Middlesex Names Lowell Campus building in Honor of Carole Cowan

Kennedy stops by MCC to soak in STEM education success firsthand

MCC’s Phlebotomy Certificate Program Named Top in State

Middlesex Students Mentor Bartlett School Students in STEM fields
AN AMBITIOUS ASSIGNMENT: “We really want to break down the disparities in success between different groups,” said new Middlesex Community College President James Mabry. “We want all people to come in and be able to succeed in this environment.”

Charting a course for growth

By Amelia Pak-Harvey
apakh Harvey@lowellsun.com

LOWELL — James Mabry does not have a magical 90-day plan to enact as he settles into his new position as president of Middlesex Community College.

Instead, the Arizona transplant is spending his initial days immersing himself in the community — much in the way his predecessor Carole Cowan has done.

“What I take from her is a very positive, very can-do attitude,” Mabry said on his second week in office. “One that is very open to creative ideas and is open to thinking creatively about how we can work with a broad range of partners within the communities that we serve.”

Mabry’s oversight of the college includes continuing its expansion efforts, picking up the baton that Cowan carried for 24 years as president.

That growth includes a $14.5 million effort to renovate the old Boston and Maine Railroad Depot downtown within the next two years, transforming it into an academic-arts building.

Meanwhile, a new biotechnology building on the Bedford campus is still in the planning phases, and the school has yet to decide what to do with another $10 million it received from the state for a new academic space in Lowell.

Please see MABRY/2
New at MCC helm, Mabry sets course for growth

MABRY/From Page 1

"It's all part of the college's continued investment in both campuses, and specifically in investing in the development of Lowell," Mabry said.

"Working closely with the city and organizations within the city to really help make this a premier gateway city."

As vice provost of academic affairs at Mesa Community College in Arizona, Mabry took charge of 180 degree programs, curriculum and scheduling at Middlesex — much smaller than Mesa's 23,000 students — Mabry says he will continue focusing on student success, retention and graduation.

"I think my real strong background in teaching and learning, which is essentially the core mission of the college, is something I'm both very familiar with and very fond of," he said.

"We have here a tremendous base of strong relationships and it's really up to me to foster and nurture those relationships," he said.

Mabry noted one of the college’s greatest challenges will be to extend higher education to a broader range of people.

"We really want to break down the disparities in success between different groups," he said. "We want all people to come in and be able to succeed in this environment."

And although President Barack Obama's proposal for a free two years of community college could help with affordability, Mabry is not banking on that idea.

"I think that with all proposals in Washington, D.C., no sane person is going to hold their breath waiting for it to happen," he said. "But it certainly has helped raise the visibility of community colleges."

Remedial education is another issue for community colleges, as high school classes churn out a number of students who aren't able to test in to credit-bearing courses.

Mabry saw the same issue in Arizona, and argued that it's a national issue.

"That tells you we have some systemic issues to deal with. It's not a local problem," he said. "You can't turn around and blame a high school and blame a school system."

But he praised MCC's initiative with Lowell High School, which offers a fast prep for seniors so that they don't receive poor scores on the placement test.

In the first few months, Mabry will be connecting with the community.

"It's really an opportunity for me, within that time period of time, to get to know and to get to understand the college and the communities that it serves," he said, "so that when we can work together to form programs that will really help our students succeed."

Follow Amelia on Twitter and Toot @Amelia-PakHarvey.
Rethinking Workforce Development in Massachusetts

SKILLS GAP (/TOPICS/SKILLS-GAP)

BY DENNIS PIERCE
MARCH 27, 2015

By leveraging data as well as partnerships, Middlesex Community College is responding to the needs of area employers and rethinking workforce development.

The launch of a new cybersecurity degree program this year at Middlesex Community College (MCC), in Massachusetts, is the latest example of how the college has adapted in response to industry trends.

Having been the first major factory city in the United States, Lowell is considered the “Cradle of the American Industrial Revolution.” Today, its factories have given way to the technology companies and biotech firms that have branched out to the Boston suburbs.

By listening to the needs of these employers, MCC has been innovating at a rapid pace — which has led to significant growth in enrollment in its academic and job training programs. More importantly, this innovation has benefitted employers and the public.

“We’re not just putting courses in a catalog and saying, ‘Hey, I hope you come.’ We are actively and aggressively finding out what employers need and then developing programs to meet those needs,” says Judy Burke, dean of corporate and community education and training.

A history of workforce development

MCC has been heavily focused on workforce development for more than 30 years, building industry partnerships that help campus leaders understand the needs of employers. Industry representatives sit on the advisory boards for every academic program, and Burke’s department works with companies to design noncredit courses that fill key gaps in employees’ skills.

“Everything we do, both on the credit side and the noncredit side, is for the benefit of the general public and helping them advance their skills,” she says. In the past five years, MCC has developed 18 new noncredit programs, 11 new degree programs and six new credit certificates in response to industry needs.

“We also offer on-site training to employers — anything from English as a second language and adult basic education to high-tech computer training,” she says.

Partnering with industry

In the past few years, MCC has adopted creative new strategies to stay abreast of industry trends, including the formation of a Workforce Development Council and the use of “help wanted” analytics.
The Workforce Development Council consists of academic deans, representatives from state Workforce Investment Boards and career centers, and members of Burke's staff. “We sit around the table every few months and discuss, ‘How can we work together as a team to advance our region?’” Burke says. “I think it’s unique, but it’s really important work.”

Through a U.S. Department of Labor grant, MCC leaders also have access to a commercial analytics tool that provides insight into where the heaviest concentration of job vacancies are — and what skills or competencies are needed for these positions.

“We're using this information to see where we can expand our IT offerings,” says Kathleen Sweeney, dean of STEM and health programs. This initiative led to the formation of MCC’s new cybersecurity degree program, which focuses on developing secure software that performs only its intended functions.

An entrepreneurial spirit underlies all of the college’s efforts. When campus leaders learned that a new state law allows dental hygienists to administer anesthesia, the administrators realized that dental hygienists in the field didn’t have that skill because they’d never had the training. In response, a plan to fill this need was developed. Since then, “we've trained hundreds and hundreds of dental hygienists in how to deliver the anesthesia,” Burke says.

As a result of the college's efforts, STEM enrollment has risen 31 percent in the past five years, enrollment in biotech courses is up 87 percent since 2005, and MCC is planning to build a new biotechnology building. Revenue from noncredit courses has increased 42 percent since 2008, and the college has established new programs in advanced manufacturing and several other areas.

“We like to say that we’ll never say no; we always say maybe,” Burke says. “If we can't fulfill our obligation to an employer, we'll find someone — whether it's a consultant or another educational institution — to make sure that employer is satisfied and gets what they need.”

How is your college partnering with area industry? Tell us in the Comments.

SHARE THIS ARTICLE

6 15 0 1
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 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 24, in the Bedford Campus Center’s Cafe 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 a panel of MCC Paralegal Studies alumni currently working in the legal environment. Participants can also meet with MCC Law Center staff, Paralegal Studies faculty, members of MCC’s Student Paralegal Club, and MCC admissions representatives.

Panelists include Lynn Turgeon, paralegal and co-founder of Evidex, an eDiscovery firm; Michele Ross, an MCC and Wellesley alums, master’s degree student in peace and conflict studies at UMass Lowell and graduate assistant at UMass Lowell; Michael Liceas, MCC alumnus, paralegal with Chin & Curtis and student liaison director of the Massachusetts Paralegal Association; Brianna Morecroft, MCC alumna and senior paralegal at Truplt N. Patel & Associates; Christine Griffin, MCC alumna, life coach and paralegal with Bowditch & Dewey, LLP; and Ursula Furi-Perry, Director of Academic Support at the Massachusetts School of Law, Dill & Furi-Perry LLP, and author of “50 Legal Careers for Non-Lawyers.”

Approved by the American Bar Association, MCC’s Paralegal Studies Program offers 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). For more information about MCC’s Paralegal Studies programs, visit https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/paralegal/.

For more information about Paralegal Career Night at Middlesex, contact Haye Sugaum at sugarmun@middlesex.mass.edu or 1-800-818-3434.

MCC Explores ‘Latin America Today’ at Interdisciplinary Weekend

Register now for “Latin America Today,” a unique two-day Interdisciplinary Weekend course, to be held Friday and Saturday, April 3 & 4, at Middlesex Community College. This one-credit course will explore Latin America’s cultural traditions and connections with the world through art and literature, history and philosophy, economics and science, music, dance and food.

The two-day course, which is designed to have the feel of a conference, begins on Friday afternoon with a guided museum tour of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, followed by a thematic meal in Cambridge (included in price of course).

Saturday sessions begin with a keynote address titled “Will Latin America Run on Dunkin’? Understanding the Impacts of Fair Trade and Coffee Marketing Corporations” by Michael Cermak. Concurrent sessions follow the keynote, and include salsa dancing, ceramics, poetry and drumming.

Interdisciplinary Weekend 2015 concludes with a special musical performance, titled “Music From South America.” Co-sponsored by MCC’s A World of Music spring concert series, the performance will feature Music Department faculty members Adam Levin, guitar; Carmen Rodriguez-Peralta, piano; and Anna Ward, soprano; joined by Orlando Cela, playing flute and cuatro, a small Venezuelan guitar. Tangos from Argentina, a piano solo inspired by the popular music of Brazil, guitar solos from Paraguay, evocative songs from Peru in Spanish and Quechua, the language of the Incas, and a Venezuelan duet for guitar and cuatro will be performed.

To learn more about “Latin America Today,” contact Donna Cady, Dean of Global Education, at cady@middlesex.mass.edu. To register for Interdisciplinary Weekend 2015 (IDS 105), call 1-800-818-3434.

MCC’s Phlebotomy Certificate Program Named Top in State

Middlesex Community College’s Phlebotomy Program was recently presented the 2014 Best of Phlebotomy Education Award by Phlebotomy TrainingSpot.com. A free resource for prospective students and career seekers looking for phlebotomy training and jobs, Phlebotomy TrainingSpot.com recognizes the top phlebotomy programs across the U.S.

“We are honored to receive the Best Phlebotomy Education Award,” said Suzanne McHale, Program Coordinator for MCC’s Academy of Health Professions. “Our Phlebotomy Certificate Program trains students to become skilled phlebotomists as well as exceptional healthcare professionals. We hold our students to the highest standards of the field.”

MCC’s Phlebotomy Certificate Program enables students to build the skills necessary to work in hospitals, clinics, doctors’ offices, nursing homes, research settings and reference labs. Students are trained to perform a variety of blood-collection methods using proper techniques and precautions.

The Phlebotomy Certificate Program is part of MCC’s Academy of Health Professions (AHP), which offers short-term training and college-credit courses to prepare students for careers in entry-level health care. Other programs offered as part of AHP include Certified Nursing Assistant, Medical Receptionist, Medical Office Administration, Medical Assisting, and a Clinical Lab Assistant Certificate Program.

