Ebonie Seriam
MCC Radiologic Tech Student
Saves Infant’s Life with CPR Skills

‘Passing the Ball’ for Dr. King
Host and hostess Lura and Robert Smith of Lowell, with Living The Dream Award recipient
Karen N. Frederick, CEO of Community Teamwork, of Dracut

Masuzyo Mhango
From Botswana to Lowell: Civil Engineering Student Finds His Way

Middlesex Community College was recently named a silver level military friendly school by Victory Media

MCC Biotechnology Programs Receive Highest Industry Rating

Bedford Campus
591 Springs Road
Bedford, MA 01730

Lowell Campus
33 Kearney Square
Lowell, MA 01852
Start at MCC then transfer -- that's the Commonwealth Commitment

The Lowell Sun
UPDATED: 02/11/2018 09:01:18 AM EST

From left, MCC President James C. Mabry with MCC Commonwealth Commitment students Gregory Peck and Tatianna Argutto, and state Education Secretary James Peyser. COURTESY PHOTO

Massachusetts college students enrolled in the statewide Commonwealth Commitment can choose from more than 40 majors to qualify for discounts and rebates aimed at making a Bachelor's degree more affordable. Students can save an average 40 percent off the cost of a traditional Bachelor's degree by starting their course of study at one of the state's 15 community colleges -- including Middlesex Community College in Lowell and Bedford -- then transferring to a state university or UMass campus.

Students can choose from many options in the "MassTransfer A2B" -- Associate to Bachelor's degree-mapped programs that guarantee that course credits transfer between community colleges and the state's public four-year universities.

Students first earn an Associate degree at one of the state's 15 community colleges, and then complete a Bachelor's degree at any public four-year institution. Once enrolled, students' tuition and mandatory fees are frozen; they also receive rebates up to 10 percent at the end of each semester, and a tuition waiver or credit during their junior and senior years.

Students are required to go to school full time and maintain a 3.0 grade-point average. Students can realize savings of 40 percent or more off the typical sticker price for a four-year degree, depending on the college they choose to attend, before other state and federal financial aid is factored in.

For more information on the Commonwealth Commitment's list of degree programs and interactive cost calculator, visit: www.mass.edu/macomm. For more about the Commonwealth Commitment, call 800-818-3434 or visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/macomm.

Scholar Of Online Learning To Speak At MCC Anniversary Celebration

In celebration of the 20th anniversary of its Online Learning Program, Middlesex Community College will host one of the country's foremost scholars of online learning, Harvard Professor Christopher Dede, in a special program to be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 27, in the Federal Building Assembly Room, 50 Kearney Square, on the Lowell campus.

Titled "Online Learning at Your Fingertips: On-Demand, Just-in-Time, Life-Wide," the program is free and open to the public. A reception will follow the talk.

"We are very honored to have Dr. Dede speak at Middlesex to commemorate the 20th anniversary of our Online Learning Program. He is, and has been, a leader in the evolution of online technologies for teaching and emerging-teaching models," said Matthew Olson, Dean of Social Science, Interdisciplinary Studies & Online/Weekend Education.

"Online learning is a growing area at MCC. But more importantly, it is a way for people to advance their education to earn the necessary credentials for the 21st century job market," continued Olson. "In addition to the content you learn in online courses, you also learn how to work effectively with other people in a virtual environment - a skill so necessary in many jobs today."

Dede is the Timothy E. Wirthis Professor in Learning Technologies at Harvard's Graduate School of Education. His research spans emerging technologies for learning, infusing technology into large-scale educational improvement initiatives, developing policies that support educational transformation, and providing leadership in educational innovation. In 2007, Dede was honored by Harvard University as an outstanding teacher, and in 2011 he was named a Fellow of the American Educational Research Association.

For 20 years, MCC has been a leader in online education. In the fall of 1998, the college offered six inaugural online courses, with 77 students enrolling. Today, MCC has developed more than 300 unique online courses, and offers approximately 120 online courses each semester - serving thousands of online students annually.

For more information about Christopher Dede's talk, please contact Peter Shea, Director of Professional Instructional Development, at sheap@middlesex.mass.edu or 781-280-3561.

For more information about Middlesex Online, visit: https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/fit/ or call 1-800-818-3434.

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Middlesex CC To Host Transition Program Info Session

Middlesex Community College offers a nationally recognized two-year, noncredit vocational certificate program for students with learning/cognitive disabilities called the Transition Program.

A Transition Program Information Session will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 1, in MCC’s Bedford Campus Center’s Café East, 591 Springs Road.

“MCC’s Transition program is designed for students with significant learning disabilities who would find traditional college-level academics too challenging, even with extensive support services,” said Patricia Bruno, MCC’s Associate Dean of Student Support Services.

“The Transition Program helps students achieve their potential through coursework and hands-on experience in work settings.”

Three days a week, Transition Program students attend classes designed to teach independent-living skills, computer and job-survival skills, and social skills. Small class size ensures that students receive individualized attention and a program tailored to meet their needs. Two days a week, students work as interns in competitive employment situations in office and business support environments. Transition students may participate in all Middlesex student activities and student support services.

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Information session participants will receive an overview of the program, as well as in-depth information on the curriculum, application procedures, details of the required internship portion of the program, and prospective job opportunities.

For more information about MCC’s Transition Program, or to register for an information session, contact Nancy Sieger, Transition Program Coordinator at 781-280-3676 or nsieger@middlesex.mass.edu.

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Nashoba Tech responds to changing times

By Betsy Levinson / chelmsford@wickedlocal.com
Posted Feb 13, 2018 at 3:39 PMUpdated Feb 13, 2018 at 3:39 PM

The issue: In his January State of the Union address, President Donald Trump said, “Let us open great vocational schools so our future workers can learn a craft and realize their full potential.” In Massachusetts, there already are great vocational schools, educating hundreds of students in myriad high tech and other disciplines.

Vocational education got a boost in recent weeks after President Donald Trump called for opening “great vocational schools so our future workers can learn a craft and realize their full potential.”

But at Nashoba Valley Technical High School, that’s old news.

Founded in the late 1960s with nine vocational programs, the Westford-based school has now more than doubled its offerings to 20 for its 716 students from eight towns: Ayer, Chelmsford, Groton, Littleton, Pepperell, Shirley, Townsend and Westford.

There is no waiting list for admission, according to Superintendent Denise Pigeon.

“If you meet the criteria, we have a spot for you,” she said. “We are just the right size for our member towns.”

She said Massachusetts is “one of the leaders in vocational education.”

“We are different from other states in that we offer a high-quality program.”

Eye on the future

And the state is taking notice of Nashoba Tech.

Over the past two years, the school has received two state grants adding up to $1 million.

As she explained, one grant allowed the school to burnish its machine tool program, upgrading to the all-new Advanced Manufacturing program, responding to “a huge need” in the market.

Second, the school got a grant to overhaul its engineering and robotics program to include a “collaborative robots” program where robots work alongside a person in a lab, providing flexibility and allowing students to design and program their robots.

“It’s amazing,” said Pigeon. “Intelligence is built in. The students learn how to program and use a robot.”

During the 2015-2016 school year, she said Nashoba Tech expanded its 20 technical programs to include Veterinary Assisting and Biotechnology.

The school partnered with Angell Memorial Veterinary Hospital in the veterinary assistant program. It built a clinic at the Westford school campus to provide care to pets of low-income residents in the catchment area.

“It’s the only one in Middlesex County,” she said. “There was a documented need.”

Pigeon emphasized that every program the school offers is geared to demand in the labor market.

“It’s something we pay attention to,” she said. “All our programs are selected to respond to the labor market’s needs. We pride ourselves on that.”
She said Nashoba performs follow-up studies, and recently found that 99 percent of seniors had been hired to work, gone to a two or four-year college, or joined the military.

"We have an exceptional model," she said.

Pigeon has been superintendent for just a year and a half, but is well-known to the school community. She was principal for half a dozen years, and director of curriculum before that.

"I knew out of college that I wanted to be a teacher," she said. She got a job at a vocational school in Haverhill, and "fell in love with the model."

"Our basic objective is to provide an education for all students, ensuring that they graduate with the training that will allow them to achieve gainful employment if they so choose," Pigeon wrote in a message to the school community.

All freshmen get a Google Chromebook upon entry, and keep the computer for four years. That allows all students to work individually with teachers on homework and class assignments.

The high school offers academics, including AP classes for those wanting to go on to higher education, along with occupational programs, a Virtual High School, and a co-op style program where students work in their chosen industry for a week, and attend classes on the alternate week.

Students choose their technical program in the winter of their freshman year, and spend the next three years becoming experts in this field. The school provides testing to gauge aptitude, ability and interest for the students for an appropriate placement.

