MCC and NECC take Bath Spa as a partner

‘Eye-opening’ assignment for MCC class
Criminal-justice students gather data on driving while distracted for Bedford police

Redford to star at MCC Celebrity Forum
Film legend’s visit setting up a Lowell Memorial blockbuster

Middlesex College clears the air
All-out tobacco ban on campuses in Bedford, Lowell, begins with Great American Smokeout

Fight for King’s dream remains alive

MCC professor a Faculty Ambassador

Bedford Campus
591 SPRINGS ROAD
BEDFORD, MA 01730

Lowell Campus
33 KEARNEY SQUARE
LOWELL, MA 01852
A dream still unmet on King’s holiday

By Grant Welker
gwelker@lowellsun.com

The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.’s dream — a nation of equality, where people “will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character” — is still not complete, if you ask people like Aston Moore, the first vice president of the Merrimack Valley chapter of the NAACP.

“His legacy has changed,” Moore said of King, “but we still have not reached his dream. The dream is there, but we still have not mastered what he meant about having the dream.”

Moore pointed to what he said is a lack of respect for President Barack Obama as a sign that racial equality still needs improvements.

“They call him Mr. Obama,” Moore said. “They don’t call him President Obama.”

Among those prominent in the Lowell area African-American community, King’s legacy is seen as still changing, and the progress he pushed for still needing more work.

Lura Smith, an assistant to the president at Middlesex Community College, said King would be “inspired by some of the changes that have occurred” in the 47 years since he was killed but “saddened if we only”

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Fight for King’s dream remains alive

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remembered his dream and his legacy only one day a year.”

Smith, who began an eponymous scholarship for African-American students at MCC 16 years ago, agreed with Moore’s thought that the world King left could be in a better place.

“We have not been the best that we can be,” she said.

King, who would have turned 85 last week, fought for equality for all, above only racial equality, Smith said. But it’s important, she said, to remember how King started.

“We must never forget that Dr. King stood up and faced lynch mobs, he faced beatings, he faced dogs, he faced water hoses, he faced all of those things, first of all for us as African-Americans as a people,” she said. “And while spending time on his journey, he realized there was oppression around the world.

“We cannot allow America to forget the beginning of the story.”

The Rev. Roger Sawtelle, the president of the Merrimack Valley NAACP, said King’s legacy is “about working across racial and ethnic lines and trying to do the best for everyone.”

Ironically, Sawtelle said, some critics see King as someone who was an advocate for black people alone, and think King doesn’t deserve credit for bringing the nation together because he was concerned only with helping African-Americans.

“He represents the civil-rights movement, which many think of as a black movement,” Sawtelle said. “But the importance of it was, he was black and he was a leader, but he was a lot more than just a leader of black folk.”

Moore is confident Obama can still earn more respect as the first African-American president after he leaves office.

“We still have a long way to go, and the dream still has to go on,” Moore said. Asked for any final thoughts, Moore hesitated for only a second.

“We shall overcome one day,” he said, echoing one of King’s most famous lines.

Follow Grant Welker on Twitter and Tout @Sun-GrantWelker.
Redford to star at MCC Celebrity Forum

Film legend’s visit setting up a Lowell Memorial blockbuster

Sun Staff Report

LOWELL — Oscar winner Robert Redford will be the featured speaker at the 2014 Middlesex Community College Celebrity Forum next June.

The college made the announcement Tuesday.

The 16th annual Celebrity Forum, which is sponsored by the TJX Companies Inc., takes place Friday, June 20, at Lowell Memorial Auditorium.

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Redford in starring role at MCC Celebrity Forum

REDFORD/From Page 1

Redford is one of the most recognizable stars of his generation, starring in films such as The Sting, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, All the President’s Men and The Natural. He won an Oscar in 1981 for directing Ordinary People and has generated Oscar buzz this year for his starring role in the one-man survival film All Is Lost.

Redford also founded the Sundance Film Festival in 1981 and supports causes such as Greenpeace, the American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign and the James Redford Institute for Transplant Awareness.

Redford follows a long line of speakers in the series, including Michael J. Fox, Walter Cronkite, Colin Powell and Ken Burns. Last year’s speakers were former first lady Laura Bush and her daughter, Jenna Bush Hager.

Tickets for the event are $65 and $45 and will go on sale on Friday, Nov. 29, through Lowell Memorial Auditorium. For more information, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/CF14.
"Eye-opening" assignment for MCC class

Criminal-justice students gather data on driving while distracted for Bedford police

By Rick Sobey
rsobey@lowellsun.com

BEDFORD — It’s not the best idea to read this article while driving. Just ask the criminal-justice students at Middlesex Community College.

Twenty-five students on the Bedford campus recently finished a semester-long project that analyzed distracted driving in Bedford. The results were “eye-opening,” according to the students, and the Bedford Police Department will now take the data under advisement for future enforcement efforts.

“For the Police Department to now apply it — that’s just awesome,” said Nick Solomonides, 19, of the results.

Criminal-justice students at Middlesex Community College, with assistant professor Ronald Brevard, far right, talk about the results of a distracted-driving project they conducted over the summer with Bedford police Officer Marc Saucler, left. The students are, from left, Jim Bijeol, Patrick Murphy, Samer Hussein, Nick Solomonides and Matthew James.
Participants in a Middlesex Community College criminal-justice project to study distracted driving in Bedford discuss the results. From left are students Samer Hussein (Lowell), Patrick Murphy (Groton), Nick Soomomides (Chelmsford) and Jim Bajelj (Billerica), Bedford police officer Marc Saucier, student Matthew James (Maynard) and MCC assistant professor Ronald Brevard.

SUN/David H. Brow

Maynard. "The best teacher is always experience."
After collecting all the data, they submitted several recommendations to Bongiorno and Lt. James Graham. The students recommended an increase of enforcement efforts along certain stretches of The Great Road during specific times of day. They also said the enforcement should be in conjunction with a high-profile public-education campaign.
One strategy would be using a plainclothes officer to watch texting activity, and then radioing other officers to pull the vehicle over. Another recommendation is to target efforts on specific events, such as Distracted Driving Awareness Month.
Bongiorno, an MCC alum, said the project was better than he had originally imagined.

"There was already a great partnership with MCC, and this just furthers that," he said. "It was free research, and the data will guide us in future enforcement efforts to benefit the community. It was a real unique opportunity."

The report has been submitted to the Bedford town manager's office and to the transportation advisory committee in town, according to Bongiorno. The committee will discuss the report at its January meeting and talk about drawing up a plan to enact the recommendations.
Distracted driving has grown exponentially since the advent of the smartphone. As a result, state police have stepped up efforts to enforce the ban on texting while driving. During a three-week period in June, state police patrols cited 440 drivers for texting behind the wheel in the Merrimack Valley.

The 2010 Safe Driving Law banned drivers from composing, sending or receiving electronic messages, including texts or emails, in Massachusetts. Forty other states have similar laws in place.

Adult drivers are allowed to speak on or dial phones, while teenagers are banned from all cellphone use behind the wheel.
Policemen are allowed to pull over drivers if they suspect them of texting. Under the crackdown, tickets start at $100 for a first offense and can rise to $500 for repeat violations, according to state police.

In June, a $275,000 research grant from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration launched State Police Troop A's operation, "Text with one hand, ticket in the other." The operation sent 109 officers to Lowell, Dracut, Dunstable, Tewksbury, Tyngsboro, Wilmington, Methuen, Andover, North Andover, Lawrence, North Reading and Reading in planned two- to four-week crackdowns testing special enforcement techniques.

"We're all glued to our cellphones, and the results we got were just astounding," said Brevard, who has been an assistant professor of criminal justice at MCC for 2 1/2 years, previously working in the Tufts University Police Department for almost 30 years.
"I haven't done anything like this in my classes," he said. "It was definitely a top highlight. And when the chief talked about enacting the recommendations, that validated it for my students."

Less than four months in is an Introduction to Criminal Justice class, and these students have already impacted the Bedford Police Department. It looks like area police departments should be in good hands for years to come with this crop of MCC students.

Follow Rick Sobey on Twitter and Tout @sobeyLSun.
Cell phones are clear and present danger on the road

By Sam Perkins
sperrins@wickedlocal.com

In doing this, you haven’t broken a single traffic law, but in the roughly 4.5 seconds it took you to look down at your phone to see who was on the other end you traveled roughly the length of a football field, blind. And even in doing this, you are one of the “good drivers” compared to your peers.

That was the crux of a nearly month-long field and research study and a semester-long report conducted and compiled by an Introduction to Criminal Justice class at Middlesex Community College, working in collaboration with the Bedford Police Department.

According to the report, the number one cause of accidents in town is not inebriated drivers, excess speed or adverse weather conditions, but simply inattention behind the wheel.

And the number one cause of driver-inattention – by a roughly 5:1 ratio over the next highest cause – is cell phone use.

“It was really eye-opening,” said Bedford Police Chief Robert Bongiorno.

In his two decades as a police officer, rising from a patrolman to chief, Bongiorno has seen just about everything, but even he
PHONES
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was surprised at the study’s findings.

"I knew we had a distracted driver problem but I didn’t think it was to the extent that the students documented,” said Bongiorno.

The report was the culmination of a semester’s worth of work by 25 Intro to Criminal Justice students in assistant professor Ron Brevard’s class, as part of the college’s service learning curriculum.

“Service learning is a form of teaching that allows the students to go directly into a community — globally, nationally, locally — and address and research local issues and meet their needs,” said Cynthia Lynch, director of service learning at Middlesex. “There is a lot of personal growth that occurs in it. We try to focus on the whole idea of public service and social issues in the community and the students’ civic role.”

There were two “pieces” to the report, as Brevard explained. The was the field observation, where students went out and gathered data from physically observing drivers at three different locations on The Great Road, at the intersection of Marsardis, Elm and South roads. During those observations, which were conducted during the morning, midday and evening hours, students documented the instances and causes of distracted driving. While students observed a range of distracted behaviors — among the more memorable, one driver who used his knees to steer the car so his hands were free to text — cell phone use was far and away the biggest cause.

The second phase was data gathering using Bedford police accident reports from the previous year.

“The police department uses different codes for the causes of accidents and the code that stood out the most was ‘inattention,’ — it doesn’t say the reason for inattention, it could be the cell phone and that was clearly the highest category,” explained Brevard.

Upon completion of the study, Brevard’s class compiled a report, including an introduction, data analysis, conclusion and recommendations, which it presented to the police department.

“The quality of the report was phenomenal and we are going to use it as a guide moving forward,” said Bongiorno.

Among the report’s recommendations was a public educational campaign within the school system, which the police department hopes to implement during a weeklong program this year. Another recommendation was switching from cars to SUVs so that police officers are higher up on the road and have greater visibility of drivers — a move that the Bedford police have already decided to implement.

Other recommendations were to use plain clothes officers as “decoys” in cross walks as well as greater department visibility along busy roads, which the department already began to implement independently over the summer.

To the students, seeing their hard work not only taken seriously, but also actually put into practice by the police department, was a great validation.

“This really reaffirmed the value of their work to the students because they are seeing their work already being implemented,” said Lynch.

It also provided the students a first-person introduction to the often-overlooked public service portion of police work as well as a chance to mingle with the community.

“A lot of kids take classes in Bedford but they might not really know the town other than driving through it and this gave them a chance to really get out, give back and get to know a great town,” said Lynch.

For Bongiorno, the report gave him tangible evidence to present at both the town and state levels.

“At Elm Street, you’re getting parents and students so you would expect it. But [cell phone distraction] was higher with the commuters coming off the highway at Marsardis than with anyone else, which was really surprising,” said Brevard.

