MCC scholarships honor McKay, Sheehy

‘ROCKET MAN’ TOUCHES DOWN IN LOWELL

The Boston Globe
Schools, businesses share $12m state life science grants

Middlesex Community College President Carole Cowan welcomed former MCC student and Boston Marathon bombing survivor Jeff Bauman who opened a special training session for first responders.
Lowell Catholic High School held its 13th annual Bishop John R. McNamara Awards Gala on Tuesday at Lenzi’s in Dracut.

**TOP:** From left are MCC President Carole Cowan, the Rev. John W. Hanley, OMI, both recipients of McNamara Awards, Casey Judge of Boston, a 2008 graduate of Lowell Catholic and recipient of the Alumni Achievement Award, and Meghan Mahoney of Westford, accepting the posthumous McNamara Award on behalf of her late parents, Leo and Joan Mahoney. **MIDDLE:** From left, Jennifer Bousquet of Boston, her sister Jacquie Willett of Marblehead, and Judge look over the event’s program. **BOTTOM:** The awards that were presented to Cowan, Hanley and posthumously to Leo and Joan Mahoney.
Kudos for Cowan

*Middlesex Community College President Carole Cowan is congratulated as one of the recipients of Lowell Catholic’s 13th Annual Bishop John R. McNamara Awards at a gala held Tuesday night at Lenzi’s in Dracut. Sharing kudos are Royall Mack, left, of Andover, chairman of the board of trustees at MCC, and MCC Vice President Jay Linehan.*

SUN/JULIA MALAKIE

Sun staff photos can be ordered by visiting our SmugMug site.

**Middlesex Community College President Carole Cowan is congratulated as one of the recipients of Lowell Catholic’s 13th Annual Bishop John R. McNamara Awards at a gala held Tuesday night at Lenzi’s in Dracut. Sharing kudos are Royall Mack, left, of Andover, chairman of the board of trustees at MCC, and MCC Vice President Jay Linehan.**

SUN/JULIA MALAKIE

Read more: [http://www.lowellsun.com/latestnews/ci_25526926/kudos-cowan#ixzz2yxasXoyF](http://www.lowellsun.com/latestnews/ci_25526926/kudos-cowan#ixzz2yxasXoyF)
MCC Presents Alumni Award to Boston Marathon SWAT Team Leader

Posted by Eliot Silver on April 09, 2014 | Community Update | ShareThis

Middlesex Community College will present its 2014 Distinguished Alumni Award to SgI. Patrick Towle of the Bedford Police Department, a 1985 MCC graduate who led the Northeastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council (NEMLEC) SWAT team response in the days following the Boston Marathon bombing.

A lifelong Bedford resident, Towle will receive the award at MCC’s 2014 Commencement exercises, to be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, May 22, in Lowell Memorial Auditorium.

“The NEMLEC SWAT unit was there from Monday through Friday of that historic week, working as one, and proudly representing the 57 cities and towns that comprise the NEMLEC region,” said Bedford Police Chief Robert Bongiorno.

“Towle’s work in those five days is immeasurable, and I am proud to say that (Sgt. Towle) represented Bedford well in that crisis.”

Towle is a “consummate leader” Bongiorno added. “He is respected and followed, and exemplifies what you want from a leader. Sgt. Towle will rise to whatever occasion he is faced with, but he always does it in a manner that is professional and with the greater interest of public safety as his focus.”

MCC’s Distinguished Alumni Award is given annually to a graduate who demonstrates achievement in their career or other areas of life, exceptional service to the community, and commitment to Middlesex, as well as integrity and character.

Past Distinguished Alumni Award winners include Katelyn Adams (07), Kate Galenius (86), Kim Zunino (04), Steven Wright (75), Tamis Distillans (13), Bruce Weeks (86), Alan Melkonian (84), Jean Connor (94) and William Chemelli (75).

For more information about MCC’s Distinguished Alumni Award, contact Denise Malveres, Dean of College Advancement at malverse@ Lowellcc.mass.edu or 781.280.3514.

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Grant helps MCC improve achievement

Thanks to a five-year, $2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Strengthening Institutions Title III Grant program, Middlesex Community College has improved student academic achievement, persistence, retention and engagement.

According to Associate Provost Clea Andreadis, MCC has met or exceeded all of the goals articulated in the Title III grant project titled Strategies for Success: Increasing Achievement, Persistence, Retention and Engagement.

Grant money was used to redesign about 50 gateway and developmental courses, and create more than 1,100 educational plans, according to Andreadis. New advising systems have been fully integrated into the student success culture, and advising materials have been redesigned for all programs of study. More than 50 part-time faculty members have been trained in the Strategies for Success curriculum, as well as Degree Works and other academic advising systems. Also, MCC was able to add three full-time positions, and a number of technology tools designed to promote student success.
NASA astronaut Christopher Cassidy got a warm welcome during his visit to the S. Christa McAuliffe Elementary School on Thursday. Cassidy, the nephew of Lowell School Committee member David Conway, visits Middlesex Community College and UMass Lowell today.

‘Rocket Man’ touches down in Lowell

NASA’s Christopher Cassidy starts two-day tour with visits to three city schools

By Pete McQuaid
pmcq@lowellsun.com

LOWELL — NASA Commander Christopher Cassidy received the key to the city from Mayor Rodney Elliott at a breakfast with local politicians on Thursday morning. He returned the favor by giving the mayor a signed poster featuring him and his fellow NASA astronauts, but he said he still felt guilty.

“I was going to have a key to the Space Shuttle made out,” said Cassidy, “but it’s three.”

Cassidy made up for it with a busy itinerary for his trip to Lowell, which started Thursday.

Please see ASTRONAUT/10
Astronaut visits Lowell schools

and continues today. Cassidy, a NASA astronaut who's logged 182 days in space, visited the James F. Sullivan Middle School, Lowell High School and the S. Christa McAuliffe Elementary School on Thursday. He visits Middlesex Community College and UMass Lowell today.

"We're pretty excited," said Adam Norton, manager of UML's NERVE Center, a robotics-systems test facility. "We're going to be giving him a tour of the center and demo-ing the 'Rover Hawk,' which we're excited to show him given that he's worked with the types of rovers and machines our system's emulating."

Cassidy was born in Salem, Mass. He considers York, Maine, to be his hometown, but he has fond memories of Lowell.

"My father grew up here in Lowell, and my grandmother lived here, so I remember always coming here for Christmas," said Cassidy.

Cassidy is the nephew of Lowell School Committee member Dave Conway, who spent the last few months working with local leaders such as former state Sen. Steve Panagiotakos, state Sen. Eileen Donoghue and UMass Lowell Chancellor Marty Meehan to organize Cassidy's visit.

"When he was in the Space Station, he Skyped with the family and told me, 'Don't forget Dave: When I come back, I want to come to Lowell,'" said Conway. "This is an opportunity that not a lot of kids have, to listen to someone who's an active astronaut who can share these incredible experiences."

Cassidy spent 10 years as a member of the Navy SEALs before he was selected by NASA in 2004. His first mission was a 16-day trip on the Space Shuttle Endeavour in July 2009 to assist assembling a section of the International Space Station. He then went back into space on March 28, 2013, when he began a 166-day stay at the Station.

He said that on the Station, you have a regular Monday-to-Friday work week, with a half day of working and cleaning on Saturday and a day off on Sunday.

Cassidy said that 60 percent of work time is devoted to experiments, with large portions of the remainder allocated toward maintenance and exercise.

"If you went up and did nothing (for exercise), your major load-bearing muscles like your butt and your back would atrophy significantly," said Cassidy. "But we have great exercise equipment up there now, so you can pretty much keep yourself at the same muscle level you launched at."

During his NASA career, Cassidy has done six spacewalks totaling 31 hours and 14 minutes. He said that between suit assembly and the gradual adjustment to the outside pressure, it can take up to five hours just to get outside the ship. And then once you're out there, you don't come in for another six or seven hours.

"But according to him, it's not quite like what you saw in Gravity."

"They did an amazing job of researching what everything actually looks like — the inside of the Space Station, the instruction books, the buttons on the suit," said Cassidy. "But the physics of it was basically impossible. You can't just go from one station to another by nudging yourself toward it."

For Cassidy's trip to the McAuliffe School (named for the Concord, N.H., teacher who died in the 1986 Space Shuttle Challenger explosion), the third-and fourth-grade chorus sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" and the school theme song for him. Cassidy walked them through the entire launch process and tried to inspire them to be excited about space by using accessible comparisons, like comparing the Space Shuttle to a big pickup truck or the cockpit to a smart car.

Then, students lined up and asked him questions they had prepared in class about what it was like to be an astronaut. The school prepared for weeks for his visit, with students learning about astronauts and making signs for him titled "Rocket Man."

"I think one of the things that is really important is that if you're well informed, it's easier for you to be excited about something," said McAuliffe Principal Nan Murphy. "And anyone can relate to the dream of going to space."

Follow Pete McQuaid on Twitter @sweettestpete.
MCC Film Series continues with ‘Bitter Seeds’

LOWELL — Middlesex Community College will feature “Bitter Seeds,” as the next installment in the 2013-14 International Film Series, to be screened on Thursday, April 17, at 6:30 p.m., in the Federal Building Assembly Room, 50 Kearney Square. Free and open to the public, the program begins with light refreshments and concludes with a post-screening discussion.