Array of choices

Programs include automotive technology, cosmetology, biotechnology, carpentry, culinary arts, dental assisting, design and visual communications, early education and care, electrical technology, engineering technology, health assisting, hospitality management, marketing, plumbing and heating, programming and web development, robotics, television and media broadcasting/theater arts and veterinary assisting.

The academic programs include English, math, science, social studies, world language and a range of electives.

Eligible students can also apply for the state-sponsored Dual Enrollment program where they can attend college while still in high school. It is open to qualified juniors and seniors.

The Dual Enrollment program allows a student to attend Middlesex Community College, Mt. Wachusetts Community College, the University of Massachusetts Lowell or Fitchburg State University on a full time basis, while still enrolled at Nashoba as a high school student.

For more information, visit nashobatech.net.
MCC to host transition program info session

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"MCC's Transition program is designed for students with significant learning disabilities who would find traditional college-level academics too challenging, even with extensive support services," Patricia Bruno, MCC's associate dean of student support services said. "The Transition Program helps students achieve their potential through coursework and hands-on experience in work settings."

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Information session participants will receive an overview of the program, as well as in-depth information on the curriculum, application procedures, details of the required internship portion of the program and prospective job opportunities.

For information, contact Nancy Sleger, transition program coordinator at 781-280-3676 or slegern@middlesex.mass.edu.
FEELING THE LOVE @ UML

02/12/2018
By David Perry

UMass Lowell has its share of history, but only rarely is it told in terms of love. Couple by couple, the stories have unfolded for more than a century. Valentine's Day seems a fitting time to recount a few of the many entries in UMass Lowell's book of love.

THE WINTS first noticed one another at a Sox game, part of Opening Week activities in September 2001. She was a freshman, he was a junior. "Amy is a social butterfly, so I didn't get that much time to talk to her," recalls Bryan ('03, '05, Sociology, Community and Social Psychology). He still remembers her sitting in the bleachers, and her laugh on the bus ride to Fenway. Eventually, romance blossomed. On Valentine's Day 2010, Amy said yes. They married at the newly renovated UML Bellegarde Boathouse. They live in Waltham now with their dog, Remy. Amy ('06, '09, Community Health Education, Health Care Policy and Administration) is a project manager at Massachusetts General Hospital, and Bryan is director of advising and academic pathways at Middlesex Community College. "We find time here and there to surprise one another with an exciting travel experience," says Bryan, "throwing a party with friends and family, or trying to take in a River Hawks hockey game!"
From Botswana to Lowell: civil engineering student finds his way

Masuzyo Mhang'o has always been curious about how things like electricity work and how buildings are built. That curiosity led him to study civil engineering at Middlesex Community College.

"I chose engineering, even though it seemed like a lot of work. But I knew it would be worthwhile in the long run," Mhang'o said.

Mhang'o, 23, of Lowell, is planning to graduate from MCC's Engineering Science Transfer Civil/Environmental degree program in spring 2019. He then hopes to earn bachelor’s and master’s degrees from UMass Lowell.

His path to success twisted and turned from Botswana to Lowell — with stops in Billerica and Texas.

Mhang'o was four years old when he and his younger brother arrived the United States.

They joined their mother, who had settled in Bilerica three months earlier. She found a job and then sponsored the rest of the family to come to the U.S.

"We moved to the United States because my father was ill," Mhang'o said. "He had cancer, was misdiagnosed in Africa and was hoping to get better treatment in America.

"By the time all the papers were filed and the rest of my family had gotten their visas, the cancer had progressed very far," Mhang'o said.

"However, it didn’t really matter because my father was happy to have made it to America — and was happy his children get to experience life here."

Mhang'o remembers landing in Boston. It was cold, but he loved it.

"Snow was awesome," Mhang'o said. "I would dress in all my snow gear and burrow through it like a gopher."

Before enrolling at Middlesex, Mhang'o attended UMass Boston, but it wasn’t a good fit. So, he took a gap year and headed to Texas and worked building trails in state parks for the Texas Conservation Corps.

He was part of AmeriCorps’ Corporation for National Community Service, a program that had previously taken him to Minnesota, Iowa, Indiana, Michigan, South Dakota and Wisconsin for a year after high school.

After he saved up some money, he headed back to Massachusetts and found the right fit at MCC.

"The atmosphere at Middlesex is very welcoming. Everyone is diverse and a lot is happening every day on the Lowell campus," Mhang'o said. "And Bedford has a great campus — I often walk on the Fitness Trail through the woods there."

Mhang'o likes to keep busy, having hiked 12 of the 48 4,000-foot mountains in New Hampshire. He also teaches teens about conservation-trail building through the Appalachian Mountain Club.

In addition to taking five or six classes a semester, he’s on the dean’s list and works as a peer tutor.

"Through tutoring, I have become a better student. I feel I am helping people like me, who may struggle at first, but are determined," Mhang'o said.

For information, contact Professor Michele Stein at steinn@middlesex.mass.edu or 781-280-3932, or call 1-800-818-3434.

MCC biotechnology programs receive highest industry rating

Middlesex Community College Biotechnology Technician degree and certificate programs have received a Platinum endorsement — the highest rating — from the Massachusetts Biotechnology Education Foundation’s 2017 Biotechnology Endorsement Program.

"This endorsement from the Massachusetts Biotechnology Education Foundation is certainly an honor," Middlesex President James C. Mabry said. "Biotechnology is an economic engine powering the Commonwealth, and the college works hard to ensure our graduates are prepared to meet the workforce needs of our partners in the region."

"We are pleased to have our Biotechnology programs recognized with the highest endorsement from MassBioEd," Kathleen Sweeney, dean of STEM, said. "It validates the work our Biotechnology coordinator and faculty do on behalf of the program and our students. It also highlights the valuable work faculty members do to collaborate with our industry partners in preparing our students for the workforce."

Middlesex has the largest biotechnology program in the state, with an average of 32 associate degree graduates and 40 certificate recipients each year.

MCC’s Platinum endorsement is a recognition that the college’s Biotechnology Technician curriculum aligns with core competencies developed by a working group of leaders from academia and the biotechnology industry.

Through its endorsement process, MassBioEd recognizes the contributions community-college programs make in developing a skilled life-sciences workforce across the commonwealth.

For information, contact Kathleen Sweeney, dean of STEM at sweeneyk@middlesex.mass.edu or 781-280-3669.

MCC opens enrollment for “College for Kids” Feb. 20

Middlesex Community College will open enrollment for College for Kids at 8 a.m. Feb. 20.

College for Kids offers one- and three-week summer programs for children, ages 8 to 17, that run July 9 through Aug. 16 on the Bedford and Lowell campuses.

These summer programs provide children with opportunities to explore careers, learn new skills, meet new friends and boost self-confidence.

Programs are taught by public school teachers or by professionals who are experts in their field.

College for Kids offers run Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Programs explore topics such as film production, aviation, writing, science, veterinary medicine, technology, culinary arts, fashion design, Minecraft, web design, Lego Mindstorms and fitness.

This summer, programming in Lowell will be expanded. New College for Kids offerings include medical laboratory science, golf and exploring monotypes and collages.

For information, visit http://bit.ly/2n7QrC or contact Lauren Ellis, program manager, at 781-280-3665, 781-280-3669 or ellisl@middlesex.mass.edu.
LIFESTYLES

Whether inside or outdoors, there are plenty of ways to keep the kids busy over winter break

By Sun Staff

UPDATED: 02/08/2018 12:50:47 PM EST

Middlesex Community College, 33 Kearney Square, Lowell, offers "Lights! Camera! Action!," Tuesday through Friday, 1 to 4 p.m., for creative students to have a chance to generate their own short scenes and learn the basics of acting in and producing a short film. The course will concentrate on the creative process, with discussion of the technical elements involved in post-production. Cost is $129.

Read more: http://www.lowellsun.com/lifestyles/ci_31652100#ixzz56zwyPNUZ

Keep Kids Engaged This Summer With MCC's College For Kids

It's not too early to start planning for summer! Middlesex Community College will open enrollment for College for Kids 2018 at 8 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20.

College for Kids offers one- and three-week summer programs for children, ages 8 to 17, that run July 9 through Aug. 16, on the Bedford and Lowell campuses.

These fun and engaging summer programs provide children with unique opportunities to explore careers, learn new skills, meet new friends, and boost confidence. Programs are taught by public-school teachers or by professionals who are experts in their field.

Most College for Kids offerings run Monday through Thursday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Programs explore topics such as film production, aviation, writing, science, veterinary medicine, technology, culinary arts, fashion design, Minecraft, web design, LegoMindstorms and fitness.

