THIS MONTH at MIDDLESEX

MCC program welcomes those with learning disabilities

Middlesex Community College christens new Lowell arts center

Campus Life, right from day one UML / MCC partnership lets students live in the UML dorm during their first semester at MCC

Local medical assistants have their own day

MCC opened blind woman’s eyes to opportunities

MCC recently hosted their annual College for Kids “Royal Wedding” Fashion Show

Bedford Campus
591 Springs Road
Bedford, MA 01730

Lowell Campus
33 Kearney Square
Lowell, MA 01852
Middlesex Community College christens new Lowell arts center

By Nick Sobe
NickSobe@lowell.com

LOWELL — The arts faculty at Middlesex Community College have been described as nomads for years. From a second-floor building one year to a warehouse the next, their home base has been just about anywhere the college could find a spot to run a particular arts program.

Finally, after decades, they have space that’s worthy of their craft, former MCC President Carole Cowan said during Friday’s ribbon-cutting celebration for The Richard and Nancy Donahue Family Academic Arts Center in Lowell.

"They (arts faculty) never ever complained about it," Cowan said at the ceremony.
"And today, we’re celebrating your patience, your dedication, your hard work," she added, speaking in front of a packed house at the center, home for the college’s theater, music and dance program.

The newly-renovated building at 240 Central St. has stood as a multi-purpose facility in the heart of Lowell for nearly 150 years. The original 1876 building was first the Boston & Maine railroad depot.

It later became the Owl Theatre and was renamed the Rialto Theatre before being converted into a bowling alley.

The structure was saved from demolition in 1989 by the Lowell Historic

Please see MCC/10
Middlesex Community College christens new Lowell arts center

MCC/From Page 1
Preservation Commission.
The exterior of the build-
ing was renovated by Low-

els National Historical
Park, which transferred
ownership to MCC in 2008.

"We are proud to be able
to bring this historic struc-
ture back to life," said
MCC President James
Mabry.

"This will be a center for
teaching, learning and per-
fomance," he added.

Designed by Leers Wein-
schild Associates and con-
structed by Consigli Con-
struction, the center features
a large, egg-shaped structure
that contains the 190-seat
proscenium theater, 185-seat
music recital hall and 900-
square-foot dance studio.

The floors and walls are
constructed with sound-
proofing so that multiple
activities can occur simul-
taneously without sound
from one area interfering
with another.

The "egg" was con-
structed inside the shell of
the original 1876 building.
Mabry and others also
emphasized that the cen-
ter will greatly benefit
both the college and com-
munity at-large.

"This is really terrific," said Nancy Donahue, who
was praised throughout
the ceremony for her phi-
lanthropy and efforts
across the city. "I'm so
happy this day has finally
come to be."

The college's board of
trustees voted unanim-
ously earlier this year to
name its new arts center
after Nancy Donahue and
the Donahue family.

She recently gave a "gen-
erous donation" to support
the arts education at MCC
— the single largest gift to
the college's history. The amount
has been kept private, a
request from the donor. She
will also be the honorary
chairwoman of a $1.5 million
fundraising campaign for the center.

During the ceremony,
Donahue stressed the
importance of arts educa-
tion, all the way from
childhood to the end of life.
"This will be a huge
asset to the whole commu-
nity," she said. "I hope all
of you will enjoy shows and
recitals here. It will be a
showcase for the city."

Cowan declares a
roadblock, however, for the
arts, she said. 
"Good things come to
those who wait," Cowan
said at the ceremony.

When the college asked
her to be there for the rib-
bon-cutting, she
responded, "You couldn't
stop me." City Manager Eileen
Donoghue said this project
was a "labor of love" for
the Lowell delegation at the
Statehouse, along with
many other officials.

"It really does take a vil-
lage," she said.

The building is located
at a gateway to the city,
Donoghue pointed out.

"This is a beautiful
addition to that gateway," she
said.

Of the $21 million spent
on the project, about $13
million came from the state
Division of Capital Asset
Management and Main-
tenance and about $8 million
came through the college.

U.S. Rep. Niki Tsongas,
unable to attend the cer-
emony, taped a message for
the audience on Friday.
She talked about the
"transformative power" of
arts education. Tsongas
was able to secure federal
funding for the project.

James Campbell, chair-
man of the MCC Board of
Trustees, over the years
has talked about the col-
lege being a "hidden jewel"
in the city.

"Locate where it is
today," Campbell said inside
the state-of-the-art center.

Follow Rick Sobey on
LOWELL -- Lowell is an incredibly diverse city, but as recently as the 1980s, when Cambodian refugees started arriving, anti-immigration movements and even anti-immigrant violence have reared their heads in Lowell.

As Cambodians began making a life here, a movement sprung up in Lowell to make English the city's official language, and a non-binding ballot measure to do so garnered 70 percent of the vote in 1989, according to Bob Forrant, a history professor at UMass Lowell.

In 1987, as busing students to improve diversity in city schools was still a hot-button issue, a 13-year-old Cambodian child was pushed by an 11-year-old white child and tumbled into the Pawtucket Canal where he drowned.

"Looking at the history helps us look at how far we've come, and how far we have to go," Forrant said as he led a forum at Middlesex Community College on what it means to be a welcoming community.

The forum was part of Welcoming Week Lowell -- a first-time event that organizers hope to repeat next year as part of the Welcoming America movement that aims to make communities more welcoming.

"How do we create a more welcoming community for everyone, from newcomers to those who have been here for a while but who feel left out," asked Forrant.

Panelists for the discussion were City Manager Eileen Donoghue; Susan Levine, CEO of the Lowell Community Health Center; Karen Frederick, CEO of Community Teamwork Inc.; Jamie Gabriel, chief human resources officer for Enterprise Bank; and Emma Tobin and Rogers Muyanja, of the International Institute of New England.

Each discussed ways in which their organizations have historically worked to be more welcoming to immigrant groups and to ensure their companies or organizations reflect the community at large.

Frederick and Levine both said their organizations have rules in place to ensure their boards of directors are representative of the community, with LCHC even going so far as to have the makeup of their patients determine the makeup of their board.

Donoghue said the city has worked, and continues to work, to ensure it reaches out to all communities in Lowell to recruit workers so that city government can look like the community it serves.

She said the city has recently reached out into such communities to spread word about job openings since many immigrants don't know where to find such job postings.

"The challenge of reaching everyone in the city is real and one I and the City Council are absolutely committed to," Donoghue said.

Levine said the day President Donald Trump issued his first executive order regarding immigration was one of the most stressful she has experienced at the health center for both patients and staff.

She said several speakers, including retired Police Superintendent Bill Taylor, helped assuage those fears, but that many still have deep concerns about being an immigrant in America today.

Frederick said she has tried to encourage CTI employees to have the difficult and uncomfortable conversations about conscious and unconscious biases that are needed.

Tobin said the International Institute has worked to help address mental health issues among immigrants who are now living in that type of environment.

She said the Trump Administration recently announced that only 30,000 refugees will be admitted to the U.S. this year, down from 110,000 under the Obama Administration.
Amy Bass to visit MCC’s writers series

LOWELL — As part of its Visiting Writers Series, Middlesex Community College will host author Amy Bass on Thursday, Oct. 4, at 12:30 p.m., in the Federal Building Assembly Room, 33 Kearney Square, on the Lowell campus.

Bass is a professor of history at The College of New Rochelle and is widely published on the cultural history of sports. She will read from and discuss her work. The event is free and open to the public.


The host of a weekly radio show on WVOX, Bass has also served for many years as senior research supervisor for NBC Olympic Sports. She won an Emmy Award for her work at the 2012 London Olympics.

MCC’s Visiting Writers Series is co-sponsored by the Creative Writing Program and the Office of Student Engagement. For more information, call 978-656-3363 or email StudentEngagement@middlesex.mass.edu.
MCC NEWS

MCC to celebrate renovated arts center

Middlesex Community College will celebrate the opening of its newly renovated Richard & Nancy Donahue Family Academic Arts Center at 2 p.m. Sept. 21 on the Lowell campus, 240 Central St.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony, building tours and faculty/student demonstrations will include:

- Theater makeup by Jamie Picon and Amber Namery on the ground floor dressing room
- Raley Beggs and guitar students on the first floor, Room 125
- Richard Chowenhill and music technology student compositions on the first floor, Room 125
- Swordsmanship with Ted Hewlett on the first floor, theater stage
- Jazz dance class with Kathy Cobb on the second floor, dance studio

Joining MCC President James C. Mabry will be former Middlesex President Carole Cowan, philanthropist Nancy Donahue and MCC board of trustees Chairman James J. Campbell.

MCC’s newly renovated Richard and Nancy Donahue Family Academic Arts Center has stood as a multi-purpose facility in Lowell for nearly 150 years. It houses the college’s performing arts programs — theater, music and dance — including the 190-seat Proscenium Theatre, 103-seat recital hall, 900-square-foot dance studio, music practice room and classrooms.

Parking is not available on-site. The nearest public parking facility is the Early Garage, 135 Middlesex St.

For information, visit http://middlesex.mass.edu/academicartscenter.
Local medical assistants have their own day

The Lowell Sun
Updated: 09/18/2018 11:36:28 AM EDT

Medical assistants show their awards. Front row, from left, Meghan Shay, Sreypech An and Doranggie Manso. Back row, from left, Celia Reyes, Kristen Hoffman, Cynthia Sok, Cheryl Varouchis, Roseny Almonte, Mary Zwaercan, Shi-Lyn Oxley, Nicole Basset, Amy Belanger, Georgina Matas and Bethzaida Irizarry. COURTESY PHOTO

Several medical and education institutions in the Lowell area sponsored the first-ever Greater Lowell Medical Assistant Day Institute on a recent Saturday.

The event was designed in collaboration with the Greater Lowell Health Alliance, Health and Education Services, Lowell General Hospital, Lowell Community Health Center, Damian Folch, M.D., and Middlesex Community College. In addition, members of Community Team Work, Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley, Summerit Eldercare, Community Health Education Center and Women, and the Infant and Children Nutrition Program collaborated by providing information about the services that they offer in support of citizens of Greater Lowell.

Angela Ingalls, Derek Nelson, Dr. Arthur Laurentano and Dr. Damian Folch

In addition, Hektor Guillen, Marta Yepes, Hannah Guillen and Laura Godin volunteered to help with the implementation of the day program.

In all, 28 medical assistants participated in the event, 14 of whom received awards ranging from $100 to $500 for their leadership, compassion, teamwork and logo design. The awards were sponsored by Damian Folch, M.D., Lowell General Hospital and the Lowell Community Health Center.

The program started with the sharing of a compelling personal story, as professor Claudia Guillen, director of the Medical Assistant program at MCC, presented an inspirational talk called "From a Medical Assistant to a Nurse Practitioner," which motivated the group on ways to confront challenges and attain professional goals.
That presentation was followed by "Career Pathways for Medical Assistants" by Mercy Anampiu, Health Promotion and Education Manager at LCHC, and Robert Wheeler, chief human-resources officer for LCHC, who informed the audience about additional career certificates available through the health center.

Health educator Marianne Chojnicki, RN, MHA, CDE, then presented "Diabetes: Know Your Numbers," helping the medical assistants to learn how to apply simple tools while educating patients about the best ways to manage the disease.

From left, Amparo H. Folch, Mercy Anampui, Alyson Downs, Kerrie D'Entremont. COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Damian Folch, a family physician whose passion is lifestyle medicine, presented "Exercise as Medicine," engaging the crowd with simple exercises to do at work to stay healthy, control one's state of mind and stimulate the brain.

Medical assistants also had the opportunity to meet and converse with Dr. Tushar Patel, internist at Riverside Medical Group, and Dr. Arthur Lauretano, ENT and chief medical officer of Circle Health. They shared their cultural and professional backgrounds, their personal stories and the important role that medical assistants play in achieving success in their respective medical practices.

Two additional workshops were offered: "Problem Solving in the Medical Office" by Cindy Sok and Kristen Hoffman, and "Leadership in the Workplace" by professor Amparo H. Folch. These workshops led medical assistants to reflect on and assess their own potential, strengths and weaknesses and to redefine their career goals.

The event concluded with recognition given to Amparo H. Folch by MCC for "her dedication to the Medical Assistant profession and inspiration in creating the 2018 Greater Lowell Medical Assistant Institute."
MCC students provide tooth treatments at a reduced cost

LOWELL — The Middlesex Community College Dental Hygiene Clinic, located at 44 Middle St., Lowell, provides preventive dental-hygiene services to the public at a reduced cost.

From September through May, MCC's on-campus clinic offers oral prophylaxis (cleaning), dental sealants, X-rays and athletic mouth protectors.

Fall-semester hours are Wednesdays, from 8:30 a.m. to noon, and from 1 to 5 p.m., and Fridays, from 1 to 5 p.m.

Patients accepted for treatment are those whose dental problems have teaching value and who have the extra time required for treatment.

Call 978-656-3250 to make an appointment. Appointments must be scheduled at least 24 hours in advance.

Dental Hygiene students at MCC provide direct patient care. The students have extensive education and training, and have demonstrated competence in clinical services before treating the public. The clinic is supervised by licensed dental hygienists and dentists.

For more information, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/dhclinic.

MCC's marketing office earns 5 Gold Awards and one Bronze

Middlesex Community College's Office of Marketing Communications has earned five Gold Awards and one Bronze Award in the fifth Annual Education 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 United States. A national panel of industry specialists reviewed each piece, judging creativity, marketing execution, message impact, technology application and innovation content.

MCC earned Gold Awards in Admissions Website ("10 Reasons to Choose MCC"); Electronic Advertising (MCC Geo-fencing Campaign); Facebook (Middlesex Facebook); Online Course Content (Fall 2017 Noncredit Course Schedule); and Social Media Content (MCC Twitter). The Bronze Award came in Electronic Advertising (Showcase Theater Lobby Digital Display Advertising).
Info Session Offered At Middlesex
Middlesex Community College will host an Information Session for businesses seeking Workforce Training Fund (WFTF) grants from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 26, in MCC’s Federal Building (Room 310), 50 Kearney Square in Lowell. The registration deadline is Monday, Sept. 24.

The Massachusetts Workforce Training Fund, administered by Commonwealth Corporation, provides resources to businesses to train current and newly hired employees. The goal is to help improve employee skills and maintain the economic strength of the Commonwealth’s businesses.

At the information session, an WFTF representative will present an overview of the grant options and answer questions in an informational setting.

WFTF provides training grants to Massachusetts employers up to $250,000 per application. MCC’s Corporate and Community Education & Training Program has helped many businesses secure and implement these grants.

For more information on specific Workforce Training Fund programs, visit the Commonwealth Corporation website: www.commcorp.org/wftf

The registration deadline for this WFTF Information Session is Monday, Sept. 24. For more information, or to register, contact Timothy Scanlon at scanlon@middlesex.mass.edu or 978-656-3174.

Discover your path at Middlesex Community College. As one of the largest, most comprehensive community colleges in Massachusetts, 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, and online. Middlesex Community College: Student success starts here!

food & drink
Doors reopened, Wine ConneXtion offers Spanish samples

Now here’s a treat. The Wine ConneXtion in North Andover is featuring wines from Spain this Saturday, from 1 to 4 p.m. If you like moderate to full-bodied and spicy wines, it’s worth the trip to 117 Main St.

Sam and Tina Messina, the store’s co-owners, have had a rough few days and would love to see some friendly and smiling faces. Last week’s Columbia Gas pipeline explosion, which rocked Lawrence, North Andover and Andover, forced a four-day shutdown of the popular wine store. Emergency personnel and safety workers used the First and Main plaza as a staging area to aid blast victims and evacuate homes. In fact, Tina Messina was forced to evacuate. She’s now back in her home, reports Sam. “It was a tough four days for everyone,” said Sam, “but we’re just happy to be back.”

Among the Spanish wines featured at Saturday’s complimentary tasting are:

- Juan Gil Family Estates Shaya Verdejo 2017 ($13.99), a rich, creamy textured white that offers aromas of toasty baking spices, nutmeg, spring flowers and pit fruits.
- Honorio Vera Rosé of Tempranillo & Syrah 2017 ($8.99), a light, fresh Juan Gil rosé with a “slight pickle of fizz,” according to the winemaker’s tasting notes. Banana and strawberry notes abound in the raspberry-colored drink that finishes dry.
- Valdecollar Hipervinos Bordeaux Blend 2013 ($19.99), a big, bold, sexy red with lots of black fruit flavor and layers of smoke, mushrooms and truffles. Aged five years in the bottle, I believe this is probably going to be smooth and refined on the palate.

If you can’t make it, mark these Saturday dates on your calendar for other upcoming Wine ConneXtion events: Oct. 6, Natural and Organic Wines; Oct. 13, Robert Foley’s Portfolio of Wines featuring “Switchback Ridge”; and Oct. 20, Winemaker Layne Montgomery and his “in-zi” wines; Oct. 27, Annual Grand Wine Tasting of more than 50 wines from top global producers. The event is free and light fare will be served.

Andover Classic Wines, in the Shawsheen Plaza on Route 124, will hold its annual grand tasting of both wine and craft beers Saturday, Sept. 29, from 3 to 6 p.m. The educational tasting is free of charge, and more than 35 wineries and breweries are in the mix to offer samples.

