Grant to Help Job Seekers Gain Skills

Middlesex Community College hosts Health & Wellness Expo

Lowell High recognizes Dual Enrollment students

TOM MCKAY ALWAYS LEFT YOU SMILING

This Month at Middlesex

January 21, 2014 - February 21, 2014

Bedford Campus
591 Springs Road
Bedford, MA 01730

Lowell Campus
33 Kearney Square
Lowell, MA 01852
Grant To Help Job Seekers Gain Skills

Content provided by Massachusetts Office of Labor

State officials joined workforce organizations and local officials at Middlesex Community College in Lowell last November to highlight a $500,000 Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund Grant recently awarded to the North Shore Workforce Investment Board. As part of this grant, the consortium will partner with the region’s community colleges and academic institutions, career centers and workforce investment boards, local employers and others to provide training that will meet the needs of local businesses and assist participants in finding jobs with local employers and within the manufacturing industry.

“Middlesex Community College is honored to have launched the first cohort for the Advanced Manufacturing Training program,” said Dr. Carole Cowan, President of Middlesex Community College. “This grant has provided a tremendous opportunity for community colleges to offer the hands on machining and electronics training necessary to the future workforce.”

The consortium will work to align training curricula with business skill demands and help promote an updated image of manufacturing as an industry that has jobs with a future. Seventy adults will enroll in one of three cycles of training at a regional community college of their choice. Training will include a math refresher (if needed) and core manufacturing courses including OSHA, Microsoft, and manufacturing fundamentals. Students will have a choice of participating in vocational training for machining or electronics. At least 53 individuals will find employment with local business partners or with other companies within the industry.

In addition, the college partners will work to provide college credit for courses that provide a stepping stone to an Associate’s Degree.
MCC is in top 5 for Fire Science

Middlesex Community College has been named by Fire Science Online as one of the top five schools in the U.S. to offer Fire Science programs with significantly higher-than-average returns on investments.

Students who graduate from MCC's Fire Protection and Safety Technology program and become full-time firefighters can expect an annual income five times the cost of one year of school, according to the website.

MCC's Fire Protection and Safety Technology Program provides hands-on coursework for individuals seeking employment or working in a fire-science occupation.

The program provides training for a variety of careers, including firefighters working at city, town and state levels; firefighters working in military and airport facilities; opportunities to work in fire investigation, or the state Fire Marshall's Office.

There are also opportunities within the business and industrial area, including fire-insurance claim investigation, fire-protection engineer, hospital fire safety, fire-prevention inspector, and work with National Fire Protection Association in fire investigation.

Fire Science Online is a nonprofit organization that provides free information about fire science, firefighting, and other first-responder education and careers. For more information, visit www.fire-science.org.

For more information about MCC's Fire Protection and Safety Technology program, email bloomer@middlesex.mass.edu or call 781-280-3911.
TOM MCKAY ALWAYS LEFT YOU SMILING

From left, Jack Costello, of Tyngsboro, former Sun editor and publisher, Ann Cunha of Lowell, and Tom McKay of Salisbury, share a laugh during last year’s Lowell Catholic High School Bishop John R. McNamara Awards, which the trio received. McKay, longtime manager of Lowell Memorial Auditorium, died Sunday surrounded by his loving family. See a photo gallery on McKay’s life, visit lowellsun.com.

Curtain closes on a life well lived

By Lyle Moran
lmoran@lowellsun.com

LOWELL — Tom McKay always had a smile on his face.

It was there whether he was greeting patrons entering Lowell Memorial Auditorium for a Broadway show, talking with a concession-stand employee, or chatting with high-level executives.

It was there when he was in good health or bad, while he brought smiles to the faces of those in his presence. And the smile was brightest when he was around his family, including his grandchildren, said those who knew McKay well.

It was his positive spirit and sunny demeanor that his friends say they will most remember about McKay, long the face of the Auditorium as its executive director, who died Sunday surrounded by his family in Salisbury.

Appreciation: Read his obituary on Page 6

"He loved meeting and talking to people, and people loved talking to him."

Terry McCarthy, longtime friend of the late Tom McKay

McKay, who had beaten cancer twice before and received a liver transplant in 2012, died at 67.

Along with Terry McCarthy and Leo Creggan, McKay successfully ran the historic Auditorium from 1995 to 2013. They did not seek a new contract.

The three leaders of Mill City Management were known as “The Three Amigos” and are credited with transforming the venue from one that featured a great variety of acts every year.

McCarthy and Creggan both said they were always struck by McKay’s ability to connect with people from all different walks of life and remain upbeat at all times.