This summer, programming in Lowell will be expanded. And new College for Kids offerings include "Medical Laboratory Science," "Golf," and "Exploring Monotypes & Collages."

For the complete 2018 College for Kids schedule and registration information, visit https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/collegeforkids/ or contact Lauren Ellis, Program Manager, at 781-280-3663, 781-280-3669 or email: ellisl@middlesex.mass.edu

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Middlesex CC to Host Transition Program Info Session
Learn more about our nationally recognized noncredit vocational certificate program for students with learning/cognitive disabilities
By Middlesex Community College, Patch Poster I Feb 8, 2018 1:06 pm ET

A nationally recognized two-year, noncredit vocational certificate program for students with learning/cognitive disabilities

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For more information about MCC's Transition Program, or to register for an information session, contact Nancy Sleger, Transition Program Coordinator at 781-280-3676 or slegern@middlesex.mass.edu.

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MCC Radiologic Tech Student Saves Infant’s Life with CPR Skills
By Middlesex Community College, Patch Poster | Feb 6, 2018 1:07 pm ET

PHOTO CAPTION: Ebonie Seriam, of Lowell, a student in Middlesex Community College’s Radiologic Technology Program, with William Dannoody, Department Chairman.

Only months after completing CPR training, this 42-year-old mother didn’t hesitate when faced with a crisis at a neighborhood gathering. Before Ebonie Seriam could be accepted into Middlesex Community College’s Radiologic Technology Program, she had to complete one more class: A four-hour course in CPR. It never occurred to her that that one nagging requirement would help her save the life of a baby. "Honestly, I thought it was a waste of time," said Seriam, of Lowell. "I thought I’d never use it." But she was wrong.

Only months after completing CPR training, and shortly after beginning her "Rad Tech" studies last fall, the 42-year-old mother of five didn’t hesitate when faced with a crisis at a neighborhood gathering.

When a woman began screaming that her infant son wasn’t breathing, Seriam jumped into action. She instructed her cousin to call 911, then picked up the baby and gave it five blows to his back. She checked his mouth, gave him a few rescue breaths, and carefully began two-finger chest compressions.

Nothing was working – but Seriam didn’t get flustered. She flipped the baby over and gave him five more back blows, a little more forcefully this time. "He let out a god-awful screech - it was like a siren," she said. "It was such a blessing."

The boy was breathing, but not well. Seriam kept him in position, wrapped him in a blanket and administered a few more rescue breaths to keep him breathing until the paramedics arrived.

By that time, the entire neighborhood had come out. "There were more than 50 people surrounding us," recalled Seriam.

Paramedics and police praised Seriam for her quick thinking. Her family surrounded her, calling her their hero. As the adrenaline wore off, the enormity of the situation hit her and Seriam began to cry. She only knew CPR because of that required course.
"CPR has always been a requirement to enter the Radiologic Technology Program," explained William Darmody, Department Chairman. "Our students conduct radiology internships at area hospitals that require patient contact, so they have to be well prepared."

Along with Darmody, Katherine Gehly, MCC's Dean of Nursing and Allied Health, understands the importance of such training. "As a nurse, I know that CPR is an essential skill for anyone in healthcare. Prompt action can increase the chance of survival for the victim," said Gehly.

"This is the first time I am aware of CPR being used by one of our students outside the clinical setting. I was very moved when I learned of the impact this event had on Ebinnie. Knowing what to do to save a life—and then being able to act on it—is very powerful."

Once the excitement of the day had worn off and the praise from family, friends and strangers died down, Sriram realized how important that four-hour CPR course had been. "Everything happens for a reason, I guess I was supposed to be there that day," she said.

Sriram is now coordinating a time for her entire family to take a CPR class together—and she has become an advocate for everyone to learn it. "CPR really does work," she says. "I am so glad I took that course."

For more information about MCC's Radiologic Technology Program, contact William Darmody at darmodyw@middlesex.mass.edu or (781) 280-3942.

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PHOTO CAPTION: Ebinnie Seriam, of Lowell, a student in Middlesex Community College's Radiologic Technology Program, with William Darmody, Department Chairman.
Congratulations to Middlesex Community College @middlesex_cc on their 2017 EIA designation! @middlesex_cc is one of four designees this year. Stay tuned for more today! To learn more about EIA and to submit an application: learningoutcomeassessment.org/eiadesignation...
@aacu @AASCU @APLU_News #EIA
Middlesex Community College plans FAFSA Day to help with financial aid

*The Lowell Sun*

UPDATED: 02/05/2018 11:42:17 AM EST

LOWELL -- Middlesex Community College will host FAFSA Day, a free community workshop to help students and families fill out the 2018-2019 Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the federally required application for financial aid.

The workshop is Saturday Feb. 10, at 1 p.m., in the Cowan Center on the Lowell campus, 33 Kearney Square.

FAFSA Day at Middlesex offers different options for families seeking assistance, including computer support to complete the FAFSA online, and one-on-one assistance from financial-aid experts.

To prepare for the event and to allow FAFSA Day volunteers to provide you with email updates beforehand, all participants are encouraged to register in advance by visiting [www.FAFSADay.org](http://www.FAFSADay.org).

Students and parents should each bring the following (students born before Jan. 1, 1995, do not need to bring parental information):

* FSA ID (sign up and bring both your Student FSA ID and Parent FSA ID, available at [https://fsaid.ed.gov](https://fsaid.ed.gov)).

  n Social Security number.

  n Driver's license number (if any).

  n 2016 federal tax return.

  n 2016 W-2 or year-end pay stub (if didn't file tax return).

  n Current bank statement(s).

  n Current business and investment records.

  n Alien registration card (if not a U.S. citizen).

To learn more about FAFSA Day at MCC, contact Yohanka Tejada, senior financial-aid counselor, at [mass.edu]>tejaday@middlesex.mass.edu or 978-656-3242.
Middlesex Community College to Host Free FAFSA Day

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- Current bank statement(s)

To learn more about FAFSA Day at MCC, contact Yohanka Tejada, Senior Financial Aid Counselor, at tejaday@middcексsex.mass.edu or 978-656-3242.

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Issue 241 from Jan.22nd - Feb.05th, 2018
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Middlesex Community College will open enrollment for College for Kids 2018 at 8 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20.

College for Kids offers one- and three-week summer programs for children, ages 8 to 17, that run July 9 through Aug. 16, on the Bedford and Lowell campuses.

These fun and engaging summer programs provide children with unique opportunities to explore careers, learn new skills, meet new friends, and boost self-confidence. Programs are taught by public-school teachers or by professionals who are experts in their field.

Most College for Kids offerings run Monday through Thursday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Programs explore topics such as film production, aviation, writing, science, veterinary medicine, technology, culinary arts, fashion design, Minecraft, web design, LegoMindstorms and fitness.

This summer, programming in Lowell will be expanded. And new College for Kids offerings include “Medical Laboratory Science,” “Golf,” and “Exploring Monotypes & Collages.”

For the complete 2018 College for Kids schedule and registration information, visit https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/collegeforkids/ or contact Lauren Ellis, Program Manager, at 781-280-3663, 781-280-3669 or email: ellis@middlesex.mass.edu
Lowell — On Jan. 16, The Lura Smith Fund and the Middlesex Community College Foundation hosted “Passing The Ball,” the 20th anniversary “Celebrating the Life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.” at the Thompson Center at UMass Lowell on Martin Luther King Jr. Way.

More than 350 exuberant guests held hands as they remembered Dr. King and honored his legacy. The Lura Smith Fund at MCC “passed the ball” that day for peace to everyone to continue to promote freedom, equality and peace in our community and throughout the world.

The late morning was filled with excitement, as numerous blessings and celebrations took place through music, history and dance in honor of Dr. King, a Southern Baptist minister, who fought for peace and reconciliation for all mankind.

The Living the Dream Award, presented each year to an individual or organization to acknowledge efforts to embrace the dream of Dr. King, was presented to Karen N. Frederick, CEO of Community Teamwork, Inc., of Lowell. Karen was honored for her many years of commitment to the hungry, homeless and hurting in our community. Congratulations, Karen, for your kindness and compassion for mankind.

Help keep the dream alive. To donate, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/mlk or Middlesex Community College Foundation, P.O. Box 8681, 01853, Lowell, MA.
MCC Biotechnology Programs Receive Highest Industry Rating

Middlesex Community College's Biotechnology Technician degree and certificate programs have received a Platinum endorsement — the highest rating — from the Massachusetts Biotechnology Education Foundation's (MassBioEd) 2017 Biotechnology Endorsement Program.