Middlesex Community College has informed me that my seminar scheduled for Oct. 11 at the Nenneh House — “Vino Rosso: A Night of Incomparable Italian Red Wines” — has sold out. But don’t despair. All new registrants going forward will be placed on a waiting list for a second seminar date if there is enough demand. Go to MCC’s online website, plug in “Vino Rosso” in the search engine, and get all the details.
A ‘wedding’ of royal proportions at MCC

Well-known retired actress and fashion designer Eleni Zohras, along with Middlesex Community College, recently hosted their annual College for Kids “Royal Wedding” Fashion Show.

This fairy-themed event was held at MCC’s Lowell Campus in the cafeteria overlooking breathtaking waterfalls.

Eleni wanted to have a royal wedding because of the recent royal wedding in May with Prince Harry and Meghan Markle.

A group of nosey and vibrant young girls, aged 11-12, participated in the event as the College for Kids Fashion Design program at MCC, exploring the tools, methods, and principles of introducing young students to the fashion world. Eleni has taught and enriched young girls’ lives for many years by building self-confidence and by teaching fashion and how to design dresses, T-shirts, and fascinators.

Eleni teaches basic hand sewing, machine sewing, and fashion drawing. Those tools and techniques allow the students to develop their personal style and express their creativity in the fullest.

Also, the young girls visited Lowell museums, fabric stores and boutiques, and ate at restaurants.

A special thank you to Chantilly Place, which donates the dresses each year.

From left, Lula & Blye of Wakefield, Stephanie Richard of Lowell and Katherine Green of Groton made a beautiful entrance. They made just for Oscar.

Eleni Zohars teaches the children a Greek dance.

Below, the girls walk down ‘the aisle’
At Middlesex Community College, you can discover your path to a healthcare career.

With more than 14 health degree and certificate programs — including a new certificate program in Dental Laboratory Technology — MCC can help you earn a degree, begin a bachelor’s degree or upgrade your skills.

And it's not too late to register for fall semester. Classes begin Tuesday, Sept. 4. (New students must register by 6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 28.) Call 1-800-818-3434 or visit: https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/registration/

MCC’s 70+ programs of study have been organized into seven Academic Pathways designed to help new students explore one of seven general academic areas before declaring a major program of study. Pathways include: Arts, Humanities & Communication; Business; Education; Health; Public Service; Social Science; and STEM (science, technology, engineering & math). Pathways also provide a clear, semester-by-semester breakdown of what's required to complete each degree or certificate program.

The Health Pathway is designed for particular academic areas, career fields, and bachelor's degree transfer programs. "MCC’s nationally accredited health programs are taught by expert faculty," said Kathy Gehly, Dean of Nursing & Allied Health. "As part of our rigorous curriculum and clinical rotations, students are taught hands-on skills practice, and our laboratories are state-of-the-art.

Middlesex offers degree programs in Dental Assisting, Dental Hygiene, Dental Lab Technology, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Medical Assisting, Medical Lab Technology, Radiologic Technology, and Nursing — which is offered as a full-time day program, or a part-time evening/weekend program.

MCC also offers certificate programs in Dental Assisting, Medical Assisting, Medical Lab Technology, and — new this fall — Dental Lab Technology.

Dental Laboratory Technology Certificate — This new 28-credit certificate program offers a curriculum composed of didactic and laboratory experience. Courses include content in dental materials, oral anatomy, occlusion, infectious diseases, and history and ethics in dental lab tech. The extensive laboratory component covers all phases of dental technology.

For more information about MCC's health programs, visit: https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/admissions/requirements/health or contact Apollon Bouzerdan, Dental Lab Tech Program Coordinator, at bouzerdanan@middlesex.mass.edu or (978) 656-3056 or Katherine Gehly, Dean of Nursing & Allied Health, at gehlyk@middlessex.mass.edu or (978) 656-3047.

For more information about the Health Pathway, visit: https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/advising/pathways.aspx

This fall, Middlesex Community College is offering a new certificate program in Dental Laboratory Technology. Fall semester courses begin Tuesday, Sept. 4. Call 1-800-818-3434.

Lowell Middlesex Academy Charter School (LMACS) is still accepting applications for the fall semester, which begins Wednesday, Aug. 29.

A Middlesex Community College partnership program, LMACS is an accredited high school with the mission of enabling students to achieve academic, social, and career success. The school places a strong emphasis on college education as a goal for its students.

LMACS serves Lowell-area youth, between the ages of 16 and 21, who have left school prior to graduation or are at risk of dropping out. Graduates of the program receive a high school diploma.

The LMACS curriculum is built around traditional instructional areas, supplemented by psycho-educational courses and groups, a school-to-work component, and daily advising. MCC courses are also offered through the college’s Dual Enrollment Academy.

LMACS is a public school and does not charge tuition. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 8:30 to 11:20 a.m. Friday. The charter school is located in Lowell’s Pollard Exchange Building, 67 Middle St., across from MCC’s Health, Science & Technology Center. LMACS students have access to all Middlesex facilities, including science labs, mathematics and reading labs, library, computers, and cafeteria services.

For further information about how to earn a high school diploma, call LMACS at 978-656-3165.
MCC opened blind woman’s eyes to opportunities

BEDFORD — Stephanie Valdes has memorized Middlesex Community College’s Bedford campus, her mental map and service dog, Luna, guiding her from building to building. Legally blind and only able to see some colors and shapes, she flourished at MCC and is learning not to let her disability stand in the way of her dreams.

The Haverhill resident heard about Middlesex from her counselor at the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind, who told her the college has excellent disability support services.

Determined to succeed, Valdes enrolled in the World Languages program — she speaks Spanish and English, and has studied French, German and Arabic. Valdes graduated with an Associate degree in May.

In class, Valdes used adaptive technology provided by MCC’s Office of Disability Support Services, including a screen reader, and a device that scans and reads printed handouts.

She also created audio recordings of her classes, and made use of a scribe who took notes for her in class.

Outside of class, Valdes enjoys fencing at the International Fencing Club. She also traveled to Morocco last January for 10 days as part of an International Fellowship Program.

“Being exposed to a totally different culture was interesting to me and is part of learning the language,” she said.

Her future plans include enrolling in a six- to nine-month independent learning program in Minneapolis, run by the National Federation of the Blind and Blind Inc., which will enable Valdes to learn more skills and techniques, and help her to travel more by herself.

After that program, Valdes plans to continue her education and earn a bachelor’s degree, double-majoring in linguistics and French.

Her ultimate goal is to become an interpreter or perhaps earn a master’s degree in speech pathology.

Valdes credits some of her growing confidence to how well she has been treated at MCC.

“I never encountered a professor who was not flexible,” she said. “They all helped me or met with me and accommodated me as much as possible. One of the things I will take away from my experience at Middlesex is that everybody believed in me every step of the way. They don’t see blindness as something that can stop me. And now, it is easier for me to advocate for myself. I can do whatever I want to do.”

To learn more about Disability Support Services at Middlesex, visit https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/disabilityservices.

Despite being legally blind, Stephanie Valdes graduated from MCC this past spring and enjoys fencing.
Biotech program at MCC is Platinum

Middlesex Community College's Biotechnology Technician degree and certificate programs have received a Platinum endorsement — the highest rating — from the Massachusetts Biotechnology Education Foundation's 2017 Biotechnology Endorsement Program.

"This endorsement from the Massachusetts Biotechnology Education Foundation is certainly an honor," Middlesex President James C. Mabry said. "Biotechnology is an economic engine powering the commonwealth, and the college works hard to ensure our graduates are prepared to meet the workforce needs of our partners in the region."

Kathleen Sweeney, dean of Science, Technology, Engineering & Math, added, "We are pleased to have our Biotechnology programs recognized with the highest endorsement from MassBioEd. It validates the work our Biotechnology coordinator and faculty do on behalf of the program and our students. It also highlights the valuable work faculty members do to collaborate with our industry partners in preparing our students for the workforce."

Middlesex has the largest Biotechnology program in the state, with an average of 32 Associate Degree graduates and 40 certificate recipients each year.

MCC's Platinum endorsement is a recognition that the college's Biotechnology Technician curriculum aligns with core competencies developed by a working group of leaders from academia and the biotechnology industry.

Through its endorsement process, MassBioEd recognizes the contributions that community-college programs make in developing a skilled life-sciences workforce across the state.
Campus life, right from day one

Brianna Langlois, 19, of Westford, joins her mother Susan in her room at the UMass Lowell Inn and Conference Center on Saturday. She's part of the Reserved Placement Program, a new partnership between UMass Lowell and Middlesex Community College that lets students live in the UML dorm while spending their first semester at MCC.

Program gives students the experience before moving from MCC to UML

By Kori Tuitt
ktuitt@lowellsun.com

LOWELL — When Jessica Pimentel was applying to colleges, her first choice was UMass Lowell. Because of a growing waiting list for the university, she was placed in the Reserved Placement Program through a partnership with UMass Lowell and Middlesex Community College. While Pimentel will be attending Middlesex Community College this coming semester, she will still have the opportunity to have that college campus experience before transferring to UML after a semester, thanks to the newest pilot program between the two institutions.

"It's good because I still have the chance to get into the school that I want to and I can also save some money by going into a community college for a semester," said Pimentel, 18, of Lawrence. "And I can meet some people, too."

Academic housing will be available to about 25 MCC students in the Honors to Please see CAMPUS/8
Campus life, right from the start

“IT'S GOOD BECAUSE I STILL HAVE THE CHANCE TO GET INTO THE SCHOOL THAT I WANT TO AND I CAN ALSO SAVE SOME MONEY BY GOING INTO A COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOR A SEMESTER.”

Jessica Fmentel, '18, of Lawrence, taking part in the Reserved Placement Program

their educational goals by connecting two strong honors programs in the state.

“For Middlesex Community College, it helps us expand our market by giving us another option to offer students, but also there are many students who are in the Reserved Placement Program and want to go directly to UMass Lowell,” Mabry said. “Both institutions are dedicated to improving this transfer pathway so that we make it easier for more students to transfer with more credits.”

Brianna Langois, 19, of Westford, will also be taking advantage of the program. She said she applied to a half-dozen colleges, and this was “definitely the best bang for your buck.”

“UMass Lowell is an amazing school, it was the best education for the best price,” said Langois, who is interested in studying journalism and English. “I'm just excited to have the opportunity to live on campus and be part of the UMass Lowell community while taking my classes in a smaller environment.”

Langois said transitions to new schools have always been difficult, so she looks forward to the support this program will offer.

Fmentel is looking to pursue peace and conflict studies, something she is excited about.

And without the housing opportunity, she said she likely would have attended a community college closer to her home in Lawrence before transferring. Mabry said the choice to have housing available at the Inn and Conference Center makes walking to classes convenient for MCC students.

“It also works because the students have access to use other facilities and engage in other activities at UMass Lowell and UMass Lowell provides a shuttle bus from the Inn and Conference Center to their main campus,” she said.

Moloney said students will take most of their courses at MCC, but will work with UML advisors. Depending on where they are in their program, they could also take courses at UMass Lowell. She said the goal is to make a comprehensive program for transfer students.

This also presents a win for the city’s economy, said MCC Board of Trustees Chairman James Campbell. He said it illustrates that Lowell is becoming an educational community.

“This really reinforces the position that a student in the city of Lowell can receive an affordable, effective education going from kindergarten to an advanced degree,” Campbell said. “That’s clearly an economic benefit for the city and the greater Lowell area.”

When he was appointed to the MCC Board of Trustees three years ago, Campbell said he never imagined the college would have this type of impact on the city. And the goal is to expand and continue this program.

“These 20 in the pilot program will actually be living in a four-year college environment with other students who are in a four-year program,” Campbell said. “So, it has all kinds of possibilities because it is a first and to me it’s a wonderful, exciting idea that will tremendously benefit this community.”

Follow Kori Tuitt on Twitter @KoriTuitt.
Local colleges easing way for vets

Quincy earns top rating for helping with the transition

By Cynthia Fernandez
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Karen Connick's role at Quincy College fits like a glove. The retired colonel spends her days helping students navigate the distance between service life and student life.

Her efforts have helped the college receive a gold rating from Military Friendly, a Pennsylvania-based company that ranks schools around the country based on how well they support veterans in their transition to civilian life.

"I just retired from 30 years in the Army," said Connick, the college's military and veterans' services specialist. "A lot of the big mystery sometimes is just navigating the paperwork for a lot of the young men and women coming out of the service. It's come in so handy to speak the same language, so to speak, with the [Department of Veterans Affairs]."

Quincy College, which has about 250 veterans enrolled, is the only Massachusetts school to make Military Friendly's top 10 lists for 2018-2019. In all, 24 colleges in the state received ratings, including Massachusetts Bay Community College and Bunker Hill Community College, which earned silver, and Middlesex Community College and the University of Massachusetts Lowell, which earned bronze.

The founders of Military Friendly are Navy veterans who noticed the lack of support available to men and women leaving military service. In 2003 they launched their survey, which now contacts more than 8,800 institutions and ranks them based on student retention, graduation rates, job placement, and participation in programs such as the VA's Principal of Excellence and Veteran Success on Campus Program.

Timothy Quinn, coordinator of the Veterans Resource Center at Middlesex Community College in Bedford, said his role is to ease the transition of "battle-hardened" veterans into the role of college students. This is no easy feat.

"In the post-9/11 world," he said, "a lot of veterans are coming back with PTSD, mental ailments, traumatic brain injuries."

Middlesex, which also has a campus in Lowell, adds more than 300 veterans with programs such as yoga classes, meditation sessions, acupuncture, and other services to help with post-traumatic stress disorder, sleep, migraines, and focus.

Another program for veterans is smoking cessation, Quinn said. Many veterans smoked while in the service, and the stress of becoming a student and civilian can worsen the habit.

The school's office of disability support services also works hand-in-hand with the veterans resource center.

Christopher Bonaccolla at work in Middlesex Community College's Veterans Resource Center in Bedford.

Alerting professors of special circumstances can help smooth class time for veterans. A morning class might become burdensome for a veteran with migraines. Sunglasses — which are usually not permitted in the classroom — can help the veteran evade the headache pain.

"In the post-9/11 world, a lot of veterans are coming back with PTSD, mental ailments, traumatic brain injuries."

TIMOTHY QUINN, Veterans Resource Center, Middlesex Community College

The question of when to begin is answered at Quincy College: When you are ready.

The school has courses that begin every month, with rolling admissions. This flexibility allows veterans to figure out "that work-life balance, or that family-life balance," said Taggart Boyle, associate vice president of marketing and communications at the college.

If a veteran enrolls and has trouble adjusting, Connick can help. The office offers counseling sessions with "student success coaches," she said.

Johnathan Zepeda, a 22-year-old veteran who left Coast Guard service this year, has started taking classes for a degree in English at Quincy College. He said veterans can enrich a campus.

"They have a different outlook on life," Zepeda said, "a different approach to the way that they do things. Most, they have drive to succeed and be outstanding in their community."

For more information about Quincy College's programs for veterans, e-mail Karen Connick at kconnick@quincycollege.edu or call 617-465-5928. For more information about Middlesex Community College's program, e-mail Timothy Quinn at quinn@middlesex.mass.edu or call 781-280-3510. For more information about Military Friendly schools in your area, visit www.militaryfriendly.com/colleges.

Cynthia Fernandez can be reached at cfernandez@globe.com.
MCC program welcomes those with learning disabilities

Middlesex Community College’s Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment Initiative Program opens up the college-going experience for eligible public high school students with significant learning disabilities.

Now entering its fifth year, ICEI is a dual-enrollment opportunity for 18- to 22-year-olds who attend a participating school district. The program allows students to audit certain MCC classes and receive a certificate of completion at the end of the course.

ICEI students receive specialized enrollment, registration and academic advising, community-based employment and career support, plus educational coaches and peer mentors. Students also have full access to Middlesex clubs, student activities, and academic and support services.

“Our students are motivated to fully participate in their courses, join clubs and enjoy the many student activities MCC offers all students,” said Dawn Gross, ICEI coordinator. “ICEI students also work three days per week at community job sites, and are supported in and out of class by educational coaches who are employed by the sending district.”

Bedford School Committee member Ann Guay said her son, Brian, thoroughly enjoyed his ICEI experience at Middlesex Community College. With him are, from left, Steve Pierce, educational coach; fellow ICEI students Nick Boiven and David Kaiser; and Patric Barbieri, executive director of the LABBB Educational Cooperative.

Brian Guay of Bedford, center, enjoyed his ICEI Program experience at Middlesex Community College. With him are, from left, Steve Pierce, educational coach; fellow ICEI students Nick Boiven and David Kaiser; and Patric Barbieri, executive director of the LABBB Educational Cooperative.

Guay said, “He was thrilled to be able to go to college at Middlesex.”

Brian enrolled in ICEI when he was 20 and completed the program when he was 22, according to his mother. He took Acting and Music Appreciation, as well as art classes.

“Brian’s experience was just outstanding — more than we could have hoped for,” said Guay, who is also a board member of Massachusetts Advocates for Children. “It gave him confidence to be on a college campus. He also learned how to navigate the social scene and take the MBTA bus to campus. And he loved having his artwork shown in the MCC Student Art Show.”

Research has shown that students with significant intellectual disabilities benefit academically, and transition to young adulthood more readily, when they have the opportunity to engage in all college-related activities rather than staying at high school, according to Gross.

