MCC enabled alum, Earl Williams, to discover his calling as a children's advocate.

National Science Foundation grant funds scholarship at Northeastern University for underrepresented MCC students.

From beauty-pageant winner to MCC graduate, Frances DeSalvio

MCCs Donahue Family Arts Center puts creativity at center stage.

MCC dental students ace national exam

Bedford Campus
591 Springs Road
Bedford, MA 01730

Lowell Campus
33 Kearney Square
Lowell, MA 01852
Arts Alive

Middlesex Community College’s New Richard and Nancy Donahue Family Academic Arts Center Puts Creativity Center Stage

by Emilie-Noelle Provost  photos by Kevin Harkins

At a time when many colleges and universities, and even secondary and elementary schools, are dedicating large portions of their budgets and resources to STEM education (science, technology, engineering and math) initiatives, it’s become increasingly rare to find an educational institution that’s working to advance, or even actively support, education in the fine and performing arts. But Middlesex Community College, which has campuses in Lowell and Bedford, is bucking that trend. This September, the school opened the doors to its new Richard and Nancy Donahue Family Academic Arts Center on Central Street in Lowell.

Originally built in 1876 as the Boston & Maine building, the structure that MCC’s arts center now occupies served train passengers and cargo transport until 1895, when it was closed by the railroad due to the rerouting of rail traffic. From about 1911 until the mid-1970s, the building was used as a theater and retail space. It then sat vacant for several years until 1989, when the Lowell Historic Preservation Commission and Lowell National Historical Park saved it from demolition. The building was purchased by MCC in 2008. After years of fundraising efforts, the school was finally able to begin construction of the arts center in 2015.

Today, the arts center is home to MCC’s theater, dance and music programs. There is a 190-seat proscenium theater, a 103-seat recital hall, and a 900-square foot dance studio, as well as classrooms and music practice rooms. All of the spaces are acoustically isolated.

“All the performance spaces are built for teaching,” says MCC President James Mabry. “The theater’s control room is large enough for 12 people, and the catwalks are wider than usual to accommodate students.”

Mabry is optimistic that the new center will help increase enrollment in MCC’s performing arts programs. “We haven’t had a dance studio in a long time,” he says. “We’re hoping to build the program back up.” Mabry also notes that for the first time ever, Lowell High School has more students participating in the arts than in sports programs, according to former Lowell High School Headmaster Brian Martin. “We see that as a positive sign that we are onto something,” Mabry says.

“The folks from Merrimack Repertory Theatre walk in here and their jaws drop,” says Karen Oster, chair of MCC’s performing
spotlight | arts

Page 48: The 150-seat proscenium theater inside Middlesex Community College’s new Richard and Nancy Donahue Family Academic Arts Center in Lowell is designed for teaching with extra-wide catwalks to accommodate students and a control room large enough to hold 12 people. This page, top left: MCC music professor Orlando Cela conducts a music theory class inside one of the arts center’s new classrooms. Bottom left: Originally built in 1876 as a railroad depot for the Boston & Maine Corporation, the structure that MCC’s arts center now occupies was purchased by MCC in 2008. It opened to students this past September after a lengthy renovation. Top right: MCC President James Mabry (front) with the school’s Chair of Performing Arts, Karen Oster. Bottom right: President Mabry visits with a group of MCC theater students.

arts. “At a time when a lot of college arts programs are being cut, ours are being enhanced. We’re working with local high schools to develop dual credit programs. We’re not just cheaper, students here are getting an incredible experience, as well. We have things that many four-year colleges don’t.”

The new arts center also serves as the home base for MCC’s Music Outreach Program. Run by the music department, the program offers concerts, lectures, master classes and workshops to students at Lowell High School and other local high schools. The music department also offers programming to members of UMass Lowell’s Learning in Retirement Association (LIRA).

While Mabry emphasizes that academics are the main purpose of the new building, he says MCC’s goal is to eventually serve as a resource for the local arts community. “At some point,” he says, “it would be great to get some paying customers in here.”

But the arts center won’t be completely off-limits to the public. On Dec. 1 and 2, MCC’s theater department will stage performances of Shakespeare’s “Romeo & Juliet” in the proscenium theater. A dance recital is planned for Dec. 12, and MCC’s A World of Music Concert Series, which formerly limited performances to the Bedford campus, began offering additional concert dates at the new arts center in October.

For more information about events, concerts and academic programs offered at MCC’s Academic Arts Center, visit Middlesex.Mass.edu/AcademicArtsCenter or call (800) 818-3434.
Wherefore arts now? 
At MCC's new theater complex

Donahue Center stage christened by Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet'

By Prudence Brighton
Sun Correspondent

LOWELL — A well-known Shakespearean masterpiece this weekend introduced Greater Lowell audiences to a very contemporary and bright performing arts space with a captivating portrayal of "Romeo and Juliet."

Middlesex Community College inaugurated the Richard and Nancy Donahue Family Academic Arts Center with four performances of Shakespeare's tragedy about teenage love.

The arts center is housed in what was once the Rialto Theatre and before that the Boston & Maine Railroad Depot. Stepping into a brightly lit lobby, theater-goers quickly realize the Central Street building has shed its 19th century origins and embraced the 21st century.

The performance would not have been possible in any of the previous spaces where MCC's actors worked.

Said Director Karen Oster, "I had always wanted to do "Romeo and Juliet," but we had never been able to because we didn't have enough ceiling height for the swordplay in our old space."

Arts Center Manager

Please see MCC/8

Juliet, played by Elizabeth Cormier, kisses Romeo, portrayed by Thomas Critten, during Saturday's opening night of "Romeo and Juliet" at Middlesex Community College's Richard and Nancy Donahue Family Academic Arts Center in Lowell.
‘Romeo and Juliet’ christens new MCC stage

MCC/From Page 1

Pete Waldron concurred.

“We’ve had some really difficult space in the past,” he said. That included using the former Chery’s nightclub on East Merrimack Street.

The actors took full advantage of the new proscenium stage for the swordplay, and their adroit use of the side aisles made for smooth transitions between entrances and exits.

Even a new stage brings challenges when performing Shakespeare, however. Oster explained, “I knew that I wanted (the play) to appeal to an audience that may or may not have had experience with Shakespeare—and, for those who did not, I wanted them to understand the words, and I paid special attention to the pacing and continuity.

The actors added their touches by using body language to make Shakespeare’s puns and wordiness clear to the audience. Elizabethans loved puns and were not shy about sex and bodily functions.

However, the length of the Bard’s plays can be discouraging for modern audiences if played in full. “Therefore, I needed to cut

the text in order to fit within the two hours. A lot of times Shakespeare today is not done in entirety for those reasons,” Oster said.

The performers brought different depths of experience to their performances, but all displayed a commitment to their craft.

Elizabeth Cormier, whose Juliet showed vulnerability and determination, has been acting since she was in junior high school—“about eight years,” she said.

The weekend marked her first go at a Shakespearean play. “I was definitely intimidated. I had never done Shakespeare before and this is probably his most famous play.

“I felt a lot of pressure with this being the inaugural production for the theater, but Karen really made sure we knew exactly what we were saying and doing and that we felt comfortable with the language. We really couldn’t have done it without her. It was a wonderful challenge and I’m now in love with Shakespeare because of it!”

Thomas Ormes, who played Romeo, said he had “not much acting experience. And even at that, I only have been in one or two (roles). I have no prior experience at playing anything serious on stage. This was sort of an adventure for me, being Romeo and all.”

Those who are familiar with the Elizabethan era will know that women were not allowed to act. Men played women’s parts. That historical fact makes one departure in Oster’s casting decisions noteworthy.

Women were cast as two of Romeo’s female friends. Jade Gordon played Benvolio’s former fiancée, and Amber Namery played Balthazar.”

Elizabethans would have found this departure strange. But times have changed. Mr. Oster thinks the Bard would have approved of their performances and the performance of the entire cast.

A fight scene is played out on Saturday in Middlesex Community College’s presentation of “Romeo and Juliet.”

SUN/David Hinch
Her efforts brought MCC to new heights

By Carole A. Cowan

It was the mid-1990s, and within the first few years of my presidency, Middlesex Community College had established a new Bedford campus, moved into the once-vacant Wang training center in downtown Lowell, opened two new health labs on Middle Street, and acquired the historic Nenimth House on Andover Street.

It was time to turn our sights to establishing a foundation that could help raise money for student scholarships, but could also explore the idea of building a new performing-arts center for the college in downtown Lowell. I needed someone to take on a new external-affairs role for the college, someone who could spearhead those efforts.

My list of people who I thought could fill that role for the college consisted of one person—Niki Tsongas.

I met with Niki in the latter half of the decade and explained that I needed someone to help me create a fundraising arm within the college structure and, at the same time, address the prominent need for the college to properly house our drama, music and dance programs. I asked Niki to join the MCC team, and she agreed immediately.

As our dean of external affairs, Niki hit the ground running with Middlesex. She began researching potential state and federal contributions, as well as individual donors and corporations who could support the effort. At the same time, she began exploring technology infrastructures and databases that could help develop our giving programs at the college.

Right from the outset, Niki was instrumental in promoting the arts. She was fixated on getting our programs out of the subpar locations they were using and moving them into places of prominence. Initially, we had planned to build a new arts center across the street from Lowell Memorial Auditorium, but that project proved to be too costly a venture.

At the same time, with the support of our college foundation, Niki worked to establish a community event that would bring prominent individuals to visit the college and, additionally, to the city of Lowell.

We dubbed the speaker program Celebrity Forum. With Niki's guidance, the event became the premier fundraising—and friend-raising—event for the college. The program recently celebrated its 20th year. As the success of Celebrity Forum became obvious, the foundation focused on using the proceeds from the event to support student scholarships.

Years later, when Niki came in to my office and told me she was going to make a run for a seat in Congress, I knew she was going to be successful in her venture. I also knew she had helped create programs and structures at the college that would endure as part of her legacy.

That's why it seemed so fitting when, years later as a member of Congress, Niki was able to help the college secure federal funding to complete the study of the abandoned Boston and Maine Railroad Depot, a building that now houses our wonderful theater, music and dance programs.

The road to a new arts center in Lowell may have been winding, but it was one the college was able to traverse successfully thanks in great part to the foundation laid by Niki Tsongas more than 20 years ago.

Carole A. Cowan was the third president of Middlesex Community College, retiring in 2015.
MCC grant helps students GEAR UP

Middlesex Community College has received a seven-year $2,583,000 grant from the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education to continue funding GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness & Readiness for Undergraduate Programs), its highly successful college awareness and scholarship program.

The grant is part of a recent $29.7 million statewide grant from the U.S. Department of Education to continue funding GEAR UP at 16 schools in seven urban districts across Massachusetts for the next seven years.

Now in its 19th year, GEAR UP Massachusetts provides 6,300 middle-school and high-school students and their families with assistance in the college search and application process, SAT test preparation, financial counseling and academic support services intended to help students arrive on campus prepared to succeed in credit-bearing course work.

Please see MCC/23

UML student Kara Danas credits GEAR UP at MCC with preparing her well for college success.

MCC grant helps students GEAR UP
MCC/From Page 22

Middlesex will receive $369,000 annually to continue providing academic, cultural, college and career services to 900 local low-income, high-achieving students, said Colleen Winn, MCC’s director of Pre-Collegiate TRiO Programs and GEAR UP Massachusetts.

“Thanks to this grant, we will keep providing students at Lowell’s Pyne Arts Middle School and Lowell High School with an array of services that help them pursue a college education and gain admission to the most selective colleges,” Winn said.

Local GEAR UP students will also continue to have an opportunity to beominated for life-chang-

ing scholarships from the Posse Foundation and Questbridge, she added.

“The seven years I was in GEAR UP at Middlesex definitely helped me shape the person that I am today,” said Kara Danas, now a senior English Literature major at UMass Lowell and recipient of $3,000 in GEAR UP scholarships. “I credit GEAR UP with showing me how to reach my full potential, and the wonderful guidance I received is most definitely a large reason why I am a dedicated and hard-working university student today.”

For more information about GEAR UP Massachusetts at MCC, contact Winn at winnc@middlesex.mass.edu or 978-656-3401.

Walk-in enrollment, workforce training

Middlesex Community College will host walk-in enrollment days Monday through Thursday this week, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., in Bedford and Lowell. Visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/registration, or call 800-818-3434.

Also, MCC will host an information session Wednesday, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., in MCC’s Federal Building (Room 310), 50 Kearney Square, Lowell, for businesses seeking Workforce Training Fund grants. Registration deadline is Monday by emailing medinat@middlesex.mass.edu, or calling 978-656-3009.
Bedford Police Department attend MCC students presentation

Members of the Bedford Police Department attended a presentation by criminal justice students at Middlesex Community College on motor vehicle violations last week, which concluded with recommendations on how to improve safety on town roads and intersections, announced Chief Robert Bongiorno.

Several members of the department visited the MCC campus on Dec. 11 to hear from students in the introduction to criminal justice course who conducted on-site research of traffic violations in Bedford.

"The partnership between Middlesex Community College and the Bedford Police Department yields critical, service-learning experience for our students, working side by side with law enforcement as we try to help address quality of life issues that affect our extended Bedford community," said MCC criminal justice professor Ronald Brevard. "This is the type of experiential learning that you can't get in a classroom."

Twenty-six students outlined statistics from 18 days of field observations made at five heavily trafficked areas. Each participant used a form prepared by Lt. James Graham that required them to focus on two specific criteria at each intersection: total number of vehicles passing through the intersection and total number of moving violations.

The intersections were:
- Concord Road at Great Road
- North Road at Chelmsford Road
- Page Road at Old Billerica Road
- Pine Hill Road at North Road
- Park Row at Concord Road

Students recorded 7,393 moving vehicles in the five areas of observation and noted 2,677 moving violations, including stop sign violations, yield sign violations, running a red light and failure to yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk. Each student spent one to two hours collecting data in the mornings and afternoons.

To decrease moving violations and improve safety in town, students outlined several recommendations to the police department.

- Increase short-term strategies to prevent moving violations during rush hour, such as having a police officer direct traffic, have police cruisers around busy intersections and make more signs.
- Periodically using strategies like having undercover officers near busy intersections to see which drivers violate the law and radio in to another officer down the road.
- A long-term strategy that can help prevent crashes at or near intersections would be redesigning certain intersections.
  - Park Row at Concord Road: Put a rotary or signal lights in. Alternative recommendations would include painting a stop sign on the surface of the road or moving the stop sign to a more visible location.
  - Page Road at Old Billerica Road: Install signal lights.
  - Concord Road at Great Road: Yield sign should be changed to stop sign.
  - Pinehill Road at North Road: Add more signs to indicate the stop sign.
  - North Road at Chelmsford Road: Install a "Warning: Dangerous Intersection" sign.

"This was a well-researched project that provided the Bedford Police Department with valuable information that we can now use for targeted safety improvements on our town roads," Bongiorno said. "I want to commend the students for their dedication and thank Lt. Graham for coordinating this project. We're always happy to assist students interested in learning about and pursuing a field in criminal justice."

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Workforce Training Fund Grants Info Session

Middlesex Community College will host an Information Session for businesses seeking Workforce Training Fund (WFTF) grants from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16, in MCC's Federal Building (Room 310), 50 Kearney Square in Lowell. Registration deadline is Monday, Jan. 14.

The Massachusetts Workforce Training Fund, administered by Commonwealth Corporation, provides resources to businesses to train current and newly hired employees. The goal is to help improve employee skills and maintain the economic strength of the commonwealth's businesses.

At the info session, an WFTF representative will present an overview of the grant options and answer questions in an informational setting.

WFTF provides training grants to Massachusetts employers up to $250,000 per application. MCC's Corporate and Community Education & Training Program has helped many businesses secure and implement these grants.

For more information on specific Workforce Training Fund programs, visit the Commonwealth Corporation website: www.commcorp.org/wftp.

The registration deadline for this WFTF Info Session is Monday, Jan. 14. For more information or to register, contact Teresa Medina at medinat@middlesex.mass.edu or 978-656-3009.

Discover your path at Middlesex Community College. As one of the largest, most comprehensive community colleges in Massachusetts, 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, and online. Middlesex Community College: Student success starts here!
MCC belt tightening paying off
Deficit gives way to strong financial position

By Rick Sobey
rsobey@lowellsun.com

LOWELL — It wasn’t too long ago when Middlesex Community College administrators saw a rising deficit heading toward $800,000.

They sent out a notice to staff members, advising them to reduce expenses and cut back purchases. The community college, with Lowell and Bedford campuses, stopped filling positions.

In addition, the board voted to raise fees by 9

Please see MCC/8
Middlesex CC belt tightening paying off

percent earlier this year.
All together, these steps have put Middlesex Community College in a strong fiscal position, according to officials.

“We’re in the best financial shape we’ve been in for a long time,” said James Campbell, chairman of the college’s Board of Trustees.
The board recently reviewed an annual independent audit performed by O’Connor & Drew, P.C., an accounting firm based in Braintree. Per state law, the college must be audited yearly.
The audit showed no irregularities, officials said.

“This is a clean opinion, which is the best opinion you want,” said Frank Nocella, chief financial officer for the college.
They closed the $800,000 mid-year deficit, and the college ended Fiscal 2018 with a positive $1,598,000 operating contribution to fund balance — excess revenue over expenses to help the college’s sustainability. That figure in Fiscal 2017 was $455,000.

“We’ve taken positive and proactive steps over the last couple of years, making sure we have the resources we need to sustain our institution over the long-term,” President James Mabry said.

Cash on hand also improved in Fiscal 2018 — $15.6 million compared to $10 million the previous year. The $15.6 million equates to 64 days of operating expenses on hand, progress from the 38 days in Fiscal 2017. The national best-practice standard is having 90 days on hand.

In previous years, the cash on hand was lower because of significant capital expenditures, including building projects.

Officials anticipated that the total net position of the college would go down in Fiscal 2018 because the state passed back the Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB) liability associated with retirement medical coverage. The OPEB adjustments, previously on the state, came out to $35.3 million.