Phlebotomy TrainingSpot.com recognizes programs with the ability to foster career and personal development in their students. Nominees were rated over a several-month period at the end of 2014 and winners were identified based on total ratings, program reputation and accreditations.

For more information about MCC’s Phlebotomy Certificate Program, contact Suzanne McHale at mchale@middlesex.mass.edu or 978-322-8412.

Middlesex Community College meets the evolving educational, civic and workforce needs of our local and global communities. As one of the largest, most comprehensive community colleges in the state, we educate more than 13,000 students annually on our campuses in Bedford and Lowell, and online. MCC offers more than 75 degree and certificate programs, plus hundreds of noncredit courses. At Middlesex, every one teaches, everyone learns.
Carnegie awards MCC for engagement

LOWELL — For the second time, Middlesex Community College has received the Carnegie Foundation's multi-year Community Engagement Classification, which recognizes the college's commitment to service and community engagement.

Middlesex was selected as one of five Massachusetts community colleges to receive the reclassification distinction.

"This classification gives us a chance to look closely at a range of ways that we connect with the communities we serve," said Carina Self, assistant dean of Social Sciences and Service-Learning. "We are thrilled to be among a small group of community colleges that have been through this process twice and hope we can continue to serve as a resource to other colleges as they grow their community-engagement initiatives."

At the reclassification announcement, the college community was joined by members of Girls Inc. of Greater Lowell, one of the MCC's longstanding community partners, to mark the occasion by participating in a community art project.

MCC's commitment to community service began with the college's Service-Learning Program, a credit-bearing educational experience in which students participate in an organized activity that meets identified community needs, and then reflect on their service.

First introduced in 1992, with a $2,500 grant and only one course, the program has grown remarkably. Currently, Middlesex offers more than 100 Service-Learning courses and has more than 850 active community partners. Over the last 20 years, more than 10,000 students have completed more than 234,000 service hours.

Middlesex was selected by Campus Compact, a nonprofit coalition of more than 1,100 college and university presidents committed to developing the civic engagement of students, as one of only 13 colleges in the nation to be studied as a model of exemplary practices of civic engagement.

Also, MCC has been named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll since its launch in 2006.

The Honor Roll recognizes colleges and universities nationwide that support innovative and effective community service and service-learning programs.

To learn more about MCC's Service-Learning Program, contact Cynthia Lynch at 781-280-3556 or lynchc@middlesex.mass.edu.
Violinist Ryu Goto
to perform at MCC

Middlesex Community College's A World of Music spring concert series continues with a concert featuring Ryu Goto, a violinist, and MCC Music Department faculty member Carmen Rodriguez-Peralta, a pianist, at 8 p.m. April 17 in MCC's Concert Hall on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road. The concert is free and open to the public.

Goto's career began at age 7 when he made his debut at the Pacific Music Festival in Sapporo, Japan. Since then, Goto has appeared as a soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic, Munchner Philharmoniker and the Sydney Symphony.

Alongside MCC Music Department faculty member Carmen Rodriguez-Peralta, the duo will perform "Sonata in A Major" by Cesar Franck, "Tocar" by Kaija Saariaho and the virtuosic "Variations on an Original Theme" by Henryk Wieniawski. Goto will be playing the Stradivarius 1722 violin Jupiter, on loan to him from the Nippon Music Foundation.

Rodriguez-Peralta has appeared as a piano soloist and chamber musician throughout the U.S., Peru and Mexico. As a winner of Artists International Young Musicians Auditions, she was presented in two solo recitals at Carnegie Recital Hall in New York and has performed in the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, D.C.; Seiji Ozawa Hall in Tanglewood; and in the Dame Myra Hess Concert Series in Chicago and Los Angeles.

Other events in MCC's A World of Music spring concert series include an MCC Faculty Composers Concert, to be held at 3 p.m. May 3 in MCC's Concert Hall. Three MCC student recitals will also be held this spring. Student Instrumentalists and singers will perform at noon May 4 in MCC's Concert Hall on the Bedford campus. Voice students will perform at 10:30 a.m. May 5 in the Federal Building Assembly Room, 50 Kearney Square, Lowell; and the MCC Guitar Ensemble will perform at 12:30 p.m. May 6 in the Federal Building Assembly Room.

For information: middlesex.mass.edu.
MCC’s Free Spring Concert Series Continues with ‘Music from South America’

A World of Music, Middlesex Community College’s 2015 spring concert series, continues with “Music from South America” at 3 p.m. Saturday, April 4, in the Federal Building Assembly Room, on the Lowell campus, 50 Kearney Square. The concert is free and open to the public.

Co-sponsored by MCC’s Interdisciplinary Weekend 2015: “Latin America Today,” MCC Music Department faculty members Adam Levin, guitar; Carmen Rodriguez-Peralta, piano; and Anna Ward, soprano, will be joined by Orlando Cela, playing flute and cuatro, a small Venezuelan guitar. Tangos from Argentina, a piano solo inspired by the popular music of Brazil, guitar solos from Paraguay, evocative songs from Peru in Spanish and Quechua, the language of the Incas, and a Venezuelan duet for guitar and cuatro will be performed.

Additional concerts in MCC’s A World of Music will include Ryu Goto, violin, and Carmen Rodriguez-Peralta, piano, at 8 p.m. Friday, April 17, in MCC’s Concert Hall; an MCC Faculty Composers Concert will be held at 7 p.m. Sunday, May 3, in the MCC Concert Hall.

Three MCC Student Recitals will be held this spring. Student Instrumentalists and singers will perform at noon, Monday, May 4, in MCC’s Concert Hall, on the Bedford campus. Voice students will perform at 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, May 5, in the Federal Building Assembly Room, on the Lowell campus; and the MCC Guitar Ensemble will perform at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 6, in the Federal Building Assembly Room in Lowell.

To see previous A World of Music performances, visit www.youtube.com/mccmusicontline2. For more information about A World of Music, contact Carmen Rodriguez-Peralta, director, at cperalta@middlesex.mass.edu or 781-280-3923. For directions, visit: www.middlesex.mass.edu.

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Middlesex Community College Celebrates Asian Culture in April

Middlesex Community College’s International and Multicultural Affairs Office will host a series of Asian Cultural Celebrations on the Lowell campus during the month of April. Free and open to the public, events include:

Khmer String Music: Kse Diev a Presentation by Jeff Dyer – noon to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 8, Multicultural Center (Cowan Center, ground floor). Jeff Dyer was awarded a Thomas J. Watson Fellowship to study Cambodian traditional music in Cambodia. He has performed and presented about Cambodian music across the U.S. and has a forthcoming paper in the journal Asian Music about the kse diev. Dyer teaches at Christa McAuliffe Charter School in Framingham. He will share his knowledge about the kse diev – the unique string instrument that still exists in Cambodian music, but was almost lost due to the Cambodian genocide.

Fresh Spring Roll Demonstration – 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, Multicultural Center (Cowan Center, ground floor). Chhorvivoim Samaeith, Human Services Coordinator with the Lowell Department of Mental Health, will provide a hands-on and step-by-step demonstration about how to make fresh spring rolls. Please join the International Club and sample this delicious Southeast Asian cuisine!

Asian Cultural Celebrations is co-sponsored by Cultural Connections, the International Club, and MCC’s International & Multicultural Affairs Office. For more information about Asian Cultural Celebrations, contact Tunch Van at vanv@middlesex.mass.edu or 978-656-3254.
Middlesex Community College will host an Open House on the Bedford campus at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 28, in the Bedford Campus Center, 591 Springs Road.

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 70 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 Bedford 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, meet with faculty and academic deans, learn about admissions and financial aid, and take a campus tour.

“This open-house format gives students an opportunity to learn about everything Middlesex has to offer,” said Marilynn Galligan, 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, dual enrollment, 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 Bedford Campus Open House, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/OH or call 1-800-818-3434.

About Middlesex Community College

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Middlesex Community College's Office of Marketing Communications has been recognized for outstanding work by the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) at its recent national conference in Portland, Oregon. Middlesex was awarded two 2014 Paragon Awards: A Bronze Award for Profiles, the college magazine; and a Bronze Award for its New Student Welcome Packet.

"Winning two national NCMPR awards is certainly an honor," said Jennifer Aradhya, MCC Director of Marketing Communications. "To have our work singled out and acknowledged by our colleagues from around the country makes our efforts to tell the Middlesex story all the more rewarding."

Affiliated with the American Association of Community Colleges, NCMPR has 1,550 members from more than 650 colleges across the United States, Canada and other countries. NCMPR's prestigious Paragon Awards recognize outstanding achievement in communications at community and technical colleges. It's the only national competition of its kind that exclusively honors excellence among marketing and PR professionals at two-year colleges.

Published twice a year, Profiles magazine spotlights MCC's many talented people, programs and community partnerships. The fall 2013 issue focused on Health & STEM, including the new Health & STEM Pathways Center and ground-breaking Biotechnology Program. The spring 2014 issue focused on the Arts & Humanities and featured interviews with music, art, theater and writing faculty, current students studying the arts, and alumni who are pursuing their artistic passions beyond Middlesex.

Created in conjunction with the Admissions Office, the New Student Welcome Packet is one of the first items new Middlesex students receive from the college. Designed to hold a variety of loose information sheets about important new-student topics, the folder itself features essential general college info, such as how to enroll in courses, apply for financial aid, or join in extra-curricular activities.

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The annual District Middle School Science and Engineering Fair was March 26 at Lowell High School. **Top left:** Ethan Roman, left, and Jadin Brooks demonstrate their “Hydro Project,” which used a water wheel to create electricity. **Top right:** Destiny Loabe, left, explains an experiment she did with partners Korinna Gouveia and Yuliana Lugo, right, with brine shrimp in different concentrations of salt water. **Right photo, from left:** Fifth-graders Randi Hang, Kyle Frechette, Max Burns and Ben Ro demonstrating their “Power Dome,” which is a battery-powered vehicle that knocks over pyramids of plastic cups. **Bottom photo, from left:** Judge John Edmonds, who is a science professor at Middlesex Community College, interviews Injal Patel and Kelly Ly about their project using biodegradable creations to contain liquids instead of Styrofoam cups.
Middlesex Community College formally named its main Lowell campus building the Dr. Carole A. Cowan Center in a dedication ceremony held in February. The honor recognizes the achievements of outgoing president Carole Cowan during her 39 years of service to the college, including the last 24 years as president.

The speaking program featured Edward Davis, former Lowell police superintendent and former Boston Police commissioner; Richard Freclard, Department of Higher Education commissioner; Rodney Elliott Lowell mayor; Eileen Donoghue, state senator; Congresswoman Niki Tsongas (former MCC External Affairs Dean); Jacqueline Moloney, UMass Lowell executive vice-chancellor; and David Basile from the MCC Foundation.

