MCC giving refugees a healthy boost

Keeping MLK Jr.’s dream alive

A memorable wedding at the Nesmith House in Lowell

MCC designated top military-friendly schools nationwide

Middlesex Community College Nursing Program Graduates Celebrated

Bedford Campus
591 Springs Road
Bedford, MA 01730

Lowell Campus
33 Kearney Square
Lowell, MA 01852
Middlesex Community College recently celebrated the achievement of 26 graduates of the Nursing Program in a Pinning Ceremony held recently on the Bedford campus.

MCC President James C. Mabry, Provost Phil Sisson, Dean of Nursing and Allied Health Katherine Gehly, and faculty and staff from all areas of the college joined family, friends and supporters to honor the new graduates. "Middlesex has given us the knowledge, strength, confidence and courage we need to become outstanding registered nurses with the ability to make the world a better place," said student speaker and graduate Amanda Veader-Brooks.

During the ceremony, graduates were called on stage individually to receive their nursing pins from MCC faculty. As a group, the new graduates recited a pledge to practice nursing ethically, promote health for all, and advance the profession. A reception with friends and family followed the ceremony.

Middlesex Community College is your pathway to success. As one of the largest, most comprehensive community colleges in the state, we educate, engage and empower a diverse community of learners. MCC offers more than 70 degree and certificate programs, plus hundreds of noncredit courses, on our campuses in Bedford and Lowell, as well as online. Middlesex Community College: Student success starts here!
MCC plans cuts amid enrollment decline

Lowell Sun.

We are taking this as an opportunity to really structure ourselves and position ourselves for a stronger future to support our students and community as ...

MCC plans cuts amid enrollment decline. Lower student numbers part of statewide trend

By Rick Sobey, rsobey@lowellsun.com
Updated: 02/12/2017 08:49:39 AM EST

We are taking this as an opportunity to really structure ourselves and position ourselves for a stronger future to support our students and community as much as possible. Middlesex Community College President James Mabry (Julia Malakie)

LOWELL – Middlesex Community College is planning to cut staff, and college officials are pinning it on dwindling student enrollment.

In addition to staff reductions, the college with Lowell and Bedford campuses will cut costs by reducing energy costs, putting restrictions on travel and overtime, not filling a number of vacancies and more, President James Mabry said.

"With state support fairly static, health care costs going up and fewer students, it's leading to some budget difficulties at the college," Mabry said. Six assistant dean positions are being eliminated, and a few will be returning to the community college as faculty members, The Sun has learned. Mabry said that MCC is considering offering early retirement as part of the restructure.

"We haven't finalized any details at this point," he said. "It's going to be rolled out in the spring to get us down to a balanced budget by the end of June." MCC's budget is around $57 million. The school needs to cut between 5 to 7 percent of the budget by June, or about $3.2 million, according to the president. It's hard to say how many positions will be slashed because some employees will retire on their own, he said. "It's a chessboard with a lot of moving pieces," Mabry said.

The college is also exploring internal restructuring, in which positions may be consolidated. This will help the college become more efficient and effective, Mabry said. "Getting the right people in the right jobs," he said. "Restructuring to take advantage of their skills. "We are taking this as an opportunity to really structure ourselves and position ourselves for a stronger future to support our students and community as much as possible," Mabry added.
In the summer of 2015, Jay Linnehan's executive vice president position was eliminated. Gina Spaziani, who had worked directly for Linnehan for nearly a decade, assumed CFO tasks less than a week later. She has since left, and her position has not been filled.

It's been a perfect storm over the last five years of declining enrollment at Massachusetts community colleges. The unemployment rate has gone down, leading to fewer students heading to college. In addition, there are fewer high school graduates each year because birth rates have plummeted, resulting in a smaller pot of community college students. This trend has hit 14 of the 15 community colleges across the state, including MCC, where enrollment has dropped since 2012.

Since 2012, enrollment has declined by 9.3 percent at MCC; officials expect it to decline by 5.3 percent until 2020. James Campbell, chairman of MCC's board of trustees, said he's "disappointed" that the community college has to restructure. "It's a difficult process, but I think we're all looking at it in a positive direction," he said. "We're going to deal with these cuts in an open and fair process. "We're optimistic about the future," he added.

Representative with Mount Wachusett Community College in Gardner did not respond for comment on that school's situation.

URL: http://www.lowellsun.com/todaysheadlines/ci_30790382/mcc-plans-cuts-amid-enrollment-decline#ixzz4Yxa0d3hI
MCC NEWS

Middlesex celebrates nursing program graduates

Middlesex Community College recently celebrated the achievements of 26 graduates of the nursing program in a pinning ceremony held on the Bedford campus.

MCC President James C. Mabry, Provost Phil Sisson, Dean of Nursing and Allied Health Katherine Gehly, and faculty and staff from all areas of the college joined family, friends and supporters to honor the new graduates.

"Middlesex has given us the knowledge, strength, confidence and courage we need to become outstanding registered nurses with the ability to make the world a better place," said student speaker and graduate Amanda Vadea-Brooks.

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Saturday
February 11, 2017
THE SUN, LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Saturday Chat
Missing 2 prominent Pauls from city’s past

LOWELL — They were both named Paul. They both had a major impact on the city of Lowell and the wider region.

They both died young. They were Paul Tsongas and Paul Sullivan.

The Sun did a nice story a few weeks ago on the history of Sen. Tsongas, recapturing his career in observance of the 20th anniversary of his death.

But this year also marks the 10th anniversary of the death of Paul Sullivan, who for 17 years captivated thousands of Sun readers with his twice-a-week columns and even a wider audience with his nightly talk show on WBZ.