That significant change affected the college’s total net position. It went from $33.6 million in Fiscal 2017 down to $10 million in Fiscal 2018.

“It’s an accounting change that everyone in the commonwealth and country had to do,” Nocella said. “But the college has constructed sound budgets to stay financially strong as our operating expenses trend favorably.”

Financial challenges at the college have stemmed from enrollment challenges and declining public funding over the last several years, according to college officials. Declining enrollment is a state and national trend.

It will be another six or seven years until the population growth catches up for enrollment, Campbell said.

As a result of these challenges, the college took numerous steps to “tighten our belt,” he added.

“I really have to applaud the board for their overall long-term actions,” Campbell said.

Nocella added about closing the gap: “It’s a great thank you to the college community, the faculty, the staff and the board. The goal at the end of the day is to be in a positive position, and everybody worked hard to get here.”

Laurie Elliott, a member of the Board of Trustees, said the college is in better financial shape because of the increase in fees.

“It was a good audit, a basic annual audit,” Elliott said. “There’s nothing unusual in it.”

The chairman called it a “tough” vote to increase fees by 9 percent in April.

A full-time student taking 15 credits is now paying about $250 more per semester. Each credit now costs $215, resulting in a total semester bill of $3,225 for full-time, in-state students.

But that difficult vote, combined with reducing expenses and not filling positions, led to the college’s strong financial position, the chairman said.
The positive $1,598,000 operating contribution to fund balance — excess revenue over expenses — falls into the designated balance of $3,458,000. This amount, dealing with unanticipated needs and deferred maintenance, is critical for the college’s financial strength, Nocella said.

“It’s sound fiscal management to look ahead for future expenses,” Campbell said.

Those expenses include updating and renovating classrooms, labs and capital projects.

It’s important to have a certain amount of cash around for unanticipated needs, such as emergency repairs, Mabry said. The college has a number of older buildings.

“We always aim to have a positive cash position at the end of the year and throughout the year,” he said.

Mabry said the college’s budget managers regularly look at their cash flow throughout the year, and alert him if there are any problems.

“At the moment, there are no red flags,” he said.
Follow Rick Sobeys on Twitter @sobeyLSun.

MCC presents ‘Music for Flute and Guitar’ on Nov. 30

BEDFORD — A World of Music, Middlesex Community College’s 2018 full concert series, continues with “Music for Flute and Guitar,” featuring Jill Dreenen, flute, and Peter Clemente, guitar, on Friday, Nov. 30, starting at 8 p.m., in MCC’s Concert Hall (Building 6), on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road.

The concert is free and open to the public.

Dreenen and Clemente will perform works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Astor Piazzolla, Katherine Hoover and a duo by John Kuziak written specially for them.

For more information, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/worldofmusic.
Middlesex CC food pantries open

LOWELL — Middlesex Community College is reminding the campus community of its food pantries, in the wake of a report revealing the growing number of students at risk of being food insecure.

MCC provides two food pantries, two self-serve food cabinets, and a food voucher program for students, faculty and staff, with no eligibility requirements for participation.

The Lowell campus pantry is located inside the Lowell Student Lounge on 45 Middle St., and is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays. The Bedford campus pantry is located in Bedford House (Building 5) in Room BH 001, and is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays. The campus food pantries are open fall and spring semesters while classes are in session.

To receive food and/or personal care items, participants may visit either pantry during regular hours, take food from a self-serve cabinet on either campus, or contact foodpantry@middlesex.mass.edu for more information.

For info visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/studentlife/mccfoodpantry.

— RICK SOBEY
ORANGE FOOTBALL

What LB Shyheim Cullen needs to do to rejoin Syracuse football program

Updated Jan 14, 10:49 AM; Posted Jan 14, 10:49 AM

Shyheim Cullen is enrolled at a local community college and hopes to rejoin Syracuse football in the summer.
Dennis Nett I dnett@syracuse.com (Dennis Nett)

By Stephen Bailey I sballey@syracuse.com
Syracuse, N.Y. -- For the second year in a row, Syracuse football must replace its starting linebackers.

With Ryan Guthrie and Kielan Whitner graduating, heavy competition is expected once again. And on Thursday, it became clear that one of the team's most experienced 'backs might not be able to return for the 2019 season.

Shyheim Cullen, a rising redshirt senior, is suspended for the spring due to his academic standing in the David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics.

On Monday morning, Cullen's stepfather, John Brewer, outlined the family's plan for Cullen to rejoin SU.

Cullen is enrolled at Middlesex Community College in Bedford, Mass., near his hometown of Lowell, and will take three classes in the spring semester. He needs to average a B in the courses, which have been approved as transferable by Falk staff, for the suspension at SU to be lifted. Classes begin this week.

The situation that goes hand-in-hand with Cullen's academic progress is Syracuse's scholarship situation. Currently, the program is at 82 scholarships counting players with eligibility to return and the 17 prospects that were signed in December. That number does not include Cullen, outgoing transfers Chance Amie and Devin Butler or offensive lineman Colin Byrne, who said he will not return for his fifth season. NCAA rules limit teams to 85 scholarship players. It's yet to be seen if there is additional offseason attrition, as well as how many players the Orange signs in February and afterward.

An encouraging sign for Cullen is that he's been in contact with multiple members of the SU coaching staff and head strength and conditioning coach Sean Edinger, Brewer said. The staff plans to monitor has academic progress with weekly updates while Edinger will send over workout plans. If all goes to plan, Cullen will be able to re-enroll in May, work out with the team over the summer and compete for a starting spot in the fall. He recorded a career-high 31 tackles last season, taking over as the team's third linebacker in 4-3 formations midway through the campaign. He's also served as one of the team's most productive special teamers during his time on campus.

Until then, competition will start this spring with rising senior Andrew Armstrong coming in as the team's most experienced linebacker. Armstrong logged a career-high 45 tackles in 2018, coming in on 4-3 sets over the first half of the year before taking on a versatile role as part of the Orange's third-down package. He snared a key interception late in the team's victory over North Carolina State.

Rising senior Lakiem Williams, rising sophomore Juan Wallace, rising redshirt freshman Tre Allison, rising redshirt sophomore Nadarius Fagan, rising redshirt sophomore Kadeem Trotter and rising redshirt junior Tim Walton round out the team's returning scholarship linebackers. Four-star signees Mikel Jones and Lee Kpogba will also have a chance to impress as early enrollees. One more name to watch is redshirt sophomore Tyrell Richards, who could slide back to linebacker from defensive end, where he contributed as a reserve this season.

Shyheim Cullen's journey to Syracuse includes 8 foster homes, hospitals and an academic comeback
MCC NEWS

Enroll for MCC’s children’s behavioral health certificate

Registration is now open for Middlesex Community College’s new children’s behavioral health certificate program and spring-semester courses will begin on Jan. 22.

Launched during the fall semester, this 19-credit human services certificate program focuses on concepts related to the children’s behavioral health workforce.

“This is a great opportunity for people looking to work with children and families,” said Paulo Barrio, chairman of the human services department. “Massachusetts has developed several positions falling under the ‘children’s behavioral health’ umbrella but there aren’t many formal educational opportunities available. Agencies are looking to become involved with these required services and are looking for well-informed and well-trained employees.”

MCC’s CHB certificate is designed to reduce mental-health disparities and increase the quality of care in racial, ethnic and underserved communities, according to Barrio. The program covers skills required for working in community health, clinical writing and working with youth and families. It also includes supervised experience in the field.

For information about the children’s behavioral health certificate, contact Barrio at barriop@middlesex.mass.edu or visit http://bit.ly/2rX7R7A.

To register for spring-semester courses, call 800-818-3434 or visit http://bit.ly/2lABx2t.

MCC to hold walk-in enrollment days

Middlesex Community College will hold walk-in enrollment days from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8-17, in the Bedford Campus Enrollment Center, Building 9, 501 Springs Road.

New and returning students can meet with an adviser, build their class schedules for spring semester and take the College Placement Test during walk-in enrollment days.

Spring semester classes will begin Jan. 22.

Students can learn about MCC’s more than 70 degree and certificate programs during walk-in enrollment. They can also receive information about financial aid and other student support services, including tutoring, career counseling and disability support.

Prospective students will be able to meet with admissions counselors and fill out an application. Qualified students can register for courses.

Students can also learn about MCC’s transfer agreements with four-year colleges and universities, including the state’s new Commonwealth Commitment/MassTransfer Pathways program, which can save an average of 40 percent from the cost of earning a bachelor’s degree. Transfer counseling and transfer-credit evaluation also will be available. Transfer students should bring their transcripts.

For a complete listing of spring course offerings, call 800-818-3434 or visit https://middlesex.mass.edu/registration.
food & drink

You read it here first: Wines that made a hit in 2018

It's great to be back, and the new year promises to be very exciting in the wine world.

A majority of the 2012 Brunello di Montalcino Riserva, now aged for more than 90 months, should be coming to market, as well as other long-lived wines that will be sold to consumers for the first time.

The vintage years of 2015, 2016 and 2017 were pretty good in most parts of the world, so there's nothing to fear when purchasing a fresh, young red or white. Remember, nearly 98 percent of the world's wines produced in any one year should be consumed right away or within one or two years. (Less than 3 percent of wines need cellaring — or extra aging — to reach their very best potential.)

Trends being what they are, a majority of winemakers are pushing the early maceration process to intensify the color, aromatics and flavors of their products. They achieve this by allowing the newly pressed juice to stay in longer contact with the grape skins prior to fermentation. While this process is fairly common among red wines, the experimentation is spilling over to whites with magnificant results.

Veneto's Friuli- Giulia region in northeastern Italy is at the leading edge of producing these deeply aromatic and fuller tasting whites. Sparkling rose wines have also benefited from this innovative approach, gaining subtle strength in texture, increased flavor appeal and a longer shelf life.

We'll be reviewing some of these interesting wines in the days ahead, but first I have some housecleaning to do.

In 2018, I wrote 39 weekly columns in which loyal readers became familiar with global winemakers and dozens of different grapes — some quite unique from very special growing locations. I reviewed more than 150 wines and offered suggestions on 40 others from "wine experts" who graciously delivered holiday lists to this space. Well, it seems like every wine magazine and reviewer has published a Top Wine List of 2018, but I am going to offer one with a slightly different twist. I'll highlight several wines previously reviewed here that made it on other people's top lists. In all modesty, I can at least say this column was ahead of its time.

Let's start with Wine Enthusiast magazine, which published its "best of the best" list — "The Enthusiast 100" — in its December/January issue (www.wineenthusiast.com/bestlists/enthusiast-top-100-wines-2018/). Six of the wines recognized were Wine Novice "finds" during the year. They included WE's top selection, the 2015 Michele Chiarello Cipressi Nizza, a Barbera from Italy's Piedmont region. WE's editors tasted 24,000 wines, according to the magazine, and landed on this beautiful food-friendly red as No. 1. I take great pride in this selection, since it was featured in the wine seminar I taught, "Vine Rosae: The Irreplaceable Wines of Northern Italy," at the Nenmitt House in the fall as part of Middlesex Community College's adult continuing-education program. As my students learned, Barbera is a late-ripening, high-acid grape with deep plum color, bright red cherry fruit and low tannin. The Cipressi version comes from the historic Nizza production zone, where these wines must age for 18 months before release.

WE reviewers gave Cipressi 95 points and said this about its top pick: "Elegantly structured, defi..."
Peace but also justice

By Selectman Mike Rosenberg
Posted Jan 9, 2019 at 12:21 PM

“True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice.”
The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was only 30 when he made that declaration in Stride Toward Freedom, his 1958 essay on the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

That 60-year-old message will be paramount when the community gathers for Bedford Embraces Diversity’s third Martin Luther King Jr. Day commemoration at 9:30 a.m. Jan. 21 in Fellowship Hall of the First Church of Christ, Congregational, 25 Great Road. The public is encouraged to attend though reservations are required through 781-538-4690 or bedfordembracesdiversity@gmail.com.

A panel of educators, clergy, young people and parents will address challenging issues of racism nationally as well as at the neighborhood level. Among the panelists will be Scott Jones, detective lieutenant with the Bedford Police Department and Jason Harris, head basketball coach at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. Both are Bedford High School graduates. They will be joined by the Rev. Darrell Hamilton of First Baptist Church, Jamaica Plain and local school administrators, teachers and students.

“Our grassroots organization is dedicated to promoting diversity and inclusion both here in Bedford and in the world at large,” said Marilou Barsam, president of Bedford Embraces Diversity. She noted that besides the speakers, Karin Parker of Boston, a prominent vocalist in the Gospel tradition will be featured. Martin Luther King Jr. Day is an annual opportunity for Bedford’s various interest groups, constituencies and agencies to make a unified statement in support of the civil rights leader’s principles. It is expected that, like past commemorations, this year’s will include representatives from town government, public safety and the public schools, Middlesex Community College, Hanscom Air Force Base, Middlesex Community College, churches and other religious organizations and residents of all ages.

Bedford Embraces Diversity was formed in 2014 in response to incidents of anti-Semitism. Our belief is that inclusion and acceptance should be extended to all residents, regardless of race, religion, disability, lifestyle, gender orientation, military or cultural status. We denounce all acts of bullying, hate and violence towards any individual or group because of visible or invisible differences.

We look forward to this special morning, when together we will recommit to Dr. King’s words: “It is not enough to say we must not wage war. It is necessary to love peace and sacrifice for it.”
Keeping the Peace is sponsored by the Violence Prevention Coalition of Bedford, a representative group of citizens interested in ending violence in families, communities, and beyond. Mike Rosenberg is Selectmen liaison to Bedford Embraces Diversity, a constituent member of VPC. The VPC meets at 8 a.m. on the first Tuesday of every other month at First Church of Christ Congregational, 25 Great Road, Bedford. For information, call 781-275-7951.
From beauty-pageant winner to Middlesex C.C. graduate

Two years ago, Frances DeSalvio, a former Miss New Jersey turned empty-nester, was looking to fulfill a dream. She hopped into her little red Mini Cooper and headed to the Middlesex Community College admissions office, hoping it wasn’t too late.

Last May, DeSalvio graduated with an Associate degree in Liberal Arts & Sciences, in the process checking off a long-coveted accomplishment: earning a college degree.

“I feel very much complete, much more of a whole person than I was before, and I have Middlesex to thank for that,” said DeSalvio, now a Lexington resident. “Having an education, any kind of education — a trade, a skill, a course of study — completes a person in a certain way.”

DeSalvio’s path to college was not traditional. Her education was detoured by the bright lights and excitement of Atlantic City, N.J., at its peak. She enjoyed a whirlwind career as a beauty-pageant winner and model, and then decades as a doting mom.

In the summer of 1976, as the first casinos were opening in Atlantic City, DeSalvio (then Francine Knapp), had graduated from high school but was unsure of her future.

“My parents didn’t have the resources to send me to college,” she said. “Financial aid wasn’t as accessible then, and my parents didn’t know how to navigate the system.”

She landed a job with Resorts International, the first casino on the East Coast, working as a hostess and performing in reviews and shows. In 1981, DeSalvio was crowned Miss Atlantic City. In December 1984, she beat out 93 other contestants to become Miss New Jersey 1985.

That fall, she headed to Asia for a six-week tour of Taiwan, Tokyo and Bangkok with Catalina swimwear. When she returned home, DeSalvio received a phone call from a casino executive asking her out on a blind date.

Six weeks later, Francine Knapp and Bob DeSalvio were engaged. They married in September 1986.

The DeSalvios had four children, and Frances assumed the role of stay-at-home mom. Four years ago, her husband took a job as president of the Wynn Boston Harbor Casino (now the Encore Boston Harbor, under construction in Everett), and the couple moved to Lexington.

With her children grown, DeSalvio had the time and resources to focus on her education. After taking a couple of summer courses at MCC, she was feeling comfortable and confident enough to sign up for five classes in fall 2016.

“Then I had a melt-down.” All the technology her professors were utilizing in class was too much. DeSalvio was ready to drop out. But her English professor, Louisa Saladino-Kuhl, wouldn’t hear of it.

“She told me, ‘As long as you put in the work, I’ll help you with the technology,’ and she did.”

This fall, DeSalvio headed to Cambridge College in Boston to continue her education and study Psychology.

“My husband recently asked me, ‘What is going on here? I’m 62, you’re 58, I’m getting ready to finish. Are you going to go to work now?’” DeSalvio said. “I told him I’m not really sure. I’m going to listen, be open-minded and always look to the future.”

Registration is open for Wintersession, a condensed, three-week session offered during the break between fall and spring semesters.

Wintersession classes run Jan. 2-18, on the Bedford campus or online. Call 1-800-818-3434 to enroll.

For further information, or to see the full list of Wintersession course offerings, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/wintersession or call 800-818-3434.
Still time to sign up for innovative programs at Middlesex C.C.

Budding entrepreneurs can apply to the innovative Launch Your Business Now, an applied-entrepreneurship certificate program designed to encourage students to start or grow a business. For more information, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/launch or contact Franky Descoteaux at descoteauxf@middlesex.mass.edu. To register, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/registration or call 800-818-3434. And applications are being accepted for MCC’s Links, a tuition-free program designed specifically to help nontraditional students start college. Applicants must have a high-school credential, live in Massachusetts, and take MCC placement tests. Email spenglerk@middlesex.mass.edu, or call 781-280-3654.