"This endorsement from the Massachusetts Biotechnology Education Foundation is certainly an honor," said Middlesex President James C. Mabry. "Biotechnology is an economic engine powering the Commonwealth, and the college works hard to ensure our graduates are prepared to meet the workforce needs of our partners in the region."

"We are pleased to have our Biotechnology programs recognized with the highest endorsement from MassBioEd," said Kathleen Sweeney, Dean of Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM). "It validates the work our Biotechnology coordinator and faculty do on behalf of the program and our students. It also highlights the valuable work faculty members do to collaborate with our industry partners in preparing our students for the workforce."

Middlesex has the largest biotechnology program in the state, with an average of 32 associate degree graduates and 40 certificate recipients each year. MCC's Platinum endorsement is a recognition that the college's Biotechnology Technician curriculum aligns with core competencies developed by a working group of leaders from academia and the biotechnology industry.

Through its endorsement process, MassBioEd recognizes the contributions community-college programs make in developing a skilled life-sciences workforce across the commonwealth. For a complete list of MassBioEd's 2017 Endorsed Biotechnology Programs, visit:

https://www.massbioed.org/career_pathways/college_programs/endorsed_biotecnology_programs

For more information about MCC's Biotechnology Technician programs, contact Kathleen Sweeney, Dean of STEM, at sweeneyk@middlesex.mass.edu or 781-280-3609.

Middlesex Community College is your pathway to success. As one of the largest, most comprehensive community colleges in the state, we educate, engage and empower a diverse community of learners. MCC offers more than 70 degree and certificate programs, plus hundreds of non-credit courses, on our campuses in Bedford and Lowell, as well as online. Middlesex Community College: Student success starts here!
From Botswana to Lowell: Civil Engineering Student Finds His Way

Masuzayo Mhango expects to graduate from Middlesex CC's Engineering Science Transfer Civil/Environmental degree program in spring 2019

By Middlesex Community College, Patch Poster | Feb 2, 2018 1:32 pm ET | Updated Feb 2, 2018 1:33 pm ET

Masuzayo Mhango has always been curious about how things like electricity work and how buildings are built. That curiosity led him to study civil engineering at Middlesex Community College.

"I chose engineering, even though it seemed like a lot of work. But I knew it would be worthwhile in the long run," he said.

Mhango, 23, of Lowell, is planning to graduate from MCC's Engineering Science Transfer Civil/Environmental degree program in spring 2019. He then hopes to earn bachelor's and master's degrees from UMass Lowell.

His path to success twisted and turned from Botswana to Lowell – with stops in Billerica and Texas.

Mhango was 4 years old when he and his younger brother arrived the United States. They joined their mother, who had settled in Billerica three months earlier. She found a job and then sponsored the rest of the family to come to the U.S.

"We moved to the United States because my father was ill," explained Mhango. "He had cancer, was misdiagnosed in Africa and was hoping to get better treatment in America.

"By the time all the papers were filed and the rest of my family had gotten their visas, the cancer had progressed very far," he continued. "However, it didn't really matter because my father was happy to have made it to America – and was happy his children got to experience life here."

Mhango remembers landing in Boston. It was cold, but he loved it! "Snow was awesome," he said. "I would dress in all my snow gear and burrow through it like a gopher."

Before enrolling at Middlesex, Mhango attended UMass Boston, but it wasn't a good fit. So, he took a gap year and headed to Texas and worked building trails in state parks for the Texas Conservation Corps.
He was part of AmeriCorps' Corporation for National Community Service, a program that had previously taken him to Minnesota, Iowa, Indiana, Michigan, South Dakota and Wisconsin for a year after high school.

After he saved up some money, he headed back to Massachusetts and found the right fit at MCC. "The atmosphere at Middlesex is very welcoming. Everyone is diverse and a lot is happening every day on the Lowell campus," he said. "And Bedford has a great campus — I often walk on the Fitness Trail through the woods there."

Mhango likes to keep busy, having hiked 12 of the 48 4,000-foot mountains in New Hampshire. He also teaches teens about conservation-trail building through the Appalachian Mountain Club.

In addition to taking five or six classes a semester, he's on the Dean's List and works as a peer tutor. "Through tutoring, I have become a better student. I feel I am helping people like me, who may struggle at first, but are determined," said Mhango.

To learn more about MCC's Engineering Programs, contact Professor Michele Stein at steinm@middelsex.mass.edu or 781-280-3932, or call 1-800-818-3434.

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Cafe features young faces and their passions

By Paul Tennant ptennant@eagletribune.com

Feb 2, 2018

LAWRENCE — They are young and full of passion.

They want to change the world for the better and they’re starting with their hometown.

The Photos de Nosotros project began last March when several teenagers, many of whom participate in the Movement City afterschool program, decided they wanted to do something "to bring the community together," according to Charlize Garcia, 17, a Lawrence High School senior.

The result was dozens of photographs of Lawrence people of all ages. Each is pictured with a sign announcing his or her passion. The photos is being displayed at El Taller cafe, 275 Essex St., for most of February.

Garcia and others involved in the project inaugurated the exhibit Thursday evening.

"My passion is creativity," said Garcia, who already has been accepted at Middlesex Community College. She aspires to become a movie director some day. She also has an interest in astronomy, she said.

Garcia and her partners in the Photos de Nosotros project might take inspiration from the motto of Kansas, Ad Astra per Aspera, Latin for "to the stars through difficulties."
"We all want the best for each other," said Nelson Frias, 17, a senior at Notre Dame Cristo Rey High School. His passions include penmanship and rap.

Frias has his eye on attending UMass Lowell in the fall. He admits he's a good rapper and wouldn't mind doing it for a living – but he said he realizes there are many good rappers out there.

He may major in biology, he said.

Vaellasha Lantigua, 17, a Lawrence High School senior, said her passion is to be a humanitarian. She said she particularly wants to promote more compassionate care for the elderly.

Edison Correa, a first-year student at Northern Essex Community College, said his passion is track. He throws the discus and does the long jump. Well over 6 feet tall, he's a strong contender in both events.

The photographs in the exhibit were taken by Diana Melendez, 14, a freshman at Notre Dame Cristo Rey High School. The subjects of the photos express a wide variety of passions.

"My passion is helping others have confidence in themselves," reads one statement.

"My passion is my city," reads another.

"My passion is empowering students to learn," an educator proclaims.

The people who attended the opening of the exhibit, most of them younger than 25, shared many other passions, including music, poetry, photography, meditation and helping others.

El Taller, pronounced "tie-air," a Spanish word that means workshop or studio, is open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday; 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday; and 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday. It is closed Sunday.
NEWS BRIEFS

MCC named 'military friendly school'

Middlesex Community College was recently named a silver-level military friendly school by Victory Media.

The 2018 list of Military Friendly Schools honors the top colleges, universities and trade schools in the country. They are recognized for doing the most to embrace America's military service members, veterans and spouses as students and ensure their success — on campus in the classroom and after graduation.

“This Silver Award recognizes the important work Middlesex does to create a welcoming environment for our veterans,” Pam Flaherty, dean of students said. “We provide educational opportunities, as well as numerous veterans resources, to help make the transition from military to civilian life easier.”

Veterans at MCC have become more engaged on campus through the Veterans Resource Centers in Bedford and Lowell. Students are also helping their peers through peer-mentoring programs and a variety of Veterans Club activities.

MCC has also received grant funding to provide Green Zone training to a wide range of faculty and staff. Green Zones help create a highly-visible network of college employees who better understand the unique needs of active military veterans and their family members.

For information, contact Jorge Morales-Lopez at lopezj@middlesex.mass.edu or 978-656-3158, or Timothy Quinn at quinnt@middlesex.mass.edu or 781-280-3310.

For information, visit http://militaryfriendly-schools.com.

Middlesex CC offers new accelerated minimesters

In addition to Middlesex Community College's traditional 15-week spring semester, MCC is now offering two minimesters: accelerated, eight-week sessions.

Registration is now open. Spring minimester started Jan. 22 and will run through March 16. Registration is now open for minimester II, set for March 26 to May 18.

"These new accelerated, eight-week minimesters are one more way Middlesex is helping our students discover they can fit education into their busy lives," said Phil Sisson, provost and vice president of academic and student affairs.

Most minimester courses are offered online. They cover the same content, maintain the same academic standards, and contain the same number of in-class instructional hours as courses scheduled during the traditional 15-week semester.

Financial aid is available for those who qualify.

For information, visit http://bit.ly/2n9Der8 or call 800-818-3434.
food & drink

Wine Novice will make a wine expert out of you

Can white wine be made from red grapes? What is the difference between aged and unaged Chardonnay? How do I know what grapes are used in a bottle of French Sancerre?

