PATHWAYS FOR THE UNDECIDED
MCC has created Pathways Maps to help first-year students explore academic and career options

MCC MAKES WAVES
Students at Middlesex Community College were recently featured on a sea turtle rescue program on ABC

MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE HELPS FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS THRIVE

GOVERNOR’S WIFE, LAUREN BAKER SHARES PEARLS OF WISDOM AT MCC

MCC STUDENT-VETERAN IN GERMANY ON FELLOWSHIP

MCC SCIENCE PROFESSOR SARAH QUAST RECEIVES THE MCO COURSES OF DISTINCTION AWARD

BEDFORD CAMPUS
591 SPRINGS ROAD
BEDFORD, MA 01730

LOWELL CAMPUS
33 KEARNEY SQUARE
LOWELL, MA 01852

FACEBOOK | TWITTER | INSTAGRAM | PINTEREST | YOUTUBE
Ball passed to next generation at event for Martin Luther King Jr.

By Robert Mills
rmills@lowellsun.com

LOWELL — Fourteen-year-old Tristan Huynh, of Lowell, said that, to her, the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., is hope — hope that even with all the negativity in life, that people can come together to overcome hatred, biases, and labels.

Then she asked for an extra moment to speak,

"I don't know how many children or youth are here, but we are the future," Huynh declared with confidence. "We will have to attain the future, because we cannot become the past."

Whether she knew it or not, Huynh had just forcefully spoken words that fit perfectly with the theme of the event.

Please see KING/8

Lura Smith, left, and U.S. Rep. Niki Tsongas share a moment Monday at the Martin Luther King Jr. event Smith has run for the past 20 years.
Ball passed to next generation at event for MLK

KING/From Page 1

with the event’s theme of “passing the ball.”

Lura Smith, the longtime assistant to the president of Middlesex Community College, was organizing her 20th, and final, celebration of King’s life on behalf of the Lura Smith Fund and the Middlesex Community College Foundation.

Smith is heading into retirement so she can “just enjoy the dream,” but first she passed the ball to a number of community groups and leaders who hope to continue the annual event.

“I think to continue to this event and to fill Lura’s legacy will take the entire community,” said MCC President James Mabry.

After being lauded by everyone from Mayor William Samaras to Congresswoman Niki Tsongas, Smith urged all those who follow in her footsteps to always read the words of those like King and Rosa Parks who have already walked down the path toward hard-earned equality.

“They should read that history so they do not become guilty of not only letting it repeat itself, but of them doing anything to work against what’s already been built, like others are trying to do today,” Smith said.

Samaras, who said he had the privilege of seeing Dr. King speak years ago as a student at Boston University, said it bodes well for the future of the country that many continue to spread the word of King’s legacy.

“His words and actions not only inspired a generation, they remain true to this day,” Samaras said.

State Sen. Eileen Donoghue, who was serving her first term as Lowell’s mayor 20 years ago when Smith began the annual event, said that without Smith’s spirit, passion and commitment, no one would have been gathered together at Monday’s event.

She also said the work of attaining King’s dream remains a work in progress.

“If Dr. King were alive today he not only would be fighting against racism, but social injustice, social inequality, and all sorts of discrimination of any kind,” Donoghue said.

Nevertheless, Donoghue said that despite the challenges still facing the nation, Dr. King’s dream of the promised land remains alive.

“We, as a people, will get to the promised land, and we will get there with those young people who are performing here today, with their leadership, with their energy, and with their dedication,” Donoghue said.

Karen Frederick, chief executive officer of Community Teamwork Inc., was also lauded at the event with the annual Living the Dream Award for her work battling poverty and need.

“No one who works with Karen would ever doubt her passion and her commitment to the broad range of clients that Community Teamwork serves,” said Mabry.

Frederick said receiving the award was especially meaningful to her now, and she quoted King as she asked everyone in attendance to

Middlesex Community College performing arts student Adler Rameau of Methuen portrays Muhammad Ali at the Martin Luther King Jr. celebration at the Tsongas Center Monday.

JOIN HER IN SPEAKING OUT whenever they see inequality.

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter,” Frederick quoted King as saying. “In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”

“Join me in speaking about every injustice, every inequality, and every not fair thing that happens in our society,” Frederick said.

By all indications, Huynh will gladly accept that invitation.

Follow Robert Mills on Twitter @Robert_Mills
Middlesex Community College Hosts Info Sessions for Students with Learning Disabilities on Thursday, January 18

Jan 10, 2018 | Schools | 0 Comments
Submitted by Middlesex Community College

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 Transition Program Information Session will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 18, in MCC's Bedford Campus Center's 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 Patricia Bruno, 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, GED credential or certificate of completion, 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 Nancy Sleger, the Transition Program Coordinator at 781-280-3676 or siegern@middlesex.mass.edu.

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More than 192 sophisticated guests arrived donning this year's color theme — silver, gold and white — inspired by the tradition of James McNeill Whistler, who color-coordinated all of his events.

The guests enjoyed listing to pianist Roger Hatch, as they sipped a holiday cheer of eggnog and champagne. They were graciously treated to an enormous buffet of delightful Greek delicacies, dinner and traditional Greek pastries, all of which was catered by the Olympia Restaurant of Lowell and served by professional and dedicated owner Arthur Tingas and his polished staff.

Another highlight of the elegant evening was a Live Art Auction, which featured spectacular, original works of art by members of the Lowell Art Association, presented by state Rep. (and auctioneer extraordinaire) Tom Golden.

The Whistler Holiday Party is always cheerful and always sets you in the Christmas mood!

For more information, visit www.whistlerhouse.org.
FINISH YOUR DEGREE AT MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Want to finish your associate degree or add a credential to your resume?

Looking to enter a new career field? Middlesex Community College is the place to start. Spring-semester classes begin Monday, Jan. 22.

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Middlesex recognizes that many students, after completing their MCC coursework, intend to transfer and pursue a bachelor's degree at another institution. For these students, the college offers the state's Commonwealth Commitment/MassTransfer Pathways program, which can save an average of 40 percent from the cost of earning a bachelor's degree.

For information: www.mass.edu/masstransfer

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For information: http://middlesex.mass.edu; 1-800-818-3434.

MCC TO HOLD ORIENTATION SESSIONS FOR DUAL ENROLLMENT

Two orientation sessions for the Middlesex Dual Enrollment Academy, which allows qualified high school and home-schooled students to earn college credit while satisfying their high school graduation requirements, are scheduled for the following dates:

A Bedford campus Dual Enrollment orientation session will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Jan. 11 in the Bedford Campus Center's Café East, 591 Springs Road.

A Lowell campus Dual Enrollment orientation session will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Jan. 17 in the Federal Building Assembly Room, 50 Kearney Square.

For information: https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/dualenroll; 800-818-3434.
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Middlesex Community College: Student success starts here!

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Middlesex Community College Is A Leader In Online Education

For 20 years, Middlesex Community College has been a leader in online education. Spring semester begins Monday, Jan. 22, and it's not too late to register.

Middlesex currently offers 15 degree and certificate programs that can be completed entirely online. Another 10 degree programs can be completed 80 percent online through hybrid course offerings, which combine online and face-to-face instruction.

Students who take courses online at Middlesex complete the same high-quality coursework as those who take courses on campus. And online students earn the same course credits — which are transferrable to bachelor's degree programs.

Some of MCC's popular online degree programs include Accounting, Criminal Justice, Business, Hospitality Management, and Liberal Arts.

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

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MCC to host info session for students with learning disabilities

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For information: Nancy Sleger, 781-280-3676; slegern@middlesex.mass.edu.
Biopharma techs now face tougher job qualifications

By Jonathan Saltzman GLOBE STAFF JANUARY 09, 2018

Nearly a decade ago, employers in Massachusetts’ booming biopharmaceutical industry got together with representatives of the state’s community colleges to make sure that graduates of biotechnology programs would have the skills to land entry-level jobs.

Biotech executives told the colleges that their classes needed to prepare recipients of two-year associate’s degrees and one-year certificates to work as technicians who could perform such tasks as culturing cells, operating centrifuges, and preparing chemical solutions.

The companies helped to rank programs now at 15 community colleges as platinum, gold, or silver — based on how well they were readying students for work in the biotech industry.

But the advice has not resulted in job opportunities for many of the schools’ graduates.

Despite a surge in job openings, Massachusetts biotechs increasingly are hiring people as technicians only if they have completed four-year programs in the field, according to a report by the MassBioEd Foundation, a nonprofit organization that criticized the trend.

From 2011 to 2016, the number of technician jobs requiring bachelor’s degrees increased 44 percent, while those requiring associate’s degrees rose by only 16 percent, said the foundation, which is an affiliate of the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council.

"Effectively, industry, having just helped establish the desired core competencies for associate's degree holders, raised the job requirement bar to the bachelor's degree level," the report says.
Peter Abair, the executive director of MassBioEd, said industry leaders need to recognize that the programs they themselves helped design are turning out qualified job candidates.

“These are not high-risk hires,” Abair said in an interview.

The report doesn’t plumb the cause of the disconnect. But employers evidently believe graduates with bachelor’s degrees have better critical thinking skills and a deeper understanding of science, the study says, even though people with associate’s degrees and certificates are more than qualified to work as technicians.

Those jobs typically have starting salaries of between $43,000 and $55,000 in Massachusetts, according to MassBioEd.

The findings come as little surprise to Laura Rubin, dean of STEM and education at North Shore Community College, which has a biotechnology program in Danvers.

Rubin said that North Shore designed its program to meet the needs of biotechs, but job postings seek out graduates with bachelor’s degrees.

“The goal post changed when we were doing what [employers] wanted us to do,” she said.

As a result, Rubin said, North Shore is encouraging students who earn certificates or associate degrees to seek bachelor’s degrees.

Benjamin Benton, biotechnology program coordinator at Quinsigamond Community College, said community colleges “still need to demonstrate to biotechnology hiring managers that our students do indeed have the cutting-edge skill sets to be successful team members.”

One thing that both employers and community college officials agree on is that students who land internships while working on associate’s degrees fare better than those who don’t.

Kate Sweeney, dean of STEM at Middlesex Community College, said her school’s robust internship program has placed students at companies with Massachusetts operations from Biogen Inc. to MilliporeSigma to Novartis.

“What usually happens with our students is they have an internship in biotech and, in many cases, that internship turns into a job,” she said. Middlesex’s biotech program, Sweeney said, boasts a 100 percent employment rate for students who earn an associate’s degree or certificate.

Among the employers who say they have been satisfied with the community college students they have hired is Shire PLC. The company makes drugs for rare diseases and has more than 3,000 workers in Massachusetts, making it the state’s second-largest biopharma employer.

Aron Clarke, who oversees training in technical operations at Shire — it has operations in Cambridge and Lexington and is headquartered in Ireland — said the company recognizes that such graduates are often older than students with bachelor’s degrees, have sometimes juggled part-time jobs and family responsibilities, and have deep roots in the community.

The MassBioEd report, which was funded with a grant from the US Department of Labor, recommended that hiring managers recognize the skills of community college graduates and increase the availability of internships.

But it also contains recommendations for the schools, including making it easier for students with associate’s degrees to transfer to four-year schools.

Jonathan Saltzman can be reached at jonathan.saltzman@globe.com.
MLK Breakfast to focus on METCO program

By Jesse Collings

Posted Jan 9, 2018 at 5:50 PMUpdated Jan 9, 2018 at 5:50 PM

The second annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Breakfast will be hosted next Monday, Jan. 15 at the First Church of Christ, Congregational. The event is hosted by Bedford Embraces Diversity, a local organization aimed at increasing diversity in the community, as well as celebrating the various cultures that make up Bedford.

Last year the event was centered on the general teachings of Martin Luther King Jr. and how his philosophy related to contemporary American society. This year the breakfast will have a more refined focus: the Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity (METCO) program. METCO is a state-run program that transports students of color living in Boston to suburban schools. The program is aimed at providing equal educational opportunity to students as well as increasing the diversity of inner-city schools.

"The METCO program is one of the most important vehicles of diversity in the community," Treasurer of Bedford Embraces Diversity, Mike Rosenberg said. "Bedford has been apart of the program since 1974 and it is a way our students experience the teachings of Dr. King, as well as directly connect us with the black community."

Rosenberg added that the METCO program is also beneficial to parents and residents of the town.

"What people maybe don't realize is that the METCO program is a two-way street. In the past my wife and I served as host parents for a child in the METCO program, and we would go into Boston and meet their parents and we learned a lot from that."

The event will be highlighted by a panel of Bedford High School alumni who participated in the METCO program and will reflect on how their experiences in the program prepared them for life after high school graduation. The panel will be introduced by Akil Mondesir, a graduate of BHS and the current METCO coordinator for Bedford.

"We want the day to bring hope and pride for all of the positive things that have and can be accomplished when people of different color work together toward common goals that are positive and rewarding," President of Bedford Embraces Diversity Marilou Barsam said. "We believe that the METCO program in general, and specifically here in Bedford, is a good example of that."

The event will be accompanied by music courtesy of Jerome Kyles, a professor at Berklee College of Music and also a minister at Morning Star Baptist Church in Mattapan. Kyles will lead the group in inspirational and gospel music. Also attending the breakfast will be members of the school committee, police and fire departments, Col. Roman Hund, Commander of the 66th Air Base Group at Hanscom Air Force Base and Middlesex Community College President James Mabry.

"We wanted to get people from all aspects of the town that help embrace diversity in Bedford, and we are thrilled so many representatives have agreed to come," Rosenberg said.

The event begins at 9 a.m. and will feature a light breakfast. Admission is $5 and space is limited so interested parties should contact Bedford Embraces Diversity at bedfordembracesdiversity@gmail.com or by calling 781-893-1763.
Register Now For Middlesex CC’s Spring Mini-Mesters

In addition to Middlesex Community College’s traditional 15-week Spring Semester, MCC is now offering two Mini-mesters — accelerated, eight-week sessions.

Registration is now open for classes that begin Monday, Jan. 22, 2018, and financial aid is available for those who qualify.

“We understand that in today’s fast-paced world, many college students are juggling school, work and family responsibilities,” said Phil Sisson, Provost and Vice President of Academic & Student Affairs. “These new accelerated, eight-week Mini-mesters are one more way Middlesex is helping our students discover they can fit education into their busy lives.”

- Spring Mini-mester I runs Jan. 22 through March 16
- Spring Mini-mester II runs March 26 through May 18

Most Mini-mester courses are offered online. They cover the same content, maintain the same academic standards, and contain the same number of in-class instructional hours as courses scheduled during the traditional 15-week semester.

For further information and to see the full list of Mini-mester course offerings, visit https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/minimester or call 1-800-818-3434.

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Minuteman Offers Hands-On Programs For School-Age Students

Wondering what to do with your kids during February vacation?

Why not register them for one of the many exciting, hands-on programs offered by Minuteman Community Education during the February holiday break? Programs are open to students in grades 1-12 and will run Tuesday, February 20 through Friday, February 23, 2018.
Home-schooled student, 17, set to graduate MCC

Sierra DeWalt, a 17-year-old home-schooled student, hopes to earn a high-school credential around the same time she earns an Associate Degree, thanks to Middlesex Community College’s Dual Enrollment Academy.

Two orientation sessions for the Middlesex Dual Enrollment Academy, which allows qualified high-school and home-schooled students to earn college credit while satisfying their high-school graduation requirements, are coming up. The first is Thursday, Jan. 11, from 5 to 7 p.m., in the Bedford Campus Center’s Café East, 591 Springs Road, and the second is Wednesday, Jan. 17, from 5 to 7 p.m., in the Federal Building Assembly Room, 50 Kearney Square.

A resident of Ayer, Sierra has acted in several independent student films, speaks French and is looking forward to learning Italian. She studies karate and dance, and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the national honor society for two-year colleges.

Now she can add “student member of the MCC board of trustees” to her already impressive résumé.

Sierra, who turns 18 in March, was elected to the board last spring. As the “student voice” on the board, she wants to make sure students feel comfortable on campus — especially in light of recent proposed changes to U.S. immigration policy.

“It’s important that all cultures feel welcome here,” she said.

Sierra began home-schooling as a sixth-grader. What started as a temporary arrangement became permanent, once DeWalt was old enough to attend high school, to allow her more flexibility to audition for acting projects.

Please see MCC/23

Home-schooled student, 17, set to graduate MCC

MCC/From Page 22

But acting has moved to the back-burner now that she has focused on earning an Associate Degree, then transferring to a four-year school to study English Literature. Three years ago, during what would have been her sophomore year in high school, Sierra enrolled in two courses at Middlesex. She was 15.

“At first, I was kind of nervous,” she said. “I wondered if everybody would know I was in high school. But I found that I could keep up. So after I had that little bit of confidence, it made it easier to make friends and participate in class.

“I like the diversity of the student population here at Middlesex, and all the professors I’ve had have been really good — and really dedicated,” she added.

As her confidence has grown, so has her course load. Last year — what would have been her junior year of high school — DeWalt enrolled almost full time at Middlesex. She hopes to earn an Associate Degree this summer, about the same time she receives her high-school diploma.

For more information about the Middlesex Dual Enrollment Academy, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/dualenroll, or contact MCC’s Academic Career & Transfer Center at 800-818-3434.
MCC President James C. Mabry with 2017 student commencement speakers Zeina El Jenaynati of Lincoln and Maria Aybar of Lowell.

COURTESY PHOTO

MCC opens Jan. 22

Want to finish your associate degree or add a credential to your résumé? Looking to enter a new career field? Middlesex Community College is the place to start. Spring-semester classes begin Monday, Jan. 22.

With more than 70 degree and certificate programs, and hundreds of noncredit courses, Middlesex can help you finish your degree, begin a Bachelor’s Degree or upgrade your skills. MCC offers flexible schedules to fit your needs, with day, evening, weekend and online course options.

New and returning students can meet with an adviser, build their class schedules for spring semester, and take the College Placement Test during Walk-In Enrollment Days, from Monday, Jan. 8, through Friday, Jan. 19, in Bedford and Lowell.

Walk-In Enrollment Days hours are: Monday-Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., in the Bedford Campus Enrollment Center (Building 9), 591 Springs Road, and in the Cawan Center on the Lowell campus, 33 Kearney Square.

To learn more about what Middlesex has to offer, or to register for spring courses, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu or call 800-818-3434.
Finish Your Degree
At Middlesex Community College

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Dear James,

MUST READ

"Risk-Sharing Plan Could Be Extremely Costly for Colleges"
Community college officials should be acutely aware of a proposal in the House bill to reauthorize the Higher Education Act that would require colleges to return substantial portions of federal financial aid received by students who do not complete a term or other academic period. Learn more in the latest Washington Watch column in CC Daily.

