With grit, dedication their dreams came true  
Student marshalls applaud at commencement

Answering the call for 21st century skills

Brittany Brown  
Local 18-year old graduates from MCC

Working together to boost business  
State & local leaders gather to share ideas

Reaching for her dreams  
No obstacle could keep mother of three from her degree

Bedford Campus  
591 Springs Road  
Bedford, MA 01730

Lowell Campus  
33 Kearney Square  
Lowell, MA 01852
Community colleges throughout the United States have long played central roles in meeting regional workforce development needs by working closely with area employers. At Middlesex Community College, the story is no different, and we work collaboratively with the business community to build programs that respond to employers' diverse and changing needs for a high-quality workforce with 21st century skills.

Community college students come from the region and will overwhelmingly stay in the region and therefore will always be the core of the workforce. Businesses across the Commonwealth rely on highly skilled personnel who obtained some or all of their training through the public higher education system. Businesses recognizing these connections work closely with their local community colleges in ways that help them find the workers and training programs they need.

Last week, Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito and Mike Kennealy, the state's new Economic Development Secretary, hosted a meeting at Middlesex for nearly 150 business and municipal leaders from throughout the region. Front and center at the roundtable discussions was workforce development, with Middlesex Community College featuring prominently in many of those conversations.

At Middlesex, we offer a wide variety of certificate and associates degree programs that prepare students for employment in critical fields, including nursing, dental hygiene, biotechnology, cyber-security, computer-aided design, criminal justice, graphic design, and early childhood education, to name just a handful. All our programs have Advisory Boards made up of industry members who work with our outstanding faculty to keep our programs current and relevant.

One example is our biotech program, which was the first community college program in MA and is an acknowledged leader with a platinum endorsement from the Massachusetts Life Science Education Consortium and a 100% job placement rate for program completers. Enrollment in the program has grown by 66% since 2008 and is part of a strong regional pathway with many MCC students completing a certificate, paid internship, earning an associate degree, then continuing their education to earn bachelor and graduate degrees.

Last fall, Northeastern University and Middlesex partnered on a $4.4 million grant from the National Science Foundation. Over the next five years, more than 500 scholarships will be awarded to low-income and under-represented minority students who participate in Northeastern's accelerated Biotechnology Associate to Masters' Degree Program, known as "A2M."

Senator Edward Kennedy has recently requested funding to help Middlesex secure new learning spaces for students in its Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programs, advocating for $100,000 for the college to use to conduct an exploratory study for new learning spaces in Lowell. MCC is seeking to strengthen its STEM programs through creating teaching environments that reflect the highest industry standards, remediate accessibility issues, and expand MCC's capacity to prepare students for the high-demand workforce needs in regional STEM industries.
Admissions pacts to aid nursing students
Agreements are designed to help meet state’s goal of 66% of nurses holding bachelor’s degree
Sentinel & Enterprise Staff
UPDATED: 06/04/2019 09:43:14 AM EDT

FITCHBURG — Newly-signed agreements between Bristol Community College, Middlesex Community College, Mount Wachusett Community College and Quinsigamond Community College will guarantee students' seamless admission to Fitchburg State University's baccalaureate nursing programs.

The collaborations will help the state meet the Massachusetts Action Coalition goal of having 66 percent of the state's nurses hold a bachelor of science degree in nursing by 2020, and 80 percent by 2025.

"These agreements will help students achieve their academic and professional goals while supporting the state's public health objectives," said Fitchburg State President Richard S. Lapidus. "Our public higher education institutions will continue to look for productive collaborations."

"This agreement is a win for students and the communities they will serve as nurses. It creates a clear path from an Associate's Degree in nursing at a community college to a Bachelor's Degree while being able to work in the field," said MWCC President James Vander Hooven. "This is a fantastic example of what the strong relationship between MWCC and Fitchburg State University can accomplish for our communities and students."

"Providing Bristol's students with seamless admission to Fitchburg State's baccalaureate nursing programs is an exciting extension of our mission to bridge access to critical healthcare education for high-paying career opportunities in our region," said Bristol Community College President Laura L. Douglas. "The college is excited to provide students with innovative learning resources from both institutions, while promoting a college-going culture in our local communities."

"Middlesex is pleased to work with a tremendous public higher ed partner like Fitchburg State University on a much needed ASN to BSN transfer program," said Middlesex Community College President James C. Mabry. "This program is both a great opportunity for community college students, but also helps expand the pipeline for high quality health care professionals that are in great demand across the state."

"This agreement will allow our nursing students to easily and seamlessly matriculate to a four-year nursing degree program at Fitchburg State," said Quinsigamond Community College President Dr. Luis G. Pedraja. "At QCC, we are constantly working to facilitate ways for our students to fulfill their all of their educational goals, through articulation agreements with both private and public four-year institutions."

The agreements were created with support from a Massachusetts Department of Higher Education Nursing & Allied Health grant. The project is expected to produce at least 18 additional students a year with the bachelor's degree.

Participating students will be guaranteed acceptance to Fitchburg State when they sign up for their first year of community college and will be placed in contact with the university's admissions and continuing education offices. They will be allowed to transfer up to 88 credits (including 39 from the nursing major) from the sending community college. Application fee and essay requirements will also be waived for participating students.

Fitchburg State's baccalaureate nursing options include in-person and online programs, as well as a program tailored to LPNs seeking to complete their BS in Nursing degrees.

Read more: http://www.sentinclandenterprise.com/localnews/ci_32665942/admissionspacts-aidnursingstudents#ixzz5puUqJUf2
Sen. Kennedy urges funding for STEM

By Elizabeth Dobbins
edobbins@lowellsun.com

LOWELL — State Sen. Ed Kennedy asked fellow senators this week to fund the first step in constructing a new building on the Lowell campus of Middlesex Community College.

During Kennedy’s first address on the senate floor Wednesday, he asked for the inclusion of $100,000 in the state’s budget to study and design a new building for STEM, or science, technology, engineering and math.

“Now, and in the future, STEM is the way to go,” he said. “That’s where the jobs are.”

If the amendment is not cut during the state’s lengthy budgeting process, it would be funded through the state’s fiscal year 2020 budget starting July 1.

Kennedy said the study would take nine months to a year to conduct and consider locations in downtown Lowell for the building, including Lowell District Court on 41 Hurd St. which will be vacant when the new Lowell Justice Center opens as early as this fall.

“When the study is done it might send us in a different direction,” Kennedy said.

Currently nearly 1,200 students are enrolled in STEM programs at Middlesex Community College, according to a press release from Sen. Kennedy’s office.

A 2015 study backed by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance, indicated the school has less lab space than it needs to support the student population. A new building would also update labs and address accessibility requirements for students with physical disabilities, according to the press release.

It is also expected to boost enrollment numbers by 2,000 additional credit hours bringing in about $500,000 in additional revenue per semester, the release said.

Kennedy said he believes improved facilities will benefit both Lowell High School students who don’t plan to attend a four-year college and people changing careers.

“That would equip them to get a good paying job,” Kennedy said.

College President James Mabry said the building would support learning environments that reflect industry standards, address accessibility issues and expand the school’s ability to educate students interested in working in the regional STEM industry.

“This proposed study will allow our college to make its first significant expansion in the STEM programs since we first moved into learning spaces in Lowell back in the 1990s,” he said.

Follow Elizabeth Dobbins on Twitter @EdieDobbins
Kennedy secures Senate funding
Local projects earmarked for dollars
Jon Winkler
jwinkler@nashobavalleyvoice.com
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BOSTON — Various organizations in the region will be happy to know about specific fundings secured by state Sen. Edward Kennedy for the 2020 fiscal year.

On Thursday, May 23, the Massachusetts Senate approved its $42.8 billion budget for the coming fiscal year. Senator Kennedy secured $500,000 in the budget to fund several priorities in the First Middlesex District.

The priciest priorities include $160,000 for the construction of spray pools and splash pads in the city of Lowell and $100,000 for the study and design of a new building at Middlesex Community College’s Lowell Campus dedicated to science, technology, engineering and math, better known as STEM. There will also be $55,000 to extend the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, $15,000 to cover promotion, marketing, safety and programming costs for the Lowell Kinetic Sculpture Race and $10,000 going to procuring and installing an Assistive Listening System at the Merrimack Repertory Theatre.

Senator Kennedy also filed amendments to address statewide financial issues, including increasing funding for the state Cultural Council and English language learning programs in Gateway cities. Funds for the learning programs will increase from $250,000 to $1 million, while the Cultural Council’s funding will increase from $16.1 million to $18 million.

Other priorities include $92,400 for an emergency generator at the new Groton Senior Center, $25,000 to redevelop a nine-acre parcel at the site of the Fitzpatrick School in Pepperell and $17,600 for enhancement to the corridor on Main Street in Pepperell.

Senator Kennedy said on Tuesday that the priorities were selected after communities were given the chance to request what priorities should be focused on in the next fiscal year. That process was done a few months ago, according to the senator. If the Senate-approved budgets pass the Conference Committee in the remaining days of the current fiscal year, the communities will have access to the money by July 1, the start of the 2020 fiscal year.

Jon Winkler: jwinkler@nashobavalleyvoice.com

Read more: http://www.lowellsun.com/local/ci_32664482/kennedy-secures-senate-funding#ixzz5puhZKgLO
With grit, dedication their dreams came true

Grads look toward their future after commencement

By Emma R. Murphy
emurphy@lowellsun.com

LOWELLS Be a lifelong learner. That was the message speakers had for the Middlesex Community College Class of 2019.

On Thursday, 1,198 students graduated from MCC. A smiling, bunting wave of navy blue overtook the Lowell Memorial Auditorium as the soon-to-be graduates took their seats for the commencement ceremony. Some students waved to friends and family in the balcony and others called out professors’ names as they recognized them passing by.

“Till!” one student waved at her professor as she caught his eye. He grinned and waved back.

“This is the day you have been waiting for, you need to bask in the spotlight,” commencement speaker Bedford Police Chief Robert Bongiorno told the graduates.

Bongiorno graduated from MCC in 1983. He had always wanted to be a police officer, but Bongiorno didn’t follow a direct path to get his degree. He told the students how he had enrolled at MCC, but dropped out to attend the department of corrections academy, became a corrections officer and then realized that he needed a college degree. After enrolling at MCC, leaving to attend the police academy and re-enrolling at MCC, Bongiorno obtained an associate’s degree and later his master’s degree.

“My two-year degree at MCC took me more than four years,” Bongiorno said.

Successful people, Bongiorno told the crowd, are hard-workers, team players and lifelong learners.

“MCC students are workers. You are dedicated, determined, savvy, smart and reliable,” Bongiorno said. “This ever-changing and uncertain world needs more people like you, so continue to invest in yourselves, you are worth it,” Bongiorno said.

Following Bongiorno’s speech, MCC President James Mabry presented Bongiorno with the college’s Distinguished Alumnus Award.

For many of the graduates, the grit Bongiorno spoke of is what put them in Lowell
Grads

Memorial Auditorium on Thursday.
This was certainly the case for student commencement speakers Randy Nguyen and Blair Kon.

"I never thought I would walk across the stage," Nguyen said. "I certainly never imagined standing here and speaking to you."

Nguyen dropped out of high school due to bullying. His family had moved when he was young and Nguyen found himself with no friends at a new school that had few Asian students.

MCC was a different experience for Nguyen.

He stood at the podium bearing and told the crowd he was proud to be the first Vietnamese speaker at MCC commencement. Nguyen also made sure to give a shout-out to the 508 graduates who, like him, were the first generation in their family to attend college.

Kon's story was equally powerful.

Born in Sudan, Kon lived in Kenya for several years as a refugee before moving to the U.S. with his sister. The International Institute of New England recently named Kon one of the Lowell 100.

Kon's experience in the shelter in Kenya has inspired him to study housing, particularly housing for Africans and other marginalized groups.

Enrolling at MCC, Kon said, was the best decision he ever made.

Their words had an impact on graduate Brittany Brown, 18, of Westford.

"It's not fair, they made me cry first thing at commencement," Brown said.

She was not the only one. Throughout the crowd several students could be seen tearing up.

Brown started at MCC at the age of 14. She was home-schooled until then and, like Nguyen and Kon, found the MCC community to be welcoming, even to a 14-year-old.

MCC developed her into the person she is today, Brown said.

It was Brown's first economics class that set her on her current path. She had planned to be a veterinarian, but, thanks to that class, Brown will start at Suffolk University in the fall and will study a triple concentration of philosophy, politics and economics.

"I'm so grateful to this community of people," Brown said.

As she stood, thrilled at having just walked across the stage to accept her diploma, Brown had a lot of celebration ahead of her.

"Take a lot of pictures, probably get some food somewhere and try and process what just happened," Brown said.

Above: Middlesex Community College commencement speaker and Bedford Police Chief Robert Borglione, right, and president James Mabry shake hands during Thursday's ceremony. Below: Middlesex Community College student marshals, from left, Juan Breton of Lowell, Brittany Brown of Westford, Jessica Copleigh of Pepperell and Kaitlin Fung of Acton applaud during Thursday's ceremony.
Middlesex Community College Alums Bongiorno and Chemaly to Address the Class of 2019
Submitted by Middlesex Community College Middlesex Community College’s Commencement exercises for the approximately 1,150 members of the Class of 2019 will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, May 23, in the Lowell Memorial Auditorium, 50 E. Merrimack St. The processional begins at 9:30 a.m. in front of the Cowan Center on the Lowell campus, located diagonally across from the auditorium. This year, two outstanding alums will address the Class of 2019. Bedford Police Chief Robert Bongiorno (Class of 1993) will address graduates at Commencement exercises on May 23. And Linda Krasnecki Chemaly (1972), of Trinity EMS, will address Health Programs graduates at MCC’s Health Pinning Ceremony to be held at 4 p.m. Tuesday, May 21, in the Lowell Memorial Auditorium. Both Bongiorno and Chemaly will be presented 2019 Distinguished Alumni Awards during Commencement exercises on May 23.

The Bedford Citizen is Bedford VA’s 2019 Community Spirit Award Recipient
Compiled by The Bedford Citizen The Bedford Citizen was unanimously voted to receive this year’s Bedford VA Community Service Award, "In recognition of your substantial support to Bedford VA."
The award was presented at the 2019 Award Banquet. "The Bedford VA is profoundly grateful for your help in getting out the word to Veterans and our Bedford neighbors about all that is going on at 200 Springs Road," said Director of Volunteer Services Laurel Holland, "and we recognize how much more connected we all are through the efforts of The Bedford Citizen.

