

Update



February 2015

“Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation”.

~ John F. Kennedy

*Thanks to all members for your extraordinary effort in preparation for the Spring semester!
Happy Valentine's Day & Happy President's Day! Be safe!*

~President Hanley



**A special shout out to all the
AFSCME Local 1067
“essential and safety personnel”
in their roles for the clean up and
keeping our campuses safe in the
Blizzard of 2015.**

THANK YOU!!!

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Presidents Day History

President's Day, or Washington's Birthday as it is still legally known, was originally designed as a celebration of George Washington's birthdate. In 1880, Congress voted to make this the first national holiday which honored an individual.

In 1968, Congress enacted the Uniform Monday Bill, to give workers as many long weekends as possible. This moved as many holidays to a standard Monday each year. Many states were already honoring Abraham Lincoln's birthday, February 12th, and this celebration was combined with George Washington's birthday, for one federal holiday. It is observed on the third Monday in February each year.

Facts about Presidents Day

According to the Julian calendar, Washington was born February 11, 1732.

The Gregorian calendar was adopted in 1752, changing Washington's birthday to February 22.

Since 1888, Washington's Farewell Address has been read aloud in the U.S. Senate on February 22nd.

George Washington was the Commander in Chief of the Continental Army, first U.S. President, and President of the Constitutional Convention.

Presidents Day never falls on Washington's actual birthdate (Feb. 22). The third Monday in February can never be any later than February 21st.



Annual Golf Tournament

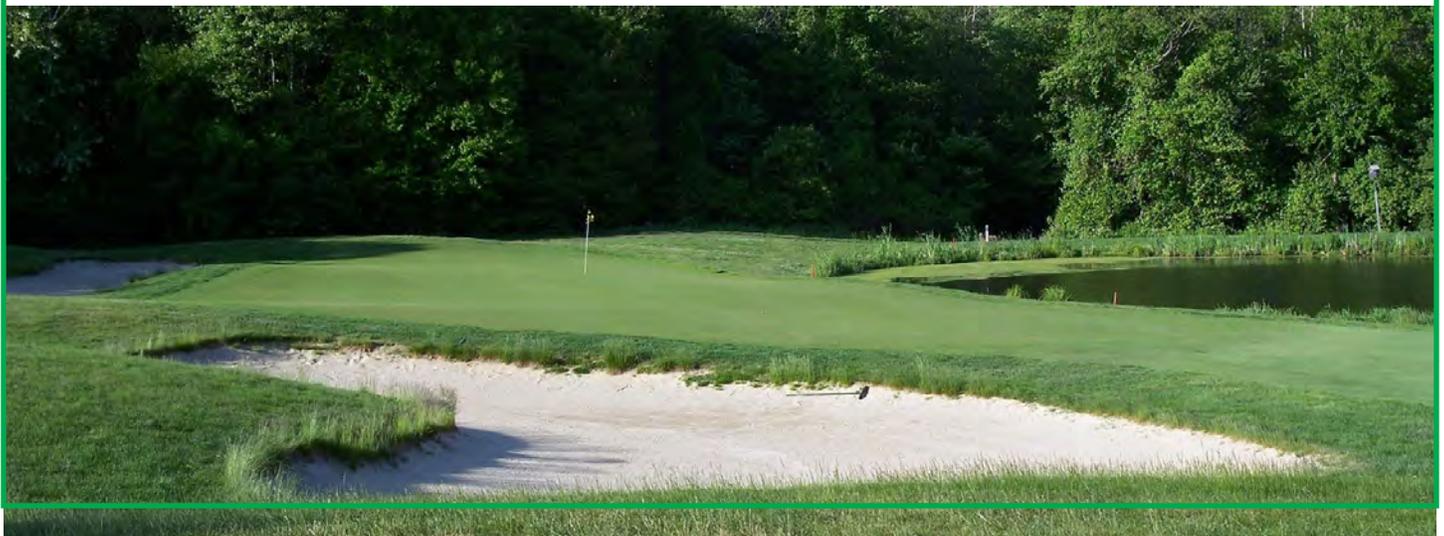
Friday, July 10th

7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Olde Scotland Links

695 Pine Street

Bridgewater, Massachusetts 02324



MAKING NEWS

Salem State University Honors AFSCME Local 1067 Employees For Service to the University

Submitted By Julie Curtis, Unit 1 AFSCME Steward

Each year Salem State University hosts a Distinguished Service Award Reception and Ceremony in which the University honors their long-term employees in five year increments. This year there were 30 AFSCME employees recognized. These members were:

5 Years:

Danielle Beaulieu, School of Education
Eric Cochrane, University Police
Mark Larivee, University Police
Fred Maidmont, Facilities
Daniel Musto, University Police
Nicholas Rudolph, Biology

10 Years:

William Barnes, Custodial Services
Matthew Choquette, Residence Life
Jane Gammon, Informational Tech Services
Kathleen O'Brien, Financial Services
Kenneth Odom, Custodial Services
Stephen Saunders, Residence Life
Yank Carlos Vasquez, Athletics & Recreation

15 Years:

Paula Blanchard, Financial Services
Stephen Cripps, Residence Life
Maureen Crowley, Financial Aid
Julio Cuevas, Maintenance
Christine DeFelice, University Police
Rosemary Foley, Academic Affairs
Susan Fountain, Institutional Advancement
Guillermo Mendoza, Custodial Service
Mark Ogasian, Residence Life
Peter Urkowitz, Library Instructional
Michael Walker, Maintenance
Scott Weston, Biology

20 years:

Maryann Davey, University Police
Leisa De Jesus, Bertolon School of Business
Mary Ann Gachignard, Financial Services

35 Years:

Elaine Cruddas, English
Julie Curtis, Athletics & Recreation

Employees working 25+ years are called on stage where their area head reads congratulations and they have their picture taken with University President Patricia Maguire Meservey. Interestingly 35 year honorees Elaine Cruddas and Julie Curtis started on the same day, October 1, 1978, and between the two have only worked in three departments: Cruddas in English and Curtis in Residence Life and Athletics & Recreation.