If you want to learn the answers to these questions, and step up your wine-tasting skills, I'll be teaching two wine classes in April in Middlesex Community College's Adult Continuing Education program.

These aren't just your regular wine classes. The Wine Novice wants elegance and comfort for his select students, and Middlesex officials have obliged with a most wonderful setting — the stylish Nevinth House on Andover Street in Lowell. Yes, white tablecloths, please, and bright, glimmering wine glasses.

There are two separate two-hour classes on white and red wines, respectively, each presented one week apart. Class begins at 7 p.m. You can take one class or both. The registration fee is $75 per class.

What: A thoughtful Valentine's Day gift for young and old wine lovers.

Now here's why you have to act fast. Space is limited to 20 students per night.

To register, go to www.middlesex.mass.edu/careertraining, and pop in my name (CAMPANINI) in the search button. A program description — White Wine Tasting and/or Red Wine Tasting — will appear with course code. You can register online or call the college at 800-818-3434.

If you want to double your fun — and truly enjoy the educational value — take both classes. I guarantee you'll have a richer appreciation for wine and a great start on the summer sipping season. Salud!

On Thursday, April 5, we'll immerse ourselves in the world of Noble White Wines — Chardonnay, Riesling, Sauvignon Blanc — and learn their characteristics and how unique terroirs influence aromatics and taste. We'll taste six beautiful wines, exquisitely paired with soft cheeses and condiments, and gain simple yet valuable insights into a appreciation of what's in the glass. The goal here is to build sensory awareness and confidence in your ability to see, swirl, smell, sip and savor the wine.

By the end of the class, I believe students will detect the difference between a dry Washington State Riesling and a semi-sweet New York State Riesling or German Mosel.

I'll also be touching on how to read a wine label from Italy and France — one of the most mysterious and intimidating experiences for wine novices. U.S. producers stamp the varietal on the bottle, but it's the exception and not the rule for these foreign wine superpowers.

Naturally, I'll be throwing in a few surprises, like wine trivia with prizes, and a special wine or two from my private cellar. Students will also receive multiple handouts to better understand these glorious white wines and where the best bargains are to be found.

There's a lot of ground to be covered in two hours, so we'll be focusing on pleasure — not perfection. As the Italians say, "piace, piace" (easy, easy).

On Thursday, April 12, we'll be turning our attention to the bold and beautiful world of Noble Red Wines — Pinot Noir, Merlot, Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon. We'll be going through the same drill, although our field of exploration will be slightly expanded as to the wines we taste. (How can I not include a nice Italian Super Tuscan or rich French Burgundy?)
Jeanne D’Arc Credit Union announces new Chairman of the Board

LOWELL, MA (January 31, 2018) — Jeanne D’Arc Credit Union is pleased to announce Mr. John P. Chemaly, Co-Owner and President of Trinity E.M.S., Inc., will serve as the new Chairman of its Board of Directors.

The new election comes after previous Chairman, Mr. George C. Eliades, Jr., Esquire announced his retirement after dedicating 30 years of service on the Credit Union’s Board of Directors.

“We are so appreciative for the time and commitment George Eliades Jr. has generously contributed to the Credit Union for the last three decades,” said Mark S. Cochran, President and Chief Executive Officer of Jeanne D’Arc Credit Union. “He has always been passionate about our mission, as well as the City of Lowell, and has been a true advocate for educating people about the Credit Union difference.”

Mr. Chemaly succeeds Mr. Eliades with 15 years serving on the Credit Union’s Board of Directors. Raised in Tewksbury, Mass., Mr. Chemaly is well-known for his community involvement. In addition to Jeanne D’Arc’s Board of Directors, he serves as the Board Chairman of the Massachusetts Ambulance Association, Co-Chairman of the City of Lights Parade and Co-Chairman of the Lowell Sun’s Sun Santa. He also sits on the Board of Directors for the Greater Lowell Community Foundation, the Middlesex Community College Foundation, The Lowell Plan, Home Health VNA, the Board of Governors for Lowell General Hospital, as well as the Lowell Winterfest Committee. He is also an active member of the City of Lowell Opioid Task Force.

“I’m very proud and honored to serve as Jeanne D’Arc’s Chair to further its mission within the community,” said Mr. Chemaly.

Mr. Chemaly joined the Jeanne D’Arc Credit Union Board of Directors in 2003. He was initially drawn to the Credit Union’s dedication to helping people in the community achieve their financial goals, such as buying a home. He appreciates how Jeanne D’Arc Credit Union helps each member make sound financial decisions.

“We’re a great helping institution in the community, and I want to continue that,” said Mr. Chemaly. “We want to help better the community, and help people along the way.”
Mr. Chemaly looks forward to helping the Credit Union gear its efforts to reach the millennial generation, and hopes to see the Credit Union enlarge its footprint by expanding to other states.

“We are honored to have John Chemaly serve as our Board Chairman,” said Mr. Cochran. “John has a true passion for giving back to our local community, and has been an asset to our Board for the last 15 years. He continuously demonstrates unwavering dedication to serving and helping others, as well as genuine enthusiasm for the mission of the Credit Union.”

About Jeanne D’Arc Credit Union

Jeanne D’Arc Credit Union was established in 1912 and is a full-service, member-owned community-based financial cooperative with more than 75,000 members and $1.2 billion in assets. It operates eight full-service branches in Lowell, Dracut (2), Tyngsboro, Chelmsford, Methuen and Westford, Massachusetts and Nashua, New Hampshire; high-school branches at Lowell High and Dracut High schools; a loan center in Lowell and two mortgage centers in Chelmsford and North Reading.

Contacts

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MCC Biotechnology Programs Receive Highest Industry Rating

Biotechnology Technician degree & certificate programs receive Platinum endorsement from MA Biotechnology Education Foundation

By Middlesex Community College, Patch Poster | Jan 30, 2018 2:23 pm ET

Caption: Dr. Mariluci Bladon (left), founder and coordinator of Middlesex Community College's Biotechnology Technician Program, works closely with students. MCC's Biotech degree and certificate programs have received a Platinum endorsement – the highest rating – from the Massachusetts Biotechnology Education Foundation's 2017 Biotechnology Endorsement Program.

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"This endorsement from the Massachusetts Biotechnology Education Foundation is certainly an honor," said Middlesex President James C. Mabry. "Biotechnology is an economic engine powering the Commonwealth, and the college works hard to ensure our graduates are prepared to meet the workforce needs of our partners in the region."

"We are pleased to have our Biotechnology programs recognized with the highest endorsement from MassBioEd," said Kathleen Sweeney, Dean of Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM). "It validates the work our Biotechnology coordinator and faculty do on behalf of the program and our students. It also highlights the valuable work faculty members do to collaborate with our industry partners in preparing our students for the workforce."

Middlesex has the largest biotechnology program in the state, with an average of 32 associate degree graduates and 40 certificate recipients each year. MCC's Platinum endorsement is a recognition that the college's Biotechnology Technician curriculum aligns with core competencies developed by a working group of leaders from academia and the biotechnology industry.

Through its endorsement process, MassBioEd recognizes the contributions community-college programs make in developing a skilled life-sciences workforce across the commonwealth. For a complete list of MassBioEd's 2017 Endorsed Biotechnology Programs, visit:

https://www.massbioed.org/career_pathways/college_programs/endorsed_biotechnology_programs

For more information about MCC’s Biotechnology Technician programs, contact Kathleen Sweeney, Dean of STEM, at sweeneyk@middlesex.mass.edu or 781-280-3609.

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MRT: MCC an ‘extraordinary’ partner

Middlesex Community College has been recognized as an “extraordinary” community partner by Lowell’s Merrimack Repertory Theatre. At MRT’s 2017 Set the Stage Celebration, which raised more than $100,000 for the theater’s education programs, Middlesex was presented the newly created Donahue Award for Community Leadership. The award is named in honor of MRT founder Nancy L. Donahue. Accepting the award for the college were President James Mabry and Karen Oster, chairwoman of Performing Arts.

“We are very proud and honored to receive this award,” Mabry said. “At Middlesex, we are dedicated to promoting student success on — and off — the stage.” Oster added, “Our mission has always included the active participation of our students in learning to engage and empower others in the community through theater. Over the last two years, we have partnered with MRT so our students can be more actively involved in the creative process of work-shopping new plays and musicals.”

MCC’s Theater Department has helped MRT workshop three new works: “Chill,” “Little Women Retold” and “Hurricane, The Musical,” Oster said. “These workshops have enabled Middlesex students to take part in observing, working behind the scenes and, in the case of ‘Hurricane,’ appearing on stage,” she added.

Middlesex Community College plans FAFSA Day to help with financial aid

LOWELL — Middlesex Community College will host FAFSA Day, a free community workshop to help students and families fill out the 2018-2019 Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the federally required application for financial aid.