BHS Sport Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony – May 18
Submitted by the Bedford Athletic Association Tickets are still available for the seventh biennial induction dinner and ceremony for the Bedford High School Sport Hall of Fame, planned for Saturday, May 18, starting at 6 p.m. at the St. Michael Parish Center, 90 Concord Road. Contact the athletic director’s office to make reservations (keith_mangan@bedfordps.org, 781-275-1700, option 5)
Chelmsford native to address MCC graduates

Posted May 6, 2019 at 2:50 PM
Updated May 6, 2019 at 2:51 PM

Linda Krasnecki Chemaly, of Chelmsford, will address the 2019 health programs graduates during Middlesex Community College’s commencement exercises on May 21. Bedford Police Chief Robert Bongiorno, Class of 1993, will address graduates at Commencement exercises on may 23.

Chemaly, of Trinity EMS, will address health programs graduates at MCC’s Health Pinning Ceremony to be held at 4 p.m. Tuesday, May 21, in the Lowell Memorial Auditorium. Both Bongiorno and Chemaly will be presented 2019 Distinguished Alumni Awards during Commencement exercises on May 23.

Chemaly is a 1972 graduate of MCC's Dental Assisting Program. After graduating from Middlesex, she worked as a dental assistant for five years, then earned a bachelor's degree at Northeastern University. Chemaly's husband, John, and his business partner, Gary Sepe, founded Trinity EMS. They have built Trinity into one of the region's most successful companies.

"I loved Middlesex," said Chemaly. "It was my springboard, it gave me the confidence I needed." "You can always change your mind - never be afraid to stop what you are doing and try something different," said Chemaly. "Get your degree, and figure out the rest later. That degree is something that can't be taken away from you."

For information: [http://middlesex.mass.edu](http://middlesex.mass.edu).
No obstacle could keep mother of three from her degree

By Amanda Castillo  
castillo@lowellsun.com

LOWELL - Claudia Aguirre could hardly believe it as she sat in her small living room last Wednesday.

In a little over a week, the single mother of three would put on her cap and gown and head to Lowell Memorial Auditorium. There, she will be one of approximately 1,000 students graduating from Middlesex Community College.

"I'm happy," said Aguirre, 48. "I feel like I can achieve more. I feel like I can continue to push forward to reach my dream of a career, and to help others."

Aguirre said she always wanted to pursue higher education, but doing so did not come easily. At MCC she recalls feeling intimidated by the English language and overwhelmed by classes. Aguirre said some of her much younger peers would question aloud why she was there. They'd comment on her thick accent. Sometimes, she would step away from the classroom and cry in a bathroom stall.

Aguirre left Colombia in 2001 for New York City, where she said she spent the next few years working as a cleaner, painter, and restaurant server. She later enrolled in bookkeeping classes and landed a job as a bookkeeper at a private transportation company. She would send money back home to her children, who were left behind in Colombia with their grandmothers before she was able to bring them to the U.S. In her free time, Aguirre said, she dedicated her energy to community activism, helping the Latino community and victims of domestic violence. Aguirre has always been a fierce advocate for her middle child, Luis Enrique, who was born with Down syndrome.

Several years after getting out of what she described as an abusive marriage, Aguirre and her three children moved to Massachusetts. They were here for six months when Aguirre's two other children, Pamela and Nicolas Afnador, pushed her to pursue a degree. Aguirre had been living off savings, earnings from a part-time substitute teacher job, and help from a transitional assistance program. Her schedule revolved around Luis Enrique.

"I look up to her because she's gone through a lot and still decided to do something she's always wanted to be doing," said Nicolas, Afnador, now 22, who has Down syndrome, Nicolas Afanador, now 17, and daughter Pamela Afnador, now 26.

Claudia Aguirre holds a photo of her and her three children in her Lowell home. The photo was taken when they were younger after they'd been apart for five years. In the photo, from left, are Aguirre, sons Luis Enrique Afanador, now 22, who has Down syndrome, Nicolas Afanador, now 17, and daughter Pamela Afanador, now 26.

"I look up to her because she's gone through a lot and still decided to do something she's always wanted to be doing," said Nicolas, Afanador, now 22, who has Down syndrome, Nicolas Afanador, now 17, and daughter Pamela Afanador, now 26.

"I look up to her because she's gone through a lot and still decided to do something she's always wanted to be doing," said Nicolas, Afanador, now 22, who has Down syndrome, Nicolas Afanador, now 17, and daughter Pamela Afanador, now 26.
Dreams

FROM PAGE 1A

17. “This is a step for her. She achieves her dreams.”

The MCC graduation ceremony will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday in the Lowell Memorial Auditorium, 50 E. Merrimack St.

The procession begins at 9:30 a.m. in front of the Cowan Center on the Lowell campus, just down the street from the auditorium.

MCC students Bar Kon, of Lowell, and Randy T. Nguyen, of Woburn, have been named the 2019 student commencement speakers. Bedford Police Chief Robert Bongiorno, who was part of the Class of 1993, will address graduates at the commencement exercises. Linda Krasnecki Chemaly, of Trinity EMS, will address Health Programs graduates at MCC’s Health pinning ceremony at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, also in the Lowell Memorial Auditorium.

Middlesex Community College President James Mabry last week said his favorite part of graduation is seeing the great diversity of students and the range in ages and backgrounds. They’re all there for the same reason, he said.

Claudia Aguirre, a mother of three, including a child with Down syndrome, rests at home in Lowell after earning a degree from Middlesex Community College. She graduates on Thursday.

“I get to see it face-to-face,” Mabry said.

Aguirre is graduating with an Associate Degree in Science/Human Services Transfer, as well as with certificates in Children’s Behavioral Health, and Direct Support in Human Services. She will be moving on to Merrimack College, and dreams of becoming a social worker who can counsel teenagers.

Nicolas said his mom has always worked hard for him and his siblings.

“She managed being a mother and being a college student,” he said. “She gets her work done — no matter what.”
Economics

From Page 1A

According to Danielle McFadden, president of the Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce, manufacturing is an industry where there is particular demand for workers. Manufacturing's aging workforce is retiring, but there aren't trained workers to fill the gaps.

In light of this, officials are looking to the graduates coming out of Middlesex Community College, UMass Lowell and local mentoring programs.

"Our students are local, they are students who stay in the community. Community college students will always be the core of the workforce in this commonwealth," said Middlesex Community College President James Malloy.

According to Malloy, the college's cyber security, manufacturing and entrepreneurship programs are growing.

Samaras also sees the answer in the business ideas of young men and women in the area. Supporting their budding businesses could result in two or three more businesses like Kronos coming to the area, Samaras said.

"We have a responsibility towards these companies to help make these companies successful and what are we going to do in permitting, taxes, incentives," Samaras said.

Several communities in the area are looking to streamline the process of bringing a business to town, so that questions, permits and the like can be addressed by going to one department.

Housing is another challenge. Between businesses' desire to set up near their employees and a growing demand for affordable and senior housing, there is a pressing need for more housing options in communities across the state. As local communities balk at big housing projects, the challenge lies in how to do it.

"While there might be some hesitancy to add more housing that would increase enrollment in schools if you mix it up with housing for older citizens and studio and single apartments, then you can create a balanced approach that a community could really wrap their arms around," said Polito.

Kennelly hopes that the administration's housing choice legislation will also make a difference. Housing choice would make it easier for nine different types of housing developments to pass Town Meetings by requiring a majority vote as opposed to a two-thirds vote, Kennelly said.

"We'd like 20% plus one to be able to get things done, so we think that will have a big impact on housing production across the state," said Kennelly.

According to Kennelly, housing development in downtown areas can also serve as a revitalization tool.

"Even in the City of Lowell housing has gone up and there are people who can't afford to rent their own unit," Samaras said.

Samaras sees Boston as an example of what can be done in Lowell, where, through collaboration with the city, surrounding communities can maximize their own opportunities for economic development.

"We have a better understanding as to what we have to do, but at the same time we have to work collaboratively with communities around us, Lowell can't do it alone," Samaras said.

Follow Emma R. Murphy on Twitter @MurphyPosts
Westford 18-year old to graduate from Middlesex Community College

**BY Joy Hosford**

Brittany Brown, 18, will graduate from MCC on Thursday, May 23. [Courtesy Photo/Middlesex Community College]

Most 18-year olds are in the midst of preparing for high school graduation, but for one Westford teenager, that graduation will not be on the road to college, but from college. Brittany Brown started her educational career at Middlesex Community College at the tender age of 14 as a dual-enrollment student in 2015 after being home schooled by both her parents since early childhood. She will be graduating with an associates degree in arts/liberal arts and sciences and a high school diploma alongside 1,150 other graduates. She will attend Suffolk University in Boston in the fall with the plan to earn a bachelor of arts in the triple concentration of philosophy, politics and economics. She is the third of four Brown children to graduate MCC through duel enrollment. Her young brother Aidan is currently a 16-year old student, also at Middlesex. The college’s commencement ceremony will be held Thursday, May 23, at the Lowell Memorial Auditorium.

Brittany said she began at MCC with two classes per semester through the duel enrollment program, moving up to a full course load her senior year. “I am really excited to walk [at graduation],” said Brown, adding that homeschooled students participating in a high school graduation ceremony is not always a given. Now she has the chance to do so as a student marshal, leading the class of 2019 to the next phase in their lives.

**The next step**

When it comes to career path, Brittany said her goals changed when she started taking courses at MCC. Originally focused on becoming a veterinarian, she said it was an economic class that pushed her in a new direction, one she’ll follow next semester.

“It has been such an interesting experience,” Brittany said. “[MCC] helped me feel at home with its diversity and that there are people from all different walks of life.” From 18 to 80, there are people at all level of their academic lives at Middlesex and Brittany said she never felt singled-out because of her age, or because she was home schooled.

**Learning with family**

Both Brittany’s parents, Linda, a part-time physician in Maynard, and Tim, a part-time software engineer, were Brittany and her sibling’s teachers from kindergarten onward. The couple said they have been thrilled with the success the four have found at Middlesex. “For me, graduation is not the end of anything,” said Linda. “What strikes me the most is this what we wanted from beginning. We always wanted [our children] to hold onto their love of learning and not for us to have to be behind them pushing. To me, [MCC] allowed her to be who she is.” Tim said contrary to the notions some may have about homeschooling, that children are not socialized the same as those in public school, his children have been more social and connected to the community than not.

From learning about animals by working in a local barn, to one of their sons opening a landscaping company as a teenager, to their youngest being involved with the Westford Academy track and field team, he said their children were not held back because they learned from home. “They’re more social than my wife and I are,” Tim said.
Facility Focus
PERFORMING ARTS

Middlesex Community College
Richard and Nancy Donahue Family Academic Arts Center

The design by Leers Weinzapfel Associates of this new academic arts center reimagines the historic Boston & Maine Railroad Depot at Towers Corner within the Lowell National Historical Park in Massachusetts. Located in an urban core, the building’s 1876 exterior was preserved, while the interior was completely reconstructed, nearly doubling space for the college’s growing performing arts departments of music, theater, and dance.

The project comprises three major teaching spaces; a new proscenium theater classroom, a music recital hall, and a dance studio black box theater, each delivering a professional-level technological environment with the intimate scale appropriate for student performance. The largest of these spaces, a central oval structural volume, supports the building’s 240-year-old walls and houses a unique 177-seat “egg theater.” The theater steps down from the ground floor lobby to a basement level, affording excellent sight lines and fully accessible space for students, performers, and patrons.

At the second floor, the recital hall and dance studio take advantage of the building’s high roof, exposed timber trusses, and borrowed light through a west-facing gallery passageway. Along the sidewalk, a linear gallery and theater lobby display student activity and invite the public in through a main entry at the base of the Center’s landmark clock tower.

An addition at the rear of the building, constructed in a 20-foot zone purchased by the owner, comprises mechanical and building support space that provides sound separation for the performance venues. Excavation created space for a full basement that was required for accessibility.

Building reuse not only achieves the goals of historic preservation for the Center, it also contributes to its sustainability. The depot’s elegant façade was carefully repointed and supported from behind by the reinforced foundation and by the sturdy egg-shaped theater volume. Highly insulated walls and efficient systems contribute to the building’s energy efficiency.

24 COLLEGE PLANNING & MANAGEMENT / APRIL/MAY 2019
LOWELL — Four Middlesex Community College students were recently recognized as outstanding two-year college students and members of Phi Theta Kappa’s 2019 All-Massachusetts Academic Team during a recent ceremony at the Statehouse.

Every year, the Massachusetts Association of Community Colleges hosts the All-Massachusetts Academic Team event to showcase the best and brightest students in the 15-college system. Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges, the Coca-Cola Foundation, community-college presidents, and community-college state associations annually co-sponsor the All-State Academic Teams.

Sima Bilalian of Waltham is a Liberal Arts & Sciences/Psychology major. She is an orientation leader and is active in the Navigators leadership program, as well as a variety of clubs and other campus special events.

Lauren Moran of Stoneham is a Business Administration transfer student who graduated this past week with honors. She is planning to transfer to either UMass Amherst, UMass Boston, Bentley University or Northeastern University.

Karen Onuoho of Lowell, a Liberal Studies student, has served as an orientation leader and is active in the Navigators leadership program, the African Culture Club and a variety of clubs and other campus special events.

Moniroth Siek of Lowell, a Liberal Arts & Sciences student, graduate this past week. She is active in PTK and other clubs and organizations on campus.

Read more: http://www.lowellsun.com/schools/ci_32664468/-four-from-mcc-are-state-standouts#ixzz5pucBE2kD
WESTFORD — They may share the same birthday, but Daniel, Jessica, Joseph and Kimberly Cornetta, 18, say that being a quadruplet is pretty normal, though Joseph will add that it is annoying.

On Friday, all four will graduate from Westford Academy.

On a recent Thursday morning the siblings gathered in their family kitchen with their mother, Joanne, to talk about what's next.

All four are heading to college. Both Daniel and Joseph will attend Middlesex Community College in Bedford. Neither is sure of what they want to do just yet, but Daniel plans to transfer to another school after a year at Middlesex and Joseph has his sights set on playing hockey.

Kimberly will be heading to UMass Boston to study health science while Jessica will be moving farthest away to attend the University of New Haven to study forensic science.

"It's the next chapter," Joanne said.

Growing up the siblings always had each other, but at high school they were mostly able to maintain their individuality.

"I thought it was just a normal experience, you can tell the difference between all of us facial features-wise," Daniel said. "So it was kind of like we were individual, which was nice."

While independent of each other, Kimberly, Daniel and Joseph followed their older brother Chris Cornetta, now 21, into hockey at a young age.