Congratulations to these AFSCME members for their long and distinguished service at Salem State University!

Fun Valentine Facts (cont.)

Women purchase 85% of all valentines.

In order of popularity, Valentine's Day cards are given to teachers, children, mothers, wives, sweethearts and pets.

73% of people who buy flowers for Valentine's Day are men, while only 27 percent are women.

Men buy most of the millions of boxes of candy and bouquets of flowers given on Valentine's Day.

Richard Cadbury invented the first Valentines Day candy box in the late 1800s.

Alexander Graham Bell applied for his patent on the telephone, an "Improvement in Telegraphy", on Valentine's Day, 1876.

These fun facts are brought to you courtesy of
www.stvalentinesday.org.

Fun Valentine Facts

More than 36 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolate are sold for Valentine's Day each year.

On average, men shell out \$130 each on candy, cards, jewelry, flowers and dates. That's more than double what women commit to spending.

About 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are exchanged in US each year. That's the largest seasonal card-sending occasion of the year, next to Christmas.

Worldwide, over 50 million roses are given for Valentine's Day each year.

MAKING NEWS (Cont.)

A meeting was held at WSU on Wednesday, January 21, 2015 to announce new programs that will be offered to the campus police.

Those in attendance:

- Bunker Hill Community College
- Bristol Community College
- Bridgewater State College
- Cape Cod Community College
- Fitchburg State College
- Holyoke Community College
- Massasoit Community College
- Massachusetts Maritime Academy
- Mount Wachusett Community College
- Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
- North Shore Community College
- Salem State College
- Springfield Technical Community College
- Worcester State College
- Westfield State College

- Chris Desautel
- Matthew Engstrom
- David Cardella
- Aaron Fitzpatrick
- Chris Bouchard
- Elizabeth Greco
- Christopher O'Sullivan
- Timothy Beane
- Melissa Croteau
- Laura Lefebvre
- Robert Vaccaro
- Jose M. Santago
- Raymond Turrini
- Kevin Gaudette
- Sean Coughlin

The daylong meeting was very informative. Gordon Blaquiery, Field Services Director, and Diane Byrnes Staff Representative of Council 93 both gave a very detailed description of the offerings to the CPO's.

Be sure to check out Public Safety Insurance now available for our public safety members at

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: If I sign up as an individual, why do I have to join the Public Safety Officers of AFSCME Association?
In order to be eligible for representation for legal defense and workers' compensation, an individual must be a member of an association. AFSCME and American Union Provider Services (AUPS) have entered an association agreement for AFSCME public safety members with no available fee.

Q: What are the payment options?
Individual: The individual payment option requires local leaders to file requests that occur once for the Public Safety Protection Program. Once the local representative members and local leaders to complete all applicable and provide payment information. When the local file is approved then one of the members involved in the program, payment is collected and members become eligible for the program. The cost of the program to members is \$52 each annually or \$102 annually.

NOTE: After the initial payment, payments are due 60 days before the scheduled payment to ensure that your coverage is not affected. There is a problem with the automatic deduction from your bank account or credit card. If you checking or credit card information changes, get online to activate changes. Call or meet your sign. Do to not payments. Also there is \$4 savings when you elect any year annually cost of \$8 savings when you pay annually in the actual cost of the benefit is \$76 per year.

Group: AFSCME Public Safety locals can also elect to sign up their entire local or segments of their local for Public Safety Protection Program. With this option, members do not need to give advance individually, but request or provide approved information. Sign up and payment will be handled by the local. The cost for the local is \$102 a year, which is a savings of \$8 over the individual payment option.

Q: Are there any deductions for the benefit? No, your non-employee annual payment is \$0 per year.

Q: Who do I call if I have questions about the AFSCME Public Safety Protection Program? Call the member advocate at 1-800-306-0172.

Q: How do I file a claim for the legal defense fund benefit? Simply call FORAC at (800) 556-5631. A case coordinator will determine your eligibility for benefits. If the case is covered, you will be referred to an attorney or law firm for your case. Most calls take less than two minutes. You will then get your follow-up confirmation letter.

Q: What if an involved in a critical incident outside of normal business hours? The 24 hours a day, 365 days a year FORAC hotline is available for all critical incidents. When you call (800) 556-5631 you will get an answering machine which will tell you how to reach with the administrator. In most cases, an attorney will call you back within 72 hours.

Q: Are there limits on caps on the legal defense fund benefit? No, there are no pre-determined monetary limitations or caps on the attorney fees or costs. Recovery is needed to represent you.

Q: I am injured on the job. Am I entitled to benefits under the Workers Compensation Plan? If you have been denied reasonably necessary medical treatment or you have not been entitled to benefits under this plan, simply call Jacoby & Meyers at 1-800-474-4444 (LAW 4424) and you will be provided with a qualified, experienced attorney who will represent you in your fight to get the medical treatment you deserve, or eligibility to sue.

Q: Is there to be harmed again by other attorneys before I can call Jacoby & Meyers? No, Jacoby & Meyers is ready to assist PSOAA members with legal representation according to the plan.

Here's one more way it pays to be an AFSCME Public Safety Member...