There is still time to enroll in Middlesex Community College’s new Children’s Behavioral Health Certificate Program. Registration is now open, and courses begin Tuesday, Jan. 22. For more information about the Children’s Behavioral Health Certificate, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/admissions/newprograms, or email barriop@middlesex.mass.edu.
Tsongsas’ fingerprints on many local projects

By Nick Sidney
nicksidney@email.com

From fixing aging and potentially dangerous bridges to boosting the city’s community health center, from improving the Hamilton Canal Innovation District to funding the national park, Rep. Niki Tsongas has made an impact in all corners of the city.
She has been an advocate for the whole region while serving on Capitol Hill, but especially a champion for her hometown of Lowell.
“Tongas has been a positive force for the city,” Mayor Bill Samaras said, reflecting on Tsongas’ accomplishments during her final days in office. “She has been very effective and will certainly be missed.”
The congressman has stressed the importance of teamwork between city institutions in working together to move the community forward.
Everyone has been working hard over the years to push that vision ahead, she recently told The Sun.
“It is a city that never stops,” Tsongas said. “In every element, we’re on the move.
She’s responsible for much of that momentum and investment in the city, according to many local leaders.
A TIGER in getting funding

For instance, her Lowell National Historical Park Land Exchange Act legislation in 2012 was critical for developing the Hamilton Canal Innovation District. The swap allowed National Park Service parking lots along Dunton Street to be developed, in exchange for parking spots for the park set aside in a planned adjacent parking garage.
“Tongas is a simple example of dealing with the federal government with land swapping,” Samaras said. “It’s very complex. You need someone like Niki who can be an advocate for you. She was always there for us.
Staying in the Hamilton Canal Innovation District, she helped the city in 2016 secure federal funding to build the signature bridge linking the Dunton Street and Jackson Street sites of the development. Lowell received $1.3 million from the Federal Economic Development Administration for the bridge.

Local projects counted on Tsongas to get funding

Rep. Niki Tsongas chats with workers at Raytheon in Andover during a visit in 2012, which was installed in early December, during Tsongas’ final month in office. She was very instrumental in helping secure a highly competitive $12.4 million federal grant for the signature city bridge.
The recent TIGER — Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery — grant will benefit Lowell over the long haul, she said.
“We’re absolutely thrilled with her leadership in getting that funding,” UMass Lowell Chancellor Joann Maloney said. “It will have a huge impact on the city and university for decades to come.”

In addition to the university, Tsongas helped UMass Lowell receive funding for its partnership with the Nemic Solar Systems Center. On campus, they work together to develop solutions to better protect soldiers.
“Through her we got invaluable funding for that lab,” Maloney said.

For Middlesex Community College in Lowell, Tsongas helped obtain funding to complete the design study for the newly renovated Academic Arts Center.
That was a critical phase for the center project and kept the ball rolling, MCC President James Malloy said.
“Tongas was instrumental in securing funding for the Lowell Community Health Center.

Tongas has also fought against attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act, which would have threatened the center’s ability to serve low-income patients. She has kept the funding flowing to the city’s national park, and made sure to push off the park to the U.S. secretary of the interior in 2011.
“We showed the value of the investment in the park, and how it contributes to the growth of the city,” Tsongas said.
Tongas was also a U.S. ambassador to Cambodia to have conversations with the city’s Cambodian community.
“It was great to show them the story of this great city,” Tsongas said.

Please see PROJECTS/C17
Convention & Visitors Bureau holds annual breakfast

The Greater Merrimack Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau recently held its annual Tourism Industry Breakfast at Lowell Memorial Auditorium. Members from across the region attended to learn about updates in the travel and tourism industry across Massachusetts and the Merrimack Valley.

Tory D'Agostino, the research director at the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism, presented statistics on Greater Merrimack Valley's economic impact in 2017. Overall, the region generated $1,065,480,019 in domestic spending, $62,565,178 in state taxes, and $29,756,458 in local taxes. In addition, the travel and tourism industry in the Merrimack Valley supported 8,727 jobs in 2017.

Those in attendance also heard from Lowell City Manager Eileen Donohue and Peter Aucella of Lowell National Historical Park in a panel moderated by Ted Panos of 980 WCAP.

"This annual event is the perfect opportunity for GMVCVB members to see the distinct impact our industry has on the Massachusetts economy," said Tom Fitzmaurice, GMVCVB's executive director. "Our members and their properties and businesses are what make up the heart of tourism in the Merrimack Valley. It's their hard work and dedication that encourage people to explore the region and come back again and again."

The 2019 GMVCVB board of directors was also announced at the breakfast. Officers are state Rep. Thomas Goldie Jr., State House, co-chair; Pete Lally, Spectacle Management, co-chair; Dave Karpinsky, Lowell Five Bank, treasurer; Colleen Cox, Middlesex Community College, clerk; Celeste Bernardo, Lowell National Historical Park, National Park board liaison.

Members at large are: Emily Byrne, UMass Lowell; Dawn Fisher, Aurora Restaurant Consulting; Kris Frazee, Courtyard by Marriott Billerica; Mike Gay, Plaza Limousine; Bob Howard, Heritage Farm Ice Cream & Restaurant; Janet Leggat, Cruise Holidays; Dave Leznak, Lowell High School; Rick Lofrano, Boston Marriott Burlington; Soben Pin, Shiner Post; Scott Platt, Cobblestones of Lowell; Michael Riley, Lenzi's Catering; Jim Shaw, Colonial Times Magazine; Shawn Smith, Lowell Spinners; and Keith Vaske, Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell.
T he tributes to U.S. Rep. Niki Tsongas come from all corners of the district.

Defense-industry contractors thanked her for focusing on the district’s military footprint.

Female politicians called her a trailblazer who led the way for more women to enter politics.

Environmentalists praised her record of pursuing conservation.

Tsongas, 72, is preparing now to leave office after 11 years in Congress and decades more in the public eye. From her time as a Democrat of Middlesex Community College, also accompanying her husband on campaign across the state and the country.

And through all that time, Tsongas has worked with a sort of quiet efficiency, taking firm stands in times of action but rarely seeking the spotlight. Her daughter Katina, speaking at a farewell event, Tsongas hated in early December at the UMass Lowell building named for her late husband, praised not just the congresswoman’s accomplishments but how she did it.

“She did it her way,” Katina said.

A trailblazer

Although she did not make her first run for Congress until she was 61, Tsongas has spent effectively her entire adult life in and around the public sector. In 1996, she helped campaign in New Hampshire for Eugene McCarthy in his anti-war primary race against U.S. President Lyndon Johnson. She helped her husband, Paul, with his successful campaign for the House and Senate and with his ultimately unsuccessful 1992 presidential campaign. At various points across those years, she worked as a college dean, an attorney and a member of various committees across Lowell.

Tsongas ran as a candidate herself for the first time in 2007, when the House went representing Lowell opened up. At that time, she was the first woman elected to represent Massachusetts in Congress in too and a half decades.

“She was a trailblazer then, and it’s not easy to be that person,” said Gus Bickford, Tsongas 2007 deputy campaign manager, who is now head of the Massachusetts Democratic Party. “She was very successful in changing the dynamic and discussions at the table by bringing a new voice.”

A good listener

While in Congress, Tsongas worked to advance a solidarity center-left Democratic ideology with an approach that friends and colleagues described as “thoughtful” and “effective.”

She did not join the Congressional Progressive Caucus, as four other Massachusetts representatives did, but she still enjoyed fairly positive ratings from progressive advocacy groups, and she made a central point to work with Republicans on, for example, legislation to address annual deficits in the military.

Rep. Katherine Clark, who went to Tsongas for advice before winning election for Massachusetts’ 5th Congressional District in 2012, said that approach is simply “who she is.”

“In a time in our politics where there is division and rancor, she is always gracious, she is a good listener, which is still a skill many members of Congress need to develop to her level,” Clark said.

“She is really a model for finding compromise and training those on both sides of the aisle and on both sides of an argument with respect.”

Perhaps that approach is rarer these days, with polarization on the rise.

Tsongas herself identified an increase in partisanship as what had changed most during her time in Congress. She criticized gerrymandered districts as a faster, arguing that such areas cause politicians to focus only on their bases and not constituents more broadly.

But Tsongas also said she felt it was important to compromise even when doing so was possible without sacrificing integrity.

“There are areas where you can find agreement and then there are areas where it’s tougher to do,” she said. “You have to make a decision. Do I vote for that which I like, or vote against the one or two things I don’t like? But it’s all in the balance.”

She’s gutsy

Tsongas is also proud of her work with constituents, something she said she highlighted by maintaining field offices in several cities across the district and by making herself available to listen to concerns.

Longtime supporter Dennis Kanin recalls a specific instance when he was impressed by that practice.

Please see HER WAY/CS

Niki Tsongas is often credited with the increase in the number of women from Massachusetts elected to national office, including, from left, Rep. Katherine Clark, Rep.-elect Ayanna Pressley and Lori Trahan, and Sen. Elizabeth Warren.

Niki Tsongas: A Lifetime of Service

She did it her way

By Chris Lisinski

It came shortly after passage of the Affordable Care Act, which — though now viewed favorably in polls of the general public — drew anger and confusion from the time.

Tsongas was in Kanin’s recollection, the first representative in the Massachusetts delegation to sit down with constituents at open houses and discuss how the bill would affect their lives.

“She was the first one who was willing to hold open public hearings on it, even though she knew she’d face pretty tough crowds, because she was gutsy,” Kanin said. “She’s somebody who doesn’t demur, who talks to folks on the other side. She feels they can come from other backgrounds, and she respects those concerns even if she disagrees with them.”

Time for a change

Tsongas’ farewell is imminent, and what had seemed like a lengthy tour of honors and celebrations gave way in mid-December to clearing out the Washington office and a thank-you event that Tsongas herself hosted.

After a lifetime in public service, she is not likely to step away entirely. Her next step is not yet certain, but this will still mean many ways for her retirement for Tsongas.

She speaks in a forthcoming way about her desire to spend more time with her three daughters and a growing number of grandchildren.

She will leave the country in a different way than she found it, with a renewed vigor in protecting sexual assault survivors in the military and larger forces pushing to change the fabric of government.

The Massachusetts delegation, too, will look new.

In her first few terms, she was the lone woman when the state’s representatives and senators posed for group photos. Now, four women — Clark, Rep.-

Her Way/CS

On top of all of that, she thinks Congress could use some fresh faces.

“Change,” Tsongas said, “is not a bad thing.”
MCC NEWS

Registration to open for MCC Adult Learning Center

The next registration period for the Middlesex Community College Adult Learning Center will begin Jan. 2.

The ALC offers free non-credit college-preparation courses for adult learners age 16 and older who live and work in Massachusetts. Students are admitted throughout the school year on a space-available basis.

“Our experienced and professional instructors help returning adult students develop and improve their computer, study and job skills,” said Kathy Innis, ALC director. “The program helps prepare students for success in college, at work, and in the community.”

ALC classes are small and range from adult basic-education to preparation for the High School Equivalency credential, GED or HiSET.

Day classes meet from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road. Evening classes meet from 6 to 9 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at McDevitt Middle School, 75 Church St., Waltham. Classes are held September through May.

Classroom instruction in reading, writing, mathematics, science, social studies and basic computing/digital literacy skills is provided. Students have access to computer labs with specialized software to supplement classroom learning. The Adult Learning Center is a free program supported by a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

For information, visit http://middlesex.mass.edu/adultlearning.

For questions about daytime classes, call 781-280-3662.
For questions about evening classes, call 978-941-1373.
Launch Your Business at MCC

Enrollment is open for Middlesex Community College’s innovative Launch Your Business Now program. This certificate program is designed to encourage students to start or grow a business. Courses begin Jan. 22. There is also an opportunity to be awarded seed money and mentoring through the Everyday Entrepreneurs Venture Fund to help promising startups get off the ground. Visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/launch or email descoteauxf@middlesex.mass.edu. To register, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/registration or call 800-818-3434.
Why has Sandy Donovan led Chelmsford's food pantry for so long?
She knows the hunger

By Alana Melanson, amelanson@lowellsun.com
Updated: 12/24/2018 08:23:46 AM EST

Chelmsford Community Exchange Director Sandy Donovan surveys boxed items at the food pantry last Wednesday. She's been running the pantry for more than 25 years. (SUN / Alana Melanson)

CHELMSFORD -- Donation deliveries and sorting hummed along last week at the Chelmsford Community Exchange food pantry, a testament to the dedication of Founder/Director Sandy Donovan and her army of volunteers. "She does a heck of a job," said John Williams, while making a produce delivery from Donelan's Supermarket Wednesday afternoon.

Donovan, 80, has been tirelessly running the operation colloquially known as the Chelmsford Food Pantry for more than 25 years -- 26 years in March, she said. When asked what has kept her going all of these years, her answer is simple. "You have to walk the road to understand it," she said. A devout Catholic, Donovan said her faith guides her to help others. "It's God's pantry, not mine," she said.

Donovan, who grew up in Massachusetts, found her way to Michigan for a few years in the late 1970s when her former husband's job transferred him there. When he was later laid off, Donovan had to stretch $25 per week to feed her family of 10. Food pantries were rare in that time, and there weren't any where they lived. "I know what it is to be hungry, and to have to tell your kids, 'You can't have seconds, we have to save that for another meal,'" Donovan said.

They returned to Chelmsford after her husband was able to land another job in Massachusetts. Donovan later took a class on hunger and homelessness at Middlesex Community College and began raising money to try to help people. She learned from her fellow parishioners at St. Mary's Church that the community sorely needed a food pantry. Others had tried, but failed to keep the effort going consistently. "I'm a persistent person," Donovan said. "I don't give up easily."

In 1993, she began the food pantry in a tiny room at the old Town Hall, now known as the Chelmsford Center for the Arts. It was so small, only one or two people could come in for help at a time, she said.
Chelmsford Food Pantry volunteer Frank Miethe, of Tyngsboro, checks donated canned goods for expiration dates on Thursday. (SUN / Alana Melanson)

When the town vacated the building for renovation, the pantry moved to the large trailer behind the town offices at 50 Billerica Road, where it remains today. Donovan said she's grateful to Town Manager Paul Cohen, local businesses and organizations and the community at-large for strong continued support of the pantry. "Her steadfast dedication to the food pantry is inspiring," Cohen said. "Sandy has been a blessing to those in need."

Donovan said the pantry has helped anywhere from 70 to more than 100 families each week over the years. She said she's proud to be able to welcome people back weekly for food, toiletries and other items, when many places can only accommodate monthly visits. She's also helped people pay for rent, car repairs and other needs.

Use of the pantry is strictly confidential, which helps to make recipients feel welcome and more at ease, Donovan said. She often becomes close with the families she helps -- she has more than 20 godchildren through the pantry alone, soon to be three more. "Sometimes it feels like I'm godmother to the world," she said. As she's gotten older, Donovan said she's happy to be "blessed with the world's best volunteers."

Frank Miethe, of Tyngsboro, is one of her longest-serving volunteers at about 12 years. He first came to the pantry as a recipient when he found himself unemployed. Miethe found another job about six months later, but kept going back to the food pantry. He'd help Donovan unload large donations from regional food banks, and she invited him to stay as a volunteer. "I'm nowhere near rich, so I'm really not in a position to give away any money, but I can give my time," Miethe said. He said he feels a responsibility to give back, and Donovan makes that simple.

"To me, Sandy is like a saint," Miethe said. "She facilitates the whole group of volunteers that we have, and we all get to give back to the community."

For more information, visit www.chelmsfordfoodpantry.org, email vze2gt3p@verizon.net, or call Donovan at 978-250-3818.
Middlesex C.C. expands hours at food pantry

After a 2018 campuswide Wisconsin Hope Lab survey revealed that 41 percent of Middlesex Community College students identified as having struggled with food insecurity during the past 12 months, MCC has expanded the days and hours that its food pantry is open on both the Bedford and Lowell campuses.

"Helping Middlesex students alleviate the challenges associated with food insecurity and hunger will enable them to remain in school, be successful and become engaged community members," MCC President James Mabry said. Opened in 2016, the MCC Food Pantry, in collaboration with the Merrimack Valley Food Bank, offers supplemental food to enrolled Middlesex students, staff and faculty. Under the direction of the Office of Student Engagement, the food pantries are now open four hours a day, four days a week (two days in Bedford, two days in Lowell), during fall and spring semesters while classes are in session.

The Lowell Campus Food Pantry, inside the Lowell Student Lounge at 48 Middle St., is now open Mondays and Tuesdays, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., while classes are in session. The Bedford Campus Food Pantry, in Bedford House (Building 5), Room BH 001, is now open Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., while classes are in session.

According to Jonathan Crockett, coordinator of wellness programming, the MCC food pantry on each campus offers enrolled students food items packaged in cans, boxes and plastic. Both pantries also now have refrigerators, allowing limited distribution of perishable items, such as fresh produce and dairy. A variety of personal-care items, toiletries or paper goods is also available.

In addition, there is a "self-serve food cabinet" in the Cowan Center lobby on the Lowell campus that allows donors and recipients easy access to non-perishable food whenever the building is open. And, in collaboration with Corporate Chefs, the MCC Food Pantry is also launching a limited breakfast/lunch food-voucher program, allowing access to prepared food for students and employees who need it.

The MCC Food Pantry is also distributing pre-filled bag of food and personal-care items to a variety of student-services offices on both campuses, to be provided directly to any students who need them throughout the year. For more information, contact Crockett at foodpantry@middlesex.mass.edu or 781-582-3786, or visit https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/studentlife/mccfoodpantry.

Grant clears path for MCC Nursing students to continue at Fitchburg

Middlesex Community College Nursing graduates will soon have a smooth pathway to earn a Bachelor’s degree in Nursing at Fitchburg State University, thanks to a new grant from the Higher Education Nursing & Allied Health Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education. Fitchburg State, in partnership with Middlesex, Bristol and Quinsigamond community colleges, has received a $29,000 grant to develop admissions agreements to allow registered nurses with Associate degrees to seamlessly transfer to FSU and earn a BS in Nursing completely online.

The proposal will include guaranteed admissions agreements, and will:
- Allow the transfer of a greater number of credits than is currently allowed for transfer students, including guaranteed admissions to Fitchburg State confirmed early in students’ careers.
- Utilize a revised online RN to BS in Nursing program, which allows students to earn a BS in Nursing while they are in the workforce.
- Take advantage of the relationship with academic partnerships that provide student support for advising and retention that is built upon the foundation of students having traditional faculty and staff advisors at FSU.