“Bitter Seeds” is the final film in Micha X. Peled’s award-winning “Globalization Trilogy,” following “Store Wars: When Walmart Comes to Town” and “China Blue.” Every 30 minutes a farmer in India kills himself in despair because he can no longer provide for his family. Will cotton farmer Ramkrishna be next? Manjusha, the neighbor’s daughter, is determined to become a journalist. Her plight becomes her first assignment.

For information on the film series, contact Art Professor Jan Arabas at arabasj@middlesex.mass.edu or 781-280-3784 or Dean of Global Education Dona Cady at cadyd@middlesex.mass.edu or 978-656-3470.

Middlesex CC Offers RN Refresher Program

Registration is now open for Middlesex Community College’s noncredit RN Refresher Program. This program is designed to prepare Massachusetts registered nurses who have been away from nursing practice for an extended period of time to re-enter the nursing workforce by updating nursing concepts and skills.

The goal of the program is to provide a supportive learning environment necessary to refine skills and develop a sound knowledge base needed to practice in today’s complex health care environment.

This program consists of 72 hours of theory and hands-on practice in MCC’s Nursing Skills Lab on the Lowell campus. There is no clinical component. A certificate and 7.2 CEUs are awarded upon successful completion (72 hours). Students must have a current, valid Massachusetts RN license in good standing to take this course.

Classes meet 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, June 2-19, on the Lowell campus. Enrollment is open now through is May 5. The course cost is $1,900.

For more information, contact Sheila Morin at 781-280-3608 or HYPERLINK "mailto:morins@middlesex.mass.edu" morins@middlesex.mass.edu or visit: HYPERLINK "https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/careertraining/rnrefresher.aspx" https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/careertraining/rnrefresher.aspx

To enroll in MCC’s noncredit RN Refresher Program, call 1-800-818-3434.

MCC is one of the largest, most comprehensive community colleges in the state. We offer more than 75 degree and certificate programs, plus hundreds of noncredit courses, plus hundreds of noncredit courses, plus hundreds of noncredit courses, plus hundreds of noncredit courses, plus hundreds of noncredit courses, plus hundreds of noncredit courses, plus hundreds of noncredit courses, plus hundreds of noncredit courses, plus hundreds of noncredit courses, plus hundreds of noncredit courses, plus hundreds of noncredit courses, plus hundreds of noncredit courses, plus hundreds of noncredit courses, plus hundreds of noncredit courses, plus hundreds of noncredit courses, plus hundreds of noncredit courses, plus hundreds of!
Lowell cheers its leading lady

"I think it's safe to say that tonight we are in the presence of the greatest actress of our time," said Meehan to a sold-out crowd at the Tsongas Center.

Proceeds from the event will go to two scholarships that will benefit UML students. The Meryl Streep Endowed Scholarship Fund will assist UML English majors, while the Joan Hertzberg Endowed Scholarship Fund will go to math students.

Hertzberg was a former classmate of Streep's at Vassar College who was a successful therapist, author and teacher in the San Francisco area prior to her death in 2013.

Streep and Dubus had a friendly rapport throughout the 90-minute program, during which Dubus "rolled clips" ("I've always wanted to do that," he said) from some of Streep's most famous movies and asked about her life and mindset as an actor.

The first clip was one of the final scenes of Kramer vs. Kramer, for which Streep won the Best Supporting Actress Oscar in 1979. Streep said that for the scene, director and screenwriter Robert Benton had each cast member (including co-star Dustin Hoffman) write his or her own version of Streep's monologue about why he/she character, Joanna Kramer, left her son.

Meryl Streep joins UMass Lowell professor and author Andre Dubus III, the moderator, on stage at the Tsongas Center Tuesday night in the UML's annual Chancellor's Speaker Series.

"We picked the best one," said Streep, the "best one" being the one she had written.

Dubus also showed an electric, argumentative clip from Doubt, the 2008 film in which Streep starred opposite the late Philip Seymour Hoffman.

"What a gorgeous artist," said Streep about Hoffman. "What a loss to our profession."

Streep, dressed in black with an almost body-length rainbow necklace, charmed the crowd with her thoughtfulness and self-deprecating humor. She took her time to answer questions, often pondering for seconds before coming out with words she would later deem to be insufficient.

Dubus told the audience to cut her some slack: She had just flown in from England, where she had been filming Suffragette, a movie scheduled for release in 2015 about the women's suffrage movement in the United Kingdom.

But she conveyed detailed thoughts on many aspects of the entertainment business, such as the increased power of female characters she's observed over the course of her career.

Her characters in The Deer Hunter and Kramer vs. Kramer "were quiet characters, very held-in and of their time," said Streep.

"Girls are way more out there now, and they speak in a way that I think it would be very difficult to create those two characters today."

She slipped in some final nuggets during the Q&A session with UML students in the audience. She's learning how to play bass, though when Dubus implied it was a celebrity musician, she refused to say who her teacher is.

When asked how she liked working with Robert Redford (who will come to Lowell himself on June 20 for the Middlesex Community College Celebrity Forum) in Out of Africa, she said, "Too much."

But her final piece of advice, which was in response to a question about young actors handling rejection, may have been the most resonant of all.

"Everyone thinks there's this perfect way to be," said Streep. "But the thing that's unique to you is the most valuable thing you have. It's just like my name. It sounds so weird—Streep. Maybe what's weird about you is your strength."

Follow Pete McQuaid on Twitter and Tout @sweettestpete.
Middlesex to Host
NASA Astronaut

Christopher J. Cassidy
Middlesex Community College, in collaboration with Lowell Public Schools and UMass Lowell, will host NASA Astronaut Christopher J. Cassidy in a special event from 9 to 10 a.m. Friday, April 4, in the Lowell Campus Lower Cafeteria, 33 Kearny Square. This event is free and open to the public.

Cassidy is a NASA Astronaut and Navy SEAL. Cassidy achieved the rank of Commander in the Navy. His naval experience includes four six-month deployments – two to the Mediterranean and two to Afghanistan, including a deployment two weeks after September 11, where he served as Ground Assault Force Commander for international and U.S.-only combat missions.

During his NASA career, Cassidy served on space shuttle and International Space Station missions. He completed six spacewalks – totaling 31 hours, 14 minutes – and accumulated 182 days in space.

For more information about Cassidy's career, visit www.jsc.nasa.gov/bios/htmlbios/cassidy-cj.html.

For more information about Cassidy's visit to Middlesex, contact Colleen Cox at cox@middlesex.mass.edu or call 978-656-3284.

MCC is one of the largest, most comprehensive community colleges in the state. We offer more than 75 degree and certificate programs, plus hundreds of noncredit courses, during the day, evening and weekend, on our Bedford and Lowell campuses, and online. Middlesex – a great place to begin your future!

MCC Foundation Establishes Paul Sheehy Memorial Scholarship

The Middlesex Community College Foundation has established a scholarship in memory of state Senator Paul Sheehy, a lifelong advocate for education, who played a critical role in helping to establish MCC's Bedford and Lowell campuses. The scholarship will support students who demonstrate a commitment to their community and plan to transfer from Middlesex to UMass Lowell.

As a state representative, Sheehy sponsored legislation establishing Middlesex on the grounds of the Veterans Administration Hospital in Bedford. Later, as a member of the State Senate, Sheehy advocated for and successfully obtained the funding necessary to establish a permanent Lowell campus for the college.

"Middlesex Community College would not be in Lowell were it not for the tireless championing Paul Sheehy did on our behalf," said MCC President Carole Cowan. "Paul knew the value of having an urban campus and he was able to bridge the connections for us to secure state funding to explore the options in Lowell. He was one of our biggest cheerleaders in the 1980s to bring us to Lowell and remained one of our biggest supporters in the decades that followed."

Donations can be made to the Paul Sheehy Memorial Scholarship online at www.middlesex.mass.edu/PaulSheehy or mailed to the MCC Foundation at P.O. Box 716, Bedford, MA 01730. (Please make checks payable to MCC Foundation and reference Paul Sheehy Scholarship on the memo line.)

For more information about this and other scholarship opportunities available through the Middlesex Community College Foundation, visit, https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/foundation/scholarships/

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AFTERNOON OF CHINESE MUSIC: "A World of Music," Middlesex Community College's 2014 spring concert series, begins with "Crosscurrents of Chinese Music," a multimedia event featuring traditional Chinese music, a new composition written expressly for traditional instruments, and a composition by a Chinese composer combining Eastern and Western influences. The program will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, in the MCC Concert Hall (Building 6), on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road. Admission is free. For more information, go to www.middlesex.mass.edu/worldofmusic or call 781-286-3923.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MCC open house Saturday in Lowell
LOWELL — Middlesex Community College will host an open house for prospective students and families on the Lowell campus Saturday, at 9:30 a.m., in the Lowell Campus Cafeteria, 33 Kearney Square. RSVP at www.middlesex.mass.edu/OH or call 800-818-3434.

MCC Paralegal Career Night is Thursday
BEDFORD — Middlesex Community College Career Services and the Paralegal Studies program will host a Paralegal Career Night on Tuesday, from 6 to 7 p.m., in the Bedford Campus Center's Café East, 591 Springs Road. Visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/paralegal, email espinosaj@middlesex.mass.edu or call 800-818-3434.
Survey: Schools need to do better work-force prep

By Chelsea Diama
Statehouse Correspondent

BOSTON — With a new poll showing that more than two-thirds of Massachusetts' employers report difficulties finding employees with adequate skills, Greater Lowell and Fitchburg-area employers, educators and policymakers agree the solution lies in K-12 schools.

"Many students still need developmental education when they get to community college," said Carole Cowan, president of Middlesex Community College. "It's gotten better but it's still an issue."