Paul Tsongas died at age 55. Paul Sullivan was only 50.

Both achieved more in life than most of us who have had the luxury of longevity.

I’m proud to have known both of them throughout their careers.

I went Lowell High with Paul Tsongas and worked with Paul Sullivan throughout his media career.

Both of them surprised me with the success they enjoyed.

I never thought Tsongas would ever go from two terms on the Lowell City council to a serious run for the Democratic nomination for President of the United States. I never thought Paul Sullivan, who didn’t start a media career until the age of 33, would become a major figure in newspapers, radio and television.

They were very different people. Tsongas was cerebral. He was a thinker. He always looked ahead at world issues while being a major player in rebuilding his native city.

Sullivan lived for the moments. He was at his best when he had everyone laughing. He was great at poking fun at himself and the high and the mighty. I can’t even dream about how much fun he would have with columns on President Donald Trump?

But Sullivan was also a champion of people who were down on their luck. He did many kind things that he would never talk about.

A few weeks ago I had an Owl diner breakfast with Paul’s widow, Mary-Jo Griffin, whom he adored and Patrick Cook of Middlesex Community College, who wrote the book, “Sully, The words, wit and wisdom of Paul Sullivan.”

The two were also major figures in creating the Paul Sullivan Leadership Institute at Middlesex.

The Institute is a lasting tribute to the memory of Paul. It was a dream of Paul’s to create a program that would create a new generation of leaders.

From our breakfast, after sharing a few “Sully stories” we decided we are looking for a way to observe the 10th anniversary of Paul’s passing and recognize some of the success stories of the Institute.

It will be a time to gather friends of Paul, share some stories, and honor the Institute.

Stay tuned for details.

After the breakfast, I got my Sully book out and read the column I did 10 years ago, days after Paul’s passing:

Here are the last three paragraphs:

"Paul loved being the clown. He loved to make people laugh. Lost in that somewhat false exterior was a very bright guy, a much deeper person ... a person I don’t think he wanted most of us to see.

He was a trooper. He was a great friend. He was a wonderful son, husband and father. He had a very deep faith. He wasn’t afraid to die. God I will miss him."

I still do.

Please see CHAT/4
Demolition begins on East Merrimack

Lowell developer Dave Daly began last week preparing an East Merrimack Street site for a $30 million, 12-story residential building by demolishing the long-empty one-story brick building that occupied the site for decades. The building was home to a number of nightclubs over the years and more recently served as theater and cafes for Middlesex Community College. Daly received demolition permits from the city in December. His residential proposal is scheduled to go before city regulatory boards this week. Watch for lowellsun.com and the newspaper for the latest.
Bedford High School to host ‘Mental Health Stability in College’ panel

The “Mental Health Stability in College” panel presentation will be 7-8:30 p.m. Feb. 13 at Bedford High School, 9 Mudge Way, Bedford.

According to a 2012 survey done by NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, 73 percent of college students reported having a mental health crisis while in college. Many colleges are not prepared to help effectively, but some institutions are addressing this need with care and innovation.

NAMI Central Middlesex will offer a panel presentation — titled “Mental Health Stability in College.” Panelists will be a former student sharing her personal college story and administrators from three area colleges — Boston University, Worcester Polytechnic Institute and Middlesex Community College.

These professionals will address such topics as what some colleges are doing to intervene and support students who have mental health difficulties and what happens if a student has to withdraw for a period of time. A question and answer session will follow the presentations. The event is free and open to high school and college-age families in Middlesex County and surrounding areas.

It is co-sponsored by Bedford High School. No registration required. For information: 978-692-2908.
BHS Announcements & Events

New and Now

Mental Health Stability in College Panel Presentation  2/13/2017

According to a 2012 survey done by NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, 73% of college students reported having a mental health crisis while in college. Many colleges are not prepared to help effectively but some institutions are addressing this need with care and innovation. What are some mental health- friendly signs to look for in a college?

On Monday February 13, 7:00 – 8:30 PM, at Bedford High School, in the LGI, NAMI Central Middlesex will offer a panel presentation entitled "Mental Health Stability in College". Panelists will be a former student sharing her personal college story and administrators from three area colleges- Boston University, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and Middlesex Community College. These professionals will address such topics as what some colleges are doing to intervene and support students who have mental health difficulties and what happens if a student has to withdraw for a period of time. There will be a question & answer session following the presentations. The event is free and open to high school and college age families in Middlesex County and surrounding areas. It is co-sponsored by Bedford High School. No registration required. Call Jennie at 978-692-2908 with questions or inquiries about potential cancellation due to weather.
Grant will aid Asians at MCC

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded Middlesex Community College a five-year, $1,732,245 development grant from its Office of Postsecondary Education’s Asian American Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution program.

Under the grant, Asian-American students attending Middlesex will receive a range of support services and co-curricular activities designed to improve their college-going experience, as well as their completion and transfer outcomes.

"Middlesex is striving to build stronger and deeper connections with the large and diverse Asian-American population in our region," said President James Mabry. "We have long worked with local Cambodian organizations, and have extensive connections with educational and cultural institutions in Cambodia. This grant will allow us to strengthen those partnerships and help us improve success for Asian-American students at the college."

More than 11 percent of MCC credit students are Asian-American, primarily Southeast Asian. Among that group, 70 percent apply for financial aid, and the majority are also from families in which they are the first to attend college.

"This grant is a perfect example of Middlesex directly reflecting and linking to the communities it serves," said James Campbell, chairman of the MCC board of trustees. "We are proud of our diversity efforts at the college, and this grant will allow our outreach to the Southeast Asian community in particular to be amplified and focused to help more willing learners achieve their dream of obtaining a college degree."