AFSCME Public Safety Protection Program

- Legal representation for civil and criminal actions 888-556-5631
- Legal representation for workers' compensation claims 800-415-6529
- Member Advocacy Line 866-309-0212

afscme.org/psaaa

The Public Safety Protection Program includes:

- Criminal and Civil Representation
- Workers' Compensation Representation

FORAC Legal Defense Fund Benefit

AFSCME

Public Safety Protection Program

FORAC Legal Defense Fund Benefit

- Civil and Criminal Legal Representation
- Jacoby & Meyers Workers' Compensation Legal Benefit
- On-the-Job Injury Legal Representation

Public Safety Protection Program

There are two ways to sign up for the Public Safety Protection Program - Individual and Group.

Individual

A) To individually sign up for the PPSF a member must first join the Public Safety Officers of AFSCME Association (PSOAA), become a member in good standing, and joining the PSOAA will allow you to sign up for the Public Safety Protection Program.

B) Go online - access employee - to join the PSOAA and register for the Public Safety Protection Program.

C) Individual sign-up costs \$52 each annually or \$102 annually.

NOTE: Member registration will not be processed and coverage will not take effect until more than 30 percent of the public safety members of your local have registered and provided accurate payment information. Once the majority is met, all registered members will receive an e-mail stating that their registration is in process, and the date deductions will begin. A second e-mail will be sent confirming the effective date of coverage in the AFSCME Public Safety Protection Program.

Group

Members may receive the PPSF should their local leadership elect to sign up their entire local or segments of their local for the program. With group sign-up there is no need for members to join the PSOAA or register online. Registration is handled by the local. The cost for the Group option is \$93 annually per member.

FORAC Legal Defense Fund

The Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC) Legal Defense Fund is the nation's largest and most successful legal defense fund for public safety officers. The fund has been in existence since 1974 and currently has more than 18,000 public safety participants.

No Cap on Benefits - The PORAC Legal Defense Fund provides unlimited access to attorneys, experts and investigators when reasonably needed to protect its members.

Expansive List of Experienced Personal Attorneys - PORAC will engage highly experienced and well-qualified attorneys, with a history of representing public safety personnel.

24 Hour Coverage - PORAC has attorneys available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to handle emergencies on critical incidents.

Critical - Representation by an experienced criminal attorney from the best indication of potential criminal exposure arising from an act committed within the scope of employment (log, shooting, custody details, or use of force resulting in serious physical injury).

Civil - Representation by an experienced civil attorney where a member is sued for an act within the scope of employment, but the employing agency refuses to defend the member. To be the member's employing agency defends, but fails to fully reimburse that member, the Legal Defense Fund will provide an experienced attorney to defend the member.

Jacoby & Meyers Workers' Compensation Plan

With the Jacoby & Meyers Workers' Compensation Legal Plan benefit, no public safety member of AFSCME who has been injured on the job should ever be without representation.

In most states, employers are required to provide workers' compensation benefits for any employee who is injured on the job. You must report your injury or condition to your employer, and your employer must then submit a workers' compensation claim to the insurance company.

Having an experienced workers' compensation attorney on your side can greatly increase the chance that you will receive the money you need to take care of your medical bills when you are unable to work.

The Jacoby & Meyers Workers' Compensation Legal Plan benefits assist members when they suffer a bona fide on-the-job injury. The benefit will provide an attorney to the member for the purpose of obtaining medically necessary treatment, where treatment has been denied. Jacoby & Meyers will also assist when the member has received a medical or administrative denial of medical care or treatment. The benefit will pay attorney fees in order to appeal that denial, as well as cover filing fees, and other reasonable and necessary costs associated with representation.

If Jacoby & Meyers or one of its network attorneys is unable to represent a member who has suffered an on-the-job injury on a contingency fee basis, the firm will provide an attorney, free of charge for the purpose of getting the member medical care they have been denied.

www.afscme.org/psaaa

Massachusetts Department of Higher Education Newsclips

VISION PROJECT:

VISION PROJECT | Bay State Employers Need More Graduates, Colleges Need Resources - massbusiness

Fall 2014 - Economists and employers agree that the foundation of Massachusetts Economy is our highly educated work force. The key asset faces a “perfect storm” of threats, warns a new report from the Department of Higher Education. Demand for skilled college graduates is rising; by 2020, an estimated 72 percent of all jobs in the commonwealth will require postsecondary training. Yet we are seeing signs of an enrollment decline, driven by underlying demographic trends, in a public higher education system that continues to suffer the effects of historical underfunding.

VISION PROJECT | Civics Instruction Moves Up in Class - WSJ

12/26/2014 - After years on the back burner of the nation’s educational agenda, civics is making a comeback, with a number of states mandating new classes or assessments and a burgeoning national push for high-school seniors to pass the exam required of new citizens. For the first time this past school year, a civics exam in Florida counted toward students’ grades, following a mandated class and exam instated the year before, while students in Tennessee started facing a required test two years ago. The Massachusetts Board of Higher Education mandated that the subject be a key component for learning at the state’s colleges and universities starting this school year. Both California and Illinois have statewide task forces and local projects aimed at embedding civics in schools.

FREE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FREE COMMUNITY COLLEGE | Op-Ed: By LZ Granderson: Two years of free community college makes sense - CNN.com

01/11/2015 - Before you dismiss President Obama’s proposal of two years of free community college as frivolous government spending, let me toss a number out at you: 500%. That’s roughly how much college costs have increased between 1985 and today. Compare that with wages, which have increased by about 140% over the same time period and you begin to understand why Americans owe \$1.4 trillion in student loan debt.