“The majority of those operators coming through Bedford were probably operators, so what that proves to me is that this isn’t an isolated Bedford-problem, it’s a statewide problem.”
MCC a key player, booster of Lowell

LOWELL — Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.
This is the time of the year when we all have the opportunity to pause and reflect.
We can look back on the past year and take a little time to consider what might be in the coming year.

I've had the great opportunity in my career to meet and understand many of the people and institutions that have positive impacts on the lives of all of us who call Greater-Lowell home.

I've made myself a resolution to at least once a month in the Chat to try to recognize the people, companies and groups who are the doers.

Everyone probably knows them all, but perhaps we end up taking them for granted. They are always there. They always try to do the right thing. We come to expect it from them. I recently made a list of nearly 100 who fit the category. How lucky we are to have them.

A good example is Middlesex Community College.

This great institution sometimes gets lost in the maze of daily events that shape the future of our little part of the world.

Not only do they do a great job for the thousands of students who are carving out new career paths for a better life, but Middlesex management and staff are key supporters of nearly every event in Greater Lowell.

From President Carole Cowan down, there is always someone from Middlesex at any positive gathering in the region.
Middlesex came to mind first because I just finished reading their Profiles magazine and was overwhelmed by 30 pages full of great things the college is currently involved with from Lowell to Bedford to Europe and Asia.

Of course, one of their newest impact projects is the long-awaited $14.5 million dollar renovation of the famed downtown Lowell Rialto Building that once housed a Boston & Maine railroad depot.

Like everything Middlesex does, they will restore this Victorian Gothic structure to its majestic past and bring new life to the far end of the downtown core.

The building will eventually house a teaching theater, music recital hall, dance studio as well as performance, exhibit and multipurpose spaces.

And, of course, Middlesex will make the new space available for other community groups to use.

While reading Profiles one has to be in awe of the range of stories that celebrate people, programs and partnerships at Middlesex.

From the opening page message from President Cowan, which talks about programs at the school that help students succeed, to the back page which promotes the latest celebrity guest they are bringing to Lowell, actor Robert Redford, you get a sense of a very lively institution that is vital to the every-day life of the city and region.

This is just one of the players we should thank for the positive role they play in the economic and social life of Greater Lowell.
EDUCATION

MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FAFSA Day to provide free college aid assistance

Middlesex Community College will be a host site for FAFSA Day Massachusets, a statewide event that provides free assistance in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The event will be held at 1 p.m., Sunday Jan. 26, in MCC’s City Building on the Lowell campus, 33 Kearney Square. FAFSA Day MA is part of the national College Goal Sunday program, a series of financial-aid workshops held around the country.

“During FAFSA Day at Middlesex, financial aid and higher education experts guide students and their families through the entire FAFSA process,” said Deborah Marsella, MCC’s Associate Director of Financial Aid. “For some families this may be introducing them to what the FAFSA is, and for others it may be helping them start or even complete their applications online.”

“We know filling out financial aid forms can be scary,” said Marsella. “Our goal is to remove that fear and provide them a comfort level with working with the FAFSA website.”

Any student entering or attending college during the 2014-2015 academic year must fill out the FAFSA in order to qualify for any federal, state and institutional financial aid.

For those who would like assistance filling out the FAFSA during the session, students and parents* should each bring:
- FAFSA PIN (Personal Identification Number – available at pin.ed.gov)
- Social Security Number
- Driver’s license number
- Most recent federal tax return
- 2013 W-2 or year-end pay stub
- Untaxed 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.

“The more information people bring with them to the session, the further they can go in the process,” said Marsella. Students and families are encouraged to register for FAFSA Day by visiting www.fafaday.org, but walk-ins are welcome.

Financial aid awards are based on financial need, enrollment status in an eligible program, and availability of funding. MCC’s academic year for financial aid begins in the fall semester and concludes with the summer semester. Students who apply for financial aid must apply every academic year after Jan. 1.

Almost half of MCC students currently receive financial aid. MCC participates in most federal and state grant, scholarship and loan programs.

A list of the major financial aid programs as well as specific information regarding terms, conditions and eligibility for each program is available online at www.middlesex.mass.edu/financialaid or from one of MCC’s Financial Aid Offices.

Additional forms of financial aid, including student employment, federal Work Study programs, or scholarship opportunities may be available for those who qualify.

For more information about MCC’s Financial Aid Office or financial aid opportunities, contact the Bedford campus Financial Aid Office at 781-280-3650 or the Lowell campus Financial Aid Office at 978-656-3242, or visit https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/financialaid/.

For more information about FAFSA Day MA at Middlesex, call Deborah Marsella at 978-656-3242 or visit www.fafaday.org.

For more information about College Goal Sunday, visit: www.collegegoalsondayusa.org/

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!
LOWELL — Middlesex Community College will be a host site for FAFSA Day Massachusetts, a statewide series of free financial-aid presentations, Sunday at 1 p.m. 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, or 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 the following (students who were born before Jan. 1, 1991, do not need to bring parental information):

- Social Security number.
- Driver’s license number.

- Most recent federal tax return.
- 2013 W-2 or year-end pay stub.
- Untaxed-income records.
- Bank statements.
- Business and investment records.
- Alien registration card (if not a U.S. citizen).

For more information about MCC’s FAFSA Day presentation, call 978-656-3242 or visit www.fafsdaday.org. For more information about College Goal Sunday, visit: www.collegegoalsundayusa.org.
Online learning brings college into your home

At Middlesex Community College, it’s easy to start a degree, finish a degree or improve your professional skills -- all online. With online learning, your classroom can be as close as the nearest Internet connection.

For more than 15 years, Middlesex has offered online courses, as well as hybrid courses, which combine online and face-to-face instruction. MCC currently offers 12 associate degree programs and six certificate programs that can be completed entirely online, plus hundreds of online course offerings. Spring semester begins Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2014, and enrollment is still open.

MCC’s online learning program has seen a dramatic increase in enrollment. “Recently, the number of sections of online courses increased from 331 in academic year 2008-2009 to 514 in academic year 2012-2013,” said Clea Andreadis, MCC’s associate provost. “That’s a 55 percent increase.”

Andreadis credits the program’s growth to high-quality course offerings. “MCC’s online courses are taught by highly trained faculty who are committed to ensuring that every student has an engaging and successful experience,” said Andreadis. “I teach online myself, and the training Middlesex provided ensured that I am able to use the technological tools available to create an exciting and valuable learning experience for my students.”

Janice Weichman, of Bedford, took an MCC online course as part of a recent career change. After working for years in marketing and advertising, Weichman decided to become an early childhood educator. One requirement for state teacher certification was to complete a “Child Growth & Development” course.

“I needed flexibility. I wanted to meet the state requirement without it upsetting my life,” said Weichman. “I was running my consulting business and still had kids at home. Also, it was winter and I didn’t want to deal with the weather getting to and from campus.”

In addition to the convenience and flexibility of studying online, Weichman’s Middlesex course offered interesting subject matter and a strong sense of community.

“I really enjoyed that online course. We wrote papers and had to do child observations – it was rigorous,” she said. “Plus, the instructor, Maureen Goulet, did an excellent job of creating a virtual community that was very responsive and interactive.”

“We had to be online at certain times, and the teacher held online office hours,” Weichman continued. “We had discussion boards and had to be part of online conversations. There was a minimum amount of online participation required, and that minimum got everybody involved.”

“It was amazing to me that all the different personalities of the students came out, even though we were not in a face-to-face class together,” she added. “I really felt like I was part of a community.”

Students who take courses online at Middlesex complete the same high-quality coursework as those who take courses on campus.

And, online students earn the same course credits -- which are transferable to bachelor’s degree programs, stressed Andreadis.

“Many people are concerned that the completion rates for online classes are significantly lower than face-to-face classes, but that’s not the case at MCC,” said Andreadis.

“Online-course completion rates at Middlesex are generally within a few percentage points of comparable lecture sections.”

Approximately 9,000 MCC students are currently enrolled in online or hybrid courses. Some of the most popular online degree programs include Criminal Justice, Business and Liberal Arts.

With online courses at Middlesex, you CAN fit education into your busy life! For more information about Middlesex online, visit: https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/online or call 1-800-818-3434.

MCC is one of the largest, most comprehensive community colleges in the state. We offer more than 75 degree and certificate programs, plus hundreds of noncredit courses, during the day, evening and weekend, on our Bedford and Lowell campuses, and online. Middlesex – a great place to begin your future.
MCC teams with 2 colleges

Through special partnerships between Middlesex Community College, Salem State University and Boston's Wentworth Institute of Technology, students who have completed an Associate degree can earn a Bachelor's degree by taking much of the additional required coursework on MCC's Bedford and Lowell campuses.

Through Salem State partnership with MCC, students can finish a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Sociology or Legal Studies with a Health Professions Concentration. These Bachelor's degree-completion programs are offered in flexible evening programs.

Details about special transfer-credit agreements in place for students who have earned an Associate degree in an appropriate discipline at MCC are available from the Transfer Admissions Office and Academic Advising Center at Salem State.

Beginning this fall, MCC's new partnership with Boston's Wentworth Institute allows students to complete a Bachelor of Science in Project Management. The program, which is specifically designed for busy adults, combines online learning and face-to-face instruction. Tuition discounts and credit transfers for prior educational and professional experiences are available. For more information, visit http://wit.edu/continuing/ about/welcome.html.

For more information about MCC's Bachelor's degree-completion programs, contact Middlesex at 800-818-3434 or visit www.middlesex.mass.edu, or contact Salem State University Division of Continuing Education at 978-542-6935 or visit www.salemstate.edu/ce, or contact the College of Professional and Continuing Education at Wentworth at 617-989-4300.
Photographers donate skills to Celebration for Kids

For the past several years, local professional photographer Alyce O'Connell has donated her time, skill and versatility to photograph events presented by the Rodman Ride for Kids, an umbrella matching-gift charity that raises funds for youth-focused social service agencies supporting at-risk kids in Massachusetts.

Among the Rodman Ride's activities, O'Connell has, for the past four years, photographed the annual Celebration for Kids. The event, which this year was held Saturday, Dec. 7, at the Seaport World Trade Center, features music, food prepared by many of Boston's renowned chefs, several local wineries, a silent auction and a live auction. Proceeds are devoted to brightening the lives of at-risk kids by supporting them during the holiday season and all year long.

This is the second year O'Connell has taken some of her students, who have completed the Middlesex Community College digital photography certificate program, and are working in some capacity as photographers, to photograph the event. Pictured from left are Jennifer Neville, Mark Maynard, Alyce O'Connell and Connie Ridge. The photo was taken by Matthew Macomber.

"It's a win-win all the way around," O'Connell says. "We donate our time and talent for a wonderful cause, I get a great team to help me and they get the experience of photographing a large-scale charitable event."
Middlesex Community College offers many ways to learn.

Middlesex Community College provides students with many flexible course options to fit a variety of schedules and learning styles. In addition to traditional courses, MCC offers online, hybrid and Flexible Studies courses, as well as a number of Learning Communities. Spring semester begins Tuesday, Jan. 21, and it's not too late to register.

Traditional courses enable students and instructors to meet in a classroom, laboratory, clinic, or external setting for an established number of hours per week on a regular weekly schedule. Learning occurs through lectures, presentations, discussions and other classroom activities.

Online courses enable instructors and students to interact online with a course-management system and email. Students can complete assignments online and on hours they choose. MCC offers 15 programs of study that can be completed entirely online, as well as many other programs that are 80 percent online.

Hybrid courses combine face-to-face classroom experience with online instruction. These courses are a good option for students who may be hesitant about taking an entirely online course, or who may also want the traditional classroom experience.