According to a study released Monday by the Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education, the state needs a major overhaul in how it educates its students to produce more workers with the skills to succeed in the technologically driven economy.

The study included a MassINC Polling Group survey that found 69 percent of the 334 employers polled said it was difficult to hire employees with appropriate skills. Eighty-four percent said school systems require moderate to major changes.

Although Massachusetts ranks as one of the top for schools nationally, the study said the state ranks behind...
Survey: Schools need to do better work-force prep

From Page 1

The report offers suggestions to improve school districts, including opening more charter schools, universal pre-K, giving schools more flexibility in hiring staff and extending the school day.

"There are many places in the state that do well, but lots of people know that doing well isn't good enough," Barber said, paraphrasing the words of a colleague.

Mitchell Chester, the state commissioner of elementary and secondary education, called the study's recommendations "provocative."

In particular, Chester said he is interested in the recommendation to initiate a school district redesign competition that will lead to new models consistent with growing school autonomy.

"We have 350 different school districts in the state," Chester said. "Some of them are more rural or more urban with different needs and district designs, so giving more autonomy would help."

While he said some of the recommendations would be easy to follow, Chester warned that others are foreign to the state's traditional education system, including the suggestion for statewide teachers contracts.

Still, he said, change is necessary.

"Not only are we the top educator in the country, but we are competitive internationally as well — to keep looking forward is in no way a diminishing," Chester said. "We just need the right set of reforms to make sure we don't become complacent."

Daniel M. Asquino, the president of Mount Wachusett Community College, agreed.

"No system is perfect, we always have to move ahead," Asquino said.

In particular, Asquino said the state must pay more attention to urban centers, such as Lowell, where many students need developmental math help.

The Greater Lowell Workforce Investment Board, a collaborative which connects employers, educational institutions and officials to better develop the local workforce, offers improvements where schools can fall flat.

Gail Brown, the director of the board, said they try to do needs assessment with area businesses and align those needs with education providers to find what businesses really need.

To improve the system, Chester said the state needs to better expose students in middle and high schools to career opportunities by bringing workers to schools and have students visit employers.

"It's important for us (Massachusetts) to always move forward and not be complacent," Chester said. "Massachusetts has a strong system and improvement is in reach."
LOWELL -- Gateway Cities, old manufacturing cities like Lowell, Lawrence or Fitchburg that often struggle with job growth, have made economic development a key priority over the years.

But education is very important, too, those who gathered at a Gateway Cities forum in Lowell Wednesday said. Good schools can attract residents and prepare children well for college and the workforce.

"Education is a more difficult nut to crack than economic development," said Ben Forman, the research director for MassINC, the nonpartisan thinktank that has worked with Gateway Cities to plot ways to match the economic and educational achievement of the rest of the state.

Higher achievement levels in such cities, which also include Springfield and Worcester, could have a significant effect on the state. One-fourth of Massachusetts students are in Gateway City schools, according to MassINC, but only 22 percent of those cities' residents have college degrees.

Those schools have historically trailed the achievement levels of other Massachusetts schools, but the gap is narrowing.

In math MCAS scores, for example, Gateway City schools once trailed the state average by 12 percent just more than a decade ago. By the 2011-12 school year, that gap had closed to about 2 percent. Science and English language arts have also had similar gains.

At Wednesday's forum, which included representatives from schools and community programs in the Merrimack Valley, officials talked about how to create new educational models and then incorporate those models in area schools.

A main piece of the discussion was around dual-enrollment programs in which high-school students can also take college courses. Such programs help high-schoolers earn college credit and stay focused on earning advanced degrees, forum participants said.

Middlesex Community College has 400 students in dual-enrollment, including a "very strong" enrollment program with Lowell High School, said Carole Cowan, the Middlesex president.

"We could easily double that number," she said.

Lori Weir, who oversees school partnerships for Northern Essex Community College, had a similar sentiment. The college's dual-enrollment program with Haverhill, for example, has 70 students and could top 100 next year, she said. Dual-enrollment could be far larger if only there were more funding, she said.
Early-education funding was also called critical for students' success.

In Lowell, only about one-third to 40 percent of students enroll in pre-kindergarten classes, said Patricia Murphy-Painchaud, the early childhood coordinator for the city's schools. Students who don't receive that early education can fall behind on language, social and emotional skills, she said.

"We have a lot of work to do around that," Murphy-Painchaud said of increasing early-education participation.

Forum participants also spoke of the need to make sure high-school students go to college. Teachers who support and encourage students are critical to that, said Brian Martin, the headmaster of Lowell High School.

"It takes more than a village," he said of broad support for education. "It takes an incredible amount of resources."

That's where assets like the Lowell Community Health Center come in. Linda Sopheap Sou, the center's director for teen block programs, said that about one-third of the center's focus is on community-support programs that empower youth to make responsible decisions.

More than 300 a year are served by the programs, she said, and about 5,000 through outreach initiatives.

Colleges, cultural institutions, public transit and a diverse population are all attributes in cities from New Bedford to Chicopee that can help improving schools, said Forman, the MassINC research director.

"We have outstanding assets in all our Gateway Cities," he said.

Follow Grant Welker on Twitter and Tout @SunGrantWelker.
MCC scholarships honor McKay, Sheehy

The Middlesex Community College Foundation has established scholarships for two Lowell men who were played instrumental roles at the college and who died recently.

A scholarship in memory of Tom McKay, a longtime member of the MCC Foundation’s board of directors, has been established. The scholarship will support Middlesex students who demonstrate strong civic commitment.

McKay, who died in February, was general manager of Lowell Memorial Auditorium and an MCC Foundation board member for two decades. He supported college fundraising initiatives and served as the “voice behind the curtain,” providing introductions at MCC’s annual Celebrity Forum fundraiser events. He was also a vital part of planning for the college’s annual commencement celebrations.

“Tom was a remarkable man who did so much work behind the scenes,” MCC President Carole Cowan said. “The thing that was special about Tom was, he never looked to be in the spotlight, but he did a terrific job of making sure everybody else would shine in that spotlight. Over the years, he rubbed shoulders with many of the greats, but the truth is, he was one of those greats himself.”

Donations can be made to the Tom McKay Memorial Scholarship online at www.middlesex.mass.edu/mckay or mailed to the MCC Foundation at P.O. Box 716, Bedford, MA 01730. Make checks payable to the MCC Foundation, and reference Tom McKay Scholarship on the memo line.

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“Middlesex Community College would not be in Lowell were it not for the tireless championing Paul Sheehy did on our behalf,” Cowan said. “Paul knew the value of having an urban campus, and he was able to bridge the connections for us to secure state funding to explore the options in Lowell. He was one of our biggest cheerleaders in the 1980s to bring us to Lowell and remained one of our biggest supporters in the decades that followed.”

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For more information about these and other scholarship opportunities available through the Middlesex Community College Foundation, visit, www.middlesex.mass.edu/foundation/scholarships.
Saturday Chat

Sheehy’s role critical to Lowell’s big projects

LOWELL — Two of the major powerhouse projects that are a big part of modern Lowell would likely not exist if it were not for former Sen. Paul Sheehy, who died this week.

Sheehy was the lead player in the Massachusetts Legislature when Middlesex Community College was founded and played a key role in the merger of Lowell State College and Lowell Technological Institute, which created the University of Lowell and ultimately UMass Lowell.

The two facilities are a huge part of the new Lowell economy and owe the launching of these two institutions to the man from the Acre who never forgot his roots.

I first became close to Paul when he decided to leave the Massachusetts Legislature and ran for the 5th Congressional seat in Congress. Many felt he was giving up a great career that would one day find him Speaker of the House.

But he was committed to run for Congress and by all normal political standards of the day would have won the seat except for the entry of a glamorous candidate named John Kerry. Sheehy was also hurt by the fact four other Lowell candidates ran, splitting the Lowell vote.

In the end, Sheehy finished second to Kerry and Kerry went on to lose the general election to a Republican from Andover who lasted only one term.

I’ve often wondered what might have happened if Sheehy had won the primary. He would have easily won the general election and I think would have become a leader in Congress.

Sheehy had a love for public service. He relished in the good things he saw in his native city. None of us, however, is perfect and he had his share of bumps in life, but I never saw him down.

He loved his city and made lots of good things happen, particularly in the field of education.

His biggest asset in life was his wife, Molly, who also played a major role in the growth and development of the Lowell campus of Middlesex.

It’s fitting that a scholarship in Paul Sheehy’s name is being established at Middlesex this week. The school is also recognizing a scholarship in honor of Tom McKay, who died a few weeks ago.

McKay was a longtime supporter of the Middlesex Community College Foundation and through his role at Lowell Memorial Auditorium helped launch the celebrity series that has brought so many major figures to Lowell.

The scholarships are a nice tribute to two good guys who will be greatly missed.

The Sun

SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MILES to go Thursday at MCC

BEDFORD — Middlesex Community College will host the spring opening session of the Middlesex Institute for Lifelong Education for Seniors, or MILES, Thursday, at 2 p.m., in the Bedford Campus Center’s Café East, 591 Springs Road. The event is free and open to the public. MCC’s MILES program offers active, older adults stimulating, interactive daytime seminars and workshops with no term papers, tests or grades. The informational and entertaining opening session provides community members an opportunity to learn more about MILES and the courses being offered, and is a good opportunity to meet instructors and peers.