MCC’s ICEI Program is supported by an annual state Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment Initiative grant from the Executive Office of Education. Eligible students in the Middlesex program must attend a partnership district. LABBB Educational Collaborative or the Bedford Public Schools.

To learn more, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/disabilitysupport/icei/program/default.aspx, or contact Gross at gross@middlesex.mass.edu or 781-580-3769.

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MCC NEWS

English Learner Institute program now offering fall courses

Enrollment is now open for Middlesex Community College’s English Learner Institute program. ELI offers a variety of noncredit courses focusing on developing basic English and other skills essential to functioning in American society and helping students continue their education.

MCC’s ELI program runs from Sept. 11 to Dec. 14. Classes meet for approximately three hours and are offered during the day and evening in six- to 14-week sessions on the Lowell campus. All ELI courses are offered at a reduced rate. Admission to ELI is open to all and does not require an ELI admission application. ELI courses are designed to serve students who are newcomers to the United States or who need to develop basic English skills. Topics such as technology, life skills and social conventions are covered. ELI courses are nonsequential. Students may enter the program in the fall, spring or summer semesters.

Support services are available to all ELI students, including an English Language Learner Tutoring Lab, a technology-enhanced Language Lab, access to computers, library services and student services, such as career counseling and academic advising.

Discover Your Path  
To A STEM Career  
At Middlesex CC  

At Middlesex Community College, you can discover your path to a career in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

With more than 15 STEM degree and certificate programs — including a new Engineering Science-Electrical/Computer Concentration, and an Engineering Technology Precision Machining Certificate — MCC can help you earn a degree, begin a bachelor’s degree or upgrade your skills.

And it’s not too late to register for fall semester. Classes begin Tuesday, Sept. 4. (New students must register by 6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 28.) Call 1-800-818-3434 or visit:  
https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/registration/.

MCC’s 70+ programs of study have been organized into seven Academic Pathways designed to help new students explore one of seven general academic areas before declaring a major program of study. Pathways include: Arts, Humanities & Communication; Business; Education; Health; Public Service; Social Science; and STEM. Pathways also provide a clear, semester-by-semester breakdown of what’s required to complete each degree or certificate program.

The STEM Pathway is designed for students with an interest in biology/life sciences, computer aided design, computer science, digital forensics, engineering, engineering technology, mathematics and information technology. It is intended to help students focus on these particular academic areas, career fields, and bachelor’s degree transfer programs.

“Our STEM programs are taught by dedicated, award-winning faculty — on campus and online — in our state-of-the-art technology laboratories,” said Kathleen Sweeney, Dean of STEM. “At Middlesex, our class sizes are small, and our transfer programs are aligned with state college and university STEM programs.”

This fall, MCC is offering two new STEM programs:

**Engineering Science Transfer — Electrical/Computer Concentration** — This new concentration joins MCC’s existing Civil/Environmental, and Mechanical concentrations in the A.S. Engineering degree program. It constitutes two full years of a four-year B.S. degree program in engineering. The degree is designed as part of a special relationship with the School of Engineering at UMass Lowell, and satisfies specific UML course requirements for both Civil/Environmental, Mechanical, and Electrical/Computer Engineering concentrations.

**Engineering Technology - Precision Machining Certificate** — This 27-credit certificate program is designed to provide the education and training needed for entry-level employment within the precision-machining industry. Program requirements stress foundational mathematics, communications, problem solving, and technical skills. See program video:  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xWA1kDjkhh0&index=8&list=UU3bA38stC5fQ5qWay6GuqWA

For further information about MCC’s STEM programs, visit:  
https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/admissions/newprograms.aspx and  
https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/STEM/ or contact Kathleen Sweeney, Dean of STEM, at sweeneyk@middlesex.mass.edu or 781-280-3609.

For more information about the STEM Pathway, visit:  
https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/advising/pathways.aspx

Discover your path at Middlesex Community College. As one of the largest, most comprehensive community colleges in Massachusetts, 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, and online.

Middlesex Community College: Student success starts here!
MedicalFieldCareers.com Announces Scholarship for Students at Top 40 Affordable Healthcare Schools

MedicalFieldCareers.com has released its list of the Top 40 Affordable Healthcare Schools, as well as a new scholarship program for students who attend the featured schools.

Vista, CA, August 31, 2018 --PR.com-- MedicalFieldCareers.com, a free online resource for students training for careers in healthcare, has announced its list of the Top 40 Affordable Healthcare Schools for 2018-19, and a new scholarship program for their students. The MedicalFieldCareers.com Top 40 Scholarship awards $500 to the current, or future student at any of the featured schools who submits the best 500-word essay on the healthcare career he or she is pursuing.

Additional eligibility requirements for the award are that the applicant must be 1) at least 18 years of age, 2) have completed high school or the G.E.D., and 3) be enrolled in a healthcare program for the Fall 2019 semester at one of the schools featured on MedicalFieldCareers.com's list of Top 40 Affordable Healthcare Schools.

“As soon as we compiled our list of the Top 40 Affordable Healthcare Schools in the country, we realized that we wanted to do something more to bring recognition to these fine institutions,” said Matt Bromley, MedicalFieldCareers.com owner and webmaster. “There are so many out there who would like to work in healthcare, but think that they can’t afford the required education. By offering a $500 scholarship to students who attend one of the schools on our list, we’re making it possible for one lucky student to receive a quality education at a very minimal cost.”

The schools featured on MedicalFieldCareers.com Top 40 Affordable Healthcare Schools list are shown below.

1. Pickaway Ross Joint Vocat. School District (Chillicothe, OH) 21. Middlesex Community College (Middletown, CT)
2. Davis Technical College (Kaysville, UT) 22. Manchester Community College (Manchester, CT)
3. Southern Regional Technical College (Thomasville, GA) 23. Erie Community College (Buffalo, NY)
4. Wiregrass Georgia Technical College (Valdosta, GA) 24. Cleveland Community College (Shelby, NC)
5. Albany Technical College (Albany, GA) 25. Pickens Technical College (Aurora, CO)
6. Olney Central College (Olney, IL) 26. College of San Mateo (San Mateo, CA)
7. Atlanta Technical College (Atlanta, GA) 27. Nassau Community College (Garden City, NY)
8. Central Georgia Technical College (Warner Robins, GA) 28. Middlesex Community College (Bedford, MA)
9. Lincoln Trail College (Robinson, IL) 29. Baltimore City Community College (Baltimore, MD)
10. Bates Technical College (Tacoma, WA) 30. Lansing Community College (Lansing, MI)
11. Spartanburg Community College (Spartanburg, SC) 31. North Central State College (Mansfield, OH)
12. Coastal Pines Technical College (Waycross, GA) 32. Florence-Darlington Technical College (Florence, SC)
13. George C Wallace Community College – Dothan (Dothan, AL) 33. Camden County College (Blackwood, NJ)
14. Frontier Community College (Fairfield, IL) 34. St. Clair County Community College (Port Huron, MI)
15. Northeast Alabama Community College (Rainsville, AL) 35. City Colleges of Chicago – Richard J Daley College (Chicago, IL)
16. Union County College (Cranford, NJ) 36. New River Community and Technical College (Beaver, WV)
17. Carroll Community College (Westminster, MD) 37. Central Virginia Community College (Lynchburg, VA)
18. Wabash Valley College (Mount Carmel, IL) 38. Morton College (Cicero, IL)
19. Georgia Northwestern Technical College (Rome, GA) 39. Washennaw Community College (Ann Arbor, MI)
20. South Plains College (Levelland, TX) 40. Gadsden State Community College (Gadsden, AL)

Applications for the MedicalFieldCareers.com Top 40 Affordable Healthcare Schools Scholarship may be submitted online anytime between September 1, 2018 and April 30, 2019. The winner will be chosen during the first week in May 2019, and will be notified via email by May 15, 2019.

About MedicalFieldCareers.com
MedicalFieldCareers.com is an online provider of free information on healthcare career training, certification requirements, and salary and employment outlooks by region. All data featured on the site is pulled from official U.S. Government sources. All training programs and educational institutions featured on the site are accredited by major national accrediting bodies.
MCC ranked best online college in Boston area

Middlesex Community College has been ranked No. 1 on the 2018 list of Best Online Degrees in Boston by GreatValueColleges.net. Additionally, MCC has been ranked No. 4 on the 2018 list of Best Online Community Colleges in Massachusetts by TheBestColleges.org.

"With the rising tuition costs and societal shifts, more students are looking to community college as a valuable alternative -- but many don’t know there are online options like MCC," said Elizabeth Franklin, school outreach manager for TheBestColleges.org.

"For more than 20 years, Middlesex has taken a consistently innovative approach to helping students succeed in online courses," said James Mabry, Middlesex Community College President. "MCC’s online courses are taught by highly trained faculty who are committed to ensuring that every student has an engaging learning experience. Our growing online enrollments supports these recent rankings."

Middlesex currently offers 10 associate degree programs and five certificate programs that can be completed entirely online. Hundreds of online course offerings -- as well as hybrid courses, which combine online and face-to-face instruction -- are also offered.

"Middlesex is proud of its high quality online learning program. These acknowledgements from GreatValueColleges.net and TheBestColleges.org reflect the teaching skill and content expertise of our online instructors and their investment in student success," said Matthew Olson, Dean of Social Science, Interdisciplinary Studies.

ICEI students receive specialized enrollment, registration and academic advising, community-based employment and career support, plus educational coaches and peer mentors, according to Gross. Students also have full access to Middlesex clubs, student activities and academic and support services.

"Our students are motivated to fully participate in their courses, join clubs, and enjoy the many student activities MCC offers all students," said Gross. "ICEI students also work three days per week at community job sites, and are supported in and out of class by educational coaches, who are employed by the sending district."

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The 2018 class of Commonwealth Honors Scholars at MCC.

**Focus on college experience**

MCC offers Commonwealth Honors Program for qualified students

The Commonwealth Honors Program at Middlesex Community College offers unique learning opportunities for students who elect to study at a more advanced level. MCC’s Commonwealth Honors Program is part of an integrated network of honors programs throughout the Massachusetts public college and university system. It offers a variety of honors course options, as well as opportunities for students to master research and presentation techniques, and engage in extra and co-curricular activities, including field trips and guest lectures.

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

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

Honors graduates transfer to top schools, including UMass Amherst, Boston University, Chapman University, Columbia University, UMass Lowell, Salem State University, Skidmore College and University of Virginia, among others.

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

For more information, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/honors, or call 781-280-3553.
LOWELL -- The 2018 Greater Lowell Medical Assistant Day Institute, a unique day of programming and networking opportunities designed specially for the medical-assistant community, will take place Saturday, Aug. 25, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The event -- a collaboration between the Greater Lowell Health Alliance, Middlesex Community College, Health and Education Services, Lowell Community Health Center, Lowell General Hospital and Dr. Damian Folch -- is set up to advance medical-assisting skills in diabetes management, problem-solving, leadership and career advancement in the workplace.

It will also identify the essential skills, qualities and strategies of an effective medical assistant while performing administrative and clinical tasks and responsibilities.

The 2018 Lowell Medical Assistant Day Institute is a workforce development activity designed to engage medical assistants in lifelong learning skills leading to better performance, higher recognition and professional promotion.

Four CEUs will be given to attending Medical Assistants through the National Healthcareer Association. In addition, five medical assistants will be nominated for $500 awards based on leadership, compassion, teamwork, logo design and the 2018 Lowell Medical Assistant Day Institute Award.

To register, visit https://form.jotform.com/81753904474160. The cost is 25. For information, email Lowell MADayInstitute@gmail.com.
MCC Trustees

Byrne joins board as its student rep

Byrne

The Middlesex Community College board of trustees has named Bridget Byrne of Littleton its student trustee for the 2018-2019 academic year.

A returning adult student with her own architectural-restoration business, Byrne is planning a career change and is enrolled in the Biotechnology Certificate program.

A single mother with a 13-year-old daughter, Byrne, 40, earned a Bachelor's degree in anthropology from Smith College. She has run Byrne Restoration for almost 20 years.

"I restore furniture and also work on historic homes and church organs," she said. "My specialty is finishes and painted surfaces."

While Byrne loves the hands-on aspect of restoration work, she's no longer happy about the toxic chemicals that are part of the job. Even with good ventilation and other protections, the strong solvents are harmful to the environment and the conservators using them.

So Byrne has begun developing her own, less toxic compounds.

"In restoration, we do lots of testing and sampling, which involves mixing together different products to come up with the best solutions for a particular job," she said. "You're basically doing chemistry lab work. I decided I wanted to go back to school to learn how to do that lab work the right way."

Byrne enrolled at Middlesex to pursue a degree in Chemical Engineering. However, after taking a "Mathematics for Technology" course and exploring other STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields, she decided she prefers the hands-on aspects of biotechnology. She is now pursuing a certificate in Biotechnology and expects to graduate next May.

While at Middlesex, Byrne has excelled in her STEM courses and is active in extra-curricular activities. She serves as a supplemental instruction leader, tutoring her peers in Engineering courses. Byrne is also vice president of MCC's STEM Club, which is building a wind-turbine prototype, with hopes of seeing it installed on campus.

For more information about MCC, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu or call 800-818-3434.
Dental Hygiene grant for MCC

Middlesex Community College has received a $499,254 Massachusetts Skills Capital Grant to renovate and upgrade its Dental Hygiene Clinic and Dental Assisting Laboratory. The grant will support 24 new operatories in its Dental Hygiene Clinic, and reconfigure and upgrade five new operatories in the Dental Assisting Lab, both on the Lowell campus. The facilities support two popular Middlesex health-care programs that lead to Associate degrees in Dental Hygiene and Dental Assisting, as well as a one-year certificate in Dental Assisting.

The grant is part of $10.9 million recently awarded by Gov. Charlie Baker's Workforce Skills Cabinet to 33 high schools and educational institutions.

"The equipment purchased by high schools and colleges over the past three years through Skills Capital Grants has directly impacted the educational experience for thousands of Massachusetts students to better prepare them for the workforce," said Baker.

"We are very grateful for this funding, which will assist us in improving our Dental Hygiene Clinic and Dental Assisting Lab," said Katherine Gehly, MCC Dean of Nursing and Allied Health. "Having access to state-of-the-art equipment will not only provide an optimal learning experience for our students, but allow them to provide quality care to the patients the Dental Clinic serves."

Skills Capital Grants are designed to help high schools, colleges and other educational institutions invest in the most up-to-date training equipment to give their students an advantage when they continue in their chosen field or particular area of study. Skills Capital Grants cover a broad array of fields, from construction and engineering to health care and hospitality.
Discover Your Path to the Social Sciences at Middlesex

At Middlesex Community College, you can discover your path to a career in the social sciences.

With more than 10 social science degree and certificate programs – including a new certificate program in Children’s Behavioral Health – MCC can help you earn a degree, begin a bachelor’s degree or upgrade your skills.

And it’s not too late to register for fall semester. Classes begin Tuesday, Sept. 4. (New students must register by 6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 28.) Call 1-800-818-3434 or visit:
https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/registration/.

MCC’s 70+ programs of study have been organized into seven Academic Pathways designed to help new students explore one of seven general academic areas before declaring a major program of study. Pathways include: Arts, Humanities & Communication; Business; Education; Health; Public Service; Social Science; and STEM (science, technology, engineering & math). Pathways also provide a clear, semester-by-semester breakdown of what’s required to complete each degree or certificate program.

The Social Science Pathway is designed for students with an interest in a variety of academic fields, including anthropology, economics, geography, human services, history, political science, psychology, and world languages. It is intended to help students focus on these or other academic areas within the social sciences, career fields, and bachelor’s degree transfer programs.

“The social science disciplines can lead to career paths and opportunities in a wide range of professions and fields, including business, government (federal, state and local), education, law, public service, mental health, and organizations involved with civic activities and humanitarian missions,” said Matthew Olson, Dean of Social Science, Interdisciplinary Studies & Online/Weekend Education.

“The majority of the programs in this pathway have the flexibility to be completed on campus, online or a combination of both,” added Olson. “And Service-Learning and internship options in many programs offer students the opportunity for hands-on learning in business and nonprofit settings.”

This fall, MCC is offering a new Children’s Behavioral Health Certificate. This 19-credit Human Services certificate program focuses on understanding of child development and trauma; the role of human services and systems of care; skills for working in community health; clinical writing; and working with youth and families as family partners and therapeutic/peer mentors.

For further information about MCC’s new Children’s Behavioral Health Certificate, visit:
https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/admissions/newprograms or contact Paulo Barrio, Chairman, Human Services Department, at barriop@middlesex.mass.edu.

For more information about the Social Science Pathway, visit: https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/advising/pathways.aspx

Discover your path at Middlesex Community College. As one of the largest, most comprehensive community colleges in Massachusetts, 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, and online. Middlesex Community College: Student success starts here!
Middlesex CC
Offering FREE Adult Basic Ed Classes In Waltham

Middlesex Community College, in partnership with Waltham Public Schools, is opening an Adult Learning Center (ALC) satellite location in Waltham. FREE noncredit evening courses for adult learners (ages 16 and up) who live and work in Massachusetts will be available.

Starting Wednesday, Sept. 5, free Adult Basic Education classes will be offered from 6 to 9 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at McDevitt Middle School, 75 Church St., Waltham. ALC classes are small, supportive, and provide instruction in reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies.

To be eligible for MCC’s Waltham ALC program, students must attend a registration and placement-testing session at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 29, or 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 5, at McDevitt Middle School, 75 Church St., Waltham.