Flexible Studies courses enable students to select convenient class hours from many available course-meeting times, and allow them to learn at their own pace—accelerating or taking extra time, as needed. Students work with an instructor who specializes in the subject.

Learning Communities consist of two highly interactive courses with the same students and the same instructors. By enrolling in one Learning Community, students earn credits for two courses, and can study a topic in depth.

For more information about MCC's flexible learning options, visit us online at www.middlesex.mass.edu/academics/. For registration information, 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!
Middlesex College clears the air

All-out tobacco ban on campuses in Bedford, Lowell, begins with Great American Smokeout

By Rick Sobey rsobey@lowellsun.com

BEDFORD — Ten years later, it's time to breathe easy on campus.

A decade after a smoke-free push was launched, Middlesex Community College today will join 1,177 colleges and universities nationwide that have implemented a smoke-free environment. MCC's new smoke-free policy applies to all students, staff, faculty and visitors to the Bedford and Lowell campuses.

"This is a long time coming, and it's finally here," said Karoline Menezes, 20, chairwoman of the Lowell campus Student Union Government Association, which advocated for the smoke-free policy along with the Smoke-Free MCC Committee of administrators and faculty.

"For students, like myself, who don't smoke, when we walk out the building's doors and there's always a big group of smokers, it's a big concern," added Menezes, of Lowell.

"Secondhand smoke has been a very big problem so this will enhance the quality of life on campus."

The smoke-free policy applies to any property owned or maintained by the college, including exterior open spaces, indoor facilities, on-campus sidewalks, driveways, recreational spaces and parking lots. Smoking will only be allowed in private vehicles, lawfully parked on campus lots.

While student government leaders and administrators are looking forward to the smoke-free policy, please see SMOKES/11.
Middlesex College clears the air

SMOKE/From Page 1

student smokers at the Bedford campus quad on Wednesday were not pleased. They found it extreme to ban smoking altogether, saying a middle ground of designated smoking areas would be fair.

"It'd be totally cool with a segregated smoking area but to make you leave campus is not right," said Jeff Lilley, 30, of Groton. "We're all adults here and can make our own choices."

Lilley said he will follow the rules and wait to get off campus before lighting up. However, he predicted the policy won't be fully effective for a couple years because several students are used to smoking on campus.

Cory Russo of Groton agreed that a compromise of designated smoking areas would be an appropriate policy.

"I can see why some students wouldn't want to walk through the quad, but it shouldn't be banned entirely," said Russo, 18.

Complaints concerning employees should be brought to the employee's immediate supervisor, and complaints concerning students should be brought to Public Safety. In the case of repeat offenses by students, complaints will be referred to the office of the dean of students, which will take appropriate disciplinary action.

Visitors who fail to obey the smoke-free policy may be prohibited from remaining on or returning to campus.

"There's a good amount of students who are tired of walking through the quad (at the Bedford campus) and going through secondhand smoke," said James Allen, 28, vice chairman of the Bedford campus Student Union Government Association.

"The overall well-being of the campus and campus life in general will be better because of this," added Allen, of Tewksbury.

MCC isn't the only Massachusetts community college to go smoke-free. North Shore Community College, Bristol Community College, Cape Cod Community College and others have already banned smoking on their campuses, and students at UMass Lowell are advocating for a tobacco ban.

In addition, MCC is implementing the smoke-free policy in conjunction with the American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout, a nationwide effort to help people quit smoking.

Jonathan Crockett, Middlesex Community College's coordinator of Athletics, Health and Wellness, places "Smoke-Free MCC" logos on lollipops, which will be handed to students today, the first day of MCC's smoke-free policy. MCC is implementing the smoke-free policy in conjunction with the American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout, a nationwide effort to help people quit smoking.

COURTESY PHOTOS

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"My hope is this policy brings an opportunity for reflection and encourages smokers to quit," said Jonathan Crockett, MCC's coordinator of Athletics, Health and Wellness. "This will help the campus move toward an environment that increases health and improves air quality."

Crockett said MCC will give out lollipops today with the "Smoke-Free MCC" logos to remind students of the new policy and of the smoking-cessation programs on campus.

Vanessa Dussault, 20, of Billerica, would like a designated smoking area option, but added that she might stop smoking because of the new policy.

"We know some students don't like the idea of it, feeling like it takes away their right to smoke," said Allen.

"The best thing we can do is make the transition smoother."

UMass Lowell, which has students campaigning for a tobacco-free policy, will also take part in the Great American Smokeout with an event today at 6 p.m. in Alumni Hall. They will hand out T-shirts and have anti-tobacco speakers, less than two weeks before their policy pitch to administrators on Dec. 2. Chancellor Marty Meehan has pledged his support of the tobacco ban.

Follow Rick Sobey on Twitter and Tout @sobeyL-Sun.
REMEMBERING LOCAL HISTORY THROUGH THE SUN'S ARCHIVES  By Staff

10 YEARS AGO (2004)

Liza Minnelli, Ivana Trump, Barbara Bush and Barbara Waiters named to Mr. Blackwell's best-dressed list.

Jack Kerouac's *On the Road* manuscript.

MCC set to open renovated Federal Building in downtown Lowell.

Boston Bruins great Cam Neely's No. 8 retired.

Super Bowl matchup: Patriots vs. Panthers.

Neely

Jack Kerouac's *On the Road* manuscript.
Middlesex Offers Project Management and PMP® Exam Prep

Middlesex Community College’s noncredit “PM® and CAPM® Exam Prep” course can help you prepare for the PMP® certification, a globally recognized project management certification. Registration is now open for the spring semester. Courses begin Saturday, Jan. 25.

This 40-hour hybrid course combines traditional face-to-face and online instruction to review key concepts, terms and principles, and challenges students with sample exam questions and other exercises to prepare for the PMP® and CAPM® Exams. The course will be taught using real-world case studies using PMI’s framework on project management fundamentals, best practices and tools every project manager needs to successfully complete a life-cycle project.

This course will cover each of the 10 PMBOK® knowledge areas and five process groups covered in the “PMBOK® guide, 5th edition.” This workshop will provide quizzes, flash cards, and tips and tricks for exam prep.

This course is best suited for individuals who are planning on taking their exam in the near term or for those looking to take their skills to the next level. For exam eligibility requirements, visit www.pmi.org.

To register for this or other MCC noncredit courses, call 1-800-818-3434 or visit our website www.middlesex.mass.edu/careertraining.

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 Community College Offers New Courses for Spring

Registration is now open for spring-semester classes at Middlesex Community College. Classes begin Tuesday, Jan. 21, on the Bedford and Lowell campuses, and online.

MCC is offering five new courses for the spring semester, including:

Contemporary Latin American History (HIST 132) — This course traces the historical trajectory of the people of Latin America from the beginning of the 20th Century to the present. Students will be introduced to the rich history of Latin America, exploring the achievements of their people, and discussing the response of Latin Americans to the challenges of the world around them.

Intensive Academic Skills (ELL 095) — This course provides English Language Learners with intensive instruction in the critical thinking, reading and writing skills required in “English 101,” “English Composition,” and other credit-bearing courses. Coursework will emphasize independent reading of complex academic texts, critical response to ideas and information, and writing essays that integrate ideas and information from academic texts.

Intensive Language Skills (ELL 096) — This course is designed for English Language Learners who have received education outside the U.S. and are ready to advance quickly to college-level work.

Principles of Fire and Emergency Services Safety and Survival (FPS 160) — This course introduces the basic principles and history related to the national fire service, focusing on the need for cultural and behavior change throughout emergency services.

Massachusetts Poets (ENG 123) — This course offers a study of poetry penned in Massachusetts, including works by poets such as Bradstreet, Dickinson, Frost, Lowell, Kerouac and Plath among others. Special attention will be paid to the rise and function of the natural, social and cultural landscapes in nurturing, attracting or sustaining these poets.

Middlesex offers many transfer options, and enrollment counselors are available to answer questions and get you started on the path to academic success. MCC offers free academic, career and financial-aid counseling, as well as free tutoring and extensive support services.

MCC’s Spring Advising Schedule is available online at https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/academics/ For more information about MCC’s new course offerings, or for registration information, call 1-800-818-3434 or visit www.middlesex.mass.edu.

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Hargis steps down from business center post

*The Lowell Sun*

UPDATED: 01/10/2014 04:21:31 PM EST

![Stacie Hargis](image)

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

LOWELL -- Stacie Hargis, director of the Merrimack Valley Small Business Center, has stepped down from her position to take a job as assistant professor in the Business Department at Middlesex Community College.

In an email, Hargis said she was "excited about my new path, but sad to leave my current position."

The business center is an affiliate of Community Teamwork Inc. It advises and provides access to capital for prospective small-business owners. Hargis, who replaced Russ Smith a few years ago, oversaw a staff of three.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed the great work done here at the Center and feel very proud of the direction it is headed," she said.

A native of Detroit, Hargis has also worked as small-business liaison for U.S. Rep. Niki Tsongas.

Hargis also ran unsuccessfully for City Council in 2013.

Learn Web Design Skills with MCC's Noncredit Certificate Program

Posted by Elliot Silver on Jan 07, 2014

Middlesex Community College's Community Education and Career Training program offers a noncredit certificate program in Web Design. This introductory program teaches students the basic design, planning and development of a website. Students should have a basic understanding of Windows and the Internet. Courses begin Monday, Jan. 13, and run in the following order:

"Photoshop Skills for the Web" (TEC 627 30) – Students will learn to use Adobe Photoshop to create images, edit photos and optimize them for use in web-based projects. Students must have working knowledge of Windows.

"Dreamweaver Basics and Essentials" (TEC 623 30) – Students will learn to use Dreamweaver to define sites, format text, insert graphics and media, and create hyperlinks, tables, and forms. Students will create a working website and practice publishing to a simulated web host.

"HTML and CSS Basics" (TEC 624 30) – This course offers an introduction to HTML code used for creating web pages, as well as the basics for styling pages using CSS (Cascading Style Sheets).

"Advanced Dreamweaver + CSS" (TEC 625 30) – A continuation of "Dreamweaver Basics and Essentials," this course focuses on functions that speed up workflow as well as formatting and page layout using the CSS panel.

"Maintaining a Website" (TEC 639 30) – This course will take students through the planning process of developing a website, from client meeting to site launch and beyond. Topics include: work flow, contracts, wire framing, web hosting, domain registration and development, SEO (search engine optimization) and analytics.

For further information or to register for these and other noncredit courses, call 1-800-818-3434 or visit www.middlesexmass.edu/careertraining.
Middlesex Community College Offers New Courses for Spring

Posted by Elliot Silver on Jan 06, 2014

Registration is now open for spring-semester classes at Middlesex Community College.

Classes begin Tuesday, Jan. 21, on the Bedford and Lowell campuses, and online.

MCC is offering five new courses for the spring semester, including:

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MCC's Cowan wins McKay Tourism Award

The Greater Merrimack Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau gave out its inaugural Tom McKay Tourism Leadership Award on Thursday to Middlesex Community College President Carole Cowan, second from right. Also attending are state Rep. Tom Golden, D-Lowell, emcee for the event, Meredith McKay standing in for her father, Tom, and Deb Belanger, executive director of the CVB.
MCC offers Honors, MassTransfer programs

Middlesex Community College offers unique learning opportunities for students who elect to study at a more advanced level through the Commonwealth Honors Program.

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

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

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

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

For more information, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/honors or call 781-280-3553.

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

The Massachusetts Board of Higher Education has adopted a statewide transfer policy called MassTransfer that seeks to provide a broad population of students with straightforward and understandable options for completing Bachelor's degrees.