For more information about DHE Nursing & Allied Health Initiative grants, visit www.mass.edu/nahigrantsawards.asp. For more information about MCC's Nursing programs, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/nursing.
From shy to flying high
MCC's Adult Learning Center helps young woman find way

With the help of the Adult Learning Center at Middlesex Community College, Apitchaya Thiapphet got started on her successful educational journey one step at a time.

Thiapphet came to the United States in 2014 from Thailand to work as an au pair for a family in Lexington. Overwhelmed at first by her unfamiliarity with American culture, the 19-year-old found herself doing a lot of listening and not much talking.

Today, the Malden resident has graduated from MCC and is enrolled in the Peace and Conflict Studies program at UMass Lowell. Fluent in Thai, Lao and English — and studying Spanish — Thiapphet eventually hopes to work for the U.S. Department of State or the United Nations.

The Adult Learning Center offers free, non-credit, college-preparation courses for adult learners (ages 16 and up) who live and work in Massachusetts. Students are admitted throughout the school year on a space-available basis.

The next registration period begins Wednesday, Jan. 2. Call 781-280-3822 for information.

Thiapphet enrolled at the ALC to meet the educational requirement of her au-pair program. A free program for adult learners living in Massachusetts, the ALC offers small, supportive instruction in reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies. It serves students interested in basic adult education, those who want to prepare for the high-school equivalency test, and/or adults seeking to improve their English skills.

Each semester, explains ALC Director Kathy Innis, the program typically enrolls a few au pairs like Thiapphet who have high-school degrees from their home countries, but need to improve their English skills.

"Apitchaya was an outstanding student right from the start," Innis said. "She had excellent attendance, was highly motivated, very engaged in her classroom and always appreciative of our programs.

Thiapphet jumped at the chance to take an optional student leadership course supported by MCC's Office of Student Engagement.

"I feel lucky that I started my Middlesex experience with the Adult Learning Center," Thiapphet said.

She especially appreciates learning the intricacies of the English language — such as how to use articles like "a," "an" and "the" — plus how to write an essay, as well as math skills, ranging from basic statistics to how credit cards work.

"The instructors really paid attention to students like me, whose first language was not English," she said. "They listened to our questions carefully and made sure we understood the concepts or problems."

Within three months, her English skills improved significantly, and she made friends with other ALC students who had similar experiences and were acclimating to American culture.

Thiapphet left the ALC when her au-pair program ended in April 2015, but returned to Middlesex the following fall to enroll in the History, Politics and Global Studies Program. She graduated in May with an Associate degree, earning a 3.91 grade-point average.

"It is incredible to look back and see how much my life has changed because of MCC," said Thiapphet, who was also a member of the Commonwealth Honors Program and Phi Theta Kappa, the national honor society for two-year colleges.

Quiet and shy when she first enrolled, Thiapphet said her confidence was boosted when she joined the International Club.

"By getting to know more people during the club meetings and other fun activities, I became more outgoing and was not afraid to talk to other people," she said. "I had such a great connection with my peers and professors since I participated in outside classroom activities."

Thiapphet also became an orientation leader at Middlesex, participated in an off-campus Diversity Summit, and was selected for an international fellowship to the United Kingdom and Ireland.

"I've learned how to be more open-minded when facing something new, and how to live and work with people in a group in different environments," she said.

Being so passionate about history, international relations and diversity, pursuing a UML Bachelor's degree in Peace and Conflict Studies seemed natural to her.

"Peace and Conflict Studies is a new major, which many people may not have heard of," Thiapphet said. "I think it is exciting to go for something new that will be useful for the world community in the future."
A very merry Nesmith Christmas

By Debbie Daley

The hustle of the holiday season is truly upon us, with only a few shopping days left to find that perfect gift for family and friends. Added to our already hectic schedule was a special tour of the Nesmith House. There is no better time to view this elegant historic home than at Christmas time.

The Nesmith House is a grand mansion built by John and Harriet Nesmith in 1842, a time when the Industrial Revolution had just begun. The historic Greek Revival mansion has 22 rooms and is currently owned by Middlesex Community College and is used for special events, weddings, and functions. It was refurbished and restored in 1994. When it became a designer showhouse, and what a beautiful showhouse it remains today.

Noticing the beautiful holiday wreaths and greens flowing from the exterior window boxes, we could only imagine what the interiors looked like dressed for the holidays. Excited to enter and get out of the cold, we passed through the front portico into the main entrance, where sunlight poured into the rooms, providing a wonderfully warm and cozy feeling.

We were immediately greeted by Maureen Spinney, director of historic properties for Middlesex Community College. Not only were we pleasantly welcomed by Maureen and her gracious manner, but we were also taken aback by the creativity of the beautiful holiday decorations—from the tastefully decorated fireplace mantel, swags on the winding staircases and every little embellishment, like the berries on the dining-table centerpieces, to the flowing greenery on the upstairs dress form.

The details are seen throughout the home as well. In the butler’s pantry, a unique antique copper sink, repossessed into a nostalgic Carrara marble countertop had to be one of my favorite interior details of all. The upstairs dressing vanity was also elegantly styled with a pine tabler top swag.

Holiday decorations were perfectly placed throughout the home. Three unique arrangements were created by Maureen along with the home’s gardener and landscape artist, Marti Estrella.

From the very first step, our eyes could not stop glazing from room to room. The holiday decorations are beautifully placed, and each room is stunning. If you’re searching for an elegant and classy venue that feels warm and cozy, seriously consider The Nesmith House, and step back in time to grand elegance. It’s number one on our list. Wishing all a happy holiday season with happiness, health and peace.
Kaufman's art heading home to Tewksbury

By Kori Tuit, ktuit@lowellsun.com
Updated: 12/18/2018 10:30:27 PM EST

The late sculptor Mico Kaufman appears in the background behind a commissioned piece he created for Enterprise Bank in 2008. Kaufman's longtime hometown of Tewksbury accepted a donation of several pieces of Kaufman's art Tuesday night. Sun file photo

TEWKSBURY -- Works of art from the late Mico Kaufman will live on in his hometown at the Tewksbury Public Library. The Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to accept a gift from The Mico H. Kaufman Revocable Trust Tuesday night. Kaufman is a world-renowned artist, known for his sculpting, who lived in Tewksbury for 60 years before dying at the age of 92.

A letter dated Dec. 3 from Elsie Howell, Kaufman's longtime partner, to the Board of Selectmen and town manager outlined a dozen pieces of art to be donated to the town. Howell is a trustee of The Mico H. Kaufman Revocable Trust. "I have had a number of conversations and meetings with Library Director, Diane Giarrusso, concerning this donation," Howell's letter states. "She has indicated that the following works would be an appropriate donation to the Tewksbury Public Library from the Mico Kaufman Collection."

Town Manager Richard Montuori said he has worked with Howell on a number of occasions regarding what he said is a gracious donation. He recommended the board formally accept the gifts. "I am very excited that we're getting that art," said Selectman Anne Marie Stronach. "My favorite Mico Kaufman piece is The Muster." "The Muster" is a sculpture of five firefighters and a fire hose, which is located at the South Tewksbury Fire Station. Included in this donation of art pieces is a small model of "The Muster."

The acceptance of this donation comes after months of consideration. Kaufman's trust initially made an offer for some pieces to be sold to the town, but Town Manager Richard Montuori said the town was not interested in making a purchase. Then the trust offered to make a donation, but it included too many pieces for the town to consider accepting.

Since Kaufman's death in 2016, UMass Lowell, Middlesex Community College and the Rolling Ridge Conference Center in North Andover, have acquired some of Kaufman's pieces. A private sale of some of his pieces was scheduled last month at Howell's Tewksbury home.

Howell previously told The Sun it was Kaufman's mission to bring fine art to Tewksbury. As a trustee, she said the donation was an opportunity to preserve the history of the town while recognizing Kaufman's contributions. Selectman Todd Johnson requested that the Town Manager send out a formal letter of thanks to the trust for the donation.
Lexington’s Frances DeSalvio
Former Beauty Queen Returned to Earn a Degree at Middlesex Community College

Two years ago, Frances DeSalvio, a former Miss New Jersey turned empty nester, was looking to fulfill a dream. She hopped into her little red Mini Cooper and headed to the Middlesex Community College admissions office, hoping it wasn’t too late.

Last May, the Lexington resident graduated with an associate degree in Liberal Arts & Sciences and checked off a long-coveted accomplishment: Earning a college degree.

“I feel very much complete, much more of a whole person than I was before, and I have Middlesex to thank for that,” said DeSalvio.

“Having an education, any kind of education – a trade, a skill, a course of study – completes a person in a certain way.”

It’s not too late to finish your degree at MCC. Registration is now open for Wintersession, a condensed, three-week session offered during the break between fall and spring semesters. Wintersession classes run Jan. 2-18, 2019, on the Bedford campus or online. Call 1-800-818-3434 to enroll.

DeSalvio’s path to college was not traditional. Her education was detoured by the bright lights and excitement of Atlantic City, N.J., at its peak. She enjoyed a whirlwind career as a beauty pageant winner and model, and then decades as a doting mom.

In the summer of 1978, as the first casinos were opening in Atlantic City, DeSalvio (then Francine Knapp), had graduated from high school, but was unsure of her future. “My parents didn’t have the resources to send me to college,” she said. “Financial aid wasn’t as accessible then, and my parents didn’t know how to navigate the system.”

She landed a job with Resorts International, the first casino on the East Coast, working as a hostess, and performing in reviews and shows. In 1981, DeSalvio was crowned Miss Atlantic City. In December 1984, she beat out 93 other contestants to become Miss New Jersey 1985.

That fall, she headed to Asia for a six-week tour of Taiwan, Tokyo and Bangkok with Catalina swimwear. When she returned home, DeSalvio received a phone call from a casino executive asking her out on a blind date. Six weeks later, Francine Knapp and Bob DeSalvio were engaged. They married in September 1986.

The DeSalvios had four children and Frances assumed the role of stay-at-home mom. Four years ago, her husband took a job as president of the Wynn Boston Harbor Casino (now the Encore Boston Harbor, under construction in Everett), and the couple moved to Lexington.

With her children grown, DeSalvio had the time and resources to focus on her education. After taking a couple of summer courses at MCC, she was feeling comfortable and confident enough to sign up for five classes in fall 2016.

“Then I had a meltdown.” All the technology her professors were utilizing in class was too much. DeSalvio was ready to dropout. But her English professor, Louisa Saladino-Kuhl, wouldn’t hear of it. “She told me, ‘As long as you put in the work, I’ll help you with the technology,’ and she did.”

This fall, DeSalvio headed to Cambridge College in Boston to continue her education and study psychology. “My husband recently asked me, ‘What is going on here? I’m 62, you’re 58, I’m getting ready to finish. Are you going to go to work now?”

“I told him I’m not really sure;” said DeSalvio.

“I’m going to listen, be open-minded and always look to the future.”

For further information, or to see the full list of Wintersession course offerings, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/wintersession or call 1-800-818-3434.

Discover your path at Middlesex Community College. As one of the largest, most comprehensive community colleges in Massachusetts, 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, and online. Middlesex Community College: Student success starts here!
MCC NEWS

Spring registration now open at MCC

Registration is now open for spring-semester courses at Middlesex Community College. Classes will begin on Jan. 22, 2019, on the Bedford and Lowell campuses and online.

New and returning students can meet with an adviser, build their class schedules for spring semester and take the College Placement Test during Walk-In Enrollment Days, to be held in the Bedford Campus Enrollment Center, Building 9, 591 Springs Road, and in the Cowan Center on the Lowell campus, 33 Kearney Square.

December Walk-In Enrollment Days will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 17-20. January Walk-In Enrollment Days will be held Jan. 8-17, 2019. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday.

During Walk-In Enrollment, students can learn about MCC’s more than 70 degree and certificate programs. They can also receive information about financial aid and other student support services, including tutoring, career counseling and disability support.

Prospective students will be able to meet with admissions counselors and fill out an application. Qualified students can register for courses.

Middlesex offers flexible schedules to fit students’ needs, with day, evening and weekend options; small-class environments; and honors courses for high-achieving students.

MCC currently offers 15 associate degree and certificate programs that can be completed entirely online, plus 10 programs that are 80 percent online. They also offer hundreds of online course offerings, plus hybrid courses, which combine online and face-to-face instruction.

For information, call 800-818-3434 or visit http://middlesex.mass.edu.
MCC marketing team hailed by national council

The Office of Marketing Communications at Middlesex Community College has been recognized for outstanding work by regional members of the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations, the premier organization for two-year college communications professionals.

MCC received three Medallion Awards, two gold and one silver, during NCMPR’s fall District 1 Conference, held recently in Annapolis, Md. The annual Medallion Awards competition spotlights the best work among District 1 member colleges. More than 200 entries were submitted in 36 categories.

“To receive three awards — especially two Gold Medallions — from our college-marketing peers here in the Northeast is truly an honor for our Marketing team,” said Jennifer Aradhya, dean of Marketing Communications. “We work very hard to be innovative in our marketing approach as we highlight student success at Middlesex.”

From left are Social Media Specialist Ron Campbell of Lowell; Dean of College Communications Jennifer Aradhya of Groton, and Assistant Director of Marketing Communications Elizabeth Noel of Lowell.

The Office of Marketing Communications earned Gold Medallion Awards in the categories of Electronic Newsletter (for The Middlesex Connector, a faculty/staff newsletter published 10 times a year); and Interior Signage/Displays (for Advising Center Environmental Graphics). The college also received a Silver Medalion in the Wildcard category (for Pizza with the President Pop-up Events).

MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE NEWS

Registration is open for Middlesex Community College’s popular Wintersession. Students can take courses during winter break, the regular break between fall and spring semesters, in a condensed, three-week format. Wintersession classes run Jan. 2-18. Visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/wintersession or call 800-818-3434.

Registration is open for spring-semester courses, which begin Jan. 22.

The Arts Administration Certificate Program is an 18-credit certificate that gives students an introduction to the management and leadership skills needed to successfully work in the nonprofit arts sector. Visit: https://catalog.middlesex.mass.edu/ArtsAdmin or email waldronp@midd.essex.mass.edu.

The Academy of Health Professions offers Certified Nursing Assistant, Medical Billing & Coding, and Phlebotomy. Visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/registration.
Middlesex Dental Hygiene Students Ace National Board Exams

Recent graduates of Middlesex Community College's Dental Hygiene Program earned a 100-percent first-time pass rate on the National Dental Hygiene Board, which leads to licensure of oral-health care professionals.

"We are so proud of our Dental Hygiene graduates," said Karen Townsend, Dental Hygiene Program Director. "It's quite an accomplishment for a graduating class to all pass their national boards on the first attempt. This is a testament to our outstanding faculty members, who are dedicated to student success, and to the hard work of the future dental hygienists we are training."

MCC's Dental Hygiene Associate in Science degree program is designed to prepare competent dental-hygiene professionals, capable of providing quality care in a variety of settings within a changing health care system and a culturally diverse society.

Prospective students can receive an overview of the program and admission requirements at an upcoming Dental Hygiene Program Info Sessions:

* 6 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 10
* 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019

Both info sessions will be held in MCC's Federal Building Assembly Room, 33 Kearney Square, on the Lowell campus. To register, please visit: https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/admissionrequirements/dhoverview.aspx

Dental Hygiene students fulfill their clinical requirements in MCC's Dental Hygiene Clinic, 44 Middle St., in Lowell, which is open to the public. September through May, the on-campus clinic offers oral prophylaxis (cleaning), dental sealants, X-rays, and athletic mouth protectors at reduced cost. Call 978-656-3250 or 781-280-3250 to make an appointment.

For further information about MCC's Dental Hygiene Program, please visit: https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/dhdepartment/

Discover your path at Middlesex Community College.

As one of the largest, most comprehensive community colleges in Massachusetts, 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, and online. Middlesex Community College: Student success starts here!
Walk In And Enroll
For Spring Courses At
Middlesex CC

Registration is now open for spring-semester courses at Middlesex Community College. Classes begin Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019, on the Bedford and Lowell campuses, and online.

New and returning students can meet with an advisor, build their class schedules for spring semester, and take the College Placement Test during Walk-In Enrollment Days, to be held in the Bedford Campus Enrollment Center (Building 9), 591 Springs Road, and in the Cowan Center on the Lowell campus, 33 Kearney Square.

- December Walk-In Enrollment Days will be held Dec. 17-20. Hours are: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday.
- January Walk-In Enrollment Days will be held Jan. 8-17, 2019. Hours are: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday; and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday.

During Walk-In Enrollment, students can learn about MCC’s more than 70 degree and certificate programs. They can also receive information about financial aid and other student support services — including tutoring, career counseling, and disability support.

Prospective students will be able to meet with admissions counselors and fill out an application. Qualified students can register for courses.

Middlesex offers flexible schedules to fit your needs, with day, evening and weekend options. Combined with a small-class environment, attentive and accessible teachers, and honors courses for high-achieving students, MCC provides a quality education at a price you can afford — online or on campus.

With online learning at Middlesex, your classroom can be as close as the nearest Internet connection. For 20 years, MCC has been a leader in online education. We currently offer 15 associate degree and certificate programs that can be completed entirely online, plus 10 programs that are 80 percent online. We also offer hundreds of online course offerings, plus hybrid courses — which combine online and face-to-face instruction.

To learn more about Middlesex, or to register for Spring 2019 courses, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu or call 1-800-818-3434.

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Enroll Now
In MCC’s Arts Administration Certificate Program

There is still time to enroll in Middlesex Community College’s Arts Administration Certificate Program. Registration is now open and spring-semester courses begin Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019.

This 18-credit certificate gives students an introduction to the management and leadership skills needed to successfully work in the nonprofit arts sector (dance, theater, music and visual arts organizations). Students will be prepared to transfer to a college or university, or to work in arts organizations.

“Arts administration is an exciting, evolving and rewarding field of study,” said Peter Waldron, Manager of MCC’s Academic Arts Center. “Arts administrators are the people who create opportunities for performances, exhibitions, workshops and concerts to happen.