"Growing up as a refugee, I never thought I would have the opportunity to attend and complete college," MCC trustee Bopha Malone said. "However, through the support of caring mentors, I was able to achieve the American dream. As a college trustee and as a community activist, it's an honor to be part of the planning process."

"AAANAPII-grant project activities will involve establishing an Asian-American Connections Center (AAC) and peer-support program, titled Asian-American Student Network, to increase a sense of connection and belonging to the college. The project will also include personalized support to better navigate college processes; interventions focused on continued support for writing skills to aid ELL students as they transition to college; and the development of academic curriculum related to the cultural heritage of Asian-American students."

"I'm thrilled Middlesex was awarded this grant," said Lowell state Rep. Rady Mom, an MCC alumnus and supporter of the grant proposal. "As a leader in Lowell's education and workforce-development landscape, this grant will allow MCC to expand and enhance its services to the Asian-American community in and around Lowell. I'm greatly looking forward to seeing what success they can achieve in the future."
Middlesex Community College news

Thursday
Posted Feb 2, 2017 at 3:01 AM
Middlesex Community College to host free FAFSA DayMiddlesex Community College will host FAFSA Day, a free community workshop to help students and families fill out the 2017-2018 Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the federally required application for financial aid. The workshop will be held at 1 p.m. Feb. 12, in the Cowan Center on the Lowell campus, 33 Kearney Square.FAFSA Day at Middlesex offers different options for families seeking assistance, including computer support, to complete the FAFSA online, as well as one-on-one assistance from financial aid experts. To prepare for the event and to allow FAFSA Day volunteers to provide you with email updates prior to the event, all participants are encouraged to register in advance. To register, visit FAFSADay.org For those seeking assistance filling out the FAFSA at the workshop, students and parents should each bring:- FSA IDs (User names and passwords available at fsaid.ed.gov)- Social Security Number- Driver's license number- 2015 federal tax return-Bank statements- Business and investment records- Alien registration card (if you are not a U.S. citizen)Students who were born before Jan. 1, 1994, do not need to bring parental information. To learn more, contact Yohanka Tejada, Senior Financial Aid counselor, at tejaday@middlesex.mass.edu or call 978-656-3242.
MCC giving refugees a healthy boost

New allied health program helps refugees earn needed credentials

By Jesse Collings
jcollings@wickedlocal.com

On the heels of graduating 15 students from its pilot program, Middlesex Community College received a grant to support the new Health Career Credentialing for Adult Refugees (HCCAR) program. The grant came from the

SEE REFUGEES, A4

MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE NEWS

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FAFSA Day at Middlesex offers different options for families seeking assistance, including computer support, to complete the FAFSA online, as well as one-on-one assistance from financial aid experts.

To prepare for the event and to allow FAFSA Day volunteers to provide you with email updates prior to the event, all participants are encouraged to register in advance. To register, visit FAFSADay.org.

For those seeking assistance filling out the FAFSA at the workshop, students and parents should each bring:
- FSA IDs (User names and passwords available at fsaid.ed.gov)
- Social Security Number
- Driver's license number
- 2015 federal tax return
- Bank statements
- Business and investment records
- Alien registration card (if you are not a U.S. citizen)

Students who were born before Jan. 1, 1994, do not need to bring parental information.

To learn more, contact Yohanka Tejada, Senior Financial Aid counselor, at tejadely@middlesex.mass.edu or call 978-656-3242.
REFUGEES

From Page A1

Massachusetts Department of Higher Education’s Bridges to College Program and is for $79,000.

“arbitrary wage increase for low-income refugees to receive certification through our Academy of Health Professions (AHP), which offers short-term training and college-credit courses that prepare students for entry-level health care jobs,” said Denise Garrow-Pruitt, assistant dean of allied health at MCC. “This training can enhance the adult-refugee students’ employability at higher wages in local hospitals, offices, nursing homes or clinics.”

The program began when the school began working with community partners to assist in educating refugees. “In the health field, we have a lot of refugees who come here who are highly educated and have experience in the medical field, but might not have the proper credentials to practice in the United States,” Garrow-Pruitt said. “With a certificate program they might not be able to be physicians, but it is a fast program and they can get decent paying jobs in the medical field as home health aides, medical lab assistants and phlebotomists.”

The college has been working closely with the International Institute of New England, a Lowell-based nonprofit organization that helps refugees adapt to living in America. While working with the group, MCC developed a pilot program to test the need for a certificate program in the Allied Health department. On Wednesday, Jan. 25 the school graduated its first class of 15 from the program. With the additional funds from the grant, Garrow-Pruitt hopes to extend the program to 30 students.

“Before we instituted, we had three sessions that we invited the public to attend and we got over 100 refugees interested in the program, so we know that there is a lot of candidates for these positions. We are going for 30 students and we would like to continue to extend the program,” Garrow-Pruitt said.

According to Garrow-Pruitt, a majority of the grant money will be going to support services for the refugees. Through the International Institute, many of the refugees come from Africa and the Middle East and while most of them can speak English fluently, they may struggle with writing and comprehension so the college is looking to hire more language specialists to assist. Personal issues are also something that can restrict the academic development of refugees.

“A lot of the refugees come to America with families, so we are working with Community Teamwork, a local nonprofit group, to help provide childcare services for the refugees so they have more time to devote to education,” Garrow-Pruitt said. “Refugees also may have health issues that they are not getting the proper treatment, so we would like to provide them more health options as well.”

In the future, Garrow-Pruitt believes there are options for refugees to pursue careers in other fields, but the Allied Health program remains the best option.