MassTransfer provides community-college students who complete approved Associate degrees and enroll in linked MassTransfer programs with the benefit of full transfer of credit, guaranteed admission and a tuition discount to a Massachusetts state college or university.

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

For more information about MassTransfer, visit www.mass.edu/masstransfer/home.asp, call 800-818-3434, or visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/transfer/masstransfer.aspx.
Middlesex Community College Offers On the Spot Admissions Sessions

Posted by Eliol Silver on Dec 17, 2013 |

Make a commitment to yourself with education that meets your needs and schedule. Middlesex Community College will offer On the Spot Admissions Sessions on the Bedford and Lowell campuses.

The Bedford campus On the Spot Admissions Session will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2014, in the Bedford Campus Center Student Lounge, 591 Springs Road.

The Lowell campus On the Spot Admissions Session will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 9, 2014, in the Lowell City Building Cafeteria, 33 Kearney Square. Spring semester courses begin Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2014.

Prospective students will be able to meet with admissions counselors and fill out an application. Qualified students can register for courses. Transfer counseling and transfer-credit evaluation will also be available. Transfer students should bring their transcripts.

"On the Spot Admissions events allow students to take care of business all in one meeting," said Jillian Freitas-Haley, MCC Associate Director of Admissions. "Admissions counselors will speak with students about everything they need to know to get started at Middlesex, including reviewing transcripts, and discussing financial aid and payment strategies."

Get more information about MCC's 75+ degree and certificate programs. Students can also learn about financial aid, tutoring, career counseling and disability support.

You can fit education into your busy life at Middlesex Community College! For more information, call 1-800-818-3434, or visit www.middlesex.mass.edu.
Middlesex C.C. offers Weekend College

Registration is open for Middlesex Community College Weekend College classes, which run Jan. 4 to May 10. Classes are available in a 15-week, or an accelerated 10-week format. Call 300-818-3434, or visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/weekendcollege.

MCC Health Fair set for Thursday

LOWELL — Middlesex Community College Nursing students will host a Health Fair on Thursday, from 10:30 a.m. to noon, in the Lowell Campus, Lower Cafeteria, 33 Kearney Square. The event is free and open to the public. Nursing students will give presentations on health topics including obesity, diabetes, binge drinking, hypertension and depression. Fliers and handouts will be available. For more information, contact Debbie Bradley at 978-656-3049 or bradleyd@middlesex.mass.edu.

GREEK CLASSIC: Middlesex Community College’s Theater Department presents Antigone, the Greek classic about a young girl who defies a tyrant and is sent to her death. The play, retold by French playwright Jean Anouilh, will be performed at Merrimack College’s Stevens Auditorium, 315 Turnpike St., N. Andover, at 7 p.m. Thursday-Sunday, Dec. 5-8, and matinees at 2 p.m. on Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 7-8. $15, general; $10, MCC students, staff, faculty at 978-458-2429 or middlesex.mass.edu/performingarts/default.aspx.
Earn a Business Degree in 17 Months

Get on the fast track to your future with Middlesex Community College’s Weekend College Accelerated Business Degree Program. By combining Saturday and online courses, students can earn an associate degree in Business Administration Transfer in just 17 months.

Registration is now open for MCC’s next Weekend College Accelerated Session, which runs Jan. 4 through March 8, 2014. Classes meet Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., in 10-week sessions, on the Lowell campus.

The program includes a blend of face-to-face classroom time with online learning. MCC’s cohort model allows students to benefit from the support and motivation of a dedicated group of students who follow the same program.

Credit for prior learning, training, work or life experience may be granted. Additionally, up to 45 transfer credits may be awarded to students with previous college experience. MCC’s support services, including academic advising and tutoring, are available to all Weekend College students. Financial aid is available for those who qualify.

For more information, or to register for MCC’s Weekend College Accelerated Business Degree program, visit https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/weekendecollege/ or call 1-800-818-3434.

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Registration is Open for MCC’s Weekend College

Earn a college degree at a time that works for you with Middlesex Community College’s Weekend College. Registration is now open for spring-semester Weekend College, which runs Jan. 4 to May 10, 2014.

Classes are available in a 15-week, or an accelerated 10-week format. All classes meet Saturdays on the Bedford and Lowell campuses.

Weekend College gives students additional opportunities to take prerequisites for admission to selected MCC programs of study. Credit for prior learning, training, work or life experience may be granted. Additionally, up to 45 transfer credits may be awarded to students with previous college experience. Saturday advising is available, as well as financial aid for those who qualify.

For more information, or to register for MCC’s Weekend College, call 1-800-818-3434, or visit https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/weekendecollege/.

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Johnny Cupcakes founder to speak Tuesday

BEDFORD — Middlesex Community College will host Johnny Earle, founder of the popular T-shirt brand Johnny Cupcakes, in a special program Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., in the Bedford Campus Cafeteria, 591 Springs Road.

The event, which is free and open to the public, will also feature an on-site-pop-up shop.

Over the past decade, Johnny Cupcakes has grown from a "joke" to a multimillion-dollar, highly exclusive T-shirt brand driven by a community of worldwide collectors. Earle will share his story about how he took his brand from the trunk of his rusty car at age 19 to some of the world's most sought-after retail locations.

Recently named America's Number One Young Entrepreneur by BusinessWeek, Earle will explain how his success reinforces the power of details, experience and loyalty. His presentation will include tips for getting any small company, passion or idea off the ground. The event is sponsored by MCC's new Innovation Development & Entrepreneur Assistance Center and the Center for Leadership and Engagement. For more information, contact Melissa Welch at welchm@middlesex.mass.edu.

Workforce Training Fund event Thursday

BEDFORD — Middlesex Community College will host a free information session for businesses seeking Workforce Training Fund grants Thursday, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., in the Galvani Room in Trustees' House on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road.

A representative from the Massachusetts Division of Career Services will present an overview and answer questions in an informational setting. Registration deadline is Monday.

Massachusetts WFTF provides resources to businesses to train current and newly hired employees. The goal is to help improve employee skills and maintain the economic strength of the state's businesses. MCC's Corporate and Community Education and Training Program has helped many businesses secure and implement these grants.

For more information about WFTF info sessions or to register, contact Julie Hay at hayju@middlesex.mass.edu or call 978-658-3009.
Junior colleges expand amid life-sciences evolution

Questions over skill levels and direction of job growth persist; factoring for the future of manufacturing in Massachusetts

Nearly 25 years after Middlesex Community College became the first of its kind to develop a biotechnology program in the state, the Boston-area school is planning a major curriculum boost. The planning started earlier this year, thanks to a $50,000 grant from the Massachusetts Life Sciences Collaborative. The work focuses on aligning the college curriculum with industry needs, said MCC President Carole Cowan. That was the aim when MCC, with campuses in Bedford and Lowell, started its biotechnology technician program back in 1990.

"We're really looking to accommodate job growth in the biotech industry," Cowan said. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment in the state's biopharma industry grew 40 percent in the past 10 years, from 40,450 workers in 2003 to 56,462 in 2012. Overall employment growth in the United States during that same period was just 3.3 percent.

However, such rosy figures only tell part of the state's biotech story, as much of the employment growth has been concentrated among highly skilled workers. According to a new report on entry-level employment, sponsored by a consortium of local biotech concerns on behalf of the state's community colleges, Massachusetts companies will continue to seek out highly educated workers. But the report also found that at Massachusetts life sciences companies, fewer than 10 percent of employees had associate degrees, while more than 75 percent had a bachelor's.

Moreover, the report said biotechs planned to hire 751 people in the year ahead, but said only 139 positions were earmarked for workers with just an associate degree. "In other states where there's more biotech manufacturing we see more demand" for junior-college skills, said Lance Hartford, head of the Massachusetts Biotechnology Education Foundation.

Despite those figures, Hartford said there is a healthy demand for workers with associate degrees or certificates. He said MassBioEd is encouraging companies to consider community college graduates for technician jobs and similar positions rather than requiring applicants to hold bachelor's degrees. And MassBioEd continues to work with community colleges to ensure that their courses give graduates the skills that industry wants them to have.
"We have to create that balance between supply and demand," he said.
MCC's Cowan said trends suggest graduates coming out of community-college biotech
programs will continue to find jobs. The program at her school has grown from about 25
students to 200 today, and each year the 100 or so who graduate with either an associate
degree or certificate find jobs. She said it's a field with one of the highest placement rates for
graduates from her school.
But the program is at its maximum enrollment level right now, which is why Middlesex
Community College wants to expand it, Cowen said. She said college officials are also
committed to ensuring that the program keeps up with changes in the industry by adding
components, such as a clean room, that
industry leaders recommend for training.

John M. Henshaw, the assistant dean for workforce development at Mount Wachusett
Community College, has a similar outlook. The Central Massachusetts college implemented
its biotech program about five years ago as Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. was building a facility in
Devens.
Henshaw acknowledged that the industry's job growth is weighted toward those with higher-
level degrees, but said there are still many jobs that are well-suited for those with certificates
and associate degrees. He also said that graduates with associate degrees in the biotech field are
well suited for jobs in related fields, such as positions in the companies that supply equipment
to biotech firms.
And with the state continuing to attract more of these kinds of companies, he said he's
optimistic community college grads will find good work.

"It only makes sense to me that there would be more demand for someone with biotech
training," he said. "I'm confident there will continue to be a need for this."
OPINION

How Kenya can learn from Nelson Mandela

By Moses Kirori
Special to The Sun

It was the film Sarafina! that sparked my interest in Nelson Mandela. The movie portrays students rioting as they protest apartheid rule in South Africa and also features a collection of inspiring songs calling for Mandela’s release from prison.

I began to take interest in a man who I could not fully understand. Mandela had been imprisoned for 27 years, a time during which his son had died and been buried. Yet, he walked out of prison head held high and ascended to power where he would shake the hands of his jailers and dine with those that many deemed his enemy. Mandela’s actions as president provided a sharp contrast to what I knew about my own country’s (Kenya) history.

On Dec. 12, 2013, Kenya will mark 50 years of independence from Britain. History had taught me that my forefathers fought hard to liberate my nation from colonialists. When they were finally successful, the Britons had to go.

Life’s circumstances had also conditioned me to believe that if someone inflicts pain on you, you gladly return the favor if the tables were turned. But Madiba, as his people fondly referred to Mandela, did neither of the above.

Mandela’s life has inspired me to always seek a peaceful resolution through my own personal struggles. His long stay in prison has provided me with a basis of proof that by taking time and reflecting on my actions, I can make better decisions and life choices.

There are some who have criticized Mandela’s way of life and his style of leadership. On the top of the list is the current president of Zimbabwe, Robert Mugabe. Mugabe has been quoted saying Mandela is a coward who sat in prison doing nothing while he (Mugabe) fought colonialism.

Mugabe’s actual quote from the news report is too vulgar to print, but this comes from a man who has ruled his country with an iron fist for over 25 years and refuses to retire from the presidency despite his country’s failing economy.

Mandela taught the world and Africa in particular how to retire gracefully as a political leader. Mugabe should probably borrow a page from Mandela’s book, but I doubt that will happen. African leaders in general have cultivated a tendency to hold on to power until death. Mandela’s short but sweet stint as president should serve as an example to all African leaders that it shouldn’t take forever to fulfill your promises and deliver to your people.

To quote the words of writer Charles Bukowski: “When something bad happens, we raise a glass and drink to forget. If something good happens, we raise a glass and drink to celebrate. If nothing happens, we still raise a glass to make something happen.”