Light refreshments will be served. For information, call 781-280-3570 or visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/careertraining/miles.aspx. To register, call 800-818-3434.
MCC Celebrates Commonwealth Honors Program Alumni

Alumni from Middlesex Community College’s Commonwealth Honors Program, faculty, staff and college administrators gathered at MCC’s historic John Nesmith House in Lowell recently for the first Commonwealth Honors Program Alumni Dinner.

“It is a great time to bring our alumni together to reconnect and engage them in our program and with each other,” said David Kalivas, MCC History Professor and Director of the Commonwealth Honors Program (CHP). “It’s wonderful to share each others’ experiences and hear about all the wonderful things they are accomplishing,” he added.

CHP at Middlesex offers a variety of honors course options, as well as opportunities for students to master research and presentation techniques. Honors students also engage in extra and co-curricular activities, including field trips and guest lectures.

During the dinner, Kalivas announced the intention to create a Commonwealth Honors Program Advisory Board and invited the alumni to participate. “Our CHP students have such rich experiences at Middlesex and beyond. We want input from them on how we can continue to improve and grow the program for future students, as well as create mentoring and networking opportunities for current students and alumni,” he said.

In 2010, after receiving accreditation from the State Board of Higher Education, MCC’s long-standing honors program became part of the Commonwealth Honors Program, an integrated network of honors programs throughout the Massachusetts public college and university system.

To graduate with honors, Middlesex students are expected to complete a minimum of three honors courses, one of which must be an interdisciplinary team-taught seminar. Students must also participate in the annual Honors Conference, a public opportunity for students to display and explain their research.

Students who complete their degrees through CHP are guaranteed transfer to other Commonwealth Honors Programs at any state college or university, or can enhance their applications for other four-year public or private institutions.

This inaugural CHP event was presented in collaboration with the MCC Advancement/Alumni Office, with support from the Middlesex Community College Foundation and the Division of Academic Affairs.

For more information about MCC’s Commonwealth Honors Program, visit https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/honors/ or call 781-280-3553.
MCC Students Help Lowell Middle-Schoolers Shine at Science Fair

With the help of Middlesex Community College Service-Learning students, seventh- and eighth-graders at Bartlett Community Partnership School presented a variety of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) projects in Lowell’s first Middle School District Science & Engineering Fair.

Three MCC students who served as club advisors have been working with three members of the Bartlett School STEM Club all year with. As a result of this unique, STEM-focused partnership program, the Bartlett students created science fair projects on a variety of topics, including the “stickability” or polarization of magnets.

Held March 5 at the Bartlett School Gymnasium, the fair featured more than 60 projects created by more than 100 students from eight schools across the district.

“Middlesex is proud to partner with Lowell Public Schools and work with them through our many outstanding Service-Learning initiatives,” said Phil Sisson, MCC Provost and Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs. “This great display of science is a prime example of what can happen when partners work together.”

“It is because of Middlesex Community College and their wonderful students, faculty and staff that we have been able to bring this about,” said Jean Franco, Superintendent.

Jean Franco, Superintendent of Lowell Public Schools (left) and Phil Sisson, MCC Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, kicked off the first Lowell Public School Science and Engineering Fair at the Bartlett Community Partnership School in Lowell.

Godin has served as a Service-Learning Liaison between the college and Bartlett.

“We work together to make a great learning experience for everyone involved,” said Godin. “And it’s making a difference. Through these types of projects, we can see how much the MCC students learn, and how much the Bartlett students learn. Students are learning more on both ends of the spectrum because they are more engaged with one another.”

In addition to founding the STEM Club at Bartlett, Middlesex education, psychology and human-services students have worked on individual and project-based Service-Learning initiatives at
Middlesex Community College to Host Lowell Campus Open House

Middlesex Community College will host an Open House on the Lowell campus at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, March 29, in the Lowell Campus Cafeteria, 33 Kearney Square.

Prospective students and their families, as well as adult learners interested in continuing their education, will have the opportunity to learn about MCC’s more than 75 degree and certificate programs, noncredit courses, and online and flexible-learning options.

Many of MCC’s academic programs allow students to earn an associate degree and then transfer to a four-year college or university through the statewide MassTransfer program articulation agreements with private colleges. Transfer agreements are designed to ease the transfer process, allowing a student to specifically plan a curriculum that will fit a chosen bachelor’s degree program.

The Lowell Campus Open House will feature a series of breakout sessions tailored to meet student needs and interests. Students can explore specific areas of academic interest and meet a panel of Middlesex graduates who returned to school to finish their degrees, and take a campus tour.

“This open house format gives students an opportunity to learn about everything Middlesex has to offer,” said Marilyn Hallagan, MCC’s Dean of Admissions.

Advisors and administrators will be on hand to answer student questions and provide information about how to be successful at Middlesex. Students can learn about MCC’s many support services such as academic and career counseling, tutoring, disability support, and other special programs.

Attendees can also meet with financial aid representatives to get information about financing their education. Students can even turn in college applications and schedule appointments for placement testing.

For more information or to RSVP for MCC’s Lowell Campus Open House, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/oh or call 1-800-818-3434.

MCC is one of the largest, most comprehensive community colleges in the state. We offer more than 75 degree and certificate programs, plus hundreds of noncredit courses, during the day, evening and weekend, on our Bedford and Lowell campuses, and online. Middlesex – a great place to begin your future!

MCC’s Free Spring Concert Series Begins

A World of Music, Middlesex Community College’s 2014 spring concert series, begins with “Crosscurrents of Chinese Music,” a multimedia event featuring traditional Chinese music, a new composition written expressly for traditional instruments, and a composition by a Chinese composer combining Eastern and Western influences. The program will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, March 29, in the MCC Concert Hall (Building 6), on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road. The concert is free and open to the public.

Co-sponsored by “Asia Today,” MCC’s 2014 Interdisciplinary Weekend, the concert will open with Wang Guowei, artistic director of the ensemble Music from China and noted erhu soloist, performing traditional Chinese music.

The performance will continue with a video of the 2013 world premier performance of “Es for Erhu, Yangqin, Pipa and Guzheng” by MCC faculty member Richard Chowenhoff, performed by Music from China. Guowei and Chowenhoff will talk about this unique collaboration.

The event will conclude with “Four Memories of Watercolors for Piano” by Tan Dun, played by MCC Music Department Chairwoman Carmen Rodriguez-Peralta. During this performance, slides of Chinese watercolors will be shown.

Other events in MCC’s free A World of Music spring concert series include MCC faculty member/violist Mark Berger and Friends in concert at 8 p.m. Friday, April 11, in the MCC Concert Hall, Bedford campus; MCC faculty member/classical guitarist Adam Levin will perform at 8 p.m. Monday, May 5, in the MCC Concert Hall; and Three Cellos at 8 p.m. Sunday, May 18, in the MCC Concert Hall.

Two MCC Student Recitals will also be held this spring. Student instrumentalists and singers will perform at 12:30 p.m. Monday, May 5, in MCC’s Concert Hall, on the Bedford campus. Voice and guitar students will perform at 11 a.m. Thursday, May 8, in MCC’s Federal Building Assembly Room, 50 Kearney Square, on the Lowell campus.

To see previous A World of Music performances, visit www.youtube.com/mccmusiconline2. For more information about A World of Music, contact Carmen Rodriguez-Peralta, director, at peraltaerc@middlesex.mass.edu or 781-280-3923. For directions, visit: www.middlesex.mass.edu.

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Marathon bombing survivor speaks on tourniquets

In the wake of the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, the Middlesex Community College Program on Homeland Security, in collaboration with the Billerica Police Department, Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee and STS Consulting, hosted a special training session for first responders, “Controlling Catastrophic Bleeding: Tourniquets, Pressure Bandages and Hemostatic Agents.”

Held on the Bedford campus, the training was attended by nearly 40 first responders from nearly two dozen public safety agencies throughout New England.

Before the training session began, Jeff Bauman, former MCC student and 2013 Boston Marathon bombing survivor, addressed the group of police and law enforcement officials. Bauman, who lost both legs in the explosion, stated that it was the quick thinking of the first responders and the use of tourniquets that kept him alive.

This comprehensive training instructed attendees on the proper medical techniques to control catastrophic bleeding to help treat victims of accidents, gunfire or IED explosions. The training was consistent with Tactical Combat Casualty Care and Massachusetts Office of Emergency Medical Services guidelines.

“Middlesex is always proud to provide trainings of this nature for our partners in law enforcement and public safety,” said MCC President Carole Cowan. “When we can bring in a speaker like Jeff Bauman, whose life was unquestionably saved by the quick actions of heroes, it reinforces the importance of education, and helps remind all first responders just how critical and life-saving their skills can be when everything changes in an instant.”

For more information about this special training event and MCC’s Program on Homeland Security, contact Terrence B. Downes, Director, at downest@middlesex.mass.edu.

MCC is one of the largest, most comprehensive community colleges in the state. We offer more than 75 degree and certificate programs, plus hundreds of noncredit courses, during the day, evening and weekend, on our Bedford and Lowell campuses, and online.
Master of Ceremonies Paul Sheehy speaks at an Irish breakfast event at the DoubleTree Hotel in Lowell in March 2004 hosted by then U.S. Rep. Marty Meehan. The event honored Lowell boxing legend Micky Ward as Irishman of the Year. For a slide show on this story, visit lowellsun.com.

Selfless politician lovingly remembered

By Lyle Moran
lmoran@lowellsun.com

LOWELL — Former state Sen. and City Manager Paul Sheehy, who played a leading role in the merger that created what is now UMass Lowell and in bringing Middlesex Community College to downtown Lowell, was remembered Monday as a tireless public servant who always put people first.

