Massachusetts Launches Affordable College Plan

MCC will use grant to build program on IT cybersecurity

Coming soon: An affordable college degree

Answers sought on how to help immigrants

Middlesex Community College conducts ‘active shooter’ drill on Bedford Campus
Discounted state ed. plan unveiled

Commonwealth Commitment to save students at least $5,090

By Amelia Pak-Harvey
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LOWELL — A groundbreaking statewide program announced Thursday will create a more affordable college degree for community college transfers, with tuition rebates and freezes estimated to knock an average of at least $5,090 off of a four-year degree.

Touted as the first agreement of its kind in the nation, the Commonwealth Commitment program will offer a 10 percent rebate off tuition and mandatory fees at the end of every successful semester, officials announced at Middlesex Community College.

From left, Worcester State University President Barry Maloney signs the Commonwealth Commitment on the steps of Middlesex Community College in downtown Lowell Thursday morning as UMass President Marty Meehan, MCC President James Mabry and Higher Education Commissioner Carlos Santiago look on. Watch video at lowellsun.com.

"From my point of view, this is really all about giving kids and their families a set of options that can make the cost of a college education dramatically less expensive," said Gov.

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Discounted state ed. plan unveiled

Charlie Baker, standing among higher-education officials from across the state.

The program also offers a freeze on tuition and mandatory fees throughout a student's four years in the program.

And once they're in a state or UMass university, students with a 3.0 GPA can earn a 100-percent tuition waiver through the existing MassTransfer program.

Eligible students begin full time at one of the state's 15 community colleges, maintain a 3.0 GPA and complete their associate degree within 2.5 years. If they are accepted into a state university, they must complete their bachelor's degree within another two years.

Only certain majors are eligible for the program, ranging from biology to psychology at UMass and state universities or painting, printmaking and sculpture at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design.

Gov. Charlie Baker, left, and Middlesex Community College President James Mabry pose for a picture after signing the Commonwealth Commitment college discount program at MCC in Lowell Thursday.

Baker estimated a 20 percent to 35 percent reduction in the cost of a four-year degree.

"You're talking about a possibility of getting a four-year degree in one of these key fields in four, four and a half years for somewhere between $20,000 and $25,000 before grants and scholarships," he said. "I really think this is a terrific opportunity for folks."

The goal is not only to make college more affordable, but to encourage students to complete their degrees more quickly.

"One of the reasons why, in some instances, the cost of higher education is going up is because folks are taking too long to graduate," said UMass President Marty Meehan. "We want to get students that are graduating in four years, or four and a half years."

Individual campuses will bear the cost of tuition rebates and freezes.

"The campuses are really stepping up," said Higher Education Commissioner Carlos Santiago. "They've been working with MCC and the state to create a program that will allow students to transition smoothly throughout the system."

The agreement emerged from the many $30,000-degree initiatives that colleges had throughout the region, Santiago said.

"The campuses created the framework for this project," he said. "Our thinking was simply, if a student can move seamlessly within a region and pursue a high-quality, affordable degree, why not across the entire system of public higher education?"

"It's a program highly pertinent to Lowell, where 34 percent of MCC students transferred to UMass Lowell last year.

MCC President James Mabry called the program a three-way win.

"We all win because the students we transfer are well prepared," he said. "They all succeed. So it's not hard for them to get into a state university when they have a community college degree."

The program is welcome news for students like Hilton Sanchez, a senior at Lawrence High School who plans to come to MCC and transfer to UMass Lowell or Salem State. He works at Whole Foods to save money for college.

"I think it's a really good opportunity for students," Sanchez said.

Follow Amelia on Twitter and Tout @Amelia-PakHarvey.
State offers expansive plan to cut college cost

Discounts, rebates start at 2-year schools

By Laura Crimaldi
GLOBE STAFF

LOWELL — In an initiative billed as the most far-reaching of its kind, higher education leaders Thursday unveiled plans to sharply reduce college costs for community college students who go on to attend a state university.

The effort, dubbed “Commonwealth Commitment,” takes aim at two stubborn, intertwined issues: rising college costs and low graduation rates, particularly at community colleges. It provides financial incentives for students to continue their education, awarding rebates at the end of each completed semester and freezing tuition when they enter the program.

Education officials estimated the program, which requires students to earn their bachelor’s degree within 4½ years, would save students an average of more than $5,000 by graduation.

“This is a tremendous opportunity,” Governor Charlie Baker said at a news conference at Middlesex Community College in Lowell to announce the program.

University of Massachusetts president Marty Meehan said he hopes the program will help more students have the financial flexibility to earn bachelor’s degrees in a timely fashion.

Meehan said that students often enroll in a community college "but be-
State plan seeks to cut college costs

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cause of the challenges of funding their education, because of the challenges of work, because of the personal challenges in people's lives, they don't graduate in four years."

The program provides 10 percent rebates on tuition and fees at the end of each semester to full-time community college students who maintain a cumulative 3.0 grade point average. The students must earn their associate's degree in no more than 2 1/2 years.

When students transfer to a state university, they receive a 10 percent discount on fees at the end of each semester. Tuition, which in Massachusetts constitutes a relatively small part of overall college costs, is waived for the next two years. Students would still be responsible for room and board. The program is reserved for in-state students.

"You could be talking about a situation where for many kids before grants, before scholarships the total cost of a college education could be somewhere between [24,000] and [26,000]," Baker said.

While other states have adopted elements of the Massachusetts initiative, none go as far in making college more affordable and giving students incentive to earn a four-year degree, higher education specialists said.

"You are guaranteeing sort of a fixed cost up front and you're helping them pay it," said George Perlsteter, president of State Higher Education Executive Officers in Boulder, Colo. "That's a powerful motivation, I think, for students and families."

Another higher education group, the Association of American Colleges & Universities, said the Massachusetts program is the most comprehensive of its kind in the country.

The program begins this fall. Students entering community colleges and students who have earned no more than 15 credits are eligible to apply.

The initiative encompasses the five University of Massachusetts campuses, nine state universities, and 15 community colleges.

It will begin by offering degrees in 14 majors, including biology, chemistry, economics, psychology, and history. Education officials plan to add 10 more programs in the fall of 2017 in early childhood education, computer science, criminal justice, and other fields.

Officials did not speculate on the cost of the program, which will depend on enrollment. Mechan estimated 100 students will initially transfer to UMass campuses, costing about $200,000.

The schools will pay for the program with financial aid funds, said Carlos E. Santiago, the commissioner of higher education.

"The campuses are in some respects taking it out of their hide," he said. "They have agreed to do this."

Mechan said he hopes to pay for the rebates with additional fund-raising.

"We're going to raise money and provide more need-based scholarships to those students who are successful," he said.

Natalie Higgins, who directs the Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts, an advocacy group that lobbies for lower college costs, applauded the program but said the state must also increase funding for public colleges and universities.

Earlier this week, Higgins said House lawmakers unveiled a budget plan for next year that provides level-funding for the state's colleges and universities.

"We can do better," she said. "We're a leader in education. That should extend to public higher education."

At Middlesex Community College, some students said the plan would make it easier to pay for their education.

Daniel German, 19, a mechanical engineering student from Lawrence, said he works at Save-A-Lot in Methuen and receives financial aid and a student loan to pay for school.

"It's pretty complicated," he said. "Not everybody can actually pay for this."

Casiana Dicent, 19, a senior at Lawrence High School, said she wished she had learned about the program sooner. Dicent, who was among a group of students invited to the announcement, said she plans to attend Emmanuel College in the fall.

She said she is seeking scholarships and planning to work as much as possible to pay for school.

"It's very difficult," Dicent said. "None of us want to be in debt."

Laura Crimaldi can be reached at laura.crimaldi@globe.com. Follow her on Twitter @lauracrimaldi.
Massachusetts launches affordable college plan

The cost of a four-year degree could soon get much more affordable for certain students who transfer from a Massachusetts community college to a state university.

“This is really all about giving kids and their families options that can make the cost of higher education dramatically less expensive,” said Gov. Charlie Baker, who spoke Thursday at Middlesex Community College’s Lowell campus.

Standing in front of a crowd of high school students and flanked by state education officials and college administrators, Baker said the new “Commonwealth Commitment” initiative could reduce the total cost of a bachelor’s degree from a public university to as low as $24,000 for some students.

Under the initiative, full-time community college students who maintain a 3.0 grade point average and commit to transfer into a bachelor’s degree program at a state university are eligible for a 10 percent rebate on tuition and mandatory fees at the end of each semester. Tuition and fee levels will be frozen for four years upon their entry into the program, and students will be eligible for an additional MassTransfer tuition credit when they enroll in a bachelor’s program.

The Commonwealth Commitment initiative applies to students pursuing designated majors. There will be 14 eligible degree programs in 2016, with 10 more being added in 2017. To maintain eligibility, students must earn their associate’s degree within two-and-a-half years, and their bachelor’s degree within two more years.

Education officials estimate the average participating student will save roughly $5,090.

The initiative includes all 15 Massachusetts community colleges, nine state universities, and five University of Massachusetts campuses. Education officials called it the only system-wide program of its kind in the country.

“Our thinking was if a student can move seamlessly in a region and attain a four-year college degree, why not across the entire system?” said state Higher Education Commissioner Carlos Santiago.

The 24 eligible fields of study cover a wide array, including biology, economics, education, communications, computer science and liberal arts.

“Part of this is to incentivize students so they go more rapidly through these pathways,” Santiago said.

To make the Commonwealth Commitment Initiative work, Santiago explained, the 29 public higher education institutions had to agree on a common system to transfer credits and align them to degree programs. That’s why, for now, the initiative only applies to the 24 designated majors.

State Secretary of Education James Peyser said approximately 70 percent of students in the public higher education system are currently studying in those fields.

Education officials and Baker were reluctant to speculate the total statewide cost of the tuition freeze and rebate program, largely because they don’t know how many students will enroll. Santiago said relatively few students currently meet the criteria, but he hopes to boost that number.

All the public campuses are on board with creating plans to offset the cost of offering the tuition breaks.

“The great thing about this is we now have a commitment from all of these campuses to factor that into the way they develop their budgets,” Baker said.

University of Massachusetts president Marty Meehan anticipates more than 100 students across the five UMass campuses will participate, costing the system more than $200,000.

He described how he plans to offset that cost.

“The way the University of Massachusetts will do it is by providing scholarships,” he said. “We’re going to raise some money privately, and we’re going to increase the number of need-based scholarships available, and the money will come from that money we’re able to raise privately.”

Baker said more about the costs of the program will be known after the fall of 2016 and 2017.

“Obviously, at that point, we can then project what that means for kids coming out of the first two years on the community college side …” he said.

UMass Amherst student Owen Wiggins, a Norwell High School alumnus and a student trustee of the state Board of Higher Education, expects many current high school students will examine the program.

“As long as it’s advertised well and people know about it,” he said.

Middlesex Community College president James Mabry said the program will produce multifaceted benefits for students, colleges and the state economy.

“Affordable education is our goal, and the 15 community colleges are proud to be at the core of this innovative initiative,” he said.

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LOWELL — Gov. Charlie Baker and Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito joined public higher education leaders Thursday to announce the ‘Commonwealth Commitment,’ an innovative college affordability and completion plan to help more students achieve the dream of a college degree.

The Commonwealth Commitment, the first agreement of its kind in the nation, was signed by UMass President Marty Meehan, Worcester State University President Barry Maloney, and Middlesex Community College President James Mabry, representing the three segments of the public higher education system, at a ceremony at Middlesex Community College.

The plan commits every public campus to providing 10% rebates at the end of each successfully completed semester to qualifying undergraduate students, in addition to the standard MassTransfer tuition waiver received upon entering a four-year institution from a Community College. Students who meet the program requirements will, depending on the transfer pathway they choose, be able to realize an average savings of $5,090 off the cost of a baccalaureate degree.

Also, as part of the Commonwealth Commitment’s goal to increase cost savings and predictability, tuition and mandatory fees will be frozen for program participants as of the date they enter the program.

Students will begin their studies at one of the state’s 15 community colleges, enrolling in one of 24 Commonwealth Commitment/Mass Transfer Pathways programs that will roll out in fall 2016 (14 programs) and fall 2017 (10 additional programs). They must attend full-time, and must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0. After earning an associate’s degree in two and a half years or less, students will transfer to a state university or UMass campus to earn a baccalaureate degree.

“I am pleased that our higher education leaders have worked collaboratively to create this program to decrease the cost of a college degree and accelerate on-time completion,” Baker. “Even though public higher education in Massachusetts is already a great value, the Commonwealth Commitment will make it even easier for students to go to school full-time and to enter the workforce faster and with less debt.”
Commonwealth Commitment to reduce cost, expand options at state schools

LOWELL — Leaders from the state’s colleges and universities gathered at Middlesex Community College alongside Gov. Charlie Baker to announce the Commonwealth Commitment, a new program whose goal is to reduce the cost of an education for Massachusetts students.

The plan, an incentive for students to enter the state’s community colleges by making it easier and more economical to transfer into and graduate from the state four-year schools, is an effort to make college cheaper and more accessible, Baker said on Thursday. For local students, the new agreement expands price options already in place, said MassBay Community College interim President Yves Salomon-Fernandez.

When students enter the Commonwealth Commitment program, they are granted a freeze on tuition and fees for all four years of the program and a 10 percent rebate off tuition as long as they complete their associate’s degree in two and a half years and transfer to a state university, including the UMass system, to finish a bachelor’s degree within another two years. Students must also maintain full-time enrollment with a 3.0 grade point average. If students participate in the allotted degree tracks, the program will ensure their credits transfer from the two-year school to the four-year school. The program hinges on completion of a bachelor’s degree in the four-year track as a way to increase the number of students who actually obtain a degree.

According to the state, the program could reduce tuition and fees by an average of more than $5,000 over the four years, providing a bachelor’s degree for less than $30,000.

This program, Framingham State University President Javier Cevallos said, is similar to the one MassBay and his university agreed to in January that also provides students a bachelor’s degree for under $30,000. The difference, he said, is that now students have more options.

“It’s very similar in many ways, (but) we are expanding the entire idea,” Cevallos said. “I think the idea is to continue to be providing the best, most affordable education.”

Salomon-Fernandez said the new program makes it easier for students to continue to a four-year school, and opens up new pathways to do that.

“This affords students more options,” she said. “Rather than MassBay going out and forging relationships with individual institutions, now we have one central agreement.”

Despite that perk for students, the colleges are charged with funding the tuition rebates on their own, Department of Higher Education Commissioner Carlos Santiago said.

Cevallos said it’s unclear how Framingham State will bear the cost burden. Much of it, Santiago said, will depend on how many students are interested in the program. He said there are no estimates on enrollment or overall cost to the system.

In the fall of 2016, students can enroll in 14 programs at any state community college. In the fall of 2017, 10 more programs will be added to the list. Both Salomon-Fernandez and Cevallos said they expect to see enrollment increase, something Rep. Tom Sannicandro, D-Ashland, said is a benefit not only for the schools and students, but for the state. The state must educate its workforce, Sannicandro said.

“It’s an important driver of the economy,” he said.