“A lot of the other programs at MCC do not have certificate programs so it takes a long time to get something like an associates degree,” Garrow-Pruitt said. “The Allied Health program offers certificates in shorter, 30-week or so programs that can get people to work right away.”
Home health-care opportunity

More than 20 people seeking employment attended a job fair in Lowell last Thursday sponsored by the state Executive Office of Elder Affairs, in partnership with the Home Care Aide Council, Community Teamworks, International Institute Lowell, Middlesex Community College, Office for Refugees and Immigrants, Lowell Career Center, Lowell WIB, and UMass Lowell. The job fair was the culmination of a four-week course for newly arrived refugees and other students interested in careers in home care. The program was designed to help create long-term career pathways for refugees and chronically unemployed individuals through community partnerships. Over the next 10 years, demand for home health aids is expected to grow with many of the positions filled by immigrants and refugees.
Lowell Sun
Nikki plans to attend Middlesex Community College next year to study Business Management. She was nominated by Science Instructor Kathy...

Nashoba Tech recognizes Battaluri, Petersen, Richard, Nigro and White

The Lowell Sun
UPDATED: 01/30/2017 12:21:55 PM EST

Nikita Battaluri

WESTFORD -- Nashoba Valley Technical High School has selected three December Students of the Month -- Nikita Battaluri of Westford, Benjamin Petersen of Billerica and Benjamin Richard of Ayer.

Nikita Battaluri, daughter of Balaji and Angela Battaluri, is a senior in the Hotel & Restaurant Management program. She is an honor-roll student and is known throughout Nashoba Tech for her school spirit. Nikki plans to attend Middlesex Community College next year to study Business Management.

She was nominated by Science Instructor Kathy Lamarre, who wrote: "Nikki is on the honor roll, and her school spirit is seen every day. She attends all football and basketball games, as well as other school events."
She always has a smile on her face and a friendly comment to everyone she comes in contact with. When she graduates, the halls of Nashoba Tech will never be the same. Benjamin Petersen, son of Chris and Leslie Petersen, is a senior in the TV & Media Production/Theatre Arts program. He has appeared in all of the school musicals since his freshman year, including this year's production of "All Shook Up," as well as "Legally Blonde," "Little Shop of Horrors" and "Shrek." Benjamin is an honor-roll student, and a member of both the National Honor Society and the National Technical Honor Society. He plans to attend either Middlesex Community College or Mount Wachusett Community College to study Acting.

Benjamin was nominated by Science Instructor David McCloskey for his "superb job" in "All Shook Up."

Benjamin Richard, son of Eric and Lisa Richard, is a senior in the TV & Media Production/Theatre Arts program. He has appeared in the last three musicals -- "All Shook Up," "Legally Blonde" and "Little Shop of Horrors," and designed the set for "All Shook Up." Benjamin is on both the National Honor Society and National Technical Honor Society, and he is a Kick-Off Mentor, helping incoming freshmen make the transition to high school.

Benjamin played soccer his first three years at Nashoba Tech. He plans to attend Mount Wachusett Community College to study Theater and to work behind the scenes of theatrical productions. Benjamin was nominated by Science Instructor David McCloskey for his "superb job" in "All Shook Up."
Chelmsford residents Hunter Nigro and Patrick White have been selected as December's Athletes of the Month.

Hunter Nigro, son of Brad and Tina Nigro, is a senior wrestler in the 182-pound class for the Vikings. He is captain of the team for the second year. Last winter, he placed fifth in the State Vocational Tournament and third in the Division 3 Sectional Tournament. He is known as a hard worker in practice and a strong team leader.

Hunter Nigro

He also plays first base for the baseball team and linebacker/offensive tackle for the football team.

Hunter is in the Plumbing & Heating program. He plans to either go to college after graduation or become a plumber.

Patrick White, son of Robert and Christine White, is a senior center for the hockey team. He is the team captain and leads the team in the early going with 3 goals and 4 assists, for 7 points. He also plays midfield/attack for the lacrosse team in the spring.

Patrick is an honor-roll student in the Carpentry program. He plans to attend college to study Construction Management and work in the construction field.

Patrick White
Keeping MLK Jr.'s dream alive

"I Have a Dream"
Martin Luther King Jr.

LOWELL — On Jan. 16, The Lura Smith Fund at Middlesex Community College Foundation hosted the 19th annual reception, Celebrating the Life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., at the Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell on Martin Luther King Jr. Way.

More than 300 flashy guests joined the Smith family in keeping Dr. King's alive.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a Southern Baptist minister, fought for peace and reconciliation for all mankind.

The sun brilliantly beamed through the open glass lobby as guests mingled and networked while enjoying a mouth-watering southern buffet. The spectacular event was filled with gospel music, including performers from Lowell and Greater Boston.

The celebration included dance performances by the Indian Cultural Association and presentations of Dr. King's Legacy by the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Lowell and SCC's Theater Department, just to name a few.

The Living Dream Award, presented each year to an individual or organization to acknowledge their efforts to embrace the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was presented to Sister Lorraine Richard, principal of the now-closed Franco American School in Lowell. Sister Lorraine was honored for her many years of commitment to the school's mission rooted in Gospel values and academic excellence.

The Lura Smith Fund was founded in 1999 by the Lura Smith family of Lowell. Embracing the unity reflective of the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is achieved by presenting programs, events and educational scholarship opportunities within the rich cultural diverse Greater Lowell Community. For more information visit, www.middlesex.mass.edu/lurasmithfund.

Dacey Zouzas is TV host and producer of Dacey's Divas.

Check out the highlight reel at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dsKeCEzycM.

Follow her on Twitter @daceyzouzas, tour@daceyzouzas and on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/dzouzas. Also, check out divas.us and www.MassachusettsWomen.org and follow @MassWomen on Twitter.

