

Origins of Black History Month

The Meaning of Valentine's Day

Ramona Taylor, Yahoo Contributor Network

When people think about Valentine's Day, red roses, candy in heart-shaped boxes, and saccharine sweet valentine's cards come to mind. But, like most holidays, there was a special meaning or struggle that brought about the holiday. While that original meaning may have been lost over time, we have grown to believe that Valentine's Day is about being in love.

THE ORIGIN

The celebration of the day began with the life and death of a man. A bishop by the name of Valentine stood against an Emperor's decree that Roman soldiers could not marry. He married them in secrecy because he thought the Emperor's edict was wrong and went against the glory of young love. Valentine's acts were discovered. Labeled a traitor, he was martyred. In memory of Valentine's deeds, Pope Gelasius declared him a saint and the day of his execution, February 14th, became known as Valentine's Day.

THE MEANING OVER TIME

In ancient times, Valentine's Day originally marked the remembrance of the man. Years after his death, young men offering notes of affection to young ladies they admired. By the Middle Ages, the Day was recognized as the holiday of courtship and love.

THE MEANING TODAY

Love has stages. So, Valentine's Day means different things to different people at different stages of their lives.

For little kids, Valentine's Day is about friendship. Cards and candies are given to those who they care about from mother, father and playground group.

For adolescents, Valentine's Day is about the hope of love. Teens offer giggles and blushes to their crushes. With their offerings of cards, letters, candies and flowers, they anticipate that someone special will like them back.

For singles, Valentine's Day means commitment. Valentine's Day is after all about the search for lasting love. Just as many relationships are begun and end with Valentine's Day. Between special dates and special dinners, the Day is full of sharing and reflecting. For some, Valentine's becomes the ultimate day of love and is set as a wedding day.

For couples, Valentine's Day is a reminder of love. After commitment and sharing, Valentine's Day is just like special time to set aside to remember courtship, share special feelings, and recommit for the years to come.

For parents, Valentine's Day is a shared love and an opportunity to teach about love. Children, whether biological or adopted, are the product of committed love and inspire a newfound appreciation for a partner and a sense of family.

For most, Valentine's Day is a happy occasion. But, for so many, Valentine's Day is bittersweet. For those who've lost loved ones, Valentine's Day is a sad day that they long for the past and honor those they loved. For those lonely souls, Valentine's Day is a reminder that a basic human need to belong has gone unsatisfied.

Valentine's Day is a holiday about the human heart! It offers us a day to hope and to share life with a person or people we love.

The origins of Black History Month can be traced back to a man named Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950). Woodson, the son of former slaves, was an amazing man in his own right. Since his family was too poor to send him to school as a child, he taught himself the basics of a school education. At age 20, Woodson was finally able to attend high school, which he completed in just two years.

He then went on to earn a bachelor's and master's degree from the University of Chicago. In 1912, Woodson became only the second African American to earn a doctorate from Harvard University (W.E.B. Du Bois was the first). Woodson used his hard-earned education to teach. He taught both in public schools and at Howard University.

Three years after earning his doctorate, Woodson made a trip that had a great impact on him. In 1915, he traveled to Chicago to participate in a three-week celebration of the 50th anniversary of the end of slavery. The excitement and enthusiasm generated by the events inspired Woodson to continue the study of black history year-round. Before leaving Chicago, Woodson and four others created the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH) on September 9, 1915. The following year, the ASNLH began publication of the *Journal of Negro History*.

Woodson realized that most textbooks at the time ignored the history and achievements of blacks. Thus, in addition to the journal, he wanted to find a way to encourage interest and study of black history. In 1926, Woodson promoted the idea of a "Negro History Week," which was to be held during the second week of February. The idea caught on quickly and Negro History Week was soon celebrated around the United States. With a high demand for study materials, the ASNLH began to produce pictures, posters, and lesson plans to help teachers bring Negro History Week into schools. In 1937, the ASNLH also began producing the *Negro History Bulletin*, which focused on an annual theme for Negro History Week.

In 1976, the 50th anniversary of the beginning of Negro History Week and the bicentennial of the United States' independence, Black History Week was expanded to Black History Month. Ever since then, Black History Month has been celebrated in February around the country.