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Middlesex College Celebrity Forum to feature ‘Today’ show hosts

The 18th annual Middlesex Community College Celebrity Forum featuring Kathie Lee Gifford and Hoda Kotb, co-hosts of NBC’s “Today” show, is set for 8 p.m. June 3 in the Lowell Memorial Auditorium.

Proceeds from Celebrity Forum support Middlesex Community College Foundation student scholarships. Since 2004, more than $200,000 in Celebrity Forum Scholarships has been awarded to 86 Middlesex students. In addition to Celebrity Forum Scholarships, the MCC Foundation annually awards more than $100,000 in student scholarships.

Though probably best known for her 15 years on TV’s “Regis and Kathie Lee,” Gifford is also a successful actress, singer, songwriter, playwright, author and philanthropist. She made her Broadway debut in 2000 in Stephen Sondheim’s “Putting It Together,” and in 2005, her first musical, “Under The Bridge” (book/lyrics and contributing composer), opened Off-Broadway. In 2012, her musical “Scandalous” (book/lyrics) received a Tony Award nomination.

Gifford is the New York Times best-selling author of many books. In 2014, she self-published “Good Gifts, One Year in the Heart of a Home” with more than $1 million in sales going directly to the Salvation Army’s Red Box Campaign. She is also a longtime supporter of the Association to Benefit Children’s Cody House and Cassidy’s Place, which provide a transitional home for infants and children who have severe disabilities and serious medical problems.

Kotb, a television news anchor, author and philanthropist, began hosting the 10 a.m. hour of “Today” when it debuted in 2007. She has also been a “Date-line NBC” correspondent since 1998. A New York Times best-selling author, Kotb just released her third book, “Where We Belong: Journeys That Show Us the Way.”

Kotb has received numerous broadcast awards, including a Gracie Award for Individual Achievement, the Alfred I. duPont–Columbia University Award, a Peabody and an Edward R. Murrow Award. She is a seven-year breast-cancer survivor and has been part of several initiatives to raise awareness about the disease.

MCC’s Celebrity Forum is an annual event that presents well-known personalities for the educational and cultural enrichment of area residents. Presenting Sponsor of all 18 Celebrity Forum events is The TJX Companies Inc.

Tickets to An Evening with Kathie Lee Gifford and Hoda Kotb cost $100, $65, $55 and $45. Tickets can be purchased by calling the Lowell Memorial Auditorium box office at 866-722-8881, online at lowellauditorium.com or in person at the LMA box office, 50 E. Merrimack St., Lowell. For group sales of 15 or more, contact Jocelyn Prieto at 978-934-5751; jocelyn_prieto@uml.edu. For information: middlesex.mass.edu/CF16.

Middlesex College to present student recitals

Middlesex Community College’s spring concert series, A World of Music, will conclude with two MCC student recitals.

Student singers and instrumentalists will perform at 12:30 p.m. May 9 in MCC’s Concert Hall, Building 6 on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road. Voice students of professor Johannah Segarich will perform 11:15 a.m. May 10, in the Federal Building Assembly Room on the Lowell campus, 50 Kearney Square.

The concerts are free and open to the public. To see previous World of Music performances, visit bit.ly/1TRwsSu.

For information about A World of Music, contact Carmen Rodriguez-Peralta, director: 781-280-3923; peraltac@middlesex.mass.edu. For directions: middlesex.mass.edu.
Middlesex Community College to offer summer programs

Middlesex Community College will offer four summer sessions as well as College for Kids summer programs.

Registration is now open for all summer programming. Day Summer Sessions run from May 31 to June 30 and from July 11 to Aug. 10. Day summer session classes meet four days a week, Monday through Thursday, on the Bedford and Lowell campuses.

MCC will offer expanded online and evening summer sessions that run from June 6 to Aug. 2 and June 20 to Aug. 16. Classes meet online or two evenings a week, either Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday.

MCC's College for Kids programs are designed to provide children with fun and challenging opportunities to explore careers, gain new knowledge and skills and boost self-confidence. Camps are offered for children ages 8 to 15 and run from July 11 through Aug. 18 on the Bedford and Lowell campuses.

To register for MCC's Summer Sessions or College for Kids: 800-818-3434; middlesex.mass.edu/summer.
under Composition

On the campus of the College of Education, the new building is taking shape. The building is designed to meet the needs of students and faculty. It features state-of-the-art technology and a modern design. The building will open in the fall of 2023.

In the meantime, the College of Education is expanding its online offerings. This semester, the College is offering three new online courses in education technology, curriculum development, and educational administration. These courses are designed to provide students with flexible learning options and the opportunity to earn college credit.

In addition to its new building and online courses, the College of Education is also focusing on community engagement. The College is partnering with local organizations to provide professional development opportunities for educators. Additionally, the College is hosting a series of workshops and seminars to discuss current issues in education.

The College of Education is committed to providing a high-quality education to all students. With its new building, online courses, and community engagement programs, the College is well-positioned to meet this goal.
EDITORIAL

Diabetes, obesity and our bad choices

When the World Health Organization issues a report these days, you can almost bet that it’s news you don’t want to hear.

Such is the case with WHO’s April 6 report, which says diabetes cases have exploded in the past 25 years, increasing near fourfold. In 1980, 108 million people, or 4.7 percent of the world’s population, had diabetes. Two years ago, 422 million people, or 8.5 percent had the disease.

And as you can imagine, WHO, the United Nations’ health agency, blamed the explosion in part on excessive weight and obesity from a growing consumption of food and beverages high in sugar. “We need to rethink our daily lives: to eat healthily, be physically active and avoid excessive weight gain,” WHO Director-General Margaret Chan declared on the day the report was issued.

WHO’s diabetes report followed closely on the heels of its March 28 report saying that 41 million children under age 5 are overweight or obese. And they blamed sugar consumption for the problem.

WHO’s Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity said it believes “there is sufficient rationale to warrant the introduction of an effective tax on sugar-sweetened beverages.”

Encouragement of a sugar tax must be music to the ears of former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, whose ban on big sodas was struck down by New York’s highest court in 2014.

The government of Mexico says its sugar tax, imposed last year, has resulted in a 12 percent drop in sugary beverages subject to the tax, and people are turning to non-taxed alternatives such as bottled water. Tax receipts are used for health education.

In our area, the Lowell-based Healthy Eating & Living Task Force has successfully reached out to community members and local organizations to increase awareness and initiate healthy lifestyle changes. Past programs and initiatives include a walking program event in partnership with UMass Lowell; International “Walk to School Day”; Safe Routes to School; “Lowell Gets Moving” resource guide; and a walking program with Middlesex Community College.

There is no magic bullet but rather a number of lifestyle choices people have to make.

Nonetheless, the reports are disturbing and come at a time when we know more than ever which foods to avoid — those laden with sugar and saturated fats — and which to consume more often — leafy green vegetables, lean meats, nuts and fiber-rich legumes.

Alas, free will may prove more powerful than scary reports from WHO.
MCC will use grant to build program on IT cybersecurity

Middlesex Community College has received a $117,086 Massachusetts Skills Capital Grant to expand its training capacity for its rapidly growing IT Cybersecurity program.

The grant is part of $9.3 million in workforce-skills equipment grants awarded as part of the Massachusetts Skills Capital Grant Program, a new initiative of Gov. Charlie Baker’s Workforce Skills Cabinet, which seeks to align education, workforce and economic-development strategies across the state.

“Workforce-skills education and training plays an enormous role in economic and personal development by helping residents acquire the skills they need to connect with promising careers,” Baker said. “These vocational-technical education equipment grants will help build stronger communities and a more competitive business environment that ensures more residents have the skills they need to succeed in and support the commonwealth’s economic future.”

“We are grateful for this funding that will allow us to establish a state-of-the-art lab environment for our IT Cybersecurity program in Lowell,” said Kathleen Sweeney, dean of STEM at MCC. “As one of the first community colleges in the state to offer a comprehensive program in cybersecurity, having access to this type of dedicated lab space will ensure our graduates are prepared to better meet the needs of employers in this high-demand industry.”

MCC’s IT Cybersecurity Transfer Degree Program is designed to prepare students for transfer to a Bachelor’s degree program or for employment in a variety of entry-level, information-security analyst positions. Problem-solving and analytical thinking are emphasized throughout the program, with a hands-on approach to learning. The IT program conforms to the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education framework for academic programs, developed jointly by the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security.

For more information about MCC’s IT Cybersecurity Transfer program, contact Don Brady, assistant dean of Health & STEM, at bradyd@middlesex.mass.edu. For more information about the Massachusetts Skills Capital Grant Program, visit www.mass.gov/heid/community/funding/massachusetts-skills-capital-program.html.

CA$H FOR MCC
Middlesex to use $117G state workforce grant to bolster its burgeoning IT cybersecurity program

Schools, Pages B4-B6
Answers sought on how to help immigrants

Forum highlights need for facts, ways to assist

By Robert Mills
rmills@lowellsun.com

LOWELL — In a year when immigration has been a hot-button issue charged with heated rhetoric, several of the city's most prominent organizations came together Tuesday to host a public forum on the challenges it brings.

The forum was supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Association of American Colleges & Universities, and co-sponsored by Middlesex Community College, UMass Lowell, the Lowell National Historical Park, The Coalition for a Better Acre, and the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association.

David Kalivas, a history professor at MCC and director of the Commonwealth Honors Program, moderated the event. It began with presentations by Kalivas; Bopha Malone, of the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association; Julia Gavin, of the Coalition for a Better Acre; and Christoph Strobel, an associate professor of history at UMass Lowell.

Kalivas said the evening was aimed at starting a conversation about immigration and the challenges it brings that will carry over into curriculum and classrooms, while also helping those involved build partnerships.

James Mabry, president of MCC, opened by discussing his German and English roots and his wife's Italian roots.

"The contributions of so many different people from so many different nations have made this city," Mabry said. "And during this season of very angry political rhetoric, it's great that we can come together and talk about this with facts and open minds instead of slogans and demagoguery."

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Answers sought on issues facing immigrants

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Strebel, who has studied immigration, said that while roughly 10 to 15 percent of the U.S. population is foreign-born, 22.1 percent of Lowellians were foreign-born as of 2000.

While the Irish, Greeks, French-Canadians and other groups have been part of the city's fabric for decades, Cambodians continue to find their place, and new immigrants from Burma, the Middle East, and several African nations have started to arrive.

"We've built temples, we own businesses, we own homes now, and we're sure there's still a lot of work to be done, but we're starting to have a voice," Maloney said.

Kalivas discussed the history of Greek immigration in Lowell, noting the challenges Greeks faced, including being called "the garlic lovers," because they allegedly carried the scent of garlic with them.

"There was animosity," Kalivas said.

Gavin, who discussed the history of the CBA and the Acre neighborhood, noted that the Acre had a rather literal beginning.

"It was started as literally an acre of land that was set aside for the Irish canal diggers," she said, noting that the neighborhood has continued to be "the landing and development area" for new immigrant groups.

Maloney recounted her family's history of fleeing from Cambodia and coming to America as refugees.

"There was little discussion of illegal immigration outside of the question-and-answer session when someone asked what could be done to make the discussion of illegal immigration more factual, instead of based on fear.

Questions were probing, and not all could be answered by the panelists, who welcomed difficult questions as a starting point to think about the issues.

One young man asked what could be done to reach out to new immigrant groups, while a young woman who moved here from Africa noted that many of her fellow immigrants try to conceal their problems instead of seeking help from the broader community.

"What can we do to mobilize this community so they can have support and so they know there are places they can go to when they have problems?" she asked.

Kalivas had no clear answer, but asked the woman to speak at length later so all the parties involved in the forum could start to look for solutions.

Ekim Montoya, president of the CBA, noted that Hispanic immigrants united around their churches when they first arrived here, and recommended church as a resource that can help such groups.

Despite being a three-hour event, several people in the audience still had hands raised to ask more questions when Kalivas had to cut off questions due to time constraints.

Follow Robert Mills on Twitter and Tout @Robert_Mills.
Bedford’s World of Music concert to feature Cambodian master

A World of Music, Middlesex Community College’s spring concert series, continues with Cambodian Music featuring Master Song Heng at 3 p.m. April 30, in the Federal Building Assembly Room on the Lowell campus, 50 Kearney Square.

Co-sponsored by MCC’s Interdisciplinary Weekend 2016: “South East Asia,” the concert will feature Heng, a Cambodian music who is devoted to keeping traditional Cambodian music alive by teaching and performing. Heng will demonstrate and perform on several classical Khmer pin pet instruments, including roneat ek, a xylophone and kong, a circle of bronze gongs.

A World of Music concludes with MCC student recitals featuring student singers and instrumentalists at 12:30 p.m. May 9, in the MCC Concert Hall on the Bedford campus, and the voice students of Johannah Segarich performing at 11:15 a.m. May 10, in the Federal Building Assembly Room on the Lowell campus. All concerts are free and open to the public.

For information, contact Carmer Rodriguez-Peralta, director, at 781-280-3923; peraltae@middlesex.mass.edu. For directions: middlesex.mass.edu.
Middlesex College to hold campuswide open house

Middlesex Community College will host a Bedford Campus Open House at 5:30 p.m. April 26, 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. 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 more about the admissions process and take a campus tour.

"This open-house format gives students an opportunity to learn about everything Middlesex has to offer," said Marilyn Gagliano, dean of admissions. Advisers and administrators will be available 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.

Students can also learn about the state-wide MassTransfer program, which is designed to ease the transfer process, allowing a student to specifically plan a curriculum that will fit a chosen bachelor's degree program.

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 information or to RSVP: 800-818-3434; middlesex.mass.edu/oh.

Middlesex College revives fading Cambodian music culture

"Songs for Cambodia," a collaboration between Middlesex Community College and the Lowell Public Schools, was created to foster and preserve classical Cambodian music.

Thanks to a 2014 grant from the Theodore Edson Parker Foundation, traditional instruments were purchased, and more than 15 LPS music teachers have learned to play classical Cambodian music. The goal is for the teachers to infuse Cambodian music into their regular classroom curriculum, according to MCC music professor Johannah Segarich, who has helped develop the program.

After almost two years of instruction with master teacher Song Heng and Lowell music teacher Rita McLaughlin, teachers at two schools will soon begin teaching Cambodian music to their own students. "Next fall, we will begin a pilot program with two Lowell schools: Murkland School, in grades 2-4, and Stoklosa Middle School, in grades 5-6," said Segarich. "Eventually, we hope the program will expand to Lowell High School, as well."

Cambodian classical music was on the verge of being lost completely, according to Segarich, due to the brutal Khmer Rouge regime, which systematically targeted and killed Cambodian artists and musicians during the 1970s. One of the few surviving classically trained Cambodian musicians in the world, Heng, who lives in Rhode Island, has also been instructing a group of professional Cambodian musicians from Lowell. "They are very accomplished in playing folk-style music but not well-versed in classical technique," said Segarich. "Another 'Songs for Cambodia' goal is to teach local musicians how to play classical Cambodian music and to have them take on some of the more talented LPS student musicians as private music students."

"We have had an amazing amount of community support," Segarich added. "One teacher said that when one of her students told her grandfather she was learning Cambodian music, he started crying. He was overwhelmed that somebody was teaching his granddaughter how to play Cambodian music. We're doing our best to bring this musical tradition back and to give the Cambodian community the sense that it matters, that their culture matters and that they matter."

