MCC’s star trek lands Capt. Kirk for Celebrity Forum

Hundreds gather to honor retiring MCC president

Mabry approved as MCC president

MCC provost attends White House Day of Action

New STEM programs offered this spring

MCC, Lowell schools to work to preserve Cambodian music
Global trip leads to MCC
Mabry brings diverse experience to top job

By Grant Welker
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BEDFORD — The person in line to become the next Middlesex Community College president is a soft-spoken man who has spent his whole career in academics and graduated from the prestigious London School of Economics. But he also took a break from college soon into his second year to spend the six years working and traveling by motorcycle through Europe and North Africa. He lived in Germany for four years, then returned to the United States to attend Columbia, where he earned a bachelor’s in political science. Please see MABRY/5

James Mabry and his wife, Judy, who attended his public meeting last month at Middlesex, have also lived in New York, Tokyo, London and Florida before moving to Arizona. They have two daughters, Sarah and Tess.

Mabry, who grew up in a small town in upstate New York outside Rochester, may now be about to come back home to the Northeast.

Forty-seven applicants met the job’s qualifications. Of those, 25 were given further consideration, 12 were interviewed in early November at the Hilton hotel at Logan International Airport, and four were made finalists. After one dropped out, it was down to Mabry and two others.

After a proposal to reopen the process to more finalists failed at Thursday’s trustees meeting, there was no doubt among trustees that Mabry was the best choice to succeed Carole Cowan.

“I do see him moving our college forward and making it bigger and better,” trustee Duane Taylor said. “I see him as someone who celebrates diversity — not just nationally but internationally as well.”

“Middlesex Community College trustee Duane Taylor an president designate James Mabry

Royall Mack, the trustees chairman, said he was looking for someone who wouldn’t require a sharp learning curve and who could move the college ahead quickly. Mabry was that person, he said, and Mabry also spoke about having Cowan stay nearby involved with the college foundation as an asset.

“He really put students’ success first,” trustee Elia Marnik said.

Trustee Paul Means said he was most impressed by Mabry’s commitment to not raising student costs as a default budget- ary action. Means said he asked finalists how they would fund higher education without putting too much of a burden on students and found Mabry’s answer to be best.
A force for diversity, a diverse history

MABRY/From Page 1

"He would make a fine president here," Means said.
He declined an interview until after his appointment would become official by a vote of the state Board of Higher Education on Tuesday. A spokeswoman for Mesa Community College said administrators there would also wait to comment or speak about Mabry until it was official.

The other two finalists for the position were Tricia Lee, a vice president at Prince George's Community College in Maryland, and Johnny Moore, an interim vice president at Northeast Texas Community College.

When Mabry returned to college after his time abroad, he got a bachelor's in political science from Columbia University and a post-graduate certificate from Harvard University's Graduate School of Education. He also has a doctoral degree in United States history from Columbia University and a master's from the London School of Economics.

He began his career as a social studies teacher in the New York City public school system, and after three years taught American history and economics for Dutchess Community College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. He taught for four years teaching at the college, then served as an associate dean for four more years. In 2004, he was a finalist for the college's presidency.

Mabry became an academic dean at Palm Beach Community College in 2006, and in 2008 became the vice president of academic affairs at Mesa Community College. Mabry was also a finalist for Frederick Community College in Maryland this past spring.

The college Mabry will leave for Middlesex Community College could hardly be more different than where he is set to go.

Mesa Community College has two campuses in a dense Phoenix suburb, the main one of which is amid a sea of parking lots, abutted by a medical center, a highway, a shopping mall, and rows of residential development. It is nothing like the Bedford campus' feel of a traditional New England college setting.

A second Mesa campus on the outskirts of the city has a new elaborately designed building among a small cluster set in a barren expanse between a shopping center and a highway. Middlesex, on the other hand, has two buildings — the Middlesex Meetinghouse in Billerica and the Nesmith House in Lowell — that date to the 1800s.

Middlesex Community College has grown in the 24 years under Cowan — it now has a full-time-equivalency enrollment of more than 13,000. But it is still far smaller than Mesa, which had a full-time enrollment as of fall 2013 of nearly 24,000.
A MATCHMAKER FOR VOLUNTEERS, NONPROFITS

Newton native Jared Blake had plenty of personal experience when he brainstormed business ideas through a Middlesex Community College program for students, Entrepreneurship for All, in 2011.

Then 26, Blake had worked for AmeriCorps and participated in a long list of volunteer positions and service trips, including an 11-day trip to Cambodia (below) for Khmer Harvest Build. He was also receiving calls through his work as youth director at St. Eulalia Parish in Winchester from students searching for ways to meet their community service requirements for graduation.

"There is an abundance of need, and an abundance of people who want to do good work," said Blake. "It was very clear there was a problem in connecting them."

Blake’s solution is Give Back Time, a free software toolkit (available at app.givebacktime.org) that helps volunteers and nonprofit organizations communicate with one another, and manage their service efforts and opportunities.

The system also keeps track of volunteer hours, enabling verified certificates of service work to be e-mailed or printed.

Blake, who lives in Salem, N.H., was awarded a $500 Campus Catalyst grant in 2011. Through further support from an angel investor, he incorporated Give Back Time as an Arlington-based company last year, obtained nonprofit status this summer, and officially launched it on Sept. 2.

According to Blake, his website has registered 20 nonprofit organizations, four high schools (Arlington, Bedford, Woburn, and Matignon), and 250 volunteers who can search for opportunities and events by areas of interest and ZIP code.

Blake credits Middlesex Community College with providing him with the encouragement and direction to pursue a new endeavor that he hopes will extend nationwide and beyond. Recently, a volunteer living in Montreal created a profile on the site.

"The goal is to increase volunteerism and change the world," said Blake, who plans to transfer to a four-year college and study economics after he completes his liberal arts degree at Middlesex. "I really believe that intrinsically, there is altruism in everyone. They just need the right opportunity."

Cindy Cantrell can be reached at cindycantrell20@gmail.com.
MCC named Top School for veterans

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

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

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

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

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

For more information about MAE’s 2015 Guide to Colleges and Universities or to access it online, visit www.mae-kmi.com.
Invest In Your Future
With Health Care
Career Training At
Middlesex
Interested in beginning a
career in the health care field? The
Middlesex Community College
Academy of Health Professions
(AHP) offers short-term training
and college-credit courses to
prepare students for a satisfying
career in entry-level health care.
Classes begin Tuesday, Jan. 20.
Programs offered include
Certified Nursing Assistant,
Medical Receptionist, Medical
Office Administration,
Phlebotomy, Medical Assisting,
and a Clinical Lab Assistant
Certificate program. AHP offers
three levels of study and a flexi-
ble schedule that includes day,
evening and weekend classes. All
classes are held on the
Lowell campus. Financial aid is
available for qualified students.
AHP offers a variety of tradi-
tional and non-traditional
courses, career counseling and
support, as well as tutoring. Two
state-of-the-art clinical labora-
tories provide students ample
space and the lab equipment
necessary for hands-on training.

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

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

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

When students are not in class,
they work as interns in com-
petitive employment situations in
office and business support envi-
ronments. Transition students
may participate in all Middlesex
student activities and student
support services.

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

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

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

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

Middlesex Community
College meets the evolving edu-
cational, civic and workforce
needs of our local and global
communities. As one of the larg-
est, most comprehensive com-
unity colleges in the state, we
educate more than 13,000 stu-
dents annually on our campus-
es in Bedford and Lowell, and
on-line. MCC offers more than 75
degree and certificate programs,
plus hundreds of noncredit
courses. At Middlesex, everyone
teaches, everyone learns.
MCC provost joins Obama at ed summit

LOWELL — Philip Sisson, Middlesex Community College’s provost and vice president of academic & student affairs, recently joined President Barack Obama, first lady Michelle Obama and Vice President Joe Biden, along with hundreds of college presidents and other higher-education leaders, to announce new actions to help more students prepare for and graduate from college.

The White House College Opportunity Day of Action renewed the president’s commitment to partner with colleges and universities, business leaders and nonprofit organizations to support students across the country to help the U.S. reach its goal of leading the world in college attainment.

The summit highlighted MCC’s partnership with JFYNetWorks at Lowell High School. A nonprofit, blended-learning innovator that establishes and manages college-readiness programs with high schools and community colleges across Massachusetts, JFYNetWorks enables students to bypass remedial college courses and enroll directly in credit-earning courses by helping them pass Accuplacer college-placement tests.

In the 2013-14 school year, 427 LHS students participated in the MCC/JFYNetWorks college-readiness program. The students were able to eliminate 130 remedial college courses and saved $68,640 in remedial tuition and fees.

JFYNetWorks, Middlesex and Lowell High School intend to expand the program to enable 600 students to remove the obstacle of remedial courses from their pathway to college graduation.

“All the national, state and local data confirms that for community colleges, developmental education is actually one of the biggest obstacles to student success and degree completion,” said Sisson, who represented MCC President Carole Cowan at the event. “Our goal is to continue to partner with Lowell High School, our biggest feeder high school, and JFYNetWorks to provide innovative opportunities to decrease the need for remediation, and to improve the rate of college readiness for all students.”

Participants in the White House summit were asked to commit to new action in one of four areas: building networks of colleges around promoting completion; creating K-16 partnerships around college readiness; investing in high-school counselors as part of the first lady’s Reach Higher initiative; especially low-income and underrepresented students, is vital to building a strong economy and a strong middle class. Today, only 9 percent of those born in the lowest family-income quartile attain a Bachelor’s degree by age 25, compared to 54 percent in the top quartile.

In an effort to expand college access, the Obama administration has increased Pell Scholarships by $1,000 a year, created the new American Opportunity Tax Credit, worth up to $10,000 over four years of college, limited student-loan payments to 10 percent of income, and laid out an ambitious agenda to reduce college costs and promote innovation and competition.

MCC session on finishing your degree

Want to finish your associate degree or add a credential to your résumé? Looking to start a new career? Middlesex Community College is the place to start. MCC will host a Finish Your Degree Walk-In planning session on Lowell campus, designed specifically to assist adult students interested in returning to college. The session is Tuesday, from 4 to 7 p.m., cafeteria, 33 Kearney Square. For more information, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/FINISH, or call 800-818-3434 to meet with an adviser.
Enthusiasm tempered on free community-college plan

By Todd Feathers
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LOWELL — The heads of several local community colleges eagerly greeted a proposal from President Barack Obama on Friday that would guarantee future students two years free tuition, but their excitement was tempered by past experiences with similar proposals that fizzled out.

Under the plan, the federal government would cover 75 percent of the average community college cost and participating states would cover

Cowan: “There have to be some strings attached to that money.”

Please see COLLEGE/5
Enthusiasm tempered on Obama’s free community-college plan

COLLEGE/From Page 1
the remaining tuition for community college students who meet certain achievement benchmarks. But details of how the plan—which carries an estimated $60 billion price tag over 10 years—will be funded remain hazy and have drawn concern from politicians and educators alike.

"It gets to the heart of workforce development. Now for the people who have lingered on the periphery of the American Dream they have the possibility of a college education," said Daniel Asquino, president of Mount Wachusett Community College in Gardner.

But, he warned, "the devil is in the details." Obama formally announced the proposal in a speech at Pellissippi State Community College in Knoxville, Tenn. He said it would be one of the most important points laid out in his upcoming State of the Union address.

Previously, his administration has said that half of full-time students who maintain a GPA of 2.5 and demonstrate sincere progress toward a degree in a growth industry would be eligible for the aid. Only colleges whose credits can be transferred toward a four-year degree would be eligible.

"We don't expect anyone to be bound by the circumstances of their birth," Obama said, adding that "a college degree is the surest ticket to the middle class."

Carole Cowan, president of Middlesex Community College in Lowell and Bedford, agreed that the availability of two tuition-free years would throw open the doors of higher education to untold students who either cannot currently afford to attend college in the first place or must drop out midway because they cannot bear the costs.

"Many of our students, as you know, have to work part- or full-time jobs," she said. Without the need to pay for their own tuition, "hopefully they would be able to do better in class and get a higher GPA."

But Cowan warned that any new plan must ensure that students remain sufficiently applied to their studies and their communities. She said she would like to see the GPA standard raised to 3.0 and an additional requirement that students give back through volunteer work.

"There have to be some strings attached to that money," Cowan said.

The White House has estimated that 9 million students attend 1,100 community colleges around the country, at an average cost of $3,800 each year. Many of those students already qualify for financial aid from the government, and money from the new plan would be doled out before aid from other programs, such as Pell Grants, is applied.

Gov. Charlie Baker and his education secretary, James Peyser, both told State House News Service that they need to see more details before offering their opinions on the plan.

Educators would particularly like to see the White House elaborate on which degree programs students must participate in to be eligible.

"My understanding at first glance is that there may be some selectivity here, that it will target certain workforce development needs," said Lane Glenn, president of Northern Essex Community College.

While that could theoretically help ensure students benefit in the long run, he said, it can be hard to predict which jobs will be in demand for any length of time in a constantly changing economy.

And in the end, the proposal is still at the mercy of an untested congress full of legislators keen to keep a tight grip on the strings of the federal budget.

All three college presidents reined in their enthusiasm in the face of the hurdles to come.

Similar proposals to greatly expand access to higher education, including one in Massachusetts, have failed because they proved not to be financially sustainable, Glenn said.

Shortly after Gov. Deval Patrick was first elected in 2007, his transition team, on which Asquino served, put forward a similar concept. Due at least in part to the commonwealth's finances at the time, nothing came of it.

But President Obama said his plan is based on a seemingly successful example in Tennessee. Funded by a $300 million endowment drawn from lottery proceeds, Tennessee estimates the program will pay for 12,000 students to attend college in 2015.

Any program that can help give more students access to higher education and ensure positive outcomes ought to receive bipartisan support, as it has in Tennessee, Glenn said.

"The students that we serve and Northern Essex and that other community colleges serve are often some of the neediest and also some of the students who can take this country the farthest," he said.
COMMUNITY

Area police take part in Shabbat dinner

By Susie Davidson
Special to the Minuteman

On Jan. 9, Temple Shalom Emeth will be very well protected, as a group of Chiefs of Police and Massachusetts law enforcement and civic officials partake in a Shabbat dinner and services at the Burlington synagogue.

They are among a delegation who recently returned from a November 8-17 Anti-Defamation League (ADL) sponsored counterterrorism seminar in Israel, where they met with counterparts in the Israel Police, and also visited with members of the Palestinian Civil Police Force.

It was the fifth such trip organized by the ADL, which, according to its materials, was founded in 1913 and is the world’s leading organization opposing anti-Semitism and hate; through programs and services geared to counteract hatred, prejudice and bigotry.

Funding for the trip was provided by the Global Security and all participants were senior law enforcement executives from across the nation. This included Boston Police Superintendent William G. Gross; Chief Robert Bongiorno of Bedford; Chief Brian Kyes of Chelsea; Chief Steve Mazzie of Everett; Chief of Police of Framingham; Chief Len Campanello of Gloucester; Chief Robert Picarello of Marblehead; Chief Harry Winitz of Newton; Chief Terrence M. Cunnigham of Wellesley; Lt. Colonel Sharon Costine of the Massachusetts State Police; MBTA Transit Police Chief Ken Groen; United States Marshals Service Marshall John Gibbons; United States Secret Service Assistant Special Agent in Charge Tony Bancro, and Middlesex County Sheriff Peter Koutoujian.

Bongiorno said that he returned with a comprehensive appreciation of the work the Israel National Police, “not just on the strategies and tactics they employ, but I also gained valuable leadership skills that are needed to fight both crime and terrorism, simultaneously.”

Bongiorno and Koutoujian organized a slide show of the trip, which they and others will show and narrate during Shabbat services in Burlington. Gross, second in command of the Boston Police Dept., will be there, along with Costine; Thomas P. Baker, Assistant to the Special Agent in Charge at the United States Secret Service in Boston; and U.S. Marshal for the District of Massachusetts and former Massachusetts State Police Lieutenant John Gibbons.

ADL New England Region Executive Director Robert Trestan will attend, as well as Campanello, Picarello, and fellow police chiefs Kenneth Berkowitz of Canton, Robert J. Ferullo, Jr. of Woburn, Mike Kent of Burlington, and Dan Rosa of Billerica.

“I invited all the local chiefs of towns where we have Temple members,” said Shalom Emeth Rabbi Susan Abramson. “I thought it would be a good connection for both sides.”

Bongiorno said that during the evening he plans to speak with the other law enforcement executives about their professional and personal experiences in Israel.

It will not be his first visit to Shalom Emeth.

“Last year, there were numerous anti-Semitic incidents in Bedford, which were mostly swastikas drawn in the boys’ bathroom at the high school and at Middlesex Community College,” said Abramson, who had never been involved in her town of residence prior to the Bedford clergy meetings that began in the wake of these incidents.

Bongiorno also attended these meetings and Abramson said, “He wanted to do everything in his power to find the perpetrators, and make the Jews in town feel protected. He brought Middlesex DA’s Office, Marian Ryan to my house to meet with all my Bedford temple members, to ask them what they could do to help them feel supported in addition to the criminal investigation.”

Bongiorno also got in touch with the ADL, and Abramson became the clergy council liaison to the town police and school departments.

Bongiorno sponsored a regional ADL training session on hate crimes at the Bedford Police Department. “He even wanted to have a Passover seder at the police station,” said Abramson, who informed him that it was a holiday that people celebrated with their families. She ended up inviting him to his house for the first seder.

The ADL invited Bongiorno, Abramson and Bedford School Superintendent Jon Sills to speak at their Spring, 2014 board meeting, to demonstrate how one town responded to a situation such as what occurred in Bedford. Ultimately, the ADL chose Bongiorno to attend the seminar in Israel.

“He also came to speak at our Temple on Holocaust Memorial Day last spring, and gave an impromptu, very moving talk during the service,” said Abramson, adding that the two have stayed in touch about incidents, which have unfortunately continued, although not at the high school.

“He was very excited about going on the trip, and I asked him to take a lot of pictures and invited him to speak about it after he came back,” she said.