On June 17, Cowan announced she would retire as president of the college at the end of the calendar year. Cowan joined the college as a faculty member in 1976. She later served as chairwoman of the business division and dean of administrative services. In 1990, she was named the third president of the college, the first woman to take on the role.
MCC 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 28, in the Lowell Campus Cafeteria, 33 Kearney Square.

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Middlesex partners with Bartlett for STEM initiative

LOWELL — Last fall, more than 100 Middlesex Community College students participated in a number of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education, as well as Service-Learning projects, with students at the Bartlett Community Partnership School in Lowell.

At the Bartlett School, which serves students from prekindergarten through eighth grade, MCC students from 12 different courses worked to organize and facilitate a number of STEM-focused classroom projects, lessons and field trips.

"The impact the MCC-Bartlett partnership has had on all students involved is profound," said Elena Bilodeau, MCC’s Service-Learning liaison between Middlesex and Bartlett. "Middlesex students are able to develop their personal and professional skills by creating and supporting educational lessons and programs with an emphasis on increasing Bartlett student interest in STEM fields."

Sixteen students from Professor Sally Quast’s General Chemistry for Engineering and Science II course facilitated a chemistry field trip. More than 20 members of the Bartlett Science Club visited MCC’s Lowell campus to experience a lab environment, learn about lab safety and conduct experiments.

Other projects included in-class science lessons about magnets, forces and planets, food-science projects focused on sustainability and genetically modified organisms. They also led water-pollution lessons and dental-hygiene educational lessons, which included proper brushing techniques, good eating habits and the importance of wearing a mouth guard during sporting activities.

Also, Middlesex education, psychology, human services and English Language Learner students were placed in classrooms to serve as positive role models. Students also provided one-on-one and small group support for students in kindergarten through sixth grade.

For more information about Service-Learning at Middlesex, contact Cynthia Lynch at lynchc@middlesex.mass.edu or 781-982-3556.
MCC’s Free Spring Concert Series Begins with Classical Guitarist Aaron Larget-Caplan

A World of Music, Middlesex Community College’s 2015 spring concert series, begins with a performance by classical guitarist Aaron Larget-Caplan at 8 p.m. Friday, March 27, in the MCC Concert Hall (Building 6), on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road. The concert is free and open to the public.

Hailed by the Washington Post as “a riveting artist,” Larget-Caplan will perform works for solo guitar by Johann Sebastian Bach, Domenico Scarlatti, Roland Dyens, and Keigo Fujii. Larget-Caplan will also perform a short guitar duo with MCC faculty member Adam Levin.

Other events in MCC’s free A World of Music spring concert series include Music from South America, a concert co-sponsored by MCC’s Interdisciplinary Weekend 2015: “Latin America Today,” to be held Saturday, April 4, in the Federal Building Assembly Room on the Lowell campus, 50 Kearney Square. Additional concerts include Ryu Goto, violin, and Carmen Rodriguez-Peralta, piano, at 8 p.m. Friday, April 17, MCC Concert Hall; and an MCC Faculty Composers Concert to be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 3, in the MCC Concert Hall.

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To see previous A World of Music performances, visit www.youtube.com/mccmuscionline2. For more information about A World of Music, contact Carmen Rodriguez-Peralta, director, at peraltac@middlesex.mass.edu or 781-280-3923. For directions, visit: www.middlesex.mass.edu.
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“This open-house format gives students an opportunity to learn about everything Middlesex has to offer,” said Marilynn Galligan, 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, dual enrollment, 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.

Learn Information Technology Programming at Middlesex

Register now for Middlesex Community College’s Community Education & Career Training noncredit courses in information technology programming.

MCC’s programming courses are intended for individuals with little or no programming experience. Two courses are offered, including:

JAVA Programming (TEC 732 30) – This course introduces and trains participants in the JAVA programming language. Participants will learn the basic concepts of object-oriented programming language. Topics covered include, JAVA language fundamentals, class relationships, program flow, exception handling, I/O, graphical user interfaces, more swing, event handlers, embedded applet programming, and posting JAVA apps to the Web.

Intro to Programming Concepts (TEC 745 30) – Participants will learn concepts that are common to all popular programming languages. Students will be taught how to think computationally and how to solve problems by developing computer programs. Topics covered include, data types, programming language statements, compilers, data structures, object oriented programming, pseudo code, and UML. Examples will be given in JAVA, C++ and Python languages.

For more information about these or other noncredit courses offered through Middlesex Community College’s Community Education & Career Training, contact Shelia Morin, at morins@middlesex.mass.edu or call 781-280-3608, or visit https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/careertraining/.

Middlesex Community College meets the evolving educational, civic and workforce needs of our local and global communities. As one of the largest, most comprehensive community colleges in the state, we educate more than 13,000 students annually on our campuses in Bedford and Lowell, and online. MCC offers more than 75 degree and certificate programs, plus hundreds of noncredit courses. At Middlesex, everyone teaches, everyone learns.
MCC plans open house at Lowell campus March 28

LOWELL — Middlesex Community College will host an open house on the Lowell campus Saturday, March 28, at 9:30 a.m., 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 an opportunity to learn about MCC’s more than 70 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.

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Textbook learning, real world experience

I was part of the 69 percent of business leaders surveyed who found it difficult to find qualified young men and women with the skills needed to address the growing needs of local employers, as referenced in the article on how community colleges are providing training to meet the needs of local businesses ("Changing courses," March 8). Middlesex Community College has made an institutional commitment to address this challenge. This is why after four decades in the world of corporate communications, I teach communications at Middlesex. I advise my students that no matter what career path they choose, being able to effectively communicate to internal and external stakeholders is no longer an option, it is a requirement in the eyes of well-run businesses, large and small, for profit and nonprofit. I use both textbook learning and real-world experience to better prepare and train my students for the demanding needs of local and regional employers. My teaching colleagues in all professional disciplines are providing a high standard of educating and training students for the real world needs of the business community, which employers should greatly appreciate and support.

RICK POZNIAK
Adjunct faculty, communications
Middlesex Community College
LOWELL — Middlesex Community College recently received a $15,000 grant to help advance entrepreneurship in the community from The Coleman Foundation at the annual conference of the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship.

Middlesex will use the money to establish a cross-disciplinary internal team of faculty dedicated to broadening student understanding of, and engagement in, entrepreneurship. MCC will also use the money to expand its current Entrepreneur-in-Residence, or EIR, program and sponsor at least one major entrepreneurship event each semester for students and the community, according to Luciano Sappia, assistant professor of Entrepreneurship.

"It's important to give our students all the tools they need to be successful in today's workforce," Sappia said. "Having an entrepreneurial mindset is a skill that is highly desired by employers, and it's one that can be taught. This grant will help our students gain this skill set, no matter what field they are studying."

A team of eight faculty members representing a variety of the college's academic divisions will participate in professional-development workshops that will enable them to embed activities that foster innovation and entrepreneurship into many of MCC's current course offerings, Sappia said.

MCC's new EIR program will create a network of successful entrepreneurs from diverse local businesses, as well as other area entrepreneurs, to serve as mentors to the faculty, staff and students. Each EIR will spend designated time on the Lowell campus to provide hands-on education to faculty and students about best practices in entrepreneurship.

Middlesex will sponsor a major entrepreneurship event each semester, including participating in Global Entrepreneurship Week, panel discussions featuring local and student entrepreneurs, and other events sponsored by MCC's new IDEA Center, which stands for Innovation, Development & Entrepreneur Assistance.

"The goal is to bring everyone — students, faculty and local entrepreneurs across disciplines — together to network and share their successes and setbacks, and to discuss ideas one-on-one," Sappia said.

The Coleman Foundation is a private, independent foundation committed to improving the quality of entrepreneurship education, promoting the option of self-employment, and helping to create a new generation of business owners. NACCE is an organization of educators, administrators, presidents and entrepreneurs focused on inciting entrepreneurship in communities and on campuses. For more information, visit www.nacce.com.
CHANGING COURSES

Community colleges are retooling their offerings to provide training tailored to meet the needs of local students, and local businesses with jobs to fill.

By Jennifer Fenn Leferts
Globe Correspondent

In the past 10 years, David Legg has struggled to fill lower-level lab positions in the quality assurance division of Charm Sciences in Lawrence.

Candidates with a four-year degree tend to get bored in the position, while others do not have any training at all, said Legg, vice president of quality assurance at Charm, which makes food-safety, water-quality, and environmental diagnostics equipment.

But after he worked with Northern Essex Community College on a training program, students are now emerging with the proper skills to fill those jobs.

"It's been very successful," Legg said. "We've been very happy with the candidates we've hired."

Whether it is Massachusetts Bay Community College training up with Gezmyne Corp. on life sciences, or Massasoit Community College starting a one-year veterinary technician program, schools across Greater Boston are retooling their academic and workforce training programs to better meet the needs of employers.

And the demand is there, especially in fields such as life sciences, health care, and information technology.

In a 2013 survey by the Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education, 69 percent of business leaders in the state said they found it difficult to find people with the right skills for the positions they need to fill.

"Community colleges today are being held to a high standard, particularly in their responsiveness to support economic development in their service areas," said Laurie Maker, a spokeswoman for Brockton-based Massasoit Community College.

The state's 15 community colleges have long worked with employers, but traditionally placed a stronger emphasis on providing classes for students moving on to four-year colleges, according to Richard Freeland, commissioner of higher education in Massachusetts.

After the latest recession, however, then-Governor Deval Patrick called for an emphasis on workforce training for people of all ages.

"There has been a whole new raft of initiatives following up on the governor's call, and I'm very proud of the work the community colleges have done," Freeland said.

The effort has been bolstered by an infusion of federal funding from the US Department of Labor. The state has received more than $30 million grants since 2011, allowing officials to develop the Massachusetts Community Colleges & Workforce Development Transformation Agenda to help students retain degrees, certificates, and industry-recognized credentials.

Examples of successful community college partnerships with area businesses:

- **MassBay Community College**
  - Recruited 56 mentors this year through a partnership with Genzyme to help students prepare to work in the biopharmaceutical industry.

- **Northern Essex Community College**
  - Provided workplace English training this year to 36 employees at three Haverhill food manufacturing companies.

- **Massasoit Community College**
  - Has trained 87 workers at the Pila Group in skills such as leadership, teamwork, and emotional intelligence.
College offerings shift with job needs

COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Continued from Page 1

ognized credentials in two years or less.

Since 2011, more than 6,000 students have enrolled in 151 programs to help them earn degrees or certificates in six high-need fields: health care, advanced manufacturing, information technology, biotechnology, clean energy, and financial services. The second grant is being used to support STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) degree and certificate programs.

Some initiatives are statewide, Freedland said, but each community college develops programs based on the needs of its region.

South of Boston, Massasoit is preparing for a rising demand for engineers, veterinary assistants, and paramedics.

To the north and west, engineering and cybersecurity are growing fields, said Kathleen Sweeney, dean of health and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics at Middlesex Community College in Bedford. The college recently updated its computer-aided design degree to help students transfer into the University of Massachusetts Lowell's engineering program.