“He loved meeting and talking to people, and people loved talking to him,” McCarthy said. “When you walked away after talking to him, you walked away with a smile.

“He was perfect for the job to run that auditorium,” said McCarthy, who attended the Immaculate Conception grammar school and Lowell High School with McKay.

Creggan, who used to tend bar for McKay when he owned Hynes Tavern on Gorham Street years ago, said of his longtime friend: "He could please see MCKAY/10
Tom McKay stands in the Hall of Flags in February 2006 at Lowell Memorial Auditorium where he was general manager for many years. See a slide show at lowellsun.com.
Tom McKay always left you smiling

MCKAY / From Page 1

relate to the kids selling popcorn just as he could relate to bank presidents and the CEO of Lowell General Hospital. He was a unique guy that could talk to everyone. “He really put a terrific team in place and whatever success we enjoyed at the Auditorium, he was the catalyst behind.”

McKay was known for calling everyone either “buddy” or “pal” and for putting others’ interests before his own. “In the last couple of weeks, as his health deteriorated, McKay was surrounded by those closest to him, his family, as well as his close friends. Attorney James Hall, who was McKay’s best friend, said McKay stayed positive and was most concerned about the welfare of his visitors and family in his final days. He also kept cracking jokes, said Hall.”

“Tom was a very positive, friendly, upbeat kind of guy, and you were always happy when you were in his presence,” said Hall, who likes others said McKay was a great family man. “I’ll miss him every day for the rest of my life.” McKay was alive to see the recent birth of his third grandchild, James Thomas Marsh, whom he got to hold. He was born to McKay’s daughter, Jennifer.

McKay also leaves behind his wife, Lori, and daughter, Meredith, as well as her daughter, Mia and Jennifer’s daughter, Madison.

Prior to being diagnosed with liver cancer a few years ago, McKay had survived Merkel cell carcinoma, a rare form of skin cancer. McKay’s wake will be Wednesday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Fay McCabe Funeral Home at 105 Moore St. McKay’s funeral will be Thursday at 11 a.m. at St. Patrick’s Church.

“Former City Manager John Cox, a longtime friend of McKay’s, said he always felt comfortable knowing the ever-smiling McKay was overseeing the operations at the Auditorium while Cox was manager. “You always knew the Auditorium was in good hands,” said Cox. “He was always watching out for the building and bringing great shows in there.”

Former Mayor and City Councilor Edward “Bud” Caulfield performed with the Highland Players at the Auditorium for many years. He said he will always remember how warmly McKay greeted everyone who visited the historic building.

“He was more than the director of the Auditorium, he was an ambassador for the city,” Caulfield said.

Later this year, a plaque will be placed in Lowell Memorial Auditorium to recognize the efforts of McKay, Creegan and McCarthy during their time running the venue.

McKay, a longtime Lowellian, also gave back to the community by serving on many different boards, including those of Lowell General Hospital and Lowell Five Cent Savings Bank. He began his service to Lowell General as a corporator in 1993 and served as a member of the board of governors the last 14 years.

Norm Deschene, CEO of Circle Health and Lowell General, said McKay was very active on many hospital board committees and was very supportive of the hospital’s fundraising campaigns and fundraising events, such as the TeamWalk for CancerCare.

“Tom was always there for the hospital and was passionate in helping us meet our mission to put patients first in everything we do,” Deschene said in a statement. “We will always remember his infectious smile and unwavering friendship. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends at this difficult time.”

Fred Simon, who is involved with many charitable causes in the area, including the Salvation Army’s annual Radiothon, said McKay could always be counted on to support local groups.

“Tommy never met a charity he didn’t like,” said Simon. McKay joined McCarthy and Creegan with donating thousands of dollars annually to organizations large and small throughout Greater Lowell, such as food banks and the Boy Scouts.

McKay was a longtime member of the Middlesex Community College Foundation, supporting MCC’s fundraising initiatives, and was also “The voice behind the curtain,” providing the introductions at the college’s annual Celebrity Forum fundraiser.

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

Others said McKay had the gift of making people feel special in an old-fashioned way. “He always called me princess and I felt so special like a princess or a queen,” said City Councilor and former Mayor Rita Mercier. “I realized he called others that too, but I pretended I was the only one.”

Mary Ellen Fitzpatrick, a senior vice president at Enterprise Bank, said she, too, will miss her interactions with McKay.