Sheehy died Monday morning. He was 79.

Sheehy served in the state House of Representatives from 1965-1972. He served briefly as city manager in 1974-1975, and he represented the area in the state Senate from 1985-1991.

While representing Lowell in the House, Sheehy pushed for a Middlesex Community College campus to be sited in Bedford. As a state senator, he led the legislative efforts to bring a Middlesex campus to downtown Lowell.

"Sheehy also filed legislation as a House member to merge Lowell Technological Institute and Lowell State College, which became the University of Lowell and later UMass Lowell."

"Lowell would not be what it is today without Paul Sheehy," UMass Lowell Chancellor Marty Meehan told The Sun. "Arguably, I don't think anyone could have accomplished more for a community legislatively."

"The present UMass Lowell was built on the foundation he established with the merger, and he led the effort to bring Middlesex Community College to Lowell," said former Lowell state Sen. Steven Panagiotakos. "Those two things will stand as his greatest legislative legacies."

Middlesex Community College President Carmen Cowan also had high praise for Sheehy.

Cowan recalled Sheehy calling each Fourth of July eve in the late 1980s to ask her to double-check how many faculty would be needed to open a Lowell campus.

Cowan, who was the dean of administration and finance at the time, said Sheehy was working late into the night to help the Legislature determine the amount of funding that was needed to open the Lowell campus, which opened in 1987.

MCC now serves almost 7,000 students in Lowell and 14,000 credit students overall.

"He was the key person that made Middlesex-Lowell possible for Middlesex," said Cowan. "He understood the importance for different populations to have access to a community college and that it was more affordable to go to one and then transfer to a university."

Mely Sheehy, Paul's longtime wife, served Please see SHEEHY/7
Selfless pol lovingly remembered

SHEEHY/From Page 1

as dean of MCC's Lowell campus for many years until her recent retirement. Both UMass Lowell and Middlesex Community College will fly flags at half-staff until Sheehy's funeral.

John Keefe, a legislative aide for Sheehy from 1986-1990, said as a former teacher, education was always Sheehy's primary focus. Sheehy was a graduate of Lowell State Teachers College, where he was a baseball star, as well as a graduate of Suffolk University Law School.

"He saw education as the way to get people out of poverty and help them succeed in life," said Keefe.

Sheehy's son, Tim, agreed, saying his father always saw education as "the ultimate opportunity" for people, which is why he was such a strong advocate for MCC, the university and the Lowell public schools.

Sheehy was a strong supporter of the state's school building assistance program, which helped Lowell build more than a dozen new schools about two decades ago.

Steve Kawa, a legislative aide of Sheehy's while he served in the Senate, said Sheehy not only promoted education in his public life, but also encouraged Kawa and countless others to continue their education to advance their careers. Kawa, who graduated from Suffolk Law, said Sheehy was a mentor who inspired him because Sheehy always put the common good of the people he represented first.

"I learned from him that it's always about people and their best interests," said Kawa, who is chief of staff to San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee. "I could not have made it here without Paul."

Besides his focus on education, Keefe said Sheehy was admired by others for his tough stands he took on controversial issues in the Legislature.

Sheehy was one of the swing votes in favor of legislation in the 1980s to ban discrimination in employment and housing based on sexual orientation, a difficult vote to take in a conservative, Catholic district. Sheehy also was a swing vote against legislation to re-institute the death penalty in the mid 1980s, said Keefe.

But those who knew Sheehy said he never sought the limelight for his accomplishments.

"He was always more concerned about getting things accomplished than taking credit," Meehan said.

Sheehy had a big family. He leaves behind his wife, Molly, and children Anne, Marie, Elizabeth and Tim. His son Ned died last year. Sheehy also leaves behind seven grandchildren and one great-grandson.

"My father's entire personal and professional life was guided by one simple rule, that people come first," said Tim Sheehy, 51. "Any decision he made was made with that thought in mind."

Meehan said he will always remember Sheehy for his strong devotion to his wife, as well as the rest of his family.

Sheehy, a proud Irish Catholic, was also known for his love of all things Irish and set up many related scholarships. Friends say Sheehy would try to make it back to Ireland as often as he could, and was a fixture at St. Patrick's Parish while growing up in the city's Acre neighborhood.

Keefe said Sheehy helped establish a sister-city relationship with an Irish city and invited Irish political officials to Lowell to learn more about the city.

"He was somebody who just loved life," said Keefe.

Follow Moran on Twitter @ylemoran.
Middlesex Community College to Host Paralegal Career Night

Middlesex Community College Career Services and the Paralegal Studies program will host a Paralegal Career Night from 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 25, in the Bedford Campus Center’s Café East, 591 Springs Road.

Free and open to the public, this information session will help participants explore career opportunities for paralegals in both public and private legal sectors. Participants will meet and network with paralegals currently working in the legal environment, MCC Law Center staff, Paralegal Studies faculty, members of MCC’s Student Paralegal Club, and MCC admissions representatives.

Approved by the American Bar Association, MCC’s Paralegal Studies programs offer two associate-degree programs, a career track and a transfer track, as well as a one-year post-graduate certificate program (for those who have already earned an associate or bachelor’s degree). MCC’s Paralegal Studies Career degree program prepares graduates for employment assisting lawyers in gathering and analyzing factual data, researching legal questions and preparing legal documents. During this two-year program, students will take 60 credits (20 courses) as well as complete a 15-week internship in a law office, the court system, or the MCC Law Center, a mediation program the college runs in cooperation with the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office.

MCC’s Paralegal Studies Transfer program is designed to prepare graduates to transfer to bachelor degree programs on a full- or part-time basis. This program qualifies for MassTransfer, which guarantees credit transfer to Massachusetts state colleges and universities. Many students in this track go on to complete bachelor’s degrees, and some go on to law school and become practicing attorneys.

MCC’s post-graduate Paralegal Studies Certificate program is appropriate for students who have already earned an associate or bachelor’s degree and are interested in changing careers. This one-year program focuses on legal courses, and emphasizes solid academic and practice-oriented preparation.

For more information about MCC’s Paralegal Studies pro-
grams, visit https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/paralegal/. For more information about Paralegal Career Night at Middlesex, contact John Espinosa at espinosaj@middlesex.mass.edu or 1-800-818-3434.

MCC is one of the largest, most comprehensive community colleges in the state. We offer more than 75 degree and certificate programs, plus hundreds of noncredit courses, during the day, evening and weekend, on our Bedford and Lowell campuses, and online. Middlesex – a great place to begin your future!
Stop the bleeding, save a life
Marathon survivor drives message home about tourniquets

By Rick Sobey
rsobey@lowellsun.com

BEDFORD — His story has been read and watched all around the world. If Chelmsford’s Jeff Bauman did not receive tourniquets to stop the bleeding shortly after the Boston Marathon bombings in April, he most likely would have died.

Speaking at Middlesex Community College on Tuesday moments before a “first of its kind” tourniquet training, Bauman, who lost both of his legs in the explosion, told first-responders from 23 agencies that the tourniquets kept him alive.

“Carlos put the tourniquet around my right leg,” Bauman said of Carlos Arredondo, the cowboy hat-wearing rescuer, “and someone tied a shoelace around my left really, really tight. And doing that right...

Please see FIRST AID/10

Boston Marathon bombing’s survivor Jeff Bauman of Chelmsford, center, joins Terrence Downes, executive director of Middlesex Community College’s Program on Homeland Security, and MCC President Carole Cowan during a trauma-response class at MCC’s Bedford campus on Tuesday. SUN / DAVID H. BROW
Survivor’s message: Tourniquets save lives

FIRST AID/From Page 1

there bought me 10 minutes of my life.
“Tourniquets saved my life,” he added.
The MCC Program on Homeland Security, the Billerica Police Department and
the Municipal Police Training Committee organized Tuesday’s special training, “Con-
trolling Catastrophic Bleeding: Tourniquets, Pressure Bandages and Hemostatic
Agents,” in the wake of the marathon bombings. The class drew emergency work-
ers from Billerica, Tewksbury, Dunstable, UMass Lowell and other agencies
across the state.
Billerica Deputy Police Chief Roy Frost said the need for first-
responders to learn tourniquet training has been emphasized
after last year’s tragedy.
“It’s essential and saved countless lives at the
marathon,” Frost said.
“Learning how and when to apply tourniquets is an
essential tool to have, and
our officers here will then go
back to our department to
provide training for all in our
department. This is a first-of-
its-kind training class.”
The interactive training, led
by Mark Robbins of the Massa-
chusetts State Police, focused on
stopping life-threatening hem-
orrhages with direct pressure.
The participants used “training
stumps,” or leg models, to prac-
tice the tourniquet training.
The models had lacerations in
them, as well as gunshot wounds, for the first-
responders to see what it’s like during an emergency.
“The whole idea is for law
enforcement to have the same
tools that the military has in
crisis situations,” Robbins
said. “Police are the first ones
at a scene, and they need to
have these life-saving skills,
instead of having to wait for
paramedics to arrive.”
Tourniquet training isn’t
only applied for gunshots and
bombings, according to Eric
Stratton, an instructor from
STS Instruction, which led
Tuesday’s training. Stratton
talked about recent car
crashes and chain-saw acci-
dents, in which the victims’
legs were saved because of
tourniquets.

Instructors Mark Robbins, left, and Eric Stratton lead a
class in the treatment of trauma injuries at MCC’s Bedford
campus on Tuesday. Boston Marathon bombings survivor
Jeff Bauman, of Chelmsford, told of how tourniquets
saved his life. See a video at lowellsun.com.