The workshop is Saturday Feb. 10, at 1 p.m., in the Cowan Center on the Lowell campus, 33 Kearney Square.

FAFSA Day at Middlesex offers different options for families seeking assistance, including computer support to complete the FAFSA online, and one-on-one assistance from financial-aid experts.

To prepare for the event and to allow FAFSA Day volunteers to provide you with email updates beforehand, all participants are encouraged to register in advance by visiting www.FAFSADay.org.

Students and parents should each bring the following (students born before Jan. 1, 1995, do not need to bring parental information):

- FSA ID (sign up and bring both your Student FSA ID and Parent FSA ID, available at https://fsaid.ed.gov).

- Social Security number.
- Driver’s license number (if any).
- 2016 federal tax return.
- 2016 W-2 or year-end pay stub (if didn’t file tax return).
- Current bank statement(s).
- Current business and investment records.
- Alien registration card (if not a U.S. citizen).

To learn more about FAFSA Day at MCC, contact Yohanka Tejeda, senior financial-aid counselor, at tejeda@middlesex.mass.edu or 978-656-3242.
Middlesex Community College
To Host Free FAFSA Day

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Middlesex Community College: Student success starts here!

Middlesex CC Offers
New Accelerated ‘Mini-mesters’

In addition to Middlesex Community College’s traditional 15-week Spring Semester, MCC is now offering two Mini-mesters — accelerated, eight-week sessions. Registration is now open and financial aid is available for those who qualify.

- Spring Mini-mester I runs Jan. 22 through March 16
- Spring Mini-mester II runs March 26 through May 18

“These new accelerated, eight-week Mini-mesters are one more way Middlesex is helping our students discover they can fit education into their busy lives,” said Phil Sisson, Provost and Vice President of Academic & Student Affairs.

Most Mini-mester courses are offered online. They cover the same content, maintain the same academic standards, and contain the same number of in-class instructional hours as courses scheduled during the traditional 15-week semester.

For further information and to see the full list of Mini-mester course offerings, visit https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/minimester or call 1-800-818-3434.

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James C. Mabry: Make this the year to invest in yourself

By James C. Mabry, Special to The Sun

This year, why not resolve to start -- or finish -- your college degree and embark on a journey that can expand your potential in countless ways. And community colleges are the ideal place to begin.

Whether you are seeking to improve your basic skills, complete a career-training program, prepare for a new career, or transfer to one of our state's great universities -- community colleges are the place where the diverse needs of our community are served and all are guided on a path to success.

Millions of Americans already know about the community college advantage. In 2015, 7 million students -- or 38 percent of all U.S. undergraduate students -- attended public and private two-year colleges. On average, a community college graduate earns nearly 20 percent more every year than someone with just a high school diploma.

Community colleges make sense because they are:

* Affordable -- Community colleges have the lowest tuition of all public colleges and universities. And, with the statewide Commonwealth Commitment, students who start bachelor's degrees at community colleges can save up to 40 percent off the cost of a four-year degree.

* Flexible -- Community colleges offer courses during the day, evening, weekends and online. We know that most of our students are working, juggling family responsibilities, and going to school. We will build a schedule that works for you.
Middlesex Community College, where I am president, also offers:

* Small class sizes -- Our student/faculty ratio is 23 to 1.
* Excellent faculty -- Our faculty focus on teaching and working directly with students and are committed to your success.
* Supportive environment -- We offer free tutoring, career and transfer counseling, and disability support services.
* Financial support -- We can help with federal financial-aid applications, and offer qualified students assistance through a $1.1 million Student Success Fund and numerous scholarships.
* Veterans services -- Middlesex is ranked a "Military Friendly" school, with Veteran's Resource Centers on both campuses.
* Outstanding programs -- We offer more than 80 degree and certificate programs, and many are recognized as leaders in their fields, including our Biotechnology Technician, Culinary Arts, Phlebotomy, Paralegal Studies, and online programs. In fact, MCC has been offering online learning for 20 years!
* Transferable Credits -- We understand that many of our students plan to start their bachelor's degree at a community college, so we have transfer agreements in place with many private four-year colleges, as well as with Massachusetts' outstanding public colleges and universities through the Commonwealth Commitment and MassTransfer programs.
* Honors Program -- Our popular Commonwealth Honors Program is the largest in Massachusetts and allows students to work at a more advanced level -- which can help their transfer prospects. Honors students have recently transferred to top colleges like Columbia, Smith, Amherst and Mount Holyoke.

A college education is an investment in yourself and in your family's future. Good luck on your journey and I look forward to seeing you on campus.

Dr. James C. Mabry is president of Middlesex Community College.

Read more: http://www.lowellsun.com/opinion/ci_31618928/make-this-year-invest-yourself#ixzz56GDkukaq
Getting a leg up

MCC program offers certificate to special needs students

By Jesse Collings
jcollings@wickedlocal.com

Receiving education after high school is becoming an increasingly necessary requirement to secure a job, and that is still true for students with significant learning disabilities. Middlesex Community College’s Transition Program provides post-high school educational opportunities for students with learning/cognitive disabilities.

"MCC’s Transition program is designed for students with significant learning disabilities who would find traditional college-level academics too challenging, even with extensive support services," Patricia Bruno, MCC’s associate dean of student support services, said. "The Transition Program helps students achieve their potential through coursework and hands-on experience in work settings."

Graduates of MCC’s Transition Program receive a Certificate of Completion in Office and Business Support Skills and typically obtain employment in office support, business support, or retail support. Small class size ensures that students receive individualized attention and a program tailored to meet their needs. Transition students may participate in all Middlesex student activities and student support services. The program lasts two academic years (fall and spring semesters) and is structured around three days a week of classroom learning, where students learn independent-living skills, computer and job survival skills, and social skills. The other two days, students are involved in internship programs.

“We work with a lot of local employers, Lahey Clinic, the Bedford VA, Lowell General Hospital, some local banks and other employers who provide internships and future jobs for graduates of the program,” Bruno said. “The jobs that most of our students get are data entry, entry-level clerical work, working in packaging in shipping or in kitchens.”

The Transition Program was started in 1985 and according to Bruno is the only program of its kind in the Massachusetts community college system.

“The program serves a unique niche in education, as it serves students who are at a low-level academically, but still provides a form of secondary education,” Bruno said. “When a student is close to graduating, we work with them on their resumes and we hold mock interviews to make sure that they are prepared when they have an interview for a job.”

Transition Program candidates should have a high school diploma, GED credential or certificate of completion, interest in training for entry-level work in business and industry, fifth- to eighth-grade level reading and math skills, and the maturity and emotional stability to effectively participate in a program on a college campus.

MCC will be hosting several info sessions for students and parents interested in the program. One session will be on March 1, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. and another session will be April 19, from 9 to 11 a.m. Both sessions will be held on the Bedford Campus Center Café East, located at 501 Springs Road.

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See MCC, A5
Middlesex Community College will host FAFSA Day, a free community workshop to help students and families fill out the 2018-2019 Free Application for Federal Student Aid at 1 p.m. Feb. 10, in the Cowan Center on the Lowell campus. (COURTESY PHOTO)

MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Middlesex Community College to host free FAFSA day

Middlesex Community College will host FAFSA Day, a free community workshop to help students and families fill out the 2018-2019 FAFSA form at 1 p.m. Feb. 10 in the Cowan Center on the Lowell campus, 33 Kearney Square.

FAFSA Day at Middlesex offers different options for families seeking assistance including:

• Computer support for families to complete the FAFSA online
• One-on-one assistance from financial aid experts

To prepare for the event and to allow FAFSA Day volunteers to provide you with email updates prior to the event, all participants are encouraged to register in advance.

To register, visit www.FAFSADay.org.

Students and parents should each bring the following:

• FSA ID
• Social Security number
• Driver’s license number
• 2016 federal tax return
• 2016 W-2 or year-end pay stub
• Current bank statement(s)
• Current business and investment records
• Alien Registration card

Students born before Jan. 1, 1995, do not need to bring parental information.

To learn more about FAFSA Day at MCC, contact Yohanka Tejada, Senior Financial Aid Counselor, at tejaday@middlesex.mass.edu or 978-656-3242.
More than a song and dance, members of the Girls Inc. dance troupe perform at the group’s 100th anniversary ceremony Thursday night at Lenzi’s In Dracut. Front row, from left, are Alexia Anderson, Bella Anderson, Armani Seng and Aylani Alcataro. Back row, from left, are Jelicy Mercado, Kassi Baez, Jallyn Platt and Klarilys Njoroje.