Jessica, who Joanne described as the "more studious" of the four, opted for tennis instead. She did, however, attend many her of siblings' practices and games over the years where her appearance regularly took people by surprise.

"Everyone thought that they were three, and then when Jessica would appear they would be like 'well who's this one?' and I would be like 'well that's the fourth one,'" Joanne said.

Joanne and her husband, Fred, had the four with the help of a fertility center in Reading. They had their son Chris with help from the center and decided to go back in hopes of having a girl.

"This was going for the girl and I got these," Joanne said with a soft smile as she gestured at the four.

Joanne also has two older sons, ages 40 and 44, from a previous marriage.

Though they've enjoyed their individuality, as quadruplets Daniel, Jessica, Joseph and Kimberly do find themselves occasionally fielding odd questions.

Often people ask them if they have to do a lot of sharing or if they argue a lot.

"We argue and we get along like everyone else," Kimberly said with a shake of her head.

Another reaction, Joseph said, is that people usually don't realize that quadruplet means four.

"They think the number is always like five or above," he said, prompting everyone to burst out in laughter. "They never guess four, it's never the right number."

As they prepare for their next plans and their first time apart, the four siblings do not think the adjustment will be a difficult one.

"It was bound to happen at some point," Joseph said bluntly, sending his siblings into fits of laughter again.

For Jessica and Kimberly, who are close, the adjustment will be a little weird at first, Kimberly said.

"We've got technology," Jessica said in response.

While the four seem to be taking the impending change in stride, it is going to be a bit more difficult for Joanne.

"They don't think that this is a big deal but this is a big deal," Joanne said.

Jessica and Kimberly's move away will be hard, Joanne said. Daniel and Joseph plan to commute to school from home. When they began looking at colleges Joanne told them they had to stay on the East Coast so that they could be somewhat close to home.

She teared up as she looked at her children clustered at the opposite end of the kitchen counter.

"I'm ready," Joanne said. "I'm ready to let them go."
Fitchburg State signs nursing degree agreements with community colleges
By Grant Welker
June 3, 2019

Fitchburg State University has signed nursing-degree agreements with community colleges in Worcester, Gardner, Bedford and Fall River.

The agreements, which the university announced Monday, guarantee students a spot at Fitchburg State's bachelor's nursing program and is aimed at helping ensure more of the state's nurses have bachelor's degrees in the coming years.

Fitchburg State's agreements will help students at Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester, Mount Wachusett Community College in Gardner, Middlesex Community College in Bedford and Bristol Community College in Fall River. The agreements, which waive application fees and essay requirements for students, were created with support from a Massachusetts Department of Higher Education nursing and allied health grant.

The project is expected to produce at least 18 additional students a year with a bachelor's degree, Fitchburg State said.

The Massachusetts Action Coalition, an industry advocacy group, has a goal of having 80% of the state's nurses holding a bachelor's degree by 2020. At the most recent count in 2017, the group said the rate was 56%, up from 49% in 2010.

The group says bachelor's degrees are critical for nurses to help them advance in their career and support the state's growing need in the field.
MCC News
Posted May 29, 2019 at 5:42 PM

MCC to host dual enrollment orientation sessions
Middlesex Community College will host five upcoming orientation sessions for the Middlesex Dual Enrollment Academy, which allows qualified high school and home-schooled students to earn college credit while satisfying their high school graduation requirements.

Three Bedford Campus Dual Enrollment Orientation Sessions will be held:

• 5 to 6:30 p.m. June 5, in the Bedford Campus Center’s Café East, 591 Springs Road.
• 5 to 6:30 p.m. July 11, in the Bedford Campus Center’s Café East, 591 Springs Road.
• 5 to 6:30 p.m. Aug. 21, in the Bedford Campus Library’s Alcott Room, 591 Springs Road.

MCC’s Dual Enrollment Academy enables qualified students to enroll in college-level courses offered online or on campus. Also welcome are students who want to get a head start on completing general-education courses required by most colleges and universities. A Middlesex advisor will be assigned to work with each applicant, their parent/guardian and high school guidance counselor. Dual Enrollment students pay reduced tuition costs. For information, call 1-800-818-3434 or visit https://middlesex.mass.edu/dualenroll.

MCC’s English Learner Institute to offer summer courses
Enrollment is now open for Middlesex Community College’s summer English Learner Institute program. ELI offers a variety of noncredit courses focusing on developing basic English and other skills essential to functioning in American society and helping students continue their education. ELI summer-semester programs run June 24 through July 19. Classes meet for approximately two hours during the morning on the Lowell campus, 50 Kearney Square. All ELI courses are offered at a reduced rate. Admission is open to all and does not require an MCC admissions application.

ELI courses are designed to serve students who are newcomers to the U.S. or who need to develop basic English skills. Topics such as technology, life skills and social conventions are covered. ELI courses are non-sequential. Students may enter the program in the fall, spring or summer semesters. Support services are available to all ELI students, including an English Language Learner Tutoring Lab, a technology-enhanced Language Lab, access to computers, library services and student services, such as career counseling and academic advising. For information, call 978-656-3104 or visit http://bit.ly/2Wk5wTn.

MCC to host information session
Middlesex Community College will host an information session for businesses seeking Workforce Training Fund grants from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. June 19 in MCC’s Bedford Campus Trustees’ House, 591 Springs Road. Registration deadline is June 17.

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 and Training Program has helped many businesses secure and implement these grants. For information on specific Workforce Training Fund programs, visit http://commcorp.org/wtfp. For information about this WFTF info session, or to register, contact Teresa Medina at 978-656-3009 or medina@middlesex.mass.edu.
Sen. Kennedy gives first speech on senate floor
Posted May 29, 2019 at 10:00 AM

State Sen. Ed Kennedy, D-Lowell, delivered his inaugural address on the senate floor, speaking in favor of a budget amendment he filed to secure $100,000 for a new STEM building on Middlesex Community College’s Lowell Campus. “It is an imperative step toward strengthening the STEM talent pipeline in the region and delivering critical access for a more diverse body of students to a field of study and employment in which Massachusetts is positioned at the helm,” Kennedy said.

Kennedy referenced Lowell and the region’s commitment to education and to providing the training necessary to meet the needs of the changing marketplace. “A plaque greeting students and visitors outside of Lowell High School, the oldest co-educational and racially-integrated public high school in the nation, describes education as the most powerful lever of a democracy in raising the standard of its citizenship,” Kennedy said. “Throughout my career in public service, I have closely subscribed to this belief, and have held that a government should be measured by its commitment to education.”

Sen. Paul Tsongas urged MCC to start a biotechnology program in 1990, because emerging biotech companies in Massachusetts had to recruit employees from North Carolina. Today 200 students are enrolled in the program, which boasts a 100% placement rate in the biotech industry among graduates.

MCC offers a variety of STEM areas of study in addition to biotechnology, including life science, physical science, computer science, engineering, engineering technology, computer forensics, information technology and environmental health.

A 2015 Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance backed study demonstrated MCC’s current science labs are oversubscribed and clearly identified the need for additional lab space. Current lab space is outdated and insufficient to keep up with MCC’s student demand in these disciplines. The college, which celebrates its 50th anniversary next year, is seeking a new academic facility in Lowell with dedicated lab space to support STEM programs that service the growing workforce needs of the region. Today there are nearly 1,200 students enrolled in MCC’s STEM programs.

The goal of the proposed STEM building is to create teaching environments that reflect the highest industry standards and expand MCC’s capacity to prepare students for the high-demand regional workforce needs in STEM-based industries, through modernized science spaces including state of the art biology, chemistry, physics and cybersecurity labs.

“Middlesex Community College already plays a critical role in providing educational opportunities for a diverse population that includes many who are foreign born,” said Kennedy. “A new STEM facility in Lowell would expand opportunities to pursue this increasingly in-demand career path, unlocking access to STEM as a field of study and the economic opportunity that comes with it to a substantial and distinct cross section of students whose needs are best met by the flexibility of a two-year program.”

A new STEM facility would also address ADA and accessibility requirements for students who may experience physical or other barriers, as well as enhance fundamental parts of the teaching and learning experience for all learning styles where students can actively engage with curricula in state of the art classrooms and labs. “Education is a true equalizer, the difference that can create lasting intergenerational mobility; the difference that can elevate the son or daughter of a refugee who comes to a Gateway City like Lowell with nothing but the clothes on his or her back to grow up to be a celebrated chemist or the CEO of a Biotech company,” he added. “Education drafts the blueprint of the American dream — a blueprint that with each enhancement and revision raises the standard of this democracy’s citizenship.”

The amendment was passed by the senate, securing the funding in the senate’s FY20 budget. “With his proposed funding of an exploration study for a new science, technology, engineering and math building for Middlesex Community College, Sen. Kennedy has laid the groundwork for 21st century learning opportunities for thousands of students who will be exploring STEM education on our campuses for decades to come,” said MCC President James Mabry. “This proposed study will allow our college to make its first significant expansion in the STEM programs since we first moved into learning spaces in Lowell back in the 1990s.”
Stoneham Firefighters Graduate From State Firefighting Academy

The 10-week program teaches the essentials of fire and non-fire conditions.

By Bob Holmes, Patch Staff / May 24, 2019 4:22 pm ET

L-R: Firefighters Anthony Luciano, Nick Rolli, Kyle Bowdidge, Brian Cronin, Steve Ternullo and Chief Matthew Grafton. (Courtesy Photo Stoneham Fire Department)

A release from the Stoneham Fire Department:

STONEHAM - Five members of the Stoneham Fire Department graduated from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Friday according to Chief Matthew Grafton. Firefighters Anthony Luciano, Nick Rolli, Kyle Bowdidge, Brian Cronin and Steve Ternullo were among 32 firefighters from 18 departments to graduate from the academy's Career Recruit Firefighter Training Program Class 273 on Friday. Graduates were recognized at a ceremony at the Department of Fire Services headquarters in Stow.

"Four of these members were hired through a FEMA SAFER Grant, and I'm happy to be able to increase the staffing levels so that we can maintain safety and meet the growing demands of the community," Chief Grafton said. "This is a rigorous course and I commend firefighters Luciano, Rolli, Bowdidge, Cronin and Ternullo for their dedication and commitment to the program." The 10-week program teaches the essentials of fire and non-fire conditions, life safety, search and rescue, ladder operations, water supply, pump operation and fire attack.

Firefighter Ternullo is a 2011 graduate of Stoneham High School and served in the army as a military police officer from 2011 to 2016. He previously worked as an HVAC technician. A 2013 graduate of Stoneham High School, firefighter Cronin received his bachelor's degree in science marketing from Southern New Hampshire University and is a certified EMT. He previously worked as a fire equipment technician and volunteered for the Stoneham Fire Auxiliary. Firefighter Bowdidge is a 2009 graduate of Stoneham High School and is currently attending Middlesex Community College. He is a member of the Army National Guard, a position he’s held since 2012. Firefighter Bowdidge is in the process of completing his EMT certification. Firefighter Rolli is a 2014 graduate of Malden Catholic High School and received his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Saint Anselm College. While in college, he completed an internship with the Hudson, New Hampshire Police Department and recently completed his EMT certification. Firefighter Rolli previously worked part-time for the Stoneham Department of Public Works. Firefighter Luciano is a 2010 graduate of Arlington Catholic High School and was most recently a member of the Stoneham Department of Public Works. He previously worked within the facilities department for Stoneham Public Schools and the Burlington Department of Public Works. Firefighter Luciano recently completed schooling to obtain his Class B driver's license (CDL).

The other graduates represent the fire departments of Acton, Billerica, Bourne, Devens, East Briggwater, Harwich, Hopkinton, Hyannis, Littleton, Lowell, Mashpee, North Andover, Peabody, Revere, Weston, Westwood and Woburn.

About the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy:

At the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, firefighter recruits learn a wide range of skills in an intensive 10-week program. Certified and more experienced firefighters lead classroom instruction, physical fitness training, firefighter skills training and firefighting practice. Students are given training in public fire education, hazardous material incident mitigation, flammable liquids, stress management, confined space rescue techniques and rappelling. Upon successful completion of the Recruit Program, all students have met national standards of National Fire Protection Association 1001.
Jazz band performs original song composed by AHS senior
By Jessica Valeriani jvaleriani@andovertownsman.com May 23, 2019

CARL RUSSO/Staff photo Andover High Senior Kevin Choi composed his own song, called "Euphoria". The song, under the direction of jazz band conductor, Jeff Buckridge, was played at the jazz concert performance of the high school’s spring concert Wednesday night at the Collins Center. 5/15/2019

This is the first time possibly ever an Andover student composed their own song and had it played in the band’s concert. 5/15/2019

Andover High School senior Kevin Choi is experiencing a lot of "lasts" in the coming weeks - his "last" high school jazz band concert, "last" practice, "last" homework assignment and "last" day of high school. But he also had a first that no other student in his soon-to-be graduating class can say they also experienced. Choi, 18, composed an original song for the AHS jazz band that was performed at the group's final concert of the year Wednesday night. Choi's song "Euphoria" was performed to a crowd of more than 100 people after weeks of tireless rehearsal by the members of the band. "It was amazing," he said of the performance. "I didn't really realize it, and then it came to my solo and I was like, 'Wow, this is my song.'"

Choi approached his jazz teacher, Jeff Buckridge, with the song in April. Since then, the band has been working to perfect the piece for concert. It wasn't until a couple nights prior to the show when they officially decided the band was confident and comfortable enough to perform the song. Choi said he is pretty confident this is the first time the band has ever performed an original song by one of its members. However, this isn't the first time Choi has composed his own song, as he said he has been writing original songs since he was seven years old. He wrote "Euphoria" with his private music instructor Bill Donelan, who has been teaching him for 10 years. "Not everyone is like Kevin," said Donelan. "In fact, nobody is like Kevin."

When the pair met a decade ago, Donelan said there was something special about Choi he noticed right from the beginning. He spoke highly of Choi, and referred to him as a "prodigy" when it came to music, noting that he can play just about any instrument. Choi plays guitar in the AHS jazz band, but also plays bass and sings. Donelan, 65, said Choi is his first student to compose an original song to be performed by the high school band. He attended the concert and said he was "blown away" by the performance from the band. While most other seniors were writing research papers for a history or English class, Choi was completing his school assignments, with the extra weight of also writing a song. He composed "Euphoria" alongside Donelan with no inspiration in mind besides simply wanting to write a musical piece together. Choi initially came up with the chords, and Donelan then wrote a slow melody to pair with them. The two collaborated on an ending.