FREE COMMUNITY COLLEGE | Six Reasons Why Obama’s Free Community College Is a Poor Investment - Forbes

01/11/2015 - Let’s get this straight. First, we are a nation with an \$18 trillion debt that, five years into a business cycle upturn, that still cannot come close to balancing the federal budget despite Obama-induced tax increases. Second, we have a very significant problem of over investment in higher education that manifests itself in a large proportion (one-third to one-half) of recent college graduates taking jobs that usually go to high school graduates –they are “underemployed,” many of them still living with their parents and dependent on parental financial support. Third, and related to that, for every ten students that enter community college, only three graduate within three years. Fourth, despite the first three points, President Obama wants to encourage increased community college attendance by making it costless to the consumer.

FREE COMMUNITY COLLEGE | Op-Ed: By Jack Stripling: Free-College Plan Evokes Spirit of Historic Higher Ed Acts - Chronicle of Higher Education

01/11/2015 - With a proposal that would send millions of students to community colleges free, President Obama joins a line of national leaders who have asked taxpayers to foot other people’s tuition bills for the greater public good. The president’s plan, still short on details, has been described by higher-education experts as a clarion call in the spirit of the original GI Bill, which became law in 1944, or the Pell Grant program, which was created by Congress in 1972. The GI Bill sent almost eight million veterans of World War II to college, and the Pell Grant program assists millions of low-income students each year.

FREE COMMUNITY COLLEGE | Op-Ed: By Karen A. Stout: Obama’s Plan Focuses Where It Should—on Our Neediest Students – Chronicle of Higher Education

01/11/2015 - At one point on Friday afternoon #FreeCommunityCollege was the top trending hashtag on Twitter, a sign of universal interest in, if not universal acceptance of, President Obama’s “America’s College Promise” proposal. The president’s big vision is to ensure that postsecondary education is as universally affordable and accessible to as many

Americans as possible. Community colleges are the logical place to realize this vision. Whatever Congress does with the proposal, it is safe to predict that, sometime in the future, and perhaps in some form that we cannot now envision, near full public funding for some education beyond high school for all Americans will be accepted without question. In that respect, the president's plan represents the federal government undertaking a responsibility that, ideally, states might have undertaken or may undertake (like in Tennessee) themselves.

[FREE COMMUNITY COLLEGE | OP-Ed: By: Beckie Supiano: What Students Pay at Community Colleges Now—and How Obama's Proposal Might Change That - Chronicle of Higher Education](#)

01/09/2015 - President Obama just proposed a partnership between the federal government and states that would waive two years of tuition at community colleges for students who meet certain criteria. That sounds significant—and it is. But to grasp the real impact of the plan, it's important to understand what students pay to attend community college right now. How might the proposal change that?

[FREE COMMUNITY COLLEGE | Obama proposes free community college program - Boston Globe](#)

01/09/2015 - President Obama on Friday will propose making community college tuition-free for “responsible students,” launching what officials described as an ambitious plan for the federal and state governments to widen access to higher education. Under a program dubbed America's College Promise, administration officials said, an estimated 9 million students a year nationwide could benefit. The average tuition savings for a full-time student at a public two-year college was estimated to be \$3,800 a year.

[MULTIPLE CAMPUSES | MASSACHUSETTS GRADUATE PROGRAMS FARE FAR BETTER THAN UNDERGRADUATE IN U.S. NEWS ONLINE SCHOOL RANKING - BOSTON BUSINESS JOURNAL](#)

01/07/2015 - As students and schools continue to embrace online education, some programs are predictably earning higher marks than others. Here's where some Massachusetts schools stand in rankings put out today by U.S. News & World Report. Public institutions, undergraduate programs: The highest-ranking undergraduate online program for a Massachusetts institution was UMass-Dartmouth's, at number 55. The program scored especially well in the category “faculty credentials and training.” Westfield State ranked 58th. Fitchburg State University finished in 125th place, also with high marks for its faculty. UMass-Lowell's program ranked 211th.

COMMUNITY COLLEGES:

[COMMUNITY COLLEGES | Community colleges, tech schools create transfer pipeline for trades and high-demand fields - Nashoba Publishing Online](#)

12/19/2014 - Massachusetts community colleges and career and technical high schools have developed new articulation/transfer agreements aimed at creating seamless pipelines to higher education and reducing the time to completion for vocational high school students entering community colleges. The seven new transfer agreements were recently signed at the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators annual meeting and will assist with transitioning vocational high school students to community college degree and certificate programs in STEM fields, the trades, health care, business and other high-demand middle skills careers.

[BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE](#)

BERKSHIRE CC | BCC earns \$10K MassDevelopment grant promote study of advanced manufacturing - Berkshire Eagle Online

01/06/2015 - A new \$10,000 MassDevelopment grant will support Berkshire Community College's initiative to promote the study and career fields of advanced manufacturing. BCC was one of nine recipients of a matching grant through the latest round of funding for the “AMP it up!” initiative. The college has received funds all three rounds. “With such a wealth

of opportunities in the advanced manufacturing industry here in Massachusetts and an ever-increasing need for skilled workers to fill these high-paying jobs, young people need to know more about the possibilities of manufacturing careers,” said President and CEO of MassDevelopment Marty Jones.

BUNKER HILL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BUNKER HILL CC | Bunker Hill Community College Earns National Recognition for Service Work - PRNewswire
12/23/2014 - Bunker Hill Community College has won national recognition for its service to the community. BHCC was among the institutions named to the 2014 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for their volunteer and service work. This is the fifth year that BHCC has been named to the President’s Honor Roll. In 2013 BHCC Community Engagement programs reached an estimated 4,000 students, who provided approximately 5,000 hours of service to the Greater Boston community.

GREENFIELD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Pura lauds Obama’s education plan
KATHLEEN McKIERNAN, Recorder, Saturday, January 10, 2015

GREENFIELD - Greenfield Community College President Bob Pura called President Barack Obama’s proposal to make community college free to many students a “game-changer” for working and middle-class families.