Table Officers E-Mail Addresses

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As more and more Campuses are in the process of arming their Police Departments, AFSCME Council 93 and Local 1067 have been meeting to start a Critical Incident Response Team. This team will help with several related items and will be made up of fellow officers and members of a team that will be able to assist our members. Please contact Kevin Hanley or Diane Byrnes for more information. We will be holding regional meetings starting in March of 2014.

Crisis Response Team

The AFSCME Crisis Response Team works in collaboration with campus police and communities to meet the needs, and enhance recovery, of victims, witnesses, neighborhoods, and businesses in the aftermath of a significant criminal or other traumatic event.

The goals of the Crisis Response Team:

- Provide education regarding trauma reactions while normalizing and validating individual responses in the aftermath of crime or critical incident,
- To help the community understand the law enforcement response, investigation procedures, and the criminal justice process,
- To build communication and understanding between the community and police agencies, and
- Help the community reconnect to maintain peace and a support system.

Some Services provided:

- Crisis intervention - individual and group
- Crime scene response
- Neighborhood response
- Emergency assistance
- Education/empowerment
- Community meetings
- Resources and referrals
- Victim Advocacy



Contact [Diane Byrnes](#) at 617-367-6026 or [Kevin Hanley](#) at 781-603-2754 email dbyrnes@afscmecouncil93.org or khanley@bhcc.mass.edu to request a response or for more information on the Crisis Response Team.

CRITICAL INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM

Examples of a critical incident are shootings, death in custody, car accidents or incidents where the suspect has been killed or severely injured

In the event of a critical incident the Unit II Steward should *immediately* contact **both** Local 1067 President Kevin Hanley and AFSCME Council 93 Attorney Diane Byrnes. The Steward should give a brief description of the events and the condition of the Officer (i.e. was the Officer injured).

Upon notification of a critical incident Kevin Hanley and Diane Byrnes will respond immediately to the Medical Facility or Public Safety Office (whichever location the Officer involved is at).

While waiting for the Union officials to arrive, the Steward should arrange to get the Officer to the nearest hospital to be checked out for elevated blood pressure, injuries etc.

The Officer should refrain from discussing the incident with fellow officers, family members or friends.

The Officer should wait until the Union attorney arrives before answering any questions. **If ordered** to do so the Officer should assert his or her rights under Garrity v. City of New Jersey, 385 U.S. 493 (1967) and Carney v. Springfield, 401 Mass. 610 (1988)

The Steward should have the Department's Use of Force Policy and the Internal Affairs Policy on Use of Force.

It's important to note that experts have suggested that it's best to delay interviews for a few hours to several days after a critical incident to enhance memory and produce more accurate statements.

Good Afternoon Kevin,

Attached please find a write up and thank you article for consideration in your newsletter. I really wanted to stress the enormity of work and what an incredible job everyone in Facilities did.

I know we always spend 99.999% of our time on issues and problems, when we really need to spend that time on the people who do their jobs every day and do them well. My staff is great and they take pride in what they do. They are so knowledgeable and dependable and I am lucky to have them!

My biggest challenge is getting them to understand their worth at the college and the true contributions that they make to our students and their success.

Thank for the consideration!

Maureen

On the evening of Friday, January 3, 2014, two sprinkler pipes froze and burst causing major damage to four floors in Scibelli Hall/Building 2, one of the busiest academic buildings on the campus of Springfield Technical Community College.

Typically, a project of this volume could take months to complete, but fortunately students were off-campus on winter break and not scheduled to return until January 21st. The Facilities staff's response to the incident was immediate. Over a dozen different contractors were hired, working in unison throughout the building. In addition, these contractors had multiple subcontractors working for them.

From clean up to the rebuilding of the classrooms and labs, the contractors, along with our Facilities staff, worked very early in the morning until late into the night and weekends. The work included, clean-up of all water, and the demolishing of all walls, ceilings and floors that suffered water damage.

After long hours and many sleepless nights, the contractors completed their work on the two academic floors on Sunday, January 19th.

