Desrosiers.

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*- Carole A. Cowan  
President, MCC*

The Middlesex Community College Business and Economics Club was named Community College National Champions in the Federal Reserve Bank’s annual College Fed Challenge Competition in December. MCC Students competed against community colleges from throughout New England in the early rounds, and with colleges from New York, Maryland and Washington, D.C. in the final round.

The students provided an analysis of current national economic conditions, a forecast of economic financial and international conditions relative to monetary policy, a discussion of significant risks to the economy, and a recommendation as to whether or not the Federal Reserve System should increase, decrease, or take no action with regard to short-term interest rates.

Middlesex student competitors were Ben Blieden, Damian Gray, Adam Nichols, Robert Searle, Justin Durso and Scot Weisman. MCC advisors were professors Robert Awkward, John Femia and Robert

Kaulfuss, along with Judith Hogan, MCC Dean of Business, Engineering and Technology.

Gray, the team captain, believes the keys to winning were assigning each team member an area of expertise, as well as their combined dedication to the group effort. In a recent interview in The Boston Globe, Gray said, “Any chance you have to be a leader is a great learning experience.”

“It was truly a perfect pairing of dedicated faculty and motivated, hard-working students,” said Dean Hogan. “I cannot speak highly enough about the abilities of these students, and was extremely impressed by how they crafted the presentation. I think the key element that set them apart was the high level of motivation they had to win. There also was a deep sense of conviction of the recommendations they were making to the Federal Reserve Bank. Another key to their success was the depth of their knowledge in all areas of the presentation.”

*- Deborah Kearney*

## Middlesex Takes a Proactive Approach to Emergency Management

In recent years, the number of emergencies occurring on college campuses has dramatically increased, with many tragedies capturing national attention. While every college tries its best to provide a safe on-campus environment, there are no guarantees. However, there are proactive steps that can be taken to help ensure that colleges are as prepared as possible to deal with an emergency situation.

Last year, the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) began offering grants to support higher-education emergency-management programs. Middlesex Community College received a nearly \$200,000 Emergency Management for Higher Education (EMHE) Grant, one of only 13 applications funded from the 289 colleges and universities that applied.

Carole Cowan, Middlesex President, said she was honored and excited that MCC was able to secure funding for the first-time program, as it will allow the college to quickly enact some critical training plans for its two campuses. “Across the nation, we’re seeing more and more trends within higher education to focus on internal systems and more effective ways of dealing with a crisis on our campuses,” Cowan said.

“This funding will allow Middlesex to implement critical training for a significant number of our management and

administrative personnel to help ensure a safer campus community for our students, faculty and staff,” she said.

MCC’s 18-month EMHE grant supports activities within the four phases of emergency management: prevention-mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. It is designed to prepare for a range of threats, including natural disasters, terrorist attacks, campus violence, suicides and infectious disease outbreaks. Funding for the grant program is made available through the DOE’s Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Middlesex has contracted with two experts in the emergency-preparedness field, retired Lowell Fire Chief William Desrosiers, and Lowell’s Deputy Emergency Management Director Mark Bodrighini, to offer a series of on-campus training exercises. In January, almost 100 members of MCC’s administration were certified in the National Incident Management System, and Incident Command. These nationally implemented training programs help organize a structure to respond to anything from small incidents involving one student to large-scale emergencies. More training will be held throughout the spring.

*- Patrick Cook*