“I am very appreciative of President Obama’s proposal. He’s calling for a national conversation about access to higher education in a very bold way,” Pura said.

“It recognizes just how hard families work in our community and find higher education is not affordable. We have far too many hard working families that don’t have the resources,” Pura said. “This plan will change that and alter the course of history in the United States of America.”

On Friday, Obama announced a new plan in Knoxville, Tenn., to open the doors to higher education for participating students.

According to the State House News Service, Obama planned to propose federal funding covering 75 percent of the “average cost of community college,” and participating states would be responsible for covering the rest.

The Obama administration said the program would make the first two years of community college tuition-free for qualifying students in participating states. If all states participate, about 9 million students attending 1,100 U.S. community colleges could benefit, the White House said, with a full-time student saving an average of \$3,800 per year.

Students would need to attend at least half-time and maintain a 2.5 grade point average, while the community colleges would need to offer academic programs that could transfer credits to public four-year colleges or offer occupational training for degrees or certificates “in demand among employers.”

The news was welcomed by community college advocates who see the two-year schools as a gateway to higher education for many low-to-middle income students.

“(Obama) fully understands that access to higher education is linked to strengthening our democracy and our economy,” Pura said.

State leaders’ responses were more tepid.

Gov. Charlie Baker said he wanted to hear first from the Board of Higher Education and the community colleges themselves before rendering a verdict on the president’s proposal.

The proposal could give a boost to students at Greenfield Community College, if it was a participating school, where

about 40 to 50 percent of students receive financial aid on average.

Of the 2,950 students enrolled last year, 1,172 students received financial aid last year according to Linda Desjardins, director of financial aid. This year, of 2,127 students, about 1,275 are receiving aid.

At the core of the president's proposal is three things, Pura said. First, it indicates that the American people have the right to a college education. Second, Pura said Obama is recognizing that the working class and middle class needs that boost. And lastly, Pura said the president is willing to reward people who are willing to work hard.

The plan, however, depends on support from the now Republican-led Congress. At the projected cost of \$60 billion over 10 years, it would likely face an uphill battle.

Whether GCC becomes a participating college depends on conversations at the state level, Pura said. States would have to opt into the program and provide some funding. In Massachusetts, the interest in the program seems promising.

"We have now in our state a speaker of the house, a senate president and a governor all committed to a stronger democracy and economy. It's the right time in the Commonwealth and in the nation," Pura said.

You can reach Kathleen McKiernan at: kmckiernan@recorder.com or 413-772-0261 ext. 268 On Twitter, follow @RecorderKatMcK ###

LPN returns to roots **ANITA FRITZ Recorder Staff**

GREENFIELD - It appears that Greenfield Community College's Licensed Practical Nurse program is headed back to where it all began about three decades ago. According to GCC President Robert Pura, the LPN program will spend the rest of this academic year, until June, in the school's downtown center at 270 Main St.

Pura said he is just waiting for final word from Smith Vocational High School in Northampton, but expects the program will move there next fall. Pura said the program began as a Smith Vocational program three decades ago but was taken over by GCC at the Voc location.

Then, about 18 years ago the program moved to the Veterans Administration Hospital in Leeds.

"It has been ours and been there ever since, but the hospital needed more space, so we needed to find an alternate site," said Pura.

The LPN program, which is a yearlong certificate program, admits about 30 students each year, said Pura. He said those students come from all over the valley.

"We wanted to keep a strong GCC presence in Northampton, so Smith would be the perfect location," said Pura. "The LPN program draws a lot of students from south of us, so it would also be very convenient for them."

Pura said some LPN students don't have the transportation to get to Greenfield easily each day.

"They'll have to spend the rest of this academic year getting back and forth to Greenfield, though," he said.

Pura said the LPN program will occupy space on the third floor of the college's downtown building. He said the rest of the building is used for community education classes, workforce initiatives, workshops and training, and the GCC Foundation's offices are located there.

GCC Foundation's mission is to support the college, its students, faculty, staff and alumni by building relationships and raising money.

“We look forward to being back at Smith Vocational,” said Pura. “I think it’s a really good fit for the program.”
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[MASSASOIT COMMUNITY COLLEGE](#)

BRIDGEWATER STATE U / MASSASOIT CC | Sex offender loses Bridgewater State teaching job - WCVB
01/06/2015 - Level 2 sex offender Sean Janson will no longer be teaching at Bridgewater State University or Massasoit Community College in Brockton, our news partners at The Enterprise reported. At Bridgewater State, a new university policy went into effect on Jan. 1 banning the employment of Level 2 and Level 3 sex offenders on campus. The Policy to Protect Minors and Prevent Abuse was unanimously approved during a trustees meeting last month, meaning Janson cannot return to classes after the winter break.

[MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE](#)

MIDDLESEX CC | MCC named Top School for veterans - Lowell Sun Online
01/04/2015 - Thanks to Middlesex Community College’s Veterans Resource Center, Veterans Advisory Board and other special veterans services, MCC has been designated a Top School in the 2015 Military Advanced Education Guide to Colleges & Universities. “There are approximately 450 veterans currently enrolled at MCC,” said Maryanne Mungovan, director of Multicultural and Veterans Affairs. “And that number continues to grow. This award recognizes all the work Middlesex does to create a welcoming environment for our student veterans.”

[MOUNT WACHUSETT COMMUNITY COLLEGE](#)

MT. WACHUSETT CC | Two New England colleges lead income inequality initiative - Boston Globe
12/26/2014 - Students at Keene State College calculated the minimum wage area residents must earn to make a living. Mount Wachusett Community College hosted a banquet in which some guests were served lasagna while others sat on the floor and ate rice. Together, the schools are spearheading a three-year initiative to develop coursework about economic inequality, social mobility, and public policy for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. The resulting materials and activities created by Keene, Wachusett, and 29 other schools across the country will be available to hundreds of colleges and universities.