When Bongiorno offered to bring others from the trip, Abramson invited Trestan.

“I thought this would be a great opportunity for our members to outreach to the chiefs of police in the other towns we serve, to build a relationship and understanding in advance of these kinds of anti-Semitic events happening there, which inevitably they will,” said Abramson.

“Temple Shalom Emeth is honored to be hosting this important event,” said synagogue President Steve DiOrio. “We’re especially proud of our relationship with local and statewide law enforcement officials. I commend these police chiefs for participating in the program.”

Abramson invited local officials as well, including State Rep. Ken Gordon of D-Bedford. “I believe we can learn a lot from the security forces in Israel,” said Gordon. “Israel lives in constant threat of terrorist attack, and is certainly vigilant about protecting its citizens and borders.”

Bongiorno said the training in Israel was one of the highlights of his law enforcement career.

“It was a transformative experience for me both personally and professionally,” he recalled. “The trip provided both valuable counterterrorism training and unprecedented networking opportunities, and although most participants were just a year working, knowledge of each other before the trip, the bond was strengthened, and we will continue to develop the relationships we established in Israel.”

Participants were also able to tour the historic region, and Bongiorno said he appreciated visiting the holy sites, as well as the opportunity to meet with executives from the Palestinian Authority Police.

“We live in a community of nations, and it is important that we learn from each other,” echoed Gordon. “Just as our towns are stronger when they get together on certain common interests and address issues regionally, our nations are also stronger when we reach out to other countries to combine resources and knowledge.”

Bongiorno was surprised to discover that, in fact, many similarities also exist between law enforcement agencies all over the world.

“Even 5000 miles away in a foreign land, the challenges that the Palestinian police face - the lack of sufficient resources for training, equipment, hiring and retention - are the very same as those faced by law enforcement executives in Massachusetts,” said Bongiorno.

Bongiorno said that on Jan. 9, he will highlight the need for municipal police chiefs to remain vigilant about threats in their communities. But, as he observed on the trip, support is key.

“It is imperative we educate our elected officials on the federal level that local communities need the resources from the federal government to manage any future threats,” he said. “We must continue to fight for local resources to meet these changing demands of the 21st century. We should not have to wait for another terrorist act, like what occurred in Boston and Watertown, to continually update our training and equipment.”
What's up in Bedford for 2015

By Joy Richard
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Police Chief
Robert Bongiorno

"We continue to expand and enhance our community services unit. So, we continue to do initiatives in the school, working with the elderly, working with the business community and we rolled out P.A.C.E. this year, which was our holiday patrol. We worked with the [Chamber of Commerce] on that and the feedback we got was overwhelmingly positive. So, we are looking to expand that program.

"Obviously, 2014, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the events that happened in Ferguson and New York City. So, I think that we have great relationships and trust in the community, with the clergy, with businesses, with residents, elected and appointed officials. I think that we are in a better place in 2015 to enhance those partnerships, so I see that developing.

"One of the big things that I see for 2015 is the rollout of our strategic plan. We created a new mission statement. We have a new strategic theme; pride, partnering resources, improvements, development and engage. It is a three-to-five-year plan on the footprint of where we see the Police Department moving in the future. We used an outside consultant, but we brought in outside people from the community. Elected officials, appointed officials, residents, we brought in other leaders in the community and we brought in people form our department. Collaboratively, we came up with a great strategic plan.

"From a personal level, I think that one of things that we are going to highlight is traffic control and parking issues. That is always a huge issue in Bedford. That is contained in the strategic plan."
TIME FOR A CHANGE?
Three new careers for motivated midlifers

Think of it as studying for your second act. By returning to school, you can gain the skills needed for an "encore career" that may well prove more satisfying—and possibly even more lucrative—than whatever you're doing today. More good news: A growing number of programs allow you to earn credit for what you already know, take classes at night or on weekends, complete all or some of your coursework online, and earn your new credential in one year or less. Following are a trio of second-act careers.

FUNDRAISING
Want to make a difference in the nonprofit, arts, or education fields? Consider fundraising (also known in the trade as development), a career that ranks near the top of More magazine's list of great jobs for midlife women. Boston University's Metropolitan College offers a graduate certificate in fundraising management. Its four evening courses cover topics such as grant writing, capital campaigns, and financial management for nonprofits. (Bonus: Students have access to the school's job-placement services and can, if they choose, apply some of their certificate credits to a master's degree in arts administration.)

SOCIAL MEDIA
Social media used to be primarily for, well, socializing with family and friends. Now, social media is critical for business as well, with companies using popular platforms to promote their brands, attract new customers, and build online communities. Middlesex Community College offers an eight-week certificate program designed to quickly provide students with social media skills they can use in workplaces of just about any type or size. The course covers Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest, and Instagram, among other platforms. Individual classes cover topics such as best practices for small-business Twitter use, professional networking on LinkedIn, and using Pinterest as a marketing tool. To complete the program, students must create and present a realistic social-media marketing plan.

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY DESIGN
If you're interested in both computers and education, consider combining those two passions in instructional technology design—that is, using technology to enhance learning. University of Massachusetts Boston's 15-credit graduate certificate teaches students to create computer-based and multimedia programs for education and training. Designers work at colleges and universities as well as businesses, nonprofits, and government agencies—and, for that reason, the UMass program focuses on teaching students to serve adult learners in the workplace. The school estimates that a part-time student can earn the graduate certificate in about 18 months.

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Area bids farewell to notable residents

FAREWELL/From Page 1

Michael DeVincenti, Dracut: DeVincenti, chairman of the Social Studies Department at Lowell High School and former coach of the boys tennis team, was only days away from turning 53 when he died of pancreatic cancer in April. DeVincenti started teaching at Lowell High in 1995, leaving enough of an effect on those he met that his services at St. Michael’s Church in Lowell were filled to standing-room-only capacity.

Helen Dolan, Chelmsford: Dolan, taught for more than 33 years in the Billerica school system and was the assistant principal of the Maraball Middle School. She also was a Eucharistic minister at St. Mary’s church in Chelmsford. Dolan earned a taekwondo black belt and also taught aerobics. She died in January at age 60.

Jack Doucette, Westford: Doucette, who died at age 67 in December, spent most of his life in Westford schools, starting at Westford Academy, where he was a 1965 graduate. He began his teaching career after serving in the Vietnam War as a medical corpsman in the U.S. Army. He later taught science at Abbot Middle School before becoming principal of Blanchard Middle School, a job he retained until his retirement in 2005.

Arthur Exo, Lowell: Exo, who died at age 90 in August, was a longtime attorney who was accepted into Harvard at age 14, fought in World War II, and became an assistant professor of law at Northeastern University at age 24, just as he was opening his own private law practice in Lowell.

Rita Lally, Lowell: Lally, with her sister, Imelda, sang to entertain troops during World War II. Lally, who died in February at age 94, was also a president of the Sacred Heart Band Boosters Club.

Tom McKay, Lowell: McKay, Terry McCarthy and Leo Creagan ran the Lowell Memorial Auditorium from 1993 to 2013, bringing top entertainment acts to the city. A longtime Lowellian, McKay gave back to the community by serving on several boards, including Lowell General Hospital, Lowell Five Cent Savings Bank and the Middlesex Community College Foundation. McKay died in February at age 67.


John Pinette, Lowell: Pinette graduated from UMass Lowell in 1966 in accounting. He made his mark, however, in making people laugh. The stand-up comedian often made fun of his weight, but he was best known for his character being carjacked on the final episode of the TV sitcom “Sanford.” Pinette died in April at age 50 of natural causes. The Boston native was named Stand-Up Comedian of the Year by the American Comedy Awards group in 1999.

Jimmy Quinn, Chelmsford: Quinn was so much more than just the man behind the counter for 40 years at North Chelmsford Hardware in Vinal Square; he could have been the “Mayor of North Chelmsford,” if only there were one. Quinn still carried that nickname as a man who participated in the Memorial Day and Fourth of July parades, and was active in local politics — though he never ran for office himself — and helped those with addictions. Quinn died in February at age 77.

David Robinson, Lowell: For decades, Robinson ran Ray Robinson’s Sandwich Shoppe, the downtown institution on Central Street that his father, Ray, started in 1968. Twenty years later, in 1988, when Ray was contemplating retirement, David took over the family business and served generations of patrons with a smile and kindness. He contributed to many charities. David Robinson died in July at age 68, and the shop has been closed since.

Tony Romano, Tewksbury: Romano spent 25 years at Tewksbury Memorial High School, first as an industrial arts teacher, then assistant principal and principal. He later became assistant principal at Lowell Catholic High School. His love for education, sports and working with young people had few peers. He was a basketball referee for more than 40 years, the program director for the Boston Celtics’ Red Auerbach Summer Camp for 23 years, and the assistant executive director for the Massachusetts Intercollegiate Athletic Association from 2008 to 2013.

Carolyn Sheedy, Dracut: Sheedy and her husband, Robert, were of the original families to develop the Lowell Youth Soccer Organization. Sheedy, who died in October, lived in the Highlands section of Lowell for almost all of her 72 years.

Paul Sheedy, Lowell: Sheedy, a former state legislator and city manager, was known for helping to orchestrate the merger of Lowell Technical Institute and Lowell State College, which later became the University of Massachusetts Lowell, and for bringing Middlesex Community College to the city. Sheedy died in March at age 79. She served as city manager in the 1970s and in the state Senate from 1984 to 2000. Sheedy also served in the state House of Representatives from 1965 to 1972.

Nancy Shepherd, Townsend: Shepherd, who dedicated much of her life to helping others, died in June at age 77 and was remembered by one friend as the “ultimate volunteer.” Shepherd volunteered at the Townsend Senior Center, worked as a social worker, co-founded an adult drug-prevention program called Evolution, and volunteered with the Townsend Boy Scouts.

Bill Taupier, Lowell: Taupier was the city manager from 1975 to 1979, but his impact stretched for decades. He had previously been the Holyoke mayor, but fell in love with his adopted hometown and stayed until his death in December at 78. He’s remembered for bringing the Wang headquarters to Lowell, supporting investment downtown at a time when much growth was focused on the suburbs, and as an elected member of the Lowell School Committee, starting the prestigious Latin Lyceum program at Lowell High School.

Tom Whalen, Lowell: Whalen starred as the quarterback for the legendary 1967 undefeated football team at Lowell High School led by coach Ray Pfeick — a team widely considered Reidick’s best ever and among the best in state history. Whalen, who died in July at age 65, spent most of his life coping with injuries following a freak swimming accident in 1980 that left him paralyzed from the chest down. Even then, Whalen still devoted his life to sports, coaching youth baseball for years.

Follow Grant Welker on Twitter and That @SunGrantWelker.
Mabry approved as MCC president

By Grant Welker
gwelker@lowellsun.com

BOSTON — James Mabry was confirmed as the new Middlesex Community College president by the state Board of Higher Education Tuesday, and will become the college’s fourth leader in February. Mabry, the vice president of academic affairs for Mesa Community College in Arizona, will be Middlesex’s first new president since Carole Cowan was appointed to the position in 1990.

Cowan plans to remain with the school as a board member for the college foundation.

“I have big shoes to fill” replacing Cowan, Mabry said, adding that they’ve talked regularly and plan

Mabry confirmed at MCC

MCC/From Page 1

to continue doing so. “She’ll be a huge asset.”

While trustees have said they can’t exactly replace Cowan, they have praised Mabry as the clear favorite among the few dozen candidates interviewed for the position.

“Dr. Mabry rose to the top at every level,” trustee James Hicks said. Middlesex’s board of trustees chose Mabry unanimously last week.

Administrators at Middlesex Community College also praised Mabry in interviews Tuesday.

“He is very dedicated to the community college mission,” said Mesa President Shouan Pan, who hired Mabry soon after taking office. “He understands what we do and always comes to the office energized.”

Mabry is student-oriented enough that he’s been known to buy suits for students who need one for an important engagement but don’t have one, Pan said. In hiring him in 2008, Pan said, Mabry “emerged very quickly as one of the outstanding candidates.”

“He will leave a big hole here,” Pan said. “Middlesex is certainly very fortunate to have him.”

Roger Yohe, Mesa’s dean of instruction in the office of the vice president of academic affairs, called Mabry approachable, transparent, deliberate and someone who believes in “collective intelligence.” He prefers to put an idea out and have a broad discussion to come to the best result, Yohe said.

“You won’t find him as a top-down leader,” he said. Mabry, he said, frequently mentors students and follows up with them even after they leave the college. He’s never seen him lose his composure, in public or private.

“But I hope people don’t confuse being approachable, and that smile, for weakness,” Yohe said. “He’s tough. He’s fair.”

The upstate New York native — who has been in Arizona since 2008 and was in Florida for two years before that — joked about missing having to dress in layers, or having to scrape ice off his windshield. He had been living in warm states long enough that he recently had to shop in the Phoenix area for a winter jacket.

After having lived in New York, London and Tokyo, “it’s culturally more at home for me” being back in the Northeast, he said. He will also be closer to the couple’s two daughters, who are both in Washington.

Mabry’s nearly entire career has been spent in community colleges. “It
James Mabry, third from left, was unanimously confirmed as Middlesex Community College's new president Tuesday by the state Board of Higher Education. With Mabry are, from left, MCC trustees Tim Glaser, James Hicks and Paul Means.

took about three weeks and I knew I was home," he said of his first community college teaching position, where he said he enjoyed the mission and working with a diverse population of students.

He is tentatively scheduled to start at Middlesex Feb. 16.

Mabry's confirmation Tuesday came without any dissension. It was a quiet end to what hadn’t always been a smooth process.

Four of Middlesex's 11 trustees initially voted last week to reverse the search process to come up with more finalists. After that vote failed, they recommended Mabry unanimously. But a day after the vote, trustees Chairman Royall Mack, who also led the search committee, resigned after recent reports brought up inaccuracies in his own resume.

Follow Grant Welker on Twitter and Tout @Sun-GrantWelker.
MCC secures $10M for new Lowell space

By Grant Welker
gwelker@lowellsun.com

LOWELL — Middlesex Community College has secured $10 million in state funding for a new downtown Lowell academic space, President Carole Cowan told city officials Tuesday.

With the money in hand, the college will now begin planning exactly where the space will go and what it will include. It could go into a new building or in an existing space, but either way, it will be located within short walking distance from the college’s existing buildings on the eastern edge of downtown.

“We don’t know exactly where we’re going to put that investment,” said Cowan, whose replacement, James Mabry, was appointed by the state Board of Higher Education earlier Tuesday. He will begin in February.

College officials presented the funding news to the City Council’s educational-partnerships subcommittee Tuesday.

The academic building will join another project set to begin in the spring, the restoration of the Boston & Main building, known as the former Rialto theater on Central Street. The building will be renamed the Academic Arts Building and will feature a 190-seat performance theater, a dance studio and a music recital hall.

Completion is expected by January 2017.

“It’s an extremely complicated project in a small space,” college Vice President Jay Linnehan said.

The Academic Arts Building received $11 million in state funding last year, which will be combined with $3 million in college funds. The building originally served as the Boston & Maine Railroad’s Central Street depot until 1895. Since then it has housed a theater, bowling alley and wide range of other uses, but has sat vacant for years.

The new academic building could provide for another re-use of an existing building for the college. It already uses a former Wang training building (now City Building), a former post office (the Morse Federal Building), and the Pollard Exchange building. The college got its start in Lowell in the Wannalancit Mills.

Even the college’s Bedford campus is a former seminary. Another building, for science, technology, engineering and math — known as the STEM subjects — will be going up soon on the Bedford campus. That building is now in the design phase.

Follow Grant Welker on Twitter and Tout @sun-GrantWelker.
Three Presidential Appointments Approved by BHE

New leaders at Bridgewater State, Fitchburg State, and Middlesex Community College to take positions in 2015

From left: Fred Clark, Richard Lapidus and James Mably

This month the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education approved the appointments of three new presidents who will take their posts in 2015:

Frederick W. Clark, Bridgewater State University
Clark will assume the presidency at his alma mater on July 1. Clark earned his undergraduate degree from Bridgewater in 1983 and, since 2011, has served as its executive vice president and vice president for external affairs. Previously Clark held positions as executive officer of the Massachusetts State Universities’ Council of Presidents, chair of the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education and, for 28 years, chief aid to the late Congressman John Joseph Moakley. >> Read Bridgewater’s press release

Richard S. Lapidus, Fitchburg State University
Lapidus currently serves as the dean of the College of Business Administration at California Polytechnic University, and will assume the presidency at Fitchburg State on July 1. Before his deanship at California Polytechnic University, Lapidus was associate dean of administration and associate professor in the College of Business at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He also served as chair of the Marketing Department. >> Read Fitchburg’s press release

James Mably, Middlesex Community College
Mably currently serves as vice president of academic affairs for Mesa Community College in Mesa, Arizona, and will assume the Middlesex presidency in February. Previously he was dean of academic affairs at Palm Beach State College, and associate dean of academic affairs and assistant professor of history at Dutchess Community College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. >> Read Middlesex’s press release

COMMISSIONER'S MESSAGE

FY16 Budget Request Continues Push for Additional Resources

By Richard M. Freeland, Commissioner of Higher Education

In October, the legislatively mandated Higher Education Finance Commission called for significant additional funding over the next five years to establish Massachusetts as a Top 10 state with regard to state support and, within five more years, academic performance. It was gratifying to hear an external body echo the Vision Project’s call to make national leadership in public higher education an urgent priority for the Commonwealth—and to call for the level of funding that is needed to make this vision a reality.

Following the Commission’s recommendations, the FY2016 Budget Request approved by the Board of Higher Education last week asks the Legislature and Governor-elect Baker for an additional $55 million in operating budget support to the 29 campuses and an additional $42 million for the state’s primary need-based financial aid program, the MASSGrant. Fulfillment of these recommendations would begin to move the needle on Massachusetts’ current position in state funding per FTE student, currently 26th in the nation, and in the average size of need-based state grants, where Massachusetts currently ranks an astounding 46th out of the 48 states and territories reported in SHEEO’s SHRF Report, with an average grant of just $657 per eligible student compared to a national average of $2,415.