For information about Songs for Cambodia, visit the project's blog site: songsforcambodia.wordpress.com.
Middlesex College to perform ‘Little Women’ musical

The Middlesex Community College Theater Department will stage the musical “Little Women” for five performances, from April 28 to May 1, in the Burgoyne Theatre at Lowell High School, 40 Page St.

Curtain times for “Little Women” are 7 p.m. April 28-29; 2 and 7 p.m. April 30; and 2 p.m. May 1. Tickets cost $15; $10 for MCC students, staff and faculty; $8 for senior citizens. Tickets can be purchased online at middlesex.mass.edu/performingarts or by calling the box office at 978-458-5429.

Based on Louisa May Alcott’s life, “Little Women” follows the adventures of sisters Jo, Meg, Beth and Amy March. Jo is trying to sell her stories for publication, but the publishers are not interested. Her friend Professor Bhaer tells her that she has to do better and write more from herself. Jo weaves the story of herself and her sisters and their experience growing up in Civil War America.

For information about the MCC Theater Department’s production of “Little Women,” advance reservations and group sales of 10 or more, call 978-458-5429 or visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/performingarts.

‘Little Women’ at MCC this week

LOWELL — The Middlesex Community College Theater Department will stage five performances of the musical “Little Women” from Thursday through Sunday, May 1, in the Burgoyne Theatre at Lowell High School, 40 Page St. Times are Thursday and Friday; at 2 and 7 p.m., and Sunday, May 1, at 2 p.m. Tickets are $15, $10 for MCC students, staff and faculty; and $8 for senior citizens, and can be purchased online at www.middlesex.mass.edu/performingarts or by calling 978-458-5429. For advance reservations and group sales of 10 or more, call 978-458-5429 or visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/performingarts.
10 QUESTIONS WITH...

Weasnar Nay, of Dracut, MCC student and spring break volunteer

By Ella Torres
Sun Correspondent

LOWELL — When Weasnar Nay signed on to go to New Orleans during spring break for a community-service trip, he knew he wouldn’t accomplish everything he wanted to. Yet from the drywall he could plaster on a demolished home to replanting trees in a garden, the work he could do was well worth it.

Sponsored by Middlesex Community College, where he studies psychology, the Dracut resident spent a week in the city rebuilding homes and the community after the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina, which can still be seen nearly 11 years later.

Each day was unlike the one before. He would wake up between 5 a.m. and 7 a.m., filling the rest of his time with a multitude of work. Regardless of the task, though, Nay felt the reward each time.

Q: Where did the idea come from for the volunteer project?
A: It came from Middlesex Community College. It’s been going on for about six to seven years now. It started out with the Hurricane Katrina effort to help build homes, and Middlesex Community has definitely been a part of it before I ever was involved.

Q: Why was it something you wanted to be a part of?
A: We wanted to get involved because we wanted to help out others. We wanted to be a big part of something that would go a long way. We were only there for a week, so we knew we couldn’t get everything finished, but we wanted to be a part of it to lend a helping hand no matter what. Even with the most minimal time, we could get a lot done.

Q: Were there any nerves prior to going?
A: I felt a little bit nervous and excited, to go because I didn’t really know what we were expecting. We knew we’d do volunteer work and build some homes, but some of us never really did it (before), so it was new to us. We were a little nervous and excited at the same time.

Q: How many people did you go with? What was it like working with them?
A: There were eight students and three advisors. We had such a great team chemistry; we had reflection every night where we spoke about our highs and lows, and everybody was really open. Every single person had a unique characteristic and it just blended so well together.

Q: How long did you go for?
A: Seven days.

Q: What was a typical day like?
A: We would wake up as early as 5 to 7 a.m. Every day we had different people who would make breakfast. Then we went to our work site, which varied from day to day. We could be working at a house one day, we could be working at a garden the next day. The sites really varied. It’s pretty different; some of us got to go volunteer at a preschool or charter school. Basically, we were working throughout the day and we wouldn’t get back until 5 to 7 p.m. There would be a group that prepared dinner for us, so when some of us would get back, we would eat and shower and share how our days went.

Q: What did you take away from the experience?
A: It was definitely eye-opening because you just got to go in there and learn about the culture and work on the houses. It was definitely something we took away with us. We were digging and sometimes you’d just find seashells with the ocean nowhere near us, or you’d see two or three houses then one house that you could tell got hit by Hurricane Katrina. It was definitely an eye-opener. The people and culture were so amazing and friendly. The food was kind of unforgiving on the body, but it was worth it.

Q: Do you do other community-service projects or was this your first one?
A: No, this wasn’t my first. I went to Costa Rica to do a service trip there. I’ve done volunteer work in my community as well. I was part of AmeriCorps; we work with low-income children to improve their lives. It’s like an early-intervention program. I also did some minor things like just helping out (in the community). I volunteered at a karate place.

Q: Do you have any other community-service projects coming up?
A: I’m doing a book drive as a school project with a fellow student for a preschool in the local community. Our goal is to get a book for every child to improve their literacy.

Q: How did Costa Rica compare to New Orleans?
A: Costa Rica was more of a learning experience. We also did some service like planting trees, and we went to a turtle protection site to watch over turtle eggs. But that was more of an educational thing. There was more labor in New Orleans, such as drywalling and insulating walls and painting. Even though it was really hard work, it was really rewarding.
24 graduate from MCC Manufacturing program

LOWELL — Twenty-four Middlesex Community College students received certificates in machining and electronics during a recent graduation ceremony for the Advanced Manufacturing Training Program held recently on the Lowell campus.

The program was originally developed as part of a $500,000 Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund Grant awarded by the state to the North Shore Workforce Investment Board and is now funded by a Job Driven National Emergency Grant. The grant supports partnerships between the Northeast Advanced Manufacturing Consortium and the region’s education and workforce organizations. Those include including community colleges and vocational-technical schools, career centers, workforce investment boards and local employers, and provide training and assists participants in finding jobs within the manufacturing industry.

Graduates of the Advanced Manufacturing Training Program completed more than 500 hours of training in basic machining or electronics. They gained hands-on experience to begin careers in the high-demand manufacturing industry, including working in aerospace, defense, medical devices, computers and electronics. The graduates are:


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MCC hosting forum on immigration issues

LOWELL — Middlesex Community College will host a public forum on immigration from 5 to 8 p.m. today at the Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center, 246 Market St. The discussion will cover issues relevant to those who live and work in Lowell, including immigration and urban development.

Speakers include Christoph Strobel, associate professor of history, UMass Lowell; Bopha Malone, Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association, Enterprise Bank, member of MCC Board of Trustees; and Julia Gavin, director of programming for Lowell’s Coalition for a Better Acre. David Kalivas, MCC history professor and director of the Commonwealth Honors Program, will moderate. For information, contact the Middlesex Community College Commonwealth Honors Office at 781-280-3553 or honors@middlesex.mass.edu.
SUMMER SLIDE?
NOT FOR THESE STUDENTS

By Jennifer Fenn Lefferts
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

While a typical school year is packed with academic requirements needed for college, more and more students are taking advantage of the summer months for experiences beyond the classroom.

Whether it's taking a one-week engineering course at a high school in Kingston, getting a taste of college life in Newton, setting asides a few hours to volunteer for a family festival in Danvers, or interning at a chemistry lab, there is no shortage of options for middle and high school students looking to keep busy and explore career opportunities this summer.

"It's a time when you can follow your interests," said Moira Kelly, executive director of Norwood-based Explo, which operates summer programs at Wellesley College and Wheaton College in Norton. "The more a kid is exposed to a broad array of things, the more they will be able to determine who they are and what makes them tick."

Students can live on campus or commute and take a variety of courses such as molecular gastronomy, fashion design, the business of sports, neuropsychology, and commercial architecture. Costs range from about $2,700 for a three-week day program to $6,000 for a residential program.

Explo also offers shorter programs in which students zero in on one topic such as sports medicine orthopedics, emergency medicine, or veterinary medicine.

Joy LeBlanc, a guidance counselor at Danvers High School, said many students work part-time jobs, visit college campuses, prepare for the SATs,
or volunteer to help fulfill a community service requirement at school.

But she's seeing more students take part in precollege programs. The programs are offered at many local universities to give students a first-hand look at college life or an opportunity to focus on an area of interest.

Boston College offers a six-week residential program that costs $7,000.

"My recommendation is for them to get involved in an area they want to study in college," LeBlanc said. "How can they take it to another level? In the end, you will gain more knowledge and you'll show a college that instead of heading to the beach, you've taken your education to another level. It shows their desire."

But students don't necessarily have to travel far or spend much money to get a college-like experience.

Middlesex Community College offers a College for Kids program on its Bedford and Lowell campuses. It costs from about $200 to $400 a week.

Students can take classes that range from aviation and simulation, to fashion and designing a hovercraft. Program director Marci Barnes said the classes are designed to be more educational than a typical recreational summer program but also fun.

For many students, a class at MCC is just part of a well-rounded summer experience that often includes a town rec camp and time at a lake, she said.

"You have to keep that fun aspect or kids won't like it," she said.

As students look toward career-oriented programs, fewer are joining the workforce in the summer.

A nationwide teen summer job outlook released recently by global outplacement firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas, Inc., showed that the number of job opportunities should increase in the summer months.

But the number of teens seeking and finding summer jobs fell in each of the last three years — a trend that will probably continue as students look elsewhere to fill their time.

"Much of this is in pursuit of college admissions goals and broader career goals beyond college," CEO John Challenger said in a press release. "As colleges become more competitive, teens are trying to find activities that stand out on applications."

That doesn't mean they aren't working, however.

Telma Sullivan, internship and career exploration program coordinator at the Education Cooperative in Walpole, said interest in internships has been on the rise. The cooperative supports 15 public school districts with a variety of programs.

Sullivan said the 20-year-old program places about 120 students in a four-week career exploration internship each summer.

Sullivan said once students are accepted into the program, the organization finds a placement to match their interest. The top five choices last year were medical research, engineering, finance, business, and computer science. Interest this year is in biology, chemistry, medical research, biotechnology, and engineering, she said.

"During the summer, the high school students are looking for outside-the-classroom learning experiences," she said. "These students have been strictly in the classroom and want to know how to apply what they have learned academically."

Sullivan said students learn more about jobs they didn't know existed.

"Through the TEC internships, they are able to understand better about their interest, values, and skills and use this information to make more educated decisions about their academic and career future," she said.

"Students might confirm they are on the right career path or not, but the outcome is always positive because they can either narrow down the focus or redirect their search," she said. "In the meantime, they learn a lot of skills they can transfer."

Watching students discover a new area of interest is the most exciting part about the summer program at Sacred Heart School in Kingston, program director Dylan Collins said.

The school started a new summer program last year and expanded it this year to create SHIELD — the Sacred Heart Interdisciplinary Educational Leadership Development program. The one-week electives are designed to meet students' interests and prepare them for future studies.

Collins said he started the program last year after seeing South Shore families travel to take part in career exploration programs. The program had 200 students last year.

"It's a chance to be academically stimulated with project-based or hands-on learning," he said. "It's educational but fun and keeping them stimulated during the summer months. There's a lot of talk about the 'summer slide,' so a lot of families are looking for such programs."

A typical one-week class is about $400. Summer course offerings include eight engineering programs taught by Northeastern professors, an Entrepreneur Academy that includes a certificate from Babson College, and art programs such as creative writing and comic book illustration.

"The gratification comes from the kids discovering what they want to study in college," Collins said. "To see that discovery and have them trying different things makes it all so worth it."

Jennifer Fenn Lefferts can be reached at jflefferts@yahoo.com.
Middlesex College to host STEM career fair

Middlesex Community College's Health and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Pathways Center will host a career fair from 1 to 3 p.m. April 12, in the UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center, 50 Warren St., adjacent to the Lowell campus.

The event is free and open to the public.

"Students are excited about opportunities to find work related to their field of study," said Audrey Frater, director of the STEM and Health Pathways Center. "Every employer present at the fair has available openings for students, whether through internships, research positions or full- and part-time job opportunities."

Students can meet and interview with representatives from more than 40 area employers, including Massachusetts Life Science Center, Proctor & Gamble, Greater Lawrence Family Health Center, LogixHealth, Charles River Labs, Rendstadt at Entegris, Ready Nurse Staffing, Aerotek, CareWell Urgent Care, Enterprise Bank, PlumChoice and Lowell General Hospital.

To help students prepare for the career fair, MCC's Health & STEM Pathways Center will hold a career fair preparation workshop from 2 to 4 p.m. April 5, in the Lowell campus cafeteria.

The workshop will include a resume critique, tips on how to work a career fair, information about creating a 30-second introduction and other resources to help students make the most of the career fair.

For information about the career fair or MCC's Health & STEM Pathways Center: middlesex.mass.edu/pathways; pathwayscenter@middlesex.mass.edu.

Middlesex College to host Pathway to Success Day

Middlesex Community College will host Pathway to Success Day from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 7 at the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road.

MCC's Office of Admissions & Student Recruitment will bus more than 60 students from Lowell High School and Lowell Middlesex Academy Charter School to the Bedford campus for a day. Students can take tours of campus, visit classrooms, eat lunch in the cafeteria, apply for on-the-spot admission, book placement-testing appointments, meet with financial aid advisers and learn about student-engagement opportunities.

Supported by a grant from the Middlesex Community College Foundation, Pathway to Success Day is part of an ongoing statewide effort to close the "achievement gap" among first-generation, low-income and minority students, who are not attending college in numbers as high as their Anglo and Asian counterparts.

"It's a fun day," said Jeffrey Tejada, director of diversity outreach and recruitment. "We want these students to see the environment here at Middlesex — and see faces that look like them."
MCC Events

Health & STEM Career Fair

Middlesex Community College’s Health & STEM Pathways Center will host a Career Fair on Tuesday, April 12, from 1 to 3 p.m., in the UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center, 50 Warren St. The event is free and open to the public. To help students prepare for the Career Fair, MCC’s Health & STEM Pathways Center will hold a Career Fair Preparation Workshop on Tuesday, April 5, from 2 to 4 p.m., in the Lowell campus cafeteria. Visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/pathways or contact pathwayscenter@middlesex.mass.edu.

‘Three Guitars’ on Saturday

A World of Music, Middlesex Community College’s 2016 spring concert series, continues with “Three Guitars,” on Saturday, at 3 p.m., in the MCC Concert Hall (Building 6), on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road. The concert is free and open to the public. Acclaimed classical guitarists Adam Levin (MCC faculty member), Scott Borg and Matthew Rohde will perform a concert of guitar solos, duos and trios. Works by Isaac Albéniz, Heitor Villa-Lobos, Clarice Assad, Toru Takemitsu, Marco Pereira, Nikita Koshkin and Ben Verdery will be featured. Call 781-280-3923 or email peralta@middlesex.mass.edu.

Health, Wellness Expo Wednesday

Middlesex Community College will host a Health & Wellness Expo on the Lowell campus Wednesday, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the cafeteria, 33 Kearney Square. Email wellness@middlesex.mass.edu.
Middlesex Community College to hold farewell concert

Middlesex Community College’s spring concert series, A World of Music, will continue with a farewell concert for MCC music faculty member and mezzo-soprano Johannah Segarich at 3 p.m. April 17 in MCC’s Concert Hall on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road.