Meanwhile, the life sciences field is exploding west of Boston, said Yves Salomon-Fernandez, vice president for strategic planning, institutional effectiveness, and grants development at MassBay Community College.

The Wellesley-based college is looking to build a new campus in downtown Framingham that would include a new life sciences and technology center. Also, 35 Genzyme employees work as mentors to MassBay students, a relationship that has led to several internships at the biotech.

Marjorie Schmidt, 24, of Natick, entered MassBay's biotechnology program two years ago after transferring from another school. In addition to taking academic classes at MassBay, Schmidt has worked with a mentor at Genzyme, has two internships, and spends hours in a lab getting hands-on experience she never thought she would receive at a community college.

"Most of the people I know don't start research and get into the nitty-gritty until junior or senior year," Schmidt said. "When I came here I was surprised it was so hands-on. I love it."

A key role of the community colleges is also helping companies train existing employees. At Massasoit, Maker said officials have worked with many businesses, including Churchill Linen in Brockton for English language training, and VERC Enterprises in Duxbury for sales and business writing instruction.

George Moriarty, executive director of workforce development and corporate relations at Northern Essex Community College, said many companies across the Merrimack Valley need to upgrade the skills of their existing workforce — often in response to changing technology, increased competition, new products, and the need to streamline their production processes.

Just recently, the college launched a police training academy on its Haverhill campus because local departments were struggling to find academy space for their new recruits. And several food manufacturers in the area have employees with limited English skills who need to learn specific workplace terms.

"We're always out there talking to companies," Moriarty said, "meeting with them, trying to figure out what their needs are, and figure out ways we can do the training and support them."

It is not all about adding specialized training, however. Many employers are looking for basic skills such as professional etiquette, critical thinking, and communication, Salomon-Fernandez said.

"Right now nationally, but more importantly in Massachusetts, we are seeing an evolution in the role of community colleges, and being able to offer not just technical training but a comprehensive set of skills — the soft skills," she said.

Jennifer Penn Lefferts can be reached at jlefferts@yahoo.com.
THE OLD COLLEGE TRY

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CHRONICALLY UNDERFUNDED COMMUNITY COLLEGES HAVE BECOME THE MBTA OF MASSACHUSETTS HIGHER EDUCATION. BUT THEY'RE AT A HISTORIC TURNING POINT.

By Jon Marcus
Ryan Lombardini will finish his training in electrical engineering technology this spring. He's headed into a competitive program in robotics and mechatronics—a cutting-edge combination of mechanical, electrical, and computer engineering—for which he'll have to put on hold the business he started in high school designing and installing surveillance systems for customers all over the country. No matter; he already has job offers from employers willing to wait another two and a half years to hire him.

The much-in-demand Lombardini, who is 20 and from Agawam, doesn't go to MIT or Harvard. He's wrapping up an associate's degree at Springfield Technical Community College and will then transfer to the Central Connecticut State University School of Engineering, Science, and Technology for his bachelor's degree.

Starting at a community college has meant "I'm saving money," Lombardini says. "I can commute; it's just a 15-minute drive from my house. It's smaller than a university. I see my adviser every day. There are four students per lab. If I wanted, I could have my professor sitting next to me and explaining things for an hour and a half."

Lombardini hears the same complaints about community colleges from friends who go to four-year schools. But the joke's on them. He's paying a fraction of what they do, hasn't had to take out any student loans, and, according to employment data, would have his pick of jobs in Massachusetts even without a bachelor's degree—many of them at higher salaries than those his friends will make.

Long derided and even ignored—especially in states such as Massachusetts, where some people know the community colleges only because they pass them on the highways or saw one in the movie Good Will Hunting—community colleges are enjoying a burst of national attention as good deals for students focused on getting jobs and as places more responsive than other types of institutions to calls for innovation in higher education.

Under a proposal by President Obama, two years of community college would be tuition free for all Americans maintaining a certain GPA. While even the White House concedes that this is unlikely to happen nationally any time soon, several states are running with the idea—Tennessee, which has been working on a plan since before the president got involved, will go tuition free beginning in the fall. In the meantime, community colleges in 22 states have started offering bachelor's degrees in high-demand fields for which policy makers determined four-year universities weren't producing enough workers.

When it comes to creating programs that meet the needs of local job markets, employers say community colleges are more responsive than four-year institutions. That's among the reasons that students who transfer out of four-year institutions, more than half end up transferring to a community college. In states where graduates' income is reported, 30 percent of associate's degree recipients earn more than people with bachelor's degrees. It also costs them far, far less to earn their degrees, and they graduate with much less debt.

Community colleges have become so fashionable that celebrities are coming out as graduates of them. Tom Hanks wrote that his education at a community college "made me what I am today" and George Lucas went to a community college. So did Haile Berry, Gwendolyn Brooks, Billy Crystal, Clint Eastwood, Jim Lehrer, Pete Rozelle, Costco co-founder James Sinegal, and astronauts Fred Haise and Kathleen Collins. Like their wealthier private counterparts, community colleges are even starting to supplement their budgets by aggressively fund-raising. "This is the moment for community colleges to shine," says Jill Biden, who is married to Vice President Joe Biden and teaches English at a community college.

The question in Massachusetts is whether they will rise to the occasion.
already abyssmal national average of 20 percent. It's worth noting that Massachusetts uses an alternate way of calculating graduation rates, by counting everyone who starts at a community college and finishes with a degree from any institution within six years. Still, fewer than 38 percent of Massachusetts students manage to accomplish that, a number that is also lower than the national average.

With many customers who don't get anywhere, chronic underfunding, facilities that are more than 40 years old, and hundreds of millions in needed improvements, community colleges have become the MBTA of Massachusetts higher education.

But they're at a historic turning point.

Unlike in most other states, Massachusetts's vaunted private universities and colleges have always enrolled more undergraduate students than its largely neglected public ones. While almost no one was noticing, though, this has suddenly reversed: More undergrads in this state now go to public universities than private ones.

The practical upshot? With more Massachusetts parents sending their kids to public institutions, community colleges have finally become more than side-of-the-highway distractions for politicians and business leaders. That's only one of the reasons these colleges are getting newfound consideration. The other is that, because of anemic graduation rates, jobs essential to the state's economy and requiring no more than associate's degrees have begun to go unfilled. Today in Massachusetts, there are as many available jobs that require an associate's degrees as call for a bachelor's. Yet 69 percent of employers surveyed by the Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education say they're having trouble finding workers with the necessary skills.

"More and more, people need additional education to get decent-paying jobs, and more and more businesses that want to stay and expand in Massachusetts need educated employees," Rubenzahl says. "And many of those employees come out of the community colleges."

But nowhere near enough. There are six jobs for every community college graduate with an associate's degree in computer science and information technology, and five for every health care grad, the Department of Higher Education says. At the current pace, community colleges will turn out between 10,700 and 13,000 fewer graduates with those skills by 2025 than will be needed.

"Massachusetts is the most knowledge-dependent economy in the country," says Linda Noonan, executive director of the business alliance. "Community colleges are a great source of preparation for candidates for jobs, but Massachusetts is in the middle of the pack in funding them. They really have been an overlooked resource, and we can't afford to overlook them any longer."

That's why employers and community foundations have been pushing for major changes. "Talent is our calling card," says Paul Grogan, president of the Boston Foundation, which has been at the forefront of this movement. "We can't afford to have a second-rate system of public higher education any longer, and people are waking up to that. The case is overwhelming that we have to do something."

Community colleges have long been dependent on political influence for their budget allocations, decisions historically made without regard for which institutions were succeeding at their mis-
In an American system of higher education that’s increasingly segregated by race and socioeconomic status, community colleges have become the collecting place for racial and ethnic minorities and low-income students while higher-income families send their kids to private and flagship public universities. Forty-two percent of students at Massachusetts community colleges are non-white, up from 34 percent just four years ago. That’s compared with 22 percent at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

These students, often the products of low-performing urban schools, generally arrive with a greater need for support than graduates of largely white, more affluent suburban high schools. But community colleges are the least likely higher education institutions to be able to give it to them.

"I’m a bit of an idealist: I think those students should have the same opportunities as students from wealthier families,” says Wayne Burton, former president of North Shore Community College and now a state representative in New Hampshire.

And, yet, while doctoral granting private universities spend an average of $40,320 per year to educate a single student, according to the College Board, US community colleges spend $8,136. The amount Massachusetts allocates per student to public higher education at all levels is just $5,672.

"We should flip the prestige hierarchy around,” says Burton. “For me, it’s the distance an institution brings someone from where they started to where they finish that should bring the highest acclaim. If I take a single mother in Lynn who doesn’t speak English, and she ends up with an associate’s degree in health care, that’s more praiseworthy than a private college that takes kids with 1890 SATs and gives them bachelor’s degrees.” Community colleges, with their open admissions policies, he says, "don’t get the respect of colleges that can turn down students they don’t want.”

One result of the disparity in funding is that 70 percent of faculty at Massachusetts community colleges are part timers, Commissioner of Higher Education Richard Freeland says, and aren’t around outside of class to meet with students who are struggling. Many Massachusetts community college students also have to work to pay their bills, meaning they can’t take enough courses to graduate on time. And two-thirds of students (compared with less than one-tenth at UMass Amherst) need remedial classes to review what they should have learned in high school, even though they shouldn’t have received diplomas without scoring “proficient” on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System test. This academic detour details huge numbers of students: Studies estimate that only 1 in 4 who must take a remedial course earns a degree within eight years.

That disconnect shows that the problem isn’t just with the community colleges, finds a new report by the Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education. The problem starts in high schools, where the report contends the MCAS test sets the bar too low. The SAT and National Assessment of Educational Progress, it says, show that fewer than half of Massachusetts 12th-graders are actually ready for college-level math and reading.

"This is a systemic issue, not just one thing," says Noonan, "and it starts well before the students get to the threshold of the community college.”

Doing a better job of educating students who are not white or well off and whose parents never went to college is not just about fairness. It has become essential. They’re the demographic that is continuing to grow as the total pool of high school graduates declines. (It’s expected to fall an estimated 9 percent in Massachusetts by 2020.)

"We continue to neglect these students at our peril. They’re an important part and a growing part of the state’s workforce,” says John Schnick, an independent consultant and coauthor of a landmark 2011 Boston Foundation report about community colleges. "The state’s demographics are changing, and if we’re really serious—I mean, really serious—about closing the achievement gap, we’ve got to have the same kind of commitment and purpose that we’ve had with K-12.”

Finally, with their funding now dependent on it, Massachusetts community colleges are working to turn all that around.

It’s certainly possible. Using $40 million from two separate federal grants, the community colleges have been retraining unemployed and underemployed workers, veterans, and others for jobs in high-demand fields such as health care and advanced manufacturing, speeding them to graduation on time and with high rates of success. The next phase will focus on the technology and energy fields. In the last three years or so, more than 6,000 students have already taken this route to associate’s degrees and professional certificates. And graduation rates have been as high as 39 percent, depending on the program—more than twice as good as the Massachusetts community college average.