As I have said before, in the end, Massachusetts will have the system of public higher education that its citizens demand. As we enter budget season, I hope you will join me in spreading this urgent message and seeking this vital support for our campuses, our students and our economic future. Please follow @MassDHE on Twitter for updates.

>> Read our FY2016 Budget Request
On November 14, over 140 representatives from Massachusetts' public colleges and universities gathered at Boston's Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the U.S. Senate for a day-long DHE conference entitled, Beyond Clinton's Higher Education's New Civic Mission. Meeting in an exact replica of the U.S. Senate Chambers, attendees heard from stakeholders across the Commonwealth about the importance of civic learning and from Carol Geary Schneider, president of the Association of American Colleges & Universities, about how Massachusetts is leading civic renewal efforts on the national stage through the Vision Project. The DHE was honored to be hosted at the facility, which will not open publicly until March 2015.

MAKING NEWS

Baker should look to Vision Project “how-to manual”

Boston Globe Editorial

December 15—“Charlie Baker boasts a lot of areas of expertise, but higher education isn’t one of them. ... Luckily, outgoing Commissioner of Higher Education Richard Freeland will be leaving Baker with a how-to manual.”

State schools tackle state’s need for more graduates

The Boston Globe

December 15—Warning of a projected shortfall of 60,000 graduates by 2023, the Vision Project calls on lawmakers to grow investments in public higher education in exchange for boosting graduation rates and closing achievement gaps.

FAST FACT

DHE Launching Study of Manufacturing Workforce Needs

Contrary to conventional wisdom, the manufacturing sector in Massachusetts boasts extensive job opportunities for workers with a college education and particularly those with a baccalaureate or higher credential. The DHE is launching a study of this growing economic sector and will report in the spring on how strategic workforce planning among the DHE campuses and industry might support it.

Educational Requirements of Current Manufacturing Job Postings

Source: Wanted Analytics. 120 Days, November 2014.

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Business and beyond north of Boston

2014 award winners Amy Hoey and Brandi Giles.

By Nick Kapteyn | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT DECEMBER 14, 2014

More than a dozen local chambers of commerce have created a Collaborative Regional Initiative that is meant to identify strengths to help attract businesses; discuss chambers’ goals and missions; and begin “real and meaningful regional business collaborations,” according to a statement from Rinus Oosthoek, executive director of the Salem Chamber of Commerce. Chamber leaders participating are from Amesbury, Cape Ann, Greater Beverly, Greater Newburyport, Greater Haverhill, Lynn Area, Marblehead, Melrose, North Shore, Peabody Area, Revere, Salem, Salisbury, and Saugus.

Three area schools — Salem State University, UMass Lowell, and Middlesex Community College — were picked as top schools for military veterans in the December issue of Military Advanced Education. The publication picks the best schools across the country and rates them in six different areas: military culture, financial assistance, flexibility, general support, online support, and on-campus support.
Nominations are being sought for the 2015 Because of Her Awards by the Lowell Women’s Week Committee. Potential nominees are women who have inspired others through their dedication to community service or courageous response to adversity. The women who receive the award will be honored at a breakfast March 2. Nomination forms can be filled out and submitted at www.lowellwomensweek.org. The deadline is Jan. 23.

The town of Westford has received a $50,000 donation from Circle Health, a nonprofit headquartered in Lowell that provides health services and resources. The donation will help fund programs and initiatives run by the Westford Health Department, including wellness and screening programs for firefighters, and shingles and dental programs for seniors. “Our ability to offer high-quality services and programs depends directly on the generosity of our benefactors,” Westford health director and registered nurse Sandy Collins said in a statement. “We are extremely grateful for the generous donation from Circle Health.”

Hamilton resident Anthony Bond was recently promoted to vice president for gas transmission and distribution services at the Everett-based construction management and contracting firm Bond, where he has worked for more than eight years. Anthony Bond's clients have included the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, National Grid, and Harvard University, and he has managed several large gas projects, including the installation of a gas main in Somerville for Spectra Energy.
Judge's verdict makes way for Mabry

A Sun Staff report

IT APPEARED retired Middlesex Superior Court Judge Robert Barton might make an impressioned plea at his final meeting as a Middlesex Community College trustee to place Jay Linnehan, a vice president at the school, among the finalists to replace outgoing President Carole Cowan.

The Column
Inside political news and views from around The Sun circulation area.

Barton had said Linnehan's exclusion "shocked" him.

"All I have been told, and I understand it was a nationwide search, I frankly find it hard to believe that Jay Linnehan was not among the four finalists," Barton, a 10-year trustee who didn't serve on the search committee, said a few days before the meeting.

"At Thursday's meeting, Barton said he thought one other person should have made the cut, alluding to Linnehan. But there was no final stand. Trustee Duane Taylor made a motion to suspend the process, but Barton didn't join him.

After the meeting, Barton said he didn't want to risk losing James Mabry, who was ultimately chosen, by delaying or reversing the process.

"He far exceeded anyone we interviewed," he said.

Then-trustees Chairman Royall Mack said the drop-off between the four finalists (one dropped out) and the fifth- and sixth-best candidates was "considerable."

"There was a significant drop-off," he said, perhaps as a way to address the Linnehan issue without naming him.

Barton said after the meeting he wasn't sure if Mack was alluding to Linnehan. "That would be all conjecture," he said.

On Friday morning, Mack resigned from the board of trustees. He'd been dogged by media reports he fudged his résumé. In a letter to Gov. Deval Patrick, who appointed him, Mack said the allegations had become a distraction.

MCC president search conducted in a professional, transparent way

As a retired senior executive who has spent more than 40 years in the private sector going through CEO executive searches and corporate reorganizations, I commend the executive search process used by Middlesex Community College to identify its new president.

The process was professionally orchestrated and transparent with faculty, staff and students invited to meet and ask questions of the final candidates for this important academic position.

Email updates on the search were frequent and informative along with solicitations from the board on how college stakeholders viewed the strengths and weaknesses of the candidates.

The selection of James Mabry is an outstanding choice, deliberative, thoughtful and accomplished with the best of intentions: preparing MCC as the community college of choice for 21st-century career education.

RICK POZNIAK
Billerica

MCC adjunct faculty, communications

Middlesex Community College Trustee Robert Barton, center, flanked by trustees James Hicks and William Chemell, originally balked at the exclusion of Jay Linnehan from the hunt for the next college president. On Thursday, Barton called James Mabry, the board's pick "outstanding."
Trustee out over résumé troubles

Mack resigns as MCC board chair

By Grant Welker
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and Amelia Pak-Harvey
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BEDFORD — The chairman of the Middlesex Community College board of trustees abruptly resigned Friday after reports questioned the truthfulness of his résumé.

Royall Mack, of Bedford, resigned without explanation on Friday. He was found to have fabricated information on his résumé, including that he was drafted by the Kansas City Royals in 1969, which is not true.

The board of trustees voted to accept his resignation effective immediately.

Mack, 86, had been chairman of the board since 2012 and had been a member of the board since 1987. He is a retired attorney and former state senator.

In a statement released Friday, the board of trustees said it was aware of the allegations and was concerned about the integrity of its board of trustees.

First, questions arose over whether he graduated from an executive MBA program from Harvard and graduated ranked first in the class. On Friday, the Boston Herald reported Mack was never drafted by the Kansas City Royals baseball team in 1969, as he claimed in a biography given to the governor's office in 2012.

In his resignation, to Gov. Deval Patrick, Mack alluded to the résumé controversy.

"Allegations that have arisen this week in the media have become a distraction to me being able to effectively perform my duties," he wrote. "I feel an obligation to resign from the board of trustees because of the integrity issue and for the good of the college."
MCC board of trustees chairman resigns over résumé flap

MACK/From Page 1
duties as chair of this august body," he wrote. "I believe it will be
in the best interest of the college and its newly elected president if I
step down both as chair as well as even a member of that board of
trustees and allow the college to move forward without having to
contend with these issues."

His departure comes one day
after he and other trustees voted
unanimously to appoint a new
president, James Mahry, who
currently serves as the vice pres-
ident of academic affairs at Mesa
Community College in Arizona.

That appointment is sched-
uled to go Tuesday before the
state Board of Higher Education,
which could affirm the choice or
take another action.

Although Mack served as
chairman of the college’s search
committee, the Department of
Higher Education announced Fri-
day that they still have “full con-
dience” in the work of the MCC
presidential search committee.

"The process was fair, deliber-
eate, extremely thorough and con-
sistent with Board of Higher
Education guidelines for the con-
duct of presidential searches," said Katy Abel, the department’s
spokeswoman.

As official from Mesa Com-
munity College — where Mahry
serves as vice president of aca-
demic affairs — said Mahry will
not issue any statement until the
board meets again on Tuesday.

Mack, a former Gillette exec-
utive, was appointed to the
board in 2007 by Patrick
Patrick’s press staff didn’t return
calls on Friday.

In a brief phone call Friday,
Mack said his resignation will
have no impact on the board’s
new pick for president.

"It’s two separate issues alto-
gether," he said. "Our president
has been selected, unanimously
approved by the board of
trustees."

"Whatever his
problems are, I hope
they get solved
because he’s a very
fine person and a
very fine man."
Retired Middlesex Superior Court
judge Robert Barton, whose last
day on the board of trustees
was Thursday.

Mack would not comment on
the allegations that surfaced
this week, other than to say there’s
a "lot of stuff floating out there."

"The main thing is the presi-
dency of MCC is firm, in place," he
said. "It was a great process."

Retired Middlesex Superior
Court judge Robert Barton,
whose last day on the board was
Thursday, said Mack was a
very fine chairman.

"He ran the meetings well, he
put in the time, and whatever his
problems are, I hope they get
solved because he’s a very fine
person and a very fine man," he
said.

Barton said Mack’s resigna-
tion would not affect the board’s
vote for Mahry, and said he was
even going to call Mack on Fri-
day morning to congratulate him

"That was just a fine meeting
yesterday, everybody got to say
their thing and do their thing
and we picked a wonderful per-
son as the president," he said.

On the allegations about Mack’s
credentials, Barton said no one
should ever allege they’re some-
thing other than what they are, but
also said people make mistakes.

"That’s a mistake, and some-
times other people have to show
some forgiveness in their life," he
said. "Compared to what I used to
see, and that was rape, robbery
and murder, Royall Mack is still
a very fine person."

In a statement, outgoing
MCC President Carol Cowan
thanked Mack for his seven

years on the Board of Trustees
and wished him well in his con-
tinued endeavors.

"His commitment to the college
even and especially to student success

has been unwavering," she said.

"He always insisted we put the
student first in everything we do."

Cowan also called Mack a
"staunch proponent" of the role
community colleges play in
workforce development.

Board member Tami Dristi-
liaris said the board still made a
very good choice in the next presi-
dent.

On the credential allegations,
Dristi- liaris said she didn’t think
he would do anything intention-
ally to defraud anyone.

"He seems like a very won-
derful person, I don’t think he’d

do anything like that intention-
ally," she said.

Doubts were first raised
about the accuracy of Mack’s
résumé when the Herald

reported that Harvard Univer-
sity doesn’t have the "executive
MBA" program that Mack’s 11-
year-old website stated he had.

Mack’s biography submitted
to the governor’s office also said he
was first in his class, even though
the university doesn’t rank stu-
dents in such a way, the paper said.

In response to that report,
Mack told the newspaper he was
selected by executives in the
class to give a speech as the stu-
dent who “distinguished” himself
and “best represented the class.”

In a second report published
Friday, the Herald said Mack was
never drafted by the Kansas City
Royals as he claimed A spring
2013 profile of Mack in the Mid-
dlesex Community College maga-
azine states Mack was drafted by
the Royals following graduation
in 1969, and received a $10,000
signing bonus. Both the baseball
team and his alma mater, North
Carolina A&T State University,
said in the report that they had no
record of Mack being drafted.

The magazine states that
Mack played one year of minor
league baseball in Des Moines,
Iowa, before taking a job at Lib-
erty Mutual in Benton. Baseball-
Reference.com, an online ency-
clopedia of major-league and
minor-league baseball, shows no
listing for Mack. It also shows
that the Royals did not have a
minor-league affiliate in Des
Maisons in either 1969 or 1970.

Follow Grant Welker on Twit-
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Follow Amelia Pak Harvey on
Twitter and Tont @Amelia-
PakHarvey.

Royal Mack, then chairman of the Middlesex Community
College board of trustees, and outgoing President Carol Cowan
take part in a discussion at MCC’s Bedford campus Thursday
before the trustees voted to make James Mahry, vice president
for Mesa Community College in Arizona, MCC’s next leader.
Mack resigned Friday over résumé questions.
Mabry makes grade at MCC

By Grant Welker
gwelker@lowellsun.com

BEDFORD — After some discord around whether the search for a new Middlesex Community College president should move forward, the college's trustees voted Thursday to make James Mabry, the vice president of academic affairs for Mesa Community College in Arizona, its next leader.

The choice of Mabry will now be forwarded to the state Board of Higher Education for a vote Tuesday that would make his appointment official. The trustees' approval came despite an attempt by four of the 11 trustees to reopen the process and find more candidates.

Trustee Duane Taylor proposed having the search committee come up with four additional finalists, saying that three wasn't enough. But once his vote failed, 7 to 4, the trustees were unanimous in backing Mabry. If ratified by the Board of Higher Education, Mabry will begin contract negotiations with the college.

One after another, each trustee lauded Mabry for his experience, background, qualifications and vision.

Please see MCC/12

James Mabry, vice president of academic affairs at Mesa Community College in Arizona, interviews at MCC’s Bedford campus last month. On Thursday, trustees picked him to replace Cowan. Watch video at lowellsun.com.
MCC/From Page 1

"He has, beyond a doubt, the best academic credentials, experience and demeanor," trustee Robert Barton said.

"He really puts student success first," said trustee Zuka Marnik.

In a statement released by MCC later in the morning, Mabry said it would be an honor to serve as the next Middlesex president.

"This is a great institution that has profited from strong and consistent leadership for many years," he said. "This college has a strong senior leadership team and many at the college have deep roots in the community. These connections and relationships will be a huge asset to the incoming president."

"I will come to Middlesex, ready, willing and able to engage and inspire, to lead and to serve, to challenge and support," he added. "I am committed to providing progressive and visionary leadership and will work tirelessly to serve the entire community."

In an interview with Middlesex officials last month, Mabry called it critical to have a collaborative relationship between a community college and the area it serves. He also spoke about community colleges' role in offering an education for disadvantaged students.

If approved by the Board of Higher Education, Mabry will replace Carole Cowan, Middlesex's president since 1990.

Middlesex has undergone a dramatic makeover in Cowan's time, establishing a traditional-style campus in Bedford and a series of buildings in downtown Lowell. When she became president, the college was still dispersed among locations in Bedford and Burlington, including at a former middle school.

The college has grown from one of the state's smallest community colleges into one of its largest, with a full-time-equivalency enrollment of more than 13,000.

Cowan, who announced in June that she would step down once her replacement was named, plans to remain with the school as a board member for the college foundation, for which she will also volunteer.

The state Board of Higher Education and Commissioner of Higher Education Richard Freeland are scheduled to interview Mabry next. The board is scheduled to meet Tuesday to make its decision, which could include appointing Mabry or another finalist, or recommending a new search.

At the start of the Middlesex trustees meeting Thursday, it appeared as if the process for choosing the next president might be put in reverse. Taylor said he had reservations about the number of finalists. There were four until one withdrew her name last month.

"I can't understand how we couldn't find one qualified candidate from the New England region," Taylor said. "If we get this wrong, students pay the price."

In addition to Taylor, trustees William Chemelli, Tami Drislirius and Paul Means voted to suspend the process to seek more finalists. Barton, who earlier in the week told The Sun he was "shocked" that Jay Linehan, a Middlesex vice president, was not among the finalists, said he voted to keep the process moving because Mabry was too good to risk losing.

"This Mabry is outstanding," he said.

Drislaris said after the meeting she also thought Linehan was worth making the final cut.

"He's always there," she said. "He runs the foundation. He just is someone who is really qualified. I wanted him to be given the opportunity to present himself to the board."

Chemelli said afterward he had no issue with the finalists but simply wanted more time to study the candidates. Means couldn't be reached for additional comment after the meeting.

Royall Mack, the trustees chairman, defended the number of finalists. The Department of Higher Education recommends three to five, he said, and the search committee chose four knowing one or two may drop out.

"As has been the experience, one did drop out," he said.

Mack also explained why at least one more finalist wasn't added when Jean Wubsey, a provost at Palm Beach State College, withdrew her name.

"There was a significant drop-off between the four finalists, and five, six and seven" on the list, he said.

Middlesex Community College Trustee James Hicks gives a hug after Thursday's meeting naming her successor.

Middlesex Community College Vice President Jay Linehan listens to the discussion Thursday, when several trustees tried to delay the naming of a new president. Several trustees believed Linehan should have been a finalist.

From left, MCC trustees James Hicks, Robert Barton and William Chemelli at Thursday's meeting. Barton called James Mabry, the board's pick to succeed Carole Cowan, "outstanding."
EDUCATION

MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

New STEM programs offered this spring

This spring, Middlesex Community College is offering three new associate degree programs in science, technology, engineering and math, including two new engineering tracks and a cybersecurity program. Classes begin Jan. 20, 2015, and there’s still time to apply for financial aid.

MCC’s new engineering science transfer mechanical engineering and engineering science transfer civil/environmental engineering associate degree programs were designed in collaboration with the Francis College of Engineering at UMass Lowell. Graduates will be prepared to transfer to four-year bachelor’s degree programs in engineering, and in most cases, prepared to take primarily the engineering core courses and engineering electives needed to complete their bachelor’s degrees.

In most cases, MCC students will take their engineering electives at UMass Lowell, and receive full credit toward their associate degree at MCC. And, through a reverse transfer articulation agreement, students will simultaneously satisfy course requirements at UMass Lowell.