Host and hostess, Lura and Robert Smith of Lowell
Lucia Arevalo, left, and Anna Jabar, both of Lowell, from Two Chefs Are Better Than One.

From left, Claude W. Brown Sr. and Earnestine Harrison, both of Lawrence, Carolyn Walsh, William Murphy, City Councillor Rodney Elliott and Jack Moynihan, all of Lowell.

The Rev. Wilfred Harvey, Living the Dream Award recipient Sister Teresina Richard and Sister Jane Holland, all of Lowell.

From left, Louis and Barbara Genatosia, and David and Barbara Gow, all of Shrewsbury.

Members of the Greater Lowell Indian Cultural Association of Lowell.

From left, Sreykov Vary, Sovanna Pou, Lianna Kushi and Christa Brown, all of Lowell.

Members and representatives of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell.

Cheryl Pierce, left, of Windham, N.H., and Meagan Bruce of Salem, N.H.

From left, Tom Amygdalitiis of Greece, and Eleni Zohli and City Councillor Rita Memble, both of Lowell.

Emoessi Aleksandra and Bobby Toghtyle of Lowell

Vanna Howard, left, of Tewksbury and Elaine Crandall-Eurt of Dunstable.

Lorraine Barrs of Arlington and Judith Mobry of Bedford.

Live the dream fashionably

White is not only for summer! I'm wearing a winter white two-piece Anne Klein Seethe dress and matching coat. Back in style and a huge fashion trend are textured nylons, tights and stockings. A pair of vintage tan suede ankle boots with faux fur. I top of my look with a crochet beanie made by my aunt Pauline. The guests were extremely flashy. Ladies wore sequins and lace dresses, faux fur hats and shawls. Men were dapper in suits and snazzy ties.
Emerick joins MCC H.R. staff

Middlesex Community College has named Mary Emerick executive director of human resources.

"We are delighted that Mary Emerick will be joining the Middlesex team," MCC President James Mabry said.

"During her 15 years of HR experience, she has worked at large industrial and energy companies, and rose quickly through the field into management and leadership positions. We are confident she will apply those skills and experiences toward helping the college community continue our commitment to student success."

Most recently, Emerick served as a human-resources leader for FirstEnergy, an Akron, Ohio, utility company with 15,000 employees and $15 billion in annual revenues. She has also worked in HR for Barnes Group Inc., Cummins and Coca-Cola Enterprises.

Emerick earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial and Labor Relations from Cornell University, and an MBA from Pennsylvania State University.

"I look forward to promoting a diverse and inclusive environment where all students, faculty and staff are able to achieve their personal and professional goals while helping the college be a leader in the community," Emerick said.
A City Built on Refugees Looks at Trump’s Plan With Fear

Zainab Abdo, 21, a Syrian refugee, left, and Tara Media, an Iraqi refugee, at a job training session on Thursday with Vito LaMura, an International Institute of New England volunteer in Lowell, Mass.

SHIHO FUKADA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

By JESS BIDGOOD and KATHARINE Q. SEELYE
JANUARY 27, 2017

LOWELL, Mass. — When Hawo Ahmed, her two sisters and their mother arrived here late Wednesday night, the Somali family could hardly believe their good fortune.

“It’s like a dream come true,” Ms. Ahmed, 24, said.

Their arrival was all the more remarkable because they may be among the last refugees allowed into the United States before President Trump closes the borders. He is preparing an executive order to suspend the nation’s resettlement program temporarily, with an eye toward shrinking it when it resumes.

Ms. Ahmed and her family had never heard of Lowell, an old mill city about 30 miles northwest of Boston with red brick factories lining its canals, until they searched for it on Google from Kenya two weeks ago.

But if Lowell is strange to them, having them here is not strange for Lowell.

Immigrants, including many refugees, are part of the fabric of life in this city of 108,000, which boasts a kaleidoscope of cultures. Downtown is bursting with restaurants serving Portuguese, Mexican, Greek, Cambodian, Thai and Japanese fare. Lowell features a statue of Buddha and a big sign in the high school that welcomes visitors in multiple languages. Colorful flags of various nationalities hang in the windows of homes here, and ethnic festivals are common. Arabic is regularly heard in shops.
For a city with such a heavy refugee presence, Mr. Trump’s proposed order is not an abstract political issue, but one that could alter families’ lives and even the community itself — especially if, as people here fear, the temporary policy is made permanent.

Farouq Ali, an Iraqi refugee who arrived in Lowell in 2009 and works with new refugees, said he and other Iraqis in the area had been exchanging near-constant Facebook messages about Mr. Trump’s impending policy. Over the weekend, he said, dozens of Iraqi and Syrian women gathered at a restaurant to share their fears.

"Most Iraqis have some of their families back in Iraq, so they are struggling to bring them to Lowell, to America," Mr. Ali said. Mr. Trump’s policy, he said, could shatter their hopes.

![Old mills converted into an apartment complex in Lowell.](image)

SHIHO FUKADA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Lowell and its many nonprofit organizations devoted to refugees and immigrant groups are haltingly coming to terms with the idea that, at least for now, the flow of refugees here could stop or slow, a startling turnaround for a city built by immigrant labor.

People from French Canada, Ireland, Portugal and Poland powered Lowell’s once-mighty textile mills starting in the 1800s, and immigrants and refugees have found homes here ever since. It is a place where the history of immigration in America is writ large. Many of the mills closed before World War II, and the city’s population declined, but it picked up again in the late 1970s as a wave of Cambodians fleeing the Khmer Rouge came to the city. Today, Cambodians make up some 13 percent of the population, and Lowell has the second-largest Cambodian community in the country, after Long Beach, Calif. A Cambodian represents part of Lowell in the State Legislature.