MT. WACHUSETT CC | \$10G grant to promote careers in manufacturing - Nashoba Publishing Online
12/26/2014 - The North Central Massachusetts Development Corporation today announced that its partnership with Mount Wachusett Community College has been awarded one of nine AMP it up! matching grants through MassDevelopment. NCMDC will use the \$10,000 award to conduct outreach and programs that will educate young people and adults about career options in advanced manufacturing.

MT. WACHUSETT CC | Mount Wachusett Community College named to President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll - Nashoba Publishing Online
01/02/2015 - Mount Wachusett Community College has been named to the 2014 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, with distinction, for exemplary community service programs that enhance the visibility of effective practices in campus-community partnerships.

MT. WACHUSETT CC / QUINSIGAMOND CC | Worcester, Fitchburg groups receive ‘AMP it up’ grants - telegram.com
12/21/2014 - MassDevelopment has announced nine partnerships that are recipients of the “AMP it up!” campaign’s matching grants to educate young people and adults about career options in advanced manufacturing. MassDevelopment will provide awards totaling \$88,633 to the nine partnerships that consist of regional employment and workforce investment boards; advanced manufacturers; chambers of commerce and development councils; community colleges; youth-serving organizations; and other organizations.

[NORTHERN ESSEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE](#)

NORTHERN ESSEX CC | Getting a jump on college - Eagle-Tribune

01/08/2015 - A program that offers students at Haverhill High School a chance to earn college credits during the school day is experiencing explosive growth. It began with nine students earning about a year's worth of college credits and this year doubled to 18 students who earned 27 college credits each through a partnership with Northern Essex Community College.

[QUINSIGAMOND COMMUNITY COLLEGE](#)

MT.WACHUSETT CC / QUINSIGAMOND CC | Worcester, Fitchburg groups receive 'AMP it up' grants - telegram.com
12/21/2014 - MassDevelopment has announced nine partnerships that are recipients of the "AMP it up!" campaign's

STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES:

[BRIDGEWATER STATE UNIVERSITY](#)

BRIDGEWATER STATE U / MASSASOIT CC | Sex offender loses Bridgewater State teaching job - WCVB

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[MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS](#)

MCLA | MCLA earns national grant to improve student access to arts - Berkshire Eagle Online

01/03/2015 - The Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts is looking to be a leader in a national movement to make arts education more accessible in rural regions. MCLA's Fine and Performing Arts Department in December was the named one of seven recipients of a National Endowment for the Arts' Art Works grant, developed under a new award category known as "Collective Impact."

MCLA PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH | As Pres. Grant Departs Search For Next MCLA Leader Narrows - WAMC

01/02/2015 - (Audio) On Monday, Mary Grant is set to become the next chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Asheville, leaving Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts after 12 years as president. And, the college is in the midst of a search to fill her shoes. ...The search committee has been meeting since September, following Grant's announcement in August. It has enlisted the help of Archer-Martin Associates for the national search and developed a presidential leadership profile explaining MCLA and the president's role.

MCLA | MCLA Named A Best Value For Public Colleges - iBerkshires.com

12/22/2014 - Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts has been named to Kiplinger's Personal Finance's list of 100 best values in public colleges for 2015. The ranking cites four-year schools that combine outstanding academics with affordable cost. MCLA was one of two four-year public institutions in Massachusetts to make the list. Kiplinger's selected the top 100 public colleges and universities, private colleges and universities, and private liberal arts colleges from some 1,200 institutions.

MCLA PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH | Interim MCLA President Cindy Brown sees transition as 'business as usual' - Berkshire Eagle Online

12/29/2014 - The interim president of the Massachusetts College of Liberal arts says she has a strong team to help her lead over the next few months. Cynthia Brown, the college's vice president for academic affairs, stepped into the role on Dec. 1. ...Brown will serve as interim until the board of trustees appoints a new president this spring. Candidates from a national search are expected to visit the campus in February, and the board hopes to select a candidate in March.

[SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY](#)

SALEM STATE U | Salem State Gets Funding for Early College High School Program - Salem Patch

12/22/2014 - Salem State University will get \$150,000 as part of "grant funding aimed at creating new Early College High School programs in six Massachusetts communities." The Patrick Administration announced the total \$738,000 funding. "Traditional high school offerings don't work for every student and so we must create new avenues to ensure their

success,” said Secretary of Education Matthew Malone. “The opportunities these students will receive due to these grants will put them at a great advantage when they graduate high school and will prepare them well for the workforce demands of the future.”

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS

UMASS SYSTEM | UMass, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke receive community engaged designation from Carnegie Foundation - [masslive.com](#)

01/07/2015 - The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has named all five University of Massachusetts campuses as a “Community-Engaged University.”

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS/BOSTON

UMASS BOSTON | UMass Boston steps into the light - [Boston Globe](#)

01/05/2015 - For decades, the Boston campus of the University of Massachusetts was the overlooked stepchild in the city’s family of high-achieving colleges. Isolated out on windswept Columbia Point, the campus is largely a grim maze of brick buildings that hardly inspire scholastic ambition. So a striking new science complex, with a distinctive glass-and-steel atrium, is more than just a long-overdue makeover. It also serves as a loud punctuation to the academic progress the urban college has made in recent years. “It’s just a beginning, but this building is symbolic,” said J. Keith Motley, UMass Boston’s chancellor since 2007. “When you come on campus, it embraces you and says, ‘We mean business.’ It’s a long way from where we started as an institution.”