MCC’s computer science transfer, secure software development associate in science degree program is intended to prepare students for transfer to a bachelor's degree program. The program focuses on developing secure software that performs only its intended functions without the presence of vulnerabilities that hackers or others with malicious intent can exploit. It also includes robust, career-focused pathways in the fields of computer science, information technology, computer networking and data analysis.

The SSD program conforms to the framework for cybersecurity education developed jointly by the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security. Program curriculum was developed with guidance from MCC’s Information Technology Advisory Board, which includes cybersecurity professionals from organizations such as Mitre and Lincoln Labs. The program development was funded by a grant from Broadening Advanced Technological Education Connections, a national center of excellence for computing and information technologies, sponsored by the National Science Foundation.

Four new cybersecurity courses are being offered as part of the program, including "operating systems basics & security," "introduction to computer security," "secure programming" and "information assurance." A considerable amount of hands-on computer experience is incorporated into the curriculum.

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EDITORIAL

Rethink MCC president search’s timing, finalists

What's the rush? That's a question we'd ask the state Board of Higher Education, which announced Monday that a decision on the next president of Middlesex Community College will made Dec. 16, six weeks earlier than previously planned.

Now the MCC’s board of trustees will make its choice known on Thursday. Following an interview by the higher ed board, that person either will be appointed President Carole Cowan’s successor, or the board could call for some other action.

Katy Abel, the Board of Higher Education's spokeswoman, made pains to say the accelerated timetable had nothing to do with the departure of Gov. Deval Patrick on Jan. 8.

Some have questioned whether Republican Gov. Charlie Baker would seek to review a selection process that didn’t include MCC’s current second in command, Jay Linnehan, in the list of finalists.

We’re not sure if anyone in the incoming Baker administration has an opinion on this matter, but we do know of at least one current MCC trustee who’s none too pleased about Linnehan’s omission.

Robert Barton, a retired Middlesex County superior court judge, told The Sun he was “shocked” Linnehan wasn’t among the finalists. “Next to Carole Cowan, the person who has impressed me the most is Jay Linnehan,” said Barton, known for speaking his mind during his long, distinguished career as a jurist.

If Barton, who wasn’t part of the selection committee, reiterates his displeasure during Thursday’s trustees meeting, it could sway other trustees also to question the process.

We think they should.

The selection committee could have added Linnehan to the list when one of the four finalists dropped out, but didn’t.

The remaining three contenders are vice presidents of their respective community colleges. Linnehan, MCC’s executive vice president, has been an integral part of the school’s success during Cowan’s tenure.

Royall Mack, chairman of MCC’s board of trustees, previously indirectly addressed Linnehan’s situation by saying it matters more where Middlesex is going than where it’s been.

We believe a person’s record of achievement at a particular institution is a strong indicator of future success.

That’s why Jay Linnehan deserves to be a finalist.

The trustees, either by directing the search committee to its original deadline of Jan. 27 or by restarting the selection process, should make that happen.
Site misstates credentials of MCC trustees chairman

By Robert Mills
rmills@lowellsun.com

LOWELL — Amid an already controversial process to select the next president of Middlesex Community College, a news report Tuesday points out that the chairman of the board of trustees’ educational background is inaccurate on his company’s website.

Royall Mack, the MCC board chairman, who also led the presidential search committee, is a former Gillette executive who works as the CEO of Ciara Enterprises LLC. His biography on that company’s 11-year-old website says Mack has an “Executive M.B.A. from Harvard University’s Advanced Management Program.”

The Boston Herald reported Tuesday that Harvard does not offer an “executive MBA” degree, and that the Advanced Management Program is actually just an 8-week, $75,000 program that offers a certificate, not a degree.

The Herald also found a newsletter sent out by Mack’s alma mater, North Carolina A&T University, in March 2002 that made the same claim.

Mack did not return a call seeking comment Tuesday night, but the Herald quoted him as confirming that he has no Harvard degree and merely graduated from the Advanced Management Program with a certificate.

Mack told the Herald his company’s website was incorrect, and chalked it up to an “honest mistake.”

“Chalk it up to me. I need to update it,” the Herald quotes Mack as saying. “I’ll take responsibility for the bio being sent out. But it definitely wasn’t anything intentional. When I always talk about credentials, it’s always been Advanced Manag-
State moves up timetable on MCC presidential pick

By Grant Welker and Christopher Scott
gwelker@lowellsun.com; cscott@lowellsun.com

BEDFORD — The next president of Middlesex Community College is set to be appointed by the state Dec. 16, six weeks earlier than originally expected.

The college’s board of trustees will make its choice Thursday morning during a meeting on the college’s campus in Bedford. That finalist will be recommended to the state Board of Higher Education, which will interview the finalist and then decide whether to appoint that person or take another action.

In a related issue, a high-profile MCC trustee is publicly questioning why Jay Linnehan, MCC’s executive vice president who applied for the job,

Please see MCC/6
State moves up timetable

The Board of Higher Education was scheduled to meet on Jan. 27 to make the appointment but instead will do so Dec. 16. The change in schedule comes at a time when as many as five colleges are looking to find their next leader, including Pittsburg State University.

Moving up the meeting by six weeks was not done to ensure the appointment was made while Gov. Deval Patrick was in office instead of Gov.-elect Charlie Baker, said Katy Abel, the spokeswoman for the Board of Higher Education.

The timeline of the BHE vote corresponds to Middlesex Community College’s long and thoughtful search, not the change of administration,” she said Monday.

One of three finalists will be forwarded from Middlesex trustees to the Board of Higher Education. The board used to play a more limited role in such selections but the policy changed in October 2013, at which time the board and Commissioner of Higher Education Richard Freeland began interviewing finalists.

The Middlesex board of trustees has decided on three finalists: Tyjaun Lee, vice president for student services at Prince George’s Community College in Maryland; James Mabry, vice president of academic affairs for Mesa Community College in Arizona; and Johnny Moore, interim vice president for student and outreach services at Northeast Texas Community College.

Current President Carole Cowan, who started at the college in 1976 and has been president since 1990, announced in June she would step down when her replacement is chosen. She plans to remain with the school as a board member for the college foundation, for which she will also volunteer.

The search committee that narrowed the list of finalists to four — one of which has since withdrawn her name — has received some criticism for not including among the final names any internal candidates.

Trustee Robert Barton, a retired Middlesex County Superior Court judge, said Monday he was “shocked” that Linnehan wasn’t among the finalists.

“All I have been told, and I understand it was a nationwide search, I frankly find it hard to believe that Jay Linnehan was not among the four finalists,” said Barton, a 10-year trustee who didn’t serve on the search committee.

“Next to Carole Cowan, the person who has impressed me the most is Jay Linnehan,” said Barton a Bedford resident who is known for speaking his mind.

Royall Mack of Andover, trustees chairman, did not return a telephone call seeking comment.

Several Middlesex insiders and members of the college’s Foundation Board, said privately that Linnehan should have made the finalists’ cut.

Many noted how MCC prospered under Cowan, and that as her second-in-command, Linnehan shared in that prosperity and therefore should have advanced to the finalists’ round, regardless of who else was in the mix.

When presented with that logic, however, Mack previously replied that it matters little where Middlesex has been, but where it is going.

Mack has said little else about the search process. Linnehan has been silent, at least publicly.

Barton declined to discuss the matter further, saying he’ll make a statement Thursday during the trustees’ meeting. The Sun, however, has learned that Barton could use the opportunity to express his opinions further on Linnehan, and address the search process. If Barton addresses such issues in a critical tone, it could open the door for others trustees to follow suit.

Besides Mack and Barton, the other trustees are William J. Chemelli, Belmont; Oscar S. DePriest IV, Bedford; Tami Driscoll, Dracut and a town selectman; Timothy Glaser, Wilmington; James G. Hicks, Framingham; Elia A. Marnik, South Orleans; Paul E. Means, Stoneham; Duane E. Taylor, Littleton, and Vennam Van Wyk, student trustee Westford.
Nesmith House has holiday makeover

Middlesex Community College Foundation’s “Reflections: A 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Historic Nesmith House.” Carolyn Hubers of Hilton Head, S.C., above left, and her daughter, Ellen Stone, of Chelmsford read about the Lowell Room, decorated for the holidays by the Crandall Ladies. At left, John Cascio of Fine Art & Design explains what he chose for a bridal theme to decorate the Upstairs Oval Room. The wedding dress was provided by Chantilly Place in Chelmsford.
Bay State higher education officials are racing to approve another plum state college presidential post just weeks before Gov. Deval Patrick hands over the reins to Republican Gov.-elect Charlie Baker.

The Middlesex Community College’s board of trustees, headed by Patrick appointee Royall M. Mack, is slated to meet Thursday to vote on a replacement for its long-time president, Carole A. Cowan. Cowan announced in June she was leaving her $260,000-a-year post after nearly a quarter-century.

According to Middlesex college spokesman Patrick Cook, the state Board of Higher Education told school officials this week it will hold a special meeting on Dec. 16, just five days after the trustees huddle. The vote will follow a monthslong search, also headed by Mack.

The special session hadn’t been officially added to the board’s calendar as of last night. Spokeswoman Katy Abel said while she couldn’t confirm the date, it’s “likely” the higher education panel — filled with Patrick appointees, including two just named in October — will take up the Middlesex pick then.

If all goes smoothly, the new president would start at some point next year, as Baker, who will be sworn in Jan. 8, remains to move into the Governor’s Office.

The Middlesex appointment marks the second high-level college pick by the incoming Democratic governor in as many weeks. On Tuesday, the higher education board approved Fred Clark as Bridgman State University’s new $225,000-a-year president.

Baker spokesman Tim Buckley said yesterday, “The Governor-elect cares deeply about improving our community college system to bring down the cost of higher education. He hopes any decisions made at this time are in the best interest of the students alone.”

State higher ed officials insisted the Middlesex search was not timed to sync with the end of Patrick’s second term. Abel also noted there are a slew of school president searches expected to extend into next year. As many as five colleges are either looking for a president, such as Fitchburg State University, or will soon begin such as Westfield State.

“This has been a long and careful search. It’s not being rushed in any way,” Abel said of the hunt for a new Middlesex college president. “It has been very carefully handled.”

The school’s search committee had narrowed the field to four finalists, though one has since dropped out. That leaves the trustees to choose among Tyjuan A. Lee, a student services administrator at Prince George’s Community College in Maryland; James Mebry, who handles academic affairs for Mesa Community College in Mesa, Ariz.; and Johnny Moore, an interim vice president at Northeast Texas Community College in Mt. Pleasant, Texas.

The Herald has also reported that the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center is looking for a new president, and its Patrick-appointed board could also select a new leader when it meets this month.
The Patrick administration’s handpicked board chairman for the state’s flagship community college has boasted for more than a decade that he has an executive MBA from Harvard University — even though the Ivy League school doesn’t award that degree, the Herald has learned.

Royall M. Mack Sr., who Gov. Deval Patrick appointed chairman of the Middlesex Community College board of trustees two years ago, has listed on the 11-year-old website of his company, Ciara Enterprises LLC, that he earned the graduate degree through the school’s Advanced Management Program.

But the program, which caters to high-ranking business execs, lasts just eight weeks and awards only a certification — at the current price of $75,000 a pop. In fact, university officials said no Harvard Business School program offers an “Executive MBA.”

Mack, a former Gillette executive, noted that he doesn’t check his website “as often as I should,” and said the blame could lie with the company that developed it.

Mack said that his failure to correct the website was an “honest mistake.”

“Chalk it up to me. I need to update it.” Mack said, referring to his website. “I’ll take responsibility for the bias being sent out. But it definitely wasn’t anything intentional. When I always talk about credentials, it’s always been Advanced Management Program. If it’s listed any other way, it’s just an honest mistake. That’s all I can tell you. I am more than happy to own up to that.”

In a March 2002 newsletter at his undergraduate alma mater, North Carolina A&T State University, a six-paragraph blurb previewing Mack’s upcoming speech at the school’s “Honors Day” listed him as having “an MBA from Harvard University” — dropping any mention of executive or the program altogether.

But Mack insisted the school’s blurb was mistaken.

“When they asked me to do the address, that was information they had pulled. I’m not sure where they pulled it from. I don’t have that reference there,” he said. “That was something the school did. Never have I ever said anything to anybody about having an MBA from Harvard. That absolutely wasn’t anything I ever shared with anybody.”

David Arneke, a North Carolina A&T spokesman, said Mack’s biography that “was provided to us is consistent with the biographical information on the Ciara Enterprises website.” When a reporter noted the newsletter predated when Mack said he created his website, Arneke said he had no other comment.

Patrick’s office didn’t address specific questions about Mack, and instead released a statement saying all chairman nominations are processed through the Public Education Nominating Council before a recommendation is made to the governor.

A spokesman for outgoing Middlesex Community College president Carole Counihan, who touts the school as the flagship of the state’s community college system, said it wouldn’t be “appropriate” for her to comment on Mack.
Get Started On The Path To Academic Success This Spring At Middlesex

Registration is now open for spring semester classes at Middlesex Community College, and it's not too late to apply for financial aid. Classes begin Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2015 on the Bedford and Lowell campuses, and online.

Middlesex offers more than 70 degree and certificate programs. The college has many transfer options, access to free academic, career and financial aid counseling, as well as free tutoring and extensive support services for students. Enrollment counselors are available to answer questions and get you started on the path to academic success.

This spring, MCC is offering a number of new courses, including:

- **Introduction to Entrepreneurship (BUS 130):** This introductory course is intended to provide students from all disciplines with a solid foundation in the vital role played by entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship in the economy of the 21st century.
- **Statistics (EGR 210):** This course provides students opportunities to apply Newton's Laws to engineering problems in statistics.
- **Modern China (SOC/HST 128):** This course focuses on the dynamics within and outside of China, such as current social, political, environmental and economical issues.
- **Scripting for Security (ITC 111):** This course introduces fundamental scripting concepts. Students will learn to design, develop and implement platform-independent scripts through practical Python applications using real-world scenarios.

For a complete list of new course offerings, prerequisite information, or registration information, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu or call 1-800-818-3434. A complete listing of spring course offerings can be found in MCC's Spring Academic Advising Schedule, available online at https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/academics/

Middlesex Community College meets the evolving educational, civic and workforce needs of our local and global communities. As one of the largest, most comprehensive community colleges in the state, we educate more than 13,000 students annually on our campuses in Bedford and Lowell, and online. MCC offers more than 70 degree and certificate programs, plus hundreds of noncredit courses. At Middlesex, everyone teaches, everyone learns.
MCC’s One World Series Hosts Foreign Policy Specialist Sanger

Middlesex Community College recently hosted David E. Sanger, foreign policy specialist and national security correspondent for the New York Times, as part of MCC’s One World Series. Students, faculty and staff gathered to hear Sanger address ISIS (the Islamic State in Iraq & Syria) and the crises in the Middle East.

Sanger, who is known as one of the nation’s most lucid analysts of geopolitics, national security and globalization, gave an in-depth discussion about the crises in the Middle East and the rise of the terrorist group ISIS. Sanger discussed the organization’s structure, global recruitment efforts and the group’s use of social media. Sanger also outlined a number of efforts the United States and other countries are undertaking to combat the threat of ISIS. Sanger also took questions from the audience.

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

Sanger has nearly three decades of experience working for the Times. He is also the author of the 2009 New York Times best-seller, “The Inheritance: The World Obama Confronts and the Challenges to American Power.” It is based on his seven years as the Times’ White House correspondent, covering two wars, and confrontations with Iran, North Korea and other rogue states, and America’s efforts to deal with the rise of China.

For more information about David E. Sanger, visit: http://www.roycecarlton.com/speaker/
MCC provost attends White House Day of Action

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

LOWELL — A pilot program that successfully knocked out remedial courses for hundreds of students at Lowell High School received the national spotlight Thursday at the White House College Opportunity Day of Action.

The daylong summit with President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden gathered college leaders nationwide, including Middlesex Community College Provost Philip Sisson, to make new commitments to student success nationwide.

Last year, Middlesex Community College partnered with the nonprofit JFYNetworks and Lowell High to prepare students for the Accuplacer test, administered to incoming students at the state’s public colleges.

The test determines whether students are prepared to enroll directly in college-level courses.

A low score could land a student in a non-credit remedial, or developmental, course that’s required before entering into courses that count toward a college degree.

The Accuplacer prep program, administered by JFYNetworks, addresses the larger issue of high-school graduates held back with lower Accuplacer scores.

Last school year, the 427 students who took the prep program at Lowell High collectively knocked out 130 remedial courses, saving an estimated $88,640 in tuition.

Gary Kaplan, executive director of JFYNetworks, estimated that a third to half of students who go into public higher education are not making it past these developmental courses.

One issue, he said, is that high-school curriculum is not aligned to college requirements.

“It’s not like the Accuplacer is some kind of a secret that just dropped from the sky,” he said in an interview earlier this week. “We have been using it in Massachusetts since 1998. Everybody should know about it by now. But if you look in high schools, you will not find Accuplacer prep anywhere.”

The program aims to have 70 percent of its 500 participants college-ready in its second year, and 80 percent in its third.

In a statement, Sisson argued that developmental courses are one of the biggest obstacles to a student’s completion of a college degree.

“Our goal is to continue to partner with Lowell High School, our biggest feeder high school, and JFYNetworks to provide innovative opportunities to decrease the need for remediation and to improve the rate of college readiness for all students,” he said.

The goal was one of hundreds of commitments to college opportunity that the president’s office received from schools and nonprofits nationwide.

Follow Amelia on Twitter and Tbut @AmeliaPApkHarvey.
MCC offering refresher courses in reading, writing, math

Middlesex Community College offers free refresher workshops in reading, writing and math for students who wish to brush up their skills before taking the College Placement Test. Workshops are offered all summer on the Bedford and Lowell campuses.

The Reading Refresher Workshop helps students improve their reading skills and testing strategies to improve their score on the Reading Accuplacer Test. Topics covered include finding main ideas, locating details, identifying patterns of organization, and making inferences.