"I think it was just that he's been teaching me for a while and it's more than just the teaching," said Choi. "We finally came together to compose a song specifically for my high school jazz band." Choi said the song, which is about five minutes long, was performed with no mistakes by the 22-member band. The piece also included a solo that Choi performed on the guitar. "Most of the band liked the song so they actually put the effort toward this one," he said. After graduation next month, Choi plans to continue pursuing his dreams of music. He will attend Middlesex Community College for a semester before transferring to the University of Massachusetts Lowell. He plans to major in either music business or music performance, and transfer to Berklee College of Music the following fall.
LOWELL

Honor ing leaders in fight against youth homelessness

By Prudence Brighton

LOWELL—A diverse group of local leaders gathered in the parlor of Bachand Hall on Monument Street one day last week when their jovial banter suddenly turned to a serious topic: youth homelessness.

Among the group were elected officials, Roman Catholic sisters, an employee of the Department of Children and Families and the leader of the Merrimack Valley's largest charitable foundation.

All will be recognized Thursday evening for their work ending youth homelessness during Community Teamwork Inc.'s annual Spring Celebration: Leading the Way Home.

"Our honorees this year have all made a significant impact in ensuring that young adults who are experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness have a safe place to call home," CTI Executive Director Karen Frederick said.

The Sisters of Charity of Ottawa, who hosted the impromptu gathering at their convent located across the street from O'Donnell Funeral Home. Fifteen years ago, the sisters opened the doors of the convent to young women who had aged out of foster care but still needed a home.

Along with Eric Coutinseau, a social worker at DCYF, the sisters are among the 2019 honorees. As Coutinseau tells the story, "They came to us. They came down to DCYF and said, 'We have a large house. Do you need help with housing?'"

Coutinseau has worked with the sisters ever since.

Homeless

FROM PAGE 2A

Besides the Sisters and Coutinseau, also being recognized for their efforts to reduce homelessness are Mayor William Whalen, City Councilor and state Sen. Edward Kennedy, and Jay Linnehan, the Greater Lowell Community Foundation's executive director.

The Sisters of Charity invested a lot of time and money in getting the building ready for young women ages 18 to 22. According to Sister Cecile, the work included renovating the building's 16 rooms to include 14 bedrooms, an exercise room, a laundry area, and a kitchen.

"It's home for them," Sister Cecile says.

Over the years, Bachand Hall has housed 180 women. Many are students at UMass Lowell or Middlesex Community College. Only one young woman who was offered accommodation at the convent declined. Apparently, the religious statues and paintings scared her.

Frederick notes that Coutinseau and the Sisters of Charity of Ottawa "have opened their home and hearts to young women aging out of DCYF".

Kennedy and Samaras talked about the holiday festival for which they are being recognized. Kennedy, who previously served as mayor, started the "Mayor's Holiday Fest for Homeless Youth: Rock 'n' Roll Pandaliner" during the second year of his term and Samaras continued it in 2018. The music festival includes 15 bands that play a set of two-to-three songs.

"We raised $11,000 the first year, and I challenged Bill to do better," Kennedy said.

Samaras did do better, raising $18,000 in 2018. He hopes to see the event raise more than $20,000 this year. The money goes to CTI's youth homelessness programs primarily to pay for incidental expenses.

Samaras says his first awareness of youth homelessness came about 20 years ago while he was dean of Lowell High School.

"A situation came to my attention that really woke me to the need," he said.

A teenage boy at the high school was sent to his office due to excessive absences. Samaras started to lecture the teenager, but the boy stopped him.

"Mr. Samaras, I don't know where I'll be sleeping tonight," Samaras said the boy told him.

He was couch surfing, when he could, with friends and sometimes family members.

Samaras says he was able to get the teen some help and then launched a survey of LHS students. The survey disclosed that there were nearly 80 other students at the high school who were in similar situations. The school was able to help some of them.

Linnehan said the community foundation has been addressing the homeless issue using an analysis of community needs. The foundation has also been working closely with City Manager Eileen Donoghue.

Linnehan's organization focuses on a "holistic approach" to helping the city on "unaccompanied adults" who walk through downtown every day because they aren't served for them. Now, "a whole lot of providers" are working on the issue, he said.

Frederick credits Samaras, Kennedy and Linnehan with making it a priority "that no young adult should be homeless.

Thanks to their commitment, today over 70 young adults have been identified and are currently working with CTI.

The event begins at 5:30 p.m. at CTC's James House Early Learning Center, 126 Phoenix Ave. Tickets are $100 and are available at the door.
MRT Announces New Directors

by BWW News Desk May. 22, 2019

Boston director Shana Gozansky will direct The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley, and Chicago director Jessica Hutchinson will helm the world premiere of The Lowell Offering for Merrimack Repertory Theatre's 2019-20 Season. The pair replace former Artistic Director Sean Daniels as director of these plays.

Gozansky, currently directing Barefoot in the Park at Gloucester Stage, will take the reins of The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley, the highly anticipated counterpart to last season's Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley, which became the best-selling play in MRT's 40-year history. As the events of Miss Bennet unfold upstairs at Pemberley, the servants below find themselves in the midst of a scandal; an unwelcome visitor has stumbled into the kitchen in the middle of the night - Mr. Darcy's nemesis and Lydia's incorrigible husband: Mr. Wickham.


Hutchinson has served as director and dramaturg for original plays throughout the country. She served as artistic director of Chicago's New Leaf Theatre for five years and was a co-founder of Austin's groundswell [sic], a new play development company. She came to Lowell last month to direct a workshop of The Lowell Offering, a joint effort between MRT and Middlesex Community College. MRT's seven-play season begins September 11. Single tickets go on sale in July. Season Subscriptions for all seven plays range in price from $140 to $378 with student subscriptions at $70. To purchase, visit www.mrt.org or contact the MRT Box Office at 978-654-4678.

MERRIMACK REPERTORY THEATRE www.mrt.org

Merrimack Repertory Theatre (MRT) celebrates 40 years this season as the Merrimack Valley's professional theatre. With a steadfast commitment to contemporary voices and new plays, MRT produces seven works, including several world premieres, each season. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Sean Daniels and Executive Director Bonnie J. Butkas, MRT strives to fulfill its mission "to share theatrical stories of human understanding that reflect and engage our community." The company guarantees that shows are accessible to audiences of all incomes; partners with businesses and non-profit groups to fully engage the community; and contributes to the economic vitality of Lowell by attracting diverse audiences from throughout the region.

Recent acclaimed productions include Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley, the best-selling production in MRT history (directed by Daniels); Daniels' own autobiographical play, The White Chip; I and You (Off-Broadway transfer) and Silent Sky by Lauren Gunderson, the most produced playwright in America; Women in Jeopardy! by Wendy MacLeod (directed by Daniels); KNYUM by Cambodian playwright and actor Vichet Chum; and The Lion, singer-songwriter Benjamin Scheuer's award-winning musical memoir (also directed by Daniels), which launched its national tour from MRT in August 2015, following critically acclaimed runs in New York and London.
Bedford TV Announces Summer Video Production Course at Middlesex Community College

May 21, 2019 | Arts and Culture, Organizations | 0 Comments

Submitted by Bedford TV

Bedford TV is pleased to offer a new summer course, Intro to Video Production, for high school students. In this class, students will learn how to bring their idea from conception to reality through the magic of video production! Students will also learn proper shooting techniques, develop a script, storyboard their production, record using Canon Vixia camcorders, edit using Adobe Creative Suite, and finally upload their work to YouTube to share with family and friends!

Tuesday/ Thursday, 6/4-6/19, 5:30-7:00 PM, 3 weeks
Middlesex Community College, Bedford Campus
Course #: YTH 767 30 ~ Fee: $150
To register, call 1-800-818-3434 or click here.
MCC Offers Summer Programs For Various Ages & Stages Of Life

There's something for everyone this summer at Middlesex Community College!

Enroll now for one of our four Summer Sessions, check out our extensive noncredit programming, or sign your children up for one of our exciting College for Kids programs. Summer enrollment is now open and it’s not too late to register.

Savvy college students home for the summer, recent high school graduates, and adults returning to college to finish a degree can now enroll in a variety of day, evening and online courses offered in our four Summer Sessions, running May 28 through Aug. 8:

- Summer QuickStart – May 28 to June 14 – accelerated, three-week session
- Summer Session 1 – May 28 to June 27 – five-week session
- Summer Session 2 – May 28 to July 24 – eight-week session
- Summer Session 3 – July 9 to Aug. 8 – five-week session

Take personal or professional enrichment courses this summer with MCC’s Community Education and Career Training Programs. Our noncredit courses, offered online and on campus, are designed for individuals in various stages of life and career.

Keep your children engaged and learning this summer with MCC’s College for Kids. Programs are designed to provide children with fun and challenging learning opportunities. College for Kids offers one- and three-week, full- and half-day summer programs for children and teens (ages 8 to 17) running July 8 through Aug. 15, on the Bedford and Lowell campuses.

To register for any of MCC’s summer programs, call 1-800-818-3434 or visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/summer.

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 80 degree and certificate programs – plus hun-


dreds of noncredit courses – on our campuses in Bedford, Lowell, and online. Middlesex Community College: Studying success starts here!
MCC's Technical Writing Certificate Offers Career Enhancement

Enrollment is now open for Middlesex Community College's Writing Technical Information Certificate Program. This 120-hour, two-semester, post-graduate certificate program provides the skills necessary to write technical documents and effectively communicate about technical information.

This program is a noncredit career-enhancement opportunity for individuals with well-developed writing skills, a bachelor's degree, and at least three years of work experience.

Classes will be held Thursday evenings, September through May, on the Bedford campus.

Fall classes start Thursday, Sept. 5, and the deadline to register is Thursday, Aug. 22.

Through lecture, online learning and projects, Technical Writing students will create a portfolio featuring samples of their work.

Students will learn how to conduct audience and task analysis, work with subject-matter experts, understand product documents and the product-development cycle. They will also learn to write clear procedures, review and revise technical information, manage projects, and make content usable. Mark-up languages, such as HTML and XML, as well as tools for authoring information for electronic and print distribution, will also be covered.

To learn more about the Writing Technical Information Certificate program, or to apply, contact Sheila Morin at morins@middlesex.mass.edu or visit https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/careertraining/tech-write.aspx

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 80 degree and certificate programs – plus hundreds of noncredit courses. Our campuses in Bedford, Lowell, and online. Middletown Community College: Success starts here!
Lexington residents receive scholarships

The Middlesex Community College Foundation awarded 62 scholarships totaling $65,100 to 49 Middlesex students for the 2018-19 academic year in a ceremony on the Bedford campus.

The scholarships range from $500 to $5,000, and are funded by a variety of sources, including memorial donations, local businesses, private foundations and private donors.

The following Lexington residents received scholarships: Semhal Katz, the MCC Foundation Board of Director’s Founder’s Award, and Robert Cataldo Scholarship; and Andrea Merrill, Muriel G. Hervey Memorial Scholarship.

For information, call 978-656-3028, email leea@middlesex.mass.edu or visit https://middlesex.mass.edu/foundation/scholarships.
Edina Hirt can see the end of her involved journey

Emma R. Murphy, emurphy@lowellsun.com
Updated: 05/15/2019 11:33:14 AM EDT

UMass Lowell graduating senior Edina Hirt of Lowell at the Health and Social Sciences building. (Julia Malakie / Lowell Sun)

LOWELL — An empty UMass Lowell picture frame sits in Edina Hirt’s living room. The frame has served as a source of motivation for Hirt, who is the first in her family to attend college. It is what Hirt’s husband of 17 years, Carlos, would point to on the bad days when the pain of her cancer became too much. “He would point at it and say ‘I want to see a picture of you there, I want to have a picture of you in that frame’ and I would smile and say ‘yes, yes I can make this work,’” Hirt said. “So here I am.”

On Saturday Hirt will be among UMass Lowell’s 3,133 undergraduates receiving their bachelor’s degrees. After she leads her fellow graduates into the Tsongas Center carrying the flag for the Honors College, Hirt will be recognized with a Chancellor’s Medal for Community Service. She will also be graduating summa cum laude.

The Class of 2019, totaling over 4,000 students including graduate students, is the largest class in the university’s history. To accommodate the large class, the university will hold three ceremonies; one on Friday for graduate students and two on Saturday for undergraduates. U.S. Rep. Lori Trahan, who represents Massachusetts’ Third District, will give the commencement speech in the Saturday morning ceremony and Jack Wilson, president emeritus of the University of Massachusetts system, will be the Saturday afternoon commencement speaker. UMass Lowell Distinguished University Professor Meg Bond will deliver the Friday commencement address.

"Graduates at each of UMass Lowell’s commencement ceremonies will hear from leaders in education, entrepreneurship, gender equity and government," UMass Lowell Chancellor Jacquie Moloney said in a news release. "We are honored to have them address our Class of 2019."

Hirt’s path to graduation, to putting a picture in that UMass Lowell frame, has not been an easy one. In 2006, Hirt and her husband moved from her native Brazil to Everett, before later moving to Lowell. Hirt, who did not speak English, enrolled at Middlesex Community College in 2011 where she took night classes while working as a house cleaner during the day. Her dream was to attend college, she said, so she did everything she could to learn English from reading books and listening to the radio to watching television with subtitles. Hirt did so well on her placement exam that she was placed in a writing class with American students, not international students as she expected. It was overwhelming.

On her first day of class Hirt called her husband sobbing, telling him she could not do it. “He said ‘you can, I know you’re stubborn, you can, you’re not giving up,’” Hirt said. Hirt did not give up - even in April 2017 when she was diagnosed with Hodgkin’s lymphoma. By that time Hirt was a psychology major at UMass Lowell. Professors asked her if she needed to take a break but Hirt declined, only asking for extensions. She took her books to chemotherapy and poured herself into her work. "I think it's a dream, when you have something you really want to do, you focus on that and you keep going," Hirt said.

There were times when Hirt felt like giving up, times when she broke down in tears in her professors’ offices, but Hirt said the support from her husband, family and professors made the difference. Hirt’s work has included developing a website for the university that links people looking for volunteer opportunities with Lowell organizations in need of volunteers. The site, which launched in January, currently lists 90 organizations. "It was a process of connecting with everybody, it's not only my project it's UMass Lowell's project," Hirt said.
Bedford Police chief to address MCC graduates

Bedford Police Chief Robert Bongiorno will address graduates at Middlesex Community College’s Commencement exercises on May 23.

Linda Krasnecki Chemaly, of Trinity EMS, will address health programs graduates at MCC’s Health Pinning Ceremony to be held at 4 p.m. Tuesday, May 21, in the Lowell Memorial Auditorium.