Segarich will give a farewell performance before her retirement in celebration of her 24 years of service to the college. MCC faculty members and friends will join her in a performance featuring vocal and instrumental music. The concert will conclude with an ensemble piece, which will include some of Segarich’s voice students.

Donations for Strings for Cambodia, a fundraising campaign to support the Royal University of Fine Arts’ dream to launch Cambodia’s first national symphony orchestra since the Khmer Rouge Genocide, will be accepted.

Additional shows in the A World of Music concert series include Cambodian Music featuring master Song Heng at 3 p.m. April 30 in the Federal Building Assembly Room on the Lowell campus, 33 Kearney Square; MCC student recitals featuring student singers and instrumentalists at 12:30 p.m. May 9, in the MCC Concert Hall on the Bedford campus; and the voice students of Segarich performing at 11:15 a.m. May 10 in the Federal Building Assembly Room on the Lowell campus.

For information: 781-280-3923; peraltac@middlesex.mass.edu; middlesex.mass.edu.

Middlesex Community College to offer South East Asia course

Middlesex Community College Lowell, 33 Kearney St., will offer South East Asia, a two-day Interdisciplinary Weekend course April 29-30.

This one-credit course will explore cultural traditions and connections with the world through art and literature, history and philosophy, economics and science, music, dance and food of Southeast Asia, with a focus on Cambodia.

The course will begin with a lecture by Tim Thou, co-founder and director of Lowell’s Angkor Dance Troupe. Thou will discuss the history of Cambodian classical and folk dance. A one-hour performance and an interactive instruction/demonstration session by the Angkor Dance Troupe will occur after the lecture. After these activities, participants can enjoy a themed meal at Sompao Meas Restaurant; meal is included in price.

April 30 sessions will begin with a keynote address from Judy Ledgerwood, a scholar on Cambodian-Americans. After the keynote, concurrent sessions will include various lectures on topics, including blending Asian health techniques with Western medicine by the Meta Health Center in Lowell, and Southeast Asian drumming. A catered lunch and a two-hour session about Cambodian ceramics by master ceramist and MCC teacher, Yary Livan, will occur afterward.

Interdisciplinary Weekend 2016 will conclude with a musical performance in partnership with MCC’s A World Of Music concert series. The concert will feature Cambodian musician Song Heng, who will demonstrate and perform on several classical Khmer pinpeat instruments, including roneat ek, a xylophone and kong, a circle of bronze gongs.

For information: cady@middlesex.mass.edu. To register: 800-818-3434.
Middlesex College to host commencement, honor Univision reporter

Middlesex Community College’s Commencement exercises for the members of the Class of 2016 will be held at 10 a.m., May 26, in the Lowell Memorial Auditorium, 50 E. Merrimack St.

The processional will begin at 9:30 a.m. in front of MCC’s Lowell campus Cowan Center, located diagonally from the auditorium.

This year’s commencement speaker will be Carla Rojo, MCC alumna, class of 2012, and on-air reporter for Univision Boston. Rojo will also be presented MCC’s 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award.

Rojo, a first-generation college student, graduated from Middlesex with an associate degree in communications in 2012. Under the guidance of MCC’s TRIO program, Rojo transferred to Suffolk University where she earned a bachelor’s degree in broadcast journalism.

Rojo currently works as an on-air, bilingual reporter for the 6 and 11 p.m. newscasts at Univision Boston. She credits MCC with preparing her for success.

For information about MCC’s Distinguished Alumni Award, contact Dennis Malvers, dean of college advancement, at 781-280-3514 or malversd@middlesex.mass.edu.

EDUCATION

Middlesex Community College opens fall 2016 registration

Registration is open for fall 2016 semester courses at Middlesex Community College.

Fall classes will begin Sept. 7 on the Bedford and Lowell campuses and online.

Middlesex offers more than 70 degree and certificate programs.

The college has transfer options, and enrollment counselors are available to answer questions. MCC offers free academic, career and financial-aid counseling and free tutoring and extensive support services.

In addition to traditional courses, MCC will offer online, hybrid and Flexible Studies courses.

The college will offer 17 degree and certificate programs that can be completed online.

For information: bit.ly/1RiMBxE.
MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Bedford students named to dean’s list

Middlesex Community College released the names of Bedford students who made the fall 2015 dean’s list. To be eligible, full-time students must earn a 3.2 or higher GPA without D, F, I or IP grades. Part-time students receive similar consideration upon completion of each block of 15 credits.


To view the list: bit.ly/Fall2015DeansList.

OPEN REGISTRATION

Middlesex to offer Registered Nurse Refresher Program

Registration is open for Middlesex Community College’s noncredit Registered Nurse Refresher Program, which is designed to prepare Massachusetts registered nurses who have been away from nursing practice for a period of time to re-enter the workforce by updating nursing concepts and skills.

The next session begins May 31.

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

This program comprises 72 hours of theory and hands-on practice in MCC’s Nursing Skills Lab on the Lowell campus, 33 Kearney Square. There is no clinical component. A certificate and 7.2 continuing education units are awarded upon successful completion. Students must have a current valid Massachusetts registered nurse license in good standing to participate.

Classes meet from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Mondays through Friday until June 24 on the Lowell campus. The deadline to register is May 10. The cost is $2,100.

For information: bit.ly/1TzdLff. To enroll: 781-280-3608; morins@middlesex.mass.edu.
March 28, 2016 9:00AM

Middlesex Community College to hold farewell concert

Middlesex Community College’s spring concert series, A World of Music, will continue with a farewell concert for MCC music faculty member and mezzo-soprano Johannah Segarich at 3 p.m. April 17 in MCC’s Concert Hall on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road.

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For information: 781-280-3923; peraltac@middlesex.mass.edu; middlesex.mass.edu.

http://bedford.wickedlocal.com/article/20160328/NEWS/160328804
MCC Marketing team earns kudos

The Office of Marketing Communications at Middlesex Community College has earned six gold awards in the 31st Annual Educational Advertising Awards competition.

Sponsored by Higher Education Marketing Report, the Educational Advertising Awards is the largest higher-education advertising awards competition in the country. This year, more than 2,000 entries were received from more than 1,000 colleges, universities and secondary schools from all 50 states and several foreign countries.

Middlesex earned six gold awards in the categories of External Publication, for the 2015 spring issue of Profiles magazine; Imprinted Materials, for its MCC Cares T-shirt design; Search Piece, for the 2015 Search Piece; Social Media, for its “Proud of My Selfie Challenge”; Total Fund Raising, for the 2015 Annual Fund Campaign; and Other, for the invitation to the inauguration of President James C. Mahry.

Also, Middlesex Community College was recently recognized for outstanding work by regional members of the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations, the premier organization for two-year college communications professionals.

MCC’s Office of Marketing Communications received a silver Medallion Award in the category of Social Media Contest during NCMRA’s recent District 1 Conference, held in Hershey, Pa. The annual Medallion Awards competition spotlights the best work among District 1 member colleges.

The award-winning campaign, titled “Proud of My Selfie,” encouraged graduating students to engage with the college through social media by submitting photos of their proudest MCC moments on Instagram and Twitter. The campaign was designed to highlight and celebrate the accomplishments of the class of 2015.

Paralegal Career Night
BEDFORD — Middlesex Community College will host a free Paralegal Career Night on Monday, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., in the Bedford Campus Center’s Café East, 591 Springs Road. For more information about MCC’s Paralegal Studies program, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/paralegal. Contact Haylie Sugerman at sugermanh@middlesex.mass.edu, or call 781-280-3768.

Health & Wellness Expo
BEDFORD — Middlesex Community College will host a free Health & Wellness Expo on Wednesday, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the Bedford Campus Center, 591 Springs Road. Email contact wellness@middlesex.mass.edu.

Lowell Campus Open House
LOWELL — Middlesex Community College will host a Lowell Campus Open House on Saturday, at 9:30 a.m., in the Lowell Campus Cafeteria, 33 Kerney Square. Visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/OH, or call 800-818-3434.

Summer programs for kids
Registration is open for summer programs at Middlesex Community College. Kids can enroll in one of four Summer Sessions, or one of the College for Kids programs. Day sessions run May 31 to June 30, and July 11 to Aug. 10, Monday through Thursday, in Bedford and Lowell. MCC is also offering expanded online and evening summer sessions that run June 6 to Aug. 2, and June 20 to Aug. 16. Classes meet online, or two evenings a week. MCC’s College for Kids programs are designed to provide children with fun and challenging opportunities to explore careers, gain new knowledge and skills, and boost self-confidence. Camps are offered for children ages 8-15, and run July 11 through Aug. 18, on the Bedford and Lowell campuses. Call 800-618-3434, or visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/summer.
Middlesex Community College Offers RN Refresher Program

Registration is now open for Middlesex Community College’s noncredit RN Refresher Program. This program is designed to prepare Massachusetts registered nurses who have been away from nursing practice for an extended period of time to re-enter the workforce by updating nursing concepts and skills. The next session begins Tuesday, May 31.

The goal of the program is to provide a supportive learning environment necessary to refine skills and develop a sound knowledge base needed to practice in today’s complex health care environment. This program consists of 72 hours of theory and hands-on practice in MCC’s Nursing Skills Lab on the Lowell campus. There is no clinical component. A certificate and 7.2 CEUs are awarded upon successful completion (72 hours). Students must have a current, valid Massachusetts RN license in good standing to take this course.

Classes meet 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, through June 24, on the Lowell campus. The deadline to register is May 10. The course cost is $2,100.

For more information, visit: https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/careertraining/rnrefresher.aspx

To enroll in MCC’s noncredit RN Refresher Program, contact Sheila Morin at 781-280-3608 or morins@middlesex.mass.edu.

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 70 degree and certificate programs, plus hundreds of noncredit courses. At Middlesex, everyone teaches, everyone learns.

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. Monday, March 28, in the Bedford Campus Center’s Café East, 591 Springs Road.

Free and open to the public, this information session will help participants explore career opportunities for paralegals in both public and private legal sectors. Participants will meet and network with a panel of MCC Paralegal Studies alumni currently working in the legal environment, representatives from the Massachusetts Paralegal Association and the Paralegal Association of New Hampshire. 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 Jacqueline Waters Adams, a real estate paralegal at Lieberman Law Offices, P.C.; Karin Morin, an intellectual property paralegal at Sheehan Phinney Bass & Green PA; Jessica R. DeFrancisco, MCC alumna (’13) and paralegal and legal coordinator with A.W. Chesterton Company; Nicole LaFleur, a litigation paralegal at Hage Hodes, P.A.; Jessica Mcgee, Recruiting Manager for the Boston office of Robert Half Legal; Charita Parham, a Certified Paralegal at Charles River Development; Catherine Thornton, litigation paralegal specializing in insurance defense at Tentindo, Kendall, Canniff & Keefe LLP in Boston; and Hannah Taylor, MCC alumna (’15) and office manager and paralegal at Veterans Legal Services.

Approved by the American Bar Association, MCC’s Paralegal Studies Programs offer two associate degree programs, a career track and a transfer track, as well as a one-year post-graduate certificate program (for those who have already earned an associate or bachelor’s degree).

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 Halye Sugarman at sugarsmanh@middlesex.mass.edu or call 781-280-3768.

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Middlesex College to provide free health expo

Middlesex Community College will host a Lowell campus Health & Wellness Expo from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 6, in the Lowell Campus Cafeteria, 33 Keeney Square.

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 Expo will include information on topics such as nutrition, fitness, substance use and abuse prevention, as well as personal counseling and mental health.

"Our Expo takes an all-encompassing approach to well-being," said Stephanie Hamelin, MCC Health & Wellness educator and expo organizer. "We are focused on educating and connecting our community members with the available resources to help them achieve their personal health and wellness goals."

Community partners and vendors, such as Lowell General Hospital, the Mental Health Association of Greater Lowell, Peopletit Health and Fitness Center, Melanoma Foundation of New England, Next Step Living, Tewksbury Police Department Substance Abuse Prevention Collaborative, the Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers, Live Long Plates, World PEAS Food Hub, the NFI Family Resource Center, the Lowell Police Department, Lowell Community Health Center and a Stop & Shop store nutritionist, will be on hand to answer questions.

Visitors can also receive free screenings for blood pressure, blood sugar and melanoma, body mass index and rapid HIV testing.

For information: wellness@middlesex.mass.edu.
Middlesex 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. March 28, in the Bedford Campus Center’s Café East, 591 Springs Road.

This free 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, representatives from the Massachusetts Paralegal Association and the Paralegal Association of New Hampshire. 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 Jacqueline Waters Adams, a real estate paralegal at Lieberman Law Offices PC; Karin Morin, an intellectual prop-

Phinney Bass & Green PA; Jessica R. DeFrancisco, MCC alumna and paralegal and legal coordinator with A.W. Chesterton Company; Nicole LaFleur, a litigation paralegal at Hage Hodes PA; Jessica Mcgee, recruiting manager for the Boston office of Robert Half Legal; Charita Parham, a certified paralegal at Charles River Development; Catherine Thornton, litigation paralegal specializing in insurance defense at Teniendo, Kendall, Canniff & Keefe LLP in Boston; and Hannah Taylor, MCC alumna and office manager and paralegal at Approved by the American Bar Association, MCC’s Paralegal Studies Programs offer two associate degree programs, a career track and a transfer track, as well as a one-year postgraduate certificate program, for those who have already earned an associate or bachelor’s degree.

For information about MCC’s Paralegal Studies programs: middlesex.mass.edu/paralegal. For information about Paralegal Career Night at Middlesex: Haley Sugarman at sugarmanh@middlesex.mass.edu; 781-280-3768.
MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Preparing for the worst

Middlesex Community College recently conducted an emergency management training drill simulating an "active shooter on campus" scenario at their Bedford campus Friday, March 18. The drill was organized in partnership with the Bedford, Billerica and Lowell police departments, and NEMLEC (Northeastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council). For more photos go to page B7.

Police officers respond on scene during an emergency management training drill simulating an "active shooter on campus" scenario at the Middlesex Community College Bedford campus on Friday, March 18.

WICKED LOCAL STAFF PHOTO / BRETT CRAWFORD
In the interest of safety

Apply Early for Financial Aid

NCMLEC and police officers move into position where the "gunman" barricaded himself with a hostage in a classroom during an emergency management training drill simulating an "active shooter on campus" scenario at the Middlesex Community College Bedford campus on Friday, Mar. 18, 2016.

WICKED LOCAL STAFF PHOTO/BRETT CRAWFORD

A NCMLEC officer and his K9 move through a hallway during an emergency management training drill simulating an "active shooter on campus" scenario at the Middlesex Community College Bedford campus on Friday, Mar. 18, 2016.

WICKED LOCAL STAFF PHOTO/BRETT CRAWFORD

Bedford Police Sgt. Ron Undzis Jr., acting as the "gunman," checks a door as he makes his way through a hallway during an emergency management training drill simulating an "active shooter on campus" scenario at the Middlesex Community College Bedford campus on Friday, Mar. 18, 2016.