“Lowell has been replenished and re-energized by refugees and immigrants for generations,” said Jeffrey Thielman, president and chief executive of the International Institute of New England, which works with the federal government to resettle refugees in Lowell, Boston and Manchester, N.H.
“We won’t feel it right away,” Mr. Thielman said of a halt in refugees, “but businesses will not have enough workers, and not having enough workers will inhibit Lowell’s ability to grow.”

The region’s economy and its immigrants are closely intertwined. Southwick, a factory in nearby Haverhill that makes suits for Brooks Brothers, offers four English classes per week for about 70 refugees and other immigrants who work there. Thithi Aye, a Burmese refugee who arrived here in 2010, car-pooled from Lowell to her job at Southwick every day with other refugees, including one from Iraq. Eventually, she was able to buy her own car, and then a condo.

Employers see hiring refugees as a win for everyone, as supply meets demand.

“They use us as a steppingstone for the betterment of their families,” said John Martynee, Southwick’s senior vice president for manufacturing.

Because there are so many nonprofit organizations, volunteers and government services here to support refugees, a decline in the number of refugees could lead to a withering of those support services.

“If everything’s closed off for a period of time, the problem would then be figuring out how to rebuild the infrastructure to welcome people in,” said Robert Forrant, a professor of history at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, whose classes include third-generation Cambodians.

Samantha Cail, the owner of HyperText Bookstore and Café in Lowell, said she found the idea of barring refugees “horrifying.”

SHIHO FUKADA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

The possibility of closing the borders has unsettled some residents who are not part of the refugee community. Samantha Cail, 49, the owner of HyperText Bookstore and Café, said she found it “horrifying.”

“This administration’s ability to demonize the ‘other’ is very frightening to me,” said Ms. Cail, who voted for Hillary Clinton.
The vast variety of cultures and ethnicities was one reason she was attracted to Lowell, where she has lived for 11 years.

“There’s always Cambodian operas or amazing, yearlong festivals that really add color and depth to the community,” she said.

Ms. Cail said she was not worried that terrorists would slip through, in part because the vetting process, which takes at least two years, seemed so rigorous.

But Cheryl Carville, 54, a longtime Lowell resident who works in retail and voted for Mr. Trump, was more concerned. She said that her philosophy was “live and let live,” but that she could not think of a reason the borders should not be closed for 120 days. “You got to know what’s going on,” she said, adding that she wondered how many refugees the city could really absorb. “You got to know who’s coming in here.”

“At some point,” she asked, “how much can you take in, and how much before it starts hurting everybody else?”

Mr. Trump says he wants a smaller refugee program with “extreme vetting” as a safeguard against terrorism. Lowell is a mostly Democratic city — Mrs. Clinton won it with 65 percent of the vote — but when Mr. Trump held a rally here a year ago, he easily packed the arena.

David Donovan, 25, said immigrants had enriched Lowell but added, “Given that we’re in a state of war, it’s O.K. to freeze the border.”

SHIHO FUKADA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

David Donovan, 25, an electrician and longtime Lowell resident, agreed that it was “reasonable” to suspend the resettlement program, even though he had voted for Mrs. Clinton.

Cambodians in particular, he said, had done much to enrich Lowell. But, he added, “given that we’re in a state of war, it’s O.K. to freeze the border.”
In the meantime, the city is continuing to absorb refugees like the newly arrived Ahmed family. On Thursday, the International Institute of New England helped organize a job fair here at which 18 other refugees met employers who were looking for workers in the health care field.

Lisa Gurgone, executive director of the Home Care Aide Council, told the refugees that the aging of New England virtually guaranteed them jobs in health care. “We need all of you,” she said.

Among the refugees who attended the job fair was Zainab Abdo, 21, who came in May from Syria, where her home in Aleppo had been bombed. She said she was relieved to be here, had been treated well and was taking nursing classes at Middlesex Community College.

“There is security here,” she said. “We feel safe.”

And yet, with Mr. Trump’s executive order in the works, she remains nervous about the future, especially for relatives still in Syria and Turkey, who she had hoped would be able to join her family here.

Luis Pedroso, an immigrant from the Azores who helped found an electronics factory, said that he had employees who were refugees and that he viewed Mr. Trump’s order as an overreaction.

“Lowell has been known as a location for so many different, diverse parts of the world,” he said. “It’s a shame that Mr. Trump sees that he needs to be doing this.”

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MCC NEWS
MCC designated top military-friendly schools nationwide

Thanks to Middlesex Community College’s Veterans Resource Center, Veterans Advisory Board and other special veterans services, MCC was designated a Bronze-Level Military Friendly School by Victory Media.

The 2017 list of Military Friendly Schools honors the top colleges, universities and trade schools in the country. They are recognized for doing the most to embrace America’s military service members, veterans and spouses as students and ensure their success both on campus in the classroom, and after graduation.

"Middlesex provides educational opportunities as well as numerous veterans resources to help make the transition from military to civilian life easier," said Pam Flaherty, dean of students. "This award recognizes the work Middlesex does to create a welcoming environment for our veterans."

Veterans at MCC have become more engaged on campus through the Veterans Resource Center on both the Bedford and Lowell campuses, said Flaherty. Students are helping their peers through peer-mentoring programs and through a variety of Veterans Club activities. These activities include Q&A sessions about veterans’ benefits and "Heroes Among Us," a speaking program that provides an opportunity for an MCC veteran to tell his or her story about their service.

MCC has also received grant funding to provide Green Zone training to a wide range of faculty and staff. Green Zones help create a highly-visible network of college employees who better understand the needs of active military veterans and their family members.

For information: 781-280-3510; reppuccir@middlesex.mass.edu.