The Writing Refresher Workshop helps students improve their writing skills, and covers topics including formulating and supporting strong thesis statements, using appropriate grammar and sentence structure, and developing compelling introductions and conclusions.

The Math Refresher Workshop reviews basic arithmetic skills, including standard operations with whole numbers, fractions, decimals and percentages. A review of elementary algebra is also included.

For more information about MCC's refresher workshops or to register, visit https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/admissions/events.aspx, or call 800-818-3434.
MIDDLESEX C.C. HAPPENINGS

National-security expert to talk Dec. 2

BEDFORD — Middlesex Community College’s One World Series will host David E. Sanger, foreign-policy specialist and national-security correspondent for The New York Times, in a special program about ISIS and the Middle East on Tuesday, Dec. 2, at 12:30 p.m., in the Bedford Campus Cafeteria, 591 Springs Road. Admission is free and open to the public. Sanger, who is known as one of the nation’s most lucid analysts of geopolitics, national security and globalization, will give a breakdown of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, or ISIS, and the crises in the Middle East. For more information about Sanger, visit www.roycecarlton.com/speaker/profile/David-E-Sanger.html. For more information about MCC’s One World Series at MCC, contact studentengagement@middlesex.mass.edu. The One World Series at Middlesex is an annual speaker series addressing topics of current interest, funded by the Center for Leadership and Engagement.

Tutoring available after school

BEDFORD — The After-School Tutoring Center at Middlesex Community College provides academic support for middle-school and high-school students by appointment only, Wednesday and Thursdays, from 3 to 8 p.m., at 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. MCC’s After-School tutoring Center is taking appointments in math and language arts. All tutors are Massachusetts state-certified middle-school and high-school teachers. Rates for instruction begin at $40 per hour and can be purchased hourly. For more information about MCC’s After-School Tutoring Center, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/after-schooltutoring, or contact Marcia Barnes at barnesm@middlesex.mass.edu or call 781-280-3669.

Free prep courses for adult learners

BEDFORD — The Middlesex Community College Adult Learning Center offers free preparation courses for adult learners, age 16 and older, planning to take the High School Equivalency Test (formerly the GED). The new HiSET in Massachusetts is developed by the Educational Testing Service and is overseen by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s High School Equivalency Office. Official test centers operate statewide to serve the needs of the adult population in need of a high-school credential. Middlesex Community College’s Adult Learning Center is a free program supported by a grant from the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. For more information or to register, email innisk@middlesex.mass.edu or call 781-280-3665. For more information about the state HiSET Exam, visit www.hiset.ets.org.
MCC, Lowell schools to work to preserve Cambodian music

LOWELL — Middlesex Community College has received a $37,000 grant from Lowell’s Theodore Edson Parker Foundation to support a collaboration between MCC and the Lowell Public Schools to foster and preserve Cambodian classical music.

Funding will be used to launch a pilot project and set the foundation for preserving and continuing the Cambodian classical-music heritage.

“The goal of the grant is threefold,” said Dona Cady, MCC’s dean of Global Education. “The project will increase professional development to K-12 LPS music faculty, train local folk musicians in the traditional Cambodian style, and introduce Cambodian classical music to middle- and high-school students and the Greater Lowell community.”

About 20 Lowell Public Schools music teachers are expected to take part in a 16-week graduate-level training supported by the Lowell Teacher Academy, and provided by master musician Song Heng and Lowell Music Instructor Rita Green, who participated in a MCC Fulbright-Hays study in Cambodia.

Each training session will include in-depth historical and cultural context to support the music instruction.

Teachers who complete the training will be required to develop curriculum to integrate Cambodian classical music into their classes.

MCC Music Professor Johannah Segarich, who also studied Cambodian music through a Fulbright-Hays project, will assist in development of the curriculum and music outreach programs.

Heng, who was born in Thailand, was raised in Cambodia and was taught traditional classical Cambodian music techniques by his father, who was also a Cambodian music master. After escaping the Khmer Rouge regime, Heng resettled in the United States in 1985.

“We are very lucky to have found a master musician who is willing to teach others to help preserve the traditions of Cambodian classical music,” Cady said.

In addition to training Lowell teachers, Heng will train three Lowell-area Cambodian folk musicians in traditional Cambodian music. In collaboration with MCC’s Music Department, Heng and the Lowell musicians will offer music outreach workshops to middle- and high-school students to get them interested in playing traditional Cambodian music and instruments, Cady said.

The Theodore Edson Parker Foundation was founded in 1944 and is dedicated to supporting nonprofit organizations in Lowell. To learn more about the Preserving Cambodian Classical Music grant, contact Cady at cadyd@middlesex.mass.edu or 978-656-3470.
For MCC trustee chair, school looking to future with finalists

“SOLID” IS how Royall Mack described Jay Linnehan, the Middlesex Community College executive vice president who was not among the finalists hoping to succeed President Carole Cowan in January.

Mack, who chairs MCC’s Board of Trustees, declined to discuss Linnehan’s candidacy beyond using that adjective.

Many political and business leaders noted how MCC prospered and flourished under Cowan’s two decades-plus as president. They asked: Why didn’t the second-in-command make the final round?

The question was posed to Mack. He replied: “It’s not so much where Middlesex has been, but where Middlesex has to go. Education is changing. That drove the selection process.”

The finalists all have doctorate degrees and their resumes tilt heavily toward education. All also have finance and operations experience, where Linnehan excels.

“All 12 semifinalists (including Linnehan) had varying degrees of educational experience,” said Mack, who further emphasized that it would be a mistake to speculate Linnehan didn’t get the job due to a lack of educational prowess.

Noting that six MCC faculty members sit on the search committee, Mack said following the semifinalist interviews it was “clear” who was moving on.

Mack said state Commission of Higher Education Richard Freeland has been “intimately involved.” For instance Freeland’s office vetted the semifinalists and finalists.

Interviews with the finalists — Tyjaun A. Lee, vice president for student services at Prince George’s Community College, in Kettering, Md., James Mabry, vice president of academic affairs for Mesa Community College in Mesa, Ariz., and Johnny Moore, interim vice president for student and outreach services at Northeast Texas Community College in Mt. Pleasant, Texas — occurred on consecutive days last week. A fourth finalist, Jean A. Whibey, provost at Palm Beach State College’s Palm Beach Gardens campus in Florida, withdrew on Monday.

Following Whibey’s withdrawal, MCC insiders hoped Linnehan could sneak in as a finalist. Mack kept the field at three candidates.

Trustees are scheduled to make the final selection on Dec. 11.
MCC’s star trek lands Capt. Kirk for Celebrity Forum

Actor, cultural icon William Shatner scheduled to speak in Lowell June 11

Golden Globe-winning actor William Shatner, 83, has an acting career that spans more than 60 years, including, of course, the role of James Kirk, captain of the USS Enterprise in “Star Trek.”

By Hiroko Sato
hsato@lowellsun.com

LOWELL — Captain Kirk will beam into Lowell next year. And Middlesex Community College officials are hopeful that his talk will inspire people while helping students afford higher education.

Golden Globe-winning actor William Shatner will headline the 2015 Middlesex Community College’s Celebrity Forum, the college announced Saturday. The speaking event is scheduled for 8 p.m. on Thursday, June 11, at the Lowell Memorial Auditorium. Tickets go on sale Dec. 1 at 10 a.m.

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The Celebtrity Forum marks its 17th year in 2015. Last year’s event brought Oscar-winning actor and director Robert Redford to Lowell. Other speakers have come from Hollywood (Michael J. Fox, 2012), journalism (Mike and Chris Wallace, 2007; Tim Russert, 2005), politics (George H.W. Bush and Barbara Bush, 2001), and royalty (Sarah Ferguson, 2009).

The Celebrity Forum is also a fundraiser for the Middlesex Community College Foundation, which provides scholarships to students in the Lowell Connections Program — a program for those who enter the community college with the intention to transfer to UMass Lowell — and students in the honors program.

The tickets will be $45 for regular seats and $65 for premium seats. Sponsorship, which starts at $1,000, comes with various benefits, including private pre- and post-event receptions, a private dinner that Shatner will attend, and event parking. Sponsors who contribute $2,500 or more will also be able to take photos with Shatner.

For more information about the event, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/CF15.

The tickets will be $45 for regular seats and $65 for premium seats. Sponsorship, which starts at $1,000, comes with various benefits, including private pre- and post-event receptions, a private dinner that Shatner will attend, and event parking. Sponsors who contribute $2,500 or more will also be able to take photos with Shatner.

For more information about the event, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/CF15.

Follow Hiroko Sato on Twitter and Tout @satolowellsun.

SHATNER/From Page 1

Shatner, 83, has an acting career that spans more than 60 years, including the role of James Tiberius Kirk, captain of the USS Enterprise in “Star Trek,” which launched him as a pop culture icon.

The multitalented performer also has experience as a film director, musician, comedian and author. He is expected to talk about his life and career, which led him from Shakespearean stage actor to internationaly recognized figure.

The event is intended to provide opportunities for residents to learn about different topics, Dean of College Advancement Dennis Malvers said. “We want to provide all different ways for people in the community to access education,” Malvers said.

A key criteria is choosing a guest celebrity who has “a message that is inspirational,” he said.

Middlesex Community College President Carole Cowan said Shatner “has a distinguished acting career and is very prolific in writing” as well as in philanthropic activities, being involved in various charitable organizations.

“Given his wisdom in different areas, we thought he would be an interesting person to have a conversation with,” Cowan said.

The ticket price is $45 for regular seats and $65 for premium seats. Sponsorship, which starts at $1,000, comes with various benefits, including private pre- and post-event receptions, a private dinner that Shatner will attend, and event parking. Sponsors who contribute $2,500 or more will also be able to take photos with Shatner.

For more information about the event, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/CF15.

Follow Hiroko Sato on Twitter and Tout @satolowellsun.

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For more information about the event, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/CF15.

Follow Hiroko Sato on Twitter and Tout @satolowellsun.
Middlesex Community College to Host Free Financial Aid Workshops

Registration for Middlesex Community College’s spring semester is now open and it’s not too late to apply for financial aid! MCC will host FREE financial aid workshops to help students fill out the 2014-2015 FAFSA Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

MCC’s FAFSA workshops will guide students through filling out the FAFSA and provide information about the financial aid process. Parents and students are encouraged to attend. FAFSA Workshops will be held at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 3, in the Financial Aid Office on the Bedford campus, and at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17, in the Financial Aid Office on the Lowell campus. Additional workshops will be held at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10, in the Financial Aid Offices on the Bedford and Lowell campuses.

If you would like assistance filling out the 2014-2015 FAFSA, please bring the following information with you:

- Signed copy of parents’ 2013 Federal Income Tax Return
- Federal Income Tax Return
- W-2 Forms and other records of money earned in 2013 for both students and parents
- Records of 2013 untaxed income (welfare benefits, Social Security benefits, or Worker’s Compensation)

For more information about MCC’s Financial Aid Office or additional 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/financial-aid/.

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

Many with much at stake in downtown

Middlesex Community College also controls a lot of downtown buildings, including the main facility in Kearney Square in the old Wang training center, the former Federal Building, and a complex of buildings on Middle Street. The college has also begun the work on the planned performing-arts center in the old Rialto/depot facility on Central Street, which will add a stunning new entertainment center for Lowell.

The University of Massachusetts Lowell owns the hotel and has greatly upgraded that facility with some rooms for the public and dorms for students, as well as a fine-dining facility and convention, banquet and meeting space.

Other key downtown properties are owned by responsible citizens like George Behrakis and Nick Sarris, who have always worked well with the city.

The Lowell Community Health Center has done a wonderful job renovating old mill space on Jackson street where it employs more than 500 people and see thousands of visitors. New apartments and condos have been built or are under construction in the

Hamilton Canal District and all state officials are now on board to finally build the $200 million judicial center and do some pretty extensive road work for access and egress to the expanding district. Two local companies are discussing the possibility of building new office buildings on the site and UMass Lowell is leasing two floors in the former Pellon building in the Hamilton Canal area for one of its major research and development projects.

All of that will eventually bring more restaurants and shops to the area.

Downtown is poised for a new life with the arts, entertainment, education sectors playing big roles.

The idea would be to have a Westford, Chelmsford, Dracut, Billerica, etc, day in Lowell where residents, could attend the Merrimack Repertory Theatre, visit museums, tour the colleges, visit the National Park, tour the hospital facilities and get a wider sense of what is available in the city.

The town-meeting format that City Manager Kevin Murphy has used in trying to come up with a unified marketing campaign has produced some great ideas that will ultimately hit on a theme to brand the city.

How big that campaign will be depends on how much money The Lowell Plan is able to raise to market the city.

But the discussions have led to at least a unified effort by major institutions like UMass Lowell, Middlesex Community College, the city of Lowell, Lowell General Hospital, the National Park, the MRT and the Convention and Visitors bureau, all of whom combined spend millions of marketing dollars.

When you sit in on these sessions you get a real sense about how deeply people care about the city.

Several people who spoke on Wednesday night said they find a common theme when people come to the theater, or the Whistler House or the National Park or the American Textile History Museum for the first time is, "Wow, I never knew this was in the city."

One woman said how much she loves the city and how frustrated she is when someone says, "Oh, you live in Lowell."

Can we change that image?
MCC PRESIDENT FINALISTS

Moore: I thrive on energy, innovation

By Kyle Claus
kclauss@lowellsun.com

BEDFORD — What first struck Johnny Moore upon arriving at Middlesex Community College's campus was what he called its effusive energy.

"The intriguing to me about this institution is the level of energy that takes place at this institution," Moore said. "Personally, I thrive in environments that are energized and want to be innovative."

Moore, interim vice president for student and outreach services at Northeast Texas Community College in Mt. Pleasant, Texas, was the last of three finalists to interview before Middlesex Community College's board of trustees for the school's presidency, being vacated by retiring President Carole Cowan.

"Community colleges exist for the city, regardless of where they're located," Moore said. "That's why it's community in the name."

Moore responded early on to questions regarding a controversy during his brief time as president of Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Ark.

Moore blasted an article alleging he gave Vice President of Student Affairs Stacy Downing an uncivil firing, calling it "totally, totally false."

"Just because something is in writing, doesn't mean that it's an accurate account."

Please see MOORE/10
Moore: I thrive on energy, innovation

MOORE/From Page 1

of what actually happened,” Moore said.

“The article said one thing, but that’s not what actually happened.”

When asked about his approach to handling the school’s budget, Moore stressed that budgets ought to be tied to the school’s strategic plan and how it relates to the students.

“There were times when there were budgets cut at the state level, and then I would come back in my direct reports and let (faculty members) know, ‘Look, we have to reduce our budget by 5 percent. I can do it, but I would prefer that you reduce your budget,’” Moore said.

The former Philander Smith basketball star said that, if he is named, MCC’s vice presidents and deans would be required to “defend their budget as it relates to the strategic plan and goals of the college.”

When asked to give an example of a failure in his career, Moore gave a lengthy anecdote about parking spaces at Indian River State College, previously Indian River Community College, where Moore was a tenured professor before joining administration as vice president of student affairs. There had been complaints that there was not enough student parking. He set up a committee to solve the students’ problem, but was criticized for not including enough faculty on that panel.

Board of trustees Chairman Royall M. Mack Sr. lauded Moore for his success in engaging alumni, as evidenced by Philander Smith’s 12 percent of grads giving back — compared to MCC’s 3.3-3.5 percent.

“People want to be a part of a winning team. As president of Middlesex, that’s an easy sell,” Moore said, attributing his success to personal phone calls and handwritten notes.

Moore’s interview concluded the round of finalist interviews. The board will vote for the new president at its Dec. 11 meeting at 7:30 a.m., after which the name will be submitted to the Board of Higher Education for approval at its Jan. 27 meeting on MCC’s Bedford campus.

Follow Kyle Claus on Twitter (@KyleClaus), Tout (@kclaus) and Facebook (facebook.com/KyleClausSun).
MCC PRESIDENT FINALISTS

Mabry: ‘Many ways to help students’

By Kyle Clauss
kclauss@lowelssun.com

BEDFORD—As a graduate of The London School of Economics, James Mabry has intensely studied urban revitalization. It makes sense, then, why he would leave his sunny climes and seek a job in Lowell.

Mabry, vice president of academic affairs for Mesa Community College in Mesa, Ariz., since 2008, was the second of three finalists to interview before Middlesex Community College’s board of trustees for the school’s presidency, being vacated by retiring President Carole Cowan.

“For somebody who’s read deeply into the literature of industrialization in New England, it was fascinating walking around,”

Please see MABRY/10
Mabry: ‘Many ways to help students’

MABRY/From Page 1

Mabry said. "It's like living history for me. It's like looking at my textbook, alive 150 years later.”

Mabry noted community colleges’ role in offering disadvantaged students the opportunity to obtain an education, but stressed the need for support systems to help keep them enrolled.

“We've seen students about to drop out for as little as a $20 bus pass, or as little as a $250 car repair,” Mabry said. “There are many ways we can help these students without expending huge amounts of resources.”

"Sometimes, it's not a monetary resource. It's time, energy, commitment and mentoring," Mabry said, sharing his own practice of mentoring one at-risk student each semester.

A collaborative relationship between a community college and the area it serves is critical, Mabry said. When Mesa Community College changed its main academic software, it provided Mesa public schools with lessons and tutorials.

That way, when high school students arrived at Mesa Community College, it was a seamless transition, he said.

“We had been the pilot for the district,” Mabry said. Mabry, who holds doctorate and bachelor's degrees from Columbia University, a master's degree from The London School of Economics and an associate degree from the University of Maryland Overseas Division, had lunch with Cowan prior to his interview Wednesday.

"Having her here will be a very big plus," Mabry said, adding that, if selected, it would be a transition rather than a hand-off.

The Rochester, N.Y., native also expressed his admiration for President Lyndon B. Johnson, particularly the amount of research Johnson conducted prior to every meeting he had.

"He knew which buttons to push," Mabry said.