WICKED LOCAL STAFF PHOTO/BRETT CRAWFORD
In the interest of safety

NEMLEC officers move into position during an emergency management training drill simulating an “active shooter on campus” scenario at the Middlesex Community College Bedford campus on Friday, Mar. 18, 2016. Wicked Local Staff Photo/Brett Crawford

NEMLEC officers arrive during an emergency management training drill simulating an “active shooter on campus” scenario at the Middlesex Community College Bedford campus on Friday, Mar. 18, 2016. Wicked Local Staff Photo/Brett Crawford

Sophomore Sebastian Nash plays a role as a shooting victim while he is checked out by police during an emergency management training drill simulating an “active shooter on campus” scenario at the Middlesex Community College Bedford campus on Friday, Mar. 18, 2016. Wicked Local Staff Photo/Brett Crawford

Students are let out from a building during an emergency management training drill simulating an “active shooter on campus” scenario at the Middlesex Community College Bedford campus on Friday, Mar. 18, 2016. Wicked Local Staff Photo/Brett Crawford
Active-Shooter — This is a Drill!

Middlesex Community College was the site of an emergency-management training drill simulating an "active shooter on campus" scenario on the Bedford campus Friday. ABOVE: Steve Pierce, a staff member at the college, calls police after being "shot" while sophomore Tyrrell Torres plays an injured student. LEFT: The active shooter, played by Bedford Sgt. Ron Lindzi Jr., "shoots" Pierce.

RIGHT: The Northeastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council (NEMLEC) swat team enters the building where the "active shooter" is thought to be.

Students are led out of one of the buildings on campus during the simulation. More than 30 Middlesex Community College students volunteered to play roles in the simulated shooting incident, which was organized in partnership with Bedford, Billerica and Lowell police departments and NEMLEC.
Middlesex Community College To Host Lowell Campus Open House

Middlesex Community College will host a Lowell Campus Open House at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, April 2, in the Lowell Campus Cafeteria, 33 Kearney Square. Prospective students and their families, as well as adult learners interested in continuing their education, will have the opportunity to learn about MCC’s more than 70 degree and certificate programs, noncredit courses, and online and flexible-learning options.

The Lowell Campus Open House will feature a series of breakout sessions tailored to meet student needs and interests. Students can explore specific areas of academic interest, meet with faculty and academic deans, learn more about the admissions process, and take a campus tour.

“This open-house format gives students an opportunity to learn about everything Middlesex has to offer,” said Marilynn Galligan, Dean of Admissions.

Advisors and administrators will be available 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.

Students can also learn about the statewide MassTransfer program, which is designed to ease the transfer process, allowing a student to specifically plan a curriculum that will fit a chosen bachelor’s degree program.

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.

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 70 degree and certificate programs, plus hundreds of noncredit courses. At Middlesex, everyone teaches, everyone learns.

BOSTON SUNDAY GLOBE
MARCH 20, 2016

COMMUNITY NEWS

BEDFORD

COLLEGE TO HOLD WELLNESS EXPO

Middlesex Community College will host a Health & Wellness Expo on March 30 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at its Bedford Campus Center, 591 Springs Road. Free and open to the community, the event will feature a variety of health care providers and community organizations providing screenings, services, and information. Topics covered will include nutrition, fitness, substance abuse prevention, personal counseling, and mental health. Visitors can also get free screenings for blood pressure, blood sugar, melanoma, body mass index, and rapid HIV testing. For more information, e-mail wellness@middlesex.mass.edu.

JENNIFER FENN LEFFERTS
MCC spring concert series continues in Bedford

A World of Music, Middlesex Community College's 2016 spring concert series, will continue with "Three Guitars" at 3 p.m. April 9 in the MCC Concert Hall on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road, Building 6.

Acclaimed classical guitarists Adam Levin, Scott Borg and Matthew Rohde will perform a concert of guitar solos, duos and trios. Works by Isaac Albéniz, Heitor Villa-Lobos, Clarice Assad, Toru Takemitsu, Marco Pereira, Nikita Koshkin and Ben Verdery will be featured.

Additional concerts in the A World of Music concert series include a Farewell Concert for Johannah Segarich, longtime MCC music faculty member and mezzo-soprano, at 3 p.m. April 17 in the MCC Concert Hall; Cambodian music featuring Master Song Heng, at 3 p.m. April 30 in the Federal Building Assembly Room on the Lowell campus; MCC Student Recitals featuring student singers and instrumentalists at 12:30 p.m. May 9, in the MCC Concert Hall; and the voice students of Professor Segarich performing at 11:15 a.m. May 10 in the Federal Building Assembly Room on the Lowell campus. All concerts are free and open to the public.

For information:
781-280-3923; peralta@middlesex.mass.edu; middlesex.mass.edu.

Scott Borg, classical guitarist. COURTESY PHOTOS

Adam Levin, classical guitarist and Middlesex Community College faculty member.

Matthew Rohde, classical guitarist.
A life-saving decision

By PAT BLAIS | Posted: Wednesday, March 9, 2016 2:09 pm

For a man who delighted in showing off his knack for the sleight-of-hand, the late Kevin Sullivan’s last act proved the most magical of all.

Earlier this winter, the family of the Burlington High School alumnus gathered for the Tournament of Roses in Pasadena, California to memorialize the 31-year-old’s dying wish to donate his organs, a sacrifice that saved no fewer than three people’s lives within hours of his tragic death on Sept. 14, 2014.

During the parade, when a floragraph depicting the image of Sullivan, the Big Brother volunteer, was displayed alongside floral portraits of 59 other lifesaving organ donors, the tech worker’s family was overwhelmed by healing power of their deceased son and brother’s final act of generosity.

“The whole experience was an incredible honor. Kevin was chosen to represent the New England Organ Bank (NEOB), which represents all of New England,” recalled Kevin’s mother, Debra Sullivan, during a phone interview from her Burlington residence.

“We got to meet other people in our situation, who have lost loved ones. We were so moved. It has helped us heal. It’s been so emotional and touching,” she further reflected.

A Comcast technician, Sullivan fell from a ladder while working for the cable and telecommunications company on Sept. 10, 2014 and suffered severe brain trauma. Two days later, while surrounded by his family, he passed away, but not before his immediate relatives realized the 31-year-old wanted to be an organ donor.

According to the Middlesex Community College graduate’s mother, though some families might understandably be squeamish about making a decision to donate their relative’s organs, she herself had become an organ donor prior to her son’s passing — as a result of her interactions with a co-worker whose life was saved through a transplant.

But what the Burlington family perhaps didn’t appreciate was how much the 31-year-old’s sacrifice would guide his kin through the grief of his tragic passing.

His gift of life, recalls his mother, almost immediately provided much-needed solace and comfort as soon as they learned his organs had been successfully transplanted, saving the lives of a 2-year-old boy in need of a kidney at Children’s Hospital in Boston, a man waiting for a liver and kidney, and another middle-aged man in need of a heart transplant.

“It’s given us a sense of comfort to know that he lives on and made a difference even in death. To know he is still alive, that he lives on and is helping people, it has really helped with the grief,” said Debra Sullivan.
An aspiring family man who was attending UMass-Lowell at the time of his death, the 31-year-old BHS Class of 2001 graduate is remembered as a person with a huge heart who was voted by his classmates as the “friendliest” in his high school yearbook.

Also an athlete in high school who received the varsity football team’s “Sportsmanship Award” at his senior banquet, Kevin Sullivan had a real passion for science and technology and was often relied upon by friends and relatives as the go-to-guy for computer or electronics problems.

After obtaining his associate’s degree in Middlesex Community College, the Burlington native went on to work for Comcast, where he excelled in the field, and as in high school, continued to be praised by his peers for his kindness of heart.

“Kevin always made the effort to reach out. Those who had the joy of knowing [him] can attest he was a shining example of how to be a rock solid friend. He knew the importance of being fair and honest, and he had a perpetually positive attitude,” read his obituary, which ran in The Daily Times Chronicle, a publication affiliated with Middlesex East, in September of 2014.

Aware of the Big Brother volunteer’s generous spirit, Sullivan’s family at the time of his fatal work accident was initially undecided about what to do when first approached by hospital and NEOB staff about whether the 31-year-old wished to be an organ donor.

But that uncertainty soon evaporated.

In a late-developing hobby that began in his late 20s, Sullivan had begun practicing magic, a talent his mother jokes he cultivated as a way to break the ice with young women while out and about.

However, soon after taking to the art of illusion, the always outgoing young man started dazzling his nieces and nephews, as well as his friends’ children and relatives, with his enchanting tricks.

According to his parents, not long before his accident, their son had been showing off one of his tricks, when he asked a buddy for his license as a prop. After performing his magic act, the Burlington native was handing back over the identification, when he noticed a heart sticker on the card.

Inquiring about the significance of the heart, Sullivan was apparently impressed by his friend’s decision and responded that he too would like to become an organ donor.

And so it was that right after his parents concluded their son would in fact want to save others’ lives, they received assurances from a friend that they had made the right decision.

“It came about in an odd way,” recounted his mother of the conversation. “At first, we weren’t sure what to do, because he had a work accident and we didn’t have his wallet.”

“But when we came out of the first meeting, his friend came over and said, ‘I’d like to tell you a story’. It solidified everything for us,” said Sullivan of that moment.

Since that pivotal decision, the magic of the 31-year-old’s life-saving gift has only continued.

Because of strict confidentiality rules surrounding organ donations, Kevin’s family was at first only told basic information about those recipients of his organs, including age, gender, and the outcome of their transplant procedures.

However, after those recipients repeatedly reached out to express their thanks, NEOB eventually arranged to have both sides meet in-person, and their relationship has only solidified since that initial face-to-face gathering.

“We’ve met all three of them. They honor his organ donation in the most thoughtful and sincere ways. One of the recipients even asked us to make a speech in April, which is organ donation month. And we’re so happy to do that,” Debra Sullivan remarked. “Meeting these families is such an incredible experience, because they are so grateful in their appreciation.”
This fall, on the dual anniversary of Sullivan's death and the organ transplant procedures that saved the lives of three people, those recipients took a moment to reach out to the 31-year-old's family to remind them of that gratitude.

"Although today is the first anniversary of my liver/kidney transplant and what may be the best day in my entire life, it follows what was the worst day in another family's. I am fortunate to have met my donor family and hope to have a lifelong relationship with the Sullivans," wrote David Kinman, one organ recipient, on Kevin Sullivan's Facebook page last September.

"There are no words to express how I feel about the loss of Kevin. From all the stories we have been told, he was a great member of society. He was a go-to-guy, always glad to lend a helping hand. He had a big heart...I hope to carry on his tradition," another organ recipient commented.

Founded in 1968, the New England Organ Bank (NEOB) is designated by the federal government to facilitate organ and tissue donations throughout the six states in the region.

According to promotional materials from the non-profit, NEOB works directly with over 150 hospitals in New England and serves the area's roughly 11 million person population.

One of the three federally-recognized organ procurement organizations in the northeast — there are only 58 nationwide — the Waltham-based non-profit in 2014 recovered a record-setting 731 organs from 267 donors.

There were also 1,930 people who donated tissue including bones, skin, corneas, and tendons. Nationwide, such donations was used in over 1 million surgical procedures conducted in 2014.

It is estimated that there are some 28,000 lives saved each year across the United States through organ donors. However, there are some 123,000 patients in any given year on the national waiting list for transplants, including some 5,100 in New England alone.

"Working sensitively with the donor families, NEOB staff participates in donation consent discussions, maintains medical support of potential donors, coordinates recovery surgeries, allocates organs according to the national transplant waiting list and directs transport of organs to transplant centers and tissues to processors. Through these donations, New England Organ Bank saves and enhances the lives of organ and tissue transplant recipients in our region and across the country," reads a statement about New England Organ Bank's mission.

For more information about becoming an organ donor, readers can logon to donate@newengland.org
Middlesex College to conduct ‘active shooter’ drill on Bedford campus

Middlesex Community College will conduct an emergency management training drill simulating an “active shooter on campus” scenario on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road, from about 10 a.m. to noon March 18.

Areas of the campus may be closed to the public during this time, and people should be aware there will be a significant police presence during the drill. Classes are not in session due to spring break.

This training drill is organized in partnership with the Bedford, Billerica and Lowell police departments and Northeastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council.

Members of MCC’s Emergency Management Team and NEMLEC’s School Threat Assessment & Response System Program, will be mobilized to coordinate response to the simulation, in conjunction with more than 30 members of the public-safety community.

About 50 Middlesex students, active in student government, and criminal justice and theater clubs, have volunteered to play roles in this simulated shooting incident. The drill is funded, in part, by a grant from the NEMLEC Foundation.

In 2009, MCC was one of only a handful of colleges nationwide awarded an Emergency Management for Higher Education Grant from the U.S. Department of Education to develop and implement an emergency management plan for preventing and responding to campus violence and natural disasters.

Since October 2015, about 400 Middlesex faculty, staff and students have been trained in personal protection and safety in the event of an active shooter on campus.

Middlesex Community College to host Lowell open house

Middlesex Community College will host an open house at 9:30 a.m. April 2 in the Lowell campus cafeteria, 33 Kearney Square.

Prospective students and their families and adult learners interested in continuing their education can learn about MCC’s more than 70 degree and certificate programs, noncredit courses and online and flexible-learning options.

The 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 more about the admissions process and take a campus tour.

“This open-house format gives students an opportunity to learn about everything Middlesex has to offer,” said Marilynn Galligan, dean of admissions.

Advisers and administrators will be available to answer student questions and provide information. Students can learn about MCC’s many support services, such as academic and career counseling, dual enrollment, tutoring, disability support and other special programs.

Students can learn about the statewide MassTransfer program, which allows a student to plan a curriculum that will fit a chosen bachelor’s degree program.

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

For information: 800-818-3404; middlesex.mass.edu/OH.
Middlesex Alerts Public to Emergency Training Drill on Bedford Campus

Middlesex Community College will conduct an emergency management training drill simulating an "active shooter on campus" scenario on the Bedford campus from approximately 10 a.m. to noon Friday, March 18.

Areas of the campus may be closed to the public during this time, and people should be aware there will be a significant police presence during the drill. Classes are not in session due to Spring Break.

This training drill is organized in partnership with the Bedford, Billerica and Lowell police departments, and NEMLEC (Northeastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council).

Members of MCC's Emergency Management Team and NEMLEC's STARS (School Threat Assessment & Response System) Program, will be mobilized to coordinate response to the simulation, in conjunction with more than 30 members of the public-safety community.

Approximately 50 Middlesex students, active in student government, and Criminal Justice and Theater clubs, have volunteered to play roles in this simulated shooting incident. The drill is funded, in part, by a grant from the NEMLEC Foundation.

In 2009, MCC was one of only a handful of colleges nationwide awarded an Emergency Management for Higher Education (EMHE) Grant from the U.S. Department of Education to develop and implement an emergency management plan for preventing and responding to campus violence and natural disasters.

Since October 2015, almost 400 Middlesex faculty, staff and students have been trained in personal protection and safety in the event of an active shooter on campus.
Bedford Rotary to feed 250K kids

The Rotary Club of Bedford will attempt to feed 250,000 children with their fourth annual Meals for Kids food packaging event in partnership with Stop Hunger Now on May 14 at the Bedford campus of Middlesex Community College.