“I am deeply saddened that never again will I pick up my phone at Enterprise Bank and hear the familiar words, ‘Hey beautiful, how are things going today, baby doll,’ spoken with such a positive, upbeat, ‘can-do’ attitude coming from my pal of almost 50 years,” Fitzpatrick said. “It was the same familiar hello he used with all his ‘pals’. If it was any other caller, I would quickly hang up, having been totally put off by the greeting. Tommy was different. Tommy was Tommy.”

Follow Moran on Twitter @ylemoran.
LOWELL — CVS Pharmacy has sure come a long way from its days as the “Consumer Value Store” on Lowell’s Merrimack Street in 1963, the first-ever location of the retail supergiant.

On Wednesday, the multibillion-dollar company announced it will ban tobacco sales at all its U.S. locations, giving up about $2 billion a year in revenue. Area public health advocates, chief medical officers and business analysts have been applauding CVS ever since, calling the decision a model for other stores to emulate.

“It’s an extremely positive move for the country,” said Dr. Kumle Rajesh, chief medical officer of the Lowell Community Health Center.

“A very brave move being such a large chain, and I hope that other chains will pick up this message, and the population in general will take in this message that smoking is not a healthy behavior. “This is absolutely the correct move by CVS,” he added.

The Woonsocket, R.I.-based company said it will stop selling cigarettes and other tobacco products at its more than 7,600 pharmacy stores across the U.S. by Oct. 1, making CVS the first national pharmacy chain to take this step “in support of the health and well-being of its patients and customers.”

“CVS Caremark is continually looking for ways to promote health and reduce the burden of disease,” said CVS Caremark Chief Medical Officer Troyen A. Brennan, M.D., M.P.H. “Stopping the sale of cigarettes and tobacco will make a significant difference in reducing the chronic illnesses associated with tobacco use.”

Daniel O’Leary, chief medical officer at HealthAlliance Hospital in Leominster, said the tobacco ban makes a strong statement. He emphasized it will “save a lot of lives” by making cigarettes less available and thereby preventing teenagers from picking up smoking.

CVS’ decision is a “huge victory for public health,” according to Leland Ackerson, a UMass Lowell assistant professor of community health and sustainability. He also said it’s a major opportunity for other companies, including rival pharmacy chains Walgreens and Rite Aid, to follow CVS’ lead.

“It’s an incentive for other stores,” said Ackerson, who has studied cancer prevention. “Twenty years ago I never thought pharmacies would be changing like this, but it’s great. Their job is to provide a healthy lifestyle for their customers, and this is a great change.”

The CVS decision won’t change things at many of its outlets in Massachusetts. Boston, Worcester and dozens of other communities in the Bay State already have prohibitions on the sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products at pharmacies.

Tami Gouveia, executive director of Tobacco Free Mass., said 80 municipalities have tobacco bans at pharmacies. She hopes CVS’ decision is the “tipping point” for state legislators to pass a tobacco ban bill for all pharmacies.

Lowell, Westford, Bedford and Acton have implemented tobacco bans at pharmacies.

Massachusetts Medical Society President Ronald Dunlap said in a statement that the announcement by CVS marks a “milestone in tobacco-prevention efforts.”

“Most importantly, it will help to save lives, reduce illness, and contain health-care costs,” Dunlap said. “We urge others to follow the company’s lead.”
Some business experts believe CVS’ decision will put enough pressure on other pharmacies. Ian Cross, director of Bentley University’s Center for Marketing Technology, said Walgreens and Rite Aid will have to keep up with CVS’ healthy message.

Despite the $2 billion annual loss in revenue, Cross said it was a “very smart and bold move.”

“It shows a chief executive with a vision for the company, transforming it to a health-care company,” said Cross, who did marketing five years ago for an all-natural skin-care product at CVS. “The $2 billion seems like a lot, but they clearly have a plan to replace it with products that help people quit smoking. And it wouldn’t surprise me to see healthier food products, like very healthy snack bars.”

CVS posted 2013 sales of $123 billion. It has yet to report 2013 results.

A Middlesex Community College economics professor said this move positions CVS to become the equivalent of a primary-care provider. Robert Kaulfuss, also the social-science department chairman at MCC, said CVS is already getting there with flu shots and clinics, and banning tobacco products adds to CVS being a “frontline health-care provider.”

Unlike Cross, Kaulfuss said Walgreens and Rite Aid could view this decision as an opportunity to grab the CVS cigarette business.

“A lot will depend on it, so it’s a wait-and-see situation right now,” Kaulfuss said. “But I do like the idea that they’re taking a positive step, even if it risks losing business. A corporation that’s being more socially responsible is something I applaud.”