Prior to the interview concluding, trustees Chairman Royall M. Mack Sr. asked Mabry, an enthusiastic chef, for the top recipe in his repertoire.

Mabry offered up his black bean soup made with 10 pounds of sausage, which he and his wife of 32 years prepare for friends each New Year’s Day at a get-together they call “Soupfest.”

Mabry did not indicate whether he would migrate Soupfest to Lowell if selected.

Johnny Moore, interim vice president for student and outreach services at Northeast Texas Community College, will conclude the round of interviews today at 4 p.m.

The board will vote for the new president at its Dec. 11 meeting at 7:30 a.m., after which the name will be submitted to the Board of Higher Education for approval at its Jan. 27 meeting on MCC’s Bedford campus.

Follow Kyle Claus on Twitter (@KyleClaus), Tпут (@kclauss) and Facebook (facebook.com/KyleClausSun).
The annual Arts & Crafts Fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 22 at Middlesex Community College, 591 Springs Road, Bedford.

Get started on your holiday shopping with a variety of unique gifts from local artists and crafters. Admission is free, and the fair is open to the public.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of MCC’s Arts & Crafts Fair, which will feature more than 60 artists’ 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.

Farm-fresh fruits and vegetables, fresh baked goods and MCC cookbooks will also be available for sale, and visitors can purchase tickets to participate in a 50/50 raffle.

For more information about MCC’s Arts & Crafts Fair, contact Virginia Barrelle, MCC’s director of conference services, at 781-280-3505 or barrellev@middlesex.mass.edu.

Handcrafted jewelry, quilts and holiday decorations will be among the items available at Middlesex Community College’s 20th annual Arts & Crafts Fair, to be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 22 on the Bedford Campus. COURTESY PHOTO

If you go

WHAT: Middlesex Community College Arts & Crafts Fair

COST: Free admission

INFO: 781-280-3505; barrellev@middlesex.mass.edu

WHEN: Saturday, Nov. 22

HOURS: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
MCC PRESIDENT FINALISTS

Lee: Community key to building school support

By Chelsea Feinstein
cfeinstein@lowellsun.com

BEDFORD — In three years, Tyjaun Lee expects Middlesex Community College to have a larger enrollment, more science, technology, engineering and mathematics courses, a more diverse faculty and stronger programs for adult learning.

She'd like to be the person to help the college get there. Lee, who works as the vice president for student services at Prince George's County Community College in Maryland, says she's "a different kind of leader."
Lee: I will strengthen community partnerships for MCC

LEE/From Page 1

THE SUN

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

president for student services at Prince George's Community College in Maryland, is the first of three finalists to interview for the president's position at MCC. She received her doctorate in educational leadership with an emphasis on higher-education administration from Ohio University, where she also completed her undergraduate degree.

The candidate chosen by the board of trustees will replace Carole Cowan, who is retiring after 24 years as president. A fourth finalist, who was set to be interviewed on Friday, withdrew her name from consideration for personal reasons Tuesday.

Lee said community colleges fill a vital role in society, helping provide a lower-cost alternative to students, serve as a bridge to four-year universities and provide critical adult-education programs, as well as helping to maintain a strong middle class.

She wants to make sure prospective students and those in the community see the importance of community colleges by telling the stories of what a community college can help students achieve.

"For me the community college really is a hidden gem, but it is very powerful," Lee said. "But in order for us to really be powerful, we have to step out and tell our story of how powerful we are."

The president, she said, should serve as a voice and advocate for the institution. She would focus on building community partnerships and bringing in outside funding so that students don't have to consistently bear the burden of increasing costs.

"I strongly believe that my voice has to be the one that brings in additional funding and to work with the board so that we can also serve as advocates for the institution," she said.

To do that, she said she'd work closely with the faculty and leadership in the college.

"I'm a very different kind of leader," Lee said. "I like to emulate how I want my team and faculty and staff to interact with our students and interact with our community, so I am very visible and accessible."

When asked about her background and what circumstances had made her the person she is, Lee said her upbringing had made her passionate about working as a president of a community college.

She said she was raised by a young single mother, who was addicted to drugs and alcohol. When she was an undergraduate in college, Lee gained custody of her younger brother, who was 16 years old at the time.

While acting as a guardian to her brother, she made her way through school, eventually getting her doctorate.

"Along the way, I have developed a stronger passion for students who come from a background like myself to be successful, to let them know that their current situation should never ever determine their destination," she said.

Today at 4 p.m. on MCC's Bedford campus, the board of trustees will interview James Mabry, vice president of academic affairs for Mesa Community College in Arizona.

Johnny Moore, interim vice president for student and outreach services at Northeast Texas Community College, will follow with an interview Thursday at 4 p.m.

In its meeting on Dec. 11 at 7:30 a.m., the board will vote for the new president. That name will then be submitted to the Board of Higher Education for approval at its meeting on Jan. 27, also on the Bedford campus.

Follow Chelsea Feinstein on Twitter and Tout @CEFFeinstein.
Courtney Cox: Lowell woman is in front of the camera in college football country

By David Ferear
dfever@lowellsun.com

While a student at the Academy of Notre Dame middle school and Bishop Guertin High School, Courtney Cox on occasion would do the morning announcements.

"That could have been an indicator," she said with a laugh.

An indicator of where those announcements and morning prayers were to lead a determined girl from Lowell who likes to talk.

Cox, 23, graduated from Boston College in May with a communications degree and is now a rising star on the ACC Digital Network, the Atlantic Coast Conference's fully programmed video network that was launched in 2011 and now reaches about 400 million connected devices.

Cox started there in August and works in the network's Charlotte, N.C., studio and headquarters. Among her many duties is co-hosting a weekly show with football analyst Clinton Portis, a personalities former NFL Pro Bowl running back for the Denver Broncos and Washington Redskins who played at the University of Miami.

"He's such a big name, but he always interested in what you have to say," said Cox, who engages in lighthearted give and take with Portis.

About Cox, Portis said, "You can't find anyone more excited about perfecting their craft."

("To view the show go to youtube.com / ACC DigitalNetwork and click on the 'Are You Serious?' section"

Andy Siegel, executive producer for the ACC Digital Network, said he met Cox before she was interviewed for a job opening that drew "hundreds of applicants."

"I was impressed by her poise and her passion," said Siegel. "She is totally dedicated to carving out a career for herself in this industry."

Cox has the charisma and the chops to be seen reporting on an NFL or NBA sideline someday. But when Siegel during the interview process asked Cox about her dream job, she said it would be to host ACC Road Trip, a magazine show that catches the flavor of big-game sites, produced by the ACC's broadcasting partner, Raycom Sports.

Cox laughs, saying she hopes Siegel didn't think she was trying to butter him up with her answer. But the executive producer no doubt detected the religiosity evident in Cox's voice whenever she talks about the passion that swirls through major-college athletic events, which she first experienced as a Boston College cheerleader.

Cox was a production intern at NESN during the Red Sox's run to the 2013 World Series championship. Yes, it was great, she said, but still did not inspire her in the same way a good Boston College-Notre Dame "Holy War" did.

Please see COX/12
Cox a natural on ACC Digital Network

COX/From Page 11

"I've never seen players cry in the pros," said Cox. "In college I've seen too many guys crying after games. When I was a cheerleader at BC, when we were losing I'd be crying. When we were winning I'd be crying. There is such a depth and passion to college sports."

Southern Influence

Boston is still very much a pro sports town, however. Now living in Charlotte and working for the ACC Digital Network has immersed Cox in the college excitement she first felt on a football trip to Florida State her freshman year at BC.

"That stadium (Doak Campbell Stadium) was the most intimidating stadium I had ever been to," she said. "They didn't want you (as a visitor) to feel comfortable. Then after the game, their fans are the nicest people in the world."

Cox can hold her own against anyone in a serious sports discussion. But she laughs about being the lone woman in an office with 12 other sports fanatics, who have been known to randomly toss her a "Who won the Heisman Trophy in 1992?" (That would be Miami's Gino Torretta).

Siegel said Cox is knowledgeable and does her homework, which is evident by a recent countdown she researched on the top five quarterbacks in North Carolina State history. (Philip Rivers was No. 1 on her list.)

"You grow up in Mass., and go to BC, that was her world," said Siegel, a Maryland grad. "Like any other employee here, it's learning about the other 14 schools and knowing those fan bases. She's smart, hard-working and talented."

Cox's biggest professional influence has been Molly McGrath, the former Boston Celtics sideline reporter and in-arena host who is a prominent face on Fox Sports 1. McGrath, a San Francisco native, captained the BC cheerleaders when Cox was cheering there as a freshman. She started a show interviewing athletes and coaches for BC's website that Cox took over after McGrath graduated.

"I remember my first show I interviewed (BC basketball players) Ryan Anderson and Dennis Clifford," said Cox. "My parents (Colleen and John, a former Lowell city manager) drove to BC to watch it. It was a live show we did in the freshman dorm lobby, so any student could come by. I was shaking."

But there was no turning back.

Cox captained the BC cheerleaders as a junior before giving up cheerleading her senior year to channel her enthusiasm into being the in-game video board host at BC football and basketball games.

"I decided I wasn't going to cheer forever. But I definitely needed a job (after college)," she said. "So I hung up my pom-poms."

Follow David Pevear on Twitter and Tout @merganser10
MCC finalist list lacks local names

SINCE THE news broke that Middlesex Community College is down to the final four applicants hoping to succeed its longtime president, Carole Cowan, folks across the city's political spectrum are talking about who isn't among the finalists.

One of Cowan's top lieutenants, Executive Vice President Jay Linnehan, applied, but was not among the final four ... even for a courtesy interview.

As is often the case, folks vented their frustration to The Column blog privately.

Golden said it publicly: "I'm kind of shocked. Under Carole Cowan, Middlesex Community College really moved forward. Many people would argue it's the best community college in the commonwealth. If that's true, then the administration team must also be the best in the state. The fact that the local candidate for the job, who is a member of that team, doesn't at least get a courtesy interview is just plain wrong."

The finalists are:

- Tyjaun A. Lee, vice president for student services at Prince George's Community College, Kettering, Md.
- James Mabry, vice president of academic affairs for Mesa Community College, Mesa, Ariz.
- Johnny Moore, interim vice president for student and outreach services at Northeast Texas Community College, Mt. Pleasant, Texas.
- Jean A. Wimbey, provost at Palm Beach State College's Palm Beach, Fla., Gardens campus.

Royall Mack, chairman of MCC's Board of Trustees and of the Search Committee, has said little.

The search committee also includes Board of Trustees members Elia Marnik, James Hicks and Paul Means; Foundation Board member Abbey Henderson; Len Wilson, community representative; Matthew Olson, dean, humanities and social sciences; Josephine Gorman, director, Enterprise Applications; Michael Williamson, mathematics faculty member; Deborah Botker, adjunct faculty member; Jeffrey Tejada, assistant director, admissions; Donna Colella, administrative assistant; Sean Nelson, deputy commissioner, state Department of Higher Education; and Venessa Van Wyk, student trustee.

Lowell folks are zeroing in on Wilson. He is from Andover, and was president of Lawrence-based First Essex Savings Bank, an institution that was swallowed by Sovereign Bank and disappeared from the regional banking landscape.

Why was the "community representative" from Andover, in Essex County, and not from Middlesex County (as in Middlesex Community College)? If the search committee was looking for a member with banking prowess, there certainly are many in Lowell.

And why is an event recognizing Cowan's legacy held at the Andover Country Club?

Typically, MCC events are held at the UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center, or its own Nesmith House in Lowell. Was Lenzi's in Dracut booked? Four Oaks in Dracut? No room at The Owl?
Four named finalists to take reins at MCC

By Grant Welker
gwelker@lowellsun.com

LOWELL — Middlesex Community College has released the names of the four finalists to become its next president and replace longtime head Carole Cowan.

The finalists are Tyjaun Lee, vice president for student services at Prince George's Community College in Maryland; James Mabry, vice president of academic affairs for Mesa Community College in Arizona; Johnny Moore, interim vice president for student and outreach services at Northeast Texas Community College; and Jean Whbey, provost at Palm Beach State College in Florida.

The final candidates will be visiting the Lowell and Bedford campuses next week, including meetings with trustees and in public forums. Middlesex's board of trustees are scheduled to vote on the new president at its next meeting, Dec. 11.

The board's recommendation will be submitted to the state Board of Higher Education, which will make the ultimate vote at its Jan. 27 meeting.

Cowan, who started at Middlesex in 1976 and has been president since 1990, announced in June she would step down when her replacement is chosen.

Lee has a doctorate in educational leadership from Ohio University, where she also has undergraduate and graduate

Please see FINALISTS/10
Four finalists for MCC president to visit campuses next week

FINALISTS/From Page 1

Wihbey said she is honored to be among the finalists and found the college to have “a lot of enthusiasm and a lot of energy.”

“I know it has a great reputation, and that’s where I would like to be,” Wihbey said of Middlesex.

“I’d like to be a part of that.”

Moore, an Arkansas native, said the Middlesex mission that puts student success at the center of its work aligns with his own beliefs.

“It’s a tremendous opportunity to follow an exceptional leader,” he said of Cowan. “I was blown away as I read and started digging deeper about the institution.”

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“It’s a tremendous opportunity to follow an exceptional leader,” he said of Cowan. “I was blown away as I read and started digging deeper about the institution.”

The other finalists didn’t respond to requests for comment Friday afternoon.

Middlesex has undergone a dramatic makeover in Cowan’s time, establishing a traditional-style campus in Bedford and a series of buildings in downtown Lowell. When she became president, the college was still dispersed among locations in Bedford and Burlington, including at a former middle school.

The college has grown from one of the state’s smallest community colleges into one of its largest, with a full-time-equivalency enrollment of more than 13,000.

After announcing her pending retirement at a trustees meeting, Cowan said she found the timing right for her and the school. She plans to remain with the school as a board member for the college foundation, for which she will also volunteer.

Cowan was honored at a reception at the Andover Country Club on Thursday.

Royall Mack, chairman of the Middlesex board of trustees, said in a statement he is “pleased with the exceptional quality of the finalists for the position.” He did not return a call seeking additional comment.

Follow Grant Welker on Twitter and Tout @SunGrantWelker.
Retiring Cowan takes the cake

Hundreds turn out to honor outgoing MCC president

By Brendan Lewis
Sun Correspondent

ANDOVER — Hundreds turned out to honor retiring Middlesex Community College President Carole Cowan and to recognize her for what many call the near limitless influence throughout her 38-year career at the educational institution.

But perhaps the most tangible impact Cowan can lay claim to is the 25,000 students that graduated under her leadership.

Cowan, who has served as the college's president for 24 years,

Please see COWAN/10

Outgoing Middlesex Community College President Carole Cowan is honored at a reception at Andover Country Club Thursday. From left, James Henderson, chairman of the MCC Foundation; Richard Freeland, commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education; Jennifer Keaney of Taunton, a close friend since high school of Cowan's son; Kevin Napier of Los Angeles; and Royall Mack, chairman of the MCC Board of Trustees, watch as a cake made to look like the main MCC building in downtown Lowell is wheeled in after the announcement that the building will be named after her.

See a slide show at lowellsun.com.
Hundreds gather to honor retiring MCC president

will be retiring next month.

The reception at the Andover Country Club Thursday night, however, was only one of the ways the local education community is honoring Cowan.

The downtown Lowell Middlesex Community College campus building in Keasby Square will now be known as the Carole A. Cowan Center, as a result of a recent vote by the school's board of trustees.

In addition, the Carole A. Cowan Scholarship Fund was established to provide assistance to an MCC honors-program student.

And due to recent fundraising efforts, Jim Henderson, chairman of the MCC Foundation Board, said that the scholarship is already over $100,000 strong.

"What I believe is one of the absolute best things Carole has done in the past 25 years is that she's always kept the students in mind," said Henderson. "And there are literally thousands of students who have become something they wouldn't have been if it weren't for Carole A. Cowan."

Following words from people like state Commiss-

sioner of Higher Education Richard Freeland, Cowan was presented with a cake version of the newly renamed Carole A. Cowan Center, complete with trick candles that, like Cowan, just wouldn't give up.

The soon-to-be retired college president detailed all of the help she's received over the years from the trustees, the foundation board and her entire administrative staff. "We couldn't have done this without you. You've been terrific contributors to the college," said Cowan. And, of course, she acknowledged her trusted faculty. "Our faculty at Middlesex are second to none," said Cowan. "I can't thank you enough for being part of this event and I can't thank you enough for being part of Middlesex and really walking that walk with us for so long."

Cowan announced her retirement in June. She started her career at Middlesex Community College as a teacher in 1976 and then later served as the chair of the Business Division and Dean of Administrative Services.

In 1990, she was named the first female president of the college and third overall.
gossip & entertainment

Films opening this week

**Beyond the Lights**, starring Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Nate Parker and Minnie Driver. The pressures of fame have superstar singer Nori on the edge, until she meets Kaz, a young cop who works to help her find the courage to develop her own voice and break free to become the artist she was meant to be. Rated PG-13 for sexual content including suggestive gestures, partial nudity, language and thematic elements.

**Dumb and Dumber To**, starring Jim Carrey, Jeff Daniels and Rob Riggle. Twenty years since their first adventure, Harry finds out he has a daughter who was adopted. Lloyd and Harry try to find Harry’s adopted daughter. Rated PG-13 for crude and sexual humor, partial nudity, language and some drug references.

Carrey and Daniels in *Dumb and Dumber To*

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gossip & entertainment

**MCC to show ‘Frozen’**

LOWELL — Middlesex Community College, 33 Kearney Square, will host an indoor movie screening on 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14, featuring the Disney movie ‘Frozen.’ Admission is free and open to the public. Free popcorn and beverages will be served. The movie will be shown in the cafeteria. MCC’s Indoor Movie Night is sponsored by the Middlesex (Student) Activities Crew. For information, contact Funmi Oyeleke at 978-856-3394 or oyekunlef@middlesex.mass.edu.