“This certificate combines art-, music- and theater-appreciation classes, with courses in entrepreneurship and business administration,” explained Waldron. Many Arts Administration courses will be available in the Academic Arts Center, MCC’s new state-of-the-art performing-arts facility on the Lowell campus, he added.

The Massachusetts region includes a significant number of performance venues and nonprofit art organizations. This certificate also would provide a good introduction to management in the arts that might be of interest to those pursuing careers in business or nonprofit management.

For further information about the Arts Administration Certificate Program at Middlesex, visit: https://catalog.middlesex.mass.edu/ArtsAdmin or contact Peter Waldron at waldrnp@middlesex.mass.edu.

To register for MCC spring-semester courses, visit: https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/registration/ or call 1-800-818-3434.

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MCC offers program to help launch businesses

Middlesex Community College is offering Launch Your Business Now, an innovative, new, applied-entrepreneurship certificate program designed to encourage students to start or grow a business.

Developed for entrepreneurs who have an idea for a business they want to launch, or scale up, within four to 12 months, Launch Your Business Now also incorporates an opportunity to be awarded seed money and mentoring through the Everyday Entrepreneurs Venture Fund to help promising start-ups get off the ground.

MCC’s new 16-credit, entrepreneurship certificate program is ideal for students with innovative and conventional business ideas.

Through course work, and workshops offered via MCC’s IDEA Center, students enrolled in the 16-week program will evaluate market opportunity, test assumptions, and set up systems to successfully launch a business. Those systems include bookkeeping, marketing strategies, sales principles, operations and financing.

For more information about MCC’s new Launch Your Business Now Certificate Program, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/launch or contact Franky Descoteaux at descoteauxf@middlesex.mass.edu.
Around Town

BEDFORD Middlesex Community College’s World of Music series continues with “Music for Flute and Guitar,” featuring Jill Dreeben (flute) and Peter Clemente (guitar) at 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 30, in Building 6, 591 Springs Road. Music to be performed includes works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Astor Piazzolla, Katherine Hoover, and John Kusiak. Admission is free. Visit middlesex.mass.edu/worldofmusic.

CONCORD The Concord Orchestra presents holiday family concerts on Saturday, Dec. 1, at 2 and 4 p.m. at 51 Walden St., featuring “The Composer is Dead,” a murder mystery in which guest narrator Joyce Kulhawiik will play the inspector who interviews the instruments in the orchestra about their involvement in the crime. Also on the program is the “Marche Joyeuse” by Emmanuel Chabrier; a string orchestra piece performed in collaboration with the Westford Academy Honors Orchestra; and an audience sing-along. Tickets for adults are $20 at the door, $19 online; $10 under 21. Call 978-369-4967 or visit www.concordorchestra.com.

Guitarist Peter Clemente will perform in Middlesex Community College’s World of Music series on Nov. 30.

WALTHAM Welcome Hanukkah with Hankus Netsky’s Hebrew National Salvage performing “Yiddish Radio Lives! A Musical Tribute to Ben Gailing at 120” on Sunday, Dec. 2, at 1 p.m. at Temple Beth Israel, 25 Harvard St. The program includes Hassidic melodies, klezmer dance tunes, Yiddish folk songs, and a special tribute to Yiddish theatre actor and humorist Ben Gailing. Tickets are $20 for adults and $15 for temple members or students. Call 781-894-5146 or visit tbiwaltham.org.

WATERTOWN “Tangerine Trees and Marmalade Skies” is the theme of a show by artists Timothy Kadish, Carol McManhon, Robert Rindler, and Judy Riola, on exhibit at Room 83 Spring now through Dec. 22. The four artists create paintings and sculptures of materials that include encaustic and acrylic paint, wood, stuffed animals, and plastic kitchen items. Gallery hours are Thursdays and Saturdays, 1 to 4 p.m., and by appointment. The gallery is located at 83 Spring St. Visit room83spring.com.

NANCY SHOJET WEST
Send items at least two weeks in advance to nancyswest@gmail.com.
MCC No. 1 for online degrees in Boston, No. 5 for adult learners

Middlesex Community College has been ranked No. 1 on the 2018 list of Best Online Degrees in Boston by GreatValueColleges.net. Also, MCC is ranked No. 4 on the 2018 list of Best Online Community Colleges in Massachusetts by TheBestColleges.org.

"With the rising tuition costs and societal shifts, more students are looking to community college as a valuable alternative, but many don't know there are online options like MCC," said Elizabeth Franklin, school outreach manager for TheBestColleges.org.

"For more than 20 years, Middlesex has taken a consistently inno-

MCC’s online courses are taught by highly trained faculty who are committed to ensuring that every student has an engaging learning experience. Our growing online enrollments supports these recent rankings."

Middlesex offers 10 Associate Degree programs and five certificate programs that can be completed entirely online. Hundreds of online course offerings, as well as hybrid courses, which combine online and face-to-face instruction, are also offered.

"Middlesex is proud of its high quality online learning program," said Matthew Olson, dean of Social Science, Interdisciplinary Studies & Online/Weekend Education. "These acknowledgments from GreatValueColleges.net and TheBestColleges.org reflect the teaching skill and content expertise of our online instructors and their investment in student success. Middlesex works to provide online education in a way that promotes meaningful learning and helps students to reach their educational and career goals."

Students who take courses online at Middlesex complete the same high-quality coursework as those who take courses on campus. And online students earn the same course credits, which are transferrable to Bachelor’s Degree programs.

Meanwhile, MCC has been ranked No. 5 in the state and No. 41 in the country on Washington Monthly’s 2018 list of Best 2-Year Colleges for Adult Learners.

"Serving adult learners is critical to the mission of the college," said Philip Sisson, provost and vice president of academic and student affairs. "I’m pleased that our faculty and staff at the college who are dedicated to serving the unique needs of returning adults are being recognized for those efforts."

With more than 70 degree and certificate programs, and hundreds of noncredit courses, MCC can help students earn a degree, begin a Bachelor’s degree or upgrade your skills.

To learn more about MCC or to register, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu or call 800-818-3434.

To view the list of Washington Monthly’s rankings, visit https://washingtonmonthly.com/2018 college-guide.
Register Now For Spring Courses At Middlesex Community College

Registration is now open for spring-semester courses at Middlesex Community College. Classes begin Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019, on the Bedford and Lowell campuses, and online.

A complete listing of spring course offerings can be found in MCC’s Spring Academic Advising Schedule, available on the college website: https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/registration/

Middlesex offers flexible schedules to fit your needs with day, evening and weekend options. Combined with a small-class environment, attentive and accessible teachers, and honors courses for high-achieving students, MCC provides a quality education at a price you can afford – online or on campus.

With online learning at Middlesex, your classroom can be as close as the nearest Internet connection. For 20 years, MCC has been a leader in online education. We currently offer 15 associate degree and certificate programs that can be completed entirely online, plus 10 programs that are 80 percent online. We also offer hundreds of online course offerings, plus hybrid courses – which combine online and face-to-face instruction.

Middlesex recognizes that many students, after completing their MCC coursework, intend to transfer and pursue a bachelor’s degree at another institution. For these students, the college offers the state’s new Commonwealth Commitment/MassTransfer Pathways program, which can save an average of 40 percent from the cost of earning a bachelor’s degree. For more info, visit: www.mass.edu/masstransfer

To learn more about Middlesex, or to register for Spring 2019 courses, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu or call 1-800-818-3434.

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Earn Credits During Winter Break With MCC’s Wintersession

Registration is now open for Middlesex Community College’s popular Wintersession.

Students can take courses during Winter Break, the regular break between fall and spring semesters, in a condensed, three-week format. Wintersession classes run Jan. 2-18, 2019, on the Bedford campus or online.

“Taking advantage of the time off between semesters and enrolling in a Wintersession course is a great way to complete degree requirements and stay on track toward graduation,” said Jillian Freitas-Haley, Director of Admissions.

“Wintersession classes cover the same content, maintain the same academic standards, and contain the same number of in-class instructional hours as courses scheduled during MCC’s traditional 15-week semester,” she said.

Students can reduce their course load during the upcoming spring semester, or complete a course that won’t fit into their fall or spring schedules, Freitas-Haley added. This accelerated session also offers students a way to study one subject intensively for a short period of time.

Wintersession students can earn credits in a wide variety of subjects, including English, science, history, social science, math and more.

For further information, or to see the full list of Wintersession course offerings, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/wintersession or call 1-800-818-3434.

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MCC No. 6 in nation for hospitality

Middlesex Community College has been ranked No. 6 on the 2018 list of Best Programs for Online Hotel/Hospitality Management Degrees by AffordableCollegesOnline.org.

"Middlesex is proud of its high-quality, online learning program," said Matthew Olson, dean of Social Science, Interdisciplinary Studies & Online/Weekend Education. "This acknowledgment from AffordableCollegesOnline.org reflects the teaching skill and content expertise of our online instructors and their investment in student success. Middlesex works to provide online education in a way that promotes meaningful learning and helps students to reach their educational and career goals."

Middlesex currently offers 10 associate degree programs and five certificate programs that can be completed entirely online.

Hundreds of online course offerings — as well as hybrid courses, which combine online and face-to-face instruction — are also offered.

Students who take courses online at Middlesex complete the same high-quality coursework as those who take courses on campus.

And online students earn the same course credits, which are transferrable to Bachelor's degree programs.

Spring classes begin Tuesday, Jan. 22, on the Bedford and Lowell campuses, as well as online.

Financial aid is available for those who qualify.

To learn more about MCC, or to register, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu or call 800-818-3434.

To view the entire list of AffordableCollegesOnline.org, visit www.affordablecollegesonline.org /degrees/hotel-management -hospitality-programs/ #2-year-best-college-ranking.

MCC hosts ‘Music for Flute and Guitar’

BEDFORD — A World of Music, Middlesex Community College’s 2018 fall concert series, continues with “Music for Flute and Guitar,” featuring Jill Dreeben, flute, and Peter Clemente, guitar, on Friday, Nov. 30, starting at at 8 p.m., in MCC’s Concert Hall (Building 6), on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road. The concert is free and open to the public.

Dreeben and Clemente will perform a colorful program of works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Astor Piazzolla, Katherine Hoover and a duet by John Kuziak written specially for them.

For more information, visit: www.middlesex.mass.edu/worldofmusic.
MCC helped reservist achieve her dream of becoming a nurse

A family medical emergency rekindled veteran Janine Gerrior D’Eon’s long-dormant desire to become a nurse. She turned to Middlesex Community College to achieve her dream.

Gerrior D’Eon and her husband, Dan D’Eon, met while serving in the Army Reserves. She enlisted during her junior year of college at Bridgewater State University, completing basic training during the summer, then returning to school for her senior year. She then served from 1997 to 2005, and was deployed to Iraq in 2004-05.

Dan D’Eon was deployed in Afghanistan in 2010 and suffered a stroke. He was flown to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., for treatment.

“Thankfully, there were minimal residual effects from the stroke,” Gerrior D’Eon said.

Watching the medical team care for Dan sparked Gerrior D’Eon’s longtime dream to become a nurse.

“If he had another stroke, I wanted to know how to care for him,” she said. “I also wanted to know what the doctors were talking about and not just be a family bystander letting somebody else provide care for my husband and make the decisions.”

While at Walter Reed, Gerrior D’Eon told her husband’s nurse-care manager she had always wanted to be a nurse but knew her high-school math grades were not good enough to get into a nursing program.

“That nurse said to me, ‘Don’t you know you have a Post-911 G.I. Bill?’ He told me that’s how he paid for nursing school, but I had never heard of it.”

A few weeks later, when Gerrior D’Eon got back to Massachusetts, she went to the Veterans Administration to learn about her G.I. Bill education benefits. She looked into a variety of nursing programs before deciding to enroll at Middlesex.

“MCC seemed to have the best program with great reviews,” she said. “I signed up, was placed on a waiting list, and knocked out my prerequisites while I waited to get into the Nursing program.”

The catch? She would have to face her high-school nemesis — algebra. But this time, she was no kid lacking confidence. She was a trained soldier who had faced opposition much fiercer than a bunch of coefficients and exponents.

For example, in December 2003 — just a couple of months after her husband had come home from a yearlong deployment in Cuba — Janine was deployed to Afghanistan. Their daughter, Emily, was just a baby.

“Emily was 10 months old when I left,” she said. “When I came home, she had just celebrated her second birthday. I got to come home for a 10-day leave when she was 19 months old, and she didn’t want anything to do with me. She didn’t know who I was anymore. That was extremely difficult.”

Gerrior D’Eon knew if she got through that challenge, she could take on algebra. This time, she aced the course, earning an A.

She balanced family life with nursing school by taking one class a week in the evenings and participating in clinicals on the weekends.

“There is an intimate connection with the professors at Middlesex,” she said. “The classes are smaller, and the professors are so knowledgeable. They get to know each student and really reach out and help you learn.”

D’Eon graduated from MCC in 2016 and took the NCLEX national nursing-licensing exam. She is a registered nurse on the acute-care floor at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Nashua, N.H. She and her husband live in Pepperell, now a Pepperell police officer, and their three kids ages 15, 12, and 9.
MCC NEWS

Mico Kaufman artwork gifted to Middlesex Community College

The estate of internationally known local sculptor Mico Kaufman recently gifted 27 works of art to Middlesex Community College.

The artwork — including bronze and stone sculptures, drawings and U.S. presidential inaugural medals — will be on permanent display in several buildings on the Lowell campus.

Two bronze sculptures, “Agape” and “Su e Giù,” are now on view in MCC’s newly renovated Richard and Nancy Donahue Family Academic Arts Center. The remainder of the collection will be installed in the coming months.

“This generous gift from the Mico Kaufman Trust is a welcome addition to our Lowell campus and beautifully illustrates MCC’s commitment to the arts,” said MCC President James C. Mabry. “It’s especially fitting that the first two Kaufman sculptures are on view in our new Donahue Family Arts Center, which will be a center for teaching, learning and the performing arts for years to come.”

Kaufman, who lived in Tewksbury, was considered one of the premier medalists of his time. He designed inaugural medals for U.S. presidents Gerald R. Ford, Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush. His work is included in the permanent collections of the American Numismatic Society, the British Museum and the Smithsonian Institute and private collections.

Among his local public art commissions are “Homage to Women,” created in 1984, inspired by the mill girls of the Industrial Revolution, located at Market and Palmer streets in Lowell; and “Debussy,” created in 1987, a tribute to composer Claude Debussy situated on the campus of UMass Lowell. The Debussy sculpture can also be found in St. Germain en Laye, France, the composer’s birthplace.

Kaufman also created the “Rouses Memorial” in 1980, a monument to a slain police officer located at the JFK Plaza of Lowell City Hall; and “Water,” created in 1985, which depicts Helen Keller with her teacher Anne Sullivan, sited next to Tewksbury Town Hall, 1009 Main St.

According to the Kaufman Trust, the artist has said, “If you should notice one of my public sculptures, I would like you to stop and ponder on its subject. The pause might refresh, inform and even inspire. My work reflects on the bonds that substantiate our humanity.”

Born in Romania in 1924, Kaufman spent three years in a Nazi concentration camp during World War II. After the war, he studied at the Academies of Fine Arts in Rome and Florence. He emigrated to the United States in 1951 and became a U.S. citizen in 1956. He died in 2016 at the age of 92.

World of Music to continue with flute, guitar concert

A World of Music, Middlesex Community College’s 2018 fall concert series, will continue with “Music for Flute and Guitar” at 8 p.m. Nov. 30 in MCC’s Concert Hall, Building 6, 591 Springs Road, Bedford.

“Music for Flute and Guitar” will feature Jill Dreeben on flute and Peter Clemente on guitar. Dreeben and Clemente will perform a program of works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Astor Piazzolla, Katherine Hoover and a duo by John Kuziak written for them.

The concert is free and open to the public. [COURTESY PHOTO]
MCC scholarship established with Chelly Foundation

The Middlesex Community College Foundation, in partnership with the Chelly Foundation, recently established a new scholarship to provide educational assistance for female students of Cambodian heritage.

The new Chelly Foundation Scholarship will help cover tuition, fees, books, materials and other eligible costs for up to three students during the 2018-19 academic year.

"Middlesex is deeply grateful to the Chelly Foundation for establishing this unique scholarship," said Virak Uy, director of MCC’s Program for Asian American Student Advancement. "Receiving such financial assistance can really make a difference to Asian and Asian-American women who want to stay in school, complete their degree and continue their education."

Located in Maryland, the Chelly Foundation has a mission to support positive changes in people’s lives — especially children — through literacy, education and other means. Since 2015, the foundation has provided educational opportunities, primarily to young women from villages in the Chumkuri district of Kampot province in Cambodia.

“Hopefully, Middlesex students who receive a stipend from the Chelly Foundation will be able to complete their studies and go on to receive a further degree or get a good job,” said Jason R. Baron, founder and president of the Chelly Foundation.

“Chelly Scholarship students should know they serve as role models for the thousands of young women in rural villages in Cambodia who can only hope for such an opportunity to go to and succeed in college.”

For information about the Chelly Foundation, visit https://thechellyfoundation.org.

For information about MCC Foundation scholarships, visit https://middlesex.mass.edu/foundation/scholarships.

The estate of sculptor Mico Kaufman recently gifted 27 artworks to Middlesex Community College to be on permanent display in several buildings on the Lowell campus. Pictured is "Agape," a bronze sculpture donated by the Mico H. Kaufman Revocable Trust in honor of Thérèse and Jack O’Connor, on view in the lobby of MCC’s Donahue Family Academic Arts Center. (COURTESY PHOTO)
Gena Glickman says it is “imperative” to maintain discrimination-free environment.

BROCKTON — The president at Massasoit Community College called on U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos to change course on a “concerning” trend to limit transgender rights on campus.

Gena Glickman, who was named the Massasoit president in July, was one of 15 presidents of Massachusetts community colleges to sign a joint letter to DeVos expressing concern with federal moves on transgender issues.