"Pathways for the Undecided"
A Massachusetts college created Pathways Maps to help students get from undecided to completion. Read about it in the 21st Century Center.

MUST KNOW

Time’s Running Out to Add to the Apprenticeship Catalog
AACC is compiling a catalog of Registered and Recognized Apprenticeship programs. Get details and share information about your program here.
There's Still Time: Register for the New CEO Onboarding Seminar
AACC will offer a day-and-a-half program, "A Focus on Success for the First 365 Days of the Presidency: An Onboarding Seminar." The program is designed for new CEOs and the college's board chair. Register now to join us for this program in Washington, DC, February 15–16.

Register for the AACC Convention
The AACC Annual Convention will be here before you know it. Register now to ensure that you don’t miss out on hearing from great speakers, attending relevant sessions, and networking with colleagues. See you in Dallas, Texas, April 28–May 1.

Be Honored at the Hail & Farewell Luncheon
The Hail & Farewell Luncheon is AACC’s opportunity to wish a fond farewell to retiring CEOs, as well as hail new and 25-year CEOs. If you fit into one of these categories, submit a form by March 5 so AACC can recognize you. The Hail & Farewell program will take place at AACC’s convention.

Honor Your Outstanding Faculty
The AACC Dale P. Parnell Distinguished Faculty recognition showcases faculty members making a difference in the community college classroom. AACC will accept one faculty nomination from each member college. Distinguished Faculty recipients will be honored at a private reception on April 29 at the AACC Annual Convention. They also will receive a 15% discount off of the current faculty registration rate for the convention, a custom commemorative medal, and more. Nomination deadline: February 15, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. (ET).
Pathways for the undecided

☑ COMPLETION
BY JENNIFER MYERS
JANUARY 2, 2018
A Massachusetts college is using pathways to help students get from undecided to completion.

Building clear pathways for students has been a focus of many community colleges for the past few years. The American Association of Community Colleges’ Pathways Project and Pathways 2.0 involve more than 40 colleges. State systems, such as in California, are creating pathways programs, as well, and individual colleges across the country are working on their own programs.

Middlesex Community College (MCC) in Bedford, Mass., has created Pathways Maps to help first-year students explore academic and career options.

“We have a very diverse student body, including many students who are the first in their family to go to college and who may not be familiar with the college process,” said Bryan Wint, MCC’s director of academic advising and academic pathways, in a press release.

“These students have different needs than a traditional student at a four-year university,” Wint said. “We may take some things for granted and think college is easy to navigate, but it really isn’t.”

Pathways Maps divide MCC’s 70+ major programs of study into seven general pathways: Arts & Humanities, Business, Education, Health, Public Service, STEM (science, technology, engineering & math), and Social Science. By selecting one of the seven Pathway Maps, students can complete core courses required by all the programs in that pathway, while still deciding on a specific major.

And once they’ve chosen a major? MCC’s Academic Maps will help keep them on track. The maps have simple-to-follow graphics that help students plan out the four semesters of full-time coursework required to earn an associate degree.

“The pitfalls we want to help students avoid are wasting time and money,” Wint said. “We don’t want them to take courses that do not fall into their academic plan. If they are spending additional time and money, it will impact their future life and career goals – and we have a responsibility to help them achieve those goals.”

MCC’s Pathways Maps and Academic Maps have been in development – in collaboration with faculty and staff – for a couple of years, and were unveiled for the 2015-16 school year.

Is your college involved in a pathways program? Discuss at LinkedIn.
Taking a look back at 2017 — as only The Z-List can

The Z-List is reflecting on the past year and some of the inspiring events we covered. Wishing everyone peace, joy, health, happiness and prosperity in the new year! Make it your very best ever!

▼ PAPI-PALOOZA: Awaiting the chat with David “Big Papi” Ortiz before the MCC Celebrity Forum in June are, from left, MCC President James Mabry of Bedford, Paulo Martinelli of Dracut, John Thibault of Chelmsford, Jack O’Connor of Lowell, Judith Mabry of Bedford, and Tiffany and Mike Hoffman of Bolton
Grants strengthen MCC refugee, TRiO programs

Middlesex Community College has received a one-year, $79,000 grant from the state Department of Higher Education's Bridges to College Program to support the college's Health Career Credentialing for Adult Refugees program.

HCCAR is designed to help the employment outlook for Lowell's significant adult refugee population, said Denise Garrow-Pruitt, assistant dean of Allied Health.

"Many adult learners entering the country have previous experience in the health-care field but do not have credentials recognized by the U.S. government," Garrow-Pruitt said. "This new initiative will enable low-income refugees to receive certification through our Academy of Health Professions, which offers short-term training and college-credit courses that prepare students for entry-level health-care jobs. This training can enhance the adult refugee students' employability at higher wages in local hospitals, offices, nursing homes or clinics."

HCCAR will provide intensive student supports to 30 adult learners of diverse ethnicities and give them access to academic coaching and a bilingual adviser. Students can enroll in one of three AHP programs: Nursing Assistant, Phlebotomist, and Medical Office Assistant.

For further information about MCC's Health Career Credentialing for Adult Refugees program, email PruittD@middlesex.mass.edu, or call 978-822-8407.

MCC has also received a $257,500 grant from the U.S. Department of Education — the first installment in an expected five-year, $1.2 million grant — to continue funding its highly successful pre-college TRiO Upward Bound student-support program, which targets low-income and/or first-generation-to-college high-school students.

MCC's Upward Bound program is a carefully planned and intensive program of college preparation tailored to meet the specialized needs of students in grades 9-12. The credited academic program is designed to assist 55 TRiO-eligible students enrolled at Lowell High School. The goal of Upward Bound is to increase the rate at which participants complete secondary education and enroll in — and graduate from — institutions of post-secondary education.

"We are thrilled to receive this Upward Bound grant, which allows us to provide important academic enrichment to low-income, first-generation students throughout the school year and summer," said Colleen Winn, director of pre-collegiate TRiO programs and GEAR UP Massachusetts. "Upward Bound greatly impacts these LHS students by preparing them to enter post-secondary education by providing intensive classroom instruction and tutoring. Students in the program are also exposed to cultural activities, as well as field trips to colleges and universities in New England, New York and Pennsylvania."

For more information, contact Winn at winnc@middlesex.mass.edu.
MCC NEWS

Spring registration open at MCC

Enrollment is now open for spring semester courses at Middlesex Community College for classes that start Jan. 22, 2018.

New and returning students can meet with an advisor, build their class schedules for spring semester, and take the College Placement Test during Walk-In Enrollment Days, to be held on the Bedford and Lowell campuses.

January Walk-In Enrollment Days will be held Monday through Friday, Jan. 8-19, 2018, in the Bedford Campus Enrollment Center, Building 9, 591 Springs Road, and in the Cawan Center on the Lowell campus, 33 Kearney Square. Walk-In hours are from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday-Thursday, and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday.

For information: http://middlesex.mass.edu; 800-818-3434.

Registration to begin for MCC adult learning center

The next registration period begins Jan. 2 for the Middlesex Community College adult learning center.

The learning center offers free non credit college-preparation courses for adult learners ages 16 and up who live and work in Massachusetts. Students are admitted throughout the school year, on a space-available basis.

“Our experienced and professional instructors help returning adult students develop and improve their computer, study, and job skills,” said Kathy Innis, MCC’s Adult Learning Center director. “The program helps prepare students for success in college, at work, and in the community.”

ALC class sizes are small and range from adult basic-education, to preparation for the High School Equivalency credential, GED or HiSET. The program meets from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays, September through May, on the Bedford campus.

Classroom instruction in reading, writing, mathematics, science, social studies, and basic computing/digital literacy skills is provided. Students have access to computer labs with specialized software to supplement classroom learning.

For information: http://middlesex.mass.edu/adultlearning; 781-280-3662.

MCC helps students along pathways to educational success

Middlesex Community College is focused on presenting clear, easy-to-follow “pathways” for students to follow in order to reach their educational goals. These “maps” are designed to lead students to their desired degree — and career — in an efficient, step-by-step way.

“We have a very diverse student body, including many students who are the first in their family to go to college and who may not be familiar with the college process,” said Bryan Wint, MCC’s director of academic advising & academic pathways.

“These students have different needs than a traditional student at a four-year university,” Wint said. “We may take some things for granted and think college is easy to navigate, but it really isn’t.”

Registration is now open for spring-semester courses that begin Jan. 22, 2018.

MCC’s new Pathways Maps can help undecided students zero in on a program of study and Academic Maps provide a semester-by-semester breakdown of each program’s curriculum, have been in development for a couple of years. They were unveiled for the 2015-16 school year.

Pathway Maps were designed for first-year students who may still be exploring academic and career options. By dividing the college’s 70 plus major programs of study into seven general “pathways” — arts and humanities, business, education, health, public service, STEM: science, technology, engineering & math, and social science — advisors can help undecided students focus on a general area of interest.

By selecting one of these seven broad Pathway Maps students can stay on track and complete core courses required by all the programs in that pathway, while they’re still in the process of choosing a specific major program of study.

Once a student decides on a major, Academic Maps have been created for all programs of study. Designed with simple-to-follow graphics, these maps help students plan out the four semesters of full-time coursework required to earn an associate degree.

Academic Maps also provide tips to help students get the most out of their education. “Academic Maps give students an understanding of what they need to do to complete their program and graduate on time. If they are ahead or behind in some way, we are here to assist and help them complete the map,” Wint explained.

“The pitfalls we want to help students avoid are wasting time and money,” he added. “We don’t want them to take courses that do not fall into their academic plan. If they are spending additional time and money, it will impact their future life and career goals – and we have a responsibility to help them achieve those goals.”

For information: http://middlesex.mass.edu; 800-818-3434.
Middlesex 2nd in list of best community colleges in state

Middlesex Community College has been ranked No. 2 on the 2017 list of Best Community Colleges in Massachusetts by Schools.com.

With more than 70 degree and certificate programs, and hundreds of non-credit courses, MCC can help you earn an Associate’s degree, begin a Bachelor’s degree, or upgrade your skills.

MCC offers flexible schedules to fit students’ needs, with day, evening and weekend options. Combined with a small-class environment, attentive and accessible teachers, and honors courses for high-achieving students, Middlesex provides a quality education at a price you can afford — online or on campus.

With online learning at Middlesex, your classroom can be as close as the nearest Internet connection. For more than 15 years, MCC has been a leader in online education. MCC currently offers 10 Associate degree programs and five certificate programs that can be completed entirely online, plus hundreds of online course offerings. Hybrid courses, which combine online and face-to-face instruction, are also offered.

To learn more about MCC or to register, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu or call 800-518-3494.

MCC a top vets school

Thanks to Middlesex Community College’s Veterans Resource Center, Veterans Advisory Board and other special veterans services, MCC has been designated a Bronze-Level Military Friendly School by Victory Media. The schools are recognized for doing the most to embrace America’s military service members, veterans and spouses as students and ensure their success both in the classroom and after graduation.

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

For more information about MCC’s Veterans Resource Center, contact Rick Reppucci at reppucri@middlesex.mass.edu, or call 781-280-3510.
Middlesex CC Helps First-Generation Students Thrive

Almost half of all Middlesex Community College students are the first members of their family to attend college. Ann Buskey, Director of MCC’s TRIO Student Success Program, understands this can be both a source of great pride and an overwhelming challenge.

According to a recent report from the Institute of Education Sciences, only about 20 percent of first-generation college students obtained a four-year degree 10 years after their sophomore year of high school, compared to 42 percent of continuing-generation students. “Having somebody at home – a parent, a sibling, a relative – who understands the college process is a huge advantage,” said Buskey.

Registration is now open for spring-semester courses that begin Monday, Jan. 22, 2018.

For more than 25 years, MCC’s federally supported TRIO programs have provided qualified students with comprehensive and coordinated services that significantly increase their rates of retention, graduation and transfer.

Buskey and her Student Success Program team work with 200 students each year who are either first-generation to college, low-income, or have a disability – or a combination of the three.

The overwhelming majority of TRIO students – more than 95 percent – have one thing in common: They are first-generation students.

“The overall goal of TRIO is really about breaking the cycle of poverty by helping students earn a bachelor’s degree or higher,” she explained. “Our goal is for these students to graduate and transfer to a bachelor’s-degree program.”

TRIO students receive a variety of support services, including one-on-one tutoring, financial-aid advising, and personal, career and transfer counseling. Buskey’s team even takes students on tours of four-year colleges.

Basically, TRIO students receive help navigating the entire college process. “We like to think of our staff and students as the TRIO family,” said Buskey. “It’s a partnership. They have to do all the work, but we are here to support them.”

To learn more about Middlesex, or to register for spring 2018 courses, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu or call 1-800-818-3434.

For more information about MCC’s TRIO Student Success Program, visit https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/triosspp or call 978-656-3384.

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

Middlesex Community College: Student success starts here!
For information: http://middlesex.mass.edu; 800-818-3434.

Registration to begin for MCC adult learning center

The next registration period begins Jan. 21 for the Middlesex Community College adult learning center.

The learning center offers free noncredit college-preparation courses for adult learners ages 16 and up who live and work in Massachusetts. Students are admitted throughout the school year, on a space-available basis.

“Our experienced and professional instructors help returning adult students develop and improve their academic skills, work, and life skills,” said Kathy Inness, MCC’s Adult Learning Center director. “The program helps prepare students for success in college, at work, and in the community.”

ALC class sizes are small and range from adult basic education, to preparation for the High School Equivalency credential, GED or HIFSET. The program meets from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays, September through May, in the Bed ford campus.

Bedford campus.

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MCC helps students along pathways to educational success

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“We have a diverse student body, including many students who are the first in their family to go to college and who may not be familiar with the college process,” said Bryan Wint, MCC’s director of academic advising & academic pathways.

“These students have different needs than a traditional student at a four-year university,” Wint said.

“We may take some things for granted and think college is easy to navigate, but it really isn’t.”

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Pathway Maps were designed for first-year students who may still be exploring academic and career options. By dividing the college’s 70-plus major programs of study into seven general “pathways” — arts and humanities, business, education, health, public service, STEM: science, technology, engineering & math, and social science – advisors can help undecided students focus on a general area of interest.

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Academic Maps also provide tips to help students get the most out of their education.

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For information: http://middlesex.mass.edu; 800-818-3434.
There's Still Time To Register For Spring At Middlesex CC

Enrollment is now open for spring-semester courses at Middlesex Community College for classes that start Monday, Jan. 22, 2018.

With more than 70 degree and certificate programs, and hundreds of noncredit courses, Middlesex can help you earn a degree, begin a bachelor's degree, or upgrade your skills. We offer flexible schedules to fit your needs, with day, evening and weekend course options.

Combined with a small-class environment, attentive and accessible faculty, as well as honors courses for high-achieving students, MCC provides a quality education at a price you can afford - online or on campus.

New and returning students can meet with an advisor, build their class schedules for spring semester, and take the College Placement Test during Walk-In Enrollment Days, to be held on the Bedford and Lowell campuses.

December Walk-In Enrollment Days will be held Monday through Friday, Dec. 18-22, in the Bedford Campus Enrollment Center (Building 9), 591 Springs Road, and in the Cowan Center on the Lowell campus, 33 Kearney Square. Walk-In hours are: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday-Thursday, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday.

January Walk-In Enrollment Days will be held Monday through Friday, Jan. 8-19, 2018, in the Bedford Campus Enrollment Center (Building 9), 591 Springs Road, and in the Cowan Center on the Lowell campus, 33 Kearney Square. Walk-In hours are: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday-Thursday, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday.

Middlesex recognizes that many students, after completing their MCC coursework, intend to transfer and pursue a bachelor's degree at another institution. For these students, the college offers the state's Commonwealth Commitment/MassTransfer Pathways program, which can save an average of 40 percent from the cost of earning a bachelor's degree. For more info, visit: www.mass.edu/masstransfer.

To learn more about Middlesex, or to register for Spring 2018 courses, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu or call 1-800-818-3434.

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At Shawsheen, machine shop looks to future

By Rick Sobey

UPDATED: 12/20/2017 08:23:05 AM EST

Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Jay Ash takes a selfie with Shawsheen Tech Machine Technology students, from left, junior Nathan Wilkinson of Tewksbury, sophomore Jason Elias of Tewksbury and junior John Bumpus of Wilmington.

SUN/JULIA MALAKIE

BILLERICA - The mass exodus of skilled machinists is coming.

With the average age of a skilled machinist at 58 in Massachusetts, industry experts foresee a retirement trend approaching, which will result in a great need for employees.

They’re addressing that gap at Shawsheen Valley Technical High School, where students are leaning on tomorrow’s advanced manufacturing technology.

Officials on Tuesday celebrated the state-of-the-art facility, which recently got an upgrade with almost $500,000 from the state’s Skills Capital Grant Program.

"We were very fortunate to receive this grant to reequip our old machine shop to what’s going to be our new advanced manufacturing program," Shawsheen Tech Superintendent-Director Tim Broadrick said.

The facility includes the latest in technology, including Computer Numeric Control (CNC) milling machines and lathes, as well as a computer lab for CAD/CAM instruction.

The new space will be used for adult workforce training.

They plan on working closely with UMass Lowell and Middlesex Community College.

"We’re going to build out a more robust adult education and training program," said Russ Eckel, Shawsheen Tech’s coordinator of workforce and community services. "The number of students coming out of technical high schools is great, but it’s not going to be sufficient."

The industry is still highly dependent on the Baby Boomer generation, he stressed.

"We need students in these shops during the day, but we also need to attract young adults who are in a job they’re not terribly happy with but have the aptitude to learn this kind of thing," Eckel added.

Jay Ash, secretary of Housing and Economic Development for the state, attended Shawsheen Tech’s machine shop rededication and ribbon cutting on Tuesday.

The state has a strong commitment to the advanced manufacturing sector, he emphasized. "Everything we do is about the next generation," Ash said. "The jobs are there," he added. "What we need to do is train the young people."

Shawsheen Tech junior John Bumpus showed officials the new technology, including milling machines and lathes.

"It makes making stuff easier," said Bumpus, who lives in Wilmington. "And it teaches us the skills we actually have to know for the trade."
Littleton School Committee proposes FY19 budget with $1.3 million increase

By John Lance / littleton@wickedlocal.com
Posted Dec 18, 2017 at 4:18 PMUpdated Dec 18, 2017 at 4:16 PM

Littleton School Committee Chairman Mike Fontanella presented the district's preliminary fiscal 2019 Budget at the committee's Dec. 14 meeting. Fontanella said the committee is proposing a budget of $20,194,190, an increase of $1.3 million, or 6.98 percent over fiscal 2018. Fontanella said the preliminary budget was the first step in the budget process and that it would be reviewed and discussed in detail with the Selectmen and Finance Committee over the coming months.