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**MCC to host award-winning filmmaker**

LOWELL — Middlesex Community College’s Global Education Speaker Series will host award-winning filmmaker Kalyanee Mam for a screening of her film, *A River Changes Course* followed by a Q&A and discussion session, at 6 p.m. Monday at Lowell Telecommunications Corporation, 246 Market St. The event is free and open to the public.

*A River Changes Course* tells the story of three families living in contemporary Cambodia. They face hard choices forced by rapid development and struggle to maintain their traditional ways of life.

**Pollard Library screens ‘Tanta Agua’**

LOWELL — The Pollard Memorial Library, 401 Merrimack St., will show *Tanta Agua* on Thursday, Nov. 13, at 6:30 p.m. The film is in Spanish with English subtitles.

*Tanta Agua* tells the story of a 14-year-old girl on vacation with her father and stuck indoors. Alberto and his two children, Lucia and Federico, set off to a hot springs resort for a vacation. When the springs are closed due to heavy rains, Lucia’s adolescent rebellion clashes against her father’s efforts for family time.

The Pollard Library holds Independent & Foreign Film Night the second Thursday of each month. For information, visit pollardml.org or call 978-674-1542.
MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Bedford campus to Arts & Crafts Fair

Middlesex Community College will host its annual Arts & Crafts Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 22 on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road, Bedford. The event is free and open to the public.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of MCC's Arts & Crafts Fair and will feature 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.

Farm fresh fruits and vegetables, fresh baked goods and MCC cookbooks will also be available for sale, and visitors can purchase tickets to participate in a 50/50 raffle.

For more information about MCC's Arts & Crafts Fair, contact Virginia Barrell, MCC's director of Conference Services, at 781-280-2505 or barrellerv@middlesex.mass.edu.

Open house at MCC Bedford campus

BEDFORD — Join Middlesex Community College will hold an admissions open house on the Bedford campus Saturday, Nov. 15, from 9:30 a.m. to noon, in the Campus Center, 591 Springs Road. Prospective students and their families, as well as adult learners interested in continuing their education, will have an opportunity to learn about MCC's more than 75 degree and certificate programs, noncredit courses, and online and flexible learning options. For more information or to RSVP, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/OH or call 800-818-3434.

Helping the homeless through song

LOWELL — The Middlesex Community College Foundation/Lura Smith Fund and Community Teamwork, Inc. present Lura Smith in a Gospel Concert of Thanksgiving on Saturday, noon-2 p.m., at Eliot Presbyterian Church, 273 Summer St. Special guest artists include James Seibles, Music Director Dave Dubinsky, Doug Leaffer, David Hurst, Don Ouellette, Darlene Wynn, The Choral Majority, Bernard Smith and the UMass Lowell Gospel Choir. All proceeds will help end homelessness and provide MCC scholarships. For information or questions, contact 978-656-3101. Suggested donation $20. Donate online at www.middlesex.mass.edu/lurasmithfund.
MCC in Bedford offers special services for veteran students

The Middlesex Community College Veterans Resource Center is dedicated to help veterans achieve their educational and career goals.

"There are approximately 450 veterans currently enrolled at MCC," said Maryanne Mungovan, director of Multicultural and Veterans Affairs. "And that number continues to grow."

Originally established in 2008, MCC’s Veterans Resource Center serves as a place where veterans can receive information about educational programs, get assistance with accessing college resources and learn answers to questions regarding eligibility for government, state and community sponsored services.

Veterans advocates are also available to assist military service members and their families in finding answers to aid in the transition from military service to higher education through support and guidance during the application, admissions and academic process.

"Each semester the VRC hosts a special orientation for our veteran students," said Mungovan. "It’s a one-day event that helps students to know the faculty and staff at MCC, as well as other students who are veterans. We take time to acquaint them with our campuses, help them fully understand their benefits and introduce them to available services on and off campus."

Middlesex has a number of available services to help student veterans, including access to the Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership program. VITAL program is an initiative of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs that works to connect student veterans to their local VA medical centers. It helps create support programs on campus, provides training about military culture for faculty and staff and provides professional on-site mental health counseling for veteran students once a week on each campus, explained Mungovan.

Additionally, the VRC sponsors a variety of campus and community activities, including a special speaker series called "Heroes Among Us." The series features current or former MCC students, faculty and staff members who are also veterans to speak about their personal stories of life in and out of the military.

The VRC offers a number of free health services for veterans, as well. Free acupuncture sessions are offered in collaboration with MCC’s Nursing Program and Acupuncture Without Borders. Free oral-cancer screenings for veterans are offered in collaboration with MCC’s Dental Hygiene Program and a free on-campus flu shot clinic is provided through the Bedford VA Hospital.

Student veterans also find ways to get involved on campus. "We have a very active student-run Veterans Club," said Mungovan. The Veterans Club hosts a variety of programs for fellow students. "One of our most popular events is ‘Coffee and Camaraderie’; a social event that provide an opportunity for students to engage in casual conversation with one another to talk about life in the military and what it is like returning to civilian life," Mungovan added.

Other Veterans Club events include organizing community service projects to help veterans in the Bedford and Lowell communities.

Thanks to the efforts of MCC’s Veterans Resource Center, Veterans Advisory Board and other special veterans services, MCC has once again been designated a Military Friendly School by Victory Media, a service-disabled, veteran-owned small business.

MCC has been designated a Military Friendly School every year since 2011. For more information, visit militaryfriendlyschools.com.

MCC’s Veterans Resource Centers are located in the Bedford Campus Center, Room 206, or in the Lowell City Building, Room 117. For more information about MCC’s Veterans Resource Center, contact Maryanne Mungovan, director of Multicultural and Veterans Affairs, at mungovanm@middlesex.mass.edu or call 978-656-3297.
Next MCC president not local

Sources: Four finalists all hail from out of state

By Christopher Scott
cscott@lowellsun.com

LOWELL — The search for Carole Cowan's successor as president of Middlesex Community College is down to four finalists — and none is from Massachusetts, The Sun has learned.

While Royall Mack, MCC's trustees chairman, declined Tuesday to divulge the number of finalists, sources have told The Sun that public interview sessions are being scheduled next week for four candidates.

"Candidate A," "Candidate B," "Candidate C" and "Candidate D" have each been scheduled for two "open forums," one at MCC's main campus in Bedford; the other at the Lowell campus.

Despite the information supplied to The Sun, Mack wouldn't budge on a confirmation.

“I can't comment on the current number (of finalists),” said Mack, an Andover resident and MCC board member since 2007. “We have to protect the privacy of all the candidates until we are ready to release their identities.”

Mack said disclosure may come as early as Thursday night — the same night the college will fete Cowan, the second longest-serving president in the state's community-college system — or early Friday morning.

Besides the forum schedule, several sources told The Sun the four finalists are from out of state. The revelation was sure to upset some of MCC's local benefactors, who were supportive of the candidacy of longtime MCC Executive Vice President Jay Limehouse, a Lowell resident. Limehouse had applied for the position. He could not be reached for comment.

Another top MCC administrator, Provost Phil Sisson, Please see MCC/8
Next MCC head not local

MCC/From Page 1

did not apply for the job that could pay as much as $260,000 annually, the same sources said.

More than 150 people from around the world applied for the job, which Cowan has held for more than two decades.

The Sun reported in late October that a search firm hired by MCC eliminated more than 100 applicants to come up with a pool of about 55.

The search firm, R.H. Perry & Associates, of Washington D.C., further winnowed the pool to about 25 candidates and then, just recently, reduced the list to about a dozen semifinalists.

The trustees' search committee, which Mack chairs, presented the list of semifinalists and winnowed it to four finalists.

According to the presidential search timeline set for December-January, the board of trustees will meet to select a finalist, who will be recommended to the state Board of Higher Education for him. The latter board will also interview the final candidate.

Mack said the higher ed board can reject the finalist, although that is unlikely: "The higher ed board has been involved in the search from the beginning," said Mack. "The board has that authority, although I'm not sure how much it has exercised that authority."

Besides Mack, members of the search committee include: Board of Trustees member Elia Marnik; James Hicks and Paul Meane; Foundation Board member Abbey Henderson; Len Wilson, community representative; Matthew Olson, dean, Humanities and Social Sciences; Josephine Gorman, director, Enterprise Applications; Michael Williamson, mathematics faculty mem-

Candidates to head to campuses

LOWELL — Middlesex Community College will hold a series of public forums next week during which the college will introduce the finalists seeking to replace retiring President Carole Cowan.

The identities of the finalists could be released late Thursday or early Friday. The forum schedule is:

• Candidate A: Monday, Lowell campus, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Federal Building, Assembly Room; Tuesday, Bedford campus, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Campus Center, Cafe East in Bedford.

• Candidate B: Tuesday, Lowell campus, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Federal Building, Assembly Room, Wednesday, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Campbell Center, Cafe East.

• Candidate C: Wednesday, Lowell campus, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Federal Building, Assembly Room, Thursday, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Campus Center, Cafe East.

• Candidate D: Thursday, Lowell campus, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Federal Building, Assembly Room, Friday, 1:30-2:30 p.m., North Academic Room 104, in Bedford.

Deborah Betsker, adjunct faculty member; Jeffrey Tejeda, assistant director, admissions; Donna Colella, administrative assistant; Sean Nelson, deputy commissioner, state Department of Higher Education; and Venessa Van Wyk, student trustee.

The MCC Foundation will host a reception celebrating Cowan's legacy on Thursday, from 6-8 p.m., at the Andover Country Club, 60 Canterbury St., Andover. Tickets are $100 and proceeds will benefit the Dr. Carole A. Cowan Scholarship.

Tickets can be obtained by visiting www.middlesex.mass.edu/President-Cowan.

Follow Scott on Twitter @scottlowellson.
Middlesex Hosts 20th Annual Arts & Crafts Fair

Middlesex Community College will host its annual Arts & Crafts Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22, on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road. The event is free and open to the public.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of MCC’s Arts & Crafts Fair and will feature 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.

Farm fresh fruits and vegetables, fresh baked goods, and MCC cookbooks will also be available for sale, and visitors can purchase tickets to participate in a 50/50 raffle.

For more information about MCC’s Arts & Crafts Fair, contact Virginia Barrelle, MCC’s Director of Conference Services, at 781-280-3505 or barrellev@middlesex.mass.edu.

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

The After-School Tutoring Center at Middlesex Community College provides academic support for middle school and high school students. Tutoring is available by appointment only from 3 to 8 p.m. Wednesday and Thursdays at 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 Marci Barnes, MCC's Program Manager of Community Education and Training.

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.

For more information about MCC's After-School Tutoring Center, visit https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/after-schooltutoring/ or contact Marci Barnes at barnesm@middlesex.mass.edu or call 781-280-3669.

Middlesex Community College meets the evolving educational, civic and workforce needs of our local and global communities. As one of the largest, most comprehensive community colleges in the state, we educate more than 13,000 students annually on our campuses in Bedford and Lowell, and online. MCC offers more than 75 degree and certificate programs, plus hundreds of noncredit courses. At Middlesex, everyone teaches, everyone learns.
Peter John, vice chancellor-professor at the University of West London, and Carole Cowan, president of Middlesex Community College, sign a Memorandum of Understanding and articulation agreement between the two institutions.

COURTESY PHOTO

MCC strikes up partnership with London school

Middlesex Community College continues to reach great heights, but this time, it's across the pond at the University of West London.

MCC President Carole Cowan and West London Vice Chancellor-Professor Peter John recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding and articulation agreement for semester study abroad.

MCC students can now study for a semester at the University of West London or, upon graduating from MCC, can transfer all credits to the university and earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in one year. It also encourages the exchange of faculty.

MCC embarked upon its first-ever study abroad this fall when three students — Melissa Kost, Danzel Jones and Jeff Lilley — joined three students from Northern Essex Community College in Haverhill to study abroad at Bath Spa University.

Marcy Yeager, director of the new Cultural and International Studies Institute at NECC, is accompanying them to England.

The new agreement is the culmination of several years of work and cultivation by Dona Cady, dean of global studies at MCC.
So many reasons to feel grateful in Lowell

CHAT/From Page 3

People here at The Sun get excited to play a role in filling a need during the holidays, but CTI and the Salvation Army deal with poverty issues all year long.

The hope is what Sun Charities can do and what the WCAP radio appeal can contribute during the season, frees up other resources for these agencies to fill other gaps.

Because the fund has been so successful in recent years, this year we are also reaching out with people involved with Wounded Warrior Project families to provide some extra help. None of this happens without a lot of people willing to help, willing to run a fund raiser, willing to give.

Helping others, supporting good causes is what makes us a community of caring people.

The last couple of weeks has provided a lot of evidence of the giving spirit. I don’t think I have ever seen so many of events celebrating success and giving. CTI celebrated 50 years of the War on Poverty with a blueprint for the future. Enterprise Bank has its Celebration of Excellence program next week, recognizing business and individuals and community causes. The Middlesex Community College Foundation will honor retiring President Carole Cowan next week with a major Cowan Scholarship fund. D’Youville Health and Wellness Center had a great celebration honoring three Lowell-area philanthropists. And, some great Lowell citizens helped Project Learn match a $90,000 from the Parker Foundation.

I attended or will attend most of those events and remain in awe of the good works of so many groups and institutions in the region.

On another high note, I also attended the ceremony at Lowell High School where five more people were inducted into the Lowell High Distinguished Alumni.

If anyone wants to see the good works of public schools, just attend one of these ceremonies. Thus far 55 people have joined the group and all have some interesting stories to tell about the impact the high school had on their lives. I’m particularly impressed with folks who have been out of town for years and come back for the ceremony. They all reflect a very strong emotional tie to the city and the high school. I was also impressed with the nearly 2,000 students who listened with great respect to the stories of the new inductees.
Five inductees called ‘inspiring’ by students

LOWELL — There was something different about this year’s Distinguished Alumni induction ceremony at Lowell High School. It wasn’t the caliber of the achievements of the honorees, and it wasn’t just the time of day — it was the roar of applause from every student in the auditorium.

Thursday afternoon’s ceremony marked the first year in which students were able to attend during the school day, and it appears the intent of that change was achieved.

LHS Distinguished Alumni inducted five more graduates who went on to do extraordinary things, and students walked away inspired.

Honorees this year included:

- Michael J. Kuenzler, Class of 1979, who served as a Lowell police officer for many years and founded the department’s Drug Abuse Resistance Education program. He later became a businessman, first founding All Sports Promotions in 1998 and then purchasing Four Oaks Country Club in Dracut in 2012.

- Robert J. Kilmartin, Class of 1976, a lawyer and decorated Marine colonel who spearheaded disaster-relief efforts in Sri Lanka and Indonesia after the 2004 tsunami and served in Iraq around the same time. He has also served as an assistant attorney general in Massachusetts and Kentucky.

Please see ALUMNI/4
LHS’ Distinguished Alumni feted

ALUMNI/From Page 3

* Marilyn Swartz-Lloyd, Class of 1962, who has spent 40 years identifying Boston’s economic growth centers and working with stakeholders from all sectors to bring them success. She previously served as executive director of Boston’s Economic Development and Industrial Corp., and is now president and CEO of the Medical Academic and Scientific Community Organization.

* John J. Lardner, Class of 1949, a former Marine and Secret Service agent who served on presidential details from Dwight Eisenhower through Ronald Reagan, but had a special attachment to John F. Kennedy and his wife Jacqueline. Following Kennedy’s assassination, Jacqueline Kennedy personally requested Lardner for an extended assignment with her and the children.

* James F. Linnehan, Class of 1933, who served in the Navy during World War II and went on to be an assistant attorney general and one of the first commissioners of the Lowell Historic Park Commission.

Inductees thanked their friends, family, and former teachers for setting them off on the right track and for their support and inspiration along the way.

“I have been blessed with friends and family who believe in me, and I start every day being thankful for that, with a commitment not to let them down,” Kuenzler said.

Kilmartin spoke of the lifelong friendships he formed and the dedicated teachers at LHS. He recalled how one teacher, Wyman Trull, taught him “there are no shortcuts in life,” and how Trull became his mentor and confident, passing along his “flawless, unerring moral compass” at a critical juncture in Kilmartin’s life.

“The memories of this place are ingrained in every fiber of my soul and I’ve carried them with me everywhere, literally all over the world,” Kilmartin said.

Swartz-Lloyd spoke of the challenges she’s faced as a woman throughout her career, and the glass ceilings she’s had to break through. She recalled about 25 years ago when she had been the head of the National Council for Urban Economic Development, and how the group met at a men’s club in Washington, D.C. While the rest of the members, all male, were able to walk through the front door, she had to enter a back door and walk up five flights of stairs to get to meetings.

“When you break these glass ceilings, you pick the shards out and then you go on for the next one,” Swartz-Lloyd said.

Kristin Lardner, daughter of the late Lardner, spoke of how her father, the son of Irish immigrants, never let his humble beginnings hinder him.

“He journey started here in Lowell with nothing but his attitude and determination,” she said.

“And when it ended, it was with everything that he had ever wanted,” Linnehan said.

“Jay Linnehan, who spoke on behalf of his late father, said James Linnehan never forgot where he came from. As the elder Linnehan became successful, people would ask him why he was still in Lowell, his son said.

“He said, ‘I love living in Lowell. Lowell’s my home,’” Jay Linnehan said, his voice wavering.

He said if his father were still here, he would focus on the students, and would want them “to understand that nothing in life that is worth achieving comes easy.” He urged students to aspire to sit on the stage one day as Distinguished Alumni, “because you’ve got a great place where you’re starting, right here at Lowell High, and the opportunities are phenomenal for you if you just try.”

Seniors Emma Guthrie and Thavanyvotey Luong, both 17, were two of five students who had the opportunity to introduce the inductees and their accomplishments.

“It was inspiring to hear their speeches. You can strive to be like them,” said Guthrie. “It’s good to see so many great things come out of my high school.”

“They inspire us to strive hard in life, because the Distinguished Alumni, a lot of these people have been going through a lot of obstacles and ups and downs, and here they are, right as ever,” Luong said.

“It’s really inspiring.”