“We hope that you follow the lead of Massachusetts and take this opportunity to recommit to all students in the country by protecting the rights of transgender people,” the Nov. 9 letter reads. “Now is not the time to turn our backs on our students.”

In a statement to The Enterprise, Glickman said it was “imperative” that the state’s public education system stand together to support students concerned about their safety and dignity.

“At the heart of the mission of our community colleges is access to education, and all our students deserve the chance to study in an environment free from discrimination,” Glickman said.

The joint letter to DeVos pointed to several federal moves that look to limit transgender rights, including a revocation of a former federal guideline last year that allowed transgender students to use the bathrooms and locker rooms of their choice. It also pointed to a New York Times piece this year that revealed federal plans to define sex as a person’s biological gender.

“These discussions are concerning and not based on medical community consensus,” the letter said.

The move to narrowly define gender as male or female would undo Title IX protections enacted by former president Barack Obama.

Massachusetts, meanwhile, extended support for transgender rights in this month’s election by voting to maintain a law that prohibits discrimination in bathrooms and locker rooms.

The other signees to the letter included: Valerie R. Roberson (Roxbury Community College), Laura L. Douglas (Bristol Community College), Ellen L. Kennedy (Berkshire Community College), Pam Eddinger (Bunker Hill Community College), John L. Cox (Cape Cod Community College), Yves Salomon-Fernandez (Greenfield Community College), Christina Royal (Holyoke Community College), David Podell (Massachusetts Bay Community College), James C. Mabry (Middlesex Community College), James Vander Hooven (Mount Wachusett Community College), Lane A. Glenn (Northern Essex Community College), Patricia A. Gentile (North Shore Community College), Luis Pedraja (Quinsigamond Community College), John B. Cook (Springfield Technical Community College).

The joint letter follows suit after a similar letter written by the presidents of Princeton University, Rutgers University and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.
MCC debuts new theater building

Posted Nov 16, 2018 at 11:33 AM
Updated Nov 16, 2018 at 11:33 AM

By Melissa Russell mrussell@wickedlocal.com

MCC students Thomas Carnes, of Reading, and Lizzie Cormier, of Dracut, rehearse the balcony scene from "Romeo & Juliet," which runs Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 1 and 2 in the college’s newly renovated Donahue Family Academic Arts Center Theatre on the Lowell campus. [Courtesy photo]

Theater lovers and students seeking careers in the dramatic arts are enjoying a new facility at Middlesex Community College: the Donahue Family Academic Arts Center Theatre. The college, which has campuses in Bedford and Lowell, spent 10 years on the project, renovating the historic Rialto Theatre in Lowell into an academic arts facility for its music, arts and drama programs.

Karen Oster, chair of the performing arts program at MCC, said faculty and students had previously been operating in classrooms "that were not conducive to what we wanted to use." "The space was less than desirable," Oster said. "We made do, but we were nomads going place to place." Even though they had recital space in Bedford, there was no similar space on the Lowell campus. "We needed a dance studio with the right type floor for students, right type of mirrors and the right type of barres, and we didn’t have our own theater," she said.

The repurposing of the Rialto building called for a complete tear-down except for three standing walls and girders in order to maintain the historic nature of the building. "It is a historic building outside, but inside it is an exciting new place," Oster said. The theater, recital hall, dance studio and classrooms are housed in an egg-shaped structure in the heart of the building. "The architects seemed to enjoy the concept of the egg as an image of rebirth," she said. "Now we are at the threshold of these programs, which will allow them to become even richer and fuller.”

If you go
WHAT William Shakespeare’s “Romeo and Juliet,” staged by the Middlesex Community College theatre department
WHERE Donahue Family Academic Arts Center Theatre, 240 Central St. Lowell
WHEN Dec 1 and 2, 2 and 7 p.m.
TIKTETS $18; $12 for MCC students, faculty and staff. $10 for senior citizens. Purchase tickets online at middlesex.mass.edu/performances
The renovation has allowed the college to introduce academic certificate programs in arts administration and technical theater. "Students may not want to perform, but might enjoy working backstage on heavy-duty, high quality equipment. By learning on this equipment they are making themselves more marketable." Students can gain the skills necessary for careers as “front of house folks,” producers, box office personnel, arts managers or directors, she said.

The theater’s inaugural production will be Shakespeare’s “Romeo and Juliet,” the classic tragedy of two star-crossed lovers, which will be performed with a 21-member cast, 10 of whom will be making their MCC debut. The height of the new facility allows for the space required for swordfighting as well as the iconic balcony scene, Oster said.

“I knew this would be our first production,” she said. “I’ve always wanted my students to have this experience, but we didn’t have the ceiling height for either swordfighting or a balcony.” The new space allows Oster to have an office close to the action, she said. Additionally, students can attend technical theater classes right on stage, go into the lighting booth or work with equipment on a professional catwalk. If students need to practice a dance number, they can go to a studio that has the same footprint as the stage. “It’s a million little things we’re able to do that we couldn’t do before,” she said.

“I feel so fortunate to have this beautiful place and such incredible support from the administration,” she said. "In other places, the arts are cut a lot, but they realize how important arts are in students’ growth and learning and for students who just want to feel like they can get involved with something really fun and feel like part of a family."

*The Donahue Family Academic Arts Center is located at 240 Central St., Lowell.*
MCC offers use of Open Education Resources

MCC students saved $134,590 in textbook costs over the 2016-17 academic year through the use of OERs, she said.

MCC is part of the Massachusetts Community Colleges Go Open initiative, which is supported by the GPSTEM project; funded by a $20 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment & Training Administration. Formed in 2016, Go Open encourages the state’s 15 community colleges to share resources and best practices in the use of OERs. “Our community colleges are acutely aware of how the high cost of textbooks can affect whether a student takes a course,” said Peter Shea, MCC’s director of professional development.

According to The College Board, students pay an average of $1,168 annually for books and course materials — that’s a 73 percent increase since 2006. That figure hits community-college students particularly hard, since many are supporting families and living on tight budgets, Shea said. It can cause some students to drop out, not enroll in certain courses, or take a class without buying the textbook — which leaves them at a serious educational disadvantage.

For more information about Open Educational Resources, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/professionaldevelopment/oer.aspx.

High honor for Middlesex CC

Middlesex Community College has been ranked No. 5 in the state and No. 41 in the country on Washington Monthly’s 2018 list of Best 2-Year Colleges for Adult Learners.

“Serving adult learners is critical to the mission of the college,” said Philip Siason, provost and vice president of academic and student affairs.

With more than 70 degree and certificate programs, and hundreds of noncredit courses, MCC can help students earn a degree, begin a Bachelor’s degree or upgrade your skills.

To learn more about MCC or to register, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu or call 800-818-3434. To view the list of Washington Monthly’s rankings, visit https://washington-monthly.com/2018college-guide.

— SUN STAFF
MCC fosters confidence in blind man

Despite being legally blind, and suffering a series of personal difficulties and hardships, Middlesex Community College alum Earl Williams never lost focus on pursuing his dream to become an advocate for children.

The 45-year-old Lowell resident recently graduated with an Associate degree in Liberal Arts & Sciences with a Psychology concentration, and plans to pursue a bachelor’s degree in Psychology at UMass Lowell.

In 2014, while working for the IRS, Williams enrolled at MCC hoping to advance his career by furthering his education. He ended up discovering his true calling.

Through the Office of Disability Support Services, Williams received special accommodations for his visual impairment, and he began to succeed academically.

He then decided to commit to earning a college degree and helping children involved with the foster-care system — something with which he’s quite familiar.

Williams fostered and adopted his second son, Kevin, which sparked his interest in helping underprivileged children.

“I felt I could provide a safe and nurturing home full of love and guidance,” he said.

His extraordinary commitment did not go unnoticed. In 2014, Williams received the Merrimack Valley Department of Children & Families Foster Parents of the Year Award.

He also knew something about being a disadvantaged child. Growing up in Miami, Williams was abused at home, and eventually removed and enrolled in a school for the blind, an event he now considers his saving grace.

“In a very real way, that boarding school saved my life,” he said.

As an adult, Williams experienced discrimination because of his disability, as well as for his sexual orientation. He moved to Lowell in 2004 to build a new life. The legalization of gay marriage in Massachusetts gave him hope he’d be able to live the life he always aspired to, rather than enduring continual intolerance.

His positive experience at Middlesex empowered Williams to stay on course and continue working toward his dream.

“I now know my calling is working with children who need strong advocates in their lives,” he said.

During his time at MCC, Williams was very engaged. He was selected to be one of two student speakers to address the Class of 2018 at commencement exercises. He also worked with Disability Support Services, the TRIO program and the Academic Center for Excellence.

“Middlesex has been more than just my community college,” Williams said. “It has also been my family. MCC has been instrumental in my growth as a student.”

Williams hopes to continue his education all the way to earning a doctorate in Psychology.

He feels he’s leaving Middlesex “a compassionate and more enlightened human being.”
Middlesex CC To Host Fall Paralegal Career Night

Middlesex Community College Career Services and the Paralegal Studies Program will host a fall Paralegal Career Night from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 14, in the Bedford Campus Center’s Café East, 591 Springs Road.

Free and open to the public, this information session will help participants explore career opportunities for paralegals in both public and private legal sectors.

MCC’s Paralegal Studies Program welcomes a panel of paralegals — including Middlesex alumni — working in varied legal environments, to discuss their positions, networking, job searching and the paralegal profession. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about this growing profession, and to build professional networks. Representatives from the Massachusetts Paralegal Association will be here to meet students. Light refreshments will be served.

Approved by the American Bar Association, MCC’s Paralegal Studies Program was ranked No. 3 in the state in the Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly Readers’ Poll.

Middlesex offers two Paralegal Studies associate degree programs — a career track and a transfer track — as well as a one-year post-graduate certificate program (for those who have already earned an associate or bachelor’s degree).

For more information about MCC’s Paralegal Studies programs, visit https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/paralegal/. For more information about Paralegal Career Night at Middlesex, contact Haley Sugarman at sugarmanh@middlesex.mass.edu or call 781-280-3768.

Discover your path at Middlesex Community College. As one of the largest, most comprehensive community colleges in Massachusetts, 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, and online. Middlesex Community College: Student success starts here!
Melrose Open Studio featured artist: Margaret Swan

By Conor Powers-Smith
csmith@wickedlocal.com
Posted Nov 9, 2018 at 8:38 AM

The Free Press is getting ready for the second annual Melrose Open Studio Tour, scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 2, with a series of profiles of some local artists joining the event this year. This week, we talk to sculptor Margaret Swan.

MFP: How did you become interested in sculpture, and how long have you been working in it?

MS: I have been actively involved in art since attending Saturday classes at Maryland Institute of Art in Baltimore from six years old through high school. My first year the class painted a Flintstones cartoon mural and I remember painting the trees. I continued on to Syracuse University for my BFA and received a Graduate Fellowship in Painting and Sculpture at Bennington College. Since graduate school, I have focused on sculpture.

MFP: Why did you decide to get involved in the Open Studio Tour this year?

MS: My artist friend Catherine Bertulli urged me to apply last year, but I was too busy working on an upcoming solo show at Boston Sculptors Gallery. However, I visited several studios and was impressed by the quality of the work and the engagement of the artists with the many visitors.

MFP: What are you most looking forward to about sharing your work and studio with Melrosians?

MS: From my experience visiting studios last year, I enjoyed discovering hidden gems in the neighborhood and talking with the artists. I look forward to being part of that dialogue and sharing my work with the community.

MFP: How do you feel about the city’s art scene and residents’ support of it?

MS: Because of my affiliation with Boston Sculptors Gallery and my work as the Art and Design Department Chair at Middlesex Community College for many years, my art focus has been outside Melrose. This is my first time participating in the city art scene and I expect to be more involved with future events.
Grant will help underrepresented students earn biotech master’s at NU

Dylan C. Shen
November 7, 2018

By Suha Yacoob, news correspondent
The National Science Foundation awarded a $4.4 million grant to a team of Northeastern faculty Oct. 23 to fund scholarships for low-income and underrepresented minority students at Middlesex Community College to transfer to Northeastern and earn a master’s degree in biotechnology.
Northeastern President Joseph E. Aoun and Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker delivered the announcement at a ceremony at the Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering Center, or ISEC, attended by leaders from the government, academia and industry.
Bria Hernandez, a third-year biochemistry major who emceed the event, explained how the program enables creative and innovative students, including women and people of color, can effectively contribute to the STEM workforce.
“Not only does this program provide mentorship and support, but it will prepare students for success in the biotech force by providing research experience, paid internships, industry and peer mentorships, specialized advising and other tailored academic and social supports at the Middlesex Community College,” Hernandez said.
“I am so grateful and excited for the future outcome of this grant.”
Students who receive the scholarship will earn an associate degree from Middlesex Community College. Then, they can come to Northeastern to complete a bachelor’s degree and apply to the “Plus One” master’s program for biotechnology.
Congressman Joseph E. Kennedy III said the grant will expand opportunities for historically underrepresented groups.
"What we can all attest to is the thirst and curiosity of our students,” Kennedy said. “The growth and opportunities in STEM is immense. However, what we have to acknowledge is that even in a state like Massachusetts, there are so many students that don’t get access to resources that can maximize their potential and this gap is alarming. This is what today is about: to recognize that every child, whether a female or a minority, gets to maximize their potential.”

Baker discussed a new program titled STEM Week, a statewide initiative to gain support for education in science, technology, engineering and math.

"STEM is simply not about science, technology, engineering and math,” Baker said. “It’s about how those particular disciplines find their way as we become more and more digital and connected virtually into every aspect of work.”

Lt. Governor Karen Polito, a co-chair of the state’s STEM Council, expressed her enthusiasm for STEM Week and outlined the grant’s objectives.

“We are proud that we are accomplishing together but must also be reminded that we have so much more work to do in this area,” Polito said. “We have to include more women and people of color in life sciences and STEM fields, and this scholarship will enable 500 students to benefit from it.”

Vertex Pharmaceuticals CEO Jeffrey Leiden, whose company will provide internships and mentoring to scholarship recipients, emphasized the importance of gaining practical experience in STEM.

"Science is not about memorizing formulae,” Leiden said. “It’s about doing experiments and we need to make sure that our young people get this chance to exercise their energy by the provision of internships, because again science is also not about studying, it’s also about working.”

Tags: biotechnology, Bria Hernandez, charlie baker, Dylan Shen, Jeffrey Leiden, Joseph E. Kennedy III, Karen Polito, Middlesex Community College, National Science Foundation, President Joseph E. Aoun, STEM, Suha Yacoob, Vertex Pharmaceuticals
News@Northeastern

Northeastern University President Joseph E. Aoun and Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker will announce Tuesday that a program developed by Northeastern and Middlesex Community College to offer students a fast track to earning associate, bachelor’s, and master’s degrees in biotechnology and preparing for careers in life sciences has received a $4.4 million grant from the National Science Foundation. The grant will fund scholarships that support low-income and underrepresented minorities—a critical focus for industry, government, and higher education institutions as they work together to increase the number of students in the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering, and math.

“Students who are able to take advantage of this associate to master’s opportunity will be prepared for success in the region’s biotech industry through paid internships, research experience, and other career opportunities,” said Governor Baker. “The partnership between Northeastern University and Middlesex Community College is an exciting and creative way to provide students an affordable path to a degree.”

The federal grant will fund approximately 530 scholarships of up to $10,000 per year per student in the Biotech Associate to Master’s program. The scholarships, when combined with federal financial aid and other assistance, will completely cover or significantly reduce students’ out-of-pocket tuition costs. It will also prepare students for the region’s biotechnology job market by providing them with research experiences, paid internships, mentorship, and academic and career advising.

France A. Córdova, director of the National Science Foundation, spoke at the official opening of Northeastern’s Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering Complex last year, where she praised Northeastern for sharing an interest in breaking down barriers between disciplines, fostering new collaborations aimed at solving great societal challenges, and educating the next generation of scientists and engineers.

“At Northeastern, we are committed to meeting learners wherever they are in their educational journey,” Northeastern President Joseph E. Aoun said. “This includes creating innovative pathways for adult learners of all backgrounds to pursue careers in biotechnology. I want to thank Governor Baker, Dr. Córdova, and President Mabry for their vision and their leadership. By joining forces, we are providing valuable educational opportunities and renewing a fundamental social compact.”

In addition to Northeastern’s global network of employer partners, Northeastern and Middlesex Community College have formed partnerships with biotech companies and organizations to provide scholarship recipients with these resources and help tailor the program to the specific workforce needs in the biotech industry.

President Aoun and Governor Baker will formally announce the grant Tuesday afternoon at Northeastern’s Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering Complex. Other speakers will include Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, Congressman Joseph P. Kennedy III., Middlesex Community College President James Mabry, and Dr. Jeffrey Leiden, chairman, president, and chief operating officer of Vertex Pharmaceuticals.

The announcement comes as Massachusetts marks its inaugural STEM Week, which is focused on boosting students’ interest in education and careers in the STEM fields.

Massachusetts’ life sciences industry is expected to add nearly 12,000 more new jobs by May 2023, according to a report released earlier this year by the Massachusetts Biotechnology Education Foundation. The job market is increasingly in need of workers with the degrees and skills to fill these positions. The report found that the pace of growth in entry-level positions since 2010 has outpaced the growth of graduates from industry-related programs.

There is also a need for greater diversity in jobs in science, technology, engineering, and math. According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, women represented 47 percent of the country’s total workforce in 2015 but held only 24 percent of jobs in the STEM fields. Black and Hispanic workers also continue to be underrepresented in the STEM workforce, according to the Pew Research Institute; among employed adults with a bachelor’s degree or higher, black and Hispanic workers hold 7 percent and 6 percent of STEM jobs, respectively.

The Biotech Associate to Master’s program builds upon Northeastern’s efforts to make college accessible and inclusive for low-income and underrepresented minority students, develop flexible academic programs that meet students’ needs and allow them to be lifelong learners, and broaden opportunities for students to pursue degrees and careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math.