Kaulfuss predicted CVS’ stock could take a hit in the short run because of the tobacco ban. Shares closed Friday at $66.44, up $1 since the announcement Wednesday.

“I think it sends a great message, putting the policy before profits,” said Bill O’Brien, shopping at the Billerica CVS at 210 Boston Road on Thursday. “I don’t smoke, so it doesn’t affect me. I just hope it works and can make people quit.”

Information from The Associated Press was used in this report.

Follow Rick Sobey on Twitter and Tbt @sobeyLSun.
Lowell High recognizes Dual Enrollment students

Lowell High School recently held a graduation ceremony for students in the Dual Enrollment Academy who attended Middlesex Community College. From left, Sisowath Chea receives his certificate from Lowell Superintendent of Schools Jean Franco; Telvin Benjamin shows off his certificate; and Mark Hong and Huong Hoang proudly display their certificates.
Health & Wellness Expo
Middlesex Community College will host a Health & Wellness Expo from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26, in the Lowell Campus Cafeteria, 33 Kearney Square (snow date March 5). Free and open to the public, MCC’s Health & Wellness Expo features a variety of health-care providers and community organizations providing screenings, services and information.

Presented by MCC’s Center for Health & Wellness, the Lowell Expo will include information about topics such as nutrition and healthy eating, acupuncture, tobacco treatment, and substance use and abuse. The Safety 911 EMS Educators will be providing CPR demonstrations and the Center for Hope & Healing will be available to answer questions. Visitors can also get free screenings for blood pressure, glucose, cholesterol, oral cancer and melanoma, and HIV.

“This year we are offering various health and wellness short sessions throughout the duration of the Expo,” said Stephanie Hamelin, MCC Health and Wellness educator and Expo organizer. Sessions include an overview of credit-card management, relaxation and mediation, yoga for beginners, a short fitness class, and a scavenger hunt.

“We have worked hard to cover more aspects of health and wellness, and create a more interactive event for attendees,” Hamelin added.

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

MCC is one of the largest, most comprehensive community colleges in the state. We offer more than 75 degree and certificate programs, plus hundreds of non-credit courses, during the day, evening and weekend, on our Bedford and Lowell campuses, and online. Middlesex—a great place to begin your future!
Register Now for MCC's Summer College for Kids

It's not too early to start planning your summer! Middlesex Community College will begin enrollment for College for Kids 2014 beginning Monday, Feb. 17. College for Kids 2014 (formerly MCC Summer Camps) offers one-, two- and three-week summer programs for children ages 8 to 15 that run July 14 through Aug. 21 on the Bedford and Lowell campuses.

"College for Kids offers fun and engaging summer programs to provide children with unique opportunities to explore careers, learn new skills, and boost self-confidence," said Marci Barnes, MCC Program Manager of Community Education and Training. All programs are taught by public-school teachers or by professionals who are experts in their field, Barnes added.

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

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

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

Considering a career in healthcare? Consider Middlesex Community College. Learn more about MCC’s 15+ Health Career degree and certificate programs at a Health Programs Information Session.

A Lowell campus Health Programs Information Session will be held at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19, in MCC’s Federal Building Assembly Room, 50 Kearney Square. To register for a Nursing Program Overview info session, visit: http://bit.ly/mccnursinginfo

Middlesex offers degree programs in Dental Assisting, Dental Hygiene, Dental Lab Technology, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Medical Assisting, Nursing, Medical Lab Technology, and Radiologic Technology. We also offer certificate programs in Dental Assisting, Medical Assisting and Medical Lab Technology.

MCC’s Associate Degree in Nursing is offered as a full-time day program, or a part-time evening/weekend program. Prospective nursing students must attend a mandatory Overview of the Nursing Program info session, to be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19, in MCC’s Federal Building Assembly Room, 50 Kearney Square, Lowell. To register for a Nursing Program Overview info session, visit: http://bit.ly/mccnursinginfo

The MCC Academy of Health Professions offers short-term training and college-credit courses that could lead to an entry-level position in a healthcare field. Explore career opportunities such as nursing assistant, medical receptionist, medical secretary, phlebotomists, clinical laboratory assistant or medical assistant. For more information, visit: http://bit.ly/mccahp

To learn more about MCC’s Health Career Programs, visit https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/admissionrequirements/health.aspx or call 1-800-818-3434.