There have been other successes. For example, Bunker Hill Community College offers college-level courses for credit to students at Malden High School; a higher proportion of those students go on to col-
EXTRA CREDIT

Some of the innovative programs community colleges are incorporating to better serve their current and future students.

**Bunker Hill Community College**

Bunker Hill offers courses for credit to students at Maiden High School, a higher percentage of those participating students go on to college than their classmates.

**Cape Cod Community College**

The college used a state grant to improve advising for its first-year students, increasing by 25 percent the number who return for a second year.

**MassBay Community College**

MassBay teamed up its highest performing life sciences students with industry mentors from companies such as Genzyme.

Students at Bunker Hill Community College (top) in Charlestown and MassBay Community College in Wellesley.


courses in math, the colleges are experimenting with using high school grade point averages instead of placement tests to decide when students can skip them. They're also trying to tailor math requirements to majors. Rather than making a liberal arts major take algebra and calculus, for instance, the new rules may substitute a class in quantitative reasoning.

Even the best prepared students still have trouble navigating their way to graduation, since requirements are different from one college to another and even basic courses such as chemistry and biology have different names and numbers at different campuses, according to a report by the Boston Healthcare Careers Consortium. Many students end up repeating their work or are unable to transfer credits, further reducing the number who finish.

Massachusetts colleges are following the lead of other states by creating a common course-numbering system and a policy that makes it clear: whether credit can be transferred among them or to one of the public universities.

At first resistant to the change in funding and oversight, which gave the governor more control over their boards of trustees, community college presidents have come around to the realization that "this is an opportunity for them that they haven't had," says the Boston Foundation's Paul Grogan. "The light bulb went on that they're getting all of this attention. They've never gotten this kind of attention before."

But the momentum is fragile. To help close the deficit he inherited from his predecessor, Governor Charlie Baker hasn't increased spending on public higher education; he's cut that budget, by 1.5 percent.

Wayne Burton, the former North Shore college president, says a core problem with the perception of community colleges. "The best thing a community college can do? Change its name," he says. He isn't joking. Florida and some other states have stripped the name "community" from their community colleges. "Immediately," says Burton, "their prestige goes up."

Slow though it is, Grogan thinks the colleges are making progress. "The patient in the sense that a five- or six-year window will give us a better sense of what's working and what isn't," he says. "It takes a while to change these institutions. It may be a push uphill in the short term, but if we can stay with it, we will succeed."

Jon Marcus is a Boston-based writer who covers higher education. This story was produced in collaboration with The Hechinger Report, a nonprofit, independent news organization focused on inequality and innovation in education. Send comments to magazine@globe.com.
MCC takes ‘day on, not day off’

To celebrate MLK Jr. Day, students volunteer for national day of service

LOWELL — Members of Middlesex Community College’s Jumpstart Program, along with volunteers from Northern Essex Community College and the community, gathered recently to create nearly 100 literacy kits for preschool children in Lowell and Lawrence.

The community-service event was part of the Jumpstart’s volunteer coordinator for the Merrimack Valley and an MCC alumna, organized the event.

"Every year, Jumpstart tries to coordinate a day of service in association with Martin Luther King Jr. Day," Veiga said. "Working as a student, a Jumpstart volunteer and now as a full-time preschool teacher, I have seen first-hand the impact literacy kits can have on young children. The kits are useful and important tools that help extend learning past the classroom and into their homes."

Veiga organized volunteers from Jumpstart, MCC student clubs, including the Helping Hands Club, and the community to create literacy kits. Each kit included a storybook and homemade alphabet cards, as well as alphabet bingo and other games and activities geared to strengthen literacy skills.

"Jumpstart is working to ensure that every child enters kindergarten prepared to succeed," Veiga said.

Jumpstart is a national early-education organization that recruits and trains college students and community members to serve preschool children in low-income neighborhoods. To learn more, visit www.jstart.org. For more information about the MCC/NECC Jumpstart Program, contact Melissa Chandonnet, Jumpstart MCC/NECC site manager at chandonnetm@middlesex.mass.edu or 978-656-3404.

MCC’s Dental Hygiene Clinic offers free care

LOWELL — The Middlesex Community College Dental Hygiene Clinic offers preventative dental-hygiene services to the public at a reduced cost. Licensed dental-hygiene faculty and dentists closely supervise the MCC Dental Hygiene clinic students.

Patients accepted for treatment are those whose dental problems have teaching value and who have the extra time required for treatment. Because the clinic is a learning facility, clients may be required to return for several appointments to complete the necessary treatment.

Services include comprehensive dental-hygiene care, oral prophylaxis (cleaning), scaling and root planning, dental radiographs, dental sealants, athletic mouth protectors and fluoride treatments.

Spring clinic hours, while the college is in session, are Monday, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Wednesday and Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Thursday, from 2 to 5 p.m. Appointments must be scheduled at least 24 hours in advance. MCC’s Dental Hygiene Clinic is at 44 Middle St., Lowell. For more information or to make an appointment, call 978-656-3250.
WEATHER
From Page A1

College, equipment from New York, Vermont, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Maine has rolled into Bedford, along with MEMA staff and members of the National Guard.

According to MEMA officials, as of Thursday, Feb. 19, the agency had received 515 requests for service from 150 cities and towns. Requests started just as the first blizzard of January made its way into the area. The agency added that as of last week more than 170 Guard members had been deployed to help the MBTA with snow removal and members would continue to assist the transit system in the days that followed.

In Bedford, the state staging areas have been in operation 24 hours a day, seven days a week since their inception. According to Department of Public Works Director Roy Sorenson, while there has been an uptick in traffic with equipment coming in and out of the community, there haven’t been road closures, detours or any major problems around the sites.

"It is really a MEMA operation," said Sorenson. "Since they are staging out of Bedford during the storm, we tried to make sure Hartwell Road was treated with sand and salt, because even during the storms they are running equipment to different places."

The staging areas were a new request for Bedford. Sorenson said in his two years with the town he hadn’t heard of one coming in. Town Manager Richard Reed agreed, adding that in his 20-plus years with the community, this was a first. "We have communicated with them and they have been great," said Sorenson, whose team has also been working around the clock to clear snow and treat roads. "If we need anything they have said, ‘Let us know what you need and they have made that available for us.’"

Over at MCC, spokesman Patrick Cook said the staging area set up on campus is closest to the Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital. He said the equipment has not affected commuter parking, as their lots haven’t been in full use with the various school cancellations. The college has had four official snow days.

"This was a unique request as we wanted to be corporative neighbors," said Cook, who expressed the school’s gratitude to MEMA workers and Guardsmen, thanking them for their work with their facilities crew and for helping students navigate the campus.

MEMA spokesman Chris Besse said Bedford was a perfect, centralized place to set up the staging areas, with most of the storm aid needed in the eastern part of the state. When it comes to a timeline for their departure, Besse said they had a “rough” window of seven to 10 days, but it all depends on the weather. He said most crews have been in the area for around a week."
Slam poet visits MCC
LOWELL — The Middlesex Community College English Department recently hosted Sam Gordon, a writer and performer with Slam New Orleans, a team that won the 2013 National Poetry Slam. Gordon visited English Professor Nina Davidson’s English class, where he held a workshop with students, reading poetry, brainstorming ideas and writing a poem with the class. The students then shared some of their own work with their classmates, in an open-mike session.

“Writing and performing poetry has been so life-giving to me, and I hope to give something back or at least inspire others to think about writing,” Gordon said. “Spoken word and slam poetry give space to the stories that have not yet been told. The performances are about people telling their stories, but also about giving other people the opportunity to tell theirs.”

Gordon stayed to showcase more of his own work. He performed several original poems, spoke with students, faculty, staff and community members about his journey in writing and poetry, and hosted a brief question-and-answer session.

‘Sun’ shines on MCC budding journalists

MCC hosts ‘Times’ writer
BEDFORD — Middlesex Community College recently hosted David E. Sanger, foreign-policy specialist and national-security correspondent for The New York Times, as part of MCC’s One World Series. Students, faculty and staff heard Sanger address the Islamic State in Iraq & Syria and the crises in the Middle East. Sanger, who is known as one of the nation’s most lucid analysts of geopolitics, national security and globalization, gave an in-depth discussion about the crises in the Middle East and the rise of the terrorist group ISIS. He discussed the organization’s structure, global recruitment efforts and the group’s use of social media.

Sanger also outlined a number of efforts the United States and other countries are undertaking to combat the threat of ISIS. He also took questions from the audience.

Sanger lauded MCC and other community colleges for offering the best value for a high-quality education. He visited the Bedford campus as part of MCC’s One World Series, an annual speaker series, addressing topics of current interest, funded by the Center for Leadership and Engagement.
Middlesex Community College to host Black History Month event

In observance of Black History Month, Middlesex Community College's International and Multicultural Affairs Office will host a community production of "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf" by Ntozake Shange from 6 to 8 p.m. Feb. 25 in the Lowell Campus Cafeteria, 33 Kearney Square. Admission is free and open to the public.

Shange's 1976 choreopoem combines poetry, dance, music and song, and explores themes of violence against women, racial injustice, empowerment, love and resilience. This performance is geared toward a mature audience, and will be followed by a facilitated discussion.

Staged by The Colored Girls Project, the production is directed by Juliet Ramirez and cast members represent the towns of Lowell, Dracut, Lawrence, Cambridge and Londonderry, New Hampshire.

For information: 978-656-3457; mcduffiem@middlesex.mass.edu.
Middlesex Named to National Community Service Honor Roll

Middlesex Community College has been named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, which recognizes colleges and universities nationwide that support innovative and effective community service and service-learning programs.

The Honor Roll recognizes institutions of higher education that support exemplary community service programs and raise the visibility of effective practices in campus community partnerships. MCC has been named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll since it was launched in 2006.

"MCC's Service-Learning Program shows our students they have a responsibility to their community, their nation and their world," said Cynthia Lynch, Service-Learning Coordinator. "It helps them become better citizens with a deeper understanding of community needs."

The Honor Roll is sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the U.S. Departments of Education and Housing & Urban Development, as well as the American Council on Education, the Interfaith Youth Core, and Campus Compact, a national coalition of nearly 1,000 college and university presidents committed to the civic purposes of education.

Honorees were selected based on a series of factors, including scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers Service-Learning courses.

MCC’s commitment to community service began with the college’s Service-Learning Program, a credit-bearing educational experience in which students participate in an organized activity that meets identified community needs, and then reflect on their service. First introduced in 1992, with a $2,500 grant and only one course, the program has grown remarkably. Currently, Middlesex offers more than 100 Service-Learning courses and has more than 350 active community partners. Over the last 20 years, more than 10,000 students have completed more than 234,000 service hours.