Then came the real test! All of the furniture that was taken out of the classrooms and labs needed to be put back in, cleaned and arranged. All of the rooms on both floors needed to be cleaned and prepared for the returning students and faculty. Luckily, the College was still closed due to the Monday holiday. As each room was completed, the maintainers were quick to follow, cleaning all rooms, assisting the movers with furniture, and the IT staff who reinstalled all the computers and equipment. Our carpenters reinstalled all of the white boards, televisions and signs. HVAC assisted with reinstalling all of the thermostats and reconnected equipment.

The teamwork continued on Monday as the Facilities staff diligently attended to last minute details. Unbelievably, the classrooms and labs were finished and ready for our students on Tuesday, January 21st, the first day of Spring Semester classes.

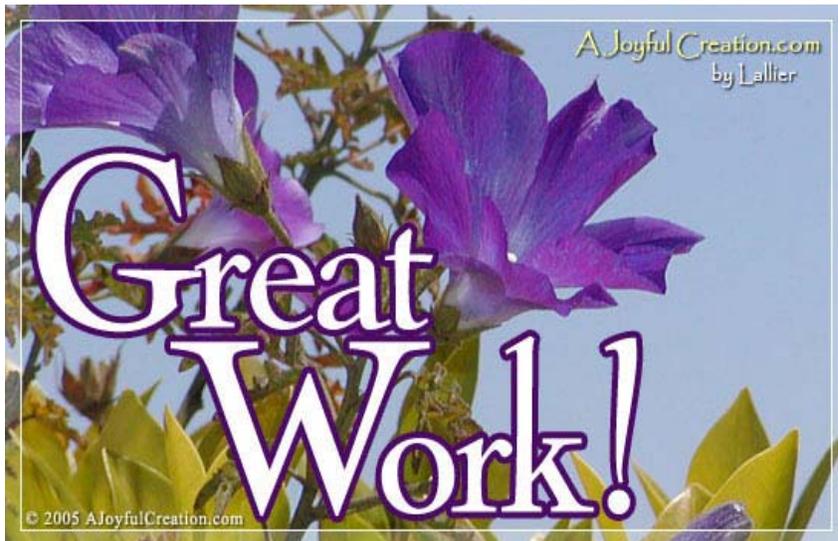
While there is still work ongoing in the faculty office floors and stairwells, our students were never impacted. The staff all pulled together to help with this emergency. Their combined efforts, and the amazing results, were nothing short of miraculous. Their professionalism and dedication to the campus was appreciated and noticed by the entire college community.

At the college's opening staff meeting, I was approached by dozens of faculty and staff who praised our efforts and our continued response to the faculty who were temporarily relocated.

This was a true TEAM effort and I cannot emphasize enough that we would never have accomplished all we did without the AMAZING efforts of the entire Facilities staff.

We can never lose sight of the invaluable services Facilities staff bring to a campus! Facilities Departments ensure that students have a clean and healthy environment and heat in the winter and cool air in the summer. Every operational role that keeps our buildings and grounds in good working condition contributes immensely to the educational experience of our students!

I would like to give a BIG THANK YOU to all of the Facilities and IT staff who when faced with what seemed impossible, did what they do best and proved once again - STCC Works!



Another Great Job!
From STCC Facilities Department!

[VISION PROJECT | Massachusetts leads nine-state effort to measure what students learn in college –](#)

State higher education officials detailed a new project Tuesday in which Massachusetts is leading a group of nine states in developing a way to measure and compare what students learn in college by looking at their actual work, from term papers to lab reports, rather than using a standardized test. The goal is to create a reliable standard to compare the success of Massachusetts public colleges to those of other states, from Connecticut to Kentucky to Oregon, and to help professors teach better in the process.

[VISION PROJECT | Mass. to gauge effectiveness of state colleges -](#)

Next fall, Massachusetts will embark on a unique venture with eight other states to assess how well college students are learning in state schools. “This board asked this department to do something which has never been done before in the history of American higher education. Never been done before,” Commissioner of Higher Education Richard Freeland told the Board of Higher Education Tuesday morning. “It’s a great system of assessing student learning that will permit us to report to the public in a way the public can understand, not just a grade and 120 credits but some metric that makes sense of the level of student learning being achieved by students at community colleges, state universities and UMass that will make comparisons with other states so we can know how Massachusetts is doing in comparison to other states.”