The preliminary budget includes $604,000 for contractual salary increases for current staff, $85,000 for a Shaker Lane/Russell Street Math Specialist, and $65,000 for a Computer Science/Math teacher at the High School.

The budget also projects an increase of $167,800 to cover increases in special education costs. Fontanella added that the support being provided by the state for special education has decreased, forcing the district to make up the short fall which he estimated to be around $20,000.

For operational expenses, Fontanella said costs include $10,000 for software licenses, $3,500 to translate texts for English as a Second Language learners, and $5,000 for general maintenance and utilities.

The budget also includes $120,000 to cover a new contract with the current bus company and $150,000 to subsidize full day kindergarten and further advance the School Committee's long term objective of bringing free, all day Kindergarten, to the district.

Energy Efficiency

Business Manager Steve Mark gave an update on energy efficiency projects at the schools. Mark said that support from the town and Green Communities Project allowed the schools to replace the canopy lights in the High School parking lot with LED lights. Mark said LEDs use fewer kilowatts, allowing the district to save $11,000.

School Improvement Plan Updates

Littleton principals gave the School Committee updates on progress being made on their School Improvement Plans over the last year, touching on topics such as Curriculum, Professional Development, Community and Communication, Climate and Culture, and Technology.
Russell Street School Principal Scott Bazydlo highlighted achievements such as focusing on small group math instruction, peer coaching and observation among teachers, and emphasis on defining learning targets. Bazydlo also called attention to recent visits from High School students to speak with Russell Street students about balancing extracurricular activities and academics.

"We have great role models in the district," Bazydlo said. "Sometimes the students in third, fourth, and fifth grade don't have the larger picture."

Middle School Principal Cheryl Temple identified achievements such as the ongoing use of the Aspen system by students to monitor grades and assignments online, the participation of staff in Signs of Suicide program, and responding to the findings of the Youth Risk Behavior Study conducted in 2016. In addition, Temple said, "We continue to research best practices for both struggling learners and advanced earners."

High School Principal John Harrington spoke about the expanded partnerships the High School has with Middlesex Community College, the adoption of the Bi-Literacy Pin for seniors who have completed four years of study in a foreign language, and the high numbers of students participating in athletics, with 66 percent of students playing at least one sport.

Follow the Littleton Independent on Twitter @LittletonIndie.
MCC profs earn online award

Massachusetts Colleges Online recently recognized two Middlesex Community College faculty members for outstanding course designs that best exemplify online education's potential to enhance teaching and learning.

Science Professor Sarah Quast and Communications Professor Jennifer Bauer were presented 2017 Courses of Distinction Awards at MCO’s 12th annual Conference on eLearning. Quast was honored for her hybrid course, titled “General Chemistry for Engineering and Science.” Bauer was recognized for her online course, “Film Video and Society.”

MCC offers 15 degree and certificate programs that can be completed entirely online. Another 10 degree programs can be completed 80 percent online through hybrid course offerings, which combine online and face-to-face instruction.

The spring semester at Middlesex begins Monday, Jan. 22, and it’s not too late to register. For more information about Middlesex online visit: https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/fit, or call 800-818-3434.

UPCOMING AT MCC

Adult Learners

The Middlesex Community College Adult Learning Center offers free, non-credit, college-preparation courses for adult learners (ages 16 and up) who live and work in Massachusetts. Students are admitted throughout the school year, on a space-available basis. The next registration period begins Tuesday, Jan. 2. For more information, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/adultlearning, or call 781-280-3662.

Mini-mesters

In addition to Middlesex Community College’s traditional 15-week Spring Semester, MCC is now offering two Mini-mesters — accelerated, eight-week sessions. Registration is open for classes that begin Monday, Jan. 22, and financial aid is available for those who qualify. Spring Mini-mester I runs Jan. 22 through March 16, and Spring Mini-mester II runs March 26 through May 18. For more information and to see the full list of Mini-mester course offerings, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/minimester, or call 800-818-3434.

Walk-in enrollment

New and returning students can meet with an adviser, build their class schedules for spring semester, and take the College Placement Test during Walk-In Enrollment Days, Monday through Thursday, Dec. 21, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Friday, Dec. 22, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at 591 Springs Road, Bedford, and at 33 Kearney Square, Lowell. More walk-in days will be held in January. For more information, call 800-818-3434 or visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/walkin.
'I can do it:' Teen from Dominican Republic succeeding with help from friends, mentors

By Kiera Blessing | kblessing@eagletribune.com Dec 18, 2017

PAUL BILODEAU/Staff photo. Edwin Peguero talks about leaving his home in the Dominican Republic during an interview at his Lawrence home. Peguero recently graduated from Lawrence High this past June. He moved to Lawrence from the Dominican Republic three years ago knowing almost no English, and has since become fluent. He now is studying aviation at Middlesex Community College. 12/14/17
Paul Bilodeau

METHUEN — Nearly three years ago, Edwin Peguero arrived in the United States with his two younger brothers, speaking almost no English and unsure of what to expect. Peguero, now 18, had to leave his mother behind in the Dominican Republic. He was moving to Lawrence, where he now lives with his father, stepmother and five little brothers — the two who came with him and three who were already living in the city.

Peguero said it wasn’t his choice to move to the United States, but he still was excited to come experience a new country, despite the challenges to come. Fortunately, he found plenty of help along the way — from mentors at school, to kind and selfless neighbors. With their help and his own determination, Peguero has earned his high school diploma and enrolled in college courses, and is well on his way to a successful future here.

Since arriving in Lawrence, Peguero has cultivated an impressive, albeit imperfect, grasp on the English language. He graduated from Lawrence High School in June, works at McDonald’s, volunteers at church, and attends Middlesex Community College in Lowell, where he is studying aviation. He said he often sends money home to his mother in the Dominican Republic and gives some to his father and stepmother to help with his younger brothers.

He said he hopes one day to work as an airplane mechanic.

"I know it's a little difficult, but I can do it," he said confidently during a recent interview.
Peguero seems to approach challenges this way: self-assuredly and with optimism. He said attending school here was a difficult transition at first, but he had help from his family — who spoke to him in English — and from the high school’s headmaster, Mike Fiato.

Fiato, who grew up in Lawrence himself, is fiercely protective of his students, his wife Gabriella said. Many of those students are working to support themselves and their families, much like Peguero does. Sometimes Fiato offers them work at his Methuen home, she added.

"He’ll give them jobs to be able to help them without giving a handout," Gabriella Fiato said. "These kids are living adult lives and people don‘t get it. So he’s like, ‘I’m just doing my part.’"

While Peguero still was a student, Fiato offered him guidance, both in school and out. Peguero and his younger brother began working for Fiato, mostly doing yard work, and became close with the headmaster. The two are still in touch regularly, Peguero said, calling their relationship that of "good friends."

"Maybe in the future, I want to be like him," Peguero said. "He’s a good man."

After working for Fiato for some time, Peguero had built up his savings in the hopes of buying a car to get himself to and from college and work. Fiato’s neighbor, Gary Hirbour, happened to be selling a 20-year-old Honda Civic that belonged to his daughter, Erin, when she was in high school and college. Sitting in the driveway with a "for sale" sign, it had caught Peguero’s eye.

Fiato discussed the purchase price with Hirbour. Ultimately, Hirbour opted to gift Peguero the car instead of selling it. For legal purposes, he gave Peguero the car at the price of $1.

"Mike told me the story that he was a young kid, didn’t have a lot, was over here ... struggling, so I felt like it was the right thing to do," Hirbour said. "I felt like I was giving back, you know? The kid was just starting out and he had a pretty rough road, according to Mike. So you try to do what you can. It’s the human thing to do, I think."

Peguero was enthralled; he had been prepared to pay Hirbour $500.

"I said, ‘Wow, I can’t believe it,’" Peguero said. When asked how he felt when he got the car: "Oh my gosh, real happy," he said with a wide grin.

Peguero later sent Hirbour a handwritten thank-you note, addressed like a formal business letter. Gabriella Fiato said she was so moved by Hirbour’s gesture that "tears came to my eyes."

"This child deserved it, and just — Gary doesn’t know him. He’s just a regular person. ... And I just felt like for him to do this for somebody he doesn’t know is amazing."

For Hirbour, the donation was comforting in a way — he’d grown attached to the reliable Honda, and was happy to see it go to good hands.

"I was glad for him to have the car, as I was for the car to have him," he said.

The teen first had to learn to drive a standard transmission — a feature he now says he enjoys. Now he drives himself and his friends from Lawrence to Lowell, Boston and beyond. He said that if God gave him the car, he wants to use it to help others.

In January, Peguero will return to the Dominican Republic to visit his mother for the first time since he left three years ago. He became emotional while looking at a photo of himself with her and his two brothers, taken the day before he left. The visit is a surprise for her, he said.
Middlesex CC Helps First-Generation Students Thrive

Almost half of all Middlesex Community College students are the first members of their family to attend college. Ann Buskey, Director of MCC's TRIO Student Success Program, understands this can be both a source of great pride and an overwhelming challenge.

According to a recent report from the Institute of Education Sciences, only about 20 percent of first-generation college students obtained a four-year degree 10 years after their sophomore year of high school, compared to 42 percent of continuing-generation students. "Having somebody at home — a parent, a sibling, a relative — who understands the college process is a huge advantage," said Buskey.

Registration is now open for spring-semester courses that begin Monday, Jan. 22, 2018.

For more than 25 years, MCC’s federally supported TRIO programs have provided qualified students with comprehensive and coordinated services that significantly increase their rates of retention, graduation and transfer.

Buskey and her Student Success Program team work with 200 students each year who are either first-generation to college, low-income, or have a disability — or a combination of the three. The overwhelming majority of TRIO students — more than 95 percent — have one thing in common: They are first-generation students.

"The overall goal of TRIO is really about breaking the cycle of poverty by helping students earn a bachelor’s degree or higher," she explained. "Our goal is for these students to graduate and transfer to a bachelor’s-degree program."

TRIO students receive a variety of support services, including one-on-one tutoring, financial aid advising, and personal, career and transfer counseling. Buskey’s team even takes students on tours of four-year colleges.

Basically, TRIO students receive help navigating the entire college process. "We like to think of our staff and students as the TRIO family," said Buskey. "It’s a partnership. They have to do all the work, but we are here to support them."

To learn more about Middlesex, or to register for spring 2018 courses, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu or call 1-800-818-3434.

For more information about MCC’s TRIO Student Success Program, visit https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/triosspp or call 978-656-3384.

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

Middlesex Community College: Student success starts here!
Register Now For Middlesex CC’s Spring Mini-Mesters
In addition to Middlesex Community College’s traditional 15-week Spring Semester, MCC is now offering two Mini-mesters -- accelerated, eight-week sessions.
Registration is now open for classes that begin Monday, Jan. 22, 2018, and financial aid is available for those who qualify.
“We understand that in today’s fast-paced world, many college students are juggling school, work and family responsibilities,” said Phil Sisson, Provost and Vice President of Academic & Student Affairs. “These new accelerated, eight-week Mini-mesters are one more way Middlesex is helping our students discover they can fit education into their busy lives.”
- Spring Mini-mester I runs Jan. 22 through March 16
- Spring Mini-mester II runs March 26 through May 18
Most Mini-mester courses are offered online. They cover the same content, maintain the same academic standards, and contain the same number of in-class instructional hours as courses scheduled during the traditional 15-week semester.
For further information and to see the full list of Mini-mester course offerings, visit https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/minimester or call 1-800-818-3434.

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There’s Still Time To Register For Spring At Middlesex CC
Enrollment is now open for spring-semester courses at Middlesex Community College for classes that start Monday, Jan. 22, 2018.
With more than 70 degree and certificate programs, and hundreds of noncredit courses, Middlesex can help you earn a degree, begin a bachelor’s degree, or upgrade your skills. We offer flexible schedules to fit your needs, with day, evening and weekend course options.
Combined with a small-class environment, attentive and accessible faculty, as well as honors courses for high-achieving students, MCC provides a quality education at a price you can afford -- online or on campus.
New and returning students can meet with an advisor, build their class schedules for spring semester, and take the College Placement Test during Walk-In Enrollment Days, to be held on the Bedford and Lowell campuses.
December Walk-In Enrollment Days will be held Monday through Friday, Dec. 18-22, in the Bedford Campus Enrollment Center (Building 9), 591 Springs Road, and in the Cowan Center on the Lowell campus, 33 Kearney Square. Walk-in hours are: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday-Thursday, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday.
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Middlesex recognizes that many students, after completing their MCC coursework, intend to transfer and pursue a bachelor’s degree at another institution. For these students, the college offers the state’s Commonwealth Commitment/MassTransfer Pathways program, which can save an average of 40 percent from the cost of earning a bachelor’s degree. For more info, visit: www.mass.edu/masstransfer
To learn more about Middlesex, or to register for Spring 2018 courses, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu or call 1-800-818-3434.
Grant will strengthen MCC Upward Bound program

Middlesex Community College has received a five-year, $1.3 million Upward Bound Math & Science TRIO program grant from the U.S. Department of Education to strengthen the Math and Science skills of participating Lowell High School students.

MCC's TRIO Upward Bound Math and Science program will provide participating students with a comprehensive and coordinated array of academic instruction, support and advising services, explained Colleen Winn, director of MCC's Pre-Collegiate TRIO program and GEAR UP Massachusetts.

"The goal of the program is to help students recognize and develop their potential to excel in math and science, and to encourage them to pursue post-secondary degrees in math and science — and ultimately careers in STEM professions," said Winn, referring to science, technology, engineering and math.

UBMS will target 60 TRIO-eligible low-income, first-generation LHS students with coordinated services, including individualized case management; and advising to ensure students enroll in courses comprising rigorous programs of study (including dual-enrollment courses), according to Winn.

Special services will also include individual and group tutoring; exposure to research in STEM fields; and workshops on academic skills, test preparation, financial literacy, and the college- and financial-aid application processes, she said.

Students will be required to participate in after-school and Saturday academic enrichment programs, and a six-week summer academic program focusing on STEM disciplines, Winn added. Also as part of the UBMS summer programming, students will have an opportunity to experience a one-week overnight trip to regional colleges throughout New England. Additionally, UBMS will provide college and cultural field trips.

For more information about MCC's TRIO Upward Bound Math & Science Program grant, contact Winn at winnc@middlesex.mass.edu or 978-656-3401.

MCC NEWS

Registration for MCC spring mini-mesters now open

Registration for spring, mini-mesters is now open.

Classes begin Jan. 22 and financial aid is available to those who qualify. Two mini-mesters are offered and are each eight-week sessions.

"We understand that in today's fast-paced world, many college students are juggling school, work and family responsibilities," said Phil Sisson, Provost and Vice President of Academic & Student Affairs. "These new accelerated, eight-week Mini-mesters are one more way Middlesex is helping our students discover they can fit education into their busy lives."

The spring mini-mester I runs Jan. 22 through March 16 and the spring mini-mester II runs from March 26 to May 18. Most mini-mester courses are offered online. They cover the same content, maintain the same academic standards, and contain the same number of in-class instructional hours as courses scheduled during the traditional 15-week semester.

For further information and to see the full list of Mini-mester course offerings, visit http://middlesex.mass.edu/minimester or call 800-818-3434.
Lauren Baker, wife of Gov. Charlie Baker, chats with students during her visit to Middlesex Community College in downtown Lowell Wednesday. She made the trip after being invited by two students from the Paul Sullivan Leadership Institute she met at a Chamber of Commerce event. Watch video at lowellsun.com.

‘Figure out what moves you’

Governor’s wife shares pearls of wisdom at MCC

By Kori Tuitt
ktuitt@lowellsun.com

LOWELL — Start where you are. Just start. That’s what the first lady of Massachusetts, Lauren Baker, wanted Middlesex Community College students to take away from her visit Wednesday afternoon.

Baker made an appearance on campus after meeting two of MCC’s Paul Sullivan Institute students at a Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce dinner in Haverhill recently. She spoke to a group of students, including members of the Paul Sullivan leadership institute, during the visit.

Paul Sullivan Leadership Institute member Gillian Nsuh listens to Baker during her visit. Nsuh and another student invited the governor’s wife to visit the school.

Please see MCC/10
Governor’s wife shares pearls of wisdom at MCC

the institute and student government. Baker spoke about her journey from the marketing world, becoming a stay-at-home mother, to being instrumental in relaunching Wonderland, a non-profit within the Department of Children & Families focused on helping children.

“The best advice I ever got was start anywhere. Just start,” Baker said to MCC students eager to get advice about how to achieve their goals.

Baker encouraged students to go on a “curiosity tour.” She told them to drum up the nerve to call up or email someone who works in their field of their interest. Ask to pick their brain over coffee. This meeting could be the source of a wealth of information and lead to more connections. Baker said this can also be a great opportunity to explore other possibilities if they are feeling stagnant or unfulfilled in a current role.

“To realize she actually took notice of us at that event was incredible. One piece of advice I took away from her is you don’t have to be afraid, just go for it.”

MCC student Gillian Nshuh, speaking of Lauren Baker, the governor’s wife

“Build your network and be open to opportunities as they present themselves,” Baker said. “You’ve really got to figure out what moves you.”

Eno Adoghe, one of the Sullivan Institute students who met Baker in Havertown, is a business major graduating in May 2018. “I used to think that opportunities were only available if you were in a high, elite place,” said Adoghe, of Lowell. “Being here and sitting with the first lady of Massachusetts was mind boggling. She was honest and real.”

Gillian Nshuh, also of Lowell, was the other Sullivan Institute student who prompted Baker’s visit to the school. She will also be graduating with a business degree in May.

“To realize she actually took notice of us at that event was incredible,” Nshuh said. “One piece of advice I took away from her is you don’t have to be afraid, just go for it.”

Students also asked Baker about balancing family and career as a working woman. While she said raising her children was the best, and hardest job she’s ever had, she did regret completely stepping away from her career. However, she said times have changed, and that the concept of working remotely was not something to be considered when she entered the workforce.

Another student asked what are some important characteristics for an effective leader. Baker said good leaders:

- Listen at least as much as they talk.
- Recognize they don’t own the market on good ideas.
- Are collaborative.
- Are honest and direct.
- Are visionary and can tell people how they will get to a certain point.

“I think it’s fabulous that the first lady would accept an invitation from two students and talk to the students at Middlesex Community College about her life and leadership,” said MCC President James Mabry. “It’s one thing to bump into an important person. It’s another thing to accept an invitation and spend the afternoon with the students.”