Both Bongiorno and Chemaly will be presented 2019 Distinguished Alumni Awards during Commencement exercises on May 23.

Growing up in Arlington, Bongiorno dreamed of becoming a police officer. He enrolled at MCC and earned an associate degree in criminal justice in 1993.

As a student, Bongiorno served an internship with the Concord Police Department, and worked as a corrections officer at MCI-Concord to put himself through school. After graduation, the Concord Police Department hired him as a full-time officer. As a Concord police officer, Bongiorno spent nights and weekends earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Western New England College.

For information: http://middlesex.mass.edu.
MCC's Summer College for Kids Combines Fun With Learning
One- and three-week, full- and half-day summer programs for children & teens (ages 8-17) run July 8 thru Aug. 15, in Bedford & Lowell
By Middlesex Community College, Patch Contributor | Jun 4, 2019 2:50 pm ET

It's not too late to sign the kids up for College for Kids at Middlesex Community College this summer.

College for Kids offers one- and three-week, full- and half-day summer programs for children and teens (ages 8 to 17) that run July 8 through Aug. 15, on the Bedford and Lowell campuses.

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

Here is a selection of College for Kids programs offered this summer:

ACE: Aviation & Simulation – Design, build and test your own aircraft. (Ages 10-15; offered July 8-11, course number: YTH 610 30; and July 15-18 [YTH 610 31]; both sessions in Bedford)

Advanced Digital Photography – Learn about new photographers, digital artists and more sophisticated techniques. (Ages 12-17; offered July 29-Aug. 1 [YTH 762 30]; in Bedford)

Choreography – Dancers can explore a variety of styles of dance while learning how to use their own creative voice. (Ages 8-16; offered July 15-18 [YTH 756 30]; in Bedford)

Coding for Kids – Learn how to build simple games and explore the world of coding. (Ages 9-12; offered July 22-25 [YTH 691 30]; and Aug. 12-15 [YTH 691 31]; both sessions in Bedford)

Creative Sculpture – Combine engineering with art to create sculptures with recycled materials. (Ages 8-12; offered July 8-11 [YTH 749 30]; in Bedford)

Creative Writing – Develop your skills as an up-and-coming writer. (Ages 10-15; offered July 8-11 [YTH 755 30]; in Bedford)

Exploration Art Studio – A variety of art materials will be at your disposal to create what interests you! (Ages 8-12; offered July 15-18 [YTH 750 30]; in Bedford)

Fashion Design – Explore fashion tools and techniques, and develop your own style. (Ages 12-16; offered July 8-11 [YTH 614 80]; in Lowell)
MCC News

Posted May 15, 2019 at 10:14 AM

Middlesex Community College to offer summer programs

Enroll now for one of Middlesex Community College's four Summer Sessions, check out the extensive non credit programming or sign children up for one of the College for Kids programs. Summer enrollment is now open and it’s not too late to register.

College students home for the summer, recent high school graduates and adults returning to college to finish a degree can now enroll in a variety of day, evening and online courses offered in four summer sessions, running May 28 through Aug. 8:

• Summer QuickStart — May 28 to June 14 — accelerated, three-week session
• Summer Session 1 — May 28 to June 27 — five-week session
• Summer Session 2 — May 28 to July 24 — eight-week session
• Summer Session 3 — July 9 to Aug. 8 — five-week session

Take personal or professional enrichment courses this summer with MCC’s Community Education and Career Training Programs. The noncredit courses, offered online and on campus, are designed for individuals in various stages of life and career.

Keep children engaged and learning this summer with MCC’s College for Kids. Programs are designed to provide children with fun and challenging learning opportunities. College for Kids offers one- and three-week, full- and half-day summer programs for children and teens ages 8 to 17 running July 8 through Aug. 15 on the Bedford and Lowell campuses.

For information, call 800-818-3434 or visit http://middlesex.mass.edu/summer.
LOWELL — In recognition of their tremendous contributions to the Lowell Community Health Center and the community, the center on Monday celebrated the dedication of its Nancy L. and the late Richard K. Donahue Dental Center at 101 Jackson St. More than 75 invited guests, including the Donahue family, friends, and colleagues attended. The health center's new dental center opened over one year ago in March and has since served more than 3,500 patients, many of whom were able to access dental care for the first time.

Donahue was a major supporter of the capital campaign to renovate space for the dental center, an eye care center and expanded primary care at the Health Center. "Nancy, you make us smile," said center CEO Susan West Levine. "I never had the privilege of meeting Dick, but I certainly know of his generosity and his commitment to Lowell. You two truly comprised the Dynamic Duo."

"Thank you for all your contribution to arts. It helped changed and enhanced the quality of life," said Mayor William Samaras. "The city of Lowell is made up of many people. In order to be successful, you need a strong foundation and Nancy, you set the foundation of Lowell to be strong. Thank you and your entire family for giving so much to the community," said Rep. Thomas Golden.

After opening remarks, Donahue was regaled with a reading of "Ode to a Mighty Gal," which extolled her many contributions to the city. Reading the final stanza, West Levine said, "We really do think it's the most logical pick, to dedicate our dental center to Nancy and Dick." West Levine also announced the Health Center's new Caring for Lowell Fund, made possible with Donahue's support, which will allow medical assistants and other frontline staff at the health center to pursue their nursing degree at Middlesex Community College without taking on undue financial burden.

Said Donahue, "I feel very blessed to help someone who needed a leg up. It makes you want to cry when someone don't have adequate dental care. I can't imagine Lowell without Lowell Community Health Center. We feel very blessed to help." Family members and others then joined Donahue, West Levine, and Board Chair Bruce Robinson in unveiling the dental center signage, amid a flurry of confetti. A luncheon catered by UTEC followed the dedication. "When we first planned this dedication, we mentioned having a small, intimate gathering," said Robinson. "Well, small is a relative term, and there is no small way to say thank you."
AAC&U Announces Twenty Institutions in New Guided Pathways Project

Project Champions Student Learning, Career Preparation, and Completion
May 14, 2019

Washington, DC—The Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) announced today the twenty institutions selected to participate in a new two-year project, *Strengthening Guided Pathways and Career Success by Ensuring Students Are Learning*. The Guided Pathways project is designed to build institutional capacity to ensure students are learning. "AAC&U is thrilled to partner with the selected Guided Pathways institutions to promote student success and demonstrate the ways in which community colleges are vital to our nation’s strength—serving as engines of discovery, innovation, and social mobility," said AAC&U President Lynn Pasquerella.

As the leading national association focused on quality in undergraduate education, AAC&U, in collaboration with the Center for Community College Student Engagement at the University of Texas at Austin, will work with the twenty institutional participants to strengthen designs of project-based and applied learning experiences, and to assess student achievement of learning outcomes to advance equity and student success goals along guided pathways. The *Guided Pathways framework* is composed of four main practice areas: (1) mapping pathways to student end goals; (2) helping students choose and enter a program pathway; (3) keeping students on path; and (4) ensuring that students are learning.

The following institutions will participate in the project:

- Amarillo College
- Chattanoog State Community College
- Community College of Baltimore County Foundation, Inc.
- Crafton Hills College
- Finger Lakes Community College
- Houston Community College
- Indian River State College
- Kapi‘olani Community College
- Kilgore College
- Miami Dade College
- Middlesex Community College
- Monroe Community College
- Northeast Wisconsin Technical College
- Palo Alto College
- Salt Lake Community College
- San Antonio College
- San Jacinto College
- South Texas College
- St. Petersburg College
- Waubonsee Community College

Four additional institutions that responded to the call for proposals received honorable mentions:

- Community College of Philadelphia
- St. Philip’s College
- Stanly Community College
- SUNY Rockland Community College
‘Revival’ on display at Three Stones Gallery in Concord

“Through the Picket Fence,” discarded fabrics, 12 by 36 inches, by Merill Comeau. [ Courtesy Photo]

Posted May 13, 2019 at 11:20 AM
Updated May 13, 2019 at 1:34 PM

The new exhibition, “Revival,” will be on display through June 15, with an opening reception from 6 to 8 p.m. May 16, at Three Stones Gallery, 115 Commonwealth Ave., Concord.

“Revival” celebrates the return of spring light and colors and features floral works created from a variety of fabrics and mixed media by Concord artist Merill Comeau. Her work examines themes of decline, regeneration and bloom, creating a utopian Garden of Eden for tomorrow out of the refuse of today.

The new digital paintings of Iranian artist Afsoon Shahriari also focus on floral motifs. New ceramics by Yari Livan, a professor of ceramics at Middlesex Community College and workshop leader at the Lowell National Historic Park, jewelry by Lyca Blume and a variety of works by represented artists round out the show.

Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Fridays, noon to 6 p.m. Saturdays and noon to 3 p.m. Sundays.

For information: threestonesgallery.com.
COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES at Middlesex Community College, scheduled for May 23, could feature some signs about something other than wishing the grads good luck.

Upset at working without a contract since last June, full- and part-time faculty members, plus professional staff, recently voted “work to rule,” or, in other words, attend no extra-curricular events or meetings.

Faculty unions from community colleges across the state, all member of the Massachusetts Community College Council, also voted work-to-rule initiatives, according to Joanna Delmonaco, an MCC math professor and head of the local union.

Delmonaco said members aren't happy that contract negotiations are dragging on and voting work to rule, rank-and-file members said, was the best way to convey their unhappiness to state officials.

When asked by The Column last week if commencement exercises would be impacted, she said: “I think you'll see some visible signage at graduation.”

Supporting the statewide work-to-rule initiative, Delmonaco added, had zero to do with the union's recent vote of no confidence in MCC President James Mabry and Board of Trustees Chairman James Campbell.
WILMINGTON — It was evident from people who knew her that Kim Forte loved her Wilmington Wildcat community. When 'We’re One Wilmington.' or ‘WOW’ began it’s maiden voyage in 2010 as ‘Women of Wilmington,’ there was no doubt Forte “strengthened the community, one good deed at a time.”

Community involvement has rubbed off of several families in Wilmington through Kim’s memory. One of those families is the Zaya’s, who have been a part of WOW for a few years. “I think it’s very important, it’s nice to see the community out and see familiar faces and it’s all for a good cause: to give back,” said David Zaya, 42. “It’s a great organization that was set up for good things, and right now we need that. There are so many people that could use a little extra,” said Alison Zaya, 43.

That’s why David, Alison, and their two daughters, Isabella, 10, and Julia, 8, ran the ninth annual Kim Forte Memorial 5K on Sunday, to take a small step towards a larger goal, helping those in need. Isabella, who also plays youth soccer, has run the race three times. “I love soccer first of all, and I know that running helps with it, and it’s a good activity,” she says. Alison has run the race two times, which is a long way from how things were for her over a year ago.

“A year and a half ago, I couldn’t run a quarter mile, but [Isabella] was down here two years ago [on the Town Common] making posters for Special Olympics with her friend. Her friend convinced her to run this 5K, and she did it with no training, and that inspired me to run,” said Alison. David finished with a time of 31:29.1 Julia, who one day wants to run the Boston Marathon, finished with a time of 34:19.8. Isabella wasn’t too far behind at 34:24.3. Finally, Alison rounded out the foursome with a time of 37:08. But at the end of the day, it’s not about finishing a race with a good time. It is about contributing to a good cause.

Proceeds from the race go to scholarships in Kim Forte’s name to students attending Middlesex Community college, where Forte was a teacher. A small act of kindness like a scholarship can go a long way in furthering a student’s education, something Alison Zaya wants to be part of with ‘WOW.’ “They encourage small acts of kindness, and we can all do small acts of kindness in our lives,” said Alison.
Your Guide to the Hidden Side of Lowell!

Friday
May 10

10am-1pm

Centralville United Methodist Church
800 Bridge Street
Discover this Victorian Gothic structure (1891) including its rich collection of stained glass windows.

Christ Church United - New 2019
180 East Merrimack Street
This Gothic Revival church (1841-46) has served the needs of several congregations during its history including Christ Church United since 1969. Learn about the church's history and view its historic collection of stained glass windows including those by the renowned Connett Studio of Boston.

First United Baptist Church
99 Church Street
View the Greek Revival style First United Baptist Church (1826) that was the second church to be founded in Lowell.

12pm-8pm

Pollard Memorial Library
401 Merrimack Street
See the restored Richardsonian Romanesque Pollard Memorial Library (1892) and discover how the building continues to serve as Lowell's library today.

St. Patrick Church
282 Suffolk Street
Visit this Gothic Revival church (1853-1874) and learn more about the recent interior restoration project and how the church continues to serve Lowell's immigrant population today.

Mill No. 5
250 Jackson St
Appleton Mill No. 5 (1867) has been redeveloped into a blend of artists, independent retail, and theater space with an interior composed of salvaged historic buildings from throughout New England.

1pm-4pm

Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church
25 Fr. John Sarantos Way
Visit this Byzantine-style church (1955-1964) and discover its rich ornamentation including imported ceiling mosaics from Italy, iconography, and stained glass.

Tremont Yard
1 Tremont Place
Located beneath Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union, discover exposed historic subterranean powerhouse features that were the site of pioneering turbine experiments undertaken by famed engineer James B. Francis in 1855.

River Transformed Exhibit
Wannalancit Mill
Find out how engineers harnessed the powerhouse of the Merrimack River to drive Lowell's mills.

Frederick Ayer Mansion
357 Pawtucket Street
The former Frederick Ayer mansion (1876) is one of the most notable buildings in Lowell and also the former home of the Franco-American School. Discover this Second Empire style masterpiece and plans for its preservation and future reuse.
SUMMER DOESN'T HAVE TO BE A SUMMER:

Camp of Approval

MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOR KIDS
(www.middlesex.mass.edu/collegeforkids): One- and three-week, full- and half-day summer programs are available for children and teens ages 8-17 (July 8-Aug. 15) on the Bedford and Lowell campuses.

Topics include Culinary Arts, Aviation, Fashion Design, Science, Jewelry Design, Film Production, Art, Digital Photography, Choreography, Technology, Creative Writing, Veterinary Medicine and LegoMindstorms.
MCC committee finds Mabry met his goals

Faculty and staff’s vote of no confidence in the president will be noted in report to Trustees

By Aaron Curtis
acurtis@lowellsun.com

LOWELL — Though the Middlesex Community College Board of Trustees Leadership Evaluation Committee feels President James Mabry met the goals laid out for him as president last year, a vote by faculty and staff expressing doubt in his ability to lead remains a point of contention.

With that in mind, the Leadership Evaluation Committee decided they will include mention of the vote of no confidence when they bring forward their recommendations regarding the president to the full Board of Trustees next month.