So I raise my glass and mourn Nelson Mandela. I raise it again to celebrate his legacy, and one more time I raise it hoping that something will happen in Zimbabwe.
MCC and NECC take Bath as a partner

LOWELL — Middlesex Community College and Northern Essex Community College have signed an international-education articulation agreement with Bath Spa University in Bath, England, that allows students to complete an associate degree in selected programs at MCC or NECC then, transfer to BSU to complete a bachelor’s degree.

The Memorandum of Agreement between the three institutions was signed recently by Middlesex President Carole Cowan, NECC President Lane Glenn and Bath Vice Chancellor Christina Slade in a ceremony at MCC’s historic John Nesmith House, near the Lowell campus.

The agreement will also promote short-course and semester-abroad opportunities.

“International education is essential for student success in today’s increasingly interdependent environment,” Cowan added. “As students explore the diversity of other cultures and customs, they gain perspective on their own world and their place in it.”

Marcy Yeager, NECC’s international-studies coordinator and an associate professor of Natural Sciences, said, “This new agreement will open up study-abroad opportunities for our students, who can now choose to study for a semester or for two years at Bath Spa University.”

NECC has been growing its International Studies programs over the last few years, Yeager said. Before this agreement, students could take NECC courses that include a capstone experience requiring studying for up to two weeks abroad. Past courses have included sciences in Belize and Ecuador, and archeology in Turkey, and plans are being developed for business, economics and literature courses.

All International courses help students become globally aware citizens, Yeager said.

Students can also work with Yeager to apply for semester-long study-abroad experiences to other countries. Generally, students travel alone to a foreign university and NECC works to make sure their course work aligns with NECC graduation requirements.

Through the new partnership, MCC and NECC students can transfer into 10 programs at BSU, including Business Management, Creative Writing, History, Biology and Graphic Communication, Yeager said, with more programs to be added.

While Bath has strong programs in all of the articulation areas, it is particularly strong in the creative arts and business, she said. Bath is England’s only UNESCO World Heritage City and has been voted one of the safest cities in Great Britain.

Bath Spa University (https://www.bathspa.ac.uk) is one of the top Liberal Arts universities in the U.K., and offers small class sizes in historic buildings, flexible programs and entrepreneurial partnerships.

For more information about the articulation agreement with Bath Spa University, contact MCC’s Yeadon at cadyd@middlesex.mass.edu or 978-656-3470, or contact Yeager at myeager@necc.mass.edu or 978-556-3326.

Middlesex Community College plans information session on Workforce Training Fund grants

LOWELL — Middlesex Community College will host a free Information Session for businesses seeking Workforce Training Fund grants on Wednesday, Dec. 4, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., in the Federal Building, Room 310, on the Lowell campus, 50 Kearney Square. A representative from the Massachusetts Division of Career Services will present an overview and answer questions in an informational setting. The registration deadline for the information session is Monday, Dec. 2. Massachusetts WPTF provides resources to business to train current and newly hired employees. For more information or to register, contact Julie Hay at hayj@middlesex.mass.edu or call 978-656-3002.
The fifty-nine members of this year's Lowell Police Academy graduating class salute during commencement at Lowell Memorial Auditorium on Friday. See a video at lowellsun.com.

59 badges, every one earned

A day for salutes as Lowell Police Academy grads get set to serve

By Lisa Redmond
lredmond@lowellsun.com

LOWELL — Standing before the 59 graduates of the Lowell Police Academy Friday, Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan recalled that the first time she spoke to the Class of 2013 was shortly after the Boston Marathon bombings and the murder of MIT Police Officer and Wilmington native Sean Collier.

Please see POLICE/8

State Trooper Tom Sullivan III, center, pins a badge on his daughter, graduate Kaitlin Sullivan, as her brother, State Trooper Tom Sullivan IV, left, looks on. She is joining the Tewksbury Police Department.
With every badge, a dream earned

POLICE/From Page 1

"I asked if anyone had changed their minds (about being an officer)," Ryan told the crowd of graduates, their friends and families, and dignitaries gathered for the Lowell Police Academy graduation at the Lowell Memorial Auditorium.

None had. In fact, Lowell police Sgt. Thomas Fleming, who runs the academy, said this is the first time in the academy's 17 years that all 59 students who entered also graduated.

The graduates will start work Monday at 22 police departments from Lowell to Lynn, after surviving a 24-week grueling training program based at Middlesex Community College. The cadets not only had long hours of classroom studies, they underwent torturous training that included miles of running in the summer heat, defensive training and first-hand experience of the effects of chemical spray on the eyes, nose and mouth.

In Lowell, 11 new officers — more than double the normal number of new recruits due to attrition — will now enter another classroom of on-the-job training. The recruits will be paired for the next eight to 12 weeks with senior officers to learn about the city, computer technology and practical applications of police work on the streets, "where the rubber hits the road," said interim Police Superintendent Deborah Friedel.

With a spike in recent shootings in Lowell, Friedel said, "There will be 11 more bodies we can deploy into the neighborhoods to build a rapport and have a greater impact on some of the recent crime trends."

City Manager Bernie Lynch, who is expected to hire a new police chief any day now, said this is the largest number of new hires in years and part of a "conscientious effort" to bolster the Police Department.

State Rep. David Nangle, D-

Graduate Juan J. Garcia, right, joining the Lowell police, receives the Defensive Tactics Award from Lowell police Sgt. Thomas Fleming during the Lowell Police Academy commencement on Friday. At left is Lowell Officer Marisol Nobrega, an academy staff member.

Lowell, told the graduates that they have been trained by Fleming and his staff at the best police academy in the state, New England and possibly the country.

Among the graduates are 10 military veterans, a firefighter, a teacher, a corrections officer and a former star football player, Jonathan Loyte, who played tight end for Vanderbilt and Boston College and went to three NFL mini-camps before fulfilling his dream of becoming a cop.

"I'm very happy. It's finally here," said Loyte, who is starting his new career with the Salem Police Department.

Former City License Commissioner Christy Delaney, who resigned from the commission to attend the academy, was all smiles as she received her Lowell police badge in a "pinning" ceremony at the graduation.

Graduate Kyle Van, a newly minted Lowell police officer and former U.S. Marine, said he wants to "serve the community that I grew up in... I want to make it better."

Follow Lisa Redmond on Tout and Twitter@redmond13_lisa.
TYNGSBORO — Ten students from Greater Lowell Technical High School’s Transitional Occupations Program, or TOP, recently visited Middlesex Community College’s Bedford campus.

The students toured the college’s Transition Program to learn more about the nationally recognized vocational-certificate program for students with learning and cognitive disabilities.

The two-year program prepares students for Office and Business Support occupations through specialized course work; provides on-the-job training through internship placements in competitive business settings; focuses on good work habits and personal development and communication skills; and teaches job-seeking and job-survival skills.

Consumer skills, along with independent living, and personal and social development are highlighted.

The MCC program is the only one of its kind at a community college in Massachusetts. Graduates receive a Certificate of Completion in Office and Business Support Skills.

Multiple layers of support are in place to ensure student achievement. Small class sizes, individualized attention and curriculum tailored to meet a student’s specific needs are geared toward success.

Students attend classes three days a week and spend two days a week working as an intern in real-world employment situations. Many internships are in downtown Boston, Cambridge or Lowell, easy commutes for students using public transportation. Other sites are located in communities surrounding the college, such as Burlington, Bedford, Woburn and Waltham.

TOP is a substantially separate program that is part of the Special Education Department at Greater Lowell Tech. The curriculum comprises career readiness, life skills and functional academics. TOP students, accompanied by staff members, participate daily in community-based work experiences at locations such as Summer Place Elderly Retirement Living, St. Vincent De Paul, Community Teamwork Inc., and the Dracut Housing Authority.

The goal of the program is to provide each student with the necessary skills to live and work independently as an adult in the community.

TOP staff members work closely with the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission and the Department of Developmental Services to transition students from high school to work.

The program has 70 students enrolled, ranging in age from 14 to 22.
MCC professor a Faculty Ambassador

LOWELL — Middlesex Community College Professor of Business Administration James Dottin has been selected to serve as one of six HP Life Faculty Ambassadors by the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship and HP, one of the world's largest technology companies.

As an HP Life Faculty Ambassador, Dottin will assist in providing Dottin options and best practices to help integrate the use of HP Life, a free, cloud-based e-learning program, into classrooms. The program is designed to foster entrepreneurship and grow local economies, as well as to help students understand how technology can be used to launch small, local businesses.

"HP Life e-learning is an online, interactive curriculum designed for the entrepreneurial-minded learner," Dottin said. "The innovative, self-paced program modules focus on finance, marketing, communication and operations. Each module integrates business concepts and information-technology skill development in real-life business scenarios."

Dottin has already integrated HP Life e-Learning into his Introduction to Business, Principles of Marketing and Computer Applications courses.

"This program has been very effective in helping students make real-life connections to the principles of business," he said. "It has made a significant difference to students' understanding of life in the working world."

NACCE is an organization of educators, administrators, presidents and entrepreneurs focused on inciting entrepreneurship in their community and on their campus.

For more information, visit www.nacce.com or contact Dottin at dotting@middlesex.mass.edu or call 978-656-3172.
MCC’s Fall Concert Series Concludes With Faculty Recital
Middlesex Community College’s A World of Music fall concert series concludes with an MCC Faculty Recital, featuring Mark Berger, violin/viola, Adam Levin, guitar, Carmen Rodriguez-Peralta, piano, and Anna Ward, soprano, at 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 22, in the MCC Concert Hall (Building 6) on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road.

Free and open to the public, the concert will feature a colorful program of solos, duos and trios by Astor Piazzolla, Franz Schubert, Eduardo Morales-Caso, Lorenzo Palomo and Samuel Barber. Composer/violist/violinist Mark Berger is very active in the Boston area and has performed with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Boston Pops, Emmanuel Music, Boston Modern Orchestra Project and Boston Lyric Opera. He is on the music faculty at Middlesex, UMass Lowell and Clark University.

Carmen Rodriguez-Peralta, pianist, has appeared as soloist and chamber musician throughout the United States, Peru and Mexico. She is Chair of the Music Department at Middlesex and Director of A World of Music Concert Series.

Guitarist Adam Levin has performed across the United States and Europe and is the recipient of numerous honors, including being named as a Fulbright Scholar in the field of music performance. As part of a fundraising effort for Hurricane Katrina victims, Levin directed the Concert for Gulf Coast Aid, which raised $10,000 for hurricane relief.

Anna Ward, soprano, is an active artist throughout New England. Ward was featured this season with the Raylynmore Opera, Lorelei Ensemble, Coro-Dante, Copley Singers, the Freisinger Chamber Orchestra, the Longfellow Chorus and Seraphim Singers.

Donations for Strings for Cambodia will be accepted at this concert. For more information, visit: https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/stringsforcambodia

MCC Hosts FREE Info Sessions for Workforce Training Fund Grants
Middlesex Community College will host a FREE Information Session for businesses seeking Workforce Training Fund (WFTF) grants from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 7, in the Galvani Room in Trustees’ House on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road.

A representative from the Massachusetts Division of Career Services will present an overview and answer questions in an informational setting. The registration deadline is Monday, Nov. 4.

Massachusetts WFTF provides resources to business to train current and newly hired employees. The goal is to help improve employee skills and maintain the economic strength of the Commonwealth’s businesses. MCC’s Corporate and Community Education and Training Program has helped many businesses secure and implement these grants.

For more information about WFTF Info Sessions, or to register, contact Julie Hay at hayju@middlesex.mass.edu or call 978-656-3009.

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!
David Daly, president of Pridestar EMS, stands in front of the East Merrimack Street building across from Lowell Memorial Auditorium that he recently purchased in downtown Lowell. The site, envisioned as a new gateway for the downtown, previously was the site of Middlesex Community College’s Cyber Cafe and theater. It also was home to numerous bars over the years.