Follow Kori Tuitt on Twitter @KoriTuitt.
Middlesex Community College
To Host Walk-In Enrollment Days

Walk in and get started on your pathway to success at Middlesex Community College!

New and returning students can meet with an advisor, build their class schedules for spring semester, and take the College Placement Test during Walk-In Enrollment Days, to be held on the Bedford and Lowell campuses. Spring-semester classes begin Monday, Jan. 22, 2018.

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During Walk-In Enrollment Days, students can learn about MCC’s more than 70 degree and certificate programs. They can also receive information about financial aid and other student support services — including tutoring, career counseling, and disability support.

Prospective students will be able to meet with admissions counselors and fill out an application. Qualified students can register for courses.

Students can also learn about MCC’s many transfer agreements with four-year colleges and universities, including the statewide Commonwealth Commitment/MassTransfer Pathways program, which can save an average of 40 percent from the cost of earning a bachelor’s degree. Transfer counseling and transfer-credit evaluation will also be available. (Transfer students should bring their transcripts.)

At Middlesex, you CAN fit education into your busy life. For more information about MCC’s Walk-In Enrollment Days, call 1-800-818-3434 or visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/walkin

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Middlesex Community College: Student success starts here!

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Middlesex CC
Presents Thornton Wilder’s ‘The Skin Of Our Teeth’

Middlesex Community College’s Theater Department will stage Thornton Wilder’s “The Skin Of Our Teeth” in five performances Dec. 7-10, in the Lowell High School Burgoyne Theater, 40 Paige St., Lowell.

Curtain times for “The Skin Of Our Teeth,” are: 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Dec. 7 and 8; 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9; and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10.

Tickets are $15; $10 for MCC students, staff and faculty; $8 for senior citizens. Tickets can be purchased online at https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/performingsarts or by calling the box office at 978-458-5429.

How does the human spirit survive and persevere in the face of destruction? Wilder addresses the question in this classic American farce. Meet George and Maggie Antrobus and their children, Henry and Gladys, of Excelsior, N.J. George and Maggie have been married for 50 years. Whether he is inventing the alphabet or merely saving the world from apocalypse, George and his redoubtable family somehow manage to survive — by the skin of their teeth.

Completed by Wilder less than a month after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, “The Skin Of Our Teeth” broke from established theatrical conventions and won the 1943 Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

For more information about the MCC Theater Department’s production of “The Skin Of Our Teeth,” or for advance reservations and group sales (10 or more), call the box office at 978-458-5429 or visit https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/performingsarts

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MCC NEWS

MCC Faculty Recognized for Outstanding Online Courses

Massachusetts Colleges Online recently recognized two Middlesex Community College faculty members for outstanding course designs that best exemplify online education’s potential to enhance teaching and learning.

Science Professor Sarah Quast and Communications Professor Jennifer Bauer were presented 2017 Courses of Distinction Awards at MCO’s 12th annual Conference on eLearning. Quast was honored for her hybrid course, titled “General Chemistry for Engineering and Science.” And Bauer was recognized for her online course, “Film Video and Society.”

“Middlesex has been a leader in online education for 20 years now, and we are extremely proud of our faculty who design and teach courses online,” said Matthew Olson, dean of social sciences, interdisciplinary, evening & online education. “Sally Quast and Jen Bauer are two outstanding professors who have incorporated innovative teaching and creative uses of instructional technology into their online courses.”

MCC offers 15 degree and certificate programs that can be completed entirely online. Another 10 degree programs can be completed 80 percent online through hybrid course offerings, which combine online and face-to-face instruction.

Spring semester at Middlesex begins Jan. 22, 2018, and it’s not too late to register.

For information: https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/lit/ or call 1-800-818-3434.

Middlesex Community College to host walk-in enrollment days

MCC will host walk-in enrollment from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Thursday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday beginning Dec. 18-22 at the Bedford Campus Enrollment Center, Building 9, 591 Springs Rd. and in the Cowan Center on the Lowell campus, 33 Kearney Square.

New and returning students can meet with an advisor, build their class schedules for spring semester, and take the College Placement Test during Walk-In Enrollment Days, to be held on the Bedford and Lowell campuses. Spring-semester classes begin Jan. 22, 2018.

January Walk-In Enrollment Days will be held Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Thursday, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8-19, 2018, in the Bedford Campus Enrollment Center, Building 9, 591 Springs Road, and in the Cowan Center on the Lowell campus, 33 Kearney Square.

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For information: 1-800-818-3434; http://middlesex.mass.edu/walkin
The Bedford Citizen

Middlesex Community College to Host December and January Walk-In Enrollment Days in Bedford and in Lowell

Dec 6, 2017 | Schools | 0 Comments

Submitted by Middlesex Community College

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A mystery ‘to die for’

LOWELL — On Oct. 27 and Oct. 28, the students at the Community College Foundation of Greater Lowell presented a unique and entertaining event that was “to die for.”

This unique event showcased the MCCC Performing Arts Theater’s talent. The>Maine School of Skilled Trades, hosted a murder mystery play that was both thrilling and entertaining. The event was organized by the Performing Arts Department and the Drama Club, and it was a hit with the audience.

The play was set in the historic 19th-century mansion of the late Mr. and Mrs. Potter, a wealthy couple known for their eccentricities. The guests were all invited to solve the murder mystery, and they were divided into teams based on their interests and backgrounds.

The play was directed by Mr. Potter’s butler, Mr. Thompson, who was known for his sharply dressed and sharp mind. The audience was divided into four teams, each with a different clue to solve the murder mystery.

The guests were given a card with a clue, and they had to work together to solve the mystery. The play was filled with humor, suspense, and a lot of twists and turns.

The audience was captivated by the talent of the actors, who were able to portray their characters convincingly. The play was a success, and the audience was left wanting more.

The event was a great success, and it was a fantastic way to showcase the talent of the MCCC students. It was a great way to bring the community together and enjoy a night of entertainment.
MCC putting on 'Skin of Our Teeth'

LOWELL — Middlesex Community College's Theater Department will stage Thornton Wilder's "The Skin of Our Teeth" in five performances in the Lowell High School Burgoyne Theater, 40 Paige St. Show times are Thursday and Friday at 7 p.m.; Saturday at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are $15: $10 for MCC students, staff and faculty; $8 for senior citizens. Tickets can be purchased at www.middlesex.mass.edu/performingarts or by calling 978-458-5429.

MCC to present Thornton Wilder's 'The Skin of Our Teeth'

Middlesex Community College's theater department will stage Thornton Wilder's "The Skin of Our Teeth" in five performances Dec. 7-10 in the Lowell High School Burgoyne Theater, 40 Paige St., Lowell. Curtain times for "The Skin of Our Teeth," are 7 p.m. Dec. 7-8; 2 and 7 p.m. Dec. 9; and 2 p.m. Dec. 10. Tickets are $15: $10 for MCC students, staff and faculty; and $8 for senior citizens. For information: http://bit.ly/zAcWR9E; 978-458-5429.
Middlesex Community College’s Production of ‘The Skin of Our Teeth’ Features Bedford Students

Dec 1, 2017 | Arts and Culture, Schools | 0 Comments

Submitted by Middlesex Community College

Three Middlesex Community College students with Bedford connections are involved in the MCC Theater Department’s fall production, “The Skin of Our Teeth,” running Dec. 7-10, in Lowell High School’s Burgoyne Theater.

Kalyn Crockett, a 2011 Bedford High School graduate, is production stage manager and assistant director for this production of Thornton Wilder’s award-winning classic. Fionna Brennan plays Gladys, and Jamie Learned appears in the ensemble.

“The Skin of Our Teeth” will be presented in five performances Dec. 7-10, in the Lowell High School Burgoyne Theater, 40 Pagle St., Lowell. Curtain times are 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Dec. 7 and 8, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10.

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MCC makes waves

Sea turtle rescue program featured on ABC program

By Jesse Collings
jcollings@wickedlocal.com

Students at Middlesex Community College were recently featured on the ABC program.

Sea Rescue highlighting the school’s marine biology program and their efforts to rescue stranded sea turtles on Cape Cod beaches.

Two years ago, MCC Biology Professor Douglas Moffat brought a group of students down to Duck Harbor Beach to work with the Massachusetts Audubon Society and their beach patrol unit in assisting injured and stranded sea creatures. Their time on Cape Cod was filmed by Sea Rescue, a syndicated show that airs on Saturday mornings on ABC affiliates and focuses on emergency wildlife teams helping marine animals. According to Moffat, the episode was put on the back burner before airing locally on Nov. 18.

At Duck Harbor Beach, the students are working to rescue sea turtles, specifically the Kemp’s ridley sea turtle, which according to Moffat is the rarest species of sea turtle in the world. While migrating from Maine and Nova Scotia to their winter breeding grounds in the Caribbean, the turtles often get stranded on beaches around Cape Cod.

“Students delivering turtles in recycled banana boxes to New England Aquarium’s rehabilitation facility.” [COURTESY PHOTO/DOUG MOFFAT]

Moffat said, “They will get washed up on the shore and they go into a cold shock, and up being paralyzed on the beach. If it wasn’t for the work the beach rescue team does, we would lose a lot of them.”

When a turtle is found, they are examined for signs of life, and if they are found they are shipped to the New England Aquarium’s rehabilitation facility in Quincy. If their rehab goes well, they will eventually be introduced to the wild.

Moffat first heard about the work the society while working in Nova Scotia, and then decided to integrate it into his teachings. Each winter, he takes six students down to Cape Cod for a couple weekends where they sleep at the dormitories the society provides at Duck Harbor Beach.

“The program has been pretty popular, but I tell people that this is hard work,” Moffat said. “We have to be out on the beach at 5 a.m. in the morning, in the cold, and working.”

Moffat said that the school did not have funding for the program this winter, but he is looking to find a way to fund the program for next winter.

“I think we do a great job in educating students for a lab science setting, opportunities for getting out in the field science are limited, so anything I can do to get students out and in the field is great,” Moffat said. “My feeling is that a lot of students may think that it is interesting, but that for some students this can be a life-changing event.”
Touting Lowell links, Bedford's Malone enters congressional race

By Kele Lannan
STATEHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

A bank vice president who came to the United States as a Cambodian refugee is the latest entrant into the race to succeed U.S. Rep. Niki Tsongas, bringing the Democratic field up to a dozen.

Bobha Malone, a Bedford resident who works at the Lowell-based Enterprise Bank, announced her candidacy over the weekend.

Born in Cambodia, Malone moved to the United States with her family at the age of nine from a refugee camp in Thailand. She holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from Lesley University, and joined the board of trustees there last month.

"I was fortunate to have had many supportive organizations and mentors in my corner to help me become the confident, brave, and strong woman I am today," said Malone. "Now, my passion is giving back, helping people as I have been helped. Having the opportunity to serve community organizations and educational institutions over the past 20 years has been one of my greatest joys. Representing the people of Massachusetts is an exciting opportunity to continue to be an agent of change on a broader scale."

Malone lives outside the district, in a town represented by U.S. Rep. Seth Moulton. She's involved in several Lowell organizations, serving on the boards of Middlesex Community College, Lowell General Hospital, Community Teamwork, Inc., and Girls Inc. of Greater Lowell.

The largest city in the district, Lowell has never fielded a candidate for the seat. Lori Trahan, a Lowell native who now lives in Westford and served as chief of staff to Marty Meehan when he held the seat, has touted her ties to the city, using the hashtag #LoriFromLowell on social media.

Trahan was endorsed last week by Lowell's three state representatives, David Nangle, Thomas Golden and Rady Mom, and longtime city councilor Rita Mercier.

State Rep. Juana Matías, a Lawrence Democrat also seeking the seat, on Monday picked up the endorsement of BOLD PAC, a national progressive Hispanic organization chaired by U.S. Rep. Tony Cardenas of California.

"Juana Matías has dedicated her life to fighting for working people and for an America that leaves no one behind," Cardenas said in a statement. "She's served families as a social worker, advocated for undocumented migrant children as an attorney, and is a positive, progressive voice for change as one of the first Latina immigrants to ever serve in the Massachusetts State House."

Another candidate, former U.S. ambassador to Denmark Rufus Gifford, announced members of his campaign team Monday. Ben Martello, who served as Tongas' executive director for the district and previously led her political committee, will be Gifford's campaign manager.

"Ben knows the Third District better than almost anyone, and I am proud and heartened that he came from the congresswoman's office to lead our campaign," Gifford said in a statement.

Democrats
Alexandria Chandler
Akhiloo Das
Rufus Gifford
Steve Kerrigan
Dan Kerr
Barbara L'Italien
Juana Matías - State Rep.
Nadeem Mazen
Terry Ryan
Lori Trahan
Bobha Malone

Republican
Rick Green
Scott Gunderson
Louis Marlin

Source: Ballotpedia.org
MCC culinary courses emphasize hands-on learning

Middlesex Community College Hospitality Management - Culinary Arts hands-on culinary instruction moved this fall to the UTEC Community Kitchen, which opened at the nonprofit organization's headquarters last January.

"We decided it would be a great match to hold our hands-on culinary classes in a brand new, state-of-the-art kitchen just steps away from campus," said Kimberly Morrissey, program coordinator for Hospitality Management - Culinary Arts. "It has been a great experience."

Registration is now open for spring-semester courses at Middlesex. Classes begin Jan. 22, 2018, on the Bedford and Lowell campuses, and online.

According to Morrissey, there are currently 40 students enrolled in the Culinary Arts Program, with hands-on classes capped at 12 each, to allow for personalized attention.

"There is a very high demand for students with culinary skills," said Morrissey, citing the new restaurant boom in towns like Burlington. "It is a real growth field."

For information: http://middlesex.mass.edu/hospitality; 800-881-4354.

Middlesex Community College receives TRIO grant

Middlesex Community College was awarded a five-year, $1.3 million Upward Bound math and science TRIO program grant from the U.S. Department of Education to strengthen the math and science skills of participating Lowell High School students.

MCC's TRIO Upward Bound program will provide participating students with a comprehensive and coordinated array of academic instruction, support and advising services, explained Colleen Winn, director of MCC's pre-collegiate TRIO program and GEAR UP Massachusetts.

"The goal of the program is to help students recognize and develop their potential to excel in math and science, and to encourage them to pursue post-secondary degrees in math and science—and ultimately careers in STEM, (science, technology, engineering and math) professions," said Winn.

URMS will target 60 TRIO-eligible low-income, first-generation LHS students with coordinated services, including individualized case management; and advising to ensure students enroll in courses comprising rigorous programs of study (including dual enrollment courses), according to Winn.

Special services will also include individual and group tutoring; exposure to research in STEM fields; and workshops on academic skills, test preparation, financial literacy, and the collegefinancial aid application processes, she said.

Students will be required to participate in after-school and Saturday academic enrichment programs, and a six-week summer academic program focusing on STEM disciplines, Winn added. Also as part of the URMS summer programming, students will have the opportunity to experience a one-week overnight trip to regional colleges throughout New England. Additionally, URMS will provide college and cultural field trips.

For information, contact Colleen Winn at winnc@middlesex.mass.edu or 978-566-3401.
Photo Gallery | Murder at the Nesmith House

MCC The "wedding party," from left, Isabelle Porter and Madeline Falcone, both of Westford, Molly Flood of Billerica, Doug Gooden of Dracut, Casey Woods of Lowell, Kelly Maglio of Pelham and Ryan Belanger of Chelmsford, all MCC students
LOWELL - On Oct. 27 and Oct. 28, the Middlesex Community College Foundation presented "Murder at the Nesmith House," an interactive and entertaining evening that was "to die for!"
This unique event benefited the MCC Performing Arts Scholarship Fund. More than 100 "wedding guests" enjoyed a murder plot that revolved around a fictional wedding reception. The historic Nesmith House was decorated in a festive fashion, as were members of the "wedding party," who were dressed in bridesmaid dresses, tuxes and a beautiful wedding gown, all compliments of Chantilly Place of Chelmsford.
A delicious wedding cake adorned the spectacular buffet table that was filled with even more tasty treats.
Upon arrival, guests got to meet and interact with the colorful cast members of the wedding party, played by MCC's performing-arts students, who did an amazing job! As guests engaged with the characters, they watched every move to observe their behaviors, and also got to converse with them. Everyone was involved to help solve the "murder" that took place during the special occasion. For more information, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu.

Read more: http://www.lowellsun.com/thezlist/ci_31489647/murder-at-nesmith-house-slideshow#ixzz50VNTkNXh
Touting Lowell links, Bedford's Malone enters congressional race

By Katie Lannan / STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE
Posted Nov 27, 2017 at 11:33 AM
Updated Nov 27, 2017 at 4:43 PM

A bank vice president who came to the United States as a Cambodian refugee is the latest entrant into the race to succeed U.S. Rep. Niki Tsongas, bringing the Democratic field up to a dozen.

Bopha Malone, a Bedford resident who works at the Lowell-based Enterprise Bank, announced her candidacy on Twitter Sunday.

Born in Cambodia, Malone moved to the United States with her family at the age of nine, from a refugee camp in Thailand. She holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from Lesley University, and joined the board of trustees there last month.

"I was fortunate to have had many supportive organizations and mentors in my corner to help me become the confident, brave, and strong woman I am today," said Malone. "Now, my passion is giving back, helping people as I have been helped. Having the opportunity to serve community organizations and educational institutions over the past 20 years has been one of my greatest joys. Representing the people of Massachusetts 3 is an exciting opportunity to continue to be an agent of change on a broader scale." Malone lives outside the district, in a town represented by U.S. Rep. Seth Moulton. She’s involved in several Lowell organizations, serving on the boards of Middlesex Community College, Lowell General Hospital, Community Teamwork, Inc., and Girls Inc. of Greater Lowell.

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Trahan was endorsed last week by Lowell's three state representatives, David Nangle, Thomas Golden and Rady Mom, and longtime city councilor Rita Mercier. State Rep. Juana Matias, a Lawrence Democrat also seeking the seat, on Monday picked up the endorsement of BOLD PAC, a national progressive Hispanic organization chaired by U.S. Rep. Tony Cardenas of California.
MIDDLESEX C.C.
HAPPENINGS

UTEC hosting Culinary crew

Twice a week, Middlesex Community College Hospitality Management-Culinary Arts students can be found whisking, sautéing, baking and braising in UTEC’s new 5,000-square-foot commercial kitchen in downtown Lowell. Previously housed at Lexington’s Minuteman High School, MCC’s hands-on culinary instruction moved this fall to UTEC’s CityPoint co-op facility, which opened at the non-profit organization’s headquarters last January.