To learn more about MCC’s Service-Learning Program and opportunities, contact Cynthia Lynch at 781-280-3556 or lynchc@middlesex.mass.edu.

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Middlesex to Host Lowell Campus Health & Wellness Expo

Middlesex Community College will host a Lowell campus Health & Wellness Expo from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25, in the Cowan Center Cafeteria, 33 Kearney Square (snow date March 4). Free and open to the community, the Health & Wellness Expo features a variety of health-care providers and community organizations providing screenings, services and information.

Presented by MCC’s Center for Health & Wellness, the Lowell Health & Wellness Expo will include information on topics such as nutrition and healthy eating, cardiac health and exercise, substance use and abuse, and personal counseling. Community partners, such as the Center for Hope and Healing, the Lowell Police Department, and Next Step Living, will be on hand to answer questions. Safety 911 EMS Educators will be providing CPR demonstrations. Visitors can get free screenings for blood pressure, blood sugar and melanoma, or receive a chair massage.

“The goal of the Health & Wellness Expo is to go beyond just physical fitness and nutrition, and take an unconventional but all-encompassing look at health and wellness,” said Stephanie Hamelin, MCC Health and Wellness Educator and Expo organizer. “We think this is a great way to get students, staff, faculty and the community to invest in their overall well-being.” Visitors can also participate in an interactive scavenger hunt for free samples and a chance to win a $50 gift card, she added.

For more information about MCC's Health & Wellness Expo on the Lowell campus, contact MCC's Center for Health & Wellness at wellness@middlesex.mass.edu.

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MCC’s One World Series to Host History Channel’s Christine McKinley

Middlesex Community College’s One World Series will host Christine McKinley, co-host of the History Channel’s “Brad Meltzer’s Decoded,” in a special program at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24, in Bedford Campus Center’s Café East, 591 Springs Road. Admission is free and open to the public.

In addition to helping solve some of history’s most compelling and perplexing riddles on History’s “Brad Meltzer’s Decoded,” McKinley is a licensed mechanical engineer, musician and author. A vocal advocate for women pursuing careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering & math), she has spent most of her engineering career designing and managing the construction of power plants, semiconductor facilities, hospitals and schools. Her musical, “Gracie and the Atom,” won a Grammy Award for original score in Portland, Ore.

For more information about McKinley, visit http://christineinmckinley.com/

The One World Series at Middlesex is an annual speaker series addressing topics of current interest, funded by the Center for Leadership and Engagement. For more information, or to reserve seats for groups of eight or more, contact studentengagement@middlesex.mass.edu.

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Register Now for MCC’s College for Kids Summer Programs

It’s not too early to start planning your summer! Middlesex Community College will open enrollment for College for Kids 2015 beginning Monday, Feb. 23. College for Kids 2015 offers one-, two- and three-week summer programs for children ages 8 to 15 that run July 6 through Aug. 14 on the Bedford and Lowell campuses.

“College for Kids offers fun and engaging summer programs to provide children with unique opportunities to explore careers, learn new skills, and boost self-confidence,” said Marcil Barnes, MCC Director of Lifelong Learning. All programs are taught by public-school teachers or by professionals who are experts in their field, Barnes added.

Most College for Kids programs run Monday through Thursday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This year, programs explore film production, aviation, computer coding, writing, science, veterinary medicine, technology, culinary arts, fashion design, digital photography, web design, LegoMindstorms, fitness, and more.

For the complete MCC College for Kids schedule and registration information, visit https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/collegeforkids/ or call 1-800-818-3434.

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MCC Dental Hygiene Clinic Offers Services At Reduced Rates

The Middlesex Community College Dental Hygiene Clinic in Lowell offers preventative dental hygiene services to the public at a reduced cost. Licensed dental hygiene faculty and dentists closely supervise the MCC Dental Hygiene clinic students.

Patients accepted for treatment are those whose dental problems have teaching value and who have the extra time required for treatment. Because the clinic is a learning facility, clients may be required to return for several appointments in order to complete the necessary treatment. Services include comprehensive dental hygiene care, oral prophylaxis (cleaning), scaling and root planing, dental radiographs, dental sealants, athletic mouth protectors and fluoride treatments.

Spring semester clinic hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday and Friday; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday; and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, while the college is in session (now through May). Appointments must be scheduled at least 24 hours in advance.

MCC’s Dental Hygiene Clinic is located in MCC’s Health Science & Technology Center, 44 Middle St., in Lowell. For more information, or to make an appointment, call 978-656-3250. Middlesex Community College meets the evolving educational, civic and workforce needs of our local and global communities. As one of the largest, most comprehensive community colleges in the state, we educate more than 13,000 students annually on our campuses in Bedford and Lowell, and online. MCC offers more than 75 degree and certificate programs, plus hundreds of noncredit courses. At Middlesex, everyone teaches, everyone learns.

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“The goal of the Health & Wellness Expo is to go beyond just physical fitness and nutrition, and take an unconventional but all-encompassing look at health and wellness,” said Stephanie Hamelin, MCC Health and Wellness Educator and Expo organizer. “We think this is a great way to get students, staff, faculty and the community to invest in their overall well-being.” Visitors can also participate in an interactive scavenger hunt for free samples and a chance to win a $50 gift card, she added.

For more information about MCC’s Health & Wellness Expo on the Lowell campus, contact MCC’s Center for Health & Wellness at wellness@middlesex.mass.edu.

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MCC names downtown Lowell building for Cowan

By Amelia Pak-Harvey
amaharvey@lowellsun.com

LOWELL — As a parting gift for a 25-year leader that transformed both the city and public education, outgoing Middlesex Community College President Carole Cowan has her name emblazoned over the downtown area that she helped shape.

Cowan, who leaves her post this month, has led the college through a number of milestones — the opening of a second Bedford campus, the acquisition of the historic Nesmith House, and a student-transfer program with Umass Lowell.

But her influence reached beyond the boundaries of academics and into the community, evident through the crowd of local leaders who came to the Federal Building on Sunday to dedicate the college’s 33 Kearney Square building in her name.

Former Lowell Police Superintendent and Boston Police Commissioner Edward Davis highlighted Cowan’s partnership with the police, when she allowed them to conduct training at the college.

“When people ask about any success that I’ve had as a police leader in the U.S., it’s really been based upon training, instilling in the officers out on the streets the important values the community expects from them,” he said. “And the way that we did that here in Lowell was to team up with Carole Cowan at Middlesex Community College.”

State Sen. Eileen Donoghue recalled meeting Cowan in the 1990s as a city councilor, working with her to help Lowell gain the All America City Award of 1999.

“You really and truly have always been a fabulous partner to the city,” the Lowell Democrat said, adding that the college has also been a good neighbor by generously letting the city use the Nesmith House at 229 Andover St.

Whenever she talks about higher education in the Legislature, Donoghue said, someone always has a claim for Cowan.

“I was very proud to represent the city of Lowell knowing the high regard that people all across the commonwealth have for Carole Cowan,” she said.

Richard Freeland, commissioner of the state’s Department of Higher Education, said Cowan has touched a countless number of lives both within the college and the community.

“She’s always attuned to what the needs of her institution are and how she can marry the needs of her institution with the needs of the community,” he said.

U.S. Rep. Niki Tsongas argued that Cowan’s pleasant but committed manner needs to be replicated in Washington, D.C.

She recalled when MCC bought the Federal Building in Kearney Square, a process in which Cowan and Executive Vice President Jay Linnehan

Please see COWAN/4
MCC names building for Cowan

"To me, it stands as a beacon for our students," she said. "This is where you can come to school, this is where you can start your education, no matter what happened in your life."

Follow Amelia on Twitter and Tout @AmeliaPakHarvey.

Cowan/From Page 3

had to make every dollar go a long way.

"I think so indicative of the respect Carol has for the community she's served is the way in which this building unfolded," Tsongas said. "And as we all come to it today, we see the very high standards she set. She never, ever compromised them."

Cowan, who will remain on the college foundation, said she is deeply honored by the dedication and argued that the building is very symbolic in the city.
Upcoming courses and events at MCC

Computer Applications Courses Offered at MCC

Middlesex Community College’s Corporate and Community Education & Training Program offers a variety of noncredit computer applications courses for those interested in careers as personal computer applications specialists. Courses begin Feb. 4 on the Bedford and Lowell campuses.

Courses include:

Practical Computers – An Intro to PCs and Windows (TEC 602 30) – This course is an introduction to the computer and computer applications via lecture and hands-on activities. Students will gain an understanding of computer hardware, software and networks. Topics covered include, using Microsoft Windows for running programs, creating folders, and managing files. Students will also learn the basics of programs, such as Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel and PowerPoint.

Computer Applications Certificate (TEC 618 30) – This course is for students who want to work in businesses that use, or want to use, microcomputer word processing, spreadsheet, presentation and database software packages. Microsoft Windows, Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Access are thoroughly explored in this program.

MS Excel 2013 Beginning/Intermediate (TEC 703 80) – This comprehensive course provides the in-depth, hands-on instruction needed to work with Microsoft Excel 2013. Students will learn the fundamentals of creating workbooks; performing calculations; using built-in formulas; formatting worksheets; combining, sorting and summarizing data; working with charts; and printing.

MS Excel 2013 Advanced (TEC 704 80) – This course provides an overview of the advanced capabilities of Microsoft Excel 2013. Topics covered include, performing calculations across multiple worksheets; built-in functions including V-lookup, PMT, using What-if Analysis; analyzing data with PivotTables; automating repetitive tasks with macro; troubleshooting with auditing; and protecting the workbook.

To learn more about these or other Corporate and Community Education & Training programs at Middlesex, contact Mary Wheeler at wheelerm@middlesex.mass.edu or 781-280-3680.

Middlesex Community College to Host Arabic Music Workshops

Middlesex Community College’s departments of Music and Global Education will host two Arabic Music Workshops from 10:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. on Feb. 11 in the Federal Building Assembly Room, 50 Kearney Square, on the Lowell campus. Each session is free and open to the community.

The ‘ud, an ancient Arabic instrument with one of the most intricate and alluring sounds in Middle Eastern music today, is a precursor to the European lute and modern guitar. Nabil Ata, accomplished musician and ‘ud player, will lead both workshops.

In the first session, Ata will introduce students to “World Music” and “Guitar I” classes to the foundations of Arabic music – the melodic modes (maqam) and the rhythmic cycles (iqra’). He will perform music and speak about his background and training. In the second session, he will work with more advanced guitar students in a master-class setting.

For more information, contact Johanna Segarich at segarich@middlesex.mass.edu or 978-656-3142.

Middlesex to Host Bedford Campus Health & Wellness Expo

Middlesex Community College will host a Bedford campus Health & Wellness Expo from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, in the Bedford Campus Center, 59 Springs Road (snow date Feb. 18). Free and open to the community, MCC’s Health & Wellness Expo features a variety of health-care providers and community organizations providing screenings, services and information.