New life for downtown Lowell gateway

Site of former Cyber Cafe, assorted pubs purchased by developer

By Grant Wolke
grwolke@lowellsun.com

LOWELL — A long underutilized site across from Lowell Memorial Auditorium is being envisioned as a new gateway for downtown on a gritty stretch of East Merrimack Street.

David Daly, founder and president of Pridestar EMS, has purchased the property and plans a five-story glass building that would also echo the granite of the auditorium and Middlesex Community College’s Federal Building.

The building is planned to be around 75,000 square feet and could include space for Middlesex Community College or the University of Massachusetts Lowell, Daly said. If it isn’t used for an educational purpose, it could also be built to accommodate offices or condos, he said.

“We’ve received a lot of inquiries,” Daly said this week. A brick building on the site has had a long list of tenants over the years, including a few nightclubs. It hosted a Middlesex Community College cyber cafe that closed years ago and the MCC Theater, which closed after spring semester performances earlier this year.

The theater was already expected to be moved as part of a $14 million project that will renovate the former Boston & Maine Railroad Depot on Central Street into a new performing-arts center for the college. The state announced $11 million in
Pridestar EMS President David Daly stands on the East Merrimack Street site he has purchased in downtown Lowell — the former Middlesex Community College Cyber Cafe and theater. The UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center is visible across the canal from the site at left, while MCC is at right.

New life for downtown Lowell gateway

GATEWAY/From Page 1

funding for the project in September.

Daly’s plans for the site also include a walkway along the Concord River from East Merrimack Street to the college’s Davidson Street parking lot. A gap in the walkway exists now where the building that housed the cafe and theater stands, at the confluence of the Concord River and the Lower Pawtucket Canal.

Daly showed off the site on Friday, including a view of the waterways and surrounding mill buildings.

An Interior view of the former Cyber Cafe and theater space purchased recently by David Daly.

“It’s really going to make for beautiful scenery,” he said.

Daley, who purchased the site for $600,000, hasn’t yet sought permits from the city.

The sale to Daly’s Kennedy Waterfront Trust closed in September. The site, which includes 5-7 East Merrimack St. and 15 Davidson St., was purchased from East Merrimack Street Realty Corp. James Cooney Jr. is the firm’s president and treasurer.

Middlesex has been in discussions with Daly for use of the property but nothing has been finalized, said Patrick Cook, the college’s executive director of public affairs.

“Downtown real estate is tough to come by, and we look for proximity,” Cook said, adding later, “we’re anxious to see what they do.”

Follow Grant Welker on Twitter and Tout @SunGrantWelker.
MCC Offers Tutoring for Middle and High School Students

The After-School Tutoring Center at Middlesex Community College provides academic support for middle and high school students. Tutoring is available by appointment from 3 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays on MCC’s Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road.

Customized to fit individual needs and learning styles, MCC’s After-School Tutoring Center offers face-to-face and online tutoring sessions for students needing homework help or assistance with special projects. The After-School Tutoring Center can also provide assistance to students interested in working above and beyond grade level.

“Students who have used MCC’s After-School Tutoring Center have seen improvements in their grades after just one session,” said Marcie Barnes, MCC’s Program Manager of Community Education and Training.

The After-School Tutoring Center also offers an online tutoring option. This option, supported by Educate-Online (http://www.educate-online.com/), includes diagnostic testing in language arts, math, followed by a guided curriculum to improve students’ skills. Tutors can work with students in the After-School Tutoring Center or students can interact with tutors in real-time online, from home.

MCC’s After-School tutoring Center is currently taking appointments in math and language arts. All tutors are Massachusetts state certified middle and high school teachers. Rates for instruction begin at $40 per hour and can be purchased hourly.

MCC Foundation to host holiday portrait sessions

LOWELL — The Middlesex Community College Foundation will host a family holiday portrait session at the historic John Nesmith House.

A 20-minute family portrait session with a professional photographer, with a maximum of 10 people in the photo, is available for $100. Checks should be made out to the Middlesex Community College Foundation.

The portrait sessions will be held from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 1, at the John Nesmith House, 229 Andover St. Schedule the photo session by Nov. 26 by contacting Maureen Spinney, director of historic homes, at 978-458-3722 or email spinneym@middlesex.mass.edu. All photos will be available in an online image gallery or sent to you on a CD-ROM by Dec. 6.
MIDDLEGEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MCC goes smoke free

On Thursday, Nov. 21, Middlesex Community College joined the 1,177 colleges and universities nationwide that have implemented a smoke-free environment. MCC’s new smoke-free policy applies to all students, staff, faculty and visitors to the Bedford and Lowell campuses.

MCC is implementing this new smoke-free policy in conjunction with the American Cancer Society’s “Great American Smoke-out” (http://www.cancer.org), a nationwide effort to help people quit smoking.

“Middlesex is committed to creating and providing a safe and healthy environment for all who study and work at the college, as well as for those who visit our campuses,” said MCC President Carole Cowan. “A smoke-free MCC is a campaign that has been in the works for several years. Thanks to the leadership of our Student Government Association, along with the work of our Smoke-Free MCC Committee of administrators and faculty, we have finally been able to realize this important initiative for our community.”

The smoke-free policy applies to both MCC campuses and any property owned or maintained by the college, including indoor facilities, campus grounds, walkways and parking lots, said Cowan.

Also, as part of the Cancer Society’s national smoke-free initiative, Middlesex is offering a variety of resources and support through the Center for Health & Wellness to encourage and assist students and staff to quit smoking.

For more information about MCC’s new smoke-free policy, visit https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/smokefreemcc/default.aspx or contact smokefreemcc@middlesex.mass.edu.
Local colleges try to control costs

By Tim Landis and Daniele McLean
bedford@wickedlocal.com

Across the country, community colleges, which are counted on to retrain the nation’s post-recession workforce, are raising tuition and fees. In the Bay State, community colleges are working to keep the increases moderate.

According to Jeremy Solomon, spokesman for Massachusetts Bay Community College in Wellesley, the school’s fees increased once over the past five years, in 2011, from $117 per credit to $130, while the state-set $24 tuition cost per credit has remained the same.

“At Mass Bay we understand the importance and value of a higher education option that is affordable and we view that as part of our core mission,” said Solomon. “We do everything that we can to maintain those levels for our students.”

An annual report by the American Association of Community Colleges showed state funding accounted for 29 percent of public community college budgets for the 2012-13 school year. The figure was 40 percent in 2009, the year the recession ended.

During the same period, the share of costs covered by tuition and fees rose from 17 percent to nearly 28 percent.

At Middlesex Community College and Mass Bay, the state’s share of their budgets is around one-third.

But the local colleges have weathered drastic cuts to their budget over the past decade.

According to an October 2013 report from the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center, the state reduced higher education spending by $366.1 million, 25 percent, between fiscal 2001 and 2013.

However in fiscal 2014, the state increased spending by $86.6 million.

Associate Commissioner for External Affairs at the state Department of Higher Education Katy Able said community colleges laid out a plan for legislators on improving the higher education system.

“The increased funding that the Legislature has provided in FY14 allows campuses to do things like hire new faculty or provide more programs that helps train for jobs in the future,” said Able.

Congress approved $2 billion for community college job training in 2010. The money, spread over four years, is in addition to regular federal funding. Able said the state recently received a $20 million federal grant for workforce development at community colleges.

Judy Burke, dean of corporate and community education training at Middlesex Community College, said the school has been able to secure grants from the state, which allows local businesses to send their employees to the school for further training in their field.
MCC's Film Series Continues with 'Long Life, Happiness and Prosperity'

Middlesex Community College's 2013-14 International Film Series continues with a screening of the award-winning feature "Long Life, Happiness and Prosperity" at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5, in MCC's Federal Building Assembly Room, 50 Kearney Square, on the Lowell campus. Free and open to the public, the program concludes with a post-screening discussion with Middlesex faculty at 8 p.m.

Directed by Mina Shum and starring Sandra Oh ("Grey's Anatomy"). "Long Life, Happiness and Prosperity" (http://www.moviemove-

MCC to Host Free Financial Aid Workshops

It's not too late to apply for financial aid for spring semester! Middlesex Community College will host FREE financial aid workshops to help students fill out the 2013-2014 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Parents and students are encouraged to attend FAFSA workshops. Presentations will be held at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 4 in the Financial Aid Office on the Bedford and Lowell campuses. Additional workshops will be held at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11, on the Bedford campus, and at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18, on the Lowell campus.

If you would like assistance filling out the 2013-2014 FAFSA, please bring the following information with you: Signed copy of parents' 2012 Federal Income Tax Return (dependent students), Signed copy of student's 2012 Federal Income Tax Return, W-2 Forms and other records of income earned in 2012 for both student and parents. Records of 2012 untaxed income (Welfare benefits, Social Security benefits, or Worker’s Compensation). For more information about MCC's Financial Aid Office or financial aid opportunities, contact the Financial Aid Office at 781-280-3650 (Bedford) or 978-656-3242 (Lowell), or visit https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/financialaid/.

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

MCC Register Now

Register Now for Spring Semester at Middlesex Community College

Registration is now open for spring-semester classes at Middlesex Community College. Classes begin Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2014, on the Bedford and Lowell campuses, and online.

Middlesex offers more than 75 degree and certificate programs. The college has many transfer options, and enrollment counselors are available to answer questions and get you started on the path to academic success. MCC offers free academic, career and financial aid counseling, as well as free tutoring and extensive support services.

In addition to traditional courses, MCC makes it easy to enroll in online, hybrid and flexible studies courses. We offer 15 degree and certificate programs that can be completed entirely online, as well as many other programs of study that are 80 percent online.

MCC’s Spring Semester Advising Schedule is now available online: https://interactivepon.dunfrip.com/2/33586/316043/pu/ For registration information, call 1-800-818-3434.

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MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Students help keep Bedford's streets safe

Middlesex Community College students are hitting the streets of Bedford to help reduce the number of minor motor-vehicle accidents occurring along Great Road. The new hands-on project is part of MCC's Service-Learning Program, a credit-bearing educational experience in which students participate in an organized activity that meets identified community needs.

With guidance from the Bedford Police Department, students in Criminal Justice Professor Ron Brevard's "Intro to Criminal Justice" class have gathered data from three busy intersections along Great Road at different times of day. Students observed drivers and identified what types of activities drivers were engaging in that kept their eyes off the road - including eating and drinking, grooming, using a cell phone or other electronic device, reading, and passenger interaction.

"The Bedford Police Department has seen a rash of minor traffic accidents along Great Road, but they lack the personnel to complete data-collecting studies like this to better address the problem," said Cynthia Lynch, director of MCC's Service-Learning Program. "That's where we come in."

The Criminal Justice students are currently working on compiling and analyzing their findings. They will then provide recommendations about how to address these issues to members of the Bedford Police Department in a formal presentation in December.

"The project has created an opportunity for students to interact directly with members of the Bedford Police Department while exposing them to career options within the criminal justice field," said Carina Self, MCC's Assistant Dean of Social Sciences and Service-Learning.

Brevard plans to continue the Service-Learning project in future courses. "The students really got into this project and I couldn't be more pleased with what they have accomplished for the Bedford Police, the community and themselves. This has truly been a win-win situation for everyone involved," he said.

Founded in 1992, MCC's Service-Learning Program began with a $2,500 grant and only one course offered. Since then, the program has grown remarkably. Currently, MCC offers more than 80 Service-Learning courses and has more than 350 active community partners. Over the last 20 years, more than 5,000 students have completed more than 185,000 service hours.