According to Kimberly Mirtosevic, program coordinator for Hospitality Management-Culinary Arts, 40 students are enrolled in the Culinary Arts program, with hands-on classes capped at 12 each, to allow for personalized attention.

MCC’s Hospitality Management-Culinary Arts degree and certificate programs were ranked fourth in the state by Best Choice Schools in 2016. Both programs prepare students for a variety of careers, utilizing classroom learning, intensive hands-on instruction, internships and cooperative work programs.

To learn more about MCC’s Hospitality Management-Culinary Arts program, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/hospitality, or call 800-818-3434.

Spring classes start Jan. 22

Registration is open for spring courses at Middlesex Community College. Classes begin Monday, Jan. 22 on the Bedford and Lowell campuses, as well as online. A list of spring course offerings can be found in MCC’s Spring Academic Advising Schedule, available at www.middlesex.mass.edu/registration.

To learn more about Middlesex, or to register for spring courses, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu or call 800-818-3434.

MCC’s marketing staff earns several awards

The Office of Marketing Communications at Middlesex Community College has earned six awards in the 32nd annual Educational Advertising Awards competition, sponsored by Higher Education Marketing Report.

The largest higher-education advertising awards competition in the country, this year’s contest drew more than 2,250 entries from more than 1,000 colleges, universities and secondary schools from all 50 states and several foreign countries.

“It’s an honor for our team to be recognized by the Higher Education Marketing Report,” said Jennifer Aradhy, MCC’s director of marketing communications. “We are proud to promote student success at Middlesex through our innovative work in marketing and design.”

Middlesex earned two Gold Awards in the categories of Logo Design (for the Commonwealth Honors Program logo) and Printed Materials (for MCC Lapel Pins); one Silver Award in the External Publication category (for the fall 2016 issue of Profiles magazine); and a Bronze Award in the Special Video category (for the Commonwealth Honors Program video).

MCC also received two Merit Awards, one in the Class Schedule category (for the spring 2016 Corporate and Community Education & Training noncredit class schedule); and the other in the Direct Mail category (for the Returning Adult Mailer).

Judges for the Educational Advertising Awards competition consist of a national panel of higher-education marketing executives, advertising creative directors, marketing and advertising professionals, and the editorial board of Higher Education Marketing Report.

MCC’s Office of Marketing Communications has earned four Gold and two Bronze awards in the fourth annual Educational Digital Marketing Awards competition.

Sponsored by Higher Education Marketing Report, the Educational Digital Marketing Awards competition recognizes the best educational websites, digital content, electronic communications, mobile media and social media.

This year, more than 1,000 entries were received from colleges, universities and secondary schools across the U.S. A national panel of industry specialists reviewed each piece, judging creativity, marketing execution, message impact, technology application, and innovation content.

Middlesex and Northeastern University form engineering partnership

Middlesex Community College is partnering with Northeastern University in an innovative initiative to increase support and successful outcomes for engineering transfer students from under-represented backgrounds studying in energy fields.

Titled Student-Pathways Opening World Energy Resources, or S-POWER, the project is supported by a five-year, $5 million grant from the National Science Foundation.

Northeastern is partnering with Middlesex, MassBay and Northern Essex community colleges to build a collaborative education, administrative and mentoring ecosystem that supports engineering student transfer success before, during and after the transfer process.

The S-POWER initiative targets financially needy, under-represented minority female and first-generation engineering students, and aligns with a national imperative to increase workforce diversity in STEM fields.

For more information about S-POWER at Middlesex, contact Kathleen Sweeney, dean of STEM, at sweeneyk@middlesex.mass.edu or 781-280-3669; or Michele Stein, assistant professor of STEM, at steins@middlesex.mass.edu or 781-280-3932.
Middlesex C.C. Happenings

The Lowell Sun
UPDATED: 11/26/2017 06:34:51 AM EST

UTEC hosting Culinary crew

Twice a week, Middlesex Community College Hospitality Management-Culinary Arts students can be found whisking, sautéing, baking and braising in UTEC's new 5,000-square-foot commercial kitchen in downtown Lowell. Previously housed at Lexington's Minuteman High School, MCC's hands-on culinary instruction moved this fall to UTEC's state-of-the-art facility, which opened at the nonprofit organization's headquarters last January.

According to Kimberly Morrissey, program coordinator for Hospitality Management-Culinary Arts, 40 students are enrolled in the Culinary Arts program, with hands-on classes capped at 12 each, to allow for personalized attention.

MCC's Hospitality Management-Culinary Arts degree and certificate programs were ranked fourth in the state by Best Choice Schools in 2016. Both programs prepare students for a variety of careers, utilizing classroom learning, intensive hands-on instruction, internships and cooperative-work programs.

To learn more about MCC's Hospitality Management-Culinary Arts program, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/hospitality, or call 800-818-3434.

Spring classes start Jan. 22

Registration is open for spring courses at Middlesex Community College. Classes begin Monday, Jan. 22, on the Bedford and Lowell campuses, as well as online.

Register Now For
Spring Courses At
Middlesex Community
College

Registration is now open
for spring-semester courses at
Middlesex Community College.
Classes begin Monday, Jan. 22,
2018, on the Bedford and Lowell
campuses, and online.
A complete listing of spring
course offerings can be found
in MCC’s Spring Academic
Advising Schedule, available
on the college website: https://
www.middlesex.mass.edu/regis-
tration/

Middlesex offers flexible
schedules to fit your needs, with
day, evening and weekend
options. Combined with a small-
class environment, attentive and
accessible teachers, and honors
courses for high-achieving stu-
dents, MCC provides a qual-
ity education at a price you can
afford - online or on campus.

With online learning at
Middlesex, your classroom can
be as close as the nearest Internet
connection. For almost 20 years,
MCC has been a leader in online
education. We currently offer 15
associate degree and certificate
programs that can be completed
etirely online, plus 10 programs
that are 80 percent online. We
also offer hundreds of online
course offerings, plus hybrid
courses - which combine online
and face-to-face instruction.

Middlesex recognizes that
many students, after completing
their MCC coursework, intend to
transfer and pursue a bachelor’s
degree at another institution. For
these students, the college offers
the state’s new Commonwealth
Commitment MassTransfer
Pathways program, which can
save an average of 40 percent
from the cost of earning a bache-
lor’s degree. For more info, visit:
www.mass.edu/masstransfer

To learn more about
Middlesex, or to register for
Spring 2018 courses, visit www.
middlesex.mass.edu or call
1-800-818-3434.

Middlesex Community
College is your pathway to suc-
cess. As one of the largest, most
comprehensive community col-
leges in the state, we educate,
engage and empower a diverse
community of learners. MCC
offers more than 70 degree
and certificate programs, plus
hundreds of non-credit courses,
on our campuses in Bedford
and Lowell, as well as online.
Middlesex Community College:
Student success starts here!
AROUND BEDFORD

"Crazywise" film screening: 7 p.m. Nov. 27, The Edinburg Center, 205 Burlington Road, Bedford. Free. nami.cmsx@gmail.com, namicentralmiddlesex.org. The documentary "Crazywise" explores what we can learn from people around the world who have turned their psychological crisis into a positive transformative experience. Sponsored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Central Middlesex.

Free MCC concert: 12:30 p.m. Nov. 28, Middlesex Community College, Building 6, 591 Spring Road, Bedford. Free. For information: 781-280-3923; peraltac@middlesex.mass.edu; www.middlesex.mass.edu. "A World of Music," Middlesex Community College's fall 2017 music series, will continue with a free concert, "And the Barriers Had Vanished: Exploring LGBT Issues through Music."

Back Bay Ringers holiday concert: 2 p.m. Dec. 3, First Parish Church, 75 Great Road, Bedford. $15-$20. www.backbayringers.org. The First Parish Music Committee will host the Back Bay Ringers. Proceeds benefit the church.

ONGOING

Bedford Al-Anon Parents' Group: 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Room 204, First Parish Church on the Common, 75 Great Road. For all those affected by a loved one's alcohol or drug use. They will learn strategies for self-care in a welcoming group. For information: 781-275-0540; 781-275-7994.


NAMI Family Support Group: 7:30-9:30 p.m. last Tuesdays, First Church of Christ, Congregational, 25 The Great Road, Bedford. Free. For information: 781-982-3318; nami.cmsx@gmail.com; http://namimass.org/programs/nami-family-support-groups. Family members and caregivers of people living with mental illness can find understanding, hope and help at the National Alliance on Mental Illness confidential Family Support Group. Facilitated by NAMI trained volunteers who have experience with mental health concerns.
MCC student-veteran in Germany on fellowship

Patrick Flynn never imagined when he enrolled at Middlesex Community College that he would find himself in Germany, immersed in a new language and culture as part of a highly selective U.S. State Department fellowship.

But in late July, Flynn settled into a host family’s home in Saarbrücken, Germany, a little city on the Saar River, where he attended an intensive German-language school for eight hours a day. At night, he would teach his three new German “little brothers” how to play Frisbee and American football.

This school year, Flynn is a fellow in the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals, or CBYX, program. Each year, 75 Americans and 75 Germans, ages 18-24, are given the opportunity to spend one year in each other’s countries, studying, interning and living with hosts through the fellowship program, which is funded by the German Bundestag and U.S. Department of State.

CBYX includes two months of intensive German-language training; four months of classes in one’s academic or career field at a university, technical or professional school; and five-month internships in one’s career field; plus transatlantic airfare, health insurance and monthly living-expense stipends.

In 2016 after serving four years as an Army infantry medic. Interested in becoming a civil engineer after seeing the majesty of the Golden Gate Bridge, Flynn chose Middlesex because of its Civil Engineering Transfer Program, offered in partnership with UMass Lowell.

He discovered the fellowship through an MCC campus-news email.

“I figured it sounded like a challenge,” Flynn said. “Worst-case scenario, I don’t get it and I keep doing what I’m doing. Best-case scenario, I get to be part of a prestigious program, learn a new language, and travel for free.”

In late September, Flynn moved into a second host family’s home in Münster, where he is taking classes for four months at Fachhochschule Münster, a university of applied sciences. He is also doing volunteer work with refugees.

In February, he will begin an internship, likely at an engineering firm in Münster, and will return to the U.S. in July.

Through the program, Flynn has had the opportunity to visit the EU Parliament in Strasbourg, France. He has also taken trips to Luxembourg and Trier, the oldest town in Germany.

Please see MCC/23

"I've already gotten so much from this experience — life-long friends, a stronger appreciation for language and different cultures, travel to places I never thought I could go, free education — and in the future, I will also be getting applicable career experience," Flynn said.

For more information about the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals Fellowship, visit: https://culturalvistas.org/programs/abroad/congress-bundestag-youth-exchange-young-professionals. The deadline to apply for the 2018-2019 program is Dec. 1.
Free MCC Concert Series

A World of Music, Middlesex Community College’s 2017 fall music series, continues with a Music Faculty Recital to be held at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1, in MCC’s Concert Hall (Building 6), on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road. The concert is free and open to the public.

Middlesex faculty members Raley Beggs, guitar; Orlando Cela, flute; Carmen Rodríguez-Peralta, piano; and Anna Ward, soprano; will perform works for a variety of combinations by John Dowland, Henri Duparc, Jacques Ibert, Libby Larsen and Gabriela Lena Frank.

The final concert in this fall’s A World of Music concert series will be an MCC Student Recital to be held at 12:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 11, in the MCC Concert Hall (Building 6), on the Bedford campus.

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

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

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

MCC Faculty Recital set for Dec. 1

BEDFORD — A World of Music, Middlesex Community College’s 2017 fall music series, continues with a Music Faculty Recital on Friday, Dec. 1, at 8 p.m., in MCC’s Concert Hall (Building 6), on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road.

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Joan-Seda Bejaniance, 27, of Lowell, shown at home last week, is competing in this weekend’s Miss Massachusetts USA Pageant at Lowell Memorial Auditorium. SUN/Amaris Castillo

LOWELL — For years, Joan-Seda Bejaniance thought about trying out for a pageant but instead focused her energy on acting.

Then, one of her closest cousins, Vrej Bejanian, died earlier this year after being hit by a car. "I was laying in my bed one night. It was maybe like 2, 3 o’clock in the morning and I was looking at the ceiling and I couldn’t fall asleep... I was thinking of him and I was thinking of all the amazing things that he’s done, acting and just pursuing his goals and never being afraid of chasing his dreams," Bejaniance recalled last week from her living room in Lowell, her voice filled with emotion. "Something came over me and I was like, I’m ready. I think I want, I know I want to do Miss Massachusetts USA."
Joan-Seda Bejaniance, 27, of Lowell, hopes to capture the Miss Massachusetts USA crown and a trip to Las Vegas to compete in the national competition. SUN/Amaris Castillo

"Bejaniance, a 27-year-old model and actress, will be competing against other women for the title this weekend.

The pageant, produced by Clemente Productions, will take place Saturday through Sunday at Lowell Memorial Auditorium. The preliminary event starts at 6 p.m. Saturday, followed by Sunday's final show and crowning of Miss Massachusetts USA 2018 starting at 5 p.m. There are 69 Miss contestants and 45 Miss Teen USA contestants, according to Laurie Clemente, executive director of Clemente Productions.

"For me personally, I'm seeing a lot going on in the world. We all are," Bejaniance said. "We're seeing a lot of issues with females and just not being fully appreciated... really appreciating our worth."

Bejaniance, who used to work at Girls Incorporated of Greater Lowell and still volunteers with the organization, said she'd like to open people's eyes about issues such as body image.

"I have met young girls at, oh my gosh I want to say, 8, 9, 10 years old, saying 'I think I'm fat' and it blows my mind," Bejaniance said. "This generation is so different and these kids are exposed to all of these things -- internet bullying -- and then people are going online and they're saying 'You're fat. You're ugly... you're this, you're that.' No. I grew up in a completely different generation and I never felt that way, so I want to really make sure that young girls have good examples. I want to be a role model and I want to be that voice for them, to continuously remind them that 'You are beautiful. You don't need to fix anything about you.'"

Tracy Ingersoll, executive director of Girls Inc. of Greater Lowell, said Bejaniance was a fabulous staff member who worked for both the organization's summer program and after-school.

"Her theater and creativity side always came out and she was wonderful with engaging the girls and really getting them to challenge themselves and push their own limits," she said. "Or get out of their own box, so to speak."

On a personal note, Ingersoll said she is very supportive of Bejaniance for putting herself out there in the upcoming pageant.

"She's done acting and modeling," Ingersoll noted. "But the competition piece is a challenge."

Karen Oster, chair of performing arts at Middlesex Community College, where Bejaniance studied theater, said Bejaniance is passionate and vivacious.
"I was really excited for her," Oster said about hearing early on that Bejaniance was going to try for Miss Massachusetts USA. "As with anybody who wants to pursue a dream, it's 'Go for it!' I know that she's going to do really well. Regardless of what the outcome is, she's always going to be special to me and to all of the people that she's touched in her life."

Should she win the title of Miss Massachusetts USA, Bejaniance would go on to Las Vegas to compete in the Miss USA competition.

According to the pageant's website, contestants must: be at least 18 and under 28 years of age as of Jan. 1, 2017; never have participated in a previous national Miss USA pageant; may only compete in one Miss USA state pageant (including the District of Columbia) per pageant year. "I think a lot of people think it's sort of just for glamour, for fun, but it's really a job," Bejaniance said. "You're working with charities, you're working with different organizations and you're really committing yourself to this job, and you're representing your state. You want to make sure that you're being a good role model."

Follow Amaris Castillo on Twitter @AmarisCastillo.

Read more: http://www.lowellsun.com/local/ci_31461145/lowell-woman-views-miss-mass-usa#ixzz50VQ22ivS
Free MCC concert to explore LGBT issues through music

“A World of Music,” Middlesex Community College’s fall 2017 music series, will continue with a free concert, “And the Barriers Had Vanished: Exploring LGBT Issues through Music,” at 12:30 p.m. Nov. 28 in MCC’s Concert Hall, Building 6, 591 Springs Road, Bedford.

The program, which reflects LGBT issues through music from the 1600s to the modern day, will feature MCC faculty member/soprano Anna Ward, countertenor Rodolfo Girón, viola player Drew Ricciardi and pianist Elaine Rombola.

Featured will be vocal duets by Claudio Monteverdi, arias by George Frideric Handel, songs by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky, a song cycle by Juliana Hall set to poetry by Elizabeth Bishop and Edna St. Vincent Millay, as well as a song cycle for soprano and viola by Dominick DiOrio titled “And the Barriers Had Vanished.”

Additional concerts in this fall’s “A World of Music” concert series include an MCC Faculty Recital at 8 p.m. Dec. 1 and an MCC student recital at 12:30 p.m. Dec. 11. All concerts will be held in Building 6.

For information, contact Director Carmen Rodriguez-Peralta at 781-280-3923 or peraltac@middlesex.mass.edu. For directions, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu.
MCC News

MCC concert series continues with a music faculty recital

“A World of Music,” Middlesex Community College’s 2017 fall music series, will continue with a free music faculty recital to be held at 8 p.m. Dec. 1 in MCC’s Concert Hall, Building 6, on the Bedford campus, 501 Springs Road.

Performers will include Middlesex faculty members Raley Beggs, guitar; Orlando Cela, flute; Carmen Rodriguez-Peralta, piano; and Anna Ward, soprano.

Performances include various combinations by John Dowland, Henri Duparc, Jacques Ibert, Libby Larsen and Gabriela Lena Frank.

The final concert in the concert series will be an MCC student recital to be held at 12:30 p.m. Dec. 11 in the MCC Concert Hall. For information, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu.
Middlesex Community College will host a Food Truck Festival from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 18, as part of its annual Arts & Crafts Fair on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road. Admission and parking are free.

(COURTESY PHOTO)

Food Truck Festival to roll into MCC Arts & Crafts Fair

Middlesex Community College will host a Food Truck Festival from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 18 as part of its annual Arts & Crafts Fair on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road.

Food trucks will include Big T’s Jerky House & BBQ, Boston Burger Co., Chez Rafiki, Clyde’s Cupcakes, Let’s Roll Eggrolls, Phoenix Rising Pizza, Shuk Food Truck, Souped up Food and Teddy’s Lunch Box.

AMP 103.3 Radio will be on-site playing music and games and giving away prizes. Mill City Grows Mobile Farmer’s Market will sell fresh produce from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Given Erwin will offer homemade candies, pies and holiday florals.

The Arts & Crafts Fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and feature about 60 vendors offering local and handmade items. Admission and parking are free.