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

Middlesex 3 Coalition recognized for its efforts

Putting the power of its public-private partnership to good use, members of the Middlesex 3 Coalition have been working to bring jobs, transportation projects and economy-boosting programs to Bedford along with its Route 3 North corridor neighbors Burlington, Billerica, Chelmsford and Lowell. The effort was recognized on Saturday when the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) presented the Middlesex 3 Coalition with the Kenneth E. Pickard Municipal Innovation Award.

The Middlesex 3 Coalition was started three years ago by the town administrators of the participating municipalities and representatives from the private sector. At present, Richard Reed, Bedford Town Manager, is the leader of the municipal component, and Robert Buckley, a Senior Partner at Riener & Braunstein, heads up the private sector involvement. UMass Lowell and Middlesex Community

SEE AWARD, B7

The Middlesex 3 Coalition (Bedford, Billerica, Burlington, Chelmsford and Lowell) won the Regional Economic Development Public/Private Partnership Innovation Award at the Massachusetts Municipal Association’s annual meeting at the Hynes Auditorium in Boston on January 25. From left are: incoming MMA president Kevin Dumas, former Billerica and Burlington Town Manager Bob Mercier, Burlington Town Manager John Petran, Bedford Town Manager Rick Reed, Billerica Town Manager John Curran, M3 director and founder Bob Buckley, outgoing MMA president Kate Fitzpatrick and MMA Executive Director Geoff Beckwith. PHOTO / MARY K. McBRIDE
College are also founding members representing the education sector.

The group's mission is to foster economic development, job growth and retention, diversification of the tax base and enhancement of quality of life. Members include stakeholders in local government, business, finance, education and development who have combined resources to promote the competitive advantages of the region and advance the economic vitality of the Route 3 North corridor.

The group has successfully put in place a shuttle service to Technology Park in Billerica, undertaken preliminary development master planning and it has jump-started innovative real estate development strategies for the region, which was long thought to be a potential hot spot for significant growth.

The Pickard Award is given by the MMA to projects that increase the effectiveness of local government. Some of the criteria for the award include: project originality or novelty; adaptability to other communities; cost effectiveness; efficiency or productivity; addressing a common community issue; and consumer/community satisfaction.

"Middlesex 3 works to solve the common issues in the area and to improve the quality of life for local residents," said Buckley. "The key is the public-private partnership we've created. It allows us a unique perspective on economic and municipal opportunities."

"In these times, more and more municipalities are being asked to join together in regional initiatives, pooling resources for more efficient and effective results. This innovative partnership is a response to this call," said Reed.
Mass. Among 9 States In College Student Assessment Experiment

By Andy Metzger January 28, 2014

BOSTON — Next fall, Massachusetts will embark on a unique venture with eight other states to assess how well college students are learning in state schools.

“This board asked this department to do something which has never been done before in the history of American higher education. Never been done before,” Commissioner of Higher Education Richard Freeland told the Board of Higher Education Tuesday morning. “It’s a great system of assessing student learning that will permit us to report to the public in a way the public can understand, not just a grade and 120 credits but some metric that makes sense of the level of student learning being achieved by students at community colleges, state universities and UMass that will make comparisons with other states so we can know how Massachusetts is doing in comparison to other states.”

After a Massachusetts pilot in the spring of 2013, the program of assessing students based on their classwork will expand to Rhode Island and Connecticut, Indiana, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Oregon and Utah.

“The minute that student work leaves the campus, you have anonymity,” said Bonnie Orcutt, a Worcester State University economics professor who has been working with higher education official Pat Crosson on developing the model.

Orcutt and Crosson told the News Service certain assignments will be selected and once all identifying information is scrubbed, they will be submitted to a group comprised of educators from the participating states who will assess students’ abilities using rubrics. Generally, the classwork will be judged based on writing ability, ability to think using numbers and critical thinking.

“You’re walking this balance between competition and collaboration,” said Orcutt.

Crosson said it was a better method of evaluating student performance than standardized tests because it engages the faculty in the work that is part of their curriculum.

“Everybody in higher education knows that if this doesn’t work the next answer is a standardized test probably imposed by the federal government or by states, and nobody wants to go there,” Freeland said.
Orcutt, who is also director of learning outcomes assessment for the Department of Higher Education, said the classwork will be collected next fall, and the work will be assessed next spring. Students will be told their work might be used in the assessment, but they will not know whether their work was used.

The first state pilot program of the assessment was funded by the Davis Education Foundation, and the multi-state effort is funded by the Association of American Colleges & Universities, through a Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation grant.