The Rotary Club, composed of just a few dozen business professionals from Bedford and its surrounding communities, began feeding hungry children in 2013. That first year they established their relationship with Stop Hunger Now, they raised enough money and gathered enough volunteer packagers to put together enough packaged meals to feed 15,000 hungry children.

The following year in 2014, they set their goals higher. They added Middlesex Community College and BSC Engineering to their partnership, raised enough money and gathered enough volunteers to package 130,000 meals. In 2015, with their partnerships still intact, they packaged a comparatively modest 48,000 meals. This year’s target is 57,000 meals which will take them over their goal of having packaged 250,000 meals.

Stop Hunger Now is a North Carolina-based nonprofit group that coordinates the packaging and distribution of food through schools, with ongoing school feeding programs. Founded in 1998, it has shipped and distributed in excess of 150,000,000 meals to 65 countries and has earned a Charity Navigator rating of 95.6 out of 100.

The Rotary Club of Bedford is a member of Rotary District 7910 and Rotary International. Chartered on May 7, 1956, the club presently consists of 35 business men and women from a diverse cross-section of the community and has completed numerous projects in Bedford and around the world.

Rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables and spice flavorings are the ingredients in each meal package. This is blended with local spices and meats at the destination schools where the meals will be served.

The ingredients in one meal cost 29 cents. A single $1 bill buys more than three. Doing the math calculates that the Rotary Club of Bedford needs to raise $17,000 to obtain the meal ingredients they need to break through their 250,000 meal goal. That’s the focus of their outreach to businesses, organizations and individuals. The generosity behind every dollar contributed counts for over three meals. Residents may give to the effort by visiting Rotary’s website, bit.ly/mealsforkids.

Attending upcoming fundraisers is another way to help Meals for Kids. A portion of every pizza sold will benefit the Meals for Kids project from 5 to 9 p.m. March 15, at the Flatbread Company, 213 Burlington Road, Bedford. Raffles for prizes from Bedford Farms, Kings Bowling and an iRobot Roomba will be offered. Those who present their Dining for a Cause voucher from 5 to 9 p.m. March 30, at the 99 Restaurant & Pub, 160 Lexington Road, Billerica, 15 percent of their meal check will also benefit the Meals for Kids project. Look for vouchers on the Rotary Club of Bedford’s website and Facebook page.

Volunteer packagers is the other major ingredient needed to make the Meals for Kids packaging event successful. As those who have turned out for previous meal packaging events attest, it’s a fun couple of hours with tremendous payoff in terms of support. Individuals, families, teams, young and old are welcome. For information on volunteering to be a “Meals” packager, visit bit.ly/mealsforkids.

http://bedford.wickedlocal.com/article/20160307/NEWS/160306894
Middlesex Community College to host free health expo

Middlesex Community College will host a Bedford campus Health and Wellness Expo from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 30, in the Bedford Campus Center, 591 Springs Road.

Free and open to the community, the Health and 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 and Wellness Expo will include information on topics such as nutrition, fitness, substance use and abuse prevention, as well as personal counseling and mental health.

"Our expo takes an all-encompassing approach to well-being," said Stephanie Hamelin, MCC health and wellness educator and expo organizer. "We are focused on educating and connecting our community members with the available resources to help them achieve their personal health and wellness goals."

Community partners and vendors, such as Meyer Orthodontics, PeopleFit Health and Fitness Center, Melanoma Foundation of New England, Black Fox Yoga, Next Step Living, Tewksbury Police Department Substance Abuse Prevention Collaborative, Live Long Pilates, the Bedford Police Department, Lowell Community Health Center, Lowell General Hospital, the Mental Health Association of Greater Lowell and a Stop & Shop store nutritionist, will be on hand to answer questions.

Visitors can also receive free screenings for blood pressure, blood sugar, melanoma, body mass index and rapid HIV testing.

Contact wellness@mcc.mass.edu.

MCC earns 6 gold ad awards

The office of marketing communications at Middlesex Community College has earned six gold awards in the 31st annual Educational Advertising Awards competition.

Sponsored by Higher Education Marketing Report, the Educational Advertising Awards is the largest higher-education advertising awards competition in the country. This year, more than 2,000 entries were received from more than 1,000 colleges, universities and secondary schools from all 50 states and several foreign countries.

"To be recognized by the Higher Education Marketing Report with all gold awards is certainly an honor for our department," said Jennifer Aradhya, director of marketing communications. "We are proud to promote the Middlesex mission of student success through our innovative work in marketing, design and social media. It is a wonderful recognition of the varied efforts of our marketing team."

Middlesex earned six gold awards in the categories of External Publication, for the 2015 spring issue of Profiles magazine; Imprinted Materials, for its MCC Cares T-shirt design; Search Piece, for the 2015 Search Piece; Social Media, for its "Proud of My Selife Challenge"; Total Fund Raising, for the 2016 Annual Fund Campaign; and Other for the Invitation to the Inauguration of President James C. Mabry.

Contact wellness@mcc.mass.edu.
EDUCATION

Middlesex College to host free World of Music concerts

A World of Music, Middlesex Community College's 2016 spring concert series, begins with a performance by the Anglo-American Duo at 8 p.m. April 1 in MCC's Concert Hall, Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road.

The Anglo-American Duo is American violinist Timothy Schwarz and British pianist Jane Beament. They will perform "Five Hommages" by British composer David Osborn, as well as works by three other composers including Ludwig van Beethoven, Edward Elgar and Olivier Messiaen. Additional concerts in the A World of Music concert series include "Three Guitars," a concert of guitar solos, duos and trios, to be held at 3 p.m. April 9, in the MCC Concert Hall on the Bedford campus; a farewell concert for Johanna Segarich, longtime MCC music faculty member and mezzo-soprano, at 3 p.m. April 17, in the MCC Concert Hall; Cambodian Music Featuring Master Song Heng at 3 p.m. April 30 in the Federal Building Assembly Room on the Lowell campus; and MCC Student Recitals featuring student singers and instrumentalists at 12:30 p.m. May 9 in the MCC Concert Hall on the Bedford campus; and the voice students of professor Johanna Segarich at 11:15 a.m. Tuesday, May 10 in the Federal Building Assembly Room, on the Lowell campus. All concerts are free.

For information, contact Carmen Rodriguez-Peralta, director of A World of Music, at 781-280-3923 or peraltac@middlesex.mass.edu. For directions, visit middlesex.mass.edu.

Club News

The Lowell Sun

UPDATED: 03/11/2016 09:15:49 AM EST

MIDDLESEX INSTITUTE FOR LIFELONG EDUCATION FOR SENIORS: M.I.L.E.S. will feature investigative reporter and author Hank Phillippi Ryan on Wed., March 16, 2-4 p.m., at its Spring Opening Session at the Middlesex Community College Campus Center, Cafe East, 591 Springs Road, Bedford. Free and open to the public. For information, call Caitlin Campopiano at 781-280-3570 or email campopiano@middlesex.mass.edu.

Read more: http://www.lowellsun.com/news/ci_29625474/club-news#ixzz43ANpj5li
March 08, 2016 12:09PM

Middlesex College to host free health expo

Middlesex Community College will host a Bedford campus Health and Wellness Expo from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 30, in the Bedford Campus Center, 591 Springs Road.

Free and open to the community, the Health and 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 and Wellness Expo will include information on topics such as nutrition, fitness, substance use and abuse prevention, as well as personal counseling and mental health.

“Our expo takes an all-encompassing approach to well-being,” said Stephanie Hamelin, MCC health and wellness educator and expo organizer. “We are focused on educating and connecting our community members with the available resources to help them achieve their personal health and wellness goals.”

Community partners and vendors, such as Meyer Orthodontics, Peoplefit Health and Fitness Center, Melanoma Foundation of New England, Black Fox Yoga, Next Step Living, Tewksbury Police Department Substance Abuse Prevention Collaborative, Live Long Pilates, the Bedford Police Department, Lowell Community Health Center, Lowell General Hospital, the Mental Health Association of Greater Lowell and a Stop & Shop store nutritionist, will be on hand to answer questions.

Visitors can also receive free screenings for blood pressure, blood sugar, melanoma, body mass index and rapid HIV testing.

Contact wellness@middlesex.mass.edu.

http://bedford.wickedlocal.com/article/20160308/NEWS/160308804

3/17/2016

Middlesex College to host free World of Music concerts - Gate House

March 08, 2016 9:00AM

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The Anglo-American Duo is American violist Timothy Schwarz and British pianist Jane Beament. They will perform “Five Hommages” by British composer David Osbon, as well as works by three other composers including Ludwig van Beethoven, Edward Elgar and Olivier Messiaen.

Additional concerts in the A World of Music concert series include “Three Guitars,” a concert of guitar solos, duos and trios, to be held at 3 p.m. April 9, in the MCC Concert Hall on the Bedford campus; a farewell concert for Johanna Segarich, longtime MCC music faculty member and mezzo-soprano, at 3 p.m. April 17, in the MCC Concert Hall; Cambodian Music Featuring Master Song Heng at 3 p.m. April 30 in the Federal Building Assembly Room on the Lowell campus; and MCC Student Recitals featuring student singers and instrumentalists at 12:30 p.m. May 9 in the MCC Concert Hall on the Bedford campus; and the voice students of professor Johanna Segarich at 11:15 a.m. Tuesday, May 10 in the Federal Building Assembly Room, on the Lowell campus. All concerts are free.

For information, contact Carmen Rodriguez-Peralta, director of A World of Music, at 781-280-3923 or peraltac@middlesex.mass.edu. For directions, visit middlesex.mass.edu.

http://bedford.wickedlocal.com/article/20160308/NEWS/160308421
New contract in works to cover 2,000 community college workers

The agreement includes salary increases and provisions around learning outcome assessments.

BOSTON — There’s a tentative contract agreement for about 2,000 faculty and staff at 15 community colleges in Massachusetts, including Massasoit Community College in Canton.

“We’re grateful for a tentative agreement and hopeful for ratification,” Northern Essex Community College President Lane Glenn told the Board of Higher Education on Tuesday at a meeting in Boston.

Glenn said the agreement had been reached between the bargaining teams for the Massachusetts Community College Council and the union representing faculty and staff at the institutions, which educate about 95,000 students in Massachusetts.

The agreement includes “modest salary increases, as well as some provisions around teaching assignments, learning outcome assessment” and other topics, Glenn told the board.

Officials later said the three-year accord, which is retroactive to July 1, 2015, authorizes raises of 2 percent, 2.5 percent and 2.5 percent, and will require $2.5 million in funding for fiscal 2016 and between $4 million and $5 million in fiscal 2017.

Glenn told the board that community college faculty and staff in Massachusetts “are still paid less, and work more” than faculty and staff in other states, at state universities in Massachusetts and at the University of Massachusetts.

Salaries are 10 to 20 percent lower than community colleges in other states and the system has difficulty attracting faculty members from out of state because housing costs are higher in Massachusetts, Glenn told the News Service, adding that community college faculty in Massachusetts often are required to teach five classes per semester, more than their counterparts elsewhere in higher education.

Former Gov. Deval Patrick at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday plans to join officials from The Boston Foundation to celebrate the successes of community colleges and award the annual Deval Patrick Prize for Community Colleges. Glenn said many officials attending Tuesday’s board meeting planned to attend.

Community colleges have made progress on goals outlined in a 2011 Boston Foundation report, including clarifying the mission of community colleges, prioritizing the preparation of students to meet labor market needs, strengthening the system’s governance and accountability, stabilizing state funding, and forming a community college coalition, Glenn said.

Community colleges are including more occupational and technical training, but Glenn cautioned that “public support for higher education in Massachusetts has still not kept up with demand and need, and employers are not yet fully engaging with us.” Massachusetts ranks 49th this year among the states in state aid per need-based college student, behind only Arkansas, Glenn said.

Cape Cod Community College, Bristol Community College, Massasoit Community College, Roxbury Community College, Mass Bay Community College, Bunker Hill Community College, North Shore Community College, Northern Essex Community College, Middlesex Community College, Quinsigamond Community College, Mount Wachusett Community College, Greenfield Community College, Berkshire Community College, Holyoke Community College and Springfield Technical Community College all benefit from the proposed contract increase.
Bedford Rotary to feed 250K kids

The Rotary Club of Bedford will attempt to feed 250,000 children with their fourth annual Meals for Kids food packaging event in partnership with Stop Hunger Now on May 14 at the Bedford campus of Middlesex Community College. The Rotary Club, composed of just a few dozen business professionals from Bedford and its surrounding communities, began feeding hungry children in 2013. That first year they established their relationship with Stop Hunger Now, they raised enough money and gathered enough volunteers to package 15,000 meals for 15,000 hungry children.

The following year in 2014, they set their goals higher. They added Middlesex Community College and BSC Engineering to their partnership, raising enough money and gathered enough volunteers to package 150,000 meals. In 2015, with their partnerships still intact, they packaged a comparatively modest 46,000 meals. This year’s target is 57,000 meals which will take them over their goal of having packaged 250,000 meals.

Stop Hunger Now is a North Carolina-based nonprofit group that coordinates the packaging and distribution of food through schools, with ongoing school feeding programs. Founded in 1998, it has shipped and distributed in excess of 150,000,000 meals to 65 countries and has earned a Charity Navigator rating of 95.6 out of 100.

The Rotary Club of Bedford is a member of Rotary District 7910 and Rotary International. Chartered on May 7, 1956, the club presently consists of 35 business men and women from a diverse cross-section of the community and has completed numerous projects in Bedford and around the world.

The ingredients in one meal cost 29 cents. A single $1 bill buys more than three. Doing the math calculates that the Rotary Club of Bedford needs to raise $17,000 to obtain the meal ingredients they need to break through their 250,000 meal goal. That’s the focus of their outreach to businesses, organizations and individuals. The generosity behind every dollar contributed counts for over three meals. Residents may give to the effort by visiting Rotary's website, bit.ly/mealsforkids.

Attending upcoming fundraisers is another way to help Meals for Kids. A portion of every pizza sold will benefit the Meals for Kids project from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. March 15, at the Flatbread Company, 213 Burlington Road, Bedford. Raffles for prizes from Bedford Farms, Kings Bowling and an iRobot Roomba will be offered. Those who present their Dining for a Cause voucher from 5 to 9 p.m. March 30, at the 99 Restaurant & Pub, 160 Lexington Road, Billerica, 15 percent of their meal check will also benefit the Meals for Kids project. Look for vouchers on the Rotary Club of Bedford's website and Facebook page.

Volunteer packagers is the other major ingredient needed to make the Meals for Kids packaging event successful. As those who have turned out for previous meals packaging events attest, it’s a fun couple of hours with tremendous payoff in terms of support. Individuals, families, teams, young and old are welcome. For information on volunteering to be a “Meals” packager, visit bit.ly/mealsforkids.

http://bedford.wickedlocal.com/article/20160307/NEWS/160306894
MCC’s Free Concert Series Begins With The Anglo-American Duo

A World of Music, Middlesex Community College’s 2016 spring concert series, begins with a performance by the Anglo-American Duo, to be held at 8 p.m. Friday, April 1, in MCC’s Concert Hall (Building 6), on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road. The concert is free and open to the public.

Praised for its energetic and sophisticated performances, the Anglo-American Duo is comprised of American violinist Timothy Schwarz and British pianist Jane Beament. They will perform “Five Hommage” by British composer David Osborn, as well as works by three other composers, including Ludwig van Beethoven, Edward Elgar, and Olivier Messiaen.