Applying the tourniquets and shutting off the blood
within seconds will save lives,” he said.
Terrence Downes, executive
director of the MCC Pro-
gram on Homeland Security,
was also personally affected
by the Boston Marathon
bombings. His nephew,
Patrick Downes, lost his
lower left leg while standing
at the finish line.
Downes said Tuesday’s
training was crucial.
“Tourniquets were applied
to my nephew and his wife
(who also lost a lower leg at
the marathon), which saved
their lives,” Downes said.
“This training is the most effi-
cient way to get hundreds of
first-responders the necessary
training to save future lives.”

Follow Rick Sobey on Twit-
ter and Tbout @rsobeyLSun.
Community College Enrollment Rises on Both Coasts

By Chris Hassan
Posted March 09, 2014 11:11 AM

The Boston Globe recently published a letter from Lane A. Glenn, president of Northern Essex Community College in Massachusetts. Glenn encouraged people to support their local community college, and touched on the benefits of attending such an institution.

“For the most part, community colleges serve larger numbers of at-risk students, including minorities, those with low income, students with learning disabilities, part-time students raising families, and first-generation college students,” Glenn wrote.

It’s clear that many students agree with Glenn and see the value in earning an associate’s degree from a community college. New data from two schools on opposite ends of the country prove just that.

Community College Raises STEM Enrollment

In a recent press release, Middlesex Community College, another Massachusetts-based institution, revealed that enrollment in its science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM, programs has increased. For the spring semester, the number of new students is up nearly 10% in STEM programs, and 84% over the past five years.

“The increase in enrollment reflects what’s happening in the workplace,” said Kathleen Sweeney, the college’s dean of health and STEM, in a statement. “There are more jobs in STEM fields and people are becoming more aware of that and more interested.”

Sweeney added that the past five years have seen student completion rates increase by 42%, thanks in part to school efforts to further engage degree seekers. The MCC STEM Club is just one way the college has kept interest in these subjects high.

High Hopes for Enrollment

On the other side of the country, officials at California’s Glendale Community College believe they may not meet the enrollment goal they set for the end of the 2013-2014 academic year, according to Glendale News-Press. While they set their sights on a 2% rise in enrollment for full-time students, this figure is still predicted to grow by 1.1%.

This percentage breaks down to a total of 15,123 full-time equivalent students served during the 2013-2014 academic year. The news comes as the school continues to make due financially in light of state financial cuts.

Even if the college didn’t reach its enrollment goal, school officials still have high hopes for next year. Ron Nakasone, Glendale’s executive vice president of administrative services, told the News-Press that state officials expect California’s community colleges to be ready for a 3% enrollment growth during the 2014-2015 academic year. Nakasone said that if the state sticks to the 3% enrollment goal after assigning the state budget, Glendale will aim to match it.

Read More By Chris Hassan

http://www.usnewsuniversitydirectory.com/articles/community-college-enrollment-rises-o...
Middlesex hosts co-founder of Gilt Groupe

BEDFORD — Middlesex Community College’s One World Series will host Alexandra Wilks Wilson, co-founder of Gilt Groupe, an innovative e-commerce company offering luxury lifestyle products and experiences.

The special program will be held Friday, at 9:30 a.m., in the Bedford Campus Cafeteria, 591 Springs Road. Admission is free and open to the public.

Wilks Wilson has more than 15 years of international experience in luxury goods, retail and finance.

The One World Series at Middlesex is an annual speaker series addressing topics of current interest, sponsored by MCC’s Center for Leadership & Engagement.

For more information about Wilks Wilson’s presentation at Middlesex, or to reserve seats for groups of eight or more, contact Melissa Welch, at welchm@middlesex.mass.edu or 781-290-3363.

MCC hosts luncheon for Women in STEM

LOWELL — Middlesex Community College will sponsor its Women in STEM Luncheon on Tuesday, March 11, from 12:30 to 2:30, in the Lowell Campus Lower Cafeteria, 33 Kearney Square.

An extension of Lowell Women’s Week 2014, the annual Women in STEM Luncheon will feature a panel of undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate women who are studying and working in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields.

Although free and open to the public, reservations are required for the luncheon. To register, email Professor Margie Bleichman at bleichmanm@middlesex.mass.edu.

Lowell Women’s Week 2014 is a weeklong celebration being held March 2–8. For more information and a complete listing of all Lowell Women’s Week events, visit www.lowellwomensweek.org.
STEM Enrollment Steadily Increases
Middlesex Community College has increased enrollment in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) programs of study by nearly 10 percent for the spring semester. And STEM enrollment has increased 84 percent over the last five years.

"The increase in enrollment reflects what's happening in the workplace," said Kathleen Sweeney, MCC Dean of Health and STEM. "There are more jobs in STEM fields and people are becoming more aware of that and more interested."

Middlesex is keeping up with the increase in interest and STEM enrollment by ramping up initiatives aimed at student success. "Faculty-led efforts are making a big difference in student interest and student completion," said Sweeney. "Faculty members are helping students at a grassroots level to keep them engaged with their programs of study and developing special initiatives to help them succeed."

Creating MCC's Health & STEM Pathways Center, Summer Bridge Program, and encouraging students to become actively involved in their education by joining the MCC STEM Club, have all helped keep students engaged in their education, said Sweeney. Over the last five years, MCC's STEM programs have seen a 42 percent increase in student completion rates, she added.

MCC will be able to expand STEM enrollment with the help of a recent grant from Complete College America (CCA) to aid statewide efforts to increase the number of college students who complete degree and certificate programs STEM fields.

Administered through the State Board of Higher Education, the technical-assistance grant will allow nine Massachusetts public campuses to design academic innovations through CCA’s Guided Pathways to Success (GPS) in STEM Careers initiative. The goal of GPS is to help students persist in their studies and then graduate into promising STEM careers.

During the two-year period of the grant, CCA will provide technical expertise to the eight community colleges and one state university to help develop STEM completion goals, and analyze local labor market conditions and workforce needs.

"Through the CCA grant, all of our Health & STEM programs of study are developing 'program maps' for student to help them navigate their way through the very challenging STEM coursework, earn a degree, and move on to successful careers," said Sweeney.

For more information about MCC's STEM programs, visit https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/STEM/ or contact Kathleen Sweeney at sweeneyk@middlesex.mass.edu.

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MCC International Film Series returns Thursday with 'Girl Rising'

LOWELL — Middlesex Community College continues its 2013-14 International Film Series with free monthly screenings of films from around the world. All screenings begin with light refreshments and conclude with a post-screening discussion. Admission is free and open to the public. Supported in part by a grant from the Middlesex Community College Foundation, MCC's International Film Series explores global cultures through the medium of film, according to series organizer and Art Professor Jan Arabas.

The MCC 2013-14 International Film Series schedule, all held at 6:30 p.m. at the Federal Building Assembly Room, 50 Kearney Square, Lowell, includes:

- **Girl Rising**, Thursday, March 6.
- **Bitter Seeds**, Thursday, April 17.
- **Ai Weiwei: Never Sorry**, Thursday, May 1.

Call Arabas at 781-280-3764 or e-mail arabasj@middlesex.mass.edu or cadyd@middlesex.mass.edu.

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'Girl Rising' shows power of education

LOWELL — Middlesex Community College's 2013-14 International Film Series will screen 'Girl Rising' on Thursday, March 6, at 6:30 p.m., in the Federal Building Assembly Room at 50 Kearney Square. The screening is free and open to the public. The program concludes with a post-screening discussion with English Professor Cathy McCarron.

'Girl Rising' presents the stories of nine girls from around the world, told by celebrated writers and voiced by actors. It delivers a simple, critical truth: Educate girls and you will change the world.

For information about MCC's 2013-14 International Film Series, contact Art Professor Jan Arabas at 781-280-3764 or arabasj@middlesex.mass.edu or Dean of Global Education, Dona Cady at 978-656-3470 or cadyd@middlesex.mass.edu.

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International Film Series Continues with 'Girl Rising'

Middlesex Community College's 2013-14 International Film Series will screen 'Girl Rising.' The screening will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 6, in MCC's Federal Building Assembly Room, 50 Kearney Square, on the Lowell campus. Free and open to the public, the program begins with light refreshments and concludes with a post-screening discussion with English Professor Cathy McCarron.

A groundbreaking feature film, 'Girl Rising' highlights the strength of the human spirit and the power of education to transform society. The film presents the remarkable stories of nine girls from around the world, told by celebrated writers and voiced by renowned actors. It delivers a simple, critical truth: Educate girls and you will change the world.

This screening is made possible by the generous support of the MCC Foundation, Cultural Connection and the Women's Leadership Network, and by a grant from the Middlesex Community College Foundation.

For more information about MCC's 2013-14 International Film Series, contact Art Professor Jan Arabas at 781-280-3764 or arabasj@middlesex.mass.edu or Dean of Global Education, Dona Cady at 978-656-3470 or cadyd@middlesex.mass.edu.

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**COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

**Funding targets performance, growth**

By Gerry Tuoti and Bruce Coulter

With discussions on the state's fiscal 2015 budget underway, some community colleges are getting a bigger slice of the pie as Massachusetts implements a new funding formula.

"We are trying to link budget allocations to our educational priorities," state Commissioner of Higher Education Richard Freeland said. "That's really an important principle of budgeting."

Enrollment and performance metrics are reflected in the funding. Two of the fastest growing community colleges, Quinsigamond and Bristol Community College, got funding increases of 25.8 percent and 21.2 percent, respectively, for the current fiscal year.