Each year, the Board of Trustees sets goals and objectives for Mabry and at the end of the year he reports back to the Leadership Evaluation Committee on how he met them. On Monday, the committee met with Mabry to hear his annual report.

Mabry reviewed a list of objectives he said were addressed during 2018 to 2019, including working to maintain information technology infrastructure, working to help students with career exploration, the advancement of campus safety programs, and help provided to homeless and hungry students.

The committee will bring forward its recommendations to the full board which then votes and submits a final report to the state, Board of Trustees Chairman James Campbell said during a past interview with The Sun. He added that each year he has been on the board, there has been a recommendation that Mabry receive the maximum pay raise based on his own review.

Mabry was hired as president in December 2014.

"I think we are all saying, ‘Yes, he has met those goals, but the fact that there is no confidence vote has to be factored in,’" said committee member Cheryl Howard after Monday’s meeting was adjourned.

A majority of faculty and staff at the school voted earlier this year that they do not have confidence in Mabry’s ability to effectively lead MCC.

Morale among faculty and staff is at an all-time low, some respondents said. They stated the college has become a top-down institution where decisions are made by executive leaders regardless of concerns from faculty and staff.

It was decided during Monday’s meeting that Howard would write a statement to the board that shows the goals and objectives set for Mabry were met for 2018-2019. However, that would not be enough.

Howard pointed out a no confidence vote is unusual, and this was the first time it has ever happened at MCC.

"Somehow that has to be reflected on what happened this year," Howard said.

During the meeting, it was suggested that, in the future, Mabry work more collaboratively with faculty and staff and the MCC union to address issues. It was also suggested these groups will have more input on goals and objectives.

Union President Joanna DelMonaco, who was in attendance during Monday’s meeting, said she believes upper management should be subject to a 360-degree review, a common human-resources practice that allows input from all levels of an organization.

DelMonaco stressed after Monday’s meeting a need for a more firm stance by the trustees in the development of future goals and objectives set for Mabry.

She added the goals listed by the president on Monday involved operational goals and a “laundry list” of objectives that were accomplished by the institution as a whole. DelMonaco expressed a need for Mabry to create “visionary goals” with a layout of what actions he would take to reach those goals.

As for the impact the no confidence vote, DelMonaco pointed out she is unsure of its outcome.

“It’s so unprecedented,” she said. “Especially here. In 50 years it has never happened. We are not sure what the steps are. We don’t know what could happen. We are just seeing it through.”
Five things to do in Bedford this week

By Margaret Smith
msmith@wickedlocal.com

Posted May 6, 2019 at 3:43 PM
Updated May 6, 2019 at 3:43 PM

1 GATORS FUNDRAISER Flattbread Company, 213 Burlington Road, Bedford, May 14, 5-9 p.m. Gators Volleyball Club annual fundraiser night. More info: see Facebook events page.

2 PHOTO GROUP First Parish Church, 75 Great Road, Bedford, May 14, 6:45 p.m. Free. The Bedford Center for the Arts Photo Group Speaker Series will continue with photographer and curator Karin Rosenthal, speaking on “Journeying within the Human Landscape.” More info: bcaphoto.org.

3 FOOD PANTRY DRIVE Middlesex Community College, 591 Springs Road, Bedford, May 15, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Food pantry drive sponsored by Middlesex Community College. More info: see Facebook events page.


5 PETTING ZOO Chip-In Farm, 201 Hartwell Road, Bedford. Chip-In Farm petting zoo is open year-round. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Store with farm-fresh produce available. More info: chipinfarm.com.
QUINCY — A college ranking system run by the U.S. Department of Education has ranked Quincy College students as top post-graduation salary earners as compared to the state’s other two-year colleges.

Of the 14 community colleges ranked by College Scorecard, Quincy College was ranked No.1 in the “salary after attending” category. The results showed the average Quincy College student makes $41,800 out of college, followed by Massachusetts Bay Community College at $40,000 and Middlesex Community College at $35,400.

The College Scorecard compares schools across the country in the areas of cost, graduation rate, employment rate, average amount borrowed and loan default rate. It was launched by the federal government in 2015.

“Our academic programs – mixing the best of hands-on and classroom education – are designed to produce skillful graduates who are leaders and innovators,” Quincy College President Michael Bellotti said in a statement.

Bellotti attributed the school’s high post-graduate salaries to Quincy College’s focus on emerging industries like biotechnology, surgical technology and allied health fields.

“We continue to invest in our students as they invest in their education and are pleased to see that our efforts are paying off,” he said.

Quincy College is owned by the city, an unusual arrangement for a community college. The city budget does not fund the college, but the school is a city department and its workers are city employees and are represented by the Quincy teachers’ union.
From war-torn Iraq to a college degree at MCC for Thaher
**Best Bets / Listings**

**What's Happening**

**Live Music**


- **Butler Middle School** — 1140 Gorham St., Lowell. Around the World in 80 Minutes: Spring Pops Concert, Sat., May 4, 2 p.m., performed by Lowell Philharmonic Orchestra, $10/$8/$5.


- **Chelmsford Center for the Arts** — 1 North Road. Elle Paul, singer-songwriter, Fri., May 3, 8 p.m.

- **First Congregational Church** — 3 Main St., Pelham, N.H. Spring Concert at the Church; Sun., May 5, 4 p.m., featuring Shine Delphi, Spur of the Moment and Grace Mahar; $20 before May 5, $25 day of show, $10 students, any donation for 65 and older, 12 and under free; meet-and-greet after concert, 9 a.m.-noon; 603-635-1025.

- **Hampton Beach Casino** — 169 Ocean Blvd., Hampton, N.H. Black Label Society, rock, Thur., May 9, 7:30 p.m., $35. Whitesnake, rock, Fri., May 10, 8 p.m., $120. Chase Rice, country, Sat., May 11, 8 p.m., $43.

- **Hansover Theatre** — 2 Southbridge St., Worcester. Foreigner, classic rock, Thu., May 9, 8 p.m., $45-$95. Chris Botti, jazz, Fri., May 10, 8 p.m., $39.50-$69.50.

- **Hearing Room** — 119 Chelmsford St., Lowell. Alya the Turkish Queen Band and Petridisc, Sat., May 11, 7 p.m.

- **Lowell Memorial Auditorium** — 50 East Merrimack St. Piano Men: The Music of Elton and Billy, Wed., May 8, 8 p.m., spring fundraiser for Middlesex Community College.


- **Trinity Lutheran Church** — 170 Old Westford Road, Chelmsford. The Seven C’s Spring Concert; Sun., May 5, 3:30 p.m.


- **United Methodist Church** — 10 Church St., Westford. The Seven C’s Spring Concert, Sat., May 4, 7:30 p.m.


**Schools**

- **Middlesex Community College — Bedford Campus** — Café East, 591 Springs Road. Music for Classical Guitars and Violins, Fri., May 10, 8 p.m., free.

- **Northern Essex Community College — Nurse Assistant Training** — six-week course, May 20-June 28, July & Aug. 16; 978-659-1273, ntario@necc.mass.edu.
LOWELL -- Middlesex Community College will host a free screening of the 2019 Academy Award-winning movie "If Beale Street Could Talk," today at 3 p.m., followed at 5 p.m., by a panel discussion on criminal-justice reform in the Academic Arts Center Theatre, 240 Central St., on the Lowell campus.

The panel discussion on criminal-justice reform following the screening will feature: Mona Igram, youth advocacy division attorney in charge of the Committee for Public Counsel Services; Radha Natarajan, executive director of the New England Innocence Project; and Fred Clay, a Lowell resident who was wrongfully incarcerated for 38 years.

Email student engagement@middlesex.mass.edu.

Read more: http://www.lowellsun.com/mysun/ci_32604343/mcc-film-screening-panel-talk-tonight#ixzz5nuCjGb7Q
Billerica education achievers

Posted Apr 29, 2019 at 12:33 PM   Updated Apr 29, 2019 at 12:33 PM

Assumption College

Alyssa Cunha, of Billerica, Class of 2019 at Assumption College in Worcester, was named to the Philosophy International Honor Society, Phi Sigma Tau. Cunha, was inducted into the honor society on Wednesday, April 24.

Meghan Sampson, of North Billerica, Class of 2019 at Assumption College in Worcester, was inducted into the Psychology National Honor Society, Psi Chi.

Salem State University

Kaela Hanlon, of North Billerica, a freshman at Salem State University, was inducted into the Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society for being a first-year student achieving a GPA of 3.6 or higher.

Middlesex Community College

The following Billerica students were awarded scholarships from the Middlesex Community College Foundation during a ceremony on the college campus in Bedford: Josephina Kolpachnikof, Aradhya-Beauchemin Arts Scholarship and New England Woodcarvers Scholarship; Lauren Norman, MCC Foundation Merit Award for Part-Time Students; and Kyle Phillips, Ray Shea Memorial Scholarship for International Studies.

UMass Amherst

The following Billerica students earned bachelor's degrees from UMass Amherst: Laura Anne Batton, Timothy R. Herrick, Hannah Shin Jin and Paul Francis Kirchner.

Nichols College

Sabrina Boermeester, of Billerica, a senior accounting major, received an Honors Scholar certificate from Nichols College in Dudley honored on April 23.
From arts to education to faith, 'Lowell 100' honorees have always reached out

By Amaris Castillo, acastillo@lowellsun.com
Updated: 04/29/2019 08:36:20 AM EDT

LOWELL — The air inside the basement hall was warm and smelled of potatoes, farmer's cheese, and onions. From her position at the end of a long table, Pauline Golec scooped up the filling of Polish pierogies and helped mold them into neat balls. It was Thursday morning at Holy Trinity Polish Church's parish center on High Street and Golec and other volunteers were preparing Polish dumplings for the church's annual Polish Food Festival. The event will be held at the center on May 18. Golec, of Dracut, and others seated at the table talked about anything and everything. There were a few men in the room, but women dominated the space. Several volunteers said mostly everyone there had a connection to Poland, whether directly or through their ancestry.

Pauline Golec of Dracut, standing, joins women making pierogies, Polish dumplings, on Thursday at Holy Trinity Polish Church's parish center in Lowell. She's among those named to the "Lowell 100," a group of individuals being honored Wednesday evening by the International Institute of New England at Lowell Memorial Auditorium. (SUN/Amaris Castillo) "It makes me feel happy," Golec said of contributing to the festival. "In some way, it's a connection to my parents, to my grandparents, to the tradition that I come from."
This is just one facet of Golec's decades-long contribution to the city of Lowell. The retired teacher helped found the Lowell Polish Cultural Committee in 1981 and currently chairs the Lowell Festival Foundation Scholarship Committee, which awards scholarships that acknowledge the contributions of the ethnic-food providers at the Lowell Folk Festival. Just the day prior, Golec was at the Tsongas Industrial History Center, teaching fourth-graders about the immigrant experience through a program called "Yankees and Immigrants."

Because of her work, Golec has been named one of the "Lowell 100" — a group of individuals being honored Wednesday evening by the International Institute of New England at Lowell Memorial Auditorium. The International Institute sought nominations from the community of individuals who have championed refugees and immigrants in Lowell. "I am honored and humbled," Golec said. "I'm accepting this honor on behalf of so many fine folks that I've worked with either in the Polish community or at the Folk Festival." According to IINE President and CEO Jeff Thielman, this is a first for the International Institute. "We want to celebrate our 100th anniversary and we want to do it in a way that thanks the city of Lowell for being so welcoming to immigrants and refugees," he said.

A group of women from Lowell and the surrounding area founded the International Institute in 1918. "I think the International Institute of New England is a sort of lifeline for refugees arriving in this city," said Emma Tobin, the IINE's Lowell program director & director of research initiatives and impact assessment. "For many, many families who arrive here, we're literally the first people they meet in the United States when they get off an airplane."

Tobin said the International Institute offers many services for newly arrived refugees and immigrants, including helping with resettlement for refugees through the United States Refugee Admissions Program. According to Thielman, the honorees making up the Lowell 100 (some of whom are deceased) all have a way of welcoming people from all over the world to Lowell. Among them are arts & culture leaders, civic leaders, and revitalization leaders. "They themselves, in many cases, have been foreign-born people who have made a difference in the community," Thielman said of the honorees.

Gordon Halm, executive director of the African Community Center of Lowell, is one such honoree.

Anna Szczechura, 86, of Dracut, works on pierogies with other women last Thursday at Holy Trinity Polish Church's parish center in Lowell. Szczechura and her husband, Theodore, were named two of the "Lowell 100." Born and raised in Winneba, Ghana, Halm founded the African Festival in Lowell back in 2000. He also worked for several years for the International Institute, helping newly arrived immigrants. The Dracut resident said he was very moved upon hearing that he had been selected. "I was very, very humbled because I know greater people have come ahead of me and done hard work, I would say," Halm said last Tuesday from his office in Lowell. "For me to be part of them and among the chosen few, I was very humbled."

Another honoree is Safeena Niazi, a Lowell resident who is originally from Afghanistan. Niazi, 35, works as an interpreter for the International Institute and dreams of working in human resources. She didn't expect the honor. "I'm really excited," she said. Maria Cunha, a program director at Middlesex Community College, is
another Lowell 100 honoree. Her family immigrated to Lowell's Back Central Portuguese neighborhood from the Azores in the late 1960s and she served as an IIINE case worker for more than a decade. Cunha said she was honored to be recognized, but wanted to acknowledge others who she said made it possible for her to do this work, including her parents. "Having worked there and knowing the work that they do is amazing," Cunha said. "One hundred years and they're still serving immigrants in the city. Hopefully folks will take advantage of their services."

Back at the Holy Trinity Polish Church's parish center, Dracut resident Anna Szczechura was folding pieces of dough over the pierogi fillings. Her husband, Theodore, couldn't join her because he was at home sick. Both were nominated by Golec to be part of the Lowell 100. For years, the couple has worked to serve both the Polish community of Lowell and the community at large, according to a bio from the International Institute. Anna is a former volunteer of IIINE. Asked how she felt about being in the Lowell 100, the 86-year-old Szczechura said she was naturally honored. "But I don't know... I feel that there are probably other people that would have been better chosen," said Szczechura, chuckling slightly. "But it is what it is, and I have to accept it."

**** The 'Lowell 100' - there for immigrants and refugees ****

Here are the local community advocates named to the "Lowell 100," all of whom have championed refugees and immigrants in Lowell. They will be honored Wednesday evening by the International Institute of New England at Lowell Memorial Auditorium.