Supported by a grant from the Massachusetts Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education, MCC’s Waltham ALC will assist qualified students who want to prepare for high school equivalency exams (GED or HiSET), college entrance, job-training programs, or other career opportunities.

For further information about MCC’s Waltham Adult Learning Center, please contact Kathy Innis at 781-280-3665 or email innisk@middlesex.mass.edu.

Discover your path at Middlesex Community College. As one of the largest, most comprehensive community colleges in Massachusetts, 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, and online. Middlesex Community College: Student success starts here!
community college and degree programs and find out where in the system they can continue their educations. The website also includes a savings calculator to show how much students can save by starting at a community college.

According to the Department of Higher Education, students can save on average, 40 percent by earning a bachelor’s degree through the Commonwealth Commitment transfer program compared with attending all four years at a state university or UMass.

"It’s allowing consumers to make wise choices to further their public education in the state,” Sisson said.

The Mass Transfer program has three different components — the general education foundation, the A2B Degree (associate’s to bachelor’s degree), and the A2B Degree combined with the Commonwealth Commitment.

The general education foundation is a set of credits that is accepted at all community colleges, state universities, and UMass campuses. These credits, when completed together with a 2.0 or higher GPA, fully transfer to any Massachusetts public higher education institution — even without an associate’s degree.

The other programs are designed to help students who have completed an associate’s degree at a community college and want to transfer to a state university or UMass campus as juniors, Santiago said.

Under the A2B program, students have a guaranteed transfer of credits, no application fee, and no essay.

And, depending on a student’s GPA and/or prerequisite course work, students may also qualify for other benefits including guaranteed admission and a tuition credit.

There are currently pathways to more than 50 majors under this option, with new ones being offered this fall. State officials say those major pathways capture about 80 percent of all students transferring from the community colleges to four-year programs.

The third Mass Transfer option is the Commonwealth Commitment program. Through it, students who enroll full time at one of the state’s 15 community colleges will be able to transfer to a state university or UMass campus and graduate with a bachelor’s degree in one of a number of select programs.

Students must maintain a 3.0 cumulative grade point average and graduate in no more than 4 1/2 years. Students in the program will see substantial savings off the total price of a traditional bachelor’s degree, qualifying for a freeze in tuition and mandatory fees, 10 percent per-semester rebates, and a full tuition credit in their last two years of school worth an average of $1,200.

“The Mass Transfer pathways and Commonwealth Commitment are game-changers for students who want to transfer to four-year public institutions in the state,” Sisson said. “Mass Transfer has made it much easier for students to see that pathway. It’s much clearer now.”

Jennifer Fenn Lefferts can be reached at jflefferts@yahoo.com.
Grapes can't talk — so the Wine Novice will

If grapes could talk — some winemakers insist they can whisper secrets to them — Italy's more than 1,000 varieties could tell stories about how they fueled papal conquests, Roman legions on the move, and even the seductions of emperors and kings.

When I open a bottle of Italian wine, I often wonder who tilled the ancient soil of the vineyard where the grapes were grown. The great Caesar? Augustus? Or maybe a Benedictine monk who would later become pope?

The history, culture and cuisine of Italy remain fascinating to this day. That said, if you enjoy Italian wines or want to learn more about them, I'll be holding another fun night of vini inforama education Thursday, Oct. 11, from 7 to 9 p.m., at the gorgeous Nemsitl House in Lowell. It is part of Middlesex Community College’s adult continuing-education program.

Here's the course description in MCCC's fall catalogue.

NEW Vino Rosso: The Incomparable Red Wines of Italy

"A wine-tasting study of Italy's viticultural history through its most elegant grapes: Nebbiolo (Barolo) and Barbera from the Piedmont; and Tuscana's Brunello di Montalcino and Sangiovese (Chianti, Brunello di Montalcino). Learn what the Italian winemaker's drink after a day working in the vineyards, which wines were called for aging and those that should be drunk young; and the best food pairings for a truly enjoyable experience.

You have to be 21 or older to register, and the class will be limited to 20 people. It costs $95.

Last year, we did two classes — one each on the world's noble red and white grapes — and one evening was way over-subscribed (27 people). I think everyone came for the surprise foods prepared by the Wine Goddess, my wife Mary Lee. Well, she'll be back for an encore, which includes taking her hazelnut biscotti and enjoying it with a classic Vin Sinto.

So, what can you expect in this class?

First, we'll concentrate on the grapes and wines from Northern Italy. You'll learn what grapes are grown in the Piedmont, Tuscany, Veneto and the eastern coastal region in Bolgheri.

Second, you'll learn what wines are produced from these native grapes and how they are named and classified for quality.

Third, you'll sample up to six precious and elegant wines, all unique to the area (terrain in which they were grown, and cover all the grapes — aromas of lavender and rose petal to flavors of deep chocolate cherry, bold plum, mushroom and cinnamon spice.

Fourth, we'll pair those fabulous wines with simple cheese and meat dishes, exploring the textures, the tastes and the wine's tannic qualities.

We'll ask the question: Do the food and wine come together in a harmonious package or not? (Of course, you already know the answer!)

I've worked for months with the Wine Goddess and the Wine Butler (Mike Pigeon) tasting wines for this class. Recently, over a bowl of pasta Bolognese, we made our final selections. I can tell you this: These Italian wines we'll sample are among the best of their varietal, and most cost less than $20 a bottle.

I'm excited and don't want to ruin the surprise, but we'll unveil a Nebbiolo-based wine from the famous Italian Barolo that will lift your wine senses to the top of the Apennine Mountains.

We'll also explore the world of Chianti Classico, Super Tuscan, Valpolicella Ripasso (the baby Amarone), Barbera and other gems worth the adventure.

With this class under your belt, you'll be able to purchase Italian wine or order it out with confidence, fully understanding that the key to enjoying wine is knowing how to pair it with the food on the palate and at the table.

So, here's your chance to get on board. I hope to see you Oct. 11 at the Nemsitl House.
Lowell woman earns award at graduation

MCC/From Page 22

A first-generation college student whose family does not value earning a college degree the way she does, Khuy said the support she received through MCC’s TRIO Student Support Program has been a lifeline.

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.

“Middlesex changed my life for the better,” Khuy said. “And becoming part of the TRIO program was one of the best decisions I ever made. It opened many doors for me through workshops, field trips and networking.”

Khuy said one of the highlights of her time at MCC was participating in last summer’s Project Adventure Program through TRIO.

“We climbed trees and walked across a tightrope,” she said. “I may not have been the best one out there, but I surely enjoyed it.”

But keeping all of those balls in the air can sometimes be a struggle, she said. It’s the support of her MCC family that kept her moving forward.

“I have learned that if I want it enough, nothing can stop me,” she said. “After enrolling in MCC and joining TRIO, I managed to meet and surpass each one of my goals.”

In addition to pursuing a Bachelor’s degree in Early Childhood Education, her future goals also include earning a Master’s degree.

“I have never liked feeling dependent on others,” Khuy said. “I like to know that I can fend for myself and for my son. I will always work hard and make sure I have a place to go to work, so that I can provide for my son and offer him everything I was never able to have when I was younger.”

Please see MCC/23
MCC’s Commonwealth Honors Program

The Commonwealth Honors Program (CHP) at Middlesex Community College offers unique learning opportunities for students who elect to study at a more advanced level.

MCC’s Commonwealth Honors Program is part of an integrated network of honors programs throughout the Massachusetts public college and university system. It offers a variety of honors course options, as well as opportunities for students to master research and presentation techniques, and engage in extra and co-curricular activities, including field trips and guest lectures.

Registration is now open for fall-semester courses at Middlesex. Classes begin Tuesday, Sept. 4, in Bedford, Lowell and online. Financial aid is available for those who qualify. A complete listing of fall course offerings can be found in MCC’s Fall Academic Advising Schedule: https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/registration/

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

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

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

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 prof lauded for online ed

Massachusetts Colleges Online recently recognized Middlesex Community College History Professor David Kalivas for his outstanding course design that exemplifies online education's potential to enhance teaching and learning.

Kalivas was presented a 2018 Courses of Distinction Award at MCO's 13th annual Conference on eLearning. He was honored for his online course, "History of World Civilizations Before 1500."

Matthew Olson, dean of social sciences, interdisciplinary, evening & online ed, called Kalivas “a pioneer in the online program, teaching in our very first semester 20 years ago,” adding, “Through the years, he has continued to innovate, in particular using podcasts and virtual worlds. His highly interactive course features many rich discussions with his students in which they process historical themes drawing from textbook readings, primary sources and interactive websites.”
Business Woman and Candidate for State Senate Erin Calvo-Bacci was Invited to Speak at Girl's Inc -- Bacci Chocolate Design, Inc.

8/7/2018 2:52:52 PM

(MENAFN Editorial) CB Stuffer owner and Candidate For State Senate in the 5th Middlesex District Erin Calvo-Bacci was invited to speak to the Girl's Inc. middle school students in the Academic and Career Exploration class about being a woman in business.

READING, Mass. - Aug. 7, 2018 -- PRLog

Business owner and Candidate for State Senate Erin Calvo-Bacci was invited to speak at Girl's Inc. about being a woman in business. The discussion was an opportunity to share a brief summery about her job as owner of CB Stuffer and former owner of The Chocolate Truffle. Calvo-Bacci shared she is a graduated of Reading Memorial High School, was accepted into a four year nursing program, but difficulty with test taking back when there weren't any accommodations was discouraging so she left nursing and went to Middlesex Community College and then transferred to UMass Lowell. "I paid for my education by working full time in retail which meant the hours I needed to work weren't always available so I had to work a few jobs, but I paid close attention at each place especially to their business model and marketing plan all which I've applied to my own business."

Calvo-Bacci took over The Chocolate Truffle in 2003 and then launched their manufacturing division in 2007 just after the birth of their third daughter. She shared how being a working mother is a challenge and childcare is expensive, "it's a balancing act with a lot of sacrifice and stress." Girl's Inc. inspires all girls to be strong, smart and bold through direct service and advocacy. "The girls were so great and enthusiastic! Girl's Inc. is such an amazing organization. As a mother of three girls I was especially honored to speak before them as a role model telling a real life story and encouraging them to lean in and make a difference."

Erin Calvo Bacci https://www.VoteForErinCalvoBacci.com is the former owner of The Chocolate Truffle and current owner of the chocolate manufacturer Bacci Chocolate Design which owns and operates CB Stuffer https://www.cbstuffer.com . She is a Board member with the Retail Association of Massachusetts she serves on their Legislative Committee and is an advocate for small businesses in the area of Public Policy and Government Affairs. Calvo-Bacci lives in Reading with her husband and business partner Carlo Bacci and their three daughters.

Contact
Bacci Chocolate Design
****@cbstuffer.com

MENAFN0708201800703076ID1097264825
Veterans Centers earn plaudits as military-friendly

*The Lowell Sun*

UPDATED: 08/05/2018 06:35:05 AM EDT

Thanks to Middlesex Community College’s Veterans Resource Centers, Veterans Advisory Board and other special veterans services, the college has been designated a Silver-Level Military Friendly School by Victory Media.

The 2018 list of Military Friendly Schools honors the top colleges, universities and trade schools in the country. They are recognized for doing the most to embrace America’s military service members, veterans and spouses as students and ensure their success -- on campus in the classroom, and after graduation.

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

Veterans at MCC have become more engaged on campus through the Veterans Resource Centers in Bedford and Lowell, Flaherty said. And students are helping their peers through peer-mentoring programs and a variety of Veterans Club activities.

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

Contact Jorge Morales-Lopez in Lowell at edu”>lopezj@middlesex.mass.edu or 978-656-3158; or Timothy Quinn in Bedford at quinnr@middlesex.mass.edu or 781-280-3510.

A photo finish for camera buff

*The Lowell Sun*

UPDATED: 08/03/2018 06:35:45 AM EDT

Enomonhon Adoghe picked up a camera at age 12 and fell in love. She knew she wanted to take photos and make films, but was raised thinking her art could never be more than a hobby. That changed when she started attending church in Westford and discovered a religious community that is "really supportive of people doing what they love to do."

Two years ago, Adoghe launched her business, Eno Adoghe Photography, and enrolled at Middlesex Community College to study business.

"It’s been a roller coaster from there," said the 21-year-old Lowell resident, who recently graduated with a degree in Business Administration.

Enrolling at Middlesex was the best decision she could have made, Adoghe said both from an affordability standpoint and an educational standpoint.

"MCC gave me the opportunity to discover myself," she said. "It gave me an educational support system like I never had before. ... I felt like I could do anything. I thank MCC for building up the confidence I never knew I had."

At Middlesex, Adoghe served as a supplemental instruction leader, mentoring and tutoring other students. She was also active in the Student Union Government Association. Participating in those activities -- and receiving mentorship from professors -- instilled in her the important role a supportive community can play in achieving success.

Armed with her new-found confidence -- and her Associate degree -- Adoghe has big plans for the future.

She wants to continue her education and earn a Bachelor’s degree, become a filmmaker, and start her own production company. She may even delve into writing screenplays. And she continues to build her photography business, balancing the needs of clients with quenching her own artistic thirst.
Many success stories

Graduate receives grant for transfer

Iknaian

Recent Middlesex Community College graduate Daniel Iknaian of Waltham has received a $1,000 Transfer Scholarship from Teachers of Accounting at Two Year Colleges (TACTYC) for the 2018-19 academic year. Iknaian graduated this past spring with an Associate degree in Science in Business Administration Transfer degree, with a 3.88 grade-point average. He plans to continue his education at UMass Lowell and earn a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration (with a concentration in Accounting and Information Systems), then pursue a Master’s degree and CPA certification.

Vikram Sharma, MCC associate professor of Business, nominated Iknaian for the TACTYC scholarship.

"Daniel is an extremely hard-working and dedicated student," Sharma said. "He is passionate about accounting and performed brilliantly on his exams."

At Middlesex, Iknaian served as treasurer of the Business & Economics Club, and is an active member of DECA, the international organization that prepares emerging leaders in marketing, finance, hospitality and management. He recently won medals in regional and national DECA competitions.

"Daniel’s accomplishments at MCC are a great inspiration to other students," Sharma said. "His key strength is his strong sense of perseverance. He goes the extra mile to excel in whatever he pursues."

For more information about MCC’s Business Administration degree and certificate programs, visit https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/bep/degree.

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Begin A Career In Health Care At MCC
Middlesex Community College’s Academy of Health Professions (AHP) offers three programs – Certified Nursing Assistant, Medical Billing & Coding, and Phlebotomy – that can lead to entry-level employment in a health care field. AHP offers a flexible schedule that includes day, evening, weekend and accelerated courses. All classes are held on the Lowell campus, and enrollment is offered in the spring and fall.

Registration is now open for fall semester at Middlesex. Classes begin Tuesday, Sept. 4, in Bedford, Lowell and online. Financial aid is available for those who qualify. A complete listing of fall course offerings can be found in MCC’s Fall Academic Advising Schedule: https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/registration/

Two clinical laboratories provide students ample space and the lab equipment necessary for hands-on training. Graduates will be able to move up the career ladder by taking additional college-level courses and meet requirements for other certificates or associate degrees in a health care career.

For more information about MCC’s Academy of Health Professions, visit: https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/ahp/ or call 1-800-818-3434.

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AHP offers small class sizes to ensure students receive individualized attention and support.

middlesex.mass.edu/registration/

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AHP offers small class sizes to ensure students receive individualized attention and support.
MCC names 2018-19 student trustee

The Middlesex Community College board of trustees recently named Bridget Byrne, of Littleton, student trustee for the 2018-2019 academic year.

A returning-adult student with her own architectural restoration business, Byrne is planning a career change and enrolled in MCC’s Biotechnology Certificate Program.

A single mother with a 13-year-old daughter, Byrne, 40, earned a bachelor’s degree in anthropology from Smith College. She has run Byrne Restoration for almost 20 years.

"I restore furniture and also work on historic homes and church organs. My specialty is finishes and painted surfaces."

While Byrne loves the hands-on aspect of restoration work, she’s no longer happy about the toxic chemicals that are part of the job. Even with good ventilation and other protections, these strong solvents are harmful to the environment and the conservators using them. So Byrne has begun developing her own, less toxic compounds.

"In restoration, we do lots of testing and sampling, which involves mixing together different products to come up with the best solutions for a particular job. You’re basically doing chemistry lab work. I decided I wanted to go back to school to learn how to do that lab work the right way," Byrne said.

Byrne enrolled at Middlesex to pursue a degree in chemical engineering. However, after taking a “Mathematics for Technology” course and exploring other STEM fields, she realized she prefers the hands-on aspects of biotechnology. She is now pursuing a certificate in biotechnology and expects to graduate in May 2019.

While at Middlesex, Byrne has excelled in her STEM courses and is active in extracurricular activities. She serves as a supplemental instruction leader, tutoring her peers in engineering courses. Byrne is also vice president of MCC’s STEM Club, which is building a wind turbine prototype, with hopes of seeing it installed on campus.

For information, visit http://middlesex.mass.edu or call 800-618-3434.
MCC providing services for veterans

The Middlesex Community College Veterans Resource Center is dedicated to helping veterans achieve their educational and career goals. Military service members who are beginning a college career or returning to complete an academic program can choose from a variety of degree and certificate programs offered during the day, evening, weekend and online.