The representation of women in many of Northeastern’s STEM-focused programs is above the national average. In the College of Science, 66 percent of undergraduate and 50 percent of graduate students are women, while the total enrollment of female students in the College of Engineering is at 32 percent compared to the national average of 21 percent.
As for the university’s biology and biotechnology bachelor’s degree programs that will benefit from the new funding, women represent more than half of the student population while underrepresented minorities and low income populations are at 48 percent and 60 percent, respectively. The grant from the NSF will help increase these numbers significantly.

Northeastern’s ALIGN program, which offers a master’s degree in computer science for non-computer science majors, is another example of the university’s commitment to helping lifelong learners expand their skill sets and to making information technology and computer science careers accessible to diverse populations of learners, including women and underrepresented minorities. Last month, the university also announced a partnership with Google in which people who complete Google’s IT Support Professional Certificate can now receive credit toward a bachelor’s degree in information technology.

The new grant will also defray students’ out-of-pocket costs by providing free textbook and laptop loan programs, stipends for academic tutoring, and assistance with parking and public transportation passes. In addition, it will fund a new staff position at Northeastern to support scholarship recipients throughout the program.

A gift from the Herb and Maxine Jacobs Foundation will further reduce the costs for students by helping cover the remaining tuition costs for the master’s program.

The grant also includes a research component. A team led by faculty at Northeastern will study how much the pathway program increases students’ success in obtaining STEM degrees and preparing for their careers.

Through the program, students earn an associate’s degree in Middlesex Community College’s Biotechnology Technician program. Next, they can transfer their college credit and matriculate into the bachelor’s completion program in biotechnology in the College of Professional Studies at Northeastern. Then, while still in their undergraduate program, students can apply to the “PlusOne” biotechnology master’s program, in which they can take four graduate-level courses in the College of Science at undergraduate tuition rates.

Northeastern student Tayaba Naz, one of the first two students awarded scholarships through the program, graduated from Middlesex Community College with her associate degree in biotechnology in the spring of 2017. She matriculated to the Northeastern biotechnology bachelor’s program last fall, and in January, started her master’s program.

Naz said being a graduate student helped her land a research internship at MilliporeSigma, a life sciences company based in Burlington, Massachusetts. Following her three-month internship this past summer, MilliporeSigma offered her a new job on the communications team.

She said the program offers many benefits to students, including significant savings on tuition, experience, mentorship, and connections in the biotech industry. “This program will differentiate them from many other candidates who come into the field,” Naz said.

The scholarships are available to full-time students in good academic standing who are eligible for federal Pell Grants, and who are U.S. citizens, legal permanent residents, or have been granted refugee status in the United States. While the accelerated pathway program is designed for students to earn all three degrees, students can apply for scholarships at any point while enrolled in one of the three degree programs.

Northeastern will stream Tuesday’s event live on its Facebook page.

“Students who are able to take advantage of this associate to master’s opportunity will be prepared for success in the region’s biotech industry through paid internships, research experience, and other career opportunities. The partnership between Northeastern University and Middlesex Community College is an exciting and creative way to provide students an affordable path to a degree.”

Charlie Baker Massachusetts governor
Three generations of women in one family study together and support each other at UMass Lowell

Mary Humble (center), her daughter Deirdre Hutchison (right), and her granddaughter Georgina Hutchison (left) all study at UMass Lowell.

By Cristela Guerra GLOBE STAFF NOVEMBER 02, 2018

The idea of going back to school terrified 47-year-old Deirdre Hutchison. But the Andover resident didn’t have to look far to find inspiration. She has watched her 75-year-old mother, Mary Humble, get her education after dropping out of school at the tender age of 15 to help with her family’s business. Back in Bantry Bay, Ireland, Humble’s parents ran a general store, a guest house, and a pub. There, Humble played piano and accordion alongside her father on violin. Many decades later, she found herself back in the classroom. “I just had that burning desire — whatever you want to call it,” Humble said of returning to school. “I didn’t go with any intention of staying as long as I did or pursuing a degree or whatever. I just loved to learn.”

Humble has plugged away for more than a decade, first completing her GED, then earning her associate’s degree at Middlesex Community College, before enrolling at UMass Lowell. She has taken one or two classes a semester, occasionally derailed by health challenges. Doctors diagnosed Humble with stage four Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma in 2001. They gave her around three years to live. She has outlived their predictions by nearly two decades. Seeing her mother’s progress over the years, Hutchison could no longer ignore her own wish to be in the classroom. So she, too, enrolled at UMass Lowell last year. “It really just started niggling at me more and more,” she said. “I saw Mum doing it and ‘I’m like, ‘oh my
gosh, OK, if she can do school in her 60s or 70s, then I can do it.’ ”
Now, college is a family affair for three generations of their family.

This fall, Georgina Hutchison, 19 — Deirdre Hutchison’s daughter and Humble’s granddaughter — also started as a student at UMass Lowell, after transferring from a university in Pennsylvania. She wanted to be closer to her family.
This spring, Humble will graduate with a degree in liberal arts. And, of course, Deirdre and Georgina, her fellow River Hawks, will be in the audience, cheering her on.
“It’s definitely insane,” Georgina Hutchison said. “It’s not something every normal kid loves, but it’s nice to have people I know on campus. . . . It’s definitely a good role model to have them be so focused and so driven to do this well in schoolwork even though they’ve been out of it for so long.”
Deirdre Hutchison is majoring in history with a minor in English. Georgina Hutchison is a criminal justice major.

Though she lives in the dorms, she enjoys family dinners and family game nights often.
“One good thing about having a parent go to school is they finally understand the struggle when kids say, ‘Mom, I don’t have time. I’m too busy. There’s too much school work,’ ” Georgina said. “She gets to understand the workload. With her being so driven, it pushes me to do better.”
Georgina has taken an American history class with her grandmother and has helped her mother with English papers. Deirdre, meanwhile, helps them both with math.
“It’s funny with the math because I would dread it,” Humble said. “And then, by the time we would come to the end of the semester, I’d be thinking, ‘Oh, that’s pretty cool how that works.’ ”
Other students have helped Humble learn new technology, and she remains pleasantly surprised that she’s always treated like any other student in the room.
“The very first day I walked in — when the reality hit and I’m physically inside in a room with youngsters young enough to be my kids or grandkids — I couldn’t help thinking, ‘oh my God. Have I gone crazy? What am I doing?’ ” Humble said.
When the “kids” go on to graduate, Humble keeps in touch with them via text and e-mail.
She has three classes left. Her daughter and granddaughter still have many more to go. Deirdre Hutchison is savoring each semester.
“One thing I do like, going back as an older student,” Deirdre Hutchison said, “[is that] I’m there because I really, really want to be there, and I want to do well, and I want to study and I want to learn all this stuff.”

Cristela Guerra can be reached at cristela.guerra@globe.com. Follow her on Twitter @CristelaGuerra.
BOSTON — Gov. Charlie Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito joined the college presidents of Northeastern University and Middlesex Community College recently to announce a $4.4 million grant from the National Science Foundation that will provide scholarships to low-income students studying Biotechnology.

The scholarships will be awarded to low-income and under-represented minority students who will participate in an Associate's to Master's degree accelerated program in Biotechnology. Massachusetts and Middlesex are partners in the initiative, known as "ABM." Over the next five years, more than 800 scholarships will be awarded to academically talented Biotechnology students across three degree levels who are in the ABM pathway. Students will gain research experience, mentoring from industry leaders, specialized academic advising, and tailored academic and career support.

The announcement was one of hundreds of events across the state as part of the inaugural STEM Week, and exemplifies how public and private partners are working creatively to give students more opportunities to become engaged in STEM fields. Northeastern and MCC partners with biotech companies to provide students with paid internships.

Four MCC Biotechnology students — two current and three graduates — have received Joe Goldberg Memorial Scholarships from the International Society of Pharmaceutical Engineers Boston Area Chapter Scholarship Foundation.

ISPE is a nonprofit, professional society serving the life-sciences industry, including college and university students preparing to enter related fields. Begun by the Boston chapter in 2011, the Goldberg Scholarships were established to nurture the region's brightest talent.

"Our Biotech programs continue to provide talented individuals for the biotech and pharma industries," said Patricia Richard, associate professor of Biotechnology and faculty adviser for MCC's ISPE student chapter. "This additional acknowledgment by ISPE of our dedicated students is a win-win for the college and the industry."

Zeal Patel of Lowell received a $1,100 ISPE Scholarship. She expects to graduate from MCC's Biotechnology Technician Associate in Science Degree program in December 2019.

Trushan Nas of Wellesley received a $1,200 ISPE Scholarship. He graduated in 2017 with an A.S. degree in Biotechnology, and is continuing in a Bachelor's degree program in Biotech at Northeastern University.

Jetaliben Patel of Lowell received an $850 ISPE Scholarship. He graduated in May with an A.S. degree in Biotechnology. This fall, he started a Bachelor's degree program in Biotech at Northeastern and plans to also earn a Master's degree.

Danny Phouthakhieo of Lowell received a $1,000 ISPE Scholarship. He graduated in May with an A.S. degree in Biotechnology. This fall, he started a Bachelor's degree program in Biotech at Northeastern University, and plans to also earn a Master's degree.

3 MCC students, 3 alums earn biotech scholarships

Three Middlesex Community College Biotechnology students and three recent graduates received $18,000 in scholarships from the New England Parents Drug Association. From left at a recent reception are MCC alum Sieng Heng of Lowell; Eeshu Engele (standing in for alum Jetaliben Patel of Lowell); MCC Associate Professor of Biotechnology Patricia Richard; current MCC students Zeel Patel of Lowell and Katie McManus of Wimington; Jeff Gerstein (standing in for MCC alum Matt Pernacelli of Billerica); and current MCC student Nesthan Ocaii of Bedford. The three graduates are studying at Northeastern University.

MORE MCC BIOTECHNOLOGY NEWS ON PAGE A6
First Concert in MCC’s New AAC Recital Hall Honored the City of Lowell

Middlesex Community College recently held its inaugural A World of Music concert in the Recital Hall of the newly renovated Richard & Nancy Donahue Family Academic Arts Center on the Lowell campus. Music Department faculty, students, alumni and guests performed an eclectic program of traditional and contemporary works focused on – and inspired by – Lowell.

"This inaugural concert celebrates the rich musical and cultural diversity of Lowell," said MCC President James C. Mabry at the event. "And we’re not only showcasing this beautiful new Recital Hall, but also the best and brightest of our outstanding Music Program."

"Honoring the City of Lowell Through Music" featured short works by 19th century composer George Chadwick, who was born in Lowell, as well as music from Cambodia and Latin America, reflecting the influences of those cultures on the city.

Performers included faculty members Raley Beggs, guitar; Orlando Cela, flute and quartet; Susan Dill, choral conductor; and Carmen Rodriguez-Peralta, piano. They were joined by guest artists Carley DeFranco, soprano; and Sovann Khon on tro sau, a Cambodian instrument.

The program also featured world premieres of short pieces celebrating Lowell by faculty composers Richard Chowenhill, David Janssen, Pamela Marshall and Aaron Rosenberg. Their compositions were inspired by art, history or literature from Lowell. MCC students and alumni performed a variety of choral works. And the African Fellowship Choir of Lowell concluded the program with several spirited gospel selections.

Under the direction of Rodrigues-Peralta, Chairwoman of the Music Department, A World of Music has brought a series of free concerts to the Bedford and Lowell campus for almost 20 years.

Other concerts in the fall 2018 series include: pianist Liana Paniyeva, performing at 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 26, in the MCC Concert Hall, Bedford campus; the Carlos Opira Ensemble, at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 2, in the Academic Arts Center Recital Hall, Lowell campus; "Music for Flute & Guitar," at 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 30, MCC Concert Hall, Bedford campus; and a Student Recital, at 12:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 10, MCC Concert Hall, Bedford campus.

For more A World of Music concert information, or to see video clips of previous concerts, visit: https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/worldofmusic

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Baker hoping STEM Week will become an annual thing

By Chris Tiunfo
STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE
Thursday, October 25, 2018

With less than three weeks until election day in Massachusetts, Gov. Charlie Baker’s administration spent the week celebrating the state’s inaugural STEM Week in an effort to raise awareness of science, technology, engineering and math education. Students from pre-kindergarten through high school were all encouraged to take part in activities that align topics across STEM subjects and connect them to other curricula. At the behest of the governor's office, schools hosted speaking events and field trips, while companies provided grants and scholarships.

The administration's STEM Advisory Council is co-chaired by Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, Congressman Joseph Kennedy III and Vertex Pharmaceuticals President and CEO Jeffrey Leiden. The three appeared alongside Gov. Baker on Tuesday afternoon to spotlight the week's events with the announcement of a $4.4 million grant from the National Science Foundation. The grant will fund scholarships for low-income and under-represented minority students who are in associate’s and master’s degree programs in biotechnology. Northeastern University and Middlesex Community College are partners in the initiative, known as "A2M."

Kennedy, Baker, Polito and Leiden joined Northeastern President Joseph Aoun and Middlesex Community College President James Mabry at the university’s Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering Center for a ceremony touting the $4 million grant. "When we think about the fact that there are 50 communities participating this year in over 500 events, my guess is that next year it will be 150 communities and 1,500 events," Baker said at the ceremony. "STEM all by itself is going to create one million jobs between 2012 and 2022."

Baker, along with members of the advisory council, also visited schools around the state to speak with students and participate in learning programs. Different departments under Baker’s administration have also been working to promote the week’s events and message. The MBTA announced Thursday that it would partner with researchers to develop a science and engineering curriculum for Boston Public Schools students. Education Secretary James Peyser hosted students at different spots throughout the state, including the Museum of Science, for educational programs.

On Oct. 22, Polito, Kennedy and Leiden published an editorial in The Boston Globe, calling for diversity in the STEM fields nationwide. "We need more businesses to offer internships and apprenticeships in STEM fields, particularly for young women and minority students. Our quasi-public entities, such as the Mass Life Sciences Center and Mass Clean Energy Center, can help by increasing diversity within internship programs in the life sciences and clean energy sectors," they wrote. According to the governor’s office, Massachusetts has the most technology jobs per capita in the nation, and STEM occupations represent 17 percent of all employment in the Commonwealth. But despite the abundance of jobs in the sector, standardized testing company ACT says that just one in six American high school seniors are interested in studying STEM in college. According to Code.org, only 37 percent of Massachusetts schools with AP programs offer the AP computer science course.

Kennedy on Tuesday said that while there is “extraordinary ingenuity” among students in the state, there is a lack of access that needs to be addressed. “What we need to acknowledge and wrestle with is that even in a state like Massachusetts, there are so many students that don’t quite have the means to access the resources that will maximize their potential,” Kennedy said. “Particularly when it comes to STEM fields, that gap is alarming. We only offer these benefits to a small slice of our society.” Leiden, CEO of Vertex, said that despite successes, the STEM field still faces serious challenges.

"We’re not competing with California or North Carolina, we’re competing globally for this talent," Leiden said. "It’s up to us to make sure we can compete. It’s a shame that we are sitting on a sea of talent here in Massachusetts, and we’re not providing what they need." In June, the governor also touted a $20 million investment the state would be making to 23 companies in the form of awards through the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center. Baker took the stage at the Biotechnology Innovation Organization International Convention to advocate for continued public-private relationships and
for continued investment in the STEM field.

"One of the best ways we as a commonwealth can ensure the success of this industry going forward is to continue to invest in STEM education, higher education, and K-12 education," Baker said in his opening remarks. Baker called the money "our way of saying we appreciate the work that's done by this industry, the jobs that it creates and most importantly, the success that it creates for people who in many cases are told a very terrible tale about what the likely future for themselves or their families might be."

Baker and Polito said on Tuesday that they plan to cap the week off with further daily events at different schools across the Commonwealth. Baker also said that he hopes the educational week will become a recurring part of the state's activities every October. "I want to say how much we look forward to, if we have an opportunity to look forward, LG," Baker said, pointing and smiling at Polito. "...to continue to work with people on this, because this is the start of something that I believe will be very big, very special and very important to the future of the Commonwealth."
MCC Enabled Alum to Discover His Calling as a Children’s Advocate

October 23, 2018 Admin Lawrence News, Lowell News 0

Despite being legally blind — and suffering a series of personal difficulties and hardships — Middlesex Community College alum Earl Williams never lost focus in pursuing his dream to become an advocate for children.

The 45-year-old Lowell resident recently graduated with an associate degree in Liberal Arts & Sciences with a Psychology Concentration, and plans to pursue a bachelor’s degree in psychology at UMass Lowell. Prospective students and their families — as well as adult learners interested in continuing their education — can learn about MCC’s 70+ degree and certificate programs at a Bedford Campus Open House, to be held at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 27, in the Bedford Campus Center, 591 Springs Road. For more information, visit: www.middlesex.mass.edu/OH or call 1-800-818-3434.

In 2014, while working for the IRS, Williams enrolled at MCC hoping to advance his career by furthering his education. However, he discovered his true calling at Middlesex.

Through the Office of Disability Support Services, Williams received special accommodations for his visual impairment and began to succeed academically. He then decided to commit to earning a college degree and helping children involved with the foster-care system — something he was quite familiar with.

Williams fostered and adopted his second son, Kevin, which sparked his interest in helping underprivileged children. “I felt I could provide a safe and nurturing home full of love and guidance,” he said. His extraordinary commitment did not go unnoticed. In 2014, Williams received the Merrimack Valley Department of Children & Families Foster Parents of the Year Award.

He also knew something about being a disadvantaged child. Growing up in Miami, Williams was abused at home, and eventually removed and enrolled in a school for the blind — an event he now considers his saving grace. “In a very real way, that boarding school saved my life,” he said.

As an adult, Williams experienced discrimination because of his disability, as well as for his sexual orientation. He moved to Lowell in 2004 to build a new life. The legalization of gay marriage in Massachusetts gave him hope he’d be able to live the life he always aspired to, rather than enduring continual intolerance.
His positive experience at Middlesex empowered Williams to stay on course and continue working toward his dream. "I now know my calling is working with children who need strong advocates in their lives."