**ARTS and CULTURE LEADERS:**
Sara Bogosian, Tim Chan Thou, Mico Kaufman, Yary Livian, Mary Sampas, Dahvy Tran Pech, Eleni Zohdi

**CIVIC LEADERS:**
Michael Ben Ho, Tem Chea, Vanna Howard, The Howe Family, Joe Hungler, John J. Janas, The Jeknavorian Family, Bowa Tucker, Tooch Van

**EDUCATION LEADERS:**
Frederick Abisi, Mario Aste, Dalia Calvo, Elise Cox Martin, Maria Cuesta, Maria Cunha, Victoria Estfan, Robert Forrant, Adriana Giraldo, Sue Kim, Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney, Fannie Moore, Paul J. and Molly Sheehy, Lura Smith, Ardeth Thawngmhung, George Tsapatsaris, Maria Vejar

**FAITH LEADERS:**

**HEALTH and WELLNESS LEADERS:**
Mercy Anampiu, Dorcas Grigg-Saito, Kowith Kret and Niem Naykret, Sheila Och, Toy Vongpheth

**REVITALIZATION LEADERS:**

**SOCIAL JUSTICE LEADERS:**
James Aung, Judge Jay Blitzman, Amrith Fernandes Prabhu, John Levy, Edith Nourse Rogers, Hai Ba and Lan Tuyet Pho, Sovanna Pouv, Maria L. Santos, Beatriz Sierra

**WELCOMING and INCLUSION LEADERS:**
Farouq Ali and Nawal Thyab, Andrew Ansara, Gordon Halm, Katharine Johnson, Biar Kon, Jit Magar, Richard Makokha, Lydia Mattei, Nadode "Alphonsine" Mukanyarwaya, Safeena Niazi, Benjamin T. Opara, Gladys Picanso, Lucy Rivera

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MCC pulls curtain on Celebrity Forum
Tribute concert is new fundraiser

By Jon Winkler
jwinkler@nashobavalleyvoice.com

LOWELL — After 20 years of hosting the likes of Red Sox alumni David Ortiz and Hollywood legend Robert Redford for a chat to raise money for scholarships, Middlesex Community College is changing things up.

The college is no longer hosting its annual Celebrity Forum starting this year. Instead, the college is hosting "Piano Men: The Music of Elton & Billy" as its annual spring fundraiser on May 8 at the Lowell Memorial Auditorium. The new tribute concert will pay homage to Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductees Elton John and Billy Joel with the help of Curtis, star of the 1978 horror classic "Halloween," documentary filmmaker Ken Burns and former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani, now attorney to President Donald Trump.

Judy Burke, executive director of institutional advancement for the school, said on Friday that the change in events was meant to "refocus" the annual spring fundraiser.

"We're looking to generate as much money as possible for student support," she added. "We've had 20 years with the old forum and this is a way of transferring one method to another. Like anything else, you want to do something different."

When asked how much the school was looking to raise this year, Bur said the school has an "internal goal" in mind that she was "not at liberty to talk about." She added that the school has given out over 140 scholarships totaling $350,000 since 2004.

Tickets are still available for "Piano Men," priced at between $30 to $50, and can be purchased by calling 1-800-514-3849.
Lowell students get reality check at JDCU seminar

The Lowell Sun
Updated: 04/28/2019 06:35:45 AM EDT

LOWELL -- More than 350 students from Lowell High School and Lowell Middlesex Academy Charter School got quite the reality check at Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union's ninth annual MoneyStrong for Life Fair, held recently at the Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell.

During the fair, students role-played themselves at age 25 and were tasked with making real-life financial decisions to successfully manage their income, savings, credit cards and the high cost of self-supporting.

"The MoneyStrong For Life Fair is a valuable event that teaches students about the financial decisions they will have to make and responsibilities they will have as adults," said Mark S. Cochran, president and CEO of Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union. "Knowledge and preparation is key to ensuring these students are well-equipped to handle all that's to come in their futures."

Students chose their desired profession and were assigned a realistic income, along with credit-card debt, a savings account and student-loan debt. Aspiring police officers, veterinarians, writers, choreographers, medical assistants, engineers and more moved from booth to booth, making spending decisions on life essentials while managing a budget based on their monthly income.

At each of the 13 booths, students had to make choices, like which insurance plan would be best, if they should purchase a car or opt for a bus pass, how much they should spend on clothes and furniture, what kind of apartment they should live in, and whether to have roommates, all while weighing the delicate balance of needs vs. wants to ensure that their decisions fit into their budget. They were also assigned a credit score and learned what they could do to raise it.

Students were tempted by high-cost items at the "Luxury" booth, including cellphone plans and cable and internet packages, and unexpected scenarios at the "Reality Check" booth.

Some students lost their jobs, had babies, adopted a pet or got a speeding ticket. They then had to determine how to cope with those scenarios based on the cash and credit available to them.

As the final step, all students were required to visit the "Counseling" booth, where they discovered whether they were living within their budgets. Some students had to make changes to their lifestyle when it was revealed they were spending more money than they were earning.

More than 70 people, the majority of whom are employees of Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union, volunteered to manage the booths and assist students in their decision-making process. Representatives from Lowell General Hospital, MAPFRE Insurance, Girls Inc., Stanton Insurance and Middlesex Community College also volunteered.
Getting more state money a theme at MCC trustees meeting

PUTTING PRESSURE on state legislators to devote more money to public higher education was a common theme at Middlesex Community College Board of Trustees meetings this past week.

At the full board meeting on Thursday, former Sun Editor and newly minted MCC Trustee James Campanini suggested community college trustees from around the state should "descend on Beacon Hill."

I had also come up before that at the board's Finance Subcommittee meeting on Tuesday, during a discussion about how to fund necessary facility and program investments. "You can't have dental labs that have dental equipment from 1976," said Trustee Laurie Elliott.

"You just can't keep putting it on the backs of the students," said Trustee Annie O'Connor. "We have to make some cuts."

"Well where else are you going to put it? Want to talk to Dave Nangle? Talk to Dave," Elliott said, referring to the state representative, who is O'Connor's cousin.

"Dave Nangle and the representatives do a lot for the schools here," O'Connor said.

"Not according to that," Elliott said, pointing to the budget presentation that showed years of flat state appropriations for the college.

"I think they do plenty, but that's a different discussion," O'Connor said, asking if they could move onto the veto for the 2020 budget while Elliott continued speaking.

"I'm not talking about him individually. I'm talking about the state overall," Elliott said. "We just heard that the state of Massachusetts invests 50 percent less than the rest of the states in higher education. So I don't know how you can make that claim, because that's just not what the statistics bear out."

"Calling for a vote?" O'Connor said, clearly done with the conversation, but the board continued its discussion.
Community college clout only road to fiscal health

The Lowell Sun
Updated: 04/27/2019 06:36:03 AM EDT

Caught between a rock and a hard place. That's what Middlesex Community College President James Mabry, Board of Trustees Chairman James Campbell, and the majority of the trustees essentially said guided their decision to approve a fiscal 2020 budget that includes a 2 percent fee increase for students and reduces operating expenses by 3 percent.

The board took that course instead of a previously proposed 5 percent fee hike that would have placed the entire financial responsibility on students, rather than spreading the pain around. That initial idea was vehemently opposed by members of the faculty union, many of whom attended Thursday's meeting on the Bedford campus.

Mabry defended the fee increase and cuts as the only way to keep college programs up-to-date and relevant. He blames decreases in state funding for the necessity to put an increasing financial burden on students.

Mabry cited figures that indicate per-pupil funding has declined by 30 percent in Massachusetts over the last 15 years, and that the state's public higher education funding is 50 percent below the national average.

But to student representative Bridget Byrne, who cast one of the three votes against raising fees, even a 2 percent hike is "too much too soon." Last year, she said, a fee increase averaged 24 percent for most students.

And all this comes in a time of declining enrollment state community colleges.

Absent exploiting other creative ways to generate funds or trim costs, community colleges should use their collective clout to demand more state resources. They could start by convincing lawmakers in their districts to get behind that effort.

The alternative undoubtedly means even more painful fee or tuition increases, which likely will discourage that shrinking pool of potential students from taking the community college route.
MCC board OKs 2% fee hike, 3% cut in expenses

By Alana Melanson
amelanson@lowellsun.com

BEDFORD — The Middlesex Community College Board of Trustees on Thursday approved a fiscal 2020 spending plan that imposes a 2 percent fee increase for students and reduces operating expenses by 3 percent.

The decision was a compromise from the original 5 percent fee increase proposal that sparked outcry earlier in the week. The 2 percent increase will translate to an increase of $5 per credit for students.

Members of the faculty union were among the two dozen or so present for the meeting, which was moved from the Trustees House to Café East to accommodate the expected increased attendance. They held colorful signs with such messages as “Support students not fee increases” and “Keep Middlesex affordable.”

The board voted 8-3 to approve the amended

MCC fee hike approved

MCC/From Page 1

plan, with Trustees Linda Banks-Santilli, Anne O’Connor and student representative Bridget Byrne in opposition.

Board of Trustees Chairman James Campbell said they looked at what other colleges throughout the state are doing, including UMass, which is recommending a 2.5 percent increase.

“We also decided to take a look at the consumer (price) index, and have decided to come forward this morning with a motion that we feel is necessary to keep the college operating for the coming year,” he said.

Campbell commended Trustees Laurie Elliott and Charyl Howard for contributing to the new proposal.

Among those trustees who voted for the fee increase was the board’s newest member, James Campanini, The Sun’s former editor.

Campanini said he thought the new plan was a “prudent, reasonable approach” and commended the administration for listening to the growing sentiment that the 5 percent increase was untenable.

But for students who are still reeling from the impact of last year’s fee increases — which averaged 24 percent for most students, with some experiencing much higher — even 2 percent is “too much too soon,” Byrne said.

She said she wanted to see a more creative approach to filling the funding gap, such as obtaining revenue from renting out the new arts center.

“I think that the students would appreciate it if more alternatives were given besides fees were to be increased,” Byrne said.

MCC President James Mabry said he appreciates Byrne’s position, but that the college is “caught in the middle” between a state that is disinvesting in higher education and students who are being expected to pay more.

Citing recent reports, Mabry said per pupil funding has declined by 30 percent in Massachusetts over the last 15 years, and the state’s public higher education funding is 50 percent below the national average, with the most impact being felt by community colleges. As a result, MCC has had to become more creative about how it uses its resources, he said.

“If we do not maintain our fund balances, if we do not maintain the campuses, we will see the college rundown. If we don’t invest in new technologies and new labs, we will be bringing students into third-class facilities,” Mabry said.

“We’re trying to maintain our excellence and our reputation. We’re trying to trim costs wherever we can, and this is an ongoing wresting match that we are engaged in every year with the budget,” Campanini said.

Campanini suggested the trustees of all of the 15 community colleges across the state unite to leverage their collective power and expertise and “descend on Beacon Hill.”

“The students have enough to worry about, studying and going to work and everything else,” he said.

“It should be up to us to put our pressure on the legislators.”

“Imagine 50 trustees of community colleges on Beacon Hill en masse,” said Trustee Cheryl Howard. “I think that is an awesome idea.”

The 3 percent reduction equates to a $945,000 spending cut in the $75 million operating budget.

Howard asked that reductions be made in an inclusive process, “not top-down, but one that involves faculty and staff, and how they think expenses can be reduced.”

Faculty union President Joanna DelMonaco said she expects full-time faculty will not be cut, but there may be further reductions in part-time faculty, especially given declining enrollment.

Follow Alana Melanson at facebook.com/alanam.elsan or on Twitter @elanamelanson.
Five things to do in Bedford this week

By Margaret Smith
msmith@wickedlocal.com

Posted Apr 26, 2019 at 5:31 PM
Updated Apr 26, 2019 at 5:31 PM


2 BEACH CLEANUP Hampton Beach, New Hampshire, May 4, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Middlesex Community College hosts community service project beach cleanup. More info: see Facebook events page.


5 OPIOID PRESENTATION Middlesex Community College, Bedford Campus, 591 Springs Road, Bedford, May 7, 2-4 p.m. M. I. L. E. S. program and Middlesex Community College presentation and workshop on the opioid epidemic. Presenter: Edward Alessi. $15. Sign up at 978-692-5523.
CAMBRIDGE
JUNE 8-9
Boston Dragon Boat Festival

STAFF PICK Teams of 24 members paddle in 39-foot Hong Kong-style dragon boats in a race down the Charles River; festival also includes performances from Asian cultures, food, arts and crafts and more.

ON GOING

‘Cry It Out’
This comedy describes a friendship between two new moms on maternity leave for the first time, and the struggles that come with being home with a baby, returning to work and class impacts; performances through May 19. Merrimack Repertory Theatre, Lowell. 978-654-4678; mrt.org.

MAY 4
Mural Mile Race & Mural Market
This is a celebration of art and athleticism that includes a road race, a kids’ 200-meter dash, an awards ceremony, various vendors, yoga, Zumba, music, art and much more. 9 a.m. Downtown Common, Framingham. downtowndowntownframinghamnc.org.

MAY 4
Healthy Kids Day
Get active at this free event with family activities and games throughout the morning encouraging children to learn healthier habits. 10 a.m. Greater Lowell Family YMCA, Lowell. 978-454-7825; greaterlowellymca.org.

MAY 4
‘Music from the Movies’
Relive some of your favorite film moments while experiencing the famous movie scores of composer John Williams as performed by the Lexington Symphony Orchestra. 7:30 p.m. Cary Hall, Lexington. 781-523-9005; lexingtonsymphony.org.

MAY 5
Birds and Breakfast
Bird lovers can flock to this family-friendly event, which includes guided bird walks, followed by a homemade pancake breakfast at the nature center. 7 a.m.-noon. Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary, Natick. 508-655-2296; massaudubon.org.

MAY 6
‘Piano Men: The Music of Elton & Billy’
Middlesex Community College presents the hit music of Elton John and Billy Joel, performed by a four-piece pop group accompanied by a 30-piece student orchestra. 8 p.m. Lowell Memorial Auditorium. 978-937-8688; lowellauditorium.com.

MAY 9
Mother’s Day Sip and Shop
Shop from over 30 local crafters and vendors while you enjoy appetizers, entertainment, raffles and cocktails in honor of Mother’s Day. 6 p.m. Princeton Station, Chelmsford. eventsbyhebe@butterfliesisters@gmail.com; eventbrite.com.

MAY 11
‘Exploring Science Together: Marine Life’
Explore the mysteries of the ocean by seeing and touching live aquatic animals and creating a “dive log” to document your findings. 10:30 a.m. Harvard Museum of Natural History, Cambridge. 617-495-3045; hmnh.harvard.edu.