The first participating campuses out of the 28 undergraduate state schools were Bristol Community College, Framingham State University, Middlesex Community College, Mount Wachusett Community College, Northern Essex Community College and UMass Lowell. MassMaritime and MassArt are not planning to participate because their curriculum is specialized, and more campuses might be part of the effort beginning in the fall of 2014, Orcutt and Crosson said.

Unlike the Graduate Record Exam, which measures students’ ability in an area of study, the new method assesses students’ competency in specific areas of learning, the education officials said. Crosson said standardized tests measure what someone knows, while other assessments seek to gauge how well they have learned.

“Often what that tells you is where they start, what they come in with,” said Crosson, criticizing standardized tests.

On other metrics, students at Massachusetts state schools are behind their peers in national comparisons. The pass rates on national licensure exams for students at state universities and UMass are both behind the national average, and UMass students’ scores at graduate entrance exams are about average, according to findings published by the Department of Higher Education.
Dual Enrollment Program growing each year

By MARK BIAGIOTTI | Posted: Monday, January 27, 2014 10:58 am

BURLINGTON—With the district’s Dual Enrollment Program becoming more popular than ever at Burlington High School, it was time for the School Committee to hear an annual update on the state of the program.

The Dual Enrollment Program at BHS has been in existence for several years, and it provides opportunities for high school students to earn legitimate college credits while still in high school. The program offers college-level classes through a collaborative effort with teachers from Bay Path College and Middlesex Community College.

BHS Guidance Department Director/Counselor Joe Attubato discussed some of the classes available where high school students can accumulate college credits before senior year is completed.

The courses available are Calculus I, Child Development I and Child Development II. Students interested in these courses have to take an ACCUPLACER exam in the spring, then a “Challenger exam” in the fall.

“If (students) met the requirements for each of those tests, they have the option to fill out an application with Middlesex Community College, where they will pay a reduced rate of $260 for the class and get actual college credit while still in high school,” said Attubato.

He noted that students who take Advanced Placement tests may end up in a situation where college credit isn’t guaranteed.

The option of taking the prerequisite exams provides students with an “actual transcript” to Middlesex Community College.

Attubato affirmed this is the third year BHS has used this college credit format, noting that last year there were 10 students who qualified for this option and this year there was 40.

“It was a huge jump,” he said. “The option provides a real good opportunity for students that want to get college credit.”

It was revealed that there will be a course created where students can earn 3 art college credits. Due to its gaining popularity, other departments at BHS are looking to add courses and get in on the Dual Enrollment Program.

“We would really like to see at least one Dual Enrollment course in every department at BHS,” said BHS Principal Mark Sullivan.

Attubato informed the board that the Dual Enrollment Program with Bay Path College is continuing to grow and gain popularity as well. Bay Path conducts its classes at BHS, where the classes are free (minus the payment of books), and they take place on Tuesdays. The Middlesex Community College program is not free, but the courses can be taken at a reduced rate of $260.

“This year (2014) it looks like we are going to have right around a total of 63 students with a chance to get at least 3 college credits,” explained Attubato, noting that figure combines both the Bay Path and Middlesex programs.

Attubato did declare some things for the board and public to keep in mind, which includes the following guidelines: All Massachusetts public colleges and universities will accept these credits and “most” private ones will too, but some may make the students take the college’s version of the class. This goes hand-in-hand with the Advanced Placement courses.

In the end, Attubato affirmed the courses taken and college credits earned would never go to waste because the colleges would count them as an elective, so each college credit would be earned, even if the student had to take the college’s version of the class.
Training Day 11/2/13: Spotlight on Sheltering

Our sixth Training Day on November 2, 2013 was possibly our best to date. Once again we thank the Middlesex Community College Program on Homeland Security for hosting this special day. Nearly 90 members of the UMV MRC and their counterparts in other units shared the day with us. The common thread was that each session provided skills that could be useful in emergency sheltering. See the final program here.

Donations of breakfast items and contributions of raffle prizes made this event financially viable as well as fun. The purchase of raffle tickets was entirely optional. The prizes were both generous and tantalizing, with a high probability of winning because so many vendors had contributed. Most important: the raffle defrayed our expenses by nearly $400!

Please consider patronizing our thoughtful contributors, to extend our deep appreciation for their support of our major training event of the year, which made Training Day possible. See the links below for details:

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This year the educational format was enhanced by plenary sessions throughout the morning. We were honored to have Dr. Shannon Manzi, PharmD and James Sheard, FF/EMT-P deliver the opening presentation on international disaster response.
Interested participants were able to purchase raffle tickets during the breakfast networking session and on breaks from the plenary events. UMV MRC Director Sandy Collins welcomes the first speakers, Shannon Manzi and James Sheard, who shared their experiences from international disaster responses.