Combining service with learning allows Middlesex students to gain further understanding of course content, a broader appreciation of the discipline, and an enhanced sense of civic responsibility.

"We are trying to create opportunities for faculty, staff, students and community members to be human together," said Carina Self, MCC's Assistant Dean of Social Sciences and Service-Learning.

Three types of Service-Learning take place at MCC: Individual placements; project-based Service-Learning with whole classes working on projects; and a one-credit Service-Learning with curriculum that focuses on general or specific community issues.

In each model, students plan their Service-Learning projects under their professor's guidance, based on coursework and the community partner's needs. After serving a minimum number of Service-Learning hours, students reflect on their experiences in a specified way. Students not only receive course credit, but also receive a Service-Learning designation on their transcript, which can be a plus in transferring or on employment resumes.

Service-Learning has enabled MCC students to teach science to children, connect artist to gallery owners, instruct immigrants in proper dental hygiene, and assist nursing-home residents.

"People learn best by being active, and this is active learning at its finest - it's a positive thing," said Lynch.

For more information about MCC's Service-Learning Program, contact Cynthia Lynch, Director of Service-Learning at lynchc@middlesex.mass.edu or 781-280-3556.

AROUND TOWN

Concert Series concludes with Faculty Recital

Middlesex Community College's fall concert series concludes with an MCC Faculty Recital, featuring Mark Berger, violin/viola; Adam Levin, guitar; Carmen Rodriguez-Peralta, piano, and Anna Ward, soprano at 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 22, in the MCC Concert Hall (Building 6) on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road. Free and open to the public, the concert will feature a colorful program of solos, duos and trios by Astor Piazzolla, Franz Schubert, Eduardo Morales-Casero, Lorenzo Palomo and Samuel Barber. Donations for Strings for Cambodia will be accepted at this concert. For more information, visit: middlesex.mass.edu/stringsforcambodia.

Middlesex Hosts Annual Arts & Crafts Fair

Middlesex Community College will host its annual Arts & Crafts Fair Saturday, Nov. 23, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road.

The event is free and open to the public. Visit MCC's beautiful 200-acre Bedford campus and explore more than 60 artist and crafters booths filled with an array of unique, handmade items. Among the items on sale will be fine woodcrafts, baskets, jewelry, glassware, holiday decorations, quilts, watercolors, pottery, metal and wood sculptures, puppets, and candles and soaps. Many holiday baskets featuring gift certificates to local stores and restaurants will be raffled off. Farm fresh fruits and vegetables, and fresh baked goods will also be available. For more information, contact Virginia Barrell at 781-280-3505 or barrellev@middlesex.mass.edu.
ON CAMPUS

MCC Bedford hosts pair of events

World of Music concludes

Middlesex Community College's A World of Music fall concert series concludes with an MCC Faculty Recital, featuring Mark Berger, violin/viola, Adam Levin, guitar, Carmen Rodriguez-Peralta, piano, and Anna Ward, soprano, on Friday, Nov. 22, at 8 p.m. in the MCC Concert Hall, (Building 6), 591 Springs Road in Bedford.

Free and open to the public, the concert will feature a colorful program of solos, duos and trios by Astor Piazzolla, Franz Schubert, Eduardo Morales-Caso, Lorenzo Palomo and Samuel Barber.

Composer/violist/violinist Mark Berger has performed with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Boston Pops, Emmanuel Music, Boston Modern Orchestra Project and Boston Lyric Opera. He is on the music faculty at Middlesex, UMass Lowell and Clark University. Carmen Rodriguez-Peralta, pianist, has appeared as soloist and chamber musician throughout the United States, Peru and Mexico. She is Chair of the Music Department at Middlesex and Director of A World of Music Concert Series. Guitarist Adam Levin has performed worldwide and was named as a Fulbright Scholar in the field of music performance. As part of a fundraising effort for Hurricane Katrina victims, Levin directed the Concert for Gulf Coast Aid, which raised $10,000 for hurricane relief. Anna Ward, soprano, was featured this season with the Raynham Opera, Lorelei Ensemble, Cora-Dante, Copley Singers, the Freisinger Chamber Orchestra, the Longfellow Chorus and Seraphim Singers.

Donations for Strings for Cambodia will be accepted at the concert. For information, visit middlesex.mass.edu/stringsforcambodia.

Arts & Crafts Fair returns

Middlesex Community College in Bedford will host its annual Arts & Crafts Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 23, at 591 Springs Road. The event is free and open to the public.

Explore more than 60 artist and crafters booths filled with an array of unique, handmade items. Among the items on sale will be fine woodcrafts, baskets, jewelry, glassware, holiday decorations, quilts, watercolors, pottery, metal and wood sculptures, puppets, candles and soaps. Many holiday baskets featuring gift certificates to local stores and restaurants will be raffled off. Farm fresh fruits and vegetables, and fresh baked goods will also be available.

For information, contact Virginia Barrell at 781-280-3505 or barrellev@middlesex.mass.edu.
MCC lauded for marketing efforts

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

MCC's Office of Marketing Communications was awarded nine Medallion Awards — two gold, three silver and four bronze — at NCMPR's recent District 1 Conference, held in Mystic, Conn.

"Winning an unprecedented number of awards is a wonderful recognition of a very busy year for our department," said Jennifer Aradhya, director of marketing communications. "Middlesex is proud of the innovative work we do in social media, marketing and design. To be recognized by regional college marketers is a tribute to the hard work and talent of our team."

Marketing communications earned Gold Medallion Awards in the categories of Social Media; and Fund Raising/Annual Campaign. Through Facebook and Twitter, MCC's Commencement 2013 Social Media Campaign promoted and covered special events leading up to Graduation 2013, and live-tweeted commencement ceremonies.

The MCC Foundation's Annual Fund 2013 Campaign included web, print and social-media materials that helped increase donations by 6 percent and raise donors by 3.5 percent.

MCC won Silver Medallion Awards in the categories of Communications Success Story (for the One World Series event "Tony Mendez of Argo Fame"); Press or Promotional Kit (for its Merrimack Valley Partners for Progress messenger bag/promo kit); and One-Time Special Event (for the 25th Anniversary of the Lowell Campus).

Middlesex also earned Bronze Awards in the categories of Brochure/Flier (for the MCC Foundation's 2013 Annual Fund brochure); Magazine (Profiles Magazine); Nifty & Thrifty (series of four MCC Table Tents); and Government Relations Project (for the Trustees' House Geothermal Project on the Bedford campus).

Also, the Office of Public Affairs received a gold award for the video program MCC Connects.
City of Lowell announces winning designers

LOWELL — Two local designers have received awards in the recent City of Lowell T-shirt competition. John Emery and Jennifer Aradhya submitted original designs featuring images and references to the City of Lowell that will be printed for use in the City's marketing program.

"We had originally planned to award only one designer, but the committee felt strongly that both of these artist's designs were worthy of a first prize award," said the City's Special Events and COOL Director Susan Halter.

This is the third and final contest in a series that the City has been running to highlight local talent.
Register Now for MCC's Technical Writing Certificate Program

Enrollment is now open for Middlesex Community College's Technical Writing Certificate Program. This 120-hour postgraduate noncredit certificate program provides students with the tools and skills necessary to write technical documents and effectively communicate about technical information. Spring-semester courses begin Monday, Jan. 27.

This program is a career enhancement opportunity for individuals with well-developed writing skills, a bachelor's degree and at least three years of work experience. Students will learn how to conduct audience and task analysis, work with subject matter experts, understand product documents and the product-development cycle, write clear procedures, review and revise technical information, manage projects, and make content usable. Mark up languages, such as HTML and XML, as well as tools for authoring information for electronic and print distribution will also be covered.

Through lecture, online learning and projects, students will create a portfolio featuring samples of their work.

Solid MS Windows and MS Word skills, access to an MS Windows Operating System, and an aptitude for learning new technology are required. Classes are held from 5:45 to 9:45 p.m., Mondays on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road. The cost of MCC's Technical Writing Certificate Program is $1,499 plus textbook fees. Courses are not eligible for waivers or vouchers.

For more information about the Writing Technical Information Certificate program, or to apply, contact Sheila Morins at morins@middlesex.mass.edu or visit https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/careertraining/techwrite.aspx

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Lura Smith presents fundraising gospel concert

LOWELL — Community Teamwork Inc., in partnership with the Lura Smith Fund-Middlesex Community College, will present the fifth annual gospel fundraiser featuring Lura Smith in a gospel concert of Thanksgiving from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday at Elliot Presbyterian Church. Proceeds will be used to help end homelessness and provide youth scholarships at Middlesex Community College.

The concert will also feature The Choral Majority, the UMass Lowell Gospel Choir, the Messengers of God Choir, James Stibbs, David Dubinsky, Doug Leafer, and David Hurst, Bernard Smith, Joshua Moreaux, Marco Torres and Don Ouellette. Suggested donations begin at $20 per person. For information, call 978-459-0551.

HELPING HANDS

David Hurst, Bernard Smith, Joshua Moreaux, Marco Torres and Don Ouellette. Suggested donations begin at $20 per person. For information, call 978-459-0551.
Middlesex, NECC Sign Transfer Agreement With U.K. University

Middlesex Community College and Northern Essex Community College have signed an international-education articulation agreement with Bath Spa University (BSU) in Bath, England, that allows students to complete an associate degree in selected programs at MCC or NECC then transfer to BSU to complete a bachelor’s degree.

The Memorandum of Agreement between the three institutions was signed recently by Middlesex President Carole Cowan, NECC President Lane Glenn and BSU Vice-Chancellor Christina Slade in a ceremony at MCC’s historic John NeSmith House, near the Lowell campus. The agreement will also promote short-course and semester-abroad opportunities.

“We value our local and global partners, and look forward to close and robust relationships that foster rich and unique opportunities for students and faculty at Middlesex, Northern Essex and Bath Spa University,” said Dona Cady, MCC Dean of Global Education.

“International education is essential for student success in today’s increasingly interdependent environment,” added Cady. “As students explore the diversity of other cultures and customs, they gain perspective on their own world and their place in it.”

MCC students can transfer into 10 programs at BSU, including Business Management, Creative Writing, History, Biology and Graphic Communication, explained Cady — with more programs to be added in the future. While BSU has strong programs in all of the articulation areas, it is particularly strong in the creative arts and business, she said.

Bath is England’s only UNESCO World Heritage City and has been voted one of the safest cities in Great Britain. Bath Spa University (https://www.bathspa.ac.uk) is one of the top liberal arts universities in the U.K. and offers small class sizes in historic buildings, flexible programs and entrepreneurial partnerships.

For more information about MCC’s articulation agreement with Bath Spa University, contact Dona Cady, Dean of Global Education: cadyd@middlesex.mass.edu or 978-656-3470.

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

Middlesex Community College's Music Department presents Luis Leguia and the Carbon-Fiber Cello from noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 7, in MCC's Federal Building Assembly Room, 50 Kearney Square, on the Lowell campus. This event is free and open to the public.

Luis Leguia, recently retired Boston Symphony Orchestra cellist and inventor of Luis & Clark carbon-fiber string instruments, will talk about and play his carbon-fiber cello.

MCC faculty member and pianist Carmen Rodriguez-Peralta will join Leguia to perform several short pieces for cello and piano. MCC faculty member Johannah Segarich will describe how this new invention will be important to the cultural life of Cambodia, through the Strings for Cambodia campaign.

For more information about Luis Leguia's visit to Middlesex, contact Carmen Rodriguez-Peralta at 781-280-3923 or peraltac@middlesex.mass.edu.