Registration is now open for fall-semester courses at Middlesex. Classes begin Sept. 4 on the Bedford and Lowell campuses and online. Financial aid is available for those who qualify.

MCC’s VRC serves as a place where veterans can receive information about educational programs, assistance with accessing college resources, and answers regarding eligibility for government-, state- and community-sponsored services.

Resource advocates are available to assist military service members and their families make the transition from military service to higher education. Support and guidance is offered during the application, admissions and academic process.

Middlesex is designated a 2018 Military Friendly School, which honors the top 20 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools in the country that are doing the most to embrace America’s military service members, veterans and spouses as students.


MCC to host workforce training info session

Middlesex Community College will host a free information session for businesses seeking Workforce Training Fund grants from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Aug. 8 in Trustees’ House, Building 4, on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road. At the info session, an WFTF representative will present an overview of the grant options and answer questions in an informational setting.

For information on specific Workforce Training Fund programs, visit the Common wealth Corporation website at http://commcorp.org/wftp.

The registration deadline for this WFTF Info Session is Aug. 6. For information or to register, contact Timothy Scanlon at scanlont@middlesex.mass.edu or 978-666-3174.

Applications for Middlesex Community College’s Links Program in Bedford are now being accepted. The tuition-free program funded by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is designed to help nontraditional students enroll in college classes. The program helps participants by assessing their skill levels, assisting with career planning, and offering academic guidance and support, in addition to services already offered by the college. Undergraduates can take up to three classes a semester. To be considered, students must be a Massachusetts resident, have a high school diploma or a general education diploma, and take a college placement test. Classes begin Sept. 4. Visit middlesex.mass.edu/links or call 1-800-818-3434.
Green thumbs welcome at MCC

Community garden plots open to residents

By Jesse Collings
jcollings@wickedlocal.com

Aspiring green thumbs in Bedford have a new space to grow this summer after Middlesex Community College officially opened up its community garden to local residents.

Previously, the 5,000 square foot garden was open to MCC students, staff and faculty, but with Bedford looking for more community Garden space, MCC elected to open up its available plots to interested residents.

"MCC is excited to be allocating 20 garden plots in our sunny, irrigated, and fully fenced garden to members of the Bedford community," MCC President James Mabry said.

Bedford became involved with the MCC Garden through the Bedford Community Gardens Task Force, which was in the hunt for additional gardening space for the community. Bedford Selectman Mike Rosenberg reached out to MCC to see if they had any space available, and MCC suggested their own Community Garden.

"Bedford's Community Gardens Task Force has been considering potential expansion sites," Rosenberg said. "As the Board of Selectmen's representative on the task force, I contacted the college about available land, and the response from Middlesex was swift and affirmative. It was really beyond our wildest dreams."

The 2-by-8 foot garden plots are available to any interested residents for $25. According to a MCC press release, three residents have already purchased plots and nearly 20 more remain unoccupied. Rosenberg said that more plots may be made available in the future.

"Several residents have taken advantage of the immediate availability of plots," Rosenberg said. "And the prospect of a longer-term, expanded town/college gardening arrangement is a tremendous positive."

The garden was established in 2011 and is run by the school's Sustainability Club and Sustainability Advisory Committee. Gardeners can plant and harvest their own plants, from flowers to vegetables, and are in charge of managing their own plots of land. The garden is fenced in and has a built-in irrigation system.

Food that is grown in the garden can also be donated to MCC's food pantry, which provides groceries to students, staff and faculty. The garden has several plots that are harvested especially for the foodpantry, and Bedford residents are encouraged to take part in the maintenance of those plots.

"Member gardeners prepare, plant, maintain and harvest produce from their own plots, and are highly encouraged to assist in the maintenance and harvesting of the adjoining "community food bank" plots," Mabry said.

For questions about MCC's Community Garden, email: sustainability@middlesex.mass.edu. To apply for a garden plot, visit: https://docs.google.com/forms/GardenApp.
CONFERRED IN USA

JULIA Nality-Martyn recently received an Associate’s Degree in the Arts: Phi Theta Kappa honours, Liberal Arts Sciences and Creative Writing by President Dr James Mabry at Middlesex Community College, Lowell, Massachusetts, USA. Julia is widow of the US Navy veteran Tony Martyn, whose parents hailed from Ballyglunin, and daughter of the late John (Sonny) Nalty and Mary Nalty, New Village, Caherlistrane. She is sister of Mary, James, Bernadette, Christina and Philomena Nalty.
Challengers hit streets in 14th Suffolk District race
Four challengers take on incumbent first elected in 1973

Yawu Miller
Yawu Miller is the Banner’s senior editor. VIEW BIO

14th Suffolk District candidate Segun Idowu (right) chats with campaign manager Ed O’Connell and volunteer coordinator Arielle Spivey. Banner Photo

At least two candidates are actively pounding the pavement in the five-way Democratic primary race for the 14th Suffolk District state representative seat. Political activist Segun Idowu and civil rights attorney Gretchen Van Ness have for months been knocking on doors in the sprawling Hyde Park district.
Middlesex Community College administrator Virak Uy, also a candidate, has placed signs throughout the district. But incumbent Angelo Scaccia, first elected to the seat in 1973, has been largely absent from the campaign trail, observers say, appearing at few community meetings and public events.

"People who've moved here in the last 10 or 15 years say they've never seen him or met him," said Van Ness, who said her team of volunteers has knocked on the door of nearly every registered voter in the district. "I've lived here for more than three years and have a pretty good understanding of what it's like to live in Hyde Park. I have a pretty good understanding of what the absence of leadership has meant here." Idowu, who moved to Hyde Park 15 years ago as a teenager, said he was encouraged to run for office by Hyde Park residents and family members.

"The district has completely changed since [Scaccia] first took office," he said. "Today, it's a community that is two-thirds people of color. It's working class. It's largely immigrant. I don't think he represents the district well."

Idowu serves on the board of the NAACP Boston Branch and leads the Boston Police Camera Action Team in its efforts to implement police body-worn cameras in the city. He said he was motivated to run by watching the Legislature's response to issues affecting the mostly black and Latino population of Hyde Park, including this year's debate on criminal justice reform.

"It felt like you were watching the Mississippi state legislature, not the Massachusetts House," he said. "I felt like we need more representative leadership in the State House."

Idowu and Van Ness are among a handful of left-leaning candidates challenging longtime Boston lawmakers in the 2018 electoral season. Progressive-leaning incumbents Byron Rushing of the South End's 9th Suffolk District, Jeffrey Sanchez of the Jamaica Plain/Mission Hill-based 15th Suffolk District and Liz Malia of the Jamaica Plain/Roxbury-based 11th Suffolk District all face progressive challengers. Scaccia, however, stands apart from the other incumbents in both the length of time he's served — the better part of five decades — and his less-than-progressive record in office. He received an "F" rating on his Progressive Massachusetts scorecard, putting him on par with most of the state's Republicans. Scaccia did not respond to requests for an interview with the Banner.
Breton made the right Connection with MCC

Middlesex Community College student Juan Breton moved to Lowell from the Dominican Republic as a 16-year-old high-school junior in the winter of 2015, the year Lowell received 120 inches of snow and won the title “Snowiest City in America.”

How’s that for culture shock?

In addition to dealing with New England weather, Breton worked hard to improve his English skills and learn about U.S. culture at Lowell High School. Along the way, he developed a passion for writing and honed his leadership skills.

By his senior year of high school, Breton left his ELL courses behind and was challenging himself by taking LHS honors classes, squarely placing himself on the college track. After graduation, he enrolled at Middlesex through Lowell Connections, a program tailored to students who do not meet UMass Lowell admission requirements but who still want to enter a UML Bachelor’s degree program.

MCC’s Lowell Connections Program provides students with individualized academic advising and fast-track admission to UML after one or two semesters, or students can opt to complete an Associate degree at MCC and then transfer.

Please see MCC/23

MCC/From Page 22

“When I reflect on my experience at Middlesex, I think it has been very worthwhile for me to be here rather than at a four-year university,” said Breton, now 19. “MCC faculty and staff are very supportive and helpful. The small class sizes provide an environment in which students are more engaged with the professors and classmates. Also, I have taken Commonwealth Honors courses and seminars in which I have been challenged to work at a more advanced level. And I have the opportunity to actively participate in class discussions.”

In addition to Lowell Connections and Commonwealth Honors, Breton has been active in extracurricular activities, serving as an orientation leader, a peer tutor, and a student representative for the campuswide implementation of Navigate, the new advising software.

During his first semester, Breton began tutoring ELL students in writing for multiple subjects, including English, Ethics, Math and Psychology. He has also helped students write résumés, scholarship essays and college-application essays. He quickly adapted to each student’s learning style and mastered how to stand back and not offer too many suggestions, allowing them to find their own way.

Breton is planning to graduate from MCC’s Business Administration Transfer program after the upcoming fall semester. He's now looking to transfer to Northeastern University or Boston College to pursue his dream of becoming a computer systems analyst.

Breton’s favorite MCC experience has been participating in MCC’s Up to Us team through the Office of Student Engagement. A national competition, Up to Us is designed to raise awareness among college students about the nation’s fiscal and economic challenges.

“Our main task was designing and implementing a nonpartisan campus campaign about the impacts of the U.S. national debt and to start a conversation about our country's fiscal and economic challenges,” said Breton, who works part time at Washington Savings Bank.

“MCC is not only helping me acquire knowledge by challenging me academically, but has also impacted the development of my communication, leadership and professional skills,” Breton said.
Silver medal for NVTHS junior

The Lowell Sun

UPDATED: 07/22/2018 06:35:45 AM EDT

WESTFORD -- Jason Gendron, a junior from Dracut, earned a silver medal in the Information Technology Services event at the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference, held recently in Louisville, Ky. -- the highest finish ever at the national championships for a Nashoba Valley Technical High School student.

Jason earned a spot in the Nationals by winning a gold medal at the SkillsUSA State Competition and, before that, a silver medal in the District Competition.

Jason said he studied a lot leading up to the national conference.

"It's a tough competition," he said. "There's a test component, and a large portion of it is hands-on."

Though Dracut is not part of Nashoba Tech's district, Jason elected to attend because of the school's highly touted Engineering Academy. He is a high-honors student and a Dual Enrollment student, attending Middlesex Community College full time while remaining highly active at Nashoba Tech. He was also recognized as a Student of the Month in June.

Middlesex Community College Provides Services for Veterans

The Middlesex Community College Veterans Resource Center (VRC) is dedicated to helping veterans achieve their educational and career goals. Military service members who are beginning a college career or returning to complete an academic program can choose from a variety of degree and certificate programs offered during the day, evening, weekend and online.

Registration is now open for fall-semester courses at Middlesex. Classes begin Tuesday, Sept. 4, on the Bedford and Lowell campuses, and online. Financial aid is available for those who qualify.

A complete listing of fall course offerings can be found in MCC’s Fall Academic Advising Schedule: https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/registration/

MCC’s VRC serves as a place where veterans can receive information about educational programs, assistance with accessing college resources, and answers regarding eligibility for government-, state- and community-sponsored services.

Resource advocates are available to assist military service members and their families make the transition from military service to higher education. Support and guidance is offered during the application, admissions and academic process. The VRC also provides a support system where veterans can meet other veterans as they become members of the college community.

Middlesex is designated a 2018 Military Friendly School, which honors the top 20 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools in the country that are doing the most to embrace America’s military service members, veterans and spouses as students. For more information, visit: http://militaryfriendly.com/schools/

For more information about MCC’s Veterans Resource Center visit: https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/veterans-resources/

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!
Training for use of nasal Narcan

The Lowell Sun
Updated: 07/17/2018 06:34:50 AM EDT

LOWELL -- Lowell General Hospital will host a free training session for nasal Narcan on Monday, July 23. The training will take place at the Saints Campus, located at 1 Hospital Drive in Lowell, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

The training will be led by Dr. Jonathan Drake, medical director of Emergency Medicine and Emergency Medical services, as well as LGH paramedics. The Tewksbury Police Department is collaborating with LGH for this training. Narcan supplies are being provided by Tewksbury police and the Middlesex District Attorney’s Office.

Registration is required. To register, call 877-LGH-WELL (544-9355) or visit www.lowellgeneral.org/health.

Walk-in enrollment at MCC

LOWELL -- New and returning students to Middlesex Community College can meet with an advisor, build a class schedule for the fall semester, and take the College Placement Test during walk-in enrollment days on the Bedford and Lowell campuses. Fall-semester classes begin Tuesday, Sep. 4. Walk-in enrollment is from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., on Wednesdays, July 18 and 25, and Aug. 1, in the Bedford Campus Enrollment Center (Building 9), 591 Springs Road, and in the Cowan Center on the Lowell campus, 33 Kearney Square.

Pop-up book sale in Dracut

DRACUT -- The Friends of the Dracut Library will host a pop-up book sale next week on July 25 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. The M.G.
Massachusetts hoping grant can help addicts in recovery find jobs

By: Stephanie Coucignoux
Updated: Jul 10, 2018 - 6:37 PM

LOWELL, Mass. - Finding a job isn't easy and it can be even more challenging for people in recovery. That is why the Career Center of Lowell is applying for a grant that would help train and find people jobs. For Cassidy Peinert, Wednesday is a day to celebrate. She'll be starting what she calls her first real job at the Purple Carrot Company in Lowell.

Cassidy has struggled with addiction for the past 7 years. “For me, I would rather talk about it. I want people to understand. We're hire-able,” he said. “If we want the help and get clean, I can do exactly what everyone else is doing.” The department of labor is offering a federal grant to address the unemployment rate among people in recovery. “It's finding the industries that are open to that and then working with the employers to understand, to remove the stigma and provide incentives,” Career Center for Lowell Executive Director Shannon Norton said.

The grant would not only help pay to train individuals in recovery, it goes one step further. “If you're a mother or father who has lost their job because you've been taking care of your child who is going through the opioid crisis, then we can help you become re-employed or underemployed,” Norton explained.

Cassidy says having a job gives her strength to stay in recovery and hope for the future. “You feel like you have a purpose, even if it's just giving out coffee for the day. You have a purpose again in life,” Cassidy said.

Along with working, she has enrolled at Middlesex Community College to study criminal justice. She hopes to one day work with law enforcement to help others in her shoes.

Massachusetts has picked Lowell and Springfield to be part of this grant proposal. They'll submit next week, and should hear back by October if they've been chosen. The total grant would be for 2 years, and up to $5 million.
Begin A Career In Health Care At Middlesex Community College

Middlesex Community College’s Academy of Health Professions (AHP) offers short-term training and college-credit programs that could lead to a satisfying career in an entry-level health care field.

Programs offered include Certified Nursing Assistant, Medical Billing & Coding and Phlebotomy. AHP offers three levels of study and a flexible schedule that includes day, evening and weekend courses. All classes are held on the Lowell campus.

Registration is now open for fall-semester courses at Middlesex. Classes begin Tuesday, Sept. 4, on the Bedford and Lowell campuses, and online. Financial aid is available for those who qualify.

A complete listing of fall course offerings can be found in MCC’s Fall Academic Advising Schedule, available on the college website: https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/registration/

AHP offers a variety of traditional and non-traditional courses, career counseling and support, as well as tutoring. Two new clinical laboratories provide students ample space and the lab equipment necessary for hands-on training. Small class sizes ensure students receive individualized attention and support throughout the program.

Enrollment for MCC’s AHP program is offered in the fall and spring.

For more information about MCC’s Academy of Health Professions, call 1-800-818-3434.

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

Walk-In Enrollment Days At Middlesex Community College

Is it time to start or finish your college degree? Walk right 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 fall semester, and take the College Placement Test during Walk-In Enrollment Days, to be held on the Bedford and Lowell campuses. Fall-semester classes begin Tuesday, Sep. 4.

Walk-In Enrollment Days will be held from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, July 18, 25 and Aug. 1, in the Bedford Campus Enrollment Center (Building 9), 591 Springs Road, and in the Cowan Center on the Lowell campus, 33 Kearney Square.

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 state’s new 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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Student Success grants make two-year degrees affordable

The Middlesex Community College board of trustees has allocated $1.1 million to the 2017-18 Student Success grant program, which makes a two-year associate degree truly affordable.

For the fall and spring semesters, more than 1,820 currently enrolled students have received Student Success grants to address their college costs.

"The MCC board of trustees is committed to keeping the door open to an affordable, high-quality education through eliminating the economic roadblocks our students face," said Middlesex President James C. Mabry. "Our Student Success Fund helps many students continue their education and successfully achieve their goals."

Student Success grants are "last dollar" awards that pay for the cost of tuition and mandatory fees not covered by federal or state financial aid. By reducing the direct cost of attending Middlesex to zero, the college helps eligible students find success and achieve their dream of earning a college degree — with less financial stress.

"Our Student Success grants continue to affirm the college’s commitment of working with our diverse and talented student population to help them develop career skills that will enhance the workforce, and provide them with clearer paths to achieving their goals," said James J. Campbell, chairman of the MCC board of trustees.

MCC's Student Success grants provide assistance for financial aid applicants to cover tuition, fees, books and supplies. Eligibility is determined through filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid each year. 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, contact Christopher Fiori, director of student accounts, at 781-280-3647 or fiori@middlesex.mass.edu.

MCC offering short term training in healthcare field

Middlesex Community College’s Academy of Health Professions offers short-term training and college-credit programs that could lead to a career in an entry-level health care field.