Middlesex Community College also saw a double-digit hike.

**Underserved**

Springfield Technical Community College President Elinor P. Rocheleau, who chairs the Department of Higher Education's statewide community colleges committee, said she's happy to see attention paid to community colleges and hopes for more funding in the future. She called the funding formula "a good first step."

"We were the forgotten sector of education," Recheleau said. "We're underserved. We have 100,000 students in 15 colleges, the most African-American and Latino students in any sector of higher education and the most poor students, but we're the most underfunded. The people who need the most are getting the least."

**Middlesex Community College**

Jay Linnel, executive vice president and chief financial officer at Lowell-based Middlesex Community College, said the formula seems to be working well on the local level from his perspective.

"This formula funding is a better way to appropriate dollars than what the previous methodology was, which was incremental funding," he said. "While my particular formula is going to leave its glitches, we were pleased with the formula. It's worked well for us."

Middlesex got a 10.9 percent increase in fiscal 2011.

Linnel emphasized the reason for the increase was because the school agreed not to raise fees.

"The source of the revenue came from the state instead of the students," he said. "We're thrilled that the state has given us more money so we can keep it off the backs of the students."

The increase allowed Middlesex to take a number of positive steps to serve the college and students, he said. Among them, the ability to fill all faculty positions that became vacant.

"Beyond that, we added two new STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) faculty positions. That's a key area," said Linnel.

Another important step: He said the infusion of cash allowed the college to increase its safety net scholarship program by $100,000. The scholarship is available to financial students, but the program tries to target middle-income students.

"We're trying to maintain quality programs. We think that will attract quality students to the college," he said.

Middlesex has also implemented a new student success model with the redesign of its tutoring services, which he called key to supporting outside of the classroom.

"Student seem to react much better with peer tutors than professional tutors," he said.

Additionally, said Linnel, this year, the Lowell and Bedford campuses were able to go wine-free.

"That was brought to our attention by student government," he said.

The college continues to do deferred maintenance on both campuses, such as elevators, HVAC and retrofitting for sustainability and energy conservation.

"Every single office and every single classroom. We're talking about a lot of bricks," he said.

Ultimately, success at the college comes down to the quality of its programs, said Linnel.

"When they come to school, they spend a lot of time and money. We give them a quality education. We have a track for honor students and for those who might be academically challenged," he said.

**The formula**

The new funding formula, which was first introduced for the current fiscal year, splits $2.4 million in total funding for community colleges in fiscal 2013. For fiscal 2014, the Department of Higher Education has proposed rolling $2.5 million into base funding, then adding an additional $10 into performance-based funding. The fiscal 2015 budget process is still in its very early stage, and figures may change before a budget is passed.

Community colleges are awarded points based on size, graduation rates, the number of graduates in science, technology, engineering and math fields, graduating at-risk students and other metrics. The points determine how much of a share of the funding pool each college receives.

As the formula is first implemented, no college will suffer funding cuts, Freeland said. Eventually, there will be an equalization of the state's 15 community colleges.

"Our goal is to help every one of these students realize their education goals," she said.

Gerry Tuoti is the Pigsgill Smith Professor for Communication at Bates College. He can be reached at gtuoti@ Bates.edu.
For Jason Bere, no regrets for career that ‘could have been’

By David Pevear
dpevear@lowellsun.com

When Derek Jeter recently announced that 2014 would be his final season, Baseball America nostalgically posted its Top 100 Prospects list from spring training 1993, the list on which Jeter’s name first appeared.

Baseball America highlighted the 43 players it rated ahead of Jeter at that point, eight months after the Yankees drafted their future captain sixth overall out of Kalamazoo Central High.

Way up at No. 8 on that prospects list (which was topped by Chipper Jones) was a 21-year-old from Wilmington signed by the White Sox three years earlier for $2,000 as a 36th-round draft pick out of Middlesex Community College. Jason Bere stood 36 places ahead of Jeter on that list, 30 ahead of Mike Piazza and five ahead of Manny Ramirez.

“We all ended up having about the same careers,” Bere jokes.

Bere looked like he was headed to stardom. In a span of three years he rose from a soon-defunct baseball program at Middlesex CC to being runner-up to Tim Salmon for the 1993 American League Rookie of the Year.

He was 24-7 over his first two seasons with the White Sox (12-2 in the strike-shortened 1994 season). He pitched in an All-Star Game. He made a start in the ALCS. Bere was still 23 when legendary baseball writer Jerome Holtzman wrote in the Chicago Tribune in April 1995 that if Bere could stay free of injuries, “the prediction here is that he could be among the best pitchers of his time.”

If he could stay free of injuries, wouldn’t you know it, Bere’s right elbow and shoulder began to abandon him soon thereafter.

Life is good, though. This November, Bere, 42, and his high school sweetheart Dimelle (Erwin) will celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary. They live in North Andover with their son, Daucon, 16, and daughter Colby, 14.

“I was 24-7 before I got married. The next year (1995) I went 8-15,” jokes Bere. “But I think that had more to do with the elbow.”

Bere grimaced through a 1995 season of worsening pain in his right elbow that led to Tommy John surgery the following year. “If I could have changed anything, I would have done that surgery right away,” says Bere. “I foolishly waited.”

Otherwise, he has no regrets. “I was extremely fortunate I got to play as long as I did,” says Bere, who despite his injuries pitched 11 seasons for the Brewers in 2000 and with Cleveland, two of five Major League teams for whom he played.
Bere stays in game of baseball

BERE/From Page 11

in the big leagues, finishing with a lifetime record of 71-85.

Bere is now a special assistant to baseball operations for the Indians, the organization he was with at the end of his playing career. He was with Triple-A Buffalo in 2005 when persistent pain in his surgically repaired right shoulder forced him to retire at age 33.

Bere’s duties now include advising Cleveland’s top prospects on being proper professionals. He acts as a sounding board. He mentors kids without talking about himself. “They aren’t going to remember me,” says Bere. “It’s not like I was a household name. It’s not like it’s (Roger) Clemens talking to them. Quite frankly I was a 36th-round draft pick, initially there to fill a roster in rookie ball, who with good coaching and hard work took off from there.”

Even if he won’t tell it, Bere’s story is a lesson in seizing one’s opportunity. Middlesex Community College’s baseball program was fading fast in 1990 when White Sox scout Guy Mader of Tewksbury brought a regional cross-checker to Bedford to watch Bere throw in the cold. Bere recalls a workout with him, two scouts and his catcher, Mark Walsh. He threw well enough for the White Sox to draft him in the 36th round.

“They only offered me $500. I talked them up to $2,000,” says Bere. Just a little more than three years later, Bere struck out 13 Red Sox batters over eight innings of an 8-1 win in Chicago.

Boston writers ate up the story of a power righty from Wilmington High who not long before had been flipping pizzas at Uncle Mickey’s on Shawsheen Avenue.

Baseball-reference.com estimates Bere’s salaries totaled up to $10.8 million over his 11-year career, relatively modest earnings in baseball money. “I was making more than I was flipping pizzas,” Bere says with a laugh.

Bere appreciates how well the White Sox developed and coached pitchers during his time in their organization. They did it so well that a 36th-round pick from Middlesex CC became an All-Star.

“The pitching staff was relatively young, but Alex Fernandez, Wilson Alvarez and Jack McDowell already had a couple of years in the big leagues when I got there,” says Bere. “They were kind of able to show me the way. I was fortunate to come into that situation.”

Follow David Pevear on Twitter and Tout @merganser10
Middlesex Community College STEM Enrollment Steadily Increasing

Posted by Elliot Silver on Feb 26, 2014 | Community Updates | PostThis

Middlesex Community College has increased enrollment in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) programs of study by nearly 10 percent for the spring semester. And STEM enrollment has increased 84 percent over the last five years.

"The increase in enrollment reflects what's happening in the workplace," said Kathleen Sweeney, MCC Dean of Health and STEM. "There are more jobs in STEM fields and people are becoming more aware of that and more interested."

Middlesex is keeping up with the increase in interest and STEM enrollment by ramping up initiatives aimed at student success. "Faculty-led efforts are making a big difference in student interest and student completion," said Sweeney. "Faculty members are helping students at a grassroots level to keep them engaged with their programs of study and developing special initiatives to help them succeed."

Creating MCC's Health & STEM Pathways Center, Summer Bridge Program, and encouraging students to become actively involved in their education by joining the MCC STEM Club, have all helped keep students engaged in their education, said Sweeney. Over the last five years, MCC's STEM programs have seen a 42 percent increase in student completion rates, she added.

MCC will be able to expand STEM enrollment with the help of a recent grant from Complete College America (CCA) to aid statewide efforts to increase the number of college students who complete degree and certificate programs in STEM fields.

Administered through the State Board of Higher Education, the technical-assistance grant will allow nine Massachusetts public campuses to design academic innovations through CCA's Guided Pathways to Success (GPS) in STEM Careers initiative. The goal of GPS is to help students persist in their studies and then graduate into promising STEM careers.

During the two-year period of the grant, CCA will provide technical assistance to the eight community colleges and one state university to help develop STEM completion goals, and analyze local labor market conditions and workforce needs.

"Through the CCA grant, all of our Health & STEM programs of study are developing "program maps" for student to help them navigate their way through the very challenging STEM coursework, earn a degree, and move on to successful careers," said Sweeney.

For more information about MCC's STEM programs, visit https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/stem/ or contact Kathleen Sweeney at sweeneck@middlesex.mass.edu.