Additional concerts in the A World of Music concert series include, “Three Guetars,” a concert of guitar solos, duos and trios, to be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, April 9, in the MCC Concert Hall on the Bedford campus; a Farewell Concert for Johannah Segarich, longtime MCC music faculty member and mezzo-soprano, at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 17, in the MCC Concert Hall; Cambodian Music

Featuring Master Song Heng, at 3 p.m. Saturday, April 30, in the Federal Building Assembly Room on the Lowell campus; and MCC Student Recitals featuring student singers and instrumentalists at 12:30 p.m. Monday, May 9, in the MCC Concert Hall on the Bedford campus, and the voice students of Professor Johannah Segarich performing at 11:15 a.m. Tuesday, May 10, in the Federal Building Assembly Room, on the Lowell campus.

All concerts are free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Carmen Rodriguez-Peralta, director of A World of Music, at 781-280-3923 or peraltac@middlesex.mass.edu. For directions, visit: www.middlesex.mass.edu

To see video clips of previous MCC concerts, visit: http://www.youtube.com/user/MCCmusicOnline2#g/a

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 70 degree and certificate programs, plus hundreds of noncredit courses. At Middlesex, everyone teaches, everyone learns.
MILES PROGRAM

Middlesex College to host reporter, mystery writer in free session

Middlesex Community College to Host Free MILES Opening Session

Middlesex Community College will host investigative reporter and bestselling author Hank Phillippi Ryan as keynote speaker for the spring Opening Session of the Middlesex Institute for Lifelong Education for Seniors at 2 p.m. March 16, in the Bedford Campus Center Café East, 591 Springs Road.

As the on-air investigative reporter for Boston’s NBC affiliate, Ryan has won 22 Emmy awards, 13 Edward R. Murrow awards and dozens of other honors for her groundbreaking journalism.

Ryan is also the author of eight best-selling mystery novels. She has won multiple prestigious awards for her crime fiction, including a Mary Higgins Clark Award. Her latest novel, “What You See,” received a starred review from Library Journal. Ryan is also a founding teacher at Mystery Writers of America University. To learn more, visit HankPhillippiRyan.com.

MCC’s MILES program offers interactive daytime seminars and workshops, with no term papers, tests or grades, for active, older adults. This informational opening session provides community members an opportunity to learn more about MILES and the courses being offered and is a good opportunity to meet instructors and peers. Light refreshments will be served.

The spring session of MILES runs from March 28 through April 28 on the Bedford campus. The two-hour study groups meet from 2 to 4 p.m., in one-, two- or five-week sessions and are facilitated by individuals with expertise in their field, including some MCC faculty and staff. The workshops and seminars focus on a variety of topics, including movies, nature, art, literature, technology, health and environmental issues, religion and history.

“The goal of MILES is two-fold,” said Marci Barnes, director of Lifelong Learning. “The first is to enrich lifelong learning for active, older adults through our varied and interesting programming. The second goal is simply to provide personal enrichment and social interaction with like-minded members of the community.”

The event is free and open to the public.
Get the most out of your education

Middlesex Community College can help you meet your goals

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. Whatever your goals, Middlesex is committed to helping you achieve them. Registration for fall 2016 begins Monday, March 21.

MCC 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.

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

The Commonwealth Honors Program at MCC

The Commonwealth Honors Program at Middlesex 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 extracurricular 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 Kallias, 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 www.middlesex.mass.edu/honors or call 781-786-3553.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
Online learning at MCC

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

The college 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.

Students who take courses online at MCC 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. Some of the most popular online degree programs include Criminal Justice, Business and Liberal Arts.

With online courses at Middlesex, you can fit education into your busy life. For more information about Middlesex online, visit: www.middlesex.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, which 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 www.mass.edu/masstransfer/home.asp, contact MCC's Academic, Career & Transfer Center at 1-800-818-3434 or visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/transfer/masstransfer.aspx.

A complete listing of fall course offerings can be found in MCC's Fall Academic Advising Schedule, available online at www.middlesex.mass.edu/academics.

Middlesex Community College meets the evolving educational, civic and workforce needs of local and global communities. As one of the largest, most comprehensive community colleges in the state, Middlesex educates more than 13,000 students annually on campuses in Bedford and Lowell, and online. MCC offers more than 70 degree and certificate programs, plus hundreds of noncredit courses. At Middlesex, everyone teaches, everyone learns.
Promoting higher education
Carlos Santiago visits Middlesex Community College in Bedford

By Ariana Seymourn
bedford@wickedlocal.com

In an effort to highlight the benefits of higher education, Massachusetts Department of Higher Education Commissioner Carlos Santiago made his annual visit to the Middlesex Community College locations in Lowell and Bedford Feb. 25. Santiago was in the midst of visiting all of the state's public higher education campuses, which includes 15 community colleges in 29 locations. He helps construct state-level policies and works to promote ongoing education to the state and its residents.

Santiago has been commissioner since July 2015 and brings 30 years of work experience in higher education. He joined the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education in April 2013 as the senior deputy commissioner of academic affairs.

MCC president James C. Mabry and Santiago explained that most students who attend community colleges have a hard time completing their associate's degrees because of financial expenses, feel like they were not ready for college or wanted to finish their degree at a four-year campus. According to Middlesex's website, www.middletown.mass.edu, its total enrollment in 2016 was 13,254 with 1,410 students graduating.

Santiago explained that the goal is to improve student success, and that focusing on that aspect makes sure students gain the most out of their college experience and can be ready for their next phase in higher education.

"Our mission is to create a system of higher education that helps students succeed and find what's important to students," said Mabry.

During Santiago's visit, he listened and talked to local board members, political leaders, business leaders and students. They discussed focusing on economic development in their areas.

MCC's total economic impact in 2015 was $196 million, which includes payroll, benefits, construction and students and visiting and spending and nearly $100 million in Middlesex County, according to the school's website.

Betsy Villavicencio, a first-generation student who is completing a degree in physiology and is in her last year at MCC said, "Students would feel more confident to go to college if they are given more support such as providing transportation and child care. Some students stay working full-time instead of getting an education because they cannot afford going to school."

According to Middlesex, the college provides financial support as needed. In-state students pay $4,224 for a year based on 12 credits per semester, with 53 percent of students receiving financial aid.

Santiago also mentioned the importance of funding support services, including the dual enrollment program, transfer information fairs, and open houses.

The dual enrollment program provides students who are attending high school in Massachusetts the opportunity to take college level courses while in school at a discount price. These courses help them earn credits toward their high school completion and the credits are then transferred to their college or university of choice. The purpose of this program is to ease the tension of high school students transitioning into college.

Mabry explained that 40 to 50 percent of students who enrolled at MCC in 2015 were a part of the dual enrollment program. Both Santiago and Mabry added that the program could help make college more affordable and help first-generation students see what college is like.

"We want to know who is changing their life and which support services are working, so we can continue funding and make these services less expensive for students," said Santiago.

Villavicencio explained that the other support programs at MCC that have helped her succeed are the TRIO program, which helps low-income students and first-generation students transition into college; achievement coaches; leadership courses; and free tutoring.
Carlos Santiago talks higher education at Middlesex Community College in Bedford

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MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

President James Mabry is skimming the fat, not planning to fill the executive vice president's post.

Mabry eliminated Jay Linnehan's job last July, months after arriving. Two MCC foundation board member resigned in protest.

Linnehan landed a job as executive director of the Greater Lowell Community Foundation.

Mabry doesn't have any plans to bring that position back.

"We determined we don't need an executive vice president at this time," he said. "And part of that is because I'm taking a much more hands-on approach in working much more closely with the administration at the college."

The move will save about $180,000 in salary.

Mabry said he's also trying to streamline administrative processes and staffing, to put those positions and dollars into "frontline" student success and support services.

Mabry's out to take on fewer administrators if he can, he said.

"If that means I have to take on some piece of that, I'm more than willing to do that," he said.

But he's still evaluating what to do with Gina Spaziani, the interim vice president of administration and finance who took over after Linnehan left.

"We're talking about a couple of different models there," he said. "Her strength is really in budgeting and finance and she does a great job."
Coming soon: An affordable degree

Mass. higher education chief cites push for cheaper, fast-track diploma opportunities

By Amelie Pak-Harvey
apa@lowellsun.com

LOWELL—Battling with affordability and a changing college landscape, public higher-education officials are on the verge of developing a cheaper, faster track for an affordable bachelor’s degree.

That degree could be just $25,000 to $27,000, and an even lower $15,000 for financial aid students.

“We know it’s an issue, we hear it,” Higher Education Commissioner Carlos Santiago said in an interview with The Sun’s editorial board on Thursday. “We’re working with all the campus presidents to come up with a pathway for an affordable bachelor’s degree, probably within the next month.”

It’s an idea slightly similar to one touted by UMass President Marty Meehan, who has suggested a $30,000 to $35,000 UMass degree and three-year degree option.

An affordable diploma is one of the few initiatives Santiago outlined that will aid student success and, in turn, workforce development.

That’s the most major need for higher education outside of funding, Santiago said.

“My frustration is, from our perspective it’s a huge priority and you don’t hear much about higher education in Massachusetts,” he said.

Santiago also urges a new approach for higher education, one that takes more responsibility for student success.

“In part, this nation in the past was that if students were unprepared it wasn’t our fault,” he said. “It was not higher education.

Please see DEGREE/7
Coming soon: An affordable college degree

DEGREE/From Page 1

It didn’t have anything to do with it, it was K-12.”

But he wants to move away from that philosophy, better aligning with K-12 educational systems.

And with three educational systems ranging from pre-kindergarten to graduate degrees, Lowell could be a model educational city.

Santigo spent Thursday in Greater Lowell, visiting Middlesex Community College’s Bedford and Lowell campuses and meeting with business leaders in the city.

“Middlesex has been one of the strongest performers we’ve had among our 15 community colleges,” Santigo said.

One challenge is ensuring students are actually ready for college coursework. In 2014, 92 percent of state college students had to take remedial courses, according to a new report from the Bennis Center.

MCC has piloted a program that replaces the Accuplacer test — which determines whether students need remedial work — with GPA standards.

The school’s retention rate for full-time students in the fall 2013 cohort stands at 62 percent, down just 1 percent from the previous two years but up from the 56 percent retention of the fall 2010 cohort.

“There’s a lot of research showing that students don’t prepare for these, they don’t perform well,” MCC President James Mabry said. “If you look at how they did in high school and really look at that transcript, you get a better picture of what the student has done.”

The college has also mixed remedial students with regular students, Mabry said, giving remedial students extra instruction afterwards.

“We’re trying a whole series of approaches by looking at best practices around the country,” he said. “If we see something working somewhere else, we check that out.”

Across the state, enrollment in community colleges has declined, Santigo said.

He attributes that partially to a two-year decline in the traditional-age population, one expected to continue another eight years.

Another reason is because community college enrollment is “counter-cyclical” with the state of the economy.

“When the economy is doing well, students tend to leave the community college and go to work,” he said. “The last recession, our enrollments were booming. Everybody goes back to school.”

Yet against that changing environment, MCC is still working on strengthening its ties to Lowell’s community.

MCC Board of Trustees Chairman James Campbell is working with Mabry to focus on three city organizations — the Lowell Plan, Middlesex 3 Coalition and Project Learn — to strengthen Lowell’s educational support.

Gov. Charlie Baker’s administration, Campbell noted, is very interested in gateway cities.

“Obviously education plays a major role in that (interest), and we’ve seen that Lowell is an example of that,” he said. “It’s actually a petri dish that worked, that has produced that product that the Baker administration is working on.”

Follow Amelia on Twitter and Tout @amelia_PakHarvey.

Massachusetts Higher Education Commissioner Carlos Santiago, center, spent much of Thursday on Middlesex Community College’s Bedford and Lowell campuses, including this visit to the college’s biotech labs in the Talbot Building where he met with students to talk about careers in biotechnology. MCC President James Mabry is second from left. Watch video at lowellsun.com. .............. kevin harkins photo
GL Tech, Nashoba Tech, MCC win workforce grants

BOSTON — Greater Lowell Tech, Nashoba Tech and Middlesex Community College are among 36 schools or training providers sharing $9.3 million in state grants for purchases that connect Massachusetts students and residents to jobs in high-demand industries.

Gov. Charlie Baker on Thursday announced the grants, which will allow the schools to use the money for workforce training and equipment purchases.

The grants include:
- $493,395 for Greater Lowell Technical High School in Tyngsboro to advance its efforts to automate its Machine Technology Shop to create a state-of-the-art Precision/Advanced Manufacturing Training Center.
- $500,000 for Nashoba Valley Technical School in Westford to expand its advanced manufacturing career programming, and will provide additional training for veterans and people who are chronically unemployed.
- $117,086 for Middlesex Community College to expand training capacity in its rapidly growing IT cybersecurity program by constructing a new, dedicated cybersecurity lab at the college’s Lowell campus.

“Workforce skills education and training plays an enormous role in economic and personal development by helping residents acquire the skills they need to connect with promising careers,” Baker said in a statement announcing the grants.

‘Build stronger communities’

“These vocational-technical education equipment grants will help build stronger communities and a more competitive business environment that ensures more residents have the skills they need to succeed in and support the commonwealth’s economic future.”

The Workforce Skills Capital Grant Program is a new initiative of the Governor’s Workforce Skills Cabinet, which seeks to align education, workforce and economic development strategies across the state. Labor and Workforce Development Secretary Ronald Walker II, Education Secretary James Peyser, and Housing and Economic Development Secretary Jay Ash are tasked with developing policies to improve economic and job training opportunities.

The Workforce Skills Cabinet consolidated two capital grant programs — the former Manufacturing Training Equipment grants (administered by the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development) and the former Vocational Opportunity Challenge grants (administered by the Executive Office for Administration and Finance) — into one.

The inaugural round of the Workforce Skills Capital Grant program received 68 applications, requesting a total of $18 million in funding.

Baker’s proposed economic development legislation requests an additional $75 million in capital authorization for additional training equipment grants that strengthen workforce skills, and create strong employment pipelines.
Coming soon: An affordable college degree?

By Amelia Pak-Harvey, apak-harvey@lowellsun.com

LOWELL -- Battling with affordability and a changing college landscape, public higher-education officials are on the verge of developing a cheaper, faster track for an affordable bachelor's degree.

That degree could be just $25,000 to $27,000, and an even lower $15,000 for financial aid students.

"We know it's an issue, we hear it," Higher Education Commissioner Carlos Santiago said in an interview with The Sun's editorial board on Thursday. "We're working with all the campus presidents to come up with a pathway for an affordable bachelor's degree, probably within the next month."

It's an idea slightly similar to one touted by UMass President Marty Meehan, who has suggested a $30,000 to $35,000 UMass degree and three-year degree option.

An affordable diploma is one of the few initiatives Santiago outlined that will aid student success and, in turn, workforce development.

That's the most major need for higher education outside of funding, Santiago said.

"My frustration is, from our perspective it's a huge priority and you don't hear much about higher education in Massachusetts," he said.
Santiago also urges a new approach for higher education, one that takes more responsibility for student success.