Programs offered include Certified Nursing Assistant, Medical Billing and Coding and Phlebotomy. AHP offers three levels of study and a flexible schedule that includes day, evening and weekend courses. All classes are held on the Lowell campus.

Registration is now open for fall-semester courses at Middlesex. Classes begin Sept. 4, on the Bedford and Lowell campuses and online. Financial aid is available for those who qualify. A complete listing of fall course offerings can be found in MCC’s Fall Academic Advising Schedule, available on the college website.

AHP offers a variety of traditional and nontraditional courses, career counseling and support, as well as tutoring. Two new clinical laboratories provide students ample space and the lab equipment necessary for hands-on training. Small class sizes ensure students receive individualized attention and support throughout the program.

Enrollment for MCC’s AHP program is offered in the fall and spring.

For information: 800-818-3434; http://middlesex.mass.edu/registration.
MCC Offers FREE Opportunity to Start College with Links

Eligible nontraditional students can earn college & institutional credits over 1 or 2 semesters in this tuition-free partnership program

By Middlesex Community College, Patch Contributor | Jul 10, 2018 1:19 pm ET

This post was contributed by a community member.

Middlesex Community College’s Links Program is a tuition-free program designed specifically to help nontraditional students start college. Applications are currently being accepted for the fall semester, which begins Tuesday, Sept. 4.

Funded by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE) in partnership with MCC, Links provides an opportunity for eligible students to earn college and institutional credits FREE over the course of one or two semesters. The program was designed to provide individual assessment of skills, assistance with career planning, and academic guidance and support, as students begin their college education.

Eligible applicants must have a high school credential (diploma, HiSET or GED), be a Massachusetts resident, and take MCC College Placement Tests and place into Links courses. Preference is given to students who studied in a DESE-funded Adult Basic Education Program. However, other students are encouraged to apply.

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

For more information about MCC’s Links Program, contact Karen Spengler, Links Program Coordinator and Advisor, at spenglerk@middlesex.mass.edu or 781-280-3654, or visit https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/links/

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California offers community college students $4K grants

Author: James Paterson

Published: July 10, 2018

Dive Brief:

- Community college students in California who attend full time and take a 15-hour course load now are eligible for grants up to $4,000, which state officials hope will boost four-year graduation rates, EdSource reports.
- The state has found that only about 8% of community college students take 15 or more credits and only another 21% take 12 to 14 credits. Yet students attending California state institutions who take closer to a full course load are more likely to complete a degree in four years, which is one goal of state education officials.
- The Community Colleges Student Success Completion Grant is an expansion of two previous programs that offered $2,500 grants to full-time students. But probably because of the eligibility criteria, only about 5% of the state’s 2.1 million community college students were in a position to obtain the previous grants. The new program will be publicized with a $3 million media campaign and out reach to high schools.

Dive Insight

EdSource reports that the new grant program is part of a campaign to encourage students in California to enroll in 15 units a semester as part of the state’s goal to have 40% of students graduate in four years by 2025.

The state faces at least two challenges to reach this goal: Less than half of students enrolled in California community colleges graduate or transfer after six years, and power over policy often rests with the individual institution and the community in which it is located.

There are also national efforts to get community college students to attend full time. Middlesex Community College in Massachusetts, for instance, promote students taking 15 credits a semester to finish in two years.

However, critics worry that research on the topic may be faulty, and that some students who attend community college need a lighter load to adjust or because they have other commitments. Other experts warn that students at community colleges have to choose courses carefully to avoid taking some that won’t transfer or are unneeded.

The Brookings Institution, which points out that only 20% of full-time community college students graduate in three years, has highlighted the City University of New York Accelerated Study in Associate Program that has had significant success improving graduation rates with a series of supports for full-time students, including free tuition, textbooks and access the city’s subway and bus system, cohorts designed to provide a sense of community, and frequent advising and tutoring.

While community colleges nationwide are trying to increase the prospects for graduation, they continue to face an enrollment slump that has caused some to consider merging and other efforts to increase applicants and retain students. And some are also offering bachelor’s degrees to entice more enrollees.
LOWELL -- The Middlesex Community College Foundation recently awarded $39,000 in scholarships for outstanding academic achievement to 18 Middlesex students as part of the recent 20th annual MCC Celebrity Forum.

Sopheavin Sin of Lowell received the James C. and Judith G. Mabry Completion Scholarship, established at the inauguration of MCC President James Mabry in 2015, and awarded to assist a worthy student with the completion of an Associate degree at Middlesex.

Rebecca Anacheka-Nasemann of Hudson received the Dr. Carole A. Cowan Scholarship, established in honor of the former MCC president.

It provides financial assistance to a deserving Middlesex student who is a member of the Commonwealth Honors Program.

Anna Cuddeback of Medford received the Debra Chemelli-Evans Scholarship, established in memory of the daughter of William Chemelli, former chairman of the MCC board of trustees, and member of the MCC Foundation Board.

Eight students received Commonwealth Honors Program Scholarships: Maegan Allen (Arlington), Kayla Beliveau (Westford), Sierra DeWalt (Ayer), Alix DuBouloz (Lincoln), Molyda Eang (Lowell), Hayden Latimer-Ireland (Somerville), Maria Sagan (Lexington) and Wendy True (Newburyport).

Seven students received Lowell Connections Scholarships: Juan Breton (Lowell), Ryan Cahill (Methuen), Sokun Lak (Lowell), Shane O’Connor (Tyngsboro), Alyssa Sanderson (Billerica), Moniroth Siek (Lowell) and Bunty Thay (Chelmsford).

To learn more about the 2018 Celebrity Forum scholarships, call 781-280-3579, or email leea@middlesex.mass.edu.

Community Listings

The Lowell Sun
Updated: 07/08/2018 06:35:40 AM EDT

For details on these and more listings, visit whatdoUwannado.com.

Art/Exhibits
Addison Gallery of American Art, Phillips Academy -- 3 Chapel Ave, Andover; Convergence: Anila Quayyum Agha, Lalla Essaydi, Yun-Fei Ji, and Fred Han Chang Liang; through July 31.
Brush Art Gallery -- 256 Market St., Lowell. 36th Annual Studio Artist Exhibition, "Reflections, Homage to a Friend," tribute to the late Deidre McCullough Grunwald, through July 29; talk with artists Sun., July 22, 1-3 p.m.

Chelmsford Center for the Arts -- 1 North Road. 50 Years of the Chelmsford Art Society, runs through Sun., Aug. 26.
Aldersgate United Methodist Church -- 242 Boston Road, Chelmsford. Vacation Bible School, Mon., Aug. 20-Fri., Aug. 24, 9 a.m.-noon; ages 4-12; $20 per child, family maximum $60; aldersgateumc.us, 978-256-9400, aldersgatechelmsford@verizon.net.
Chelmsford Center for the Arts -- 1 North Road. Applause Academy Theater Camp, ages 8-15; music, acting, dancing, theater games, arts & crafts, costumes, makeup and more; sessions are July 30-Aug. 3, Aug. 6-10, Aug. 13-17; www.chelmsfordarts.org, Chelmsford Summer Flute Camp, July 23-27; Novice Session, 9-11 a.m.; Intermediate/Advanced Session, 11:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m.; www.chelmsfordarts.


Nashoba Valley Technical High School -- 100 Littleton Road, Westford. Jr. Viking Summer Experience, July 9-13, July 16-20, July 23-27, July 30-Aug. 3; 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; $299 per week; Animal Care, Automotive Basics, Better Babysitting, Cosmetology, Culinary Basics, Cupcake Decoating, Dental Assisting, Digital Photography, First Aid, Robotics, and Web and Graphic Design; www.nashobatc.net. Empow Studios' Tech & Design Camp and Minecraft Camp; July 9-13; $335 per week half-day, $595 per week full-day; Tech & Design Camp features robotics, 2-D and 3-D video-game design, animation, Scratch programming, coding, 3-D modeling & printing, audio engineering, digital music and video production; Minecraft Camp focuses on various educational aspects of Minecraft. Campers will learn moding, electrical engineering, architecture, game design and world creation; visit www.empow.me.

Northern Essex Community College -- 100 Elliott St., Haverhill. College for Kids, July 9-Aug. 3; 3 sessions, 9-11 a.m., 11:45-a.m.-1:45 p.m., 2-4 p.m.; 978-556-3332, college4kids@necc.mass.edu.

Middlesex ranked top community college

By Rick Sobey
rsobey@lowellsun.com

LOWELL — As Middlesex Community College opened a city campus in the late 1980s, the late U.S. Sen. Paul Tsongas called it a hidden jewel for the region.

James Campbell, then the city manager, has been reflecting on those words in recent days.

"The prophecy has come true," Campbell, now chairman of the Middlesex Community College board of trustees, said on Thursday. "We're a center for educational excellence," he added. "We have a tremendous impact on the local community."

Campbell and other college officials now have more evidence to back up those statements. Middlesex Community College, with campuses in Lowell and Bedford, has been ranked No. 1 on this year's list of Best Community Colleges in Massachusetts by BestColleges.com.

This ranking is based on information from the U.S. Department of Education National Center for Educational Statistics. The No. 1 ranking takes into account: acceptance, retention, graduation and enrollment rates. The designation also reflects student loan default percentages.

"Our overall academic quality and affordability, those are two areas we've been strong," said Philip Sisson, provost and vice president for academic and student affairs.

This top ranking comes as Middlesex Community College recently increased its fees by 9 percent, with officials pointing to enrollment challenges and declining public funding.

Please see MCC/10

Second-year Middlesex Community College students Rosie Tha and Danny Prouthakho, both of Lowell, work on biotech homework at the Lowell campus Thursday. MCC was named best community college in the state by BestColleges.com.

FROM PAGE ONE

Middlesex rated top community college in Massachusetts

MCC/From Page 1

The college's enrollment decline is expected to continue through 2020 — a trend that has hit 14 of the 15 community colleges across the state.

Each credit at Middlesex Community College now costs $216, resulting in a total semester bill of $3,225 for all-time, in-state students. Even with these fee increases, the fees will remain below the levels of many of the other 14 Massachusetts community colleges.

Middlesex Community College was ranked No. 10 on this Best Community College list in 2016, followed by No. 9 last year.

"We've added a lot of programs highly focused on student success," Sisson said. "It's about making sure every student is properly served, giving them all the tools they need to succeed."

He pointed to new orientation programs, placing caps on courses, closing the achievement gap, and supporting the diverse student population.

The community college helps students smoothly transition to four-year institutions, namely UMass Lowell. For these students, Middlesex Community College offers MassTransfer, a statewide transfer program to help streamline the transfer process.

Campbell highlighted the hard work from faculty and staff, along with the "top-notch students who pass through our doors every semester and do us proud when they go out into the workforce and our communities."

He also commended Carole Cowan, past president, and current President James Mahy.

Middlesex Community College has emphasized online learning, he added. They currently offer 10 associate degree programs and five certificate programs that can be completed entirely online, plus hundreds of online course offerings.

Middlesex Community College offers more than 70 degree and certificate programs, such as studio art, fashion merchandising, environmental health and computer forensics. The school also offers International Education Fellowships each year, giving students the opportunity to study abroad in several countries, including Ireland, China, Russia, Costa Rica, Spain, Belize and Peru.

The campuses have media and technology centers, libraries and tutoring centers. Each campus also has a Veteran Resource Center.

Follow Rick Sobey on Twitter@rsobeyLSun
LOWELL — The Mavis Leno Scholarship was established by the JDM Foundation for the purpose of providing financial assistance to a deserving female student whose goals include working for the advancement of women’s rights. Since 2008, more than 200 MCC students have received Mavis Leno Scholarships, totaling more than $250,000 in awards. This year’s awards range from $500 to $1,500. This year’s recipients include: Fatima Al-Muntasik (Lowell), Lucia Arrigo (Ayer), Amanda Beranger (Medford), Adriean Bucklin (Salem), Emmanuella Cozena (Lowell), Katie Donahue (Tyngsboro), Shella Edouard-Belille (Lowell), Rachel Flaherty (Hopkinton), Kaylee Goodwin (Pepperell), Adriana Guy (Lowell), Gees Herget (Littleton), Sarah Kreff (Woburn), Sokun Lak (Lowell), Tze-min Lin (Lexington), Yahidyra Lisanzu (Med huen), Meymey Lev (Dracut), Siviling Ly (Lowell), Kathryn MacDonal (Peabody), Andrea Merrill (Lexington), Deymarie Mora-Ariera (Lawrence), Gillian Naub (Lowell), Gabriella Cesario (Methuen), Panhasosheaa Pang (Lowell), Zeel Patel (Lowell), Andrea Patino Galindo (Chelmsford), Melissa Pheng (Dracut), Karen Poblador Parr (Billerica), Ta Poe Ley (Lowell), Patricia Ramirez Tavarez (Lowell), Bonas Seraphine (Lowell), Sophie Sin (Lowell), Nicole Sinyay (Tewksbury), Carolina Specia (Lowell), Melissa Treado (Somerville), Theo Vigit (Dracut), Lisa Will (Lowell) and Sopora Yean (Lowell).

For more information about the Middlesex Community College Foundation Scholarships, contact mcscholarships@middlesex.mass.edu or visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/foundation/scholarships.
Walk-In Enrollment Days at Middlesex Community College

Students can meet with an advisor, build their class schedules, and take the College Placement Test during Walk-In Enrollment Days
By Middlesex Community College, Patch Contributor I Jul 6, 2018 12:26 pm ET

This post was contributed by a community member.

Is it time to start or finish your college degree? Walk right 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 fall semester, and take the College Placement Test during Walk-In Enrollment Days, to be held on the Bedford and Lowell campuses. Fall-semester classes begin Tuesday, Sep. 4

Walk-In Enrollment Days will be held from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, July 11, 18, 25 and Aug. 1, in the Bedford Campus Enrollment Center (Building 9), 591 Springs Road, and in the Cowan Center on the Lowell campus, 33 Kearney Square.

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 state's new 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/wakin

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!
Middlesex Community College, with campuses in Bedford and Lowell, is ranked No. 1 on the 2018 list of Best Community Colleges in Massachusetts by BestColleges.com. (COURTESY PHOTO)

Middlesex ranked top community college in Mass.

Middlesex Community College is ranked No. 1 on the 2018 list of Best Community Colleges in Massachusetts by BestColleges.com.

"Since the day I was appointed chairman of the Board of Trustees at Middlesex Community College, I always felt strongly that MCC was one of the best community colleges you would find anywhere - not just in Massachusetts, but nationally as well," said Trustees Chairman James Campbell. "This ranking on BestColleges.com validates that belief."

"All of us on the Board of Trustees know this designation speaks not just to the hard-working men and women on our faculty and staff, but more significantly to the top-notch students who pass through our doors every semester and do us proud when they go out into the workforce and our communities."

With more than 70 degree and certificate programs and hundreds of noncredit courses, MCC can help you earn a degree, begin a bachelor's degree, or upgrade your skills. Registration is now open for fall-semester courses. Classes begin Tuesday, Sept. 4, on the Bedford and Lowell campuses, and online. Financial aid is available for those who qualify.

MCC 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 students, Middlesex provides a quality education at a price you can afford - online or on campus.

For more than 20 years, MCC has been a leader in online education. Middlesex currently offers 10 associate degree programs and five certificate programs that can be completed entirely online, plus hundreds of online course offerings.

Many students, after completing their MCC coursework, intend to transfer and pursue a bachelor's degree at another institution. For these students, Middlesex offers MassTransfer, a statewide transfer program to help streamline the transfer process.

To learn more about MCC, or to register, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu or call 1-800-618-3434.

To view the entire list of BestColleges.com Massachusetts rankings, visit: https://www.bestcolleges.com/features/best-colleges-in-massachusetts/
Reach Your Educational Goals with MCC's Adult Learning Center

Students admitted throughout the school year, September - May, on a space-available basis. Next group registration is Tuesday, Sept. 4.

By Middlesex Community College, Patch Contributor | Jul 3, 2018 1:27 pm ET

This post was contributed by a community member.

The Middlesex Community College Adult Learning Center (ALC) offers FREE noncredit courses for adult learners (ages 16 and up) who live and work in Massachusetts.

Students are admitted to the program throughout the school year, September through May, on a space-available basis. The next group registration will be held at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 4.

"The Adult Learning Center helps prepare students for success in college, at work, and in the community," said Kathy Innis, ALC Director.

Courses meet from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays (September-May), on the Bedford campus.

Supported by a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education, ALC classes are small, supportive, and provide instruction in reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies. Students also have access to computer labs with specialized software to supplement classroom learning and improve basic computing/digital literacy skills.

Levels of instruction range from adult basic education to High School Equivalency Test (HiSET® or GED®) preparation. Students seeking improvement of intermediate English skills are also welcome to enroll.

For more information about MCC's Adult Learning Center, contact Allison Norton, Program Coordinator, at 781-280-3662, or norton_{@}middlesex.mass.edu, or visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/adultlearning.

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Tewksbury Police Add Two New Officers

Both Officers have a long family history of protecting and serving the Tewksbury community.