Let us know your thoughts!
New Massachusetts community college funding formula targets performance, growth

With discussions on the state’s fiscal 2015 budget underway, some community colleges are getting a bigger slice of the pie as Massachusetts implements a new funding formula.

“We are trying to link budget allocations to our educational priorities,” state Commissioner of Higher Education Richard Freeland said. “That’s really an important principle of budgeting.”

Enrollment and performance trends are reflected in the funding. Two of the fastest growing community colleges, Quinsigamond and Bristol Community College got funding increases of 25.8 and 21.2 percent, respectively, for the current fiscal year. Much smaller institutions got smaller allocations. Cape Cod Community College, for example, got a 3.5 percent increase in fiscal 2014.

Bristol

“At Bristol Community College, we love the formula,” BCC President Jack Shrega said. “Most of the years I’ve been here — and this is my 14th year — the appropriation was the same for all the community colleges. 3 percent up or 2 percent down. It made a bad situation worse. There were great inequities and, frankly, Bristol was suffering.”

As BCC, which is based in Fall River, grew from the eighth to third largest community college in the state, it saw its per pupil funding decline under the old formula.

“There was no doubt things had to be changed,” Shrega said.

The formula

The new funding formula, which was first introduced for the current fiscal year, splits $200 million in funding among the 15 Massachusetts community colleges based on enrollment and performance data, including graduation and retention rates. That is in addition to base funding. The system, Freeland said, works to correct funding inequities generated by the previous funding formula. The old formula provided incremental, across-the-board percentage increases or reductions, regardless of each college’s size or performance.

The formula, Freeland explained, appropriates a $4.5 million operations subsidy to each community college, then splits the remaining portions into two parts. One part is determined by size and is linked to each college’s number of course credit hours. The other is linked to performance, aligning funding to the Vision Project, a strategic plan for improving student success in higher education.

“Places like Quinsigamond and Bristol have been growing like gangbusters, while there are other campuses — places like Cape Cod, Greenfield or Berkshire — that are not growing as fast or not at all,” Freeland said. Quinsigamond is based in Worcester.

The governor’s proposed budget calls for $264 million in total funding for community colleges in fiscal 2015. For fiscal 2015, the Department of Higher Education has proposed rolling $20 million into base funding, then adding an additional $20 into performance-based funding. The fiscal 2015 budget process is still in its very early stages, and figures may change before a budget is passed.

Community colleges are awarded points based on size; graduation rates; the number of graduates in science, technology, engineering or math fields; graduating at-risk students and other metrics. The points determine how big a share of the funding pie each college receives.

As the formula is first implemented, no college will suffer funding cuts, Freeland said. Eventually, there will be a provision that won’t allow the state to cut a college’s funding by more than 5 percent in a given year, regardless of the scoring. Modifications may be made along the way.

The preliminary fiscal 2015 budget also includes a request for $15 million linked to the development of a new funding formula for the nine state universities in Massachusetts.

Massachusetts Bay

“When you bring on a new funding model, what you don’t want to do is not allow for change and evolution,” Massachusetts Bay Community College President John O’Donnell said. “Because of the stop-loss model, every college actually gained funds. What this allows the colleges to do is adapt the concepts of access and success and make sure those are being focused on.”

Mass Bay, based in Framingham, saw a 16.3 percent increase in funding for fiscal 2014.

“Conceptually, I’m strongly in support of performance-based funding,” said O’Donnell, who helped develop a similar system in Ohio before coming to Mass Bay. “I have extensive experience under that model in other states.”

Cape Cod

Cape Cod Community College, based in West Barnstable, has a smaller enrollment than many other schools in the community college system, and received a 3.5 percent funding increase in the current fiscal year.

“It’s a move in the right direction that there’s more funding being directed to community college students,” Cape Cod Community College President John Cox said. “We’re moving closer to the funding levels we had in the early 2000s. It takes pressure off having to raise fees, but we still have some distance to cover increasing funding to public higher education. I also think we’re on the leading edge of where funding for public higher education is heading.”

“Our goal is to help every one of those students realize their education goal,” she said.
Massachusetts
Massachusetts Community College President Charles Wall said he generally supports the concept of performance funding, but thinks there needs to be a high, permanent funding floor.

“It’s a first step, but it’s a work in progress,” Wall said. “We obviously always need to tweak it going forward.”

In fiscal 2014, Brockton-based Massasoit got a 3.5 percent increase, which includes funds for collective bargaining.

“About half of us are benefiting from this formula, and about half of us are not particularly benefiting from this unless there’s a hold-harmless provision,” Wall said. “After you’ve had decades of funding discrepancies, and you’ve had growth and change, the formula is going to have some imbalance in the beginning.”

Middlesex
Jay Linnihan, executive vice president and chief financial officer at Lowell-based Middlesex Community College, said the formula seems to be working well on the local level from his perspective.

“This formula funding is a way better way to appropriate dollars than what the previous methodology was, which was incremental funding,” he said. “While any particular formula is going to have its glitches, we were pleased with the formula. It’s worked well for us.”

Middlesex got a 3.6 percent increase in fiscal 2014.

A statewide perspective
Springfield Technical Community College President Ira Rubenahl, who chairs the Department of Higher Education’s statewide community colleges committee, said he’s happy to see attention paid to community colleges and hopes for more funding in the future. He called the funding formula “a good first step.”

“We’re the forgotten sector of education,” Rubenahl said. “We’re underfunded. We have 100,000 students in 15 colleges, the most African-American and Latino students in any sector of higher education and the most poor students, but we’re the most underfunded. The people who need the most are getting the least.”

— Gerry Tuoti is the Regional Newsbank Editor for GateHouse Media New England. Email him at gtuoti@sunnewsonline.com or call him at 508-997-3137.
Middlesex Community College

Middlesex Community College Trains Health Care Students to Quickly Enter the Workforce

LOWELL, Mass. – Middlesex Community College’s Academy of Health Professions (AHP) offers short-term, accelerated programs that prepare students for entry-level careers in health care fields – and allow them to work while they continue their education.

Since 2010, this innovative program on MCC’s Lowell campus has turned out a growing number of skilled health care workers to meet the industry’s increasing needs. Middlesex AHP programs include Certified Nursing Assistant, Clinical Laboratory Assistant, Medical Office Administration, Medical Receptionist and Phlebotomy. And, coming this spring is a new evening Medical Assistant certificate program.

AHP graduates are among the growing ranks of medical professionals who work with patients before and after seeing their doctors. They are the medical receptionists, office administrators, nursing assistants, phlebotomists and clinical laboratory assistants who are integral to the new team-like approach to medical care.

"Today, health care is all about teamwork. There’s a need for trained personnel to assist with blood draws, give injections, and handle front office (receptionist) jobs," said Denise Garrow-Pruitt, MCC’s Assistant Dean of Health.

AHP trains students in a nontraditional way, through accelerated, short-term, hands-on courses. The program also assists students with clinical practicums and is focused on getting them into the workforce quickly - a boon to workers looking for jobs.
Courses are offered days or evening/weekends in eight-week sessions on a rolling-admissions basis. AHP students can enter at any level of the program, as long as they meet entry requirements, including a reading test, physical exam, immunizations and criminal screenings. Clinical practicums are offered at area hospitals, nursing homes and medical offices.

“Our goal is to help those who are unemployed or underemployed learn the skills and get into jobs in the medical field with 18 to 29 credits and a certificate,” Garrow-Pruitt explained. “After being hired in entry-level positions, our students' employers can help them to continue their training – with tuition reimbursement – and move into more highly skilled jobs.”

Established in 2010 with funding from the Commonwealth Corp. and now part of the Massachusetts Community Colleges & Workforce Development “Transformation Agenda,” AHP offers students intensive, comprehensive and content-driven training that allows them to work while they continue their education, said Angel Pepin, Director of AHP and a former hospital administrator.

“Our program model provides students with ‘stackable’ certificates that give them options to enter the health care field and continue on a career path to other health careers,” he explained.

Amy Koukou and Susan Grenier are prime examples of a key AHP goal: to expedite the training of underemployed workers, or those seeking career changes, and introduce them to exciting careers in the health industry.

Before enrolling in AHP, both women had jobs, but were no longer satisfied with their work. Koukou was a nursing assistant in a local long-term care facility, and Grenier was a public school special needs paraprofessional.

After exploring options at AHP, they enrolled in the Phlebotomy and Clinical Laboratory Assistant certificate programs. Koukou and Grenier have now completed their studies and certification as phlebotomists and clinical lab assistants, and are trained for jobs drawing blood in a hospital or medical practice lab, and assisting in those laboratories.

“I learned so much in AHP,” said Koukou, a Liberian native who lives in Lowell, Mass. “They teach you skills, including lots of hands-on practice drawing blood on each other.”

Grenier, from Salem, N.H., originally planned to become a nurse. But an AHP instructor’s enthusiasm for phlebotomy and clinical lab work swayed her to change her mind. “Once I learned about the laboratory assistant programs, I changed my focus. I found that I liked the idea of working with people in phlebotomy, as well as in the lab. And in 2014, I plan to enroll in MCC’s new Medical Laboratory Technology degree program,” she said.

“We work with students to get them employed,” added Garrow-Pruitt. Success rates are high for AHP program participants because of the training and support they receive, she said. “Health care careers have no expiration date. Our students learn specialized skills to prepare them now, and there will always be a need for people who do these jobs.”

For more information about Middlesex Community College’s Academy of Health Professions, visit http://www.middlesex.mass.edu/ahp or call 1-800-818-3434.

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