Century of Success

Girls Inc. celebrates 100 years of forging ‘strong, smart and bold’ future leaders

By Scott Shurtleff
Sun Correspondent

Dracut — The short speech by Tracy Ingersoll on Thursday night was more than a commemoration of the 100-year anniversary of the Greater Lowell chapter of Girls Inc. It was a travel through time for the 250 people who attended.

Ingersoll is the organization’s executive director and inspirational leader. The Lowell affiliate that she chairs is one of the 82 strung across North America. As women’s roles in society, and in the workforce, strengthened over the past century, so too has Girls Inc. evolved to both comply with and define the changes but also to have an impact.

“As WWI raged on, women organized on behalf of social reform,” she said. They fought for the right to vote and to work.

“We continue our fight and we thank you all for being in our girls’ corner.” By building confidence in girls ages 5-18, empowered women materialize. There are currently 132 girls enrolled in that curriculum.

The reach of Girls Inc. continues to grow. Young ladies age out of the program then go on to be successful leaders, business managers and principal players in their community. Often giving back in some capacity to the organization. Many of those who have emerged from that nexus were in attendance.

One such alumna is Amy Werner, Lowell General Hospital’s
Girls Inc. celebrates century of leadership

CENTURY/From Page 3
director of philanthropy.
It helped me make friends and build relationships as a child, I always felt included. I used to look forward to going, all the different experiences," Werner said.

Today, there are even more opportunities to learn and do. The 5,000 square-foot building at 220 Worthen St. features many specialized rooms for learning.

From ukulele lessons to scientific research, the girls have dozens of organized, expert-led workshops and projects to participate in.

A dance troupe from the club performed a choreographed routine to entertainment the crowd at Lenzi's Function Hall. And, in keeping with the gender theme, an all-female band, Ladies of Blues and Soul, drove in from Boston to provide ambiance to the catered event.

Many of today's members are part of a legacy. Madelynn Flores was, along with her sister, a longtime member.

She now has two daughters in the program, including 12-year-old Jelicity Mercado.

"There is so much opportunity to do things," Mercado said. "I like to write stories and create characters."
The stories that she and others create are often performed as skits and haunted house experiences, complete with self-constructed thematic settings.

Ingersoll spoke of the overarching mission of Girls Inc., which is to produce "strong, smart and bold" girls like Jelicity. "They teach us to face our fears; zip-lining, ropes course and trust-building activities."

Formerly known as The Girls' Club, Girls Inc. has its historical roots planted firmly in U.S. Civil War. The group has been constantly reshaping itself, usually with the backdrop of war.

And the Lowell chapter was born of World War I's need for domestic support of overseas combatants, like staging dances for returning soldiers.

Then at the end of WWII the group was finally recognized as a founding member of Girls Clubs of America.

Girls Inc. has partnerships with several local businesses including UMass Lowell, Middlesex Community College, Lowell General Hospital and many area businesses.

These partners supply the club with funds, resources, lecturers and equipment to support the dozens of projects and initiatives, from healthy dietary practices to exploring the solar system to technical skills. Everything is grounded in literacy and self-awareness.

"Girls have been encouraged for a hundred years to support each other," Ingersoll said, citing the incremental progress of the women's movement thanks to the collective voice. "Look at the many things we still have yet to accomplish."

Among some noted local women who passed through the Girls Inc. system are 3rd Congressional District candidate Bopha Malone, City Councilor Rita Mercier, Lowell General Hospital executives Pamela Huntley, Sabrina Granville and Werner.

"We are at maximum capacity and have a waiting list for the first time I can remember," said Program Coordinator Pam Larocque. "That is mainly due to the generational aspect of membership."
Nursing student at MCC a Hurst Scholar

Middlesex Community College Nursing student Diane Vazquez-Baez of Lowell was recently been named a Hurst Review NCLEX Scholar. This scholarship is designed to assist Nursing students who are also members of Phi Theta Kappa, the national honor society for two-year colleges, in preparing for and taking the National Council Licensure Examination, or NCLEX, nursing exam.

Vazquez-Baez is one of 10 students selected from 470 applicants to receive the scholarship. She will receive free access to the Hurst Review study materials for the exam (a $300 value), as well as a $250 scholarship award to pay for the NCLEX exam fees.

“I am very grateful to have received this award,” said Vazquez-Baez. “I made a commitment to become a nurse because I know it’s the best choice for myself and my family. My time at Middlesex has been life-changing — I have never felt out of place, even as an adult learner. The teachers here have pushed me to become the best student, and the best nurse, I can be.”

After graduating in May, Vazquez-Baez plans to continue her education at a four-year institution for a career as a critical-care nurse.

MCC’s Nursing Program is designed to prepare students to take the NCLEX-RN. The program provides a sound background in field-related science, technical skills and general education with learning experiences in the classroom, nursing laboratory and clinical practicums.

For more information about MCC’s Nursing Program, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu or call 800-818-3434.
MCC Offers Free Tutoring And Academic Support Services

Middlesex Community College’s Academic Centers for Enrichment (also known as ACE) provide free and flexible individual and group tutoring on the Bedford and Lowell campuses. Staffed by peer tutors and professional learning specialists, ACE is open for walk-in help and by appointment Monday through Saturday throughout the fall and spring semesters. Students can register now for spring-semester classes that begin Monday, Jan. 22.

"ACE is primarily a peer academic-support program," explained Noreen McGinnness Olson, Director of Academic Support Programs. "We believe Peer Tutors and student Supplemental Instruction (SI) Leaders have often experienced the same difficulties and can better help students navigate the learning process.

"ACE peer tutors and SI Leaders not only help with learning content, but also help students develop and improve study skills and self-confidence," she said. "We often say we're not only helping students with 'what to learn,' but also 'how to learn.'

Our individual and group tutoring sessions teach strategies that help students become independent learners."

Many students do their math homework in the Math Centers, added Olson. "This allows them to get help if they get stuck, then work with an available tutor, and continue on to complete their work.

"We also believe all writers should have another person read their papers, so why not use a trained writing tutor? We encourage students to come to the Writing Centers for an appointment any time during the writing process."

Tutoring is available in most subjects, said Olson, including writing, reading/study skills, math, science, computer applications, accounting, business, economics, nursing and English Language Learner (ELL) courses.

In addition to tutoring programs, ACE also offers free eTutoring online 24/7. Students can access online tutoring services by visiting the ACE website https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/ace or at www.etutoring.org.

To learn more about MCC’s Academic Centers for Enrichment (ACE), or to schedule a tutoring appointment, visit: https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/ace

Middlesex Community College is your pathway to success. As one of the largest, most comprehensive community colleges in the state, we educate, engage and empower a diverse community of learners. MCC offers more than 70 degree and certificate programs, plus hundreds of noncredit courses, on our campuses in Bedford and Lowell, as well as online. Middlesex Community College: Student success starts here!
MIDDLESSEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MCC offers free tutoring, academic support services

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Middlesex Community College math tutor Robert Machayer, of Lincoln, works with a student in the Math Center. MCC’s Academic Centers for Enrichment provide free and flexible individual and group tutoring on the Bedford and Lowell campuses. (COURTESY PHOTO)
Artist Cora Preibis to show her work at Essex Library
By Staff Report Jan 18, 2018

One of Cora Preibis’ arts, a still life featuring fruit, bread, cheese and a vase. Contributed photo

ESSEX — Cora Preibis has been drawing and painting since she was a child. Although art was not her primary field of study, she has always been interested in art. She started painting more consistently after her retirement from Middlesex Community College, where she was the coordinator of the Tutoring Center and also an adjunct faculty member.

She has always been fascinated with the watercolor medium, the flow of the paint, the spontaneous nature of watercolor, as well as the delicacy which can be achieved. Preibis enjoys painting florals, landscape and still life paintings. She has studied with a number of wonderful artists over the years.

Her professional affiliations are with the Essex Art Association, Clinton Art Association and Middletown Art Guild, from which she has received a number of awards. She is also an elected member of the Connecticut Watercolor Society. She has also participated in many juried shows throughout Connecticut.

Her work can be viewed at the Essex Library during its regular hours of operation throughout the month of February 2018.
Don’t doubt this underdog: After overcoming 100-1 odds, Methuen’s Kattar prepared for second UFC fight

After overcoming 100-1 odds, Methuen’s Kattar prepared for second UFC fight

- By Kyle Gaudette kgaudette@eagletribune.com
- Jan 18, 2018

Ever since his hand was raised at the end of his fight at UFC 214 last July, Calvin Kattar’s story is one that’s been told countless times.

But that doesn’t make it any less remarkable.