MAY 11
Somerville PorchFest
Wander through the neighborhood of Somerville while enjoying a diverse array of local musical talent performing from porches. Noon-6 p.m. 617-625-8600, ext. 2985; somervillearts.com.

MAY 11
Zootopia
Be prepared for a wild time at this gala with a cocktail reception, auction, dinner, dancing and a chance to meet some of Zoo New England’s animal ambassadors. 6 p.m. Royal Sonesta Boston Hotel, Cambridge. 617-379-5190; zoonewengland.org.

MAY 12
‘The Music of the Beatles for Kids’
At this Beatles-themed music class, kids can move, dance and play to the classic tunes of the Fab Four as an introduction to the world of rock ‘n’ roll. Noon. The Sinclair, Cambridge. 617-547-5200; thereckoncom.</p>
MCC NEWS

Middlesex Community College awards foundation scholarships

The Middlesex Community College Foundation recently awarded 62 scholarships totaling $65,100 to 40 Middlesex students for the 2018-19 academic year in a ceremony on the Bedford campus. The scholarships range from $500 to $4,000 and are funded by various sources, including memorial donations, local businesses, private foundations and private donors.

“The MCC Foundation is pleased to recognize these talented and hardworking students, as well as the generous commitment of our donors,” said Sherri McCormack, dean of College Advancement. “We are delighted to provide financial assistance that helps our students achieve their dreams.”

For information, contact Amy C. Lee, director of Annual Giving & Alumni Relations, at 978-656-3028 or lee@middlesex.mass.edu or visit http://bit.ly/2YF4Fva.

Middlesex Community College concert series to conclude May 10

A World of Music, Middlesex Community College’s 2019 spring concert series will conclude with “Music for Classical Guitars and Violin,” an evening of music from Spain, Latin America and the U.S., at 8 p.m. May 10 in the MCC Concert Hall, Building 6, on the Bedford campus, 391 Springs Road. MCC faculty member Ealey Beggs, on guitar, will be joined by guitarist Adam Levin and violinist William Knuth, who also perform as Duo Sonidos, to perform works by Leo Brouwer, Eduardo Morris-Caso, Lucas Foss, Joaquin Rodrigo, Manuel Ponce and George Gershwin. Beggs performs widely throughout the Greater Boston Area as a soloist and chamber musician, with a focus on community engagement established during a recent fellowship with the Community Performances and Partnerships Program at New England Conservatory. As a member of Duo Sonidos, Knuth has performed throughout the U.S., Europe, Africa and South America. In 2010, Knuth and Levin released their debut album, “Duo Sonidos,” and subsequently were awarded first prize at the 2010 Luigi Milan International Chamber Music Competition in Valencia, Spain. Levine has been praised for his “visceral and imaginative performances” by the Washington Post. He has performed across the U.S. and in Europe.

Admission is free and open to the public.

For information, contact Carmen Rodriguez-Peralta, director of A World of Music, at 781-280-3423 or peralta@middlex.mass.edu.

For directions to campus, visit http://bit.ly/2KpqYVL.
Middlesex Community College awards foundation scholarships
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Mixed feelings on fee increase at MCC

By Alana Melanson
amelanson@lowellsun.com

LOWELL — A year after Middlesex Community College significantly raised fees, another fee increase may be on the horizon.

At the Board of Trustees Finance Subcommittee meeting Tuesday afternoon, MCC Executive Director of Finance/Chief Financial Officer Frank Nocella laid out plans for a 5 percent increase in student fees in fiscal 2020.

“We’re forced to, if we want to maintain our facilities, keep our faculty ratios, invest in technology and really make this a great place to come,” said MCC President James Mabry.

The proposed increase follows a 9 percent college fee increase last year and other specialty fee increases that amounted to an overall 8.4 percent increase in fees.

Nocella said the individual student impact of last year’s complete fee restructuring varied from 6 percent to 36 percent depending upon the courses taken. The faculty union has argued the impact was more severe for some students.

Mabry said the jump was more pronounced last year because the college hadn’t adequately increased technology and facilities fees to meet its needs for many years.

“We understand the impact that that had last year and we’re looking at much more modest increases this year,” Mabry said. “But every year we don’t increase, we end up in the red.”

Student representative Bridget Byrne asked the trustees to carefully consider the fee increases because they will negatively impact students. She said students who attend full-time are a bonus.

Fees/From Page 1
likely to be working, and therefore less likely to be able to account for the cost increase. Students may decide to take smaller class loads as a result, meaning they will be in school longer than they expected and end up paying more fees in the long run, Byrne said.

The committee ultimately voted 2-1 to approve the proposed budget, with board Chairman James Campbell and Laurie Elliott in favor and Annie O’Connor opposed. The full Board of Trustees is set to vote on the budget and proposed fee structure at its Thursday morning meeting on the Bedford campus.

Ad Hoc Committee
Earlier Tuesday afternoon, the Ad Hoc Committee met to discuss the latest in efforts to address faculty concerns about Mabry’s leadership.

Trustee Cheryl Howard outlined a draft action plan with specific items that could be undertaken over the next six months. Among the items proposed:

- The Presidental Evaluation Committee will immediately include input from faculty, staff and student leadership in Mabry’s current evaluation process, and will identify a consultant firm to conduct a 360-degree comprehensive review to be shared in October.
- Mabry will also develop a plan for feedback in planning the future of MCC, and begin an inclusive process for strategic planning for 2021-2026.
- Mabry will provide regular updates to trustees on progress on the outlined goals, at all scheduled board meetings beginning in May.
- Faculty union President Joanne DeMonaco said she thought the items captured a lot of the concerns she brought forward, but the situation needs more than just a checklist and the outcomes need to be measurable.

“Staff and faculty at this institution, we really do feel that we need a bold, innovative and forward-thinking leader.”

At this time, at this institution, we really do feel that we need a bold, innovative and forward-thinking leader,” DeMonaco said.

Mabry said he’s worked hard toward meeting the goals and objectives the trustees have set for him. Though the board did have specific goals regarding STEM, he said there has continued to be advancements in those areas and overall improvements.

Trustee Kathleen Pflaum said she’s learned from this exercise that the annual goals the board sets for the president don’t always align with what they’ve heard from faculty in recent months, and believes trustees need to take a more active role in shaping and helping the president execute the vision for the college.

Howard agreed, and said she thinks the trustees should make clear what they’ve learned to revise how the goals for the president and the college are formulated each year.

Faculty union President Joanne DeMonaco
MCC on course for ‘best’ interests

By Alana Molanson
amelanson@lowellsun.com

LOWELL — The Middlesex Community College Board of Trustees Ad Hoc Committee will meet again today, the first of three important college meetings to be held this week.

Board of Trustees Chairman James Campbell said the purpose of the committee is to foster better communication and cooperation with the faculty union, and that’s what it is working toward.

"I think everyone involved, that’s their goal," he said.

"There have been a lot of wonderful things that have happened over the years but in particular during President Mabry’s administration, that happened with cooperation of the faculty, and we want to get back on that track. That’s our goal and I think that’s achievable."

Faculty union President Joanna Del Monaco said the union is looking for an action plan with tangible deliverables and a timeline.

"It’s not personal. It’s about the best interests of Middlesex, and we need leadership," she said. "It’s about the position, and whether they’re able to properly lead and conduct themselves."

When the Ad Hoc Committee last met on March 29, Campbell said they identified some key areas of faculty discontent with Mabry’s administration:

■ lack of vision for the future of the college;
■ ineffectual outreach to state representatives;
■ inability to develop strategic partnerships that support MCC strengths in STEM;
■ inability to engage in comprehensive.

Directly following the Ad Hoc Committee meeting Tuesday afternoon, the Board of Trustees Finance Subcommittee will get its first look at MCC’s fiscal 2020 budget, including an interim revenue and spending plan presentation and proposed fee structure.

Last year, the board approved a 9 percent tuition and fee increase — which has also been a point of contention with the faculty union. According to Del Monaco, the increase was substantially higher for some students, especially those taking courses with lab and software fees.

"It would take a very compelling argument to vote for an increase in fees at this time," Campbell said.

On Thursday morning, the full Board of Trustees is expected to take its vote on the financial items.

That Thursday meeting will also be the first for newly appointed trustee and former Sun Editor James Campanini, who replaced Stephanie Cronin at the end of her five-year term.

The Ad Hoc Committee will meet on the Lowell campus at 2 p.m. Tuesday, followed by the Finance Subcommittee at 3:30 p.m. The full Board of Trustees will meet on the Bedford campus at 8 a.m. Thursday.

Follow Alana Molanson at facebook.com/alana.lowellsun or on Twitter @alanamelanson.
TEAMWALK FOR CANCERCARE

Battling cancer for

Annual event has raised $12 million to help others fight for their lives

By Elizabeth Dobbins
edobbins@lowellsun.com

LOWELL—Some things haven’t changed.

Pat Crane, who started TeamWalk for CancerCare twenty years ago with a small group of organizers, pointed to the rows of team shirts hanging on display and a wall where walkers write their motivational phrases and stories. Both traditions started two decades ago at the first TeamWalk event, according to Crane, who was then the vice president of administrative and external affairs at Lowell General Hospital.

Even the woman hugging the crowd before the three-mile walk, Fatima Walsh, is the same person Crane asked to help out with the inaugural walk.

“Twenty years they’ve been dedicated to doing this and I’m so proud of them and so proud of the contributions they’ve made,” said Crane, who was visiting from her new home in South Carolina for the event. She is a 21-year cancer survivor and was one of the first patients at Lowell General Hospital’s Cancer Center.

Since its inauguration, the event has raised $12 million, assisting more than 30,000 people receiving cancer treatment at Lowell General Hospital.

The money raised this year is distributed grants to patients to pay insurance doesn’t cover transportation to the hospital for treatment, wigs, utility changes or nutritional supplements, according to Meg Brethel, masters of ceremonies and director at the hospital.

“We pay for those needs to get people a hump,” she said.

Recently, she said the provided a grant for undergoing treatment, and the three grand they’re raising to go on the White Mountains.

The first year of the event, Crane said organizers were

MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE GRADUATION

REACHING FOR HER DREAMS

No obstacle could keep mother of three from her degree

By Amanda Castello
acastello@lowellsun.com

Freak crash injures mother
Make this your BEST SUMMER EVER!

This summer, earn college credits in less time and save more money.

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www.middlesex.mass.edu/summer
1-800-818-3434
Discover YOUR Path

Whatever your path, with more than 80 degree and certificate programs, MCC can help you earn a degree, begin a bachelor’s degree or upgrade your skills.

- Online or on campus
- Small class environment
- Flexible schedule
- A price you can afford

*MCC started us on the path to...*

A college degree

Share YOUR Path with us!

#MCCpath

MCC Offers Paths In:

- Arts & Humanities
- Social Science
- Business
- STEM
- Education
- (Science, technology, Engineering, and Math)
- Health
- Public Service

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Lowell Memorial Auditorium
50 East Merrimack Street

PIANO MEN

The Music of Elton and Billy

Middlesex Community College is proud to present its Spring Fundraiser. This national tour combines a four-piece pop group, featuring Joe Boucher on piano and vocals, backed by a 30-piece symphony orchestra.

Wednesday, May 8 at 8:00 pm
College for Kids 2019

Summer Programs for Ages 8 to 17
July 8 - August 15

Fun, engaging Summer Programs include:
- Aviation
- Medical Lab Science
- Minecraft
- Coding for Kids
- Art
- Theatre
- LEGO Mindstorms EV3
- Veterinary Medicine
- Experience Writing
- Cake Decorating

https://www.facebook.com/MCCcollegeforkids
www.middlesex.mass.edu/collegeforkids

Special events call for special places.

MCCF Historic Properties
Middlesex Community College Foundation

Weddings

Expert Wedding & Event Coordination
Unique Photo Opportunities
Full-Service Catering
House Linen, China & Glassware

For more information, contact Maureen Spinney at 978-458-3755 or emailospinney@middlesex.mass.edu.
Visit us at www.middlesex.mass.edu/historic

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To learn more, contact us at 1-800-672-2400
or visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/corpEd
SUMMER Course Offerings

Quick Start Session • May 28 - June 14 (Classes meet 5 days per week, online, in Bedford or Lowell)

Session 1 • May 28 - June 27 (Classes meet 3 days per week, online, in Bedford or Lowell)

Session 2 • May 28 - July 24 (Classes meet 2 or 3 days per week, online, in Bedford or Lowell)

Session 3 • July 9 - August 8 (Classes meet 3 days per week, online, in Bedford or Lowell)

For additional requirements and information, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/register

Lowell Sun front page wrap ad. 4.21.19
Make this your BEST SUMMER Ever!

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[Image of people studying under a tree]

BEST SUMMER Ever!

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[www.middlesex.mass.edu/summer](http://www.middlesex.mass.edu/summer)  
1-800-818-3434
Lowell Memorial Auditorium

Piano Men

The Music of Elton and Billy

Wednesday, May 8 at 8:00 pm

Middlesex Community College is proud to present its Spring Fundraiser. This national tour combines a four-piece pop group, featuring Joe Boucher on piano, and vocals backed by a 50-piece symphony orchestra.
Make this your BEST SUMMER Ever!

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QuickStart Summer | Summer Session 1 | Summer Session 2 | Summer Session 3

3 weeks | 5 weeks | 8 weeks | 5 weeks

May 28 - June 14 | May 28 - June 27 | May 28 - July 24 | July 9 - August 8

www.middlesex.mass.edu/summer • 1-800-818-3434
Lowell Memorial Auditorium
50 East Merrimack Street

PIANO MEN
THE MUSIC OF ELTON AND BILLY

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Wednesday, May 8 at 8:00pm

Saturday, September 14
Two Shows!
12:00pm 3:30pm

THREE DOG NIGHT

Thursday, September 19 at 7:30pm
Discover YOUR Path

MCC started me on the path to...

A College Degree

OPEN HOUSE Tuesday APRIL 23
4:30 p.m. - 591 SPRINGS ROAD, BEDFORD

Whatever your path, with more than 80 degree and certificate programs, MCC can help you earn a degree, begin a bachelor's degree or upgrade your skills.

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Share YOUR Path with us!
#MCCpath 1-800-818-3434

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1-800-818-3434
www.middlesex.mass.edu/summer

Time and save more money. This summer earn college credits in less time.

Student Success Starts Here
Make this your **BEST EVER SUMMER**

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BRAND NEW LIVE SHOW FOR THE US!

Peppa Pig
Peppa Pig's Adventure!

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3:30pm

Three Dog Night

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