Presented by MCC’s Center for Health & Wellness, the Bedford Health & Wellness Expo will include information on topics such as substance abuse and abuse, and personal counseling. Community partners, such as the Center for Hope and Healing, the Bedford Police Department, and Next Step Living, will be on hand to answer questions. Safety 911 EMS Educators will be providing CPR demonstrations. Visitors can get free screenings for blood pressure, blood sugar and melanoma, or receive a chair massage.

“For this year’s Health & Wellness Expo, we have worked hard to cover more aspects of health and wellness, and create a more interactive event for attendees,” said Stephanie Hamelin, MCC Health and Wellness Educator and Expo organizer. “Visitors can participate in an interactive scavenger hunt for free samples and a chance to win a $50 gift card.”

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In addition to helping solve some of history's most compelling and perplexing riddles on History's "Brad Meltzer's Decoded," McKinley is a licensed mechanical engineer, musician and author. A vocal advocate for women pursuing careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering & math), she has spent most of her engineering career designing and managing the construction of power plants, semiconductor facilities, hospitals and schools. Her musical, "Gracie and the Atom," won a Grammy Award for original score in Portland, Ore.

For more information about McKinley, visit http://christinemckinley.com/

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Kennedy stops by MCC to soak in STEM education success firsthand

Congressman also visits UTEC, UML

By Chelsea Feinstein


During a visit to an immunology lab at Middlesex Community College's downtown Lowell campus, Kennedy praised MCC for providing students a pipeline to higher education and critical jobs in a way that is both affordable and flexible. Training a strong workforce, he said, is a backbone of the Massachusetts economy.

“We are not a low-cost state. Our labor rates are high, our energy rates are high, our taxes are high, regulations are high. Companies need to make up for that. That’s why we need to do it,” Kennedy said. “And we need to do it the right way. We need to do it in a way that is flexible and affordable.”

Congressman Joseph P. Kennedy III visits MCC in Lowell.
Middlesex Community College opens spring registration

by Tura Linderholm

At Middlesex Community College, everyone teaches, everyone learns! With more than 70 degree and certificate programs and hundreds of noncredit courses, Middlesex can help you earn a degree, begin a bachelor's degree, or upgrade your skills.

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

And we have simplified transferring to a bachelor's degree program, thanks to our many transfer agreements with a wide variety of four-year colleges and universities.

Whatever your goals, Middlesex is committed to helping you achieve them. Register now. Spring semester classes begin Tuesday, Jan. 20.

The Commonwealth Honors Program at MCC

The Commonwealth Honors Program at Middlesex Community College offers unique learning opportunities for students who elect to study at a more advanced level. The program offers a variety of honors course options, as well as opportunities for students to master research and presentation techniques, and engage in extra and co-curricular activities, including field trips and guest lectures.

"The Commonwealth Honors Program is a great place for students who want to be fully engaged in their intellectual enterprise to learn as much as possible about the world around them - and focus on the collegiate experience," said MCC History Professor David Kalivas, current CHP Director.

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.

For more information about MCC's Commonwealth Honors Program, visit middlesx.mass.edu/honors or call 781-280-3553. Online Learning at MCC

With online learning at Middlesex, your classroom can be as close as they nearest Internet connection. For more than 15 years, MCC has been a leader in online education.

MCC currently offers 11 associate degree programs and six certificate programs that can be completed entirely online, plus hundreds of online course offerings. Hybrid courses, which combine online and face-to-face instruction, are also offered.

"MCC's online courses are taught by highly trained faculty who are committed to ensuring that every student has an engaging and successful experience," said Cleo Andreadis, MCC's Associate Provost. "I teach online myself, and the training Middlesex provided ensured that I am able to use the technological tools available to create an exciting and valuable learning experience for my students."

Students who take courses online at Middlesex complete the same high-quality coursework as those who take courses on campus. And, online students earn the same course credits - which are transferrable to bachelor's degree programs, stressed Andreadis.

For more information about online classes at Middlesex, visit: middlesx.mass.edu/online.

MassTransfer at MCC

Middlesex recognizes that many students, after completing their MCC coursework, intend to transfer and pursue a bachelor's degree at another institution. For these students, Middlesex offers MassTransfer, a statewide transfer program to help streamline the transfer process.

The Massachusetts Board of Higher Education has adopted a statewide transfer policy, MassTransfer, that provides a broad population of students with straightforward and understandable options for completing bachelor's degrees. MassTransfer provides community college students, who complete approved associate degrees and enroll in linked MassTransfer programs, with the benefit of full transfer of credit, guaranteed admission, and a tuition discount to Massachusetts state colleges or universities.

MCC students who choose to transfer before earning an associate degree may still take advantage of MassTransfer. Through the MassTransfer Block program, students can transfer a block of credits that satisfy general education or core requirements across institutions. Students must complete the 34-credit MassTransfer Block with a 2.0 or higher grade point average.

For more information about MassTransfer, visit the website at mass.edu/masstransfer/home.asp, contact MCC's Academic, Career and Transfer Center at 1-800-616-3434, or visit middlesx.mass.edu/transfer/masstransfer.

A complete listing of spring course offerings can be found in MCC's Spring Academic Advising Schedule, available online at middlesx.mass.edu/academics.

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College leaders lauded at Martin Luther King Jr. event

By Todd Feathers
tfeathers@lowellsun.com

LOWELL — With ample evidence from around the country that racial equality is still a work in progress, Monday's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day event at the Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell took on a focus on youth, educators, and perpetuating King's legacy. The event — organized by the Lura Smith Fund — was dedicated to Carole Cowan, retiring president of Middlesex Community College, and the “Living the Dream” award recipient was Marty Meenan, chancellor of UMass Lowell. Smith is a longtime MCC employee, serving as Cowan's assistant.

And mixed between speeches in King's honor, youth Lura and Robert Smith take the stage at the Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell for their annual MLK celebration on Monday.

College leaders lauded

MLK/From Page 3

dance groups performed for the crowd.

Both college leaders spoke about King's message of equality as a group of Middlesex Community College students stood in front of the stage.

“I think all of us will agree that throughout the world and even in the United States there is still injustice,” Meenan said. “I think it is important today, as we think of the legacy of Dr. King, to think of our own responsibility to speak out against injustice.”

The event also marked a changing of the guard at Middlesex Community College. After more than two decades as president, Cowan is retiring next month. Her replacement, James Mabry, was in attendance.

“It’s with gratitude to all of you that I really pass the torch of leadership of this college, today, at this ceremony,” said Cowan, who has participated in the annual event since it began 17 years ago. Cowan's last day on the job will be Feb. 28. Mabry, who is coming to Middlesex from Mesa Community College in Mesa, Ariz., will take over about a week later, a spokesman for the college said.

Smith said that when she first broached the subject of starting a scholarship fund, Cowan was immediately supportive and offered whatever help she could.

“It was Dr. Cowan who provided the ‘Whatever you need, yes. Whatever I can do, whatever the college can do,’” Smith said. “We thank her so much for being such a model of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King.”

Eastern Mass Gospel Choir members perform during the Lura Smith Fund's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day event Monday at the Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell. Watch video on this story at lowellsun.com.
a variety of academic programs offered during the day, evening, weekend and online. Fall semester classes begin Wednesday, Sept. 3, and it’s not too late to register!

MCC’s Veterans Resource Center has been established to serve as a place where veterans can receive information about educational programs, assistance with accessing college resources, and answers regarding eligibility for government, state and community sponsored services.

Resource advocates are available to assist military service members and their families in finding answers to help aid in the transition from military service to higher education through support and guidance during the application, admissions and academic process. The VRC also provides a support system where veterans meet other veterans as they become members of the Middlesex college community.

Since 2011, MCC has been designated a Military Friendly School by G.I. Jobs and Victory Media, a service-disabled, veteran-owned small business that has been serving the military community since 2001. The list of Military Friendly Schools honors the top 20 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools in the country that are doing the most to embrace America’s military service members, veterans and spouses as students and ensure their success on campus. For more information, visit www.militaryfriendlyschools.com.

MCC’s Veterans Resource Centers are located in the Bedford Campus Center, Room 206, or in the Lowell City Building, Room 117. For more information about MCC’s Veterans Resource Center, contact Richard Reppucci, VRC Coordinator, at reppucir@middlesex.mass.edu or call 781-280-3510.

For registration information, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu or call 1-800-818-3434.

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EDITORIAL

Obama tuition plan just a rough draft

For meaningful analysis of President Barack Obama's proposal to provide free community college tuition to anyone who wants it, just ask the people who know best: leaders at two of our community colleges.

While both welcomed the concept as a way to open doors to college that some students would never be able to open on their own, they also offered caveats.

"The devil's in the details," said Daniel Asquino, president of Mount Wachusett Community College in Gardner.

"There have to be strings attached with that money," said Carole Cowan, president of Middlesex Community College.

These comments had us nodding in agreement.

Unfortunately, Obama has offered a plan with a lot of generalities and a big price tag.

Under Obama's plan, the federal government would pick up 75 percent of tuition cost if the state picks up the rest. Half- and full-time students who maintain a 2.5 GPA average and demonstrate sincere progress toward a degree in a "growth industry" would be eligible. This selectivity might shut out some students. Cowan said she would like to see a requirement of a 3.0 GPA.

We'd like to see some strings attached to the colleges as well. Statewide, the graduation rate for Massachusetts community colleges — representing those students who completed their degree in three years — was only 16.4 percent in 2010, The Chronicle of Higher Education reported. Compared to the national average of 20.4 percent, also nothing to brag about. Perhaps only schools showing growth in their graduation rates should be eligible to offer the free tuition. This would force colleges to boost their retention efforts and thus their graduation rates. We doubt the current plan will do this on its own.

Ironically, free tuition will most likely attract a number of students who can already afford community college. These students opt not to go because they work full or part time or believe they are not suited for college. That's not necessarily a failure of the plan. Its most praiseworthy goal is to get more people attaining at least a two-year degree, since a high-school diploma is no longer a ticket to the middle class.

The Obama administration tags the cost at $60 billion, which means the final figure will be north of that. His proposal is likely to face criticism — if not outright opposition — in a newly minted Republican-controlled Congress. But the case can be made that such a plan can be good for business, since employers often suffer from a lack of skilled workers.

For now, we give Obama's plan an "F" — for incompleteness. He should work with Republicans to come up with a plan that encourages more Americans to earn not only a college degree but skills for a 21st-century world.
Degree programs offered at Middlesex Community College

Middlesex Offers a Variety of Business Degree Programs

Middlesex Community College offers a variety of associate degree programs to meet your business needs, including Accounting, Business Administration Transfer, Fashion Merchandising, and Hospitality Management. Spring semester classes begin Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2015 and it's not too late to register.

The Accounting Associate in Science in Business Administration degree program is designed to prepare students for a wide variety of accounting support positions. The degree provides students with a strong accounting foundation, including expertise in accounting-computer applications found in most accounting firms and accounting departments of businesses.