As women, both said they were particularly inspired by Swartz-Lloyd.

Many previous inductees were also present at the ceremony, including former LHS headmaster and current City Councillor William Samaras, Enterprise Bank founder George Duncan, local arts leader Janet Lambert Moore, educator George Simonian and The Sun’s publisher emeritus, Kendall Wallace.

Since 2004, more than 50 Lowell High graduates have been honored as Distinguished Alumni. Other past inductees include Beat writer Jack Kerouac, board-game pioneer Milton Bradley, TV personality Ed McMahon, UMass Lowell Chancellor Marty Meehan and former U.S. Sen. Paul Tsongas.

Follow Alana Melanson at facebook.com/alana.lowellma or on Twitter@alanaamelanson.
ANNUAL EVENT

MCC hosts Arts & Crafts Fair

Middlesex Community College will host its annual Arts & Crafts Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 22 on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road, Bedford. The event is free and open to the public.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of MCC's Arts & Crafts Fair and will feature 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.

Farm fresh fruits and vegetables, fresh baked goods and MCC cookbooks will also be available for sale, and visitors can purchase tickets to participate in a 50/50 raffle.

For more information about MCC's Arts & Crafts Fair, contact Virginia Barrelle, MCC's director of Conference Services, at 781-280-3505 or barrellev@middlesex.mass.edu.

Handcrafted jewelry, quilts and holiday decorations will be among the items available at Middlesex Community College's 20th annual Arts & Crafts Fair, to be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 22 on the Bedford Campus. Admission and parking are free. For information, call 781-280-3505. COURTESY PHOTO
November 4, 2014

Ms. Rebecca Parsons
Middlesex Community College
Office of the President
33 Kearney Square
Lowell, MA 01852

Dear Ms. Parsons,

On Sunday, October 26, 2014, at the UMass Lowell Inn and Conference Center, nearly 400 guests dined on the culinary creations of seventeen local restaurants and caterers at the 28th Annual Taste of the Town.

Thanks to the generosity of our Ad Sponsors and other friends of the Lowell General Hospital Auxiliary, the event was once again a smashing success, raising over $60,000. We sincerely appreciate your contribution of a Full Page Ad for this year’s Program Book in the amount of $400.

We look forward to our upcoming events which include the 6th annual Winter Affair in February, and Daffodils and Desserts in the spring. We hope to see you at one or more of these events.

It may only be November but plans are already underway for our 29th Annual Taste of the Town! Thank you again for your generous support.

Sincerely,

Joy Deschene
Co-Chair

Pam White
Co-Chair

Co-Chairs of the Taste of the Town Program Book
RECEPTION SET FOR NOV. 13

MCC establishes scholarship in Cowan’s name

The Middlesex Community College Foundation has established a scholarship in honor of outgoing MCC President Carole Cowan.

The Dr. Carole A. Cowan Scholarship will provide financial assistance to a deserving Middlesex student who is a member of the MCC Honors Program.

The MCC Foundation will also host a reception celebrating Cowan's legacy on Thursday, Nov. 13, from 5 to 8 p.m., at Andover Country Club, 60 Canterbury St. Tickets are $100, and proceeds will benefit the scholarship.

"I am honored to be able to recognize the high academic achievements of the students in the Middlesex Honors Program," Cowan said. "This scholarship will help ensure that these outstanding students will continue to earn their academic degrees, and be able to devote the time to study and take part in student engagement opportunities."

The recipient of the Dr. Carole A. Cowan Scholarship must be a student currently attending Middlesex who is enrolled in the MCC Honors Program and may not otherwise have the ability to pay for a college education.

Reception tickets and online scholarship donations can be made by visiting www.middlesex.mass.edu/President Cowan. Scholarship donations may also be mailed to The MCC Foundation, P.O. Box 716, Bedford, MA 01730. Make checks payable to the MCC Foundation, and reference the Dr. Carole A. Cowan Scholarship.

For further information about the scholarship or the reception, call Dennis Malvers at 781-280-3514.

Cowan announced in June that she will retire as president of the college at the end of the calendar year.
Transition Program
For Students With
Learning Disabilities

Learn more about Middlesex Community College's nationally recognized Transition program, a two-year, noncredit vocational certificate program for students with learning/cognitive disabilities. A public Information Session for the Transition Program will be held from 9 to 11 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 13, in MCC's Bedford Campus Center Café East, 591 Springs Road.

"MCC's Transition program is designed for students with significant learning disabilities who would find traditional college-level academics too challenging, even with extensive support services," said Susan Woods, MCC's Associate Dean of Student Support Services. "The Transition Program helps students achieve their potential through coursework and hands-on experience in work settings."

Three days a week, Transition Program students attend classes designed to teach independent-living skills, computer and job-survival skills, and social skills. Small class size ensures that students receive individualized attention and a program tailored to meet their needs. Two days a week, students work as interns in competitive employment situations in office and business support environments. Transition students may participate in all Middlesex student activities and student support services.

Graduates of MCC's Transition Program receive a Certificate of Completion in Office and Business Support Skills and typically obtain employment in office support, business support, or retail support. Transition Program candidates should have a high school diploma of GED credential, interest in training for entry-level work in business and industry, fifth to eighth-grade level reading and math skills, and the maturity and emotional stability to effectively participate in a program on a college campus.

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

For more information about MCC's Transition Program, or to register for an information session, contact Susan Woods, Transition Program Director, at 781-280-3630 or visit https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/transitionprogram/.

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MCC offers after-school tutoring to students

Is your teen struggling with coursework? The After-School Tutoring Center at Middlesex Community College provides academic support for middle and high school students. Tutoring is available by appointment from 3-8 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays at MCC’s Bedford campus, 891 Springs Road, Bedford.

“Students who have used MCC’s After-School Tutoring Center have seen improvements in their grades after just one session,” said Marci Barnes, MCC’s director of lifelong learning. “Our tutors are dedicated to helping students find learning methods that work for them.”

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

All of MCC’s tutors are Massachusetts-certified teachers who are currently working in area schools.

“It’s a huge asset to have these teachers working for us,” said Barnes. “Teaching and learning have changed so much that it can be difficult for parents to help students with their homework these days. Because our tutors are current teachers, they know the proper techniques and current best practices that are being taught in school today.”

Jared Smith, a seventh-grade English teacher at Locke Middle School in Billerica, has been tutoring at MCC’s After-School Tutoring Center for two years. “Working with students in a one-on-one setting rather than in a classroom can be very beneficial,” said Smith. “Students often feel a bit more comfortable to ask questions, and more willing to work hard when they’re working with a tutor.”

MCC’s After-School Tutoring Center is currently taking appointments in math and language arts. Rates for instruction begin at $40 per hour and can be purchased hourly.

“There are a wide range of students who take advantage of tutoring,” said Smith. “Some students may be struggling with their writing skills, while others may be more advanced students who come to tutoring sessions just to fine-tune their skills.”

“The best thing about MCC’s After-School Tutoring Center is the flexibility it offers,” Smith added. “Parents and students can schedule sessions that fit their schedule. It’s a convenient way to get one-on-one extra help from licensed educators.”

For information: 791-280-3669, middlesex.mass.edu; barnesm@middlesex.mass.edu.
MCC earns awards for PR and marketing

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 communications professionals at two-year colleges.

MCC’s Office of Marketing Communications received six Medallion Awards—three gold, one silver and two bronze—during NCMPR’s recent District 1 Conference, held in National Harbor, Md.

The annual Medallion Awards competition spotlights the best work among District 1 member colleges. Entries were submitted to the competition in 40 categories.

“To receive awards from our regional college-marketing peers is a wonderful recognition of the MCC communications team,” said Jennifer Aradiya, director of marketing communications. “We are proud to promote the Middlesex mission through our innovative work in social media, marketing and design.”

The Office of Marketing Communications earned Gold Medallion Awards in the categories of Social Media Contest (for “UR 1st 30 Days at MCC Instagram Challenge”), Fund Raising/Annual Campaign (for MCC Foundation’s Student Success Fund), and One-Time Special Event (for “MCC Goes Smoke Free”).

Through Instagram, Facebook and Twitter, the “UR 1st 30 Days at MCC” asked students to post daily themed photos during their first month of the 2013 fall semester. The MCC Foundation’s Student Success Fund Campaign raised money to help low-income students pay for college through web, print and social-media materials. And the collegewide “MCC Goes Smoke Free” campaign included social media, web and print materials.

MCC won a Silver Medallion Award in the category of Brochure/Flyer (for the MCC Foundation’s Annual Fund 2014 brochure).

Middlesex also earned Bronze Awards in the categories of Class Schedule (for the Summer 2014 Semester Advising Schedule), and Wildcard (for its New Student Welcome Packet).

Also, MCC’s Office of Public Affairs received a Silver Award for the video program “MCC Connects.”
MCC's World
Of Music Series
Continues With The
Marc Rossi Group
A World of Music, Middlesex Community College's 2014 fall concert series, continues with a concert by the Marc Rossi Group, at 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 7, in the MCC Concert Hall (Building 6) on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road. The concert is free and open to the public.

The Marc Rossi Group will perform original jazz with Indian and world influences. Marc Rossi, composer/keyboards, Lance Van Lenten, saxophone and flute, Bill Urmsen, bass, and Bob Tamagni, drums, will perform music from their critically-acclaimed albums "Hidden Mandala," "Mantra Revealed" and "Resonance," as well as brand new pieces. Jazz critic Fred Bouchard calls the group's work, a "fresh, celebratory collaboration."

Other events in MCC's free World of Music fall concert series include; Pianist Wanda Paik in concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 23. A fall MCC Student Recital will also be held. Student instrumentalists and singers will perform at 12:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8. All concerts will be held in MCC's Concert Hall on the Bedford campus.

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

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

Middlesex Community College meets the evolving educational, civic and workforce needs of our local and global communities. As one of the largest, most comprehensive community colleges in the state, we educate more than 13,000 students annually on our campuses in Bedford and Lowell, and online. MCC offers more than 75 degree and certificate programs, plus hundreds of noncredit courses. At Middlesex, everyone teaches, everyone learns.
MCC board: About 55 vying for Cowan's job

By Christopher Scott
ccscott@lowellsun.com

LOWELL — The number of applicants vying to succeed Middlesex Community College President Carole Cowan, who is retiring early next year, stands at about 55, now that a search firm hired by the college eliminated more than 100 other applications.

Royall Mack, MCC Board of Trustees chairman who is leading the search, said he is pleased the college received so many applications and said it bodes well for the institution with facilities in Bedford and Lowell.

"Educators from around the world obviously feel the position is attractive, for any number of reasons," Mack said.

Mack said he doesn’t know if there are in-house candidates to replace Cowan, who has overseen MCC for more than two decades, during which the college expanded from its Bedford roots to build an impressive blueprint in Lowell.

It is widely believed, however, that longtime MCC Executive Vice President Jay Linnehan and Provost Phil Sisson, applied. Neither Linnehan, who oversees the college’s finances, or Sisson, returned telephone messages from The Sun.

When asked if he hopes an in-house candidate succeeds Cowan, Mack said: "I would hope we find the very best candidate to serve Middlesex Community College, and if that candidate happens to be local, it is the result of an extensive and exhaustive search."

Cowan, the second longest-serving president in the state’s community-college system, made a salary last year of $261,000. Mack said he doesn’t know the salary of Cowan’s replacement. He said it will depend largely on experience.

Mack said the search committee will meet early next week to discuss rankings assigned to the remaining candidates by the search firm, R.H. Perry & Associates, of Washington D.C., and further winnow the list to about 25 candidates.

Then, in early November, the search committee hopes to name about 10 candidates who will be considered semi-finalists.

An unknown number of finalists are scheduled to be interviewed by the Board of Trustees in public in late November.

According to the presidential search timeline, in the "December/January" time-frame, the Board of Trustees will meet to select a finalist, whom will be recommended to the state Board of Higher Education. That board will also interview the final candidate.

Besides Mack, members of the search committee include: Board of Trustees members Elia Marnik, James Hicks and Paul Means; Foundation Board member Abbey Henderson; Len Wilson, community representative; Matthew Olson, dean, Humanities and Social Sciences; Josephine Gorman, director, Enterprise Applications; Michael Williamson, mathematics faculty member; Deborah Botker, adjunct faculty member; Jeffrey Tejada, assistant director, admissions; Donna Colella, administrative assistant; Sean Nelson, deputy commissioner, state Department of Higher Education; Venessa Van Wyk, student trustee.

Follow Scott on Twitter @ccscottlowellsun.
MCC BEDFORD

Campus to hold free jazz concert

A World of Music, Middlesex Community College's 2014 fall concert series, continues with a concert by the Marc Rossi Group, at 8 p.m. Nov. 7 in the MCC Concert Hall, 591 Springs Road, Bedford. The concert is free and open to the public.

The Marc Rossi Group will perform original jazz with Indian and world influences. Marc Rossi, composer/keyboards; Lance Van Lenten, saxophone and flute; Bill Urmson, bass; and Bob Tamagni, drums, will perform music from their critically-acclaimed albums "Hidden Mandala," "Mantra Revealed" and "Resonance," as well as brand new pieces. Jazz critic Fred Bouchard calls the group's work, a "fresh, celebratory collaboration."

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

A World of Music, Middlesex Community College's 2014 fall concert series, continues with The Marc Rossi Group performing original Jazz with Indian and world influences at 8 p.m. Nov. 7 in the MCC Concert Hall on the Bedford campus. COURTESY PHOTO
John Chemaly earns lifetime-achievement award

A Sun Staff Report

LOWELL—Trinity EMS co-owner and president John Chemaly received the Lifetime Achievement Award this week from the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship.

Chemaly, of Chelmsford, accepted the award Monday from NACCE President and CEO Heather Van Sickle during the organization’s 12th annual Conference in Phoenix.

The award is presented to an individual who has achieved entrepreneurial success and played a pivotal role in his or her community through involvement and support of civic and philanthropic activities.

"John shares his success with his community by supporting charitable organizations that strive for community improvement such as the Merrimack Valley Hospice House, the YMCA of Greater Lowell, the Merrimack Valley Food Bank, and Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Haverhill, to name just a few," said Van Sickle in a statement. "He has been a leader at his local community college, spearheading fundraising efforts at Middlesex Community College through his involvement with the MCC Foundation. His firm, Trinity EMS, helps contribute to the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the Greater Lowell area."

Chemaly and his business partner, Gary Sepe, founded Lowell-based Trinity after a private ambulance company was about to close its doors 20 years ago. Chemaly was worried about the impact the closure would have on his community.

Chemaly and Sepe have grown Trinity into a major regional emergency-medical-services provider, making emergency medical response and routine medical transfers available on a 24/7 basis. The company employs 250 EMTs, paramedics and support personnel, and responds to 70,000 calls annually.

Chemaly, a graduate of Holy Cross College in Worcester, is president of the Massachusetts Ambulance Association and is active in the Greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce.

The NACCE is an organization of educators, administrators, presidents and entrepreneurs, focused on inciting entrepreneurship in their communities and on their campuses.
happenings | around the valley

The Middlesex Community College Board of Trustees has voted unanimously to recommend Dr. James Mabry be named MCC's fourth president.

Project Genesis and Middlesex Community College are offering a series of home buying seminars in 2015. Each series consists of four evening seminars. Seminars are held on Tuesday and Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Classes are held at Middlesex Community College. Register online at MVHPlay or call (978) 459-8400.

John Chemaly, co-owner and president of Trinity EMS Inc. of Lowell, recently received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship.

Bridal Guide

Middlesex Community College Foundation
John Nesmith House
An elegant setting for intimate weddings and receptions, the MCC Foundation's John Nesmith House reflects the splendor of the era when Lowell was home to some of America's first captains of industry. Built in 1843, this 22-room Greek Revival mansion has been beautifully renovated – with central heat, air conditioning, and a full professional kitchen – and features period furnishings throughout. The spiral staircase can provide the bride a grand entrance. The beautifully landscaped grounds offer several unique indoor and outdoor ceremony locations, and spectacular photography opportunities. Nesmith House can accommodate up to 175 guests for a cocktail reception or 65 for a plated dinner. Our experienced staff will work with you every step of the way to ensure your special event is everything you want it to be.

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The John Nesmith House, Lowell

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For more information, contact Maureen Spinney at 978-458-3722 or email spinneyM@student.middlesex.mass.edu.
Visit us at www.middlesex.mass.edu/historic

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an evening with

William Shatner

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

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

Premier Seating - $115  Standard Seating - $45

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

Ticket may be purchased by calling the Lowell Memorial Auditorium Box Office at 800-477-9871 or online at www.LMAduction.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, Jonathan Pino at 978-934-5751 or email jpi@lowellmemorial.org. All sales are final. No refunds or exchanges.

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

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For information as to how to become a Forum sponsor, call Dan Laundry at 978-659-9774.
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Bedford Campus Student Lounge

January 13, 4-7 p.m.
Lowell Campus City Building, Cafeteria

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www.middlesex.mass.edu/finish
MCC’s Commonwealth Honors Program Challenges Students

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

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

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

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

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

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

For more information about MCC’s Commonwealth Honors Program, visit https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/honors/ or call 781-280-3553.

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an evening with
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Thursday, June 11 at 8 p.m. - Lowell Memorial Auditorium

Tickets on sale DEC. 1

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 978-732-8000 or online at www.lowellauditorium.com or in person at the Lowell Memorial Auditorium Box Office, located at 58 East Merrimack Street, Lowell, MA.

For group sales of 15 or more, contact Joellen Payne at 978-334-3751 or email jpayne@lowellauditorium.com. All sales are final. No refunds or exchanges.

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[Image of William Shatner]

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

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Director of Multicultural and Veterans Affairs
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11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday, December 6 and Sunday, December 7
220 Andover Street · Lowell, Massachusetts

Suggested donation. $20. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information, please contact Museum Spinney:
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BIOTECHNOLOGY

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- Civil/Environmental Engineering

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- Mechanical
- Civil/Environmental

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Register Now! Classes begin Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2015.