By News Desk, News Partner | Jun 28, 2018 12:55 pm ET

From Tewksbury PD: Tewksbury Police Department is pleased to announce the addition of Patrolman Kayla Sheehan and Patrolman Matthew Donovan to the ranks of the Tewksbury Police Department. Officer Kayla Sheehan transitioned to the Department on Tuesday, May 29th, 2018 after serving with the Acton Police Department for two years. She also served as a dispatcher at the Westford Police Department for three years before attending the Lowell Police Academy in May of 2015. Officer Donovan also began serving the citizens of Tewksbury on May 29th after graduating from the NECC-Methuen Police Academy.

Officer Sheehan was highly recommended by her supervisors at the Acton Police Department and comes to the Tewksbury Police Department with an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from Middlesex Community College. Officer Donovan received a meritorious achievement award while attending the NECC-Methuen Police Academy and comes to the Tewksbury Police Department with a Bachelor's Degree in Justice Studies from the University of New Hampshire.

Both Officers have a long family history of protecting and serving the Tewksbury community. We have extremely high hopes and expectations for both new Officers and are confident that they will represent the highest standards of modern law enforcement and the finest traditions of the Tewksbury Police Department. The future of the Tewksbury Police Department just got brighter. The Tewksbury Police Department urges any citizens who suspect criminal activity to call the Dispatch Center @ 978-851-7373. If you wish to remain anonymous please call the Tip Line @ 978-851-0175 or send an email to tewks_detectives@tewksbury-ma.gov.
MCC duo wins five medals at U.S. DECA

The Lowell Sun
UPDATED: 07/01/2018 09:02:41 AM EDT

[Image -3x0 to 795x612]

Stephen Collins, left, and Daniel Iknaian at the recent Collegiate DECA championship in Washington, D.C. COURTESY PHOTO

Middlesex Community College students Stephen Collins of Tyngsboro and Daniel Iknaian of Waltham traveled recently to Washington, D.C., to compete in the Collegiate DECA championships.

Iknaian took home three medals by placing in the Top 10 in all three categories of the competition -- written exam, case study and presentation -- in Accounting. Making his accomplishment even more notable, he competed against 60 regional finalists from across the country, the majority of whom are college seniors who will be graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Accounting this month.

Collins won two medals in the preliminary rounds, and then won an additional gold medal and placed third in the championship round in Marketing Management. There were more than 120 regional finalists in this category, so to stand out among his peers and place third is a tribute to how well he performed in his final presentation round.
Lowell's Chamba is MCC representative

The Lowell Sun
Updated: 07/01/2018 09:05:57 AM EDT

Edwin Chamba

Middlesex Community College student Edwin Chamba of Lowell has been named one of this year's Massachusetts Department of Higher Education's 29 Who Shine, an annual program recognizing outstanding students representing each of the state's 29 public colleges and universities.

Chosen because of his academic achievements record of student leadership, and commitment to community service and civic engagement, Chamba and his 28 peers were celebrated at the eighth annual 29 Who Shine Student Recognition Ceremony at the Statehouse in Boston.

Chamba graduated in May with an Associate degree in Engineering Science Transfer Civil/Environmental Engineering. He maintained a solid grade-point average in a rigorous program of study. He also served as a peer tutor in the Writing Center, and had poetry published in MCC's literary magazine. He assisted other students as a supplemental instruction leader in Engineering courses, and was a member of MCC's STEM Club.

Chamba will transfer to UMass Lowell, where he is already taking concurrent MCC/UML Engineering courses, to complete a degree in Environmental Engineering.

He hopes to start his career working for a wastewater treatment plant to address environmental issues at the local community.
Another epic performance
by Jamie Lee Curtis, MCC

It was another epic performance by an epic actress. On June 8, Middlesex Community College hosted its 20th annual Celebrity Forum, "An Evening with Jamie Lee Curtis." The actress and author was interviewed by Emmy-winning and former WCVB-TV news anchor Susan Wornick. The riveting event was held at the Lowell Memorial Auditorium to benefit student scholarships. The auditorium was jam-packed with 1,100 fans who came to hear Curtis, daughter of legendary actors Tony Curtis and Janet Leigh, and star of a variety of acclaimed films, including "Freaky Friday," "Trading Places," "A Fish Called Wanda" and my favorite (and the favorite of many gentlemen in attendance), "True Lies."

A VIP cocktail reception of 300 movie fans marveled over how down-to-earth, humble, funny and charming the celebrity was, as they had an opportunity to meet and speak with her during a photo op before she took the stage.

The 59-year-old Jamie Lee made her film debut in 1978 in John Carpenter's "Halloween."

In addition to acting, she is also an author of best-selling children's books, many dealing with complex issues like adoption, and has sold more than 5 million books under the banner "Books to Grow By."

Jamie Lee has a deep and active connection to many children's charities, and is committed to supporting Women in Recovery and children affected by AIDS. She serves on a slew of boards, and has received numerous awards, accolades and even earned an Emmy nomination for her role in the CBS television movie "Nicholas' Gift."

Another great highlight of the evening was the recognition of MCC Dean of College Advancement Dennis Malvas for his 31 years of service to MCC and, specifically, his 15 years directing the Celebrity Forum. Dennis will retire this summer. Talented Elaine Crandall-Burt, design consultant for MCC, was honored for her 20 years of service to the forum. She has meticulously decorated and themed each event, including stage design. She also has served as consultant for all catering services provided at each of the 20 Celebrity Forums. Kudos to both and wishing them the very best in their future endeavors!

That fine evening, 18 scholarships totaling $39,000 were awarded to MCC students. For more information, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu.
Curtis and Frank Makarewicz of Lowell

Terry O'Connor of Lowell and Susan Lavailee of Chelmsford

From left, Meghan Correia of Tyngsboro, Jim Campbell of Lowell, Jim Henderson of Concord and David Basile of Lynnfield

From left, Dave Trohan of Westford, Mike Lenzi of Dracut and Sun Charities' Terry McCarthy of Lowell

From left, Kevin Harkin and Jim Wilde of Lowell, and Sue Dawson of Chelmsford

MCC lifestyle planner/designer Mark Caputo of Lowell and honoree Elaine Granda-Burt of Dunstable

Brian Kerrigan of Lowell and John Cox of Tyngsboro

LMA's Debbie and Ashley Roper, both of Lowell

Stars and stripes

Lowell Memorial Auditorium was filled with a raft of guests this special evening to see Jamie Lee Curtis interviewed by Susan Wornick (the stars), and I wore my stripes — plenty of them, all different hues of blue, pink, yellow, purple and turquoise, all over this knit, form-fitting cocktail dress with an abundance of tassels that surrounded the bottom! I highlighted the yellow from my dress by wearing a yellow open-toe sandal, and brought out the turquoise with a three tear-drop turquoise earring! The Z-List wishes all an outstanding summer filled with memories to last a lifetime!

MCC students receive their scholarships.
Enroll Now For Summer Session II

There’s still time to enroll in Middlesex Community College’s Day Summer Session II, which runs July 9 through Aug. 8. Classes meet four days a week on the Bedford and Lowell campuses.

To register for MCC’s Day Summer Session II, call 1-800-818-3434 or visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/summer.

Middlesex also offers an array of noncredit personal and professional enrichment courses throughout the summer. For information about summer noncredit programs, visit: https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/careertraining/default.aspx

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!

Walk-in enrollment at MCC

LOWELL — New and returning students to Middlesex Community College can meet with an adviser, build a class schedule for the fall semester, and take the College Placement Test during walk-in enrollment days on the Bedford and Lowell campuses. Fall-semester classes begin Tuesday, Sep. 4. Walk-in enrollment is from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., on Wednesdays, July 18 and 25, and Aug. 1, in the Bedford Campus Enrollment Center (Building 9), 591 Springs Road, and in the Cowan Center on the Lowell campus, 33 Kearney Square.
MCC English learner summer courses offered

Enrollment is now open for Middlesex Community College's three ELI summer courses, running June 25 through July 20. Classes meet Monday through Friday, for two hours a day in the mornings on the Lowell campus. Admission is open to all and does not require an MCC admission application. Middlesex Community College's English Learner Institute (ELI) provides noncredit courses focused on developing basic English and the skills that are essential to functioning in American society.

ELI courses are designed to serve students, age 16 and up, who are newcomers to the United States or who need to develop basic English skills. Non-native speakers who have not met state MCAS requirements for high-school graduation may also take this coursework.

MCC's ELI program offers instruction at three different levels, from beginner to advanced for students who need to meet English proficiency standards or Middlesex degree and certificate programs. Topics such as technology, life skills and social conventions are also covered in each course. ELI courses are non-sequential. Students may enter the program in the fall, spring or summer semesters.

To register for ELI courses, or for more information, stop by MCC's Multicultural Center on the ground floor of the Cowan Center in Lowell, or call 978-656-3104. 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.
Let the creativity begin
MCC transforms former train depot into arts center

By Alana Melanson
amelanson@lowellsun.com

LOWELL — It’s envisioned as a learning laboratory where students can hone their skills in theater, music and dance, or simply try something new.

Middlesex Community College Chair of Performing Arts Karen Oster put it best: “a place for students to explore and experience.”

MCC’s new Academic Arts Center, named in honor of Richard and Nancy Donahue, has been a long time in the making and will finally open to students this fall.

“For the first time, we have a real home for our theater, music and dance programs, and this will just be a tremendous place to teach and a tremendous place to learn for our students,” MCC President James Mabry said during a Thursday afternoon open house at the facility.

Lowell Mayor Bill Samaras, MCC President James Mabry, Michael Gallagher, Eileen Donoghue and others prepare to tour the new Middlesex Community College Arts Center.

located at 240 Central St. “The collaboration that can happen when we have all of these activities in the same area, I think is exciting,” Dean of Arts, Humanities & World Languages Ellen Nichols said.

City Manager Eileen Donoghue, Mayor William Samaras, other city councilors and town leaders from Chelmsford, Tyngsboro, Burlington and Bedford all came for tours of the new facility.

Designed by Leers Weinzapfel Associates and constructed by Consigli Construction, the center features a large, egg-shaped structure that contains the 187-seat proscenium theater, 101-seat music recital hall and 900-square-foot dance studio, said MCC Director of Construction and Capital Projects John LeMay. It also has additional classroom, practice and office space.

Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Phil Sisson said the floors and walls are constructed with soundproofing so that

The tour group looks over the theater while Chairperson of the Performing Arts Karen Oster, far right, speaks.

Please see ARTS/4
MCC transforms former train depot into arts center

ARTS/From Page 3

Multiple activities can occur simultaneously without sound from one area interfering with another.

The "egg" was constructed inside the shell of the original 1876 building, which was first the Boston & Maine railroad depot. It later became the Owl Theatre and was renamed the Rialto Theatre before being converted into a bowling alley.

The Lowell Historic Preservation Commission saved the structure from demolition in 1989. Lowell National Historical Park renovated the exterior of the building before transferring ownership to MCC in 2008.

MCC Board of Trustees Chairman James Campbell, a former city manager, said they believe the facility, combined with the new court house under construction, will be a catalyst for development in the area.

Construction on the center began in 2016 and was substantially complete in April.

There were some minor setbacks — such as a December 2016 water main break that filled the building with a few feet of water. Now, there's just a punch list of minor items to take care of, Mabry said.

LeMay said all of the floors, ceilings and roof were removed, leaving just three exterior walls and the tower. Those walls were temporarily bolstered with 60 tons of steel while the "egg" was constructed during the first year of the project, he said.

Mabry said Corsigl
did a wonderful job of preserving the exterior of the building, the towers, and building this modern teaching and learning space inside.

Of the $21 million spent on the project, about $13 million came from the state Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance and about $8 million came through the college, Mabry said.

Oster said the theater has movable seating and state-of-the-art lighting and equipment that offers wonderful opportunities to learn more about the technical side of productions.

Carmen Rodriguez-Peralta, chair of the music department, said the facility brings music classes spread across three buildings under one roof, contributing to a greater sense of community in the program.

Mabry said MCC is excited to recruit area students and explore opportunities to expand its performing arts programs.

"There's a lot of students who would come quite a distance to be in a program that's this good with a facility that's this beautiful and this technically sophisticated," he said.

Follow Alana Melanson @alanamelanson.
Middlesex Community College recently recognized 83 students with grade-point averages of 3.7 or higher, by inducting them into Phi Theta Kappa, the national honor society for two-year colleges. From left are David Kalivas, director of the Commonwealth Honors program at MCC; Harrison Ingraham, MCC Class of 2012; Zeel Patel, PTK president; Jessica Cobleigh, PTK secretary; Hilary Alvord, PTK vice president; Kaitlin Fung, PTK treasurer; and Steve Rossi, director of student engagement and retention. COURTESY PHOTO
MCC prepares 16 for hands-on careers

The Lowell Sun
Updated: 06/24/2018 08:46:11 AM EDT

Sixteen Middlesex Community College students recently received Certificates in Machining and Electronics during a graduation ceremony for the Advanced Manufacturing Training Program held recently on the Lowell campus.

LOWELL -- Sixteen Middlesex Community College students recently received Certificates in Machining and Electronics during a graduation ceremony for the Advanced Manufacturing Training Program held recently on the Lowell campus.

Originally developed as part of a $500,000 Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund Grant awarded by the state to the North Shore Workforce Investment Board, the Advanced Manufacturing Training Program is funded by a Sector Partnership National Emergency Grant.

The grant supports partnerships between the Northeast Advanced Manufacturing Consortium and the region's education and workforce organizations. Those include community colleges and vocational-technical schools, career centers, Workforce Investment Boards and local employers, and provide training and assist participants in finding jobs within the manufacturing industry.

"A number of these graduates are already employed, and we are confident all of them will be offered employment," said Lisa Tuzzolo, manager of MCC's Advanced Manufacturing Program. "This program has strengthened our partnerships -- and relationships -- with vocational schools, Workforce Development Boards and career centers."

Graduates of the Advanced Manufacturing Training Program completed more than 400 hours of training in Basic Machining or Electronics. They gained hands-on experience to begin careers in the high-demand manufacturing industry, including working in aerospace, defense, medical devices, computers and electronics.

For more information about the Advanced Manufacturing Training Program at Middlesex, email tuzzulol@middlesex.mass.edu. For more information on MCC’s Precision Machining Certificate Program, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/prctc.
MCC opens community garden to Bedford residents

By Jesse Collings
Posted Jun 20, 2018 at 12:49 PM Updated Jun 21, 2018 at 10:40 AM

Aspiring green thumbs in Bedford have a new space to grow this summer after Middlesex Community College officially opened up its community garden to local residents. Previously, the 5,000 square foot garden was open to MCC students, staff and faculty, but with Bedford looking for more community garden space, MCC elected to open up its available plots to interested residents. “MCC is excited to be allocating 20 garden plots in our sunny, irrigated, and fully fenced in garden to members of the Bedford community,” MCC President James Mabry said.

Bedford became involved with the MCC garden through the Bedford Community Gardens Task Force, which was in the hunt for additional gardening space for the community. Bedford Selectman Mike Rosenberg reached out to MCC to see if they had any space available, and MCC suggested their own community garden. “Bedford’s Community Gardens Task Force has been considering potential expansion sites,” Rosenberg said. “As the Board of Selectmen’s representative on the task force, I contacted the college about available land, and the response from Middlesex was swift and affirmative. It was really beyond our wildest dreams.”

The 2-by-8 foot garden plots are available to any interested residents for $25. According to a MCC press release, three residents have already purchased plots and nearly 20 more remain unoccupied. Rosenberg said that more plots may be made available in the future. “Several residents have taken advantage of the immediate availability of plots,” Rosenberg said. “And the prospect of a longer-term, expanded town/college gardening arrangement is a tremendous positive.”

The garden was established in 2011 and is run by the school’s Sustainability Club and Sustainability Advisory Committee. Gardeners can plant and harvest their own plants, from flowers to vegetables, and are in charge of managing their own plots of land. The garden is fenced in and has a built-in irrigation system.

Food that is grown in the garden can also be donated to MCC’s food pantry; which provides groceries to students, staff and faculty. The garden has several plots that are harvested especially for the food pantry, and Bedford residents are encouraged to take part in the maintenance of those plots. “Member gardeners prepare, plant, maintain and harvest produce from their own plots, and are highly encouraged to assist in the maintenance and harvesting of the adjoining “community food bank” plots,” Mabry said.

For questions about MCC’s Community Garden, email: sustainability@middlesex.mass.edu. To apply for a garden plot, visit: https://docs.google.com/forms/GardenApp.
MCC NEWS

Middlesex CC Awards 2018 Celebrity Forum Scholarships

The Middlesex Community College Foundation recently awarded $39,000 in scholarships for outstanding academic achievement to 18 Middlesex students as part of the 20th annual MCC Celebrity Forum. Sophie Van Sin, of Lowell, was awarded the James C. and Judith G. Mabry Completion Scholarship. This award was established at the inauguration of MCC President James Mabry in 2015. The scholarship is awarded to assist a worthy student with the completion of an associate degree at Middlesex.

Rebecca Anacheka-Nasemann, of Hudson, was awarded the Dr. Carole A. Cowan Scholarship. Established in honor of Cowan, former MCC President, this award provides financial assistance to deserving Middlesex student who is a member of the Commonwealth Honors Program.

Anna Cuddeback, of Medford, was awarded the Debra Chemelli-Evans Scholarship. This award was established in memory of the daughter of William Chemelli, former chairman of the MCC Board of Trustees, and member of the MCC Foundation Board.