MCC's Business Administration Transfer Associate in Science degree program is designed to prepare students for transfer to bachelor's degree programs in business. Students will gain a valuable foundation in introductory business, accounting and management coursework, as well as a broad general education core curriculum. This program qualifies for MassTransfer, which guarantees credit transfer to Massachusetts state universities and colleges, including all UMass campuses.

The Fashion Merchandising Associate in Science degree program prepares students for a wide variety of careers in fashion merchandising and fashion retailing. Graduates are prepared for entry-level careers as assistants or trainees in a variety of departments in retail, wholesale, sales or manufacturing organizations.

MCC's Hospitality Management Associate in Science in Business Administration program combines industry-focused coursework with general business and management coursework. This program prepares students to begin or advance in careers in hotel and restaurant management, conference and convention planning, and hospitality sales.

If you’re thinking of starting a new business, MCC’s new IDEA Center (Innovation Development & Entrepreneur Assistance Center) can connect you with resources, community and faculty expertise to help organize, launch and manage successful new ventures.

Middlesex Offers Project Management Certificate Program

Middlesex Community College’s Community Education and Career Training Program offers a noncredit certificate program in Project Management. This program provides the basics of project management, regardless of industry. Courses begin Monday, Feb. 2.

Today, more than ever, effective project management is a necessity to accomplish projects on time and within budget in any industry. During this 36-hour course, students will discuss and practice the universal skills of project management, with hands-on applications and case studies.

Topics covered include: Intro to Project Management; Project Planning and Control; Project Team Management; Project Decision Making and Problem Solving, and students will complete a capstone project to earn the certificate. Students are encouraged to bring work projects for online and in-class discussions.

To learn more or to register for this or other noncredit programs, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/careertraining or call 1-800-818-3434.

Transition Program for Students with Learning Disabilities

Learn more about Middlesex Community College's nationally recognized Transition Program, a two-year, noncredit certificate program for students with learning/cognitive disabilities. A public Information Session for the Transition Program will be held from 9 to 11 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 22, 2015, in MCC's Bedford Campus Center Café East, 591 Springs Road.

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

Three days a week, Transition Program students attend classes designed to teach independent-living skills, computer and job-survival skills, and social skills. Small class size ensures that students receive individualized attention and a program tailored to meet their needs.

When students are not in class, they work as interns in competitive employment situations in office and business support environments. Transition students may participate in all Middlesex student activities and student support services.

Graduates of MCC’s Transition Program receive a Certificate of Completion in Office and Business Support Skills and typically obtain employment in office support, business support, or retail support.

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

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

For more information about MCC’s Transition Program, or to register for an information session, contact Kaleigh Tardiff, Transition Program Assistant, at 781-280-3638 or visit https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/transitionprogram/.

Middlesex Community College Provides Services for Veterans

The Middlesex Community College Veterans Resource Center (VRC) is dedicated to helping veterans achieve their educational and career goals. Registration for spring semester courses is now open. Classes begin Tuesday, Jan. 20, on the Bedford and Lowell campuses and online.

Military service members who are beginning a college career or returning to complete an academic program can choose from a variety of academic programs offered during the day, evening, weekend and online. Fall semester classes begin Wednesday, Sept. 3, and it’s not too late to register!

MCC’s Veterans Resource Center has been established to serve as a place where veterans can receive information about educational programs, assistance with accessing college resources, and answers regarding eligibility for government, state and community sponsored services.

Resource advocates are available to assist military service members and their families in finding answers to help aid in the transition from military service to higher education through support and guidance during the application, admissions and academic process. The VRC also provides a support system where veterans meet other veterans as they become members of the Middlesex college community.

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For registration information, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu or call 1-800-818-3434.

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James Mabry MCC’s new President

Board of Higher Ed Names James Mabry as MCC’s Fourth President

The Massachusetts Board of Higher Education voted unanimously today to appoint Dr. James Mabry Middlesex Community College’s fourth president. MCC’s Board of Trustees voted unanimously Dec. 11 to recommend Mabry to the post, following a five-month Presidential Search process.

Mabry will leave his position as Vice President of Academic Affairs at Mesa Community College in Mesa, Ariz. He is expected to take over from retiring MCC President Carole Cowan sometime in February.

“I want all community college students to have an opportunity to learn and to succeed. Whether working or raising a family, or both, whether right out of high school or coming back or just starting out, I want higher education to be accessible to them and I want to create learning environments that are welcoming and promote their success,” Mabry said after the vote.

He said he is excited to move here with his wife Judy and to begin the next phase of his career.

“I think Middlesex is a great fit for my wife and I and we are looking forward to being involved with the community and filling our home with new friends,” Mabry said. “I am totally committed to my profession and happy with what I do. You will find me passionate and positive, progressive, and professional. It will be an adventure with many challenges and I feel ready to take this on and make Middlesex an even greater community college that all will be proud of.”

Mabry holds a Ph.D. in U.S. History from Columbia University and a Master of Science degree from The London School of Economics. He earned his bachelor’s degree in political science from Columbia University’s School of General Studies, and his associate degree from the University of Maryland Overseas Division. He also holds a post-graduate certificate from Harvard University’s Graduate School of Education.

Prior to his position at Mesa Community College, Mabry was Dean of Academic Affairs at Palm Beach State College, South Campus, in Boca Raton, Fla. He also served as Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at Dutchess Community College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., where he was also an Assistant Professor of history. Mabry began his career as a high school social studies teacher in the New York City public school system.

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Middlesex Students Mentor Bartlett School Students in STEM Fields

Middlesex Community College students welcome students from Lowell’s Bartlett Science Club to MCC’s Lowell campus to experience a lab environment, learn about lab safety, and conduct experiments as part of a Middlesex Service-Learning initiative.

This fall, more than 100 Middlesex Community College students participated in a number of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education and Service-Learning projects with students at the Bartlett Community Partnership School in Lowell.

At the Bartlett School, which serves students from pre-K through eighth grade, MCC students from 12 different courses worked to organize and facilitate a number of STEM-focused classroom projects, lessons, and field trips.

“The impact the MCC-Bartlett partnership has had on all students involved is profound,” said Elena Bilodeau, MCC’s Service-Learning liaison between Middlesex and Bartlett. “Middlesex students are able to develop their personal and professional skills by creating and supporting educational lessons and programs with an emphasis on increasing Bartlett student interest in STEM fields.”

Sixteen students from Professor Sally Quat’s “General Chemistry for Engineering and Science II” course facilitated a Chemistry Lab field trip. More than 20 members of the Bartlett Science Club visited MCC’s Lowell campus to experience a lab environment, learn about lab safety and conduct experiments.

Other projects included in-class science lessons about magnets, forces and planets, food science projects focused on sustainability and genetically modified organisms. They also led water pollution lessons and dental hygiene educational lessons, which included proper brushing techniques, good eating habits and the importance of wearing a mouth guard during sporting activities.

Additionally, Middlesex education, psychology, human-services, and English Language Learner students were placed in classrooms to serve as positive role models. Students also provided one-on-one and small group support for students in kindergarten through sixth grade.

For more information about Service-Learning at Middlesex, contact Cynthia Lynch, Service-Learning Coordinator, at lynchc@middlesex.mass.edu or 7581-280-3556.

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MCC Named Top School in Military Guide for Colleges & Universities

Thanks to Middlesex Community College’s Veterans Resource Center, Veterans Advisory Board and other special veterans services, MCC has been designated a Top School in the 2015 Military Advanced Education (MAE) Guide to Colleges & Universities.

“There are approximately 450 veterans currently enrolled at MCC,” said Maryanne Mungovan, Director of Multicultural and Veterans Affairs. “And that number continues to grow. This award recognizes all the work Middlesex does to create a welcoming environment for our student veterans.”

Now in its eighth year of publishing the guide, MAE evaluated more than 600 institutions nationwide based on their military culture, financial aid, flexibility, on-campus support and online support services. MAE’s ratings enable prospective students to quickly target schools that follow best practices in military education, and then put these in context with other academic or career considerations.

“We believe the guide serves as an invaluable tool for both education-services officers and transition officers when advising servicemembers about their educational opportunities,” said Kelly Fodel, MAE’s editor. “We used strict criteria to individually evaluate the submissions of respondents, and we had a record number of schools participating this year.”

MCC’s Veterans Resource Centers are located in the Bedford Campus Center, Room 206, or in the Lowell City Building, Room 117. For more information about MCC’s Veterans Resource Center, contact Maryanne Mungovan, Director of Multicultural and Veterans Affairs, at mungovann@middlesex.mass.edu or call 978-656-3267.

For more information about MAE’s 2015 Guide to Colleges and Universities or to access it online, visit: www.mae-kmi.com.

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Students are Challenged in MCC’s Commonwealth Honors Program

The Commonwealth Honors Program (CHP) at Middlesex Community College offers unique learning opportunities for students who elect to study at a more advanced level. Registration is now open for spring semester. Classes begin Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2015.

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

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

“The Commonwealth Honors Program is a great place for students who want to be fully engaged in their intellectual enterprise to learn as much as possible about the world around them — and focus on the collegiate experience,” said MCC History Professor David Kalivas, current CHP Director.

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.

For more information about MCC’s Commonwealth Honors Program, visit https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/honors/ or call 781-280-3553.
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For group sales of 15 or more, Jocelyn Prieto at 978-934-5751 or email jprieto@lowellauditorium.com All sales are final. No refunds or exchanges.

For details, visit WWW.MIDDLESEX.MASS.EDU/CF15

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Maryanne M. Mungovan
Director of Multicultural and Veterans Affairs
mungovanm@middlesex.mass.edu
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March 9, 2015
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an evening with

William Shatner

Award-winning actor, producer, writer, recording artist, and philanthropist

Thursday, June 11 at 8 p.m.
Lowell Memorial Auditorium

Tickets on sale NOW

Premier Seating - $65
Standard Seating - $45

Note: Price includes a mandatory $2 restoration fee charged by the Lowell Memorial Auditorium.

Tickets may be purchased:
By calling the Lowell Memorial Auditorium Box Office at 888-722-8081 or online at www.lowellauditorium.com or in person at the Lowell Memorial Auditorium Box Office located at 50 East Merrimack Street, Lowell, MA.

For group sales of 15 or more, Jocelyn Preto at 978-934-5751 or email jpreto@lowellauditorium.com. All sales are final. No refunds or exchanges.

For details, visit
WWW.MIDDLESEX.MASS.EDU/CF15
Middlesex Community College

Celebrity Forum 2015

an evening with

William Shatner

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For details, visit

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an evening with
William Shatner

on stage at 7:30 p.m.

For tickets, call 978-650-2900

Everyone Who Sees Everyone Else!

To learn more, call 1-800-818-3434 or visit www.middlesex.mass.edu
### ONLINE CLASSES*

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<td>BIO 100</td>
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