The next plenary was provided by Sharon Tompkins, who shared responsibility for medical oversight at the Boston Marathon. Tompkins offered 'behind the scenes' views of the bombing response, with lessons learned. Tompkins was joined by colleagues who offered viewpoints on specific issues, and assisted with the Q/A session afterwards.

The lunch hour was both festive and informative. UMV MRC Director Sandy Collins, RN, presented general updates on the unit and thanked our members for another successful year. Coordinator Nancy Burris, EMT-B, shared a few brief slides about the progress of MRCs at the national level.

Terry Downes (left) joins the attendees in welcoming counterparts of the UMV MRC: Middlesex Community College nursing students, and representatives from other MRCs and response organizations.

Sharon Tompkins delivered a stunning recap of the Boston Marathon bombing response from behind the scenes.

Members of the UMV MRC Advisory Council, each of whom represents one of the seven towns in our coverage area, were acknowledged between sessions.

The group particularly welcomed Terry Downes, Esq, host of the event. In his role as Director of MCC's Program on Homeland Security, Downes emphasized the value of preparedness in our shared...
responsibility to monitor and respond to threats against public safety.

The afternoon was devoted to four concurrent classroom sessions:

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<th>SPEAKERS</th>
<th>TOPICS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sidney Liang, EMT-B, MPA</td>
<td>Cultural Awareness in Disasters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rose Gould, MA and Dr. Teo Piqué</td>
<td>Mental Health Considerations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter Laitinen, RN, EMT-P</td>
<td>Vulnerable Populations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Sullivan, BA, MSEH</td>
<td>Considerations in Coastal Shelters</td>
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Attendees in the afternoon enjoyed small classroom environments in which to learn more about the care of vulnerable populations (top row), mental health considerations (bottom row), and other key issues related to service at emergency shelters.
Courses for the Social Media Certificate Program, designed to provide the skills needed to succeed in the evolving world of social media, begin Wednesday and run in the following order: Introduction to Social Media; Twitter Launch for Small Business; LinkedIn; Advanced LinkedIn; There’s a Lot to ‘Like’ About Facebook; Pinterest and Apps; Blogging with WordPress; Social-Media Marketing Plan. Call 800-818-3434 or visit www.middlesexmass.edu/careertraining.

Registration is open for the noncredit course Adobe Creative Suite. Courses meet Thursdays starting this Thursday. Call 800-818-3434 or visit www.middlesexmass.edu/careertraining.

Enrollment is open for the Technical Writing Certificate Program. Classes are held Mondays starting this Monday, from 5:45 to 9:45 p.m., on the Bedford campus. Cost is $1,499, plus textbook fees. Courses are not eligible for waivers or vouchers. Email morins@middlesex.mass.edu or visit www.middlesexmass.edu/careertraining/techwrite.aspx.
MCC Offers Free Tutoring and Academic Support Services

Middlesex Community College’s Academic Centers for Enrichment (ACE) provide free and flexible individual and group tutoring on the Bedford and Lowell campuses. Staffed by professional and peer tutors, MCC’s ACE Hotspots are open for walk-in help and by appointment throughout the spring semester. Registration is now open for MCC spring semester courses, which begin Tuesday, Jan. 21.

The goal of MCC’s ACE is to help students “learn how to learn” and achieve academic success by gaining an understanding of their personal learning styles. MCC’s ACE Hotspots provide a challenging and supportive environment, in which students can work independently or collaboratively to master learning strategies they can apply to their courses.

Tutoring is available in most subjects, including writing, reading/study skills, math, science, computer applications, accounting, business, economics, nursing and English Language Learner courses.

In addition to professional and peer tutoring programs, MCC’s ACE offers free eTutoring online 24/7 through the Academic Support website www.middlesex.mass.edu/tutoringservices or at www.etutoring.org.

To learn more about MCC’s Academic Support Program, or to schedule a tutoring appointment, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/ace.

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

Middlesex Community College will be a host site for FAFSA Day Massachusetts, a statewide series of FREE financial aid presentations, to be held at 1 p.m., Sunday Jan. 26, in MCC’s City Building on the Lowell campus, 33 Kearney Square. The program is part of College Goal Sunday, a series of financial-aid workshops held around the country.

FAFSA Day at Middlesex offers a moderated general information session to help students and families complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the federally required application for financial aid. One-on-one assistance from financial aid experts is also provided.