Flashback to July 29, 2017 — the night Methuen’s Kattar stunned UFC veteran Andre “Touchy” Fili, a 100-1 favorite, by unanimous decision in his first bout inside the octagon’s biggest stage.

Now go back two weeks prior.

Kattar, 29, was at the Merrimack Valley Golf Course, a club the father’s side of his family owns, when his phone started to ring. It was a call that changed his life for the better.

“I had actually just got back from an eight-day Vegas trip and I was at the course when I got the call that I was in (the fight),” said Kattar. “It took me all day to take it in. But I just listened to coaches and teammates and they said ‘let’s go.’”

So Kattar, who is the co-owner of the longest running MMA promotion in New England in the Salem-based Combat Zone, started training.

Normally, preparing for a fight, a mixed martial arts fight no less, on two weeks notice is a recipe for disaster.

Throw in the pressure of it being the biggest fight of your career on the sport’s largest stage, and there’s just no way one could pull it off.

But Kattar did, somehow, defy the odds. Those 100-1 odds.

“The first one I couldn’t really soak it all in,” said Kattar, a 145-pound featherweight. “I flew into Cali a week before the fight, barely made weight and lost around 20 pounds.
"When I got there, I was really blown away by the professionalism of the event. What they do behind the scenes is pretty wild. The bright lights, the cameras in your face, hearing Bruce Buffer announce your name and then talking to Joe Rogan after. ... It's something special.

"Before I knew it, the opportunity was over."

On Saturday, when Kattar, who is known as "The Boston Finisher" for his knack for knocking out opponents locally, takes on undefeated Shane Burgos (10-0-0) in UFC 220's main card at the TD Garden, he'll at least be more prepared.

"I couldn't be more ready," he said. "I had a full, 10-week camp to prepare. All the hard work is done, now it's just waiting for Saturday."

Getting to fight in Boston, practically his hometown, is more motivation. Not as if he needed it.

Kattar is a hometown man through and through. A four-year wrestler at Methuen High, he went to Middlesex Community College before graduating from UMass Lowell. He has not only had a successful fight career (17-2-0 between UFC and Combat Zone), but has been a successful promoter of the young talent he works with.

"It's definitely a lot, but I really enjoy being a part of Combat Zone," said Kattar. "A lot of ex-UFC vets have come through here. Any time I see a guy come through and make it to the UFC, it's like getting your hand raised with them."

Nobody needs to tell Kattar how big of an opportunity Saturday is.

"It's important to enjoy the process," said Kattar. "It's added pressure, but it's good pressure. I know how fortunate I am. People kill for this opportunity."

Making a UFC card once was something out of a dream. But this second opportunity is just as special. A win would continue to vault his promising career even further.

Kattar got his training in at 617 Fight Sports in Somerville, making sure to thank training partners Carlos Neto and Tyson Chartier in particular, and now it's time to go.

According to oddsmakers, he is an underdog yet again this Saturday.

But Kattar has been there and done that before, and it didn’t seem to phase him the first time.

"I’ve got a great team around me. I’ve surrounded myself with good people," he said. "I think that goes hand in hand with having success.

"It's going to be a good fight. I'm ready to go."
MLK Breakfast brings METCO discussion to Bedford

By Jesse Collings
Posted Jan 15, 2018 at 4:19 PM Updated Jan 15, 2018 at 4:19 PM

“This is real, we are not going to sugar coat it,” Master Sandy Peaks, a 2015 graduate of Bedford High School, said.

Peaks was part of a panel of recent graduates of Bedford High School that came to Bedford through the Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity (METCO) program. The panel spoke Monday morning about their experiences in Bedford as part of Bedford Embraces Diversity’s Second Annual Martin Luther King Community Breakfast. This year, the event focused on the METCO program exclusively, a program allowing students of color living in Boston and Springfield to attend public school in the suburbs, with the goal being to increase educational opportunity, as well as increasing the diversity in suburban schools.

“We wanted to give this years’ breakfast a different focus and hear from people with life experiences,” Valerie Rushanan, vice president of Bedford Embraces Diversity said. “We want people to build relationships with people who come from a different background. We have METCO graduates who are adults with their own children, and recent graduates.”

Challenges for METCO students

Several students spoke about their experiences coming to Bedford, both the positive and things they thought could be improved.

“Bedford is a welcoming town, everyone is so nice, they smile and they always say how are you,” Chantay Robinson, who along with her two sisters Naomi and Brianna graduated in 2015, said. “One thing I really wish we had was more African-American or minority teachers, I’d like to see people that look like me teach me things about my past.”

Students also discussed the challenges they face to manage their time and also become involved in extra-curricular activities. Chauncy Williams graduated last spring and is now a freshman at UMASS-Dartmouth. Williams said that he sought out extra-curricular activities to integrate himself into the school system.

“I came here in sixth grade, and I didn’t really know anybody and a lot of METCO students start when they are in elementary school. I started playing football and that was a way where I started to make friends,” Williams said. “But it really depends on your life, some people are shy and have a harder time doing extra-curricular activities.”

A major challenge students in METCO face is the time they spend commuting. All five panelists said that they got up for school around 5 a.m. and frequently get home late at night.

“Sometimes I wouldn’t get home until 11 at night during football season, and then I would have to start my homework,” Williams said. “The thing is, you become disciplined. I know if I missed the bus that morning my parents would make me take the MBTA, and that takes one hour, 45 minutes to get to school on the bus. When I went to college, I had that discipline. I saw a lot of people who dropped out after the first semester because they stopped showing up to class, or they were not waking up in time. They didn’t have the experience that I had in self-discipline.”
Creating opportunity

In addition to the panel of recent graduates, the breakfast also featured several speakers, including Akil Mondesir, a 1998 graduate who now works at the high school as Bedford's METCO director.

"My grandmother had an opportunity to sign me up for a program because she wanted a better education for myself and my siblings. She said that this was our chance to do something better for ourselves," Mondesir said. "I took that opportunity and I started in Bedford in sixth grade. I liked the seventh grade so much, I repeated it. Throughout the years I had the opportunity to make a lot of friends. That opportunity allowed me to have this opportunity now, to speak in front of everyone about the METCO program."

The breakfast also featured small group discussions about questions that were asked by Reginald Nichols, director of human resources at Middlesex Community College. Nichols said that he came up with the questions, such as "Why do male students seem to have a richer experience in the program than female students," while listening to the speeches given by the METCO graduates.

"This day is about listening and really thinking about what people have said," Nichols said.

The breakfast ended with a musical performance by Jerome Kyles, a professor at Berklee College of Music who sang several songs and played the piano.
MCC Transition Program offers certificate for special needs students

By Jesse Collings

Posted Jan 16, 2018 at 1:52 PM Updated Jan 16, 2018 at 1:52 PM

Receiving education after high school is becoming an increasingly necessary requirement to secure a job, and that is still true for students with significant learning disabilities. Middlesex Community College's Transition Program provides post-high school educational opportunities for students with learning/cognitive disabilities.

"MCC's Transition program is designed for students with significant learning disabilities who would find traditional college-level academics too challenging, even with extensive support services," Patricia Bruno, MCC's associate dean of student support services, said. "The Transition Program helps students achieve their potential through coursework and hands-on experience in work settings."

Graduates of MCC's Transition Program receive a Certificate of Completion in Office and Business Support Skills and typically obtain employment in office support, business support, or retail support. Small class size ensures that students receive individualized attention and a program tailored to meet their needs. Transition students may participate in all Middlesex student activities and student support services. The program lasts two academic years (fall and spring semesters) and is structured around three days a week of classroom learning, where students learn independent-living skills, computer and job survival skills, and social skills. The other two days, students are involved in internship programs.

"We work with a lot of local employers, Lahey Clinic, the Bedford VA, Lowell General Hospital, some local banks and other employers who provide internships and future jobs for graduates of the program," Bruno said. "The jobs that most of our students get are data entry, entry-level clerical work, working in packaging in shipping or in kitchens."

The Transition Program was started in 1985 and according to Bruno is the only program of its kind in the Massachusetts community college system.

"The program serves a unique niche in education, as it serves students who are at a low-level academically, but still provides a form of secondary education," Bruno said. "When a student is close to graduating, we work with them on their resumes and we hold mock interviews to make sure that they are prepared when they have an interview for a job."

Transition Program candidates should have a high school diploma, GED credential or certificate of completion, interest in training for entry-level work in business and industry, fifth- to eighth-grade level reading and math skills, and the maturity and emotional stability to effectively participate in a program on a college campus.

MCC will be hosting several info sessions for students and parents interested in the program. One session will be on March 1, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. and another session will be April 19, from 9 to 11 a.m. Both sessions will be held on the Bedford Campus Center Café East, located at 591 Springs Road.
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