For more information, contact Kathy Register by phone at 781-280-3558 or email register@middlesex.mass.edu. For information about the craft festival, visit https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/craftfair.
5 THINGS TO DO THIS WEEK

By Jesse Collings
jcollings@wickedlocal.com

1 Breakfast and BINGO; Tuesday, Nov. 21 at 9:30 a.m. at Bedford Council on Aging, 12 Mudge Way: Brightview Concord River is back at the CoA and is sponsoring monthly Breakfast and BINGO events. Play for a chance to win prizes and breakfast will be provided for participants. Sign up by calling 781-275-6825.

2 Saturday Movies at the CoA; Saturday, Nov. 18 at 1:15 p.m. at Bedford Council on Aging, 12 Mudge Way: The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks; In 1951 doctors harvested cancerous cells from an unwitting Henrietta Lacks, who died later that year. This riveting drama recounts her daughter’s quest to learn about the mom she never knew and the medical breakthroughs that arose from those cells.

3 Middlesex Community College Craft Fair; Saturday, Nov. 18 at 9 a.m. at Middlesex Community College, 591 Springs Road: Middlesex Community College will host its annual Arts & Crafts Fair on the Bedford campus from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission and parking are free. Approximately 60 vendors will be featured, offering an array of unique, local and handmade items – just in time for holiday giving. New this year will be a Food Truck Festival, and fresh produce from Mill City Grows Mobile Food Market. Plus, a raffle will be held to benefit the MCC Foundation, and radio station 103.3 AMP will set up outside from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with music, games and prizes.

4 Dungeons and Dragons Night; Friday, Nov. 17 at 7 p.m. at Guard Up! Family Swordsmanship, 103 Terrace Hall Avenue, Burlington: The world of fantasy is always filled with adventures. Tonight is no exception. Come battle monsters and solve mysteries with our dungeon masters and friends. Bring your dice, your characters, and your friends to this 5th Edition Dungeons & Dragons gaming session. For ages 8 and up. For more information visit www.guardup.com. $25/person pre-registration (24 hours before event) required at www.guardup.com/waiver or call (781) 270-4800. Late registration on the day of the event will incur an additional $5 fee.

5 5K Turkey Trot; Saturday, Nov. 18 at 8 a.m. at Burlington High School, 123 Cambridge St., Burlington: Mark your calendar for the Burlington Parks and Recreation Departments 5K Turkey Trot on Saturday, Nov. 18th. A $15 registration fee is required for the race. Register before the date of the race at www.burlingtonrecreation.org. Awards will be given to the following: Top Two Overall Finishers (M, F); Top Two Burlington Resident Finishers (M,F), Top Finishers in each age category. Come join this fun run and celebrate the Burlington Parks and Recreation Department’s 50th Anniversary.

AROUND BEDFORD

UPCOMING
Free MCC concert: 12:30 p.m. Nov. 28, Middlesex Community College, Building 6, 591 Spring Road, Bedford. Free. For information: 781-280-3923; peraitac@middlesex.mass.edu; www.middlesex.mass.edu. “A World of Music,” Middlesex Community College’s fall 2017 music series, will continue with a free concert, “And the Barriers Had Vanished: Exploring LGBT Issues through Music.”
Community college students need better access to nutritious food—which helps them to not only persist physically, but also academically.

Otherwise, lack of "food security" leads to lower grades and a higher drop-out rate.

Fifty-six percent of community college students reported they have "low" or "very low" levels of food security, according to a national study.

A more regional study, conducted by MassBay Community College in Wellesley Hills, Mass., earlier this year, backed up those findings, with 52% of students reporting that the food they purchased didn't last, and they didn't have money to buy more; that they couldn't afford to eat balanced meals, and that they were just plain hungry way too often.

MassBay has created a "mobile market" with the Greater Boston Food Bank that brings fresh produce to students, faculty and staff the second Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. Other community colleges in our region, including Middlesex, Nassau, Ulster, Springfield, Columbia-Greene and others, have established food pantries for students in the past year or two. The food security issue is being addressed, and it won't be long before all community colleges have such programs.

MassBay's Josh Cheney, Assistant Dean of Students, said a line

continued on page 5
Food (cont.)

forms for its monthly mobile
market before it opens. Some
professors let their classes
break to participate.

"We hope to bring awareness
to the topic of food security and
take away the shame many
students who need this help
feel," he said, noting that fac-
ulty and staff also are encour-
gaged to use the market. "Eighty
percent of our participants are
students, but if they see faculty
and staff members also there, it
helps take away that stigma."

The market usually has
about nine different kinds of
fruits and vegetables - some
staples, like potatoes and
onions, and
some seasonal
fare like
strawberries
and apples -
and partici-
pants can
bring recycla-
bale bags to fill
up. Also pro-
vided are in-
structions on how to prepare
the food.

"We don't want anyone to
feel sad or ashamed to keep
the event as light as possible," added MassBay spokesperson
Liz Cooper. "We play music and
have provided hot chocolate."

Other campuses have been
collecting non-perishables for
distribution. Middlesex has
food pantries at both its Bed-
ford and Lowell, Mass., cam-
puses. MCC President James
Mabry said in a statement:
"Like growing numbers of col-
lege students across the coun-
try, many Middlesex students
are struggling to make ends
meet while working and taking
classes. For some, making a
trade-off between food and
other essential living expenses
is a reality.

"Helping to alleviate the
challenges associated with food
insecurity and hunger will en-
able our students to remain in
school, be successful, and be-
come engaged community
members."

To help the Middlesex effort
contact denko@middlesex.
mass.edu.

Nassau Community College
on Long Island, N.Y., has a
busy pantry dubbed The Nest.
Coordinator Sharon Masrour
said that this current semester
has seen a real surge in guest
usage. The college pantry has
had 2500 visits in the past two
years. They feed whole fami-
lies, distributing over 1000
pounds of food
each week.

This Thanksgiving,
The Nest will
give away at
least 40
turkeys with
"all the trim-
ings." They
also are look-
ing for donations. Visit
nest.nce.weebly.com.

"We want students to be
healthy and have healthy food
available to them," MassBay's
Cheney said. "When students
aren't hungry, they can focus
better on academics. And that
leads to better attendance and
a higher GPA. ... Not having
meals is a stressor."

To learn more about the
MassBay effort, contact
kgraska@massbay.edu.

He added: "Students' health
and well-being and academic
success is a positive side ef-
fect - and another positive side
effect is that we're creating a
community on campus around
the mobile market. It has
started a healthy conversation
and has been a springboard for
other positive conversations on
campus."  

-DJ
Food trucks join Crafts Fair Nov. 18

BEDFORD — As part of Middlesex Community College’s annual Arts & Crafts Fair on Saturday, Nov. 18, the college will also host a Food Truck Festival on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road. Admission and parking are free.

Several food trucks will be whipping up a variety of foods for shoppers to enjoy from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Arts & Crafts Fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and feature about 80 vendors offering an array of unique, local and handmade items. For further information, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/craftfair.

Commonwealth Commitment

Massachusetts college students enrolled in the Commonwealth Commitment program will now be able to choose from more than 40 majors, up from the initial six offered last year, to qualify for the discounts and rebates aimed at making a bachelor’s degree more affordable.

With the program’s expansion, more students will be able to save an average 40 percent off the cost of a traditional bachelor’s degree by starting their course of study at one of the state’s 15 community colleges — including MCC — and then transferring to a state university or UMass campus.

Students will have significantly more options to choose from in the “MassTransfer2B” — Associates to Bachelor’s — degree-mapped programs that guarantee that course credits transfer between community colleges and the state’s public four-year universities.

Students who sign up for the Commonwealth Commitment can choose from a wide range of majors that collectively represent 75 percent of the majors chosen by current public college and university students. The programs include Computer Science, Business, Criminal Justice, Architectural, Industrial and Graphic Design, Communications and Early Education, as well as Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Major opportunities offered by the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, as well as six specialty programs offered by the Massachusetts Maritime Academy, will also now be eligible for Commonwealth Commitment discounts.

For more information on the Commonwealth Commitment’s expanded list of degree programs and interactive cost calculator, visit www.mass.edu/maccmcc.

Concert series highlights LGBT

BEDFORD — A World of Music, Middlesex Community College’s 2017 fall music series, continues with a concert titled “And the Barriers Had Vanished: Exploring LGBT Issues through Music,” to be held Tuesday, Nov. 28, at 12:30 p.m., in MCC’s Concert Hall (Building 6) on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road.

The concert is free and open to the public.

Additional concerts in this fall’s A World of Music concert series include an MCC Faculty Recital on Friday, Dec. 1, at 8 p.m.; and an MCC Student Recital on Monday, Dec. 11, at 12:30 p.m. All concerts are held in the MCC Concert Hall (Building 6), on the Bedford campus. For more information, call 781-283-3221 or email perlta@middlesex.mass.edu.

Professor’s art at Smithsonian

Two pieces of art by ceramicist Mary Livan, adjunct professor of Art at Middlesex Community College, have been added to the permanent collections of the Smithsonian Institution’s Sackler Freer Gallery in Washington, D.C.

Smithsonian Curator of Ceramics Louise Cort visited the Lowell artist’s studio and selected an electric pot and a vase to be included in the Asian art galleries’ permanent collections. Both pieces were fired in MCC’s Cambodian wood-fired kiln.

Livan’s works were also featured in “The Glazed Elephant: Ceramic Traditions in Cambodia,” a recent exhibition at the Sackler Gallery exploring the ceramic tradition of the Angkor Kingdom (902-1431). To celebrate his accomplishments, Livan participated in a series of public programs, including an artist talk, and ceramic workshops for adults and children at the District Clay Center, a new ceramics facility in Washington, D.C.

In 2015, Livan received a National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship, the nation’s highest honor in the folk and traditional arts. He also received a 2012 Massachusetts Cultural Council Artist Fellowship.

Trained at the Royal University of Fine Arts in Phnom Penh, Livan now lives in Lowell and joined the Middlesex faculty in 2012. He is believed to be one of the few ceramicists to survive Cambodia’s brutal Pol Pot-era genocide and the only known to be living in the U.S. Livan helped build a smokeless, wood-fired kiln in Lowell National Historical Park, which he uses to share traditional Cambodian techniques as part of MCC’s ceramics courses and the national park’s public programs.
Food Truck Festival Rolls Into MCC Arts & Crafts Fair

As part of Middlesex Community College’s annual Arts & Crafts Fair, the college will also host a Food Truck Festival Saturday, Nov. 18, on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road. Admission and parking are free.

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., a coterie of food trucks will be whipping up a variety of foods for shoppers to enjoy, including:

- Big T's Jerky House & BBQ - BBQ & jerky meats
- Chez Rafiki - Mediterranean, 100 percent Halal food
- Clyde’s Cupcakes - cupcakes and sweets
- Let's Roll Eggrolls - eggrolls with an American twist
- Phoenix Rising Pizza - pizza
- Shuk Food Truck - seafood
- Souped up Food - comfort food, specialty sandwiches and soups
- Teddy's Lunch Box - wraps

This year's Arts & Crafts Fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and feature approximately 60 vendors offering an array of unique, local and handmade items - just in time for holiday giving.

Adding to the festivities, AMP 103.3 Radio will be on site playing music and games, and giving away prizes. Plus, Mill City Grows Mobile Farmer’s Market will be selling fresh produce from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. And, Given Erwin will offer homemade candies, pies and holiday florals, just in time for Thanksgiving.

For further information about MCC’s 2017 Arts & Crafts Fair and Food Truck Festival, visit: https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/craftfair

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

Posted Nov 6, 2017 at 3:28 PM Updated Nov 6, 2017 at 3:28 PM

Your Retirement Advisor will host a free workshop, "5 Financial Strategies of Happy, Highly Successful Retirees" from 6:30 to 8 pm Nov. 13-14 at Middlesex Community College, 591 Springs Road, Bedford.

The 90-minute workshop will reveal the impact of taxes on retirement, as well as four other important strategies to improve retirement outcome.

Topics will include how your portfolio withdrawal strategy reduces taxes; Social Security and income planning; and how to rescue your 401(k), IRA or 403(b) from the threat of future tax increases. The workshop will also address the tax-free retirement plan that gave one couple financial freedom in their retirement, as well as how not to run out of money in retirement.

Advance registration is required. For information or to register, call 508-798-5115 or email lynnt@YourRetirementAdvisor.com.

MCC in top 100 for Asian-Americans

_The Lowell Sun_

UPDATED: 11/05/2017 06:35:39 AM EST

Community College Week has included Middlesex Community College on its Top 100 list of U.S. community colleges awarding Associate degrees in all disciplines to Asian-American students.

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

To better serve its Asian-American student population, Middlesex applied for, and recently received, a U.S. Department of Education five-year, $1,732,245 development grant from the DOE Office of Postsecondary Education's Asian American Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution program.

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

"Middlesex is striving to build stronger and deeper connections with the large and diverse Asian-American population in our region," President James Mabry said. "This grant will allow us to strengthen our community partnerships and help us improve success for Asian-American students at the college."

AANAPISI-grant project activities will involve establishing an Asian-American Connections Center and peer-support program, titled Asian-American Student Network, to increase a sense of connection and belonging to the college.

The project will also include personalized support to better navigate college processes; interventions focused on continued support for writing skills to aid ELL students as they transition to college; and the development of academic curriculum related to the cultural heritage of Asian-American students.

For more information about CC Week's Top 100 listings, visit [http://npaper-wehaa.com/ccweek#2016/08/31/s1?article=2810441](http://npaper-wehaa.com/ccweek#2016/08/31/s1?article=2810441). For more information about DOE AANAPISI grants, visit: [www2.ed.gov/programs/aanapi/index.html](http://www2.ed.gov/programs/aanapi/index.html).

MCC NEWS

MCC student veteran awarded fellowship to study in Germany

Patrick Flynn never imagined when he enrolled at Middlesex Community College that he would find himself in Germany, immersed in a new language and culture as part of a highly selective U.S. State Department fellowship. But in late July, Flynn settled into a host family’s home in Saarbrücken, Germany, a little city on the Saar River, where he attended a intensive German-language school for eight hours a day. At night, he would teach his three German “little brothers” how to play Frisbee and American football.

This school year, Flynn is a fellow in the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals program. Each year, 75 Americans and 75 Germans, ages 18-24, are given the opportunity to spend one year in each other’s countries, studying, interning and living with hosts through the fellowship program, which is funded by the German Bundestag and U.S. Department of State.

CBYX includes two months of intensive German-language training; four months of classes in one’s academic or career field at a university, technical or professional school; and five-month internships in one’s career field – plus transatlantic air fare, health insurance and monthly living-expense stipends.

“As the first MCC student to be selected for this prestigious fellowship, Patrick leads the way for other Middlesex students to apply and be selected,” said Dona Cady, professor of humanities and former dean of global education. “In fact, the CBYX program managers have asked us to send more community college students like Patrick to the program.”

Flynn, 24, a native of Rowley, Massachusetts, enrolled at MCC in 2016 after serving four years as a U.S. Army infantry medic. Interested in becoming a civil engineer after seeing the majesty of the Golden Gate Bridge, Flynn chose Middlesex because of its Civil Engineering Transfer Program, offered in partnership with UMass Lowell.

He discovered the fellowship through an MCC campus-news email.

“I figured it sounded like a challenge,” said Flynn. “Worst-case scenario: I don’t get it, and I keep doing what I’m doing. Best-case scenario: I get to be part of a prestigious program, learn a new language and travel for free!”

In late September, Flynn moved into a second host family’s home in Münster, where he is taking classes for four months at Fachhochschule Münster, a university of applied sciences. He is also doing volunteer work with refugees.

In February, he will begin an internship, likely at an engineering firm in Münster. He will return to the U.S. in July 2018.

Through the program, Flynn has had the opportunity to visit the EU Parliament in Strasbourg, France. He has also taken trips to Luxembourg and Trier, the oldest town in Germany.

“I’ve already gotten so much from this experience – lifelong friends, a stronger appreciation for language and different cultures, travel to places I never thought I could go, free education and in the future I will also be getting applicable career experience,” Flynn said.

The deadline to apply for the 2018-2019 program is Dec. 1. For more information, visit bit.ly/2wubq7.

MCC to host annual arts and crafts fair

Middlesex Community College will host its annual Arts & Crafts Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 18 on the Bedford campus, 501 Springs Road.

About 50 vendors will be featured at this year’s fair, offering an array of local and handmade items. New this year will be a Food Truck Festival offering shoppers various tasty foods, including pizza, soup, burgers and cupcakes.

MCC’s Visiting Writers Series is co-sponsored by the Creative Writing Program and the Office of Student Engagement. For more information, contact Steven Rossi, director of student engagement, at 978-665-3363 or studentEngagement@middlesex.mass.edu or English professor Tom Laughlin at 781-280-3530 or laughlin@middlesex.mass.edu.

MCC’s Visiting Writers Series will host award-winning author

Middlesex Community College will host award-winning writer Kevin McIlvoy, who will read and discuss his work at 12:30 p.m. Nov. 15 in the Bedford Campus Center, 501 Springs Road.

The free event is part of the Visiting Writers Series. McIlvoy has published two collections of short stories, including his newest book, “57 Octaves Below Middle C” (Four Way Books, 2017), and four novels. His work has appeared in Kenyon Review, The Cortland Review and FJ magazine. He has received a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in fiction.

For 27 years, McIlvoy served as fiction editor and editor-in-chief of the national literary magazine, Puerto del Sol. He has also served on the boards of directors of the Council of Literary Magazines & Presses and the Association of Writers & Writing Programs.

McIlvoy has taught for more than 30 years at the Master of Fine Arts program in creative writing at Warren Wilson College, where he recently served as interim director. He also taught for many years as a Regents Professor of creative writing at New Mexico State University.

MCC’s Visiting Writers Series is co-sponsored by the Creative Writing Program and the Office of Student Engagement. For more information, contact Steven Rossi, director of student engagement, at 978-665-3363 or studentEngagement@middlesex.mass.edu or English professor Tom Laughlin at 781-280-3530 or laughlin@middlesex.mass.edu.

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

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

For more information about CC Week’s Top 100 listings, visit http://naperwebaa.com/ccweek/2016/08/31/61/article=2810441. For more information about DOE AANAPISI grants, visit www2.ed.gov/programs/aanapi/index.html.

MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE BRIEFS

Award-winning author to speak

BEDFORD — As part of its Visiting Writers Series, Middlesex Community College will host award-winning writer Kevin McIlvoy, who will read and discuss his work Wednesday, Nov. 15, at 12:30 p.m., in the Bedford Campus Center, 591 Springs Road. The event is free and open to the public.