During his time at MCC, Williams was very engaged. He was selected to be one of two Student Speakers to address the Class of 2018 at Commencement exercises. He also worked with Disability Support Services, the TRIO Program, and the Academic Center for Excellence.

"Middlesex has been more than just my community college," said Williams. "It has also been my family. MCC has been instrumental in my growth as a student."

Williams hopes to continue his education all the way to earning a Ph.D. in psychology. He feels he's leaving Middlesex, "a compassionate and more enlightened human being."

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New DHE Grant To Help Middlesex RNs Earn A BS In Nursing

Middlesex Community College Nursing graduates will soon have a smooth pathway to earn a BS in nursing at Fitchburg State University (FSU), thanks to a new grant from the Higher Education Nursing & Allied Health Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education.

Fitchburg State, in partnership with Middlesex, Bristol and Quinsigamond community colleges, has been awarded a $29,000 grant to develop admissions agreements to allow Registered Nurses with associate degrees to seamlessly transfer to FSU and earn a BS in nursing completely online.

"With the need for baccalaureate-level nurses continuing to rise, this new 'seamless academic progression' program will help RNs continue through all levels of nursing education," said Katherine Gehly, Dean of Nursing & Allied Health. "This is a great opportunity for Middlesex Nursing graduates."

The proposal will include guaranteed admissions agreements, and will:

* allow the transfer of a greater number of credits than is customarily allowed for transfer students, including guaranteed admissions to Fitchburg State confirmed early in students' careers;
* utilize a revised online "RN to BS in Nursing" program, which allows students to earn a BS in nursing while they are in the workforce; and
* take advantage of the relationship with Academic Partnerships, that provide student support for advising and retention that is built upon the foundation of students' having traditional faculty and staff advisors at FSU.

For more information about DHE Nursing & Allied Health Initiative grants, visit: http://www.mass.edu/nahi/grants/awards.asp

For further information about MCC's Nursing Programs, visit: https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/nursing

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MCC Arts & Crafts Fair and Food Truck Festival

Middlesex Community College will host its annual Arts & Crafts Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 17, on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road. And back by popular demand, a Food Truck Festival will also be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Bedford Campus Quad. Admission and parking to both events are free.

Approximately 50 artists and crafters will be featured at this year’s Arts & Crafts Fair, offering an array of unique handmade items just in time for holiday giving.

In addition to vendors selling a variety of creations — including jewelry, quilts, woodcrafts and holiday decorations — Given Erwin will offer homemade candies, pies and florals suitable for Thanksgiving. A new Kid’s Corner will feature fun activities, games and free giveaways for the younger set. And a raffle will be held to benefit the MCC Foundation.

At the Food Truck Festival, shoppers can choose from a selection of tasty foods offered by a variety of local trucks, including Clyde’s Cupcakes, Bird's Nest Pasta, Chez Rafiki Mediterranean Food, Let’s Roll Egg Rolls, Big T’s Jerky House & BBQ, Phoenix Rising Pizza, Teddy’s Lunchbox, and Souped Up Food.

For more information about MCC’s 2018 Arts & Crafts Fair and Food Truck Festival, visit: https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/craftsfair or contact Lisa Mazurall at 781-280-3505 or mazurall@middlesex.mass.edu.

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MCC News

MCC concert series to continue Nov. 2

A World of Music, Middlesex Community College’s 2018 fall concert series, will continue with a performance the Carlos Odria Ensemble, performing at 7 p.m. Nov. 2 in MCC’s Academic Arts Center Recital Hall, 240 Central St., Lowell; “Music for Flute and Guitar,” at 8 p.m. Nov. 30 in the MCC Concert Hall, Bedford campus; and an MCC Student Recital, at 12:30 p.m. Dec. 10, MCC Concert Hall, Bedford campus.

For concert information, directions to campus and parking information, or to see video clips of previous MCC concerts, visit https://middlesex.mass.edu/worldofmusic.

MCC to host fair, festival

Middlesex Community College will host its annual arts and crafts fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 17 on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road.

A food truck festival will also be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Bedford Campus Quad. Admission and parking to both events are free.

Approximately 50 artists and crafters will be featured at this year’s arts and crafts fair, offering an array of handmade items.

In addition to vendors selling a variety of items — including jewelry, quilts, woodcrafts and holiday decorations — given Erwin will offer homemade candies, pies and florals. A new “kid’s corner” will feature activities, games and free giveaways for children. A raffle will be held to benefit the MCC Foundation.

At the food truck festival, shoppers can choose food from a variety of local trucks, including Clyde’s Cupcakes, Bird’s Nest Pasta, Chez Raffik Mediterranean Food, Let’s Roll Egg Rolls, Big T’s Jerky House and Barbecue, Phoenix Rising Pizza, Teddy’s Lunchbox and Souped Up Food.

For information, contact Lisa Mazeral at 781-280-3505 or mazeral@middlesex.mass.edu or visit https://middlesex.mass.edu/craftfair.

Middlesex Community College students awarded scholarships

Three Middlesex Community College biotechnology students and three recent graduates were recently awarded $18,000 in scholarships from the New England Parenteral Drug Association.

Current biotechnology students Zeel Patel, of Lowell, Nesilhan Ocali, of Bedford, and Katie McManus, of Wilmington, were each awarded $1,000 NEPDA Second Year Scholarships.

Sieng Heng and Hetalben Patel, both of Lowell, and Matt Peranelli, of Billerica, were each awarded $5,000 NEPDA Transfer Scholarships. All three have graduated from MCC’s Biotechnology Technician Program and are now studying at Northeastern University.

The nonprofit Parenteral Drug Association is the leading global facilitator of science, technology and regulatory information and education for the pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical community. New England PDA has supported MCC’s student chapter for more than 10 years, and has given scholarships in excess of $82,000.

“NEPDA members have a strong desire to reach out to future biotechnology technicians to mentor them, guide them and help them out with scholarships,” said MCC Biotechnology Professor Paul V. Patev. “Our students benefit financially from this ongoing partnership but also by attending meetings, networking and meeting with future employers and talking with vendors. Too often, we go to school to learn the necessary skills to begin a career but have little sense of what the day-to-day requirements of the job will be. Our association with the members of the NEPDA is a rare opportunity for biotech students to launch their careers and have help doing so.”

To learn about NEPDA, visit https://bit.ly/2CIBULN.

For information, visit https://middlesex.mass.edu/biotechnology.
Middlesex Community College will host an information session for businesses seeking Workforce Training Fund (WFTF) grants from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 7, in Trustees’ House (Galvani Room), 591 Sprigs Road, on the Bedford campus. The registration deadline is Monday, Nov. 5.

The Massachusetts Workforce Training Fund, administered by Commonwealth Corporation, provides resources to businesses to train current and newly hired employees. The goal is to help improve employee skills and maintain the economic strength of the commonwealth’s businesses.

At the information session, an WFTF representative will present an overview of the grant options and answer questions in an informational setting.

WFTF provides training grants to Massachusetts employers up to $250,000 per application. MCC’s Corporate and Community Education & Training Program has helped many businesses secure and implement these grants.

For more information on specific Workforce Training Fund programs, visit the Commonwealth Corporation website: www.commcorp.org/wftp.

The registration deadline for this WFTF Info Session is Monday, Nov. 5. For more information, or to register, contact Timothy Scanlon at scanlon@middlesex.mass.edu or 978-656-3174.

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Like last year’s heavily attended fair, this year’s Arts & Crafts Fair at MCC’s Bedford Campus will feature hand-crafted jewelry, quilts, woodcrafts and holiday decorations among other items.

MCC Arts & Crafts Fair returns Nov. 17

BEDFORD — Middlesex Community College will host its annual Arts & Crafts Fair on Saturday, Nov. 17, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road. And back by popular demand, a Food Truck Festival will also be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission and parking to both events are free.

About 50 artists and crafters will be featured at this year’s Arts & Crafts Fair, offering an array of unique handmade items just in time for holiday giving.

In addition to vendors selling a variety of creations — including jewelry, quilts, woodcrafts and holiday decorations — Given Erwin will offer homemade candies, pies and florals suitable for Thanksgiving. A new Kid’s Corner will feature fun activities, games and free giveaways for the younger set. And a raffle will be held to benefit the MCC Foundation.

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Lowell High School Honor

Lowell High School 2018 Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame inductees included: From left, representing Helen Mangan Brooks, family friend, Susan Lantagne of Plymouth; representing Donald Dowd, his nephew Frank Talty of Lowell; representing Peter Stamas, his grandnephew James Ostrig of Lowell; James Campbell of Lowell; and Brendan McAdams of San Luis Obispo, Calif.

Distinguished Hall
pass for 5 new members

A Sun Staff Report

LOWELL — The number of Lowell High School graduates in the school’s venerable Distinguished Hall of Fame, now stands at 76, following Thursday’s 55th annual induction ceremony at the Cyrus W. Irish Auditorium.

As is tradition, this week’s ceremony inducted five graduates. Two of the inductees hailed from the same class, three were inducted posthumously.

Posthumous inductees were:
- Robert Mangan Brooks, Class of 1927, a World War II veteran who was honorably discharged in 1946. He received a number of awards from his time in service, including the Army Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service. He retired from the Federal Civil Service in 1972 after 19 years. Brooks was the first woman to serve in the Pentagon, assigned to the Chief Military Personnel Section in the Office of the Chief of Staff.
- Donald Dowd, Class of 1947, graduated from Harvard Law School in 1954, before practicing law in New York City. He volunteered with gang youth in the city’s toughest neighborhoods. He became a professor of law at Villanova University. As the author of numerous law review articles, Dowd was an in-demand speaker for his profession until his retirement in 1993.

Each year, Villanova awards a graduate law student with the Donald W. Dowd Award for Service, given to the student who has done the most community service.
- Peter Stamas, Class of 1947, an educational and community leader, graduating from Harvard University in 1952. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, before beginning his educational career at Dracut High School in 1961. Stamas became involved in the Model Cities program in Lowell after being elected to the Aerie Model Neighborhood Association, and then became assistant director of the Model Cities Educational Component in 1970.

From the Class of 1967, James Campbell, who served as the Lowell city manager during the late 80s and early 90s, leading an effort to build 14 new schools within the city. He was later appointed commissioner of the state Department of Industrial Accidents. He was also the recipient of the Special Mayor’s Citation for his role in the establishment of the city manager’s annual St. Patrick’s Day Charity Breakfast. He is currently chairman of the Middlesex Community College Board of Trustees.

From the Class of 1954, Brendan McAdams, who graduated from Dartmouth and went on to medical school. He is currently living in San Luis Obispo, Calif., where he has been recognized for his volunteer work for local charities and generous donations to people in need. While stationed in South Dakota with the U.S. Air Force, he took advantage of his pilot’s license, rented a plane at his own expense and flew to remote Native American Indian reservations to provide free medical care.

From the Class of 1962, James Ostrig, who served as the Lowell city manager during the late 80s and early 90s, leading an effort to build 14 new schools within the city. He was later appointed commissioner of the state Department of Industrial Accidents. He was also the recipient of the Special Mayor’s Citation for his role in the establishment of the city manager’s annual St. Patrick’s Day Charity Breakfast. He is currently chairman of the Middlesex Community College Board of Trustees.
MCC grad breaks with old tradition in a new country

Middlesex Community College alumna Faizan Etahan Shristy came to the U.S. from Bangladesh and through education is using her newfound voice to break old traditions.

Raised in a traditional Muslim family, Shristy moved to Chelmsford in 2014 to join her husband. "I wanted to work but could not find a job I liked because I did not have a college degree," Shristy said. "I realized I was going to have the same life that my mother had, even the life that her mother had. From generation to generation, it has been going on like this. But I could not feel peaceful with that life. I wanted to become self-reliant."

Times are changing, she said. "Parents these days want their daughters to be educated enough to get a good husband. Men want educated wives to maintain their social status — but not educated enough to independently earn or confidently raise their voices."

Determined to succeed, Shristy set herself a timeline: First, get her GED, then enroll in college. In the fall of 2016, she started at MCC. Even though her educational goals changed her life, Shristy struggled with the new expectations that came her way.

"I had to learn how to write an essay," she said. "I had to learn new mathematical terms in English. Now, when I look back, my goal seemed so far away at the beginning."

Nevertheless, she persevered. Shristy graduated in May with an Associate in Science degree in Liberal Studies, with an Environmental Health Concentration. She plans to further her education at UMass Lowell and earn a Bachelor's degree in Public Health.

Her Middlesex extracurricular activities included working in the Academic Center for Enrichment as a peer tutor in writing and math. She also introduced middle-school students to chemistry and other science courses.

"There would be times when I would want to give up everything because studying was so hard," Shristy said. "But then I would go to the tutoring center and see my tutors trying even harder to get better, and I knew that I could do the same."

Shristy also served as an orientation leader at Middlesex, was a founding member of the Hobby Connection Club, was part of the Multicultural Achievement Peer Program, and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the national honor society for two-year colleges.

"Each of these opportunities has given me a new life, a new lesson," she said. She likes to emphasize the importance of following one's dreams and finding the courage to break through preconceived molds and stereotypes.

"My life after coming here does not look the same as before," she said. "Middlesex gave me so many opportunities to grow."
MCC’s Donahue Center has first concert

Middlesex Community College recently held its inaugural “A World of Music” concert in the Recital Hall of the newly renovated Richard & Nancy Donahue Family Academic Arts Center on the Lowell campus. Performers included, from left, faculty members Susan Dill, Richard Chowenhill, Raley Beggs and David Janssen; guest artist Carley DeFranco; faculty members Orlando Cela, Carmen Rodriguez-Peralta, Aaron Rosenberg and Pamela Marshall. At far right is MCC President James Mabry.

Middlesex plans info session on Workforce Training grants Nov. 5

BEDFORD — Middlesex Community College will host an Information Session for businesses seeking Workforce Training Fund grants on Wednesday, Nov. 7, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., in Trustees’ House, 591 Springs Road, on the Bedford campus. The registration deadline is Monday, Nov. 5.

The Massachusetts Workforce Training Fund, administered by Commonwealth Corporation, provides resources to businesses to train current and newly hired employees. The goal is to help improve employee skills and maintain the economic strength of the state’s businesses.

For more information or to register, email scanlont@middlesex.mass.edu, or call 978-656-3174.
Women inspire at Merrimack Valley Chamber conference
By Mike LaBella mlabella@eagletribune.com 10/22/18

RYAN HUTTON/ Staff photo. Judy Burke, the executive director of Institutional Advancement at Middlesex Community College, speaks at the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce's Women in Business luncheon at Michael's Function Hall in Haverhill on Monday.

HAVERHILL — More than 130 people who attended the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce's annual Women in Business Conference on Monday were treated to inspirational talks by five successful women, including Congresswoman Niki Tsongas who was honored at the event for her public service. The panel of speakers also included Evelyn Friedman, executive director/CEO of the Greater Lawrence Community Action Council; Judy Burke, executive director of institutional advancement for Middlesex Community College; Purrima Day, chief of strategic alliances, public relations and community outreach for IndusPAD LLC; and Karen Andreas, publisher of The Eagle-Tribune and North of Boston Media Group.

Tsongas, the event's featured speaker, told the crowd that in recent years, women have been making greater inroads into politics and that things are changing for women. "This year, the Democratic primary campaign for the 3rd (Congressional) District had a remarkably diverse field of candidates that included five women out of the 10 candidates," she said. "When I was running in 2007, there were two women out of five. "She said that next year, there's a "strong possibility of having four women in the Massachusetts Congressional delegation."

"Should all four be elected, we will have a more robust field of women serving in Washington than we've ever had," Tsongas said. "This is not just true here in Massachusetts, it's really true across the country." She called the growing field of women in politics a "testament to the change that is coming." Tsongas said women need to step up in all aspects of American life, including the business world, "if we want to make sure we have a more prosperous and just future."

"When we have a seat at the table, the conversation does change," she said. "In Congress, I've seen how laws are enacted that make a real difference in the lives of women and their families that would not happen if we were not there." She encouraged the women in attendance to "make a difference in your respective fields." Andreas of The Eagle-Tribune and North of Boston Media Group talked about the importance of newspapers publishing local news about the community, ranging from Little League parades and mayoral campaigns, to high school football and zoning board meetings. "Where else can you find that information, if not for your local newspaper, and have trust that you are reading what is accurate?" she posed. "Trust is a key word, especially today, with all of the fake news that is surrounding the media industry."

Andreas said people are becoming weary of fake news, which she called a "real" thing. "You need to get your news from sources that you can trust," she said. Andreas said news consumers should have a "healthy skepticism" and consider using fact-checking tools such as "PolitiFact," a Pulitzer Prize-winning website that helps people determine if something is true.
She said one example of fake news is the notion that "newspapers are dying." She said it isn't true and that 34 million people in America read the newspaper on Sunday alone. "That's quadruple the number of people that watch 'American Idol,'" she said.

Friedman noted the important role the Greater Lawrence Community Action Council has been playing in response to the recent gas disaster in Lawrence, North Andover and Andover. "In the last two weeks, GLCAC has written 6,700 checks to people, along with our other partners," she said, referring to the city of Lawrence, Family Services of the Merrimack Valley and the Essex County Community Foundation. "We've been working in the trenches with all the other partners to support people in trying to overcome and recover from this terrible disaster."

Friedman talked about the suffering of children with medical concerns such as asthma who don't have heat in their homes, the elderly, and those with other problems. She said it's important for everyone to embrace those impacted by the disaster. In addition to this annual event, the Chamber offers a host of programs designed specifically to help women in business succeed in their chosen fields, including weekly counseling and mentoring and evening networking receptions.
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From the Halls of Higher Education on our campuses to the Halls of Congress, Niki Tsongas has always been a tireless supporter of education, the arts, and our veterans!

Thank you, Niki, for your honorable work, both as Dean of External Affairs at Middlesex Community College and for your distinguished work representing the Massachusetts 3rd District.

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