Paralegal Studies program recognized by Community for Accredited Online Schools

Middlesex Community College’s Paralegal Studies degree programs were recognized for excellence by the Community for Accredited Online Schools in its 2016-17 national rankings.

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

MCC’s Paralegal Studies Career degree program prepares graduates for employment assisting lawyers in gathering and analyzing factual data, researching legal questions and preparing legal documents. During this two-year program, students will take 60 credits (20 courses) as well as complete a 15-week internship in a law office, the court system, or the MCC Law Center, a mediation program the college runs in cooperation with

the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office. 

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

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

For information: middlesex.mass.edu/paralegal/.
Jamestown native Mary Glance has been named executive director of human resources at Middlesex Community College in Massachusetts.

BEDFORD, Mass. — Jamestown native Mary Glance has been named executive director of human resources at Middlesex Community College, one of the largest community colleges in Massachusetts.

"We are delighted that Mary Glance will be joining the Middlesex team," said James Mabry, Middlesex Community College president. "During her 15 years of (human resources) experience, she has worked at large industrial and energy companies, and rose quickly through the field into management and leadership positions. We are confident she will apply those skills and experiences toward helping the college community continue our commitment to student success."

Most recently, Glance served as a human resources leader for FirstEnergy, an Akron, Ohio, utility company with 15,000 employees and $15 billion in annual revenues. She has also worked in human resources for Barnes Group Inc., Cummins and Coca-Cola Enterprises.

Glance earned a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial and labor relations from Cornell University, and an Masters of Business Administration from Pennsylvania State University.

"I look forward to promoting a diverse and inclusive environment where all students, faculty and staff are able to achieve their personal and professional goals, while helping the college be a leader in the community," Glance said.

Every story seems to have Lowell angle

CHAT/From Page 3

from Habitat for Humanity that is now celebrating 25 years in Lowell. One of the first clients they helped in Lowell acquire a home while raising three children is in the process of paying off her mortgage.

The Open Pantry of Greater Lowell shared a story of a family with health issues who moved from Littleton to Lowell. The mother told the agency she was grateful for the help and the dignified way the staff treats people. The Food Pantry has only one full-time staff person and is augmented by 60 volunteers and served food to more than 20,000 people in Greater Lowell.

They are proud they have never had to turn away anyone in need.

- And Middlesex Community College President James Mabry sent me a success story made possible by financial help from the school's foundation.

The story involves a young woman from Mexico who came to the United States to work as an au pair.

She embraced the educational opportunities at Middlesex, volunteered to help students with special needs and was honored by the state.

She is now moving on to Lesley University to get her degree.

These are just a few stories about the impact the nonprofits have on quality of life issues in our region.

Because of my role with Lowell Sun Charities, I have had the opportunity to work with many of these agencies.

Sun Charities, for more than 70 years, has helped to supplement many of these programs.

A large portion of Sun Charities funds come from the proceeds of the Golden Gloves, that includes nine nights of Boxing at the Lowell Memorial Auditorium.

This year's Gloves opened last Friday and the attendance was up by 20 percent.

We thank the boxing fans for their support. It allows us to donate even more money to local causes.

Thanks also to all who donated to Sun Charities Santa Fund, which ensures people in need have a good holiday.

Greater Lowell people prove how generous they are every year.

We are very grateful for your continued support.
MCC Designated One of the Top Military-Friendly Schools Nationwide

Lowell.com News

Thanks to Middlesex Community College’s Veterans Resource Center, Veterans Advisory Board, and other special veterans services, MCC has been ...

MCC Designated One of the Top Military-Friendly Schools Nationwide

Posted by Elliot Silver on Jan 19, 2017 | Community Updates | ShareThis

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MCC has also received grant funding to provide Green Zone training to a wide range of faculty and staff. Green Zones help create a highly-visible network of college employees who better understand the unique needs of active military veterans and their family members.

Victory Media is a service-disabled, veteran-owned small business that has been serving the military community since 2001. The list of Military Friendly Schools was compiled through extensive research and a data-driven survey of thousands of schools nationwide approved for Post-9/11 GI Bill funding. For more information, visit www.militaryfriendlyschools.com.

For more information about MCC’s Veterans Resource Center, contact Rick Reppucci at reppuccir@middlesex.mass.edu or call 781-280-3510.

Let us know your thoughts!

HIGHER ED

MCC battles declining enrollment

Bedford campus numbers reflect national trend

By Jesse Collings
jcollings@wickedlocal.com

After seeing a steady increase over decades, college enrollment in Massachusetts is currently in a decline, including at Bedford's Middlesex Community College.

While enrollment peaked in 2013 with an estimated 196,000 students attending Massachusetts's public colleges, enrollment has been in a consistent decline and an estimated 186,000, a five percent decline, were enrolled for the fall 2016 semester at state colleges.

"This was predictable. All you had to do was go back 17, 18, 19 years ago and look at birth rates," state Higher Education Commissioner Carlos Santiago said. "We knew it was coming ... But we don't want to just sit back and let those demographic trends take shape."

Drop in high school grads to blame

According to Santiago, the reason enrollment is down is largely due to the fact that there are fewer
high school graduates in the state. Indeed, there are fewer high school graduates in the country as a whole. Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, or WHICE, published a report on Dec. 6 that the consistent trend of increasing high school graduates was coming to an end. While the country saw a 30 percent increase in the amount of graduates between 1995-2013, WHICE does not predict an increase until at least 2023, and trends indicate that the number will likely decrease over the next decade.