[FRAMINGHAM STATE U | Framingham State unveils 175th anniversary plans -](#)

Now one of the largest educational institutions in Metro West, Framingham State University had a humble start in 1839, when it opened in Lexington with just three students. But it’s an origin that still elicits pride at the school today, as officials gear up for a full slate of events celebrating the university’s 175th anniversary this year. “Any institution needs to pay attention to and honor its history,” said Framingham State Interim President Robert Martin. “In our particular case, our history should be a point of pride for our entire community.”

[MASS MARITIME | Grant helps MMA pay for simulator system, refuel training ship -](#)

With a \$1 million grant from the sale of obsolete vessels in the National Defense Reserve Fleet, Massachusetts Maritime Academy plans to upgrade its simulation system and chip into its training ship’s refueling bill. The academy, like each of the nation’s five other state maritime schools and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, N.Y., was awarded the grant Thursday from the U.S. Department of Transportation. Under the National Maritime Heritage Act, the department’s Maritime Administration is required to devote 25 percent of profits from the vessel sales to the academies for “facility and training ship maintenance, repair and modernization, and for the purchase of simulators and fuel.”

[MULTIPLE CAMPUSES | Behavioral Concepts, Inc. \(BCI\) offers internship program with Fitchburg State University -](#)

Behavioral Concepts, Inc. (BCI), a company of behavioral clinicians specializing in the care of children with autism in Central Massachusetts, recently announced a partnership relationship with Fitchburg State University as it pertains to the company’s internship program. As part of the agreement, BCI and the University will partner to help recruit Fitchburg State undergraduates for its fall and spring internship programs. ...In addition to Fitchburg State University, BCI has similar relationships with Worcester State University and Quinsigamond Community College. In addition to a one-semester internship, BCI offers a year-long fellowship program for Worcester State University students.

[WORCESTER STATE U | Parking tug-of-war between Worcester schools, residents gets rougher -](#)

Some city councilors would like to see the city play hardball to further discourage Worcester State University students from parking on nearby residential streets and instead get them to use the college’s new satellite parking lot on Goddard Memorial Drive.

[BERKSHIRE CC | Higher Ed Commissioner Charges BCC To Make Best Use of State Funds -](#)

Department of Higher Education Commissioner Richard Freeland wants Berkshire Community College to help him prove that the state's priority on education is worth it. Freeland addressed the BCC Board of Trustees on Tuesday, calling on them to give him the "ammunition" he needs to show the administration that increases in higher education funding is money well spent. "At the end of the day, as important as hard work is and as important as our efforts are, what really is the ultimate test is 'what's the numbers? What's the outcome? What result are we achieving?'" Freeland asked the trustees.

[MIDDLESEX CC | Dual Enrollment Program growing each year -](#)

With the district's Dual Enrollment Program becoming more popular than ever at Burlington High School, it was time for the School Committee to hear an annual update on the state of the program. The Dual Enrollment Program at BHS has been in existence for several years, and it provides opportunities for high school students to earn legitimate college credits while still in high school. The program offers college-level classes through a collaborative effort with teachers from Bay Path College and Middlesex Community College.

[HIGHER ED TRENDS | Obama Ramps Up Federal Focus on Job Training -](#)

President Obama put the focus squarely on job training this week in a State of the Union address that touched only briefly on other higher-education issues. Since that speech, on Tuesday, he and Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. have been taking that message on the road and promoting enhanced federal job-training programs. On Thursday, Mr. Obama signed a memorandum authorizing a government wide review of federal job-training programs.

[HIGHER ED TRENDS | Obama: College degree not needed for a good career -](#)

President Barack Obama says not everyone needs a college degree to build a great career, as long as people have the right training. Obama traveled to a General Electric facility in the Milwaukee area Thursday to promote training programs for in-demand jobs. Obama says workers might make a better living with skilled trades and manufacturing than an art history degree.

[HIGHER ED TRENDS | Boys being left behind as university gender gap widens -](#)

Young men are becoming "a disadvantaged group" as far more young women go to university, higher education chiefs have warned. The number of girls seeking a university place this year is more than a third larger than that of boys. The growing divide is becoming a more pressing issue than the number of applicants from poorer homes, said the chief executive of Ucas, the universities admissions service. "There remains a stubborn gap between male and female applicants which, on current trends, could eclipse the gap between rich and poor within a decade," Mary Curnock Cook said.