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS/LOWELL

UMASS LOWELL | UMass Lowell receives nearly \$2M in federal grants for criminal justice research - [Boston Business Journal](#)

01/08/2015 - Faculty members at the University of Massachusetts Lowell have received three grants totaling nearly \$2 million from the National Institute of Justice for research projects related to criminal justice issues.

UMASS LOWELL | Meehan vows to stay put at UML -- at least for now - [Lowell Sun Online](#)

01/07/2015 - Amid speculation that he might be a leading contender as Robert Caret’s successor as President of the UMass system, Chancellor Marty Meehan said today he is staying put at UMass Lowell for at least the next several years to see through several ambitious education projects, including a joint venture with Raytheon Corp. to develop a college engineering program in Kuwait.

WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY

WESTFIELD STATE U | Westfield State University turns 175; looks past Dobelle scandal - [WWLP.com](#)

01/02/2015 - Despite his resignation in the fall of 2013, the shadow of former President Dr. Evan S. Dobelle still hung over Westfield State University when the calendar turned to 2014. With lawsuits being filed on Dobelle’s behalf against members of the WSU Board of Trustees and an ever-increasing amount of media scrutiny descending upon the school, 2014 – which marked Westfield State’s 175th anniversary – was looking to be moribund 12 months. The University chose instead to aggressively move on, in the form of breaking ground on a new science building, appointing new members to the school’s Board of Trustees and a revitalizing the search for a new president.

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY

WORCESTER STATE U | [College Town](#) - [telegram.com](#)

12/27/2014 - Worcester State University was awarded \$175,000 to offer “Early College” at Burncoat High School. It was part of \$738,000 in grant funding released by the Patrick Administration for the purpose of creating new Early College High School programs in six Massachusetts communities. WSU and Roxbury Community College received the largest awards, in the amount of \$175,000 each.

WORCESTER STATE U | Recruiting students part of the game for Worcester colleges, universities - [Worcester Mag](#)

12/31/2014 - With nine colleges and universities within city limits, Worcester is without question a destination for those seeking a quality education. That does not mean they will flock here without prodding; competition is fierce to draw students from across the state, throughout the country and around the world. Now more than ever, recruiting is integral

to helping the city's post-secondary schools attract its share of the 21 million or so students in the U.S. alone in higher education. ...“Worcester State being the public university here in Worcester county, more often than not a student is going to self-initiate with us because we're a viable educational option for them,” said Worcester State's director of admissions, Joseph DiCarlo. “Both in terms of having a strong academic reputation and in terms of affordability, we have been fortunate enough as a university that we haven't had to be that aggressive in terms of going out into the market.”

Higher Education Trends

HIGHER EDTRENDS | Here's One Way to Get Early Admission Into College: Be Rich - Bloomberg

01/09/2015 - Top colleges are filling more of their classes in early-admissions programs that favor affluent families, placing another barrier before poorer students hoping to better themselves through higher education. Families that need financial aid often wait for the regular round, which starts this month, so they can compare aid offers. Because early-decision programs require a binding commitment to one school in November and boost admissions chances, many slots are taken before lower-income students even apply.

HIGHER EDTRENDS | Associations weigh in on how to gauge post-college outcomes - insidehighered

01/09/2015 - Lawmakers will continue to look for ways to measure the value of a college degree. Acknowledging this, a group of three higher education associations say they want to help that conversation be more informed and comprehensive. The groups, which represent the various sectors of public higher education, on Thursday released a draft discussion guide for how to track what happens to students after college. The Post-College Outcomes Framework and Toolkit is from the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation funded the project.

HIGHER EDTRENDS | GAO report finds state education and workforce databases lacking - insidehighered

01/08/2015 - After eight years of work and \$640 million in federal spending, state data systems that seek to link education and the workforce remain riddled with holes. That was the conclusion of the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) in a report released in November. The GAO looked at two federal grant programs to support states' development of “longitudinal” data systems that try to follow students as they move from early education to K-12, college and employment.

HIGHER EDTRENDS | Rethinking the Way Higher Ed Trains Teachers - On Campus

01/08/2015 - (Audio) The burn-out rate for teachers in this country is high, nearly half leave the profession within five years. That doesn't come without consequences, American schools are falling behind. On Campus takes a look at what it would take to better prepare teachers, beginning in an unlikely place.

HIGHER EDTRENDS | Intervening with high performing, low-income students changes enrollment patterns, study finds - insidehighered

01/05/2015 - Ever since a 2012 study found that a majority of high-achieving, low-income high school seniors don't apply to a single competitive college, educators and policy makers have been debating what to do about “undermatching,” as the issue has come to be called. Some have argued for more attention (and resources) for the institutions that enroll these students in significant numbers, especially community colleges and regional public institutions. But many have looked for ways to attract more of these students to top colleges, which tend to have more generous aid offers and higher graduation rates than less competitive colleges.

HIGHER EDTRENDS | Education Department Unveils College Rating Plan - On Campus

12/19/2014 - (Audio) The Education Department Friday released its much-anticipated plan to rate colleges. Starting next school year, the Department will rate more than 5,000 colleges and universities as high-, low- or middle-performing schools by measuring certain outcomes. The Education Department wants to measure and then rank schools based on how much it actually costs to attend the school, how many students graduate and find jobs in their field, and whether colleges are admitting enough low- and middle-income students. Under Secretary Ted Mitchell says the measures will not include graduates' salaries or the average debt load students graduate with.