If you would like assistance filling out the FAFSA during the session, students and parents* should EACH bring:

- Social Security Number
- Driver’s license number
- Most recent federal tax return, 2013 W-2 or year-end pay stub
- Unearned income records
- Bank statement(s)
- Business and investment records
- Alien registration card (if you are not a U.S. citizen)

*Students who were born before Jan. 1, 1991, do not need to bring parental information.


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Her move fits her well.

Michele Stein's newest project

BY SHARON ADELMAN CROWLEY
Town Crier Correspondent

TEWKSBURY - As of yesterday, Michele Jodar Stein began a new chapter in her career as a Professor at Middlesex Community College where she will teach engineering.

"I enjoyed working with the different departments and the residents of the town of Tewksbury," Stein told the Crier. After nine years with Engineering Department of the Department of Public Works, she has widely-recognized accomplishments under her belt: the sewer expansion project, the Colonial Drive water tank, transportation improvement projects such as the River Road reconstruction and the East and Livingston Street signalization, and this spring her design and coordination efforts will be incorporated into the East Street/Shawshene Street/Dascomb Road signalization.

Stein's career with the Engineering Department began as Project Manager in 2005. Her responsibilities focused primarily on overseeing the sewer construction project from an installation perspective. She was promoted to Town Engineer in 2007.

During her tenure as Town Engineer, Stein implemented the town's stormwater management plan in compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) regulations. Her oversight of this program was favorably noted by the EPA.

Stein was also responsible for oversight and coordination with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) for the reconstruction of River Road. She also served as a town representative on the Technical Committee for the clean-up of the Superfund site at Rocco's. One of her final projects was the signalization of the intersection of East and Shawshene Streets.

"Michele Stein enjoyed her work as a civil engineer and was always willing to teach those interested in learning more. Her move to Middlesex Community College will fit her and her students very well," said Tewksbury Director of Community Development, Steven Sadwick. "The Town of Tewksbury was fortunate to have such a capable and competent Town Engineer."

"She will be missed by the town," said Tewksbury Selectman Todd Johnson, who always found Stein to be knowledgeable, professional, and well-prepared. "She represented the town and its residents very capably. I wish her well, and while we will miss her in Tewksbury, I want to applaud her for her service."

"I am thrilled for Michèle as she will have an opportunity to go teach full time," said Chairman of the Board of Selectmen Scott Wilson. "It will be a loss for our community and I appreciate all she has done."

Stein said she worked on a lot of great projects and met a lot of great people over the years. "I'm thankful for the opportunity," she said. Her last day in the office was January 16th, with a farewell party at the Tewksbury Country Club.
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<tr>
<th>Community College</th>
<th>Current Programs/Courses</th>
<th>Future Programs/Courses</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MIDDLESEX Community College</td>
<td>- Graphic Design</td>
<td>- Healthcare Professionals</td>
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<td>- Environmental Health</td>
<td>- IT/Internet Technology</td>
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<td>- Criminal Justice</td>
<td>- Business Administration</td>
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<td>- Education</td>
<td>- Engineering</td>
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<td>- Global Studies</td>
<td>- Business Administration</td>
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Spring 2014 programs include:

- Graphic Design
- Environmental Health
- Criminal Justice
- Education
- Global Studies

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Celebrity Forum 2014
an evening with
ROBERT REDFORD
Actor, Director,
Sundance Institute Founder
and Environmentalist

Friday, June 20 at 8 p.m. • Lowell Memorial Auditorium

Tickets NOW on sale
Premier Seating - $85 • Standard Seating - $45

Note: Price includes a mandatory $3.75 transaction fee charged by the Lowell Memorial Auditorium.

Tickets may be purchased:
By calling the Lowell Memorial Auditorium Box Office at 978-732-8811 or online at
www.lowellauditorium.com or in person at the Lowell Memorial Auditorium Box Office located at 50 East Merrimack Street, Lowell, MA. For group sales of 15 or more, contact Joe Fellini at 978-934-5757 or email: jfellini@lowellauditorium.com.
All sales are final. No refunds or exchanges.

For details, visit
WWW.MIDDLESEX.MASS.EDU/CF14

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an evening with

ROBERT REDFORD
Actor, Director, Sundance Institute Founder and Environmentalist

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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 866-722-8881 or online at www.lowellauditorium.com or in person at the Lowell Memorial Auditorium Box Office located at 50 East Merrimack Street, Lowell, MA. For group sales of 15 or more, contact Joelle Falotico at 978-934-5751 or email jsellini@lowellauditorium.com. All sales are final. No refunds or exchanges.

For details, visit
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