[HIGHER ED TRENDS | Many local families make college a top savings priority, Fidelity/MEFA survey finds](#) - Fidelity Investments, a Boston-based financial-services company that offers college-savings products, said Thursday that a recent survey found that 83 percent of parents in Massachusetts report that saving for college is one of their top three savings priorities for 2014. Fidelity conducted the survey with the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority, or MEFA. Other findings: Families that said they had a plan in place and plan to save monthly intend to set aside an average of \$448 each month toward their children's future college expenses. And 48 percent of respondents indicated that they plan to save more in 2014.

[HIGHER ED TRENDS | Op-Ed: By Carlos Campo: A Few Surprises at the President's Higher Ed Summit -](#)

Higher education leaders are generally responding positively to President Obama's recent "College Opportunity Summit," as the president and first lady reinforced their ongoing commitment to improving potential college students' access and success. At the event — which featured more than 100 college presidents who signed pledges that their institutions will help with the effort—Michelle Obama recounted her own powerful story of perseverance and success as she noted how deeply the nation's leading couple's life stories are "rooted in education." While the summit was another example of the president's clear commitment to improving higher education in America, a few surprises emerged from the gathering.

When Is Black History Month? Woodson chose the second week of February to celebrate Negro History Week because that week included the birthdays of two important men: President Abraham Lincoln (February 12) and Frederick Douglass (February 14). When Negro History Week turned into Black History Month in 1976, the celebrations during the second week of February expanded to the entire month of February.

[HIGHER ED TRENDS | Will Congress turn its back on students? -](#)

More than 40 million Americans now hold student loan debt, amounting to a total of \$1.2 trillion. Each year, that number swells. Last year's average borrower finished college owing more than \$26,000; this year, that number is projected to be higher. Seven million Americans are currently in default on their loans. They are afforded few protections. While most debts, such as property foreclosures or credit card debts, can be canceled with a declaration of bankruptcy, doing the same for student loan debt is virtually impossible. Becky Gaul says that she would declare bankruptcy if she could, "to not have this debt hanging over my head... because right now, I can't put money away for my son's college or for my retirement." Borrowers who default face penalty fees, suspended professional licenses, and the garnishing of wages and disability benefits, even without court orders. For people like Becky, there is no way out.

[HIGHER ED TRENDS | Rethinking Open Classes on Today's Campuses -](#)

Clayton Christensen's 1997 book, *The Innovator's Dilemma*, posed the question, why do good companies fail? In industries ranging from computers to telephones to cameras to stock markets, the companies that monitored market trends, tended to their customers, and invested in high-returning capital capsized in a sea of start-up innovations (PCs, cell phones, digital cameras, and online markets, in these cases). Some say the same is true of higher ed - except that wise schools, perceiving the trend, can embrace the disruption before it disrupts them. So what would happen if colleges embraced the MOOC? ...MOOCs supplement campus classrooms as audio-visual textbooks or take-home lectures that allow professors to blend and flip their classrooms. Bunker Hill Community College and Massachusetts Bay Community College, funded by a Gates Foundation grant, have experimented with blended classes anchored by MOOCs from MIT.

[HIGHER ED TRENDS | Study: High school disadvantages carry over into college -](#)

Starting over in college isn't an easy thing for high school students. Inside Higher Education reported on Jan. 27 that high school disadvantages follow students into college, and that the type of high school they attended will affect the way they do in higher education settings, based off a study conducted by the National Bureau of Economic Research. The study's results "show that for students from a range of backgrounds, the high school can be the key factor in college success," Inside Higher Education said. And "the study found that the quality of high school is a key predictor of grades in college, not only in freshman year, but continuing into the sophomore and junior years as well."

[HIGHER ED TRENDS | Tests to get into college now being followed by tests to get out -](#)

On weekend mornings all this winter, anxious high school juniors and seniors will be filing into school cafeterias to sweat through the SAT, ACT, and similar college entrance examinations as stern-looking proctors hover over them. Such tests are among the long-established requirements for getting into college. But something new is afoot: Increasingly, students have to take a