Nancy Letts
Become a fan

Executive Producer, "Going Public"
The Gorilla Speaks: It's Time to Change the Conversation About Public Education

Probably like you, I've attended my share of dinner parties, soccer matches, school plays and dance recitals in my career as a parent and now, as a grandmother. Orchestra recitals, publishing parties, dance performances, school plays; it's here -- not at PTO meetings -- where we learn about the worst third grade teacher. Where we find out that your kids are having tea ceremonies as they study Japan and mine are only reading textbooks about Brazil.

Here's where I first heard about the teacher who gives easy A's in Advanced Algebra but who yells when the kids get a wrong answer. But in the last 50 years, I've never had a serious conversation about what the purpose of education should be. I can't remember a time in the last half-century when we've been more driven apart by the Education Wars, and yet we've really never discussed what the purpose of education should be. Have we?

That fact hasn't stopped folks from decrying the state of public education today. Just say: "Teacher's unions," or "tenure," or "Common Core Standards," or "teaching to the test," and everyone who's breathing has an opinion. We want our kids to be well-rounded, technology-literate and able to read by second grade. No, by first grade. No, Jimmy is reading in Pre-K, so why not Janie? We want them science-savvy. We hope they can read and write and speak and listen effectively (whatever the heck that means) at "grade level" (whoever decides that?)

For the last 15 years, we've been told that we're not meeting world-wide standards. Hold on just a minute. Could it be because social class inequality is greater in the United States than in any of the countries with which we can reasonably be compared and the relative performance of U.S. adolescents is better than it appears when countries' national average performance is conventionally compared.?

And how about this: Vouchers and tax-credit programs offer families a way to escape failing public schools. Just hang on: There is little evidence that students actually benefit. After four years of looking at such a program in Washington, DC, the results were disappointing.

And this: Only 17% of all charter schools outperform public schools, 34% do worse, and the rest are about the same.

I've been an education consultant for the past 20 years. I work with school districts all over the world. I can tell you that there is very little difference between the teachers in the top-performing suburban schools I work in and the teachers in Chinatown or East LA. The difference is the kids and many of the schools in which these kids must sit all day. The difference is in the bathrooms and in the lunch that's served and in the amount of professional development and who pays for it. The difference is in the number of days the students come to school and in the health care available to them. The difference is in who comes in hungry and who gets to eat on the weekends and holidays. The difference is in the playgrounds and in the amount of art and music and physical education available. The difference is the classroom size and in the number of books in the library and in the technology available. The difference is who runs out of paper before the end of the year and whose parents have to contribute pencils and Kleenex and hand sanitizer.

It's time we stopped talking about the failure of teachers and their unions. Instead of pitting public schools against charters and vouchers, we've all got to take an unvarnished look at the gorilla in the room: poverty. We must change the conversation. It's not that spending money on education is a bad investment; it's where and how that money is spent that's the problem. The sorry fact is that all of the money we have spent educating our poorest students never makes up the difference when poor kids begin school with 14,000 fewer vocabulary words. We can never make up for some kids having no books at home or no one to read to them.

If the research is clear that no money thrown at education after children are infants and toddlers makes a significant difference, why do we persist in putting more money into charter schools and diminishing the power of teachers' unions? And why do we persist in believing that "superior" teachers have a direct correlation with high achievement? I think it has to do with how we perceive the purpose of education.

Education has become a major aspect of the Culture Wars. If some of us see our traditional values under attack, we will find ways to starve the beast. We will use vouchers and charters and tax-credits and parent triggers to reduce public education to a trickle. We will see social programs such as free and reduced lunches or Pell Grants as eroding the moral fabric of our traditional society and they will draft whatever legislation they can to abolish the Department of Education and the schools it serves.

Unless we begin the dialogue about what we believe the purpose of education to be, I will continue to watch in horror as research about poverty is neglected. I will stare in disbelief at the media headlines extolling mistruths about student gains. I will sit with the gorilla waiting for the conversation to begin. Are you ready?



AFSCME Accepting Applications for 2015 Women's Leadership Academy

by Lee Saunders and Laura Reyes | January 22, 2015

Across the nation, **AFSCME** women are leading the charge to create change for working families. Women leaders know that to accomplish our goals we must actively recruit new members and engage other members to join us, fight for the issues that matter most to us at the bargaining table and in state legislatures, and lift up the voices and stories of AFSCME members to promote the value of public services.

That's why we are excited to announce the **2015 AFSCME Women's Leadership Academy**, to be held from June to December of this year. The Academy, designed for women officers or activists at the local union level, prepares AFSCME women for future leadership roles in our union. Below are the requirements for participation in the Academy and a web address for the Academy application.

This six-month Academy will include:

- A five-day orientation session on June 22-26, 2015, and a three-day closing session in December.
- Completion of a local or council campaign project.
- Frequent contact through social media and webinars.

The national union will pay travel costs, overnight accommodations (double occupancy), and meals for all formal sessions. Participants or affiliates are expected to cover any release time or lost wages.

Applicants must demonstrate:

- Commitment to our 2015 priorities and to build AFSCME during the next decade.
- Support from their AFSCME local or council.
- Engagement in activities supporting Power to Win goals, for example: organizing new members or increasing member involvement, political action/PEOPLE recruitment, community allies work.

Application/Selection Process:

- Complete the online application [here](#).
- Applications and letter of support must be received by Saturday, March 7, 2015.
- The scanned letter of support may be e-mailed to education@afscme.org.
- The letter of support may be mailed to: AFSCME Education Department, Attn: WLA, 1625 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036.
- Following review and selection, applicants will be notified by Friday, April 10, 2015.

We hope you take advantage of this powerful opportunity to help build our union.

Lee Saunders is the President of AFSCME. Laura Reyes is its Secretary-Treasurer.



AFSCME Women's Leadership Academy in 2014