Seven students were awarded Lowell Connections Scholarships: Juan Breton of Lowell, Ryan Cahill of Methuen, Sokun Lak of Lowell, Shane O’Connor of Tyngsborough, Alyssa Sanderson of Billerica, Monrooth Suk of Lowell, Bunting Thay of Chelmsford.


For information, contact:
Maegh Ann of Arlington
Kayla Belfau of Westford
Sierra DeWalt of Ayer

For information: www.commcorp.org/WTTF; sconlont@middlesex.mass.edu; 978-656-3174.
Spinners, Lowell honor true originals

By Jordyn Halme
Sun Correspondent

LOWELL — The legacy of former Lowell Spinners owners Drew and Joann Weber will be cemented on Wednesday night with the dedication of "Weber Way," the street next to LeLacheur Park.


"I think it's a tremendous and well-deserved honor for Drew and his family. They've given 20 years of their lives to this community and this ballpark to make it the centerpeice of Lowell that it is today," says Dave Heller, the current owner of the Spinners.

The Webers are well-known for putting the team on the minor league baseball map through their unique marketing campaigns. One of the first, Drew Weber remembers, was "Birthnight."

"We had pregnant women come, we sat them next to each other, and the first one that gave birth got a year's worth of diapers. And we had the ambulances out front, we had someone giving breathing lessons," Weber remembered, "it was a lot of fun. We got a tremendous amount of publicity. And we went on from there.

"I remember somebody called me, and he said, I went to the game, and this wasn't baseball, this was a circus and I want my money back. I kept that voicemail on my phone for six months. I loved it. And we started getting a reputation for fun," Weber said.

It wasn't long until people knew what the Lowell Spinners were, and games began selling out.

"The idea was to bring people to Lowell, and I think we accomplished that," Weber said.


Last year, under the ownership of Heller, the Spinners created a scholarship fund in the name of Joann Weber that pays the full cost of tuition for one student to attend Middlesex Community College.

"I think this is not just about Drew, it's also about his late wife Joann. She was really like a comet that passed through Lowell. She was so bright and so beautiful, and such a wonderful and upflying spirit of Lowell," Heller said.

UMass Lowell, which partnered with the city to build the ballpark, also will have a presence at the event. In a statement, UMass Lowell Chancellor Jacqui Moloney said, "As the team's owners for nearly 20 years, Joann and Drew Weber were an important part of this partnership. The university is happy to join with the city to recognize their commitment to Lowell with the naming of Weber Way and we thank Lowell City Councilor Rita Mercier for spearheading this effort."

After selling the team in 2016, Weber moved back to New York to be closer to his children. At 72, he hasn't been back to a game since he retired. He doesn't miss owning the team, he says; it was his time to go.

"I miss the people, and I know it will be extremely nostalgic for me tomorrow," Weber said, "and it won't be the last time for me."

Participants in Wednesday's dedication ceremony at LeLacheur Park will include Drew Weber and members of the Weber family, Lowell officials including Mayor William Samaras, Mercier, Moloney and representatives of the Spinners including
PRICE IS RIGHT FOR LIFELINKS:
LifeLinks' Family Support Specialist Rick Price, center, recently graduated from Middlesex Community College's Direct Support Certification Program, and was chosen as the student speaker during the ceremony. Rick spent 18 months in the program and is on the path to completing his Associate's Degree in Human Services. Rick is celebrating two years at LifeLinks where he serves and supports the developmentally and intellectually disabled in the Family Support department. With him are LifeLinks CEO Jean Phelps left, and MCC's Patricia Cronin.

COURTESY PHOTO
After a century of life, John Filios departs

By Jessie Collings  Posted Jun 19, 2018 at 1:34 PM Updated Jun 19, 2018 at 4:36 PM

Bedford Minuteman John Filios reads the Declaration of Independence on Bedford Common, July 4, 2003. He would be named Bedford’s citizen of the year in 2007. [Wicked Local Staff Photo/Ann Ringwood]

A military veteran and an engineer, John Filios lived all over the world, but Bedford was his home. The World War II veteran passed away on Tuesday, June 12 at the age of 101. “He enjoyed the history, his family lived nearby and he thought the schools were very good,” Filios daughter, Peggy, said. “He was a man who just threw himself into his community.” Filios was born in Westfield in 1916 and graduated high school in 1934. As a young adult in the great depression, Filios worked with a lumber company for 25 cents-an-hour and after two years, had saved enough money to begin studying at UMASS-Amherst. He worked as a custodian to help pay for his education and in 1940 graduated with a degree in chemistry.

Soon the U.S. became involved in World War II, and Filios enlisted in the Army after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. Given his educational background, Filios found himself educating young recruits at MacDill Air Force Base in Florida. As a teacher, Filios spent late nights studying the constantly evolving technology so his students would be prepared when they were sent to Europe and the Pacific. Filios served in the military for two decades and spent time stationed in Alaska, England, Japan and Greenland.

In 1962, Filios moved to Bedford, settling into a home at 7 Appletree Lane with his wife Ellie. They were married for 59 years until her death in 2007. Together they raised four children in Bedford, John, Eric, Peggy and Elena. Filios continued his career in education, working as shop and electronics teacher at Burlington High School, and also taught collegiate-level course at Middlesex Community College and Wentworth Institute of Technology. While raising a family and working, he still found the time to graduate from Northeastern in 1971 with a degree in engineering.

In 1982, now officially a senior citizen, Filios decided to pursue a new career as an engineering consultant. This new position led Filios to one of the most remote locations on earth, the island of Diego Garcia, a tiny atoll located about 1,000 miles south of India that was home to a US air base. Filios spent his time on the atoll working for a program that monitored the activity of Soviet satellites.

Filios returned to Bedford in 1986 and retired from engineering consulting. Over the next two decades, Filios dedicated his time to community service and as a member of the Bedford Minuteman Company. A dedicated historian, Filios was instrumental in the restoration and upkeep of the Job Lane House, as well as establishing a scholarship for Bedford students, among other activities. “I remember when they first started renovating the Job Lane House, they had an alarm system installed. He was one of the people on-call so at home he had a lot of calls in the middle of the night to go out to the house and see what was going on,” Peggy Filios said.

Filios was also involved in the process of how the state handled veteran’s pensions. In a 2007 interview with the Minuteman, Filios said that his proudest accomplishment was helping change veteran’s pensions, with the state now taxing the pensions of veterans who served more than 20 years the same way they tax the pensions of employees who have worked for the state more than 20 years. “When we moved him into assisted living, he had all of the letters that were sent to him from widows of veterans thanking him for fighting for the pensions,” Peggy Filios said.

In 2007, Filios was named Bedford’s Citizen of the Year for his commitment to the community. Peggy remembers her father as a headstrong and motivated man who was fiercely determined to achieving his goals “In 2005 I took my mom and dad down to Washington, D.C., and while we were down there my dad decided he wanted to visit his congressmen,” Peggy Filios said. “So there I was calling a bunch of people to try and find someone to talk to my dad. He ended up going in and speaking with an aide for a good 15 minutes. That was my dad, he just had no fear when it came to doing something he wanted to do.” The family will greet friends at the Bedford Funeral Home, 167 Great Road, Bedford, on Sunday, June 24, from 2 to 5 p.m. A funeral service will be held at the First Church of Christ Congregational, 25 Great Road, Bedford, on Monday, June 25, at 10 a.m. Burial will be at a later date.
Price is right for LifeLinks

Updated: 06/19/2018 08:17:33 AM EDT

(COURTESY PHOTO)

LifeLinks' Family Support Specialist Rick Price, center, recently graduated from Middlesex Community College's Direct Support Certification Program, and was chosen as the student speaker during the ceremony. Rick spent 18 months in the program and is on the path to completing his Associate's Degree in Human Services. Rick is celebrating two years at LifeLinks where he serves and supports the developmentally and intellectually disabled in the Family Support department. With him are LifeLinks CEO Jean Phelps left, and MCC's Patricia Cronin.
MCC foursome on Phi Theta Kappa All-Academic Team

MCC President James Mabry, center, with MCC’s four members of Phi Theta Kappa’s 2018 All-Massachusetts Academic Team — from left, Amy Miller of Westford, Andrea Miles of Lexington, Anthony Wathuo of Tyngsboro and Andrea Merrill of Lexington.

COURTESY PHOTO

Four Middlesex Community College students have been recognized as outstanding two-year college students and members of Phi Theta Kappa’s 2018 All-Massachusetts Academic Team.

Andrea Merrill and Andrea Miles, both of Lexington, Amy Miller of Westford and Anthony Wathuo of Tyngsboro were honored during a recent ceremony at the Statehouse.

In addition to membership on the All-Massachusetts Academic Team, Merrill was named this year’s New Century Workforce Scholar and will receive a $1,250 scholarship from the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation and the All-USA Academic Team.

Every year, the Massachusetts Community College Executive Office hosts the All-Massachusetts Academic Team event to showcase the best and brightest students in the 15-college system. The All-State Academic Teams are sponsored annually by Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges; the Coca-Cola Foundation; and community-college presidents and state associations.

Merrill is a Paralegal Studies transfer student and the mother of five children. She is active in the Navigators leadership program, as well as a variety of clubs and other campus events.

Miles is a recent MCC graduate and current Business major at UMass Lowell. She is originally from Venezuela. While at Middlesex, she served as vice chair for the Lowell campus for the Student Union Government Association, and was a member of the Business & Economics Club.

Miller is an Early Childhood Education transfer student. She plans to transfer to UMass Lowell after graduation and hopes to teach preschool students.

Wathuo is a 2018 graduate from the Nursing program. He recently received a $2,500 Liberty Mutual Insurance LEADA Liberty Scholarship. He plans to move to Georgia to start his career.
National honor for Middlesex

The Lowell Sun
Updated: 06/17/2018 02:21:07 PM EDT

From left at the EIA awards ceremony are Elise Miller, vice president of research & policy analysis for the Association of Public & Land-grant Universities; MCC Provost and Vice President of Academic & Student Affairs Philip Sisson; MCC President James Mabry; Natasha Jankowski, director of the National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment Director; and Terrel Rhodes, vice president of the Association of American Colleges & Universities. COURTESY PHOTO

Middlesex Community College received an Excellence in Assessment, or EIA, designation by the National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment during the recent annual meeting of the Association of American Colleges & Universities in Washington, D.C.

Middlesex is one of just five members of the 2017 class of EIA designees, and one of only a pair of two-year colleges, recognized.

EIA is a national program recognizing colleges and universities conducting a comprehensive assessment of student learning outcomes as a means to drive internal improvement and advance student success. Sponsors of the EIA program are the Voluntary System of Accountability, a public-college and university transparency initiative led by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities; and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, in partnership with AAC&U and NILOA.
MCC’s Summer College For Kids Combines Fun And Learning

It’s not too late to sign the kids up for College for Kids at Middlesex Community College this summer.

Designed to provide young learners, ages 8 to 16, with fun and challenging opportunities to explore careers, gain new knowledge and skills, and boost self-confidence, College for Kids runs July 9 through Aug. 16, on the Bedford and Lowell campuses.

All College for Kids programs are taught by public-school teachers, or by professionals who are experts in their field and have experience working with children. Here is a selection of programs offered this summer:

- Fashion Design – Explore fashion tools and techniques, and develop your own style. (Ages 12-16; offered July 9-12 in Lowell; Course number: YTH 614 80)
- Medical Laboratory Science – Learn medical lab techniques and perform tests. (Ages 12-16; offered July 9-12 in Lowell; YTH 726 80)
- Painting Like the Masters – Study the style and technique of four master artists. (Ages 12-15; offered July 9-12 in Bedford; YTH 725 30)
- Minecraft – Explore and approach gameplay from new angles. (Ages 8-11; offered July 9-12 in Bedford; YTH 695 30)
- Lego Mindstorms – Learn the basics of building and programming robots. (Ages 8-11; offered July 16-19 [YTH 621 30]; July 30-Aug. 2 [YTH 621 31]; and Aug. 13-16 [YTH 621 32] in Bedford)
- Artwork in the Making – Create mixed-media and assemblage artwork. (Ages 8-11; offered July 16-19 in Bedford; YTH 723 30)

to a different level. (Ages 12-15; offered July 23-26 in Bedford; YTH 728 30)

- Sports & Recreation – Participate in a wide variety of fitness opportunities. (Ages 10-15; offered July 30-Aug. 2 [YTH 681 30]; and Aug. 6-9 [YTH 681 31] in Bedford.)
- Improv – Get ready for a week of laughs exploring the fundamentals of improvisation. (Ages 10-15; offered Aug. 6-9 in Lowell; YTH 697 30)

Case Studies in Veterinary Medicine – This advanced program is designed for animal enthusiasts with a serious interest in veterinary medicine. (Ages 12-16; offered Aug. 13-16 in Bedford; YTH 622 31)

For the complete MCC College for Kids 2018 schedule and registration information, visit https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/collegeforkids/ or call 781-280-3663.

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, or our campuses in Bedford and Lowell, as well as online. Middlesex Community College: Student success starts here!
Summer Courses Still Available at Middlesex Community College

There’s still time to enroll for one of Middlesex Community College’s Summer Sessions, or to send the kids to one of our unique College for Kids summer programs.

Day Summer Session II runs July 9 through Aug. 8. Classes meet four days a week on the Bedford and Lowell campuses.

MCC’s expanded Online/Evening Summer Session IV runs June 18 through Aug. 14. Classes meet online, or two evenings a week.

Middlesex also offers an array of noncredit personal and professional enrichment courses throughout the summer.

MCC’s College for Kids runs July 9 through Aug. 16, in Bedford and Lowell. Programs are designed to provide children, ages 8 to 15, with fun and challenging opportunities to explore careers, gain new skills and knowledge, and boost self-confidence.

To register for MCC’s Day Summer Session II, Online/Evening Summer Session IV, or College for Kids, call 1-800-618-3434 or visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/summer.

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 programs. Call 1-800-618-3434 or visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/summer.

Caption: (MCC_Coll4Kids Photo)
How multicultural centres in the US improve university for Asian students

By Study International Staff | June 14, 2018

SOCIAL BUZZ
The thing about stereotypes is that they assume — wrongly most of the time — that everyone is the same based on a single characteristic. While data shows that Asian Americans have among the highest graduation rates at US universities, it would be wrong to think all of them are academic superstars without any need for help or support from the institutions themselves.
A recent report by the New York Times found that many Southeast Asians don’t fit the mould of the Asian Americans who flourish in the country’s schools and colleges. At Middlesex Community College — where there is a large presence of Southeast Asians — the Asian population transfer rate is 39 percent, a number consistently lower than the 42.3 percent average for all other groups at Middlesex, government data shows. When interviewed, many spoke about how stressed and isolated they felt. This is where universities’ multicultural centres come into the picture.

These centres are a common feature in many universities throughout the country. For many Asian students struggling to transition into the American way of life, these places serve as a crucial lifeline or at the very least, help stem feelings of homesickness. The University of Oregon’s Multicultural Center aspires to be “where all students would be welcomed to meet, plan, and help with educating the community about diversity”. From organising hip-hop concerts to educational and cultural workshops, the centre serves as a converging spot for international students to encourage collaboration and foster positive relationships.

At Middlesex, the Asian American Connections Center plays an even more serious role. In addition to academic and financial aid, this is where Southeast Asian students go to alleviate some of the consequences that arise from issues like poverty and post-traumatic stress. Virak Uy, Director of the Program for Asian American Student Advancement at Middlesex, organised a screening of “First They Killed My Father”; a film by Angelina Jolie about a young Cambodian girl’s experience during the Khmer Rouge genocide. During the panel discussion, Uy managed to start a dialogue about the subject with the students, something some have never had with their very own family members. “How do we talk about the killing fields and how are we aware of students in our classroom who might have some PTSD? It’s having a larger awareness of this population,” said Pamela Flaherty, Chief Student Affairs Officer and Dean of Students at Middlesex.
MIDDLESEX Community College

Make Your SUMMER Matter!

QUICK start session

May 21-June 8
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No class meeting on Monday, May 28th.

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KEEP YOUR MOMENTUM GOING:
- College students: Take transferable college courses while you’re home
- Adult learners: Get closer to that academic credential

Other Summer Schedule Options

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Classes meet 4 days per week, in Bedford & Lowell

ONLINE/EVENING SUMMER SESSIONS  June 4 - July 31 + June 18 - Aug. 14
Classes meet 2 evenings per week or online

For more information, call 1-800-818-3434 or visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/summer
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Summer Programs for Ages 8 to 16
July 9 - August 16
Fun, engaging Summer Programs include:
- Aviation
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- Art
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www.middlesex.mass.edu/collegeforkids
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Check out our Summer College for Kids offerings!

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July 9 - August 8  
Classes meet 4 days per week, in Bedford & Lowell

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MCC's 120-hour post graduate, noncredit certificate program provides students with the skills and tools to clearly and accurately inform users about technical information.

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July 9 - August 8
Classes meet 4 days per week,
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The Dracut Scholarship Foundation wishes to thank all those in our community who helped us raise a record setting amount of $140,000+ for scholarships for graduating Dracut High School seniors.

Thank you for your continued support.

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#3 Supportive Environment

#4 Two Great Campuses
#5 Small Class Sizes
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Middlesex Community College has been ranked No. 1 on the 2018 list of Best Community Colleges in Massachusetts by BestColleges.com

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There's still time to register! Mini-semester II begins Monday, Oct. 29

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