Enrollment figures being down could have long-term consequences within the state. In a state where around 50 percent of the population have a post-secondary degree, there is a concern that there eventually could

Demographic shifts as the general population ages are partly responsible for the downward trend, but domestic migration has also contributed to the decline in some states. Statistics from the National Center for Educational Statistics show that the entire Northeast will see a decline of greater than five percent in high school graduates between 2010 and 2023. On the contrary, states located in the Sun Belt, particularly the Southwest are set to see an increase of more than five percent during that same time span.

Community colleges hit harder

Despite the smaller pool of graduates, secondary education facilities are still fighting to increase their enrollment. Community colleges have particularly been affected by the decline; while enrollment peaked in 2012 it has witnessed a 13 percent decline since then.

“Our numbers are definitely down,” Dean of Enrollment Management at Middlesex Community College Audrey Nahabedian said. “We are doing a little bit better than some colleges but it is a national trend.”

MCC hit a high-point in 2013 when 9,702 students were enrolled in at least one form of education at the college. That same figure was down to 8,617 in the fall of 2016, a decrease of about 11 percent.

A push to recruit minority, international students

One strategy is to increase the amount of minority students attending colleges. Historically, institutions of higher learning have underserved Black and Latin American students. By aiming to recruit more of those students, colleges can help offset the decline in graduate populations in other areas. In addition, Latin American students in Massachusetts are about 30 percent more likely to enroll in public colleges than white students, with community colleges accounting for a significant portion of that difference.

“We have a Latin Connection Program to work with Latin American students,” Nahabedian said. “With any culture, it is important to understand them and work with them to make sure that they understand the college environment.”

International students also could make some of the difference, as global education continues to develop more and more students are coming to the United States to study abroad. MCC currently has 109 international students, about a 45 percent increase since 2012. Minority students continue to make up a growing population at MCC, accounting for 41 percent of the student body, up from 35 percent in 2012.

— Wicked Local Newsbank
Editor Gerry Tuoti contributed to this article.
MCC NEWS

Middlesex CC appoints new human resources director

Mary E. Emerick, executive director of human resources.

"We are delighted that Mary Emerick will be joining the Middlesex team," said President James Nafray. "During her 15 years of HR experience, she has worked at large industrial and energy companies and rose quickly through the field into management and leadership positions. We are confident she will apply those skills and experiences toward helping the college community continue our commitment to student success."

Most recently, Emerick served as a human resources leader for FirstEnergy, an Akron, Ohio, utility company with 15,000 employees and $15 billion in annual revenues. She has also worked in HR for Barnes Group Inc., Cummins and Coca-Cola Enterprises.

Emerick earned a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial and labor relations from Cornell University and an MBA from Pennsylvania State University.

MCC offers free opportunity to start college with Links program

Middlesex Community College's Links Program is a tuition-free program designed specifically to help nontraditional students start college. Applications are currently being accepted for the spring semester, which begins Jan. 23.

Funded by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education in partnership with MCC, Links provides an opportunity for eligible students to earn college and institutional credits free over the course of one or two semesters.

The program was designed to provide individual assessment of skills, assistance with career planning and academic guidance and support, as students begin their college education. Eligible applicants must have a high school credential (diploma, HiSET or GED), be a Massachusetts resident and take MCC College placement tests and place into Links-level courses. Preference is given to students who studied in a DESE-funded Adult Basic Education Program, however other students are encouraged to apply.

Links classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, on MCC's Bedford campus. Links students can use all Middlesex facilities and access all student services, including academic and career guidance, skills assessment and individual support services. Classes are small, usually 15 students, comprising other Links students.

For information: 781-280-3654; clarkr@middlesex.mass.edu.
As a wedding industry professional, Renee has been involved in thousands of weddings (she’s assistant manager of Madeleine’s Daughter, a bridal salon in Portsmouth, NH). So when she became engaged to Sam in 2016, she knew what she wanted: a surprise wedding.

“I see hundreds and hundreds of weddings,” says Renee. “It’s hard to come up with something truly memorable. I wanted something unique.” Fortunately, Sam was onboard with having a surprise wedding. Guests were invited to join the couple at a so-called engagement party at the Nesmith House in Lowell, the couple only hinted that they would be making a grand entrance at the event.

The day of the event, Renee and Sam stayed upstairs at the Nesmith House until their friend Brance Cornelius announced to guests what was really happening, telling the story of how Sam and Renee met and inviting everyone to gather in the parlor. Sam and Renee came downstairs, took their place in front of the fireplace and the ceremony began. “My coworkers, who pride themselves on knowing everything about weddings, were in complete shock,” Renee says. “They had no idea this was coming.”

Afterwards, the couple celebrated with a cocktail reception and a rousing sing-along around a piano with family and friends. Renee, a pianist, had music books printed with lyrics to her favorite Broadway show tunes and took turns playing with their hired pianist. Later the couple and a small group, still in their wedding attire, went out for pizza and to a local pub in Lowell. “People honked and leaned out car windows yelling congratulations,” Renee says. “We had a great time.” - by Debbie Kane

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
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www.middlesex.mass.edu/walkin
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January 23

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May 31 - June 23, 2017
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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 healthcare environment.

Pre-requisites must be met and RN has to be in good standing.
Tuition: $2,100. Course number HLT 746-00
Enrollment deadline, March 1 - May 11.
For more information visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/RNrefresher or contact Linda Yee at 781-280-3579 or l.yee002@middlesex.mass.edu

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- medical abbreviations
- medication dosage forms
- interpreting drug orders
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Students also participate in an 8-hour externship in an actual pharmacy setting. They will also be prepared to take the National Certification Exam to become PTCB certified.

For more information call 1-781-280-3570
or e-mail: career_training@middesex.mass.edu

For more information, call 781-280-3570 / 781-280-3663. To enroll call 1-800-818-3434.
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