"In part, this notion in the past was that if students were unprepared it wasn't our fault," he said. "It was not higher education. It didn't have anything to do with it, it was K-12."

But he wants to move away from that philosophy, better aligning with K-12 educational systems.

And with three educational systems ranging from pre-kindergarten to graduate degrees, Lowell could be a model educational city.

Santiago spent Thursday in Greater Lowell, visiting Middlesex Community College's two campuses and meeting with business leaders in the city.

"Middlesex has been one of the strongest performers we've had among our 15 community colleges," Santiago said.

One challenge is ensuring students are actually ready for college coursework.

In 2014, 32 percent of state college students had to take remedial courses, according to a new report from the Rennie Center.

MCC has piloted a program that replaces the AccuPlacer test -- which determines whether students need remedial work -- with GPA standards.

The school's retention rate for full-time students in the fall 2013 cohort stands at 62 percent, down just 1 percent from the previous two years but up from the 56 percent retention of the fall 2010 cohort.

"There's a lot of research showing that students don't prepare for these, they don't perform well," MCC President James Mabry said. "If you look at how they did in high school and really look at that transcript, you get a better picture of what the student has done."

The college has also mixed remedial students with regular students, Mabry said, giving remedial students extra instruction afterwards.
"We're trying a whole series of approaches by looking at best practices around the country," he said. "If we see something working someplace else, we check that out."

Across the state, enrollment in community colleges has declined, Santiago said.

He attributes that partially to a two-year decline in the traditional-age population, one expected to continue another eight years.

Another reason is because community college enrollment is "counter-cyclical" with the state of the economy.

"When the economy is doing well, students tend to leave the community college and go to work," he said. "The last recession, our enrollments were booming. Everybody goes back to school."

Yet against that changing environment, MCC is still working on strengthening its ties to Lowell's community.

MCC Board of Trustees Chairman James Campbell is working with Mabry to focus on three city organizations -- the Lowell Plan, Middlesex 3 Coalition and Project Learn -- to strengthen Lowell's educational support.

Gov. Charlie Baker's administration, Campbell noted, is very interested in gateway cities.

"Obviously education plays a major role in that (interest), and we've seen that Lowell is an example of that," he said. "It's actually a petri dish that worked, that has produced that product that the Baker administration is working on."

Follow Amelia on Twitter and Tout @AmeliaPakHarvey.

Greater Lowell Tech, Nashoba Tech and MCC receiving workforce skills equipment grants

The Lowell Sun
UPDATED: 02/25/2016 07:40:09 PM EST

BOSTON - Greater Lowell Tech, Nashoba Tech and Middlesex Community College are among 35 schools or training providers sharing $9.3 million in state grants for purchases that connect Massachusetts students and residents to jobs in high-demand industries.

Gov. Charlie Baker on Thursday announced the grants, which will allow the schools to use the money for workforce training and equipment purchases.

The grants include:

* $493,395 for Greater Lowell Technical High School in Tyngsboro to advance its efforts to automate its Machine Technology Shop to create a state-of-the-art Precision/Advanced Manufacturing Training Center.

* $500,000 for Nashoba Valley Technical School in Westford to expand its advanced manufacturing career programming, and will provide additional training for veterans and people who are chronically unemployed.

* $117,086 for Middlesex Community College to expand training capacity in its rapidly growing IT cybersecurity program by constructing a new, dedicated cybersecurity lab at the college’s Lowell campus.

"Workforce skills education and training plays an enormous role in economic and personal development by helping residents acquire the skills they need to connect with promising careers," Baker said in a statement announcing the grants.

"These vocational-technical education equipment grants will help build stronger communities and a more competitive business environment that ensures more residents have the skills they need to succeed in and support the commonwealth’s economic future."

The Workforce Skills Capital Grant Program is a new initiative of the Governor’s Workforce Skills Cabinet, which seeks to align education, workforce and economic development strategies across the state. Labor and Workforce Development Secretary Ronald Walker II, Education Secretary James Peyser, and Housing and Economic Development Secretary Jay Ash are tasked with developing policies to improve economic and job training opportunities.

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Baker’s proposed economic development legislation requests an additional $75 million in capital authorization for additional training equipment grants that strengthen workforce skills, and create strong employment pipelines.

Twenty-four Middlesex Community College students received certificates in machining and electronics during a graduation ceremony for the Advanced Manufacturing Training Program held on the Lowell campus.

The Advanced Manufacturing Training Program was originally developed as part of a $500,000 Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund Grant awarded by the state to the North Shore Workforce Investment Board and is now funded by a Job Driven National Emergency Grant. The grant supports partnerships between the Northeast Advanced Manufacturing Consortium and the region's education and workforce organizations. Those include community colleges, vocational technical schools, career centers, workforce investment boards and local employers who provide training and assist participants in finding jobs within the manufacturing industry.

"Our partnerships and relationships with vocational schools, workforce investment boards and career centers are stronger. It was a lot of effort on everyone's part, but the results are astounding," said Judy Burke, MCC's dean of Corporate and Community Education and Training.

Graduates of the Advanced Manufacturing Training Program completed more than 500 hours of training in basic machining or electronics. They gained hands-on experience to begin careers in the high-demand manufacturing industry, including working in aerospace, defense, medical devices, computers and electronics.

"A number of these students are already employed, and we are confident all of them will find jobs," said Burke.

For information about the Advanced Manufacturing Training Program at Middlesex, contact Lisa Tuzzolo, MCC's Advanced Manufacturing Program Manager at tuzzulol@middlesex.mass.edu.

For information about the Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative, visit mass.gov/hed/economic/initiatives/manufacturing/advanced-manufacturing-collaborative.html.
Middlesex Community College To Host Free MILES Opening Session

Middlesex Community College will host investigative reporter and bestselling author Hank Phillippi Ryan as keynote speaker for the spring Opening Session of the Middlesex Institute for Lifelong Education for Seniors (MILES) at 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 16, in the Bedford Campus Center Café East, 501 Springs Road. The event is free and open to the public.

As the on-air investigative reporter for Boston’s NBC affiliate, Ryan has won 22 Emmy Awards, 13 Edward R. Murrow Awards and dozens of other honors for her groundbreaking journalism.

Ryan is also the author of eight best-selling mystery novels. She has won multiple prestigious awards for her crime fiction, including a coveted Mary Higgins Clark Award. Her latest novel, “What You See,” received a starred review from “Library Journal.” Ryan is also a founding teacher at Mystery Writers of America University. To learn more, visit www.HankPhilippiRyan.com.

MCC’s MILES program offers stimulating, interactive daytime seminars and workshops — with no term papers, tests or grades — for active, older adults. This informational and entertaining opening session provides community members an opportunity to learn more about MILES and the courses being offered, and is a good opportunity to meet instructors and peers. Light refreshments will be served.

The spring session of MILES runs from March 28 through April 28 on the Bedford campus. The two-hour study groups meet from 2 to 4 p.m., in one-, two- or five-week sessions, and are facilitated by individuals with expertise in their field, including some MCC faculty and staff. The workshops and seminars focus on a variety of topics, including movies, nature, art, literature, technology, health and environmental issues, religion and history.

“The goal of MILES is two-fold,” said Marci Barnes, Director of Lifelong Learning. “The first is to enrich lifelong learning for active, older adults through our varied and interesting programming. The second goal is simply to provide personal enrichment and social interaction with like-minded members of the community.”

Each MILES course is $15. All MILES participants enjoy free use of the MCC Fitness Center and library. For the complete schedule of MILES courses, contact Caitlin Campopiano at 781-280-3570 or visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/MILES To register for MILES courses, call 1-800-818-3434.

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 70 degree and certificate programs, plus hundreds of noncredit courses. At Middlesex, everyone teaches, everyone learns.
Join us for our
Spring Open House
5:30 p.m. • Tuesday, April 26, 2016
551 Springs Road • Bedford, MA 01730
See what Middlesex can do for you!
Everyone teaches; everyone learns.
REGISTER NOW! To learn more call 1-800-312-3434 or to RSVP visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/OH
Celebrity Forum 2016

an evening with

Kathie Lee Gifford & Hoda Kotb

Co-hosts of the Emmy-winning 4th hour of NBC’s ‘TODAY’

Friday, June 3 at 8 p.m. - Lowell Memorial Auditorium

Tickets on sale NOW!

$100 • $65 • $55 • $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 978-722-8881, 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 Prieto at 978-994-5751 or email jocelyn_prieto@uml.edu

All sales are final. No refunds or exchanges.

Proceeds from Celebrity Forum support scholarships for MCC students.

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Special thanks to The TIX Company, Inc.
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See what Middlesex can do for you!
- Learn about our academic programs
- Speak to a financial aid representative
- Take a campus tour
- Explore transfer opportunities to bachelor’s degree programs

To learn more call 1-800-818-3434 or to RSVP visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/OH

REGISTER NOW!
Spring Open House

9:30 a.m. • Saturday, April 2, 2016

33 Kearney Square • Lowell, MA 01852

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- Speak to a financial aid representative
- Take a campus tour
- Explore transfer opportunities to bachelor’s degree programs

REGISTER NOW!

To learn more call 1-800-818-3434 or to RSVP visit:
www.middlesex.mass.edu/OH
Immigration & Community Challenges in Lowell a Public Forum

5:00 to 8:00 p.m. April 12
Lowell National Historic Park Visitors Center

Panel Discussion

Dr. Christoph Strobel
Assistant Professor of History, UML

Bopha Malone
Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association,
Enterprise Bank, Middlesex Trustee

Julia Gavin
Director of Programing, Coalition for a Better Acre

Dr. David Kalivas
Professor and Director, Commonwealth Honors Program

For more information or to RSVP contact the Middlesex Community College Commonwealth Honors Office at 781-280-3553 or honors@middlesex.mass.edu

Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities in partnership with the American Association of Universities and Colleges.

Join us for our

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9:30 a.m. • Saturday, April 2, 2016

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For information on how to become a forum sponsor call Donna Mowrey at 781-289-3614.
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Constant Program Improvements at Middlesex Community College

By Saralyn Carlen

As one of the largest community colleges in Massachusetts, Middlesex Community College features two distinct campuses: one in the center of the city of Lowell, and one in the more suburban Bedford, MA. Middlesex offers students over 70 different degree and certificate programs, with options for day, night, weekend, and online classes to meet the varied needs of students of all ages and enrollment levels.

Middlesex Community College has been making changes to some of its AHP (Academy of Health Professions) programs, some of which include Medical Receptionist, Medical Assisting, Phlebotomy, and Medical Office Administration. MCC’s Medical Receptionist and Medical Assisting classes have shifted towards a strong focus in Medical Coding, a skill set for which there is an increasing demand in the field.

Both the Phlebotomy and Medical Office Administration programs have added classes which provide additional background knowledge to students, who will now be performing hands-on lab work in almost all their program-related classes. MCC believes these curriculum changes make the AHP programs more marketable and will give students a better chance of finding employment after college.

Middlesex has also added a CHAA-eligible Medical Receptionist certificate, which prepares students for employment in the field with both academic and career-focused classes and allows them to explore future career options.

The staff and administration at Middlesex are dedicated to providing students with a quality education, whether they are attending MCC as an entry-level student, or are already working in their chosen field. MCC plans to continue revamping its programs of study, and make attending college more financially accessible to a wide range of future students who will be able to find jobs using their education.

Invest in Your Future with Health Care Career Training at MCC

Interested in beginning a career in the health care field?

The Middlesex Community College Academy of Health Professions (AHP) offers short-term training and college-credit courses to prepare students for a satisfying career in entry-level health care.

AHP offers a variety of traditional and non-traditional courses, career counseling and support, as well as tutoring. Two state-of-the-art clinical laboratories provide students ample space and the lab equipment necessary for hands-on training. Small class sizes ensure students receive individualized attention and support throughout the program. Enrollment for MCC’s AHP program is offered in the fall, spring and summer.

AHP offers three levels of study and a flexible schedule that includes day, evening and weekend courses.

Certificate programs offered included:

- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Medical Receptionist
- Medical Office Administration
- Phlebotomy
- Medical Assisting

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

Financial aid is available for qualified students.
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To learn more call 1-800-B18-3434 or to RSVP visit: www.middlesex.mass.edu/OH
RN Refresher Program

May 31 - June 24, 2016
Monday - Friday. 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Lowell Campus

Designed for Massachusetts registered nurses who have been away from nursing practice for an extended period, this program provides students the supportive learning environment necessary to refine skills and develop a sound knowledge base needed to practice in today's complex health care environment.

Pre-Req: Students must have a current, valid RN license in good standing.

Tuition $2100. Course number HLT 714-80
Enrollment period is March 21-May 10.
To enroll call 1800-818-3434.

For complete details visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/RNrefresher
or contact Sheila Morin at 781-280-3608 or morins@middlesex.mass.edu

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Classes meet four days per week, in Bedford & Lowell

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JUNE 6 – AUG. 2
JUNE 20 – AUG. 16
Classes meet online or two evenings per week, in Bedford & Lowell

DUAL ENROLLMENT
High school students who wish to enroll in summer courses should contact a dual enrollment advisor at 1-800-818-3434 to discuss admission requirements.

To learn more, call 1-800-818-3434 or visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/summer

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Middlesex Community College

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an evening with
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Co-hosts of the Emmy-winning
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MIDDLESEX Community College

Everyone teaches, everyone learns.

Middlesex offers 75+ degree and certificate programs and hundreds of noncredit courses. The Middlesex Dual Enrollment Academy allows qualified home-schooled students to earn college credit while satisfying high school graduation requirements.

"The best part of MCC's Dual Enrollment Academy is the opportunity students have to experience a complete college atmosphere – engaging in coursework and discussion with faculty, furthering leadership skills, and exploring interests in a supportive environment."

Zena Cassteel
Dual Enrollment Student
MCC Graduate
Member, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society
All-Massachusetts Academic Team

To learn more call 1-800-818-3434 or visit

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Middlesex Community College's Dual Enrollment Academy welcomes homeschoolers!

Established in 2011, the Middlesex Dual Enrollment Academy allows qualified home-schooled students to earn college credit while satisfying high school graduation requirements. Students may enroll in college-level courses offered online, or during the day or evening on MCC's Bedford and Lowell campuses. Flexible options are available to focus on science and math, engineering and technology, health professions or business administration.

Currently, more than 500 high school and home-schooled students are enrolled in a wide variety of Middlesex courses each semester. Dual Enrollment Academy students can leave high school with 3 to 15 college credits.

A Dual Enrollment Academy advisor will be assigned to work with each applicant and their parent/guardian to design a program based on the student's academic skill level and educational goals. To maximize success, MCC offers academic and student support services, including specialized advising, career counseling, transfer counseling, tutoring, computer labs and library services.

Offering more than 70 degree and certificate programs, as well as many short-term, highly focused programs in selected career fields, Middlesex is one of the largest, most comprehensive community colleges in Massachusetts.

Our Lowell campus, situated in the historic downtown district, offers the vitality of urban life. In contrast, our 200-acre Bedford campus has the look and feel of a small, traditional New England college.

At Middlesex Community College, everyone teaches, everyone learns.

For more information about MCC's Dual Enrollment Academy, visit: https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/dualenroll/default.aspx or call 781-280-3790 to speak with a Dual Enrollment Advisor.