McIlvoy has published two collections of short stories, including his newest book, “57 Octaves Below Middle C,” and four novels. His work has appeared in Kenyon Review, The Cortland Review and The Magpie. He received a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in fiction.

MCC’s Visiting Writers Series is co-sponsored by the Creative Writing Program and the Office of Student Engagement. Call 978-656-3363 or 781-280-3839, or email StudentEngagement@middlesex.mass.edu or laughlint@middlesex.mass.edu.

Planist performs at World of Music

BEDFORD — A World of Music, Middlesex Community College’s 2017 fall concert series, continues with a performance by pianist Anastasia Seifedtinova on Sunday, Nov. 12, at 3 p.m., in MCC’s Concert Hall (Building 6), on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road. The concert is free and open to the public.

Additional events in the concert series include a Master Class for Arlington High School flute and cello students Sunday, Nov. 19, at 3 p.m.; “And the Barriers Had Vanished: Exploring LGBT Issues Through Music,” on Tuesday, Nov. 28, at 12:30 p.m.; an MCC Faculty Recital on Friday, Dec. 1, at 8 p.m.; and an MCC Student Recital on Monday, Dec. 11, at 12:30 p.m. All events will be held in the MCC Concert Hall (Building 6), on the Bedford campus. For more information, call 781-280-3923 or email peralac@middlesex.mass.edu.
MCC leaders march in Bedford parade

Students leaders from Middlesex Community College spent a recent day marching in the annual Bedford Day Parade.

Retirement workshop to be held at MCC

Your Retirement Advisor will host a free workshop, "5 Financial Strategies of Happy, Highly Successful Retirees" from 6:30 to 8 pm Nov. 13-14 at Middlesex Community College, 591 Springs Road, Bedford.

The 90-minute workshop will reveal the impact of taxes on retirement, as well as four other important strategies to improve retirement outcome.

Topics will include how your portfolio withdrawal strategy reduces taxes; Social Security and income planning; and how to route your 401(k), IRA or 403(b) from the threat of future tax increases. The workshop also will address the tax-free retirement plan that gave one couple financial freedom in their retirement, as well as how not to run out of money in retirement.

Advance registration is required. For information or to register, call 508-798-5115 or email lymnt@YourRetirementAdvisor.com.
Earn Credits During Winter Break With MCC's Wintersession

Registration is now open for Middlesex Community College's popular Wintersession. Students can take courses during Winter Break, the normal break between fall and spring semesters, in a condensed, three-week format. Wintersession classes run Jan. 2-19, 2018, on the Bedford campus or online.

"Taking a class during Winter Break is a great way to complete degree requirements and stay on track toward graduation," said Jillian Freitas-Haley, Director of Admissions. "Wintersession classes cover the same content, maintain the same academic standards, and contain the same number of in-class instructional hours as courses scheduled during the traditional 15-week semester."

Taking advantage of the time between semesters can help students reduce their course load during the spring semester, or complete a course that won't fit into their fall or spring schedules, Freitas-Haley added. It also offers students a way to study one subject intensively for a short period of time.

Winteression students can earn credits in a wide variety of subjects, including English, science, history, social science, math and more. For further information, or to see the full list of Wintersession course offerings, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/wintersession or call 1-800-818-3434.

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MCC's Free Fall Music Series Continues With Piano Concert

A World of Music, Middlesex Community College's 2017 fall concert series, continues with a performance by pianist Anastasia Seifedinova at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 12, in MCC's Concert Hall (Building 6), on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road. The concert is free and open to the public.

A Ukrainian-born pianist, Seifedinova will perform the "Sonata Méhancolique" by Ignaz Moscheles; "Variations Sérieuses" by Felix Mendelssohn; "Papillons" by Robert Schumann; and the fiery "Waldstein Sonata" by Ludwig van Beethoven.

The New York Concert Review wrote of Seifedinova: "Hearing a new pianist with a truly warm, luscious tone is like breathing in the scent of jasmine blooming - a pleasure to be recalled again and again."

Additional events in this fall's A World of Music concert series include a Master Class for Arlington High School flute and cello students at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 19; "And the Barriers Had Vanished: Exploring LGBT Issues Through Music," at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 28; an MCC Faculty Recital, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1; and an MCC Student Recital at 12:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 11. All events will be held in the MCC Concert Hall (Building 6), on the Bedford campus.

For more information, contact Carmen Rodriguez-Peralta, director of A World of Music, at 781-280-3923 or peralta@middlesex.mass.edu. For directions, visit: www.middlesex.mass.edu
Middlesex CC To Host Transition Program Info Session

Middlesex Community College offers a nationally recognized two-year, noncredit vocational certificate program for students with learning/cognitive disabilities called the Transition Program.

A Transition Program Information Session will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 9, in MCC’s Bedford Campus Center’s 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 Patricia Bruno, 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 or 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 Nancy Sleger, Transition Program Coordinator at 781-280-3676 or slegerm@middlesex.mass.edu.

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MCC Arts & Crafts Fair

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Approximately 60 vendors will be featured at this year’s Arts & Crafts Fair, offering an array of unique, local and handmade items – just in time for holiday giving. New this year will be a Food Truck Festival offering shoppers a wide variety of tasty foods, including pizza, soup, burgers and cupcakes.

Mill City Grows Mobile Food Market will be on campus selling fresh produce from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. And Given Erwin will offer homemade candies, pies and holiday florals just in time for Thanksgiving.

Plus, a raffle will be held to benefit the MCC Foundation, and radio station 103.3 AMP will set up outside from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with music, games and prizes.

For more information about MCC’s 2017 Arts & Crafts Fair, visit: https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/craftfair/ Or, contact Vicki Courtemanche at 781-280-3505 or courtemanchev@middlesex.mass.edu

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

The Lowell Sun

UPDATED: 11/04/2017 09:04:06 AM EDT

Lowell police Officer Danny Perrin gets his badge pinned on by his father, Lowell police Sgt. Daniel Perrin, a member of the Lowell Police Academy’s first graduating class in 1996. COURTESY PHOTO

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

A Sun Staff Report

LOWELL -- The Lowell Police Academy graduated its 21st class Friday, sending forth 45 new officers to serve 16 communities, including several in the Merrimack Valley, and all of the speakers took note of the changing temperature on the streets the officers are going to protect and their need to be prepared for anything.

In a family-packed ceremony at Lowell Memorial Auditorium, the student officers heard from several of the morning’s speakers, including Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, about the added pressures being put on law enforcement nationwide as civil unrest and discord boils to the forefront.

Polito said she and Gov. Charlie Baker make sure to always acknowledge and thank the police officers they see, wherever they travel across the state, for doing the duties of their hard jobs daily.
Wilmington police Officer Shane Foley gets pinned by his father Donald Foley. COURTESY PHOTO.

Sun staff photos can be ordered by visiting our SmugMug site.
Lowell Police Superintendent William Taylor spoke about how much the job has changed since he started as a patrolman 35 years ago, and how police officers today are asked to do so much more than just enforce the law, but to make decisions that can sometime dictate the national dialogue on police relations.
Former Lowell City Manager James Campbell, the chairman of the board of trustees at Middlesex Community College, which has hosted the academy on its Lowell campus since 2004, opened his remarks remembering when a young patrolman joined the Lowell Police Department while Campbell served in city administration. That officer, he said, went on to head the narcotics squad, and eventually both the Lowell and Boston police departments.

He was speaking of Edward F. Davis, who created the Lowell Police Academy in 1996 in partnership with the Cambridge Police Department to create a community-policing based academy that was more reflective of its communities. Campbell said Davis went on to become a nationally recognized expert on terrorism issues as a result of his role leading the police response to the Boston Marathon bombings in 2013, and said any one of the 45 young officers seated at

The academy started at Middlesex in May with 61 student officers. Sixteen of them did not make it through the 24-week intensive training program.
Graduates from Friday’s ceremony will go on to serve in Cambridge, Everett, Chelmsford, Chelsea, Lawrence, Littleton, Lowell, MIT, Salem, UMass Lowell, Westford, Wilmington, Sutton, Malden, and Somerville Police Departments.

Read more: http://www.lowellsun.com/local/ci_31428063/21-class-salute-police-academy#ixzz514mGe4Jx
Lowell Police Academy graduates 45 new officers

The Lowell Sun

UPDATED: 11/03/2017 02:46:40 PM EDT

Lowell Police Officer Richy Chum gets a congratulatory hug from his mom Sareth, of Lowell, at this morning’s graduation ceremony from the Lowell Police Academy. (COURTESY PHOTO)

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

A Sun Staff Report

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Campbell said Davis went on to become a nationally recognized expert on terrorism issues as a result of his role leading the police response to the Boston Marathon bombings in 2013, and said any one of the 45 young officers seated at the graduation could similarly ascend through the ranks over the course of time.

The academy started at Middlesex in May with 61 student officers. Sixteen of them did not make it through the 24-week intensive training program.

Graduates from Friday’s ceremony will go on to serve on the Cambridge, Everett, Chelmsford, Chelsea, Lawrence, Littleton, Lowell, MIT, Salem, UMass Lowell, Westford, Wilmington, Sutton, Malden, and Somerville Police Departments.

Read more: http://www.lowellsun.com/breakingnews/ci_31426247/lowell-police-academy-graduates-45-new-officers#ixzz514n9oPs9
Senators pass Legislation to strengthen sexual-assault campus laws

Sentinel & Enterprise

UPDATED: 11/03/2017 09:57:44 AM EDT

By J.D. Capelouto

Statehouse Correspondent

BOSTON -- The Massachusetts Senate on Thursday unanimously passed a bill strengthening the laws surrounding sexual assault on college campuses, in response to the Trump administration’s calls to cut down on Title IX regulations.

The legislation, partially written and amended by several Lowell-area lawmakers, would codify and enhance several existing federal regulations on sexual violence and Title IX issues to enforce them at the state level, in case Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos’ office loosens existing laws.

"I am pleased that the Senate passed a bill to deal with the troubling issue of sexual violence on higher-education campuses. Massachusetts cannot wait for Washington to protect our students and provide a safer educational environment," Sen. Eileen Donoghue, D-Lowell, said.

Several local colleges told The Lowell Sun they support the legislation and are in favor of bolstering the rights for survivors of sexual abuse and harassment.

"I think it's important for the state to get out ahead of this and make sure that these protections are codified in state law," said Alisa Chapman, the director of compliance at Middlesex Community College in Bedford. "So if there's a rollback in any way, we're assuring the best practices."

Senators from both sides of the aisle spoke in support of the bill and voted to pass it on to the House of Representatives, four months after the Senate approved an earlier version of the bill.

If passed by the House and signed into law, the legislation would require all colleges in the state to adhere to a set list of guidelines on sexual assault and domestic violence, including creating specific policies for complaints and investigations, providing training and reporting incident data.

It also requires schools to provide confidential resource advisors for victims, so that coming forward with an allegation does not automatically trigger an investigation.

Many colleges already have these measures in place by following federal Title IX statutes, the Clery Act and the Violence Against Women Act.

"Representatives of UMass Lowell worked with the Legislature on the bill," UMass Lowell spokeswoman Christine Gillette said, "and we welcome the passage of the state proposal so that all Massachusetts colleges and universities offer the same resources and policies to their campuses and the public."

Donoghue, who added an amendment to the bill before the vote, said that "the students at UMass-Lowell and other educational institutions will benefit" from the bill and her provision.
According to a spokesman for Mount Wachusett Community College in Gardner, the school's campus police and public safety chief found the language in the bill to be "almost verbatim" to existing federal laws.

"The college is supportive of survivor's rights," the school said in a statement. "Mount Wachusett Community College fully supports the Commonwealth's efforts to reinforce current reporting practices as reflected in this bill."

Representatives of Fitchburg State University were not available for comment on the legislation, but said they already utilize policies and training programs to address campus sexual assault, in accordance with Title IX and VAWA.

Chapman, MCC's point person on Title IX, said the Legislature is "trying to ensure that we're doing this right" in the wake of DeVos' comments on sexual assault policies.

In September, DeVos announced the rescindment of two guidelines on campus sexual assault, including one that would raise the standard of proof needed to find someone responsible of sexual violence.

The Senate's bill counters this change, and would keep the evidence standards at Obama-era levels.

"It's important for the state to be able to weigh in on these issues," Chapman said.

An estimated one in five women are sexually assaulted while in college, according to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center.

Sen. Michael Moore, one of the lead sponsors of the bill, said DeVos' announcement was something "many people thought would never happen."

"Because this action has created uncertainty for our students and our schools, it is a critical time for Massachusetts to put (this) law in our books," the Democrat from Millbury said on the Senate floor before the vote. "This legislation works to empower victims to come forward and help to change the culture on college campuses."

Follow J.D. Capelouto on Twitter @jdcapelouto.

Three reasons to keep LHS downtown

By Brian Martin

I think there are three compelling reasons to vote “yes” on Question 1 on the city’s ballot Tuesday:

Equity of Access: I believe strongly in the fairness of maintaining a centralized location for Lowell High School. The downtown location is more easily accessible to all neighborhoods, allowing the most students (recently estimated at 1,200) to walk to school. It provides students easy access to the Pollard Library and the Boys & Girls Clubs, where you’ll find many of our students’ parents. It provides all our students, even those without family support structures encouraging college after high school, the experience of attending school in the same urban space as MCC and UML students. Last year, roughly 1,000 LHS students walked to MCC or UML-affiliated programs/activities downtown as part of their academic day. Finally, the downtown location is also relatively equidistant for all our students’ parents, which, given the role that parent involvement plays in student success, is extremely important.

Fiscally sound, less expensive: Keeping LHS downtown is the most fiscally sound option under consideration. In the current financial analysis, not only does the downtown renovation, including funding for the acquisition of the adjacent building, offer the city a lower net cost (lower district share, lower debt service for bond), but it also provides the clearest financial analysis, with fewer unanswered questions about hidden long-term costs such as additional infrastructure (sidewalks), eminent domain, additional busing. Let’s be clear: The Cawley option may have more unanswered questions about long-term city finances than any other project in the history of the city. Taxpayers need to understand these choices.

Celebrates our distinctly urban identity: LHS is the only institution in the city through which the majority of Lowellians will pass. It is the most diverse and inclusive institution in the city. This unique urban educational experience benefits all of our students, mirroring the experience that many of them will have in college and in the workforce. I can’t count the number of graduates who come back to visit during a college break and speak about how well-prepared they felt for that college experience, academically and socially. There is something very unique about a high school located in the heart of a city, in the middle of an urban National Park. Why not continue to build upon this uniqueness?

I understand and respect the role that public officials and The Sun have played in promoting a progressive agenda for this great city. However, on this question — locating the high school outside of downtown — I respectfully disagree with the Council decision and The Sun’s editorial position. I hope voters will show their disapproval by supporting a “YES” vote on Question 1 on Nov. 7th, and by supporting candidates who have taken the position to “keep Lowell High downtown.”

Brian Martin is a former Lowell High School Head of School, former city manager and former mayor.
MCC to host Anastasia Seifetdinova concert

Middlesex Community College will continue its 2017 fall concert series with a performance by Anastasia Seifetdinova at 3 p.m. Nov. 1 in the MCC Concert Hall, building six, 591 Springs Road, Bedford.

The Ukrainian-born pianist will perform various classical selections. The free concert series will continue through December. For information, visit middlesex.mass.edu.

MCC to host Dylan Jack Quartet concert

Middlesex Community College will continue its 2017 fall concert series with a performance by the Dylan Jack Quartet at 8 p.m. Nov. 3 in the MCC Concert Hall, building six, 591 Springs Road, Bedford.

Percussionist Dylan Jack is a 2008 graduate of MCC’s Music Program. He will be joined by Todd Brunel, clarinet; Eric Hofbauer, guitar; and Anthony Leva, bass. The free concert series will continue through December. For information, visit middlesex.mass.edu.

MCC marketing director receives national recognition

Jennifer Aradhya, Middlesex Community College’s director of marketing communications, was named the 2017 District 1 Communicator of the Year by the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations.

The award recognizes a two-year college marketing, public relations or communications professional who demonstrates leadership in the area of college communications and marketing. Aradhya, of Groton, accepted the award at a recent NCMPR District 1 Conference in Philadelphia.

For information, visit middlesex.mass.edu.

MCC Wintersession registration opens

Middlesex Community College recently announced registration is now open for its Wintersession classes.

Students can take courses during the break between fall and spring semesters in a condensed, three-week format. Wintersession classes run Jan. 2-19, 2018, on the Bedford campus or online. Students can earn credits in various subjects, including English, science, history, social science and math.

For information and registration, call 800-918-3434 or visit http://middlesex.mass.edu/wintersession.

MCC to host transition program info session

Middlesex Community College will host an info session for its certificate program for students with learning/cognitive disabilities from 9 to 11 a.m. Nov. 9 at MCC’s Café East, 591 Springs Road, Bedford.

The two-year, noncredit vocational program offers classes three days a week to teach independent living skills, computer and job survival skills and social skills. Graduates receive a Certificate of Completion in Office and Business Support Skills and typically obtain employment in office, business or retail support.

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

For information, call 781-280-3676 or email slagern@middlesex.mass.edu.
MCC Hospitality degree called one of best in state

Middlesex Community College's Hospitality Management/Culinary Arts Associate degree program has been recognized as one of the top culinary programs in Massachusetts by Best Choice Schools.

"MCC’s Culinary Arts program features intensive, hands-on, culinary instruction combined with managerial and business courses designed for the hospitality industry," said Kimberly Morrissey, coordinator of the Hospitality program. "MCC partners with local industry leaders to provide our students with high-quality internships and valuable work experience to help them meet their career and educational goals."

Through small class sizes and personalized instruction, students gain practical experience in a state-of-the-art culinary facility, Morrissey added.

Industry-specific courses include Culinary Theory, Culinary Skills, Bakery and Pastry Skills, and Sanitation/ServSafe Training.

To learn more about MCC's Hospitality and Culinary Arts Programs, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/hospitality, or call 800-818-3434. Best Choice Schools' mission is to provide high-quality, well-researched rankings and other resources for individuals looking for information about top-quality higher education. To learn more, visit www.bestchoiceeschools.com.

LHS downtown location key to partnerships

Partnerships serve to enrich and enhance a student's high school experience. My opinion is informed by experience as a Lowell public school teacher as well as tenure as Middlesex Community College's Lowell campus manager and chair of the MCC/LPS Partnership.

Option 3 Downtown is the best option for all of our high school students. This central location in the heart of the Lowell National Historical Park would provide a new state-of-the-art high school as well as serve to continue the connection to the many important services currently available to the students.