For more information about Strings for Cambodia, visit https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/stringsforcambodia.

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MCC Hosts FREE Info Sessions for Workforce Training Fund Grants

Middlesex Community College will host a FREE Information Session for businesses seeking Workforce Training Fund (WFTF) grants from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 7, in the Galvani Room in Trustees' House on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road.

A representative from the Massachusetts Division of Career Services will present an overview and answer questions in an informational setting. The registration deadline is Monday, Nov. 4.

Massachusetts WFTF provides resources to business to train current and newly hired employees. The goal is to help improve employee skills and maintain the economic strength of the Commonwealth's businesses. MCC's Corporate and Community Education and Training Program has helped many businesses secure and implement these grants.

For more information about WFTF Info Sessions, or to register, contact Julie Hay at hayju@middlesex.mass.edu or call 978-656-3009.

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Middlesex Community College to Host Founder of Johnny Cupcakes

Middlesex Community College will host Johnny Earle, founder of the popular T-shirt brand Johnny Cupcakes in a special program to be held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 5, in the Bedford Campus Cafeteria, 591 Springs Road. This event, which is free and open to the public, will also feature an on-site pop-up shop.

Over the past decade Johnny Cupcakes has grown from a "joke" to a multi-million dollar, highly exclusive T-shirt brand driven by a community of worldwide collectors. Earle will share his story about how he took his brand from the trunk of his rusty car at age 19, to some of the world's most-sought-after retail locations.

Recently named America's Number One Young Entrepreneur by BusinessWeek, Earle will explain how his success reinforces the power of details, experience and loyalty. His presentation will include tips for getting any small company, passion or idea off the ground.

"Johnny reminds me so much of our students who have great ideas, drive and enthusiasm for what they want to become in life," said Deborah Walsh, Assistant Dean of Business, Entrepreneurship and Legal Studies. "He can show students that entrepreneurship is more than a career choice – it is a way of thinking about the world and bringing the passion they have for life to everything they do."

For more information about Johnny Cupcakes, visit www.johnnycupcakes.com

This event is sponsored by MCC's new Innovation Development & Entrepreneur Assistance (IDEA) Center and the Center for Leadership and Engagement. For more information about Johnny Cupcakes' visit to Middlesex, contact Melissa Welch at welchm@middlesex.mass.edu.

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Quilt show

The Burlington Quilters' Guild will host its 30th Annual Quilt Show, Boutique and Vendors. Local quilters will display their handiwork at the Middlesex Community College, Campus Center, 591 Springs Road, Bedford, on Saturday, Oct. 26, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 27, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This year's show will feature our guild made, queen size, raffle quilt "Athena's Puzzle" (pattern by Janine Burke) and the Boutique has guild member made quilted crafts for sale. We also have a large selection of raffle baskets to take chances on. The raffle drawings will be Sunday at 3:30 p.m., you do not need to be present to win. Admission is $5 Buses welcome. Free parking and handicapped accessible. For info, email Marianne Russell at: burlington_show@middlesexquiltersguild.

Free concert series

Middlesex Community College's free concert series, A World of Music, continues with a performance by the Boston Saxophone Quartet, Sunday, Nov 3, 3 p.m., at Middlesex Community College Bedford Campus Center, 591 Springs Road, Bedford.
MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Paranormal Ghost Hunter to guide campus investigation

Middlesex Community College will host paranormal ghost hunter Ron Kolek and investigators from the New England Ghost Project at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 30, in the Bedford Campus Center, 591 Springs Road. This event is free and open to the public.

Just in time for Halloween, Kolek will lead participants in a live paranormal investigation of the Bedford campus. “Last year, we took a group tour through the Bedford campus. Each person was given one of the devices and scanners Kolek uses on his investigations,” said Michael Rideout, one of MCC’s Academic Advisors. “Our investigation revealed energetic activity on our scanners in a variety of areas from the fitness trail to the attic in the South Academic building.”

This event is sponsored by the MCC Activities Crew. For more information about The New England Ghost Project’s visit to Middlesex, contact Funmi Oyekunle at studentengagement@middlesex.mass.edu or call 978-656-3394.

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THE SUN
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2013

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Famed ghost hunter coming to MCC

BEDFORD — Middlesex Community College will host paranormal ghost-hunter Ron Kolek and investigators from the New England Ghost Project on Wednesday, Oct. 30, at 8 p.m., in the Bedford Campus Center, 591 Springs Road. The event is free and open to the public.

On the day before Halloween, Kolek will lead participants in a live paranormal investigation of the Bedford campus.

The event is sponsored by the MCC Activities Crew. For more information, contact Funmi Oyekunle at studentengagement@middlesex.mass.edu or 978-656-3394.
Start, Continue or Finish Your Degree

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Find out how at our
FALL OPEN HOUSE

9:30 a.m.
Saturday, Oct. 26
Lowell Campus • 33 Kearney Sq.

- Meet with faculty & academic deans
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- Have previous coursework reviewed for transfer credit
- Meet a panel of nontraditional MCC grads who successfully pursued bachelor's degrees
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MIDDLESEX
Community College

19th Annual
Arts &
Crafts Fair.

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Saturday, November 23, 2013
Bedford Campus | 591 Springs Road, Bedford

FREE and OPEN to the Public!

MORE THAN 60 CRAFTERS

Roam through MCC’s beautiful 200-acre Bedford Campus and visit MORE THAN 60 CRAFTERS booths filled with fine woodcrafts, baskets, jewelry, glassware; holiday decorations, handmade quilts, watercolors, pottery, metal and wood sculptures, handmade puppets, handmade candles, soaps, farm fresh fruits, vegetables, and baked goods.

Plenty of FREE PARKING

50/50 Raffles and Vendor Raffle Donations

To learn more, contact Ginny Barrelle, Director of Conference Services, at 781-280-3505 or e-mail barrellev@middlesex.mass.edu

Yankee Flyer Page 9 November 2013
Technical Writing Certificate Program

This 120-hour, post-graduate noncredit certificate program provides students with the skills needed to make information usable.

**Learn:** How to conduct audience analysis, write clear procedures, review and revise technical information, manage projects, and make content usable.

**Topics covered:** Mark-up languages, such as HTML and XML, authoring information for print, creating PDF files, and electronic distribution.

**Prerequisites:** A solid understanding of MS Windows and MS Word skills, access to an MS Windows Operating System and an aptitude for learning new technology.

**Cost:** $1,499 plus textbook fees

Questions? Visit [www.middlesex.mass.edu/techwrite](http://www.middlesex.mass.edu/techwrite) or contact Sheila Morin at 781-280-3608, or morin.s@middlesex.mass.edu

Register now!
Classes begin Monday, January 27 at MCC's Bedford Campus, 591 Springs Road
City of Lights Parade
& Holiday Celebration

The City of Lowell

Saturday, November 30th • 11AM - 8PM
Visit Lowell.org for details
Parade start time 4:30PM

Event Sponsors

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City of Lights is presented by

City of Lowell
Cultural Organization of Lowell (COOL)
Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce
Greater Merrimack Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau
Lowell National Historical Park
19th Annual
Arts & Crafts Fair

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
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Bedford Campus | 591 Springs Road, Bedford

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To learn more, contact Giany Barile, Director of Conference Services, at 781-286-3505 or e-mail barilegy@middtc.mass.edu
FREE and OPEN to the Public!
Plenty of FREE PARKING

MIDDLESEX Community College
19th Annual
Arts & Crafts Fair.

MORE THAN 60 CRAFTERS | 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
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To learn more, contact Ginny Barrelle, Director of Conference Services, at 781-280-3505 or e-mail barrellev@middlesex.mass.edu
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 $2 restoration fee charged by the Lowell Memorial Auditorium.

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

Tickets may be purchased:
By calling the Lowell Memorial Auditorium
Box Office at 866-722-9881 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 978-934-5751 or email jfellini@lowellauditorium.com. All sales are final. No refunds or exchanges.

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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
Premier Seating - $65 • Standard Seating - $45

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

Tickets may be purchased:
By calling the Lowell Memorial Auditorium Box Office at 978-732-8881 or online at www.lowellauditorium.com or in person at the Lowell Memorial Auditorium
Box Office located at 56 East Merrimack Street, Lowell, MA. For group sales of 15 or more, contact Joe Ochman at 978-924-5751 or email jocelman@lowellauditorium.com.

All sales are final. No refunds or exchanges.

WWW.MIDDLESEX.MASS.EDU/CF14

For details, visit

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- Criminal Justice
- Education
- Global Studies

# Classes begin Jan. 21

A great place to begin your future

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- Day, evening, accelerated and weekend courses, on campus and online
- 15 programs can now be completed entirely online!

- Two convenient locations in Bedford and Lowell
- Small class sizes and free tutoring services
- Disability support services
- Financial aid for those who qualify
- Academic, career & transfer counseling

To learn more or to register, call 1-800-818-3434 or visit [www.middlesex.mass.edu/spring](http://www.middlesex.mass.edu/spring)
Upgrade Your Skills With Middlesex Noncredit Certificate Programs

Is one of your New Year’s resolutions to improve your professional skills or begin a new career? A noncredit certificate program from Middlesex Community College can help!

MCC’s Community Education and Career Training Office offers 10 noncredit professional-development certificate programs, and more than 70 other noncredit courses related to workforce development. Courses are offered during the day, evening and weekend on the Bedford and Lowell campuses – and online. Registration is now open for spring semester, and courses begin as early as Monday, Jan. 13.

“Our noncredit certificate programs are taught by instructors who are experts in their fields,” said Marci Barnes, MCC’s Program Manager of Community Education and Training. “Many students take a noncredit certificate program to pursue a new career, or to upgrade and expand their expertise for a current position.” MCC’s most popular noncredit certificate programs include Digital Photography, Web Design and Social Media, said Barnes.

The Digital Photography Certificate is designed to meet the needs of anyone interested in photography, portraiture, digital-image editing, or selling photos or services on the web. To complete the certificate, students must take four courses, including “Digital Photography I and II,” “Adobe Photoshop CS6,” and “Business of Photography.” Students may also take “Studio Lighting” as a separate course.

“Our Digital Photography Certificate is designed for people who want to explore the possibility of turning their passion into a career – as well as for those who just want to become better photographers,” explained instructor Alyce O’Connell, a professional photographer with 20 years of experience (www.alyceoconnell.com).

“We cover everything from learning how to properly use a digital camera, to composition and lighting. Photoshop is also part of this program, as well as the business of photography, which includes marketing, portfolio building, copyright and accounting practices.”

MCC’s noncredit Web Design Certificate program offers students a well-rounded introduction to web design, including coding, web-production tools, photo editing, and best practices.

“The Web Design Certificate offers students the ability to learn web production from conception design to launch,” said instructor William Donohue, Creative Director of William Donohue Design. “Some students are apprehensive about beginning the program because they have no experience in the subject,” said Donohue “But everyone in the industry started from the beginning.”

MCC’s Social Media Certificate program provides the skills needed to succeed in the evolving world of social media. Eight social media courses are required to earn the certificate, which covers basic understanding of sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, LinkedIn and WordPress.

“Many of our Social Media Certificate students currently work at local businesses, and social-media advertising and management is a new component to their jobs,” said Barnes. “Completing a certificate program helps them gain an edge on what is trending in social media today.”

For more information about MCC’s noncredit certificate programs and courses, call 1-800-818-3434 or e-mail: career_training@middlesex.mass.edu. MCC is one of the largest, most comprehensive community colleges in the state. We offer more than 75 degree and certificate programs, plus hundreds of noncredit courses, during the day, evening and weekend, on our Bedford and Lowell campuses, and online. Middlesex – a great place to begin your future!
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