Locating the high school downtown provides a proximity to the Boys & Girls Club, Girls Inc., UTEC, the Career Center, Lowell Community Health Center, the Pollard Library, MCC, UML, internships, opportunities for community service and after-school jobs.

I can speak to the importance of the MCC/Lowell High Partnership because I was a participant in its startup in 1987. Over the ensuing years, a very capable grants department at MCC secured millions of dollars to support the partnership. Thousands of Lowell High School students have participated in Talent Search, GEAR UP, Latino Connections, Student Connections, Dual Enrollment and many other MCC/LHS programs.

Many of these activities are hosted at the high school, but not all of them. Upward Bound, Accuplacer testing, information sessions, speaker programs, the music program, ROTC participation in graduations and programs honoring veterans, and many other programs bring LHS students to the college.

Proximity is key to productive and thriving LHS partnerships. In short, it is my opinion that taking the high school to the outskirts of the City takes away the village.

MOLLY SHEEHY, Ed.D.
Lowell
MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE NEWS

Sign up for Wintersession
BEDFORD — Registration is now open for Middlesex Community College’s popular Wintersession. Students can take courses during winter break in a condensed, three-week format. Wintersession classes run Jan. 2-19, on the Bedford campus or online. Wintersession students can earn credits in a wide variety of subjects, including English, science, history, social science, math and more. For further information, or to see the full list of Wintersession course offerings, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/wintersession or call 800-818-9494.

Find out about Transition
BEDFORD — Middlesex Community College offers a nationally recognized, two-year, noncredit vocational certificate program for students with learning/cognitive disabilities called the Transition Program. A Transition Program Information session will be held Thursday, Nov. 9, from 9 to 11 a.m., in MCC’s Bedford Campus Center’s Café East, 591 Springs Road. For more information or to register for an information session, contact Nancy Sleger, Transition Program Coordinator, at 781-280-3676 or slegern@middlesex.mass.edu.

Music series starts Friday
BEDFORD — A World of Music, Middlesex Community College’s 2017 fall concert series, begins with a performance by the Dylan Jack Quartet on Friday, Nov. 3, at 8 p.m., in MCC’s Concert Hall (Building 6), on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road. The concert is free and open to the public.

Additional events in this fall’s A World of Music concert series include pianist Anastasia Seifedtinova on Sunday, Nov. 12, at 3 p.m.; a Master Class for Arlington High School flute and cello students Sunday, Nov. 19, at 3 p.m.; “And the Barriers Had Vanished: Exploring LGBT Issues Through Music,” on Tuesday, Nov. 28, at 12:30 p.m.; an MCC faculty recital on Friday, Dec. 1, at 8 p.m.; and an MCC student recital Monday, Dec. 11, at 12:30 p.m. All events will be held in the MCC Concert Hall (Building 6), on the Bedford campus.

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

MCC’s Office of Student Engagement spent a recent sunny day recently on the rapids in Charlton. Fifteen students went on the trip navigating through class 1, 2 and 3 rapids down the Deerfield River. Student Engagement hosts one trip per month. Email studentengagement@middlesex.mass.edu.
MCC's Free Fall Concert Series

A World of Music, Middlesex Community College's 2017 fall concert series, begins with a performance by the Dylan Jack Quartet at 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 3, in MCC's Concert Hall (Building 6), on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road. The concert is free and open to the public.

Percussionist Dylan Jack is a 2008 graduate of MCC's Music Program. He will be joined by Todd Brunel, clarinet and saxophone; Eric Hofbauer, guitar; and Anthony Leva, bass.

Combining both the composed and the spontaneous, this ensemble explores both disciplines—creating a unique blend of modern music inspired by 20th- and 21st-century classical and jazz composers. For this concert, the quartet will present its debut record, "Diagnoses," in its entirety.

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To see video clips of previous MCC concerts, visit:

http://www.youtube.com/used MCCmusicOnline2#g/a

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MCC awards over 1,750 Student Success Grants

Middlesex Community College recently announced that over 1,750 currently enrolled students have received Student Success Grants to address college costs.

The grants are part of MCC’s aim to make earning a two-year associate degree affordable for all students.

The MCC board of trustees has allocated $1.1 million to the 2017-18 Student Success Grant Program. Funds help provide assistance with tuition, fees, books and supplies. Eligibility is determined through filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Renewal of the grant is subject to federal financial aid eligibility requirements, enrollment in an eligible program of study and continued financial need.

For information, call 781-280-3647 or email fioric@middlesex.mass.edu.

Murder-mystery theater
returns historic Nesmith

LOWELL — There's a special wedding ceremony happening Friday and Saturday at Middlesex Community College's historic John Nesmith House on Andover Street in Lowell, where guests can expect to find murder on the menu.

And you are invited.

Muder at the Nesmith House on Oct. 27 and Oct. 28 will spotlight the fictional wedding of Lindi Armitage and Dillon Jackson.

The highly interactive improv performance is being staged by MCC theater students under the direction of Performing Arts Chair Karen Oster. Guests at the college fundraiser will find themselves plunged into an interactive wedding ceremony that features a murder most foul.

Lindi is the daughter of Gerald and Marjorie Armitage, who are owners of the Upper Crust Catering Company. Dillon is the son of Sophia and Bob Jackson, who is the manager of the Kill-A-Rat pest control company.

As part of the performance, Dillon and Lindi have just exchanged wedding vows, but not everyone is happy about the union, particularly Dillon's father Bob Jackson, an obnoxious egotistic tyrant.

As skeletons tumble from cupboards, one member of the wedding party gets his/her comeuppance. Enter super sleuth Sherbert Holmes to help the audience — as wedding guests — solve the dastardly murder.

Last Halloween was the first time the college foundation produced a murder mystery at the historic showplace home.

This year, working off feedback from the 2016 event, the talented theater students are going to draw attendees directly into the performance, looking for their help in solving a crime.

Tickets are $75, and all proceeds from the event go toward the MCC Performing Arts Scholarship Fund.

The show starts at 6:30 p.m. each night, and will run until 9 p.m. Hor d'oeuvres will be served. There's also a cash bar.

For more information, contact Dennis Malvers at 978-656-3027 or via email at malversd@middlesex.mass.edu.
LHS near services, but usage not great

Easy downtown access, but survey indicates no clear flood of students

By Grant Welker
Special to The Sun

It's been a central argument for Save Lowell High Committee PAC members and supporters looking to keep a new Lowell High School downtown: the central location allows students to easily get to service agencies or other places after school ends.

Quantifying the benefit of that access is difficult to gauge, however, a survey of organizations that work with the city's high school students indicates that the greater access that now exists does not translate into great numbers of participants.

There appears to be at least dozens of students who walk after school to programs at places like the Lowell Community Health Center or the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell, a small number in relation to the school's student body of more than 3,100 but a significant number to the agencies that provide them services.

"If you're just across the street, it's a quick transit," Lowell National Historical Park Superintendent Celeste Bernardo said.

Lowell National Historical Park,

Please see SCHOOL/2
LHS near services, but no clear flood of students

Supporters looking to keep Lowell High School downtown argue that the central location allows students to easily get to service agencies or other places after school ends. (Sun file photo)

In 2017, the city of Lowell, Massachusetts, faced a decision: whether to keep the Lowell High School downtown or move it to a new location. The debate was fueled by concerns over the cost of renovating the downtown campus, as well as the potential benefits of staying in the central location.

At the time, the school was situated in the heart of the city, providing easy access to various service agencies and other places students might visit after school. However, the city council was divided on the issue, with some city officials advocating for a new school site to accommodate the growing population and others supporting the downtown location for its central accessibility.

The town council, which is responsible for making decisions about public education, weighed the pros and cons of each option. On one hand, the downtown location offered convenience and familiarity for students, while on the other hand, the costs associated with renovating the existing school were significant.

The issue was a hot topic in the city, with many residents expressing their opinions through letters to the editor. Some argued that the downtown location made sense for Lowell High because of its central location and easy accessibility to service agencies. Others believed that a new site would better serve the needs of the growing student population.

In the end, the city council voted to keep the school downtown, citing the convenience and central location as key factors in their decision. The move was seen as a significant step towards ensuring that Lowell High School remained a vital part of the city's fabric, accessible to all students and community members.

This story demonstrates how decisions about education can have far-reaching impacts on the community, from the location of schools to the accessibility of services. It also highlights the importance of considering multiple perspectives when making such decisions, as each side brings unique insights and experiences to the table.

The lesson is clear: when it comes to education, the right choice can be elusive, but careful consideration of all factors can lead to the best possible outcome for all involved.
Grant updates classrooms, labs at MCC

Thanks to a recent $499,750 state Workforce Skills Capital Grant, Middlesex Community College has transformed nine classrooms and computer labs into modern, high-tech learning centers.

Five Computer Science and four Engineering/Computer Aided Design classrooms and labs on the Bedford and Lowell campuses have been outfitted with new state-of-the-art computer stations, projectors and expansive white boards, according to MCC President James Mabry.

"Working with Gov. Charlie Baker and our legislative delegation, the college is now able to increase capacity and efficiency in our Computer Science and Engineering/CAD programs," Mabry said.

"Working on the most up-to-date equipment and software will make our graduates even more integral to the workforce, as well as help us recruit and retain more students in these high-demand fields."

New 3-D printers were also purchased to support the CAD and Engineering programs, said Kathleen Sweeney, dean of STEM. And faculty members have been given high-functioning computer tablets that allow them to project drawings and other materials in class that can be saved by students and accessed again later.

Students are now able to access high-end graphics, drawings and other materials from home, added Joe Patuto, MCC's chief technology officer. The new system runs on virtual desktop infrastructure, or VDI, which hosts the desktop operating system on a centralized server that can be accessed remotely from any computer.

"The new VDI workstations provide students and faculty with the most current technology to support teaching and learning," Patuto said. "Having access to academic software remotely allows students the flexibility of completing assignments while promoting academic success."

"These new learning environments are incredible," Sweeney said. "It's not just cosmetic. They are new much more functional with more capacity for students."

It is estimated that with the new equipment and infrastructure, the college will be able to serve an additional 136 students annually in Computer Science and Engineering programs, she said.
Downtown Lowell High near services, but no flood of students taking advantage

The Lowell Sun

UPDATED 10/23/2017 02:52:07 PM EDT

Supporters looking to keep Lowell High School downtown argue that the central location allows students to easily get to service agencies or other places after school ends. SUN FILE PHOTO

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

By Grant Welker

Special to The Sun

It's been a central argument for Save Lowell High Committee PAC members and supporters looking to keep a new Lowell High School downtown: the central location allows students to easily get to service agencies or other places after school ends.

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"If you're just across the street, it's a quick transit," Lowell National Historical Park Superintendent Celeste Bernardo said.

Lowell National Historical Park, whose headquarters sit directly across Kirk Street from the high school, has had programs for high schoolers both during and after school hours. These single-day programs can change from year to year, but they have included a photography course that takes Freshmen Academy students around downtown. A daylong program that highlighted mass production during Lowell's Industrial Revolution days drew classrooms of students at a time -- about 300 to 400 students -- over the course of the fall semester, but it is no longer being offered.
Without such easy access, Bernardo said, students in a breakdancing club at Boarding House Park and interns working at the Tsongas Industrial History Center at Boot Mills during the school day might not be able to continue the activities.

The park hasn't documented how a new school at Cawley Stadium, on the edge of the Lowell-Tewksbury line, would affect its programs, Bernardo said.

Lowell Community Health Center on Jackson Street has about 80 members of its Teen Building Leadership Opportunities in the Community program. Known as Teen BLOCK, the program gets an average of 20 to 30 teens each weekday after school, most of them from Lowell High, said Ruth Ogembo, the program director.

The Teen BLOCK program is a lifeline for those who attend, Ogembo said, including giving homework help, coping skills or guidance on healthy relationships or setting personal goals. Many, she said, are referred by guidance counselors or through outreach at the high school, which is about a 10- to 15-minute walk away.

"We have youth who come here who can barely introduce themselves, they're so shy," Ogembo said. "Over time, you start seeing them getting comfortable, or saying 'I can lead this activity.'"

Girls Inc., which gives girls from the Lowell area educational programs on career readiness, health, leadership and more, generally gets seven to 12 teens each weekday, Maritza Grooms, the agency's teen coordinator, said. Middle school students who attend are transported there, while those from the high school walk. About 60 girls go through the program each year.
Girls Inc. is located on Worthen Street, a few blocks from the high school.

For Girls Inc. to provide transportation for all teen program participants, the cost could run $24,000 to $33,000 a year, Executive Director Tracy Reilly Ingersoll said. A drop in participation is expected though, based on experience the club has had with girls who begin attending the Greater Lowell Technical High School in Tyngsboro, she said.

"In the beginning, they continue their attendance and involvement with us, but this soon becomes too much with their schedules and they eventually take the bus home instead of taking the bus to City Hall and walking to our center," Ingersoll said.

The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell on Middlesex Street gets about 65 to 70 Lowell High School students on a typical school day, Executive Director Joe Hungler said. That number has been down recently because of construction at the club, he said, but is expected to rise to "well over 100" daily once an expansion is complete in November.

For teens, the club offers fitness opportunities, education and career readiness programs, and science and technology or arts programs.

The club is about 1 mile, or a 20-minute walk, away from the downtown school. Hungler said the club has considered whether as many high school students would attend programs after school if the school was moved out of downtown but doesn't yet have an answer.

"It's hard to say exactly what the impact would be until more plans are known, especially around busing," Hungler said.

The club opens at 2 p.m., and activities are available for the LHS students soon thereafter, Hungler said. When some renovation is work is complete later this fall, more of the building will open up for LHS students by about 3 p.m.

UMass Lowell and Middlesex Community College have dual enrollment programs with Lowell High School students. But neither college has many students traveling to campus, according to the schools.

UMass Lowell said it typically has 25 to 35 Lowell High School students in its dual enrollment program each semester but that such courses are offered online by livestream. Middlesex said its dual enrollment courses are offered at the high school.

Middlesex's library is a shorter walk from the high school than UMass Lowell, but the college doesn't track how many are coming from the high school.

Pollard Memorial Library does not keep a detailed count of how many teens visit, but generally, the most foot traffic comes in from 2 to 7 p.m. on weekdays, said Sean Thibodeau, the library's coordinator of
community planning. The library's offerings for teens includes homework help sessions, teen writers groups, and fiction and other clubs.

"Anecdotally, I can confirm we get groups of teenagers in the library after school on a regular basis, and especially on early-release days to study and socialize in our reference room and young adult area," Thibodeau said.

Two other downtown agencies serve very few or no Lowell High students.

UTEC, formerly known as the United Teen Equality Center, does not generally serve high school-age youth. Community Teamwork Inc. has a youth program for students ages 3 and up, and another one, called YouthBuild, that is for older youth who have dropped out of school.

The high school has said that about 1,200, or 38 percent, of Lowell High School students walk to school. Those most closely affiliated with the school -- the former Head of School Brian Martin, Superintendent Salah Khelfaoui, and a majority of the School Committee among them -- have advocated for building a new school on the same site.

The City Council has voted in favor of building a new school next to Cawley Stadium. An ugly split between the two bodies has led to a delay in state funding and landed the City Council and School Committee in court. A Middlesex Superior Court judge ruled Oct. 13 that the School Committee does not have the authority to decide where the new school will be built. The power rests with the City Council under guidelines set by the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

The MSBA, which would reimburse a major portion of the costs of a new high school, had delayed action on the city's funding application at its August meeting, citing the school board's lawsuit against the city. With the ruling, it remains unclear whether the MSBA will take up the city's application at its Oct. 25 meeting. On Friday, Mayor Ed Kennedy announced that the school board, in executive session, voted to send a letter to the agency seeking a delay until after the Nov. 7 citywide election.

City voters will be asked at the Nov. 7 election whether they support a renovation-rebuild at the downtown site, which has undergone several multi-million-dollar renovations in the past. It is a nonbinding referendum, however, so the results will not force city officials to choose the location if it is favored by voters.

Grant Welker is a news editor at Worcester Business Journal. He formerly covered City Hall for The Sun and is author of the book, "We are Market Basket: The Story of the Unlikely Grassroots Movement that Saved a Beloved Business."

Read more: http://www.lowellsun.com/todaysheadlines/cl_31394331/downtown-lowell-high-near-services-but-no-flood#ixzz51MOm96u8
Middlesex Community College to host Cambodian music event

Posted Oct 19, 2017 at 3:01 AM
Wicked Local Bedford

Middlesex Community College's Asian-American Connections Center will host a live "New American Songbook" listening and discussion event focused on Cambodian music at 5:30 p.m. Oct. 25 in the college's Federal Building Assembly Room, 50 Kearney Square, Lowell.

The program will feature a panel of community leaders and podcast producers, in addition to a performance by Cambodian musicians featured in the episode.

For information, visit middlesex.mass.edu.

Middlesex Community College News

The Lowell Sun

UPDATED: 10/20/2017 06:36:57 AM EDT

Sign up for Wintersession

BEDFORD -- Registration is now open for Middlesex Community College's popular Wintersession. Students can take courses during winter break in a condensed, three-week format. Wintersession classes run Jan. 2-19, on the Bedford campus or online. Wintersession students can earn credits in a wide variety of subjects, including English, science, history, social science, math and more. For further information, or to see the full list of Wintersession course offerings, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/wintersession or call 800-818-3434.

Find out about Transition

BEDFORD -- Middlesex Community College offers a nationally recognized, two-year, noncredit vocational certificate program for students with learning/cognitive disabilities called the Transition Program. A Transition Program Information session will be held Thursday, Nov. 9, from 9 to 11 a.m., in MCC's Bedford Campus Center's Café East, 591 Springs Road. For more information or to register for an information session, contact Nancy Sleger, Transition Program Coordinator, at 781-280-3676 or slegerm@middlesex.mass.edu.

Music series starts Friday

BEDFORD -- A World of Music, Middlesex Community College's 2017 fall concert series, begins with a performance by the Dylan Jack Quartet on Friday, Nov. 3, at 8 p.m., in MCC's Concert Hall (Building 6), on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road. The concert is free and open to the public.

Additional events in this fall’s A World of Music concert series include pianist Anastasia Seifedtinova on Sunday, Nov. 12, at 3 p.m.; a Master Class for Arlington High School flute and cello students Sunday, Nov. 19, at 3 p.m.; "And the Barriers Had Vanished: Exploring LGBT Issues Through Music," on Tuesday, Nov. 28, at 12:30 p.m.; an MCC faculty recital on Friday, Dec. 1, at 8 p.m.; and an MCC student recital Monday, Dec. 11, at 12:30 p.m. All events will be held in the MCC Concert Hall (Building 6), 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: www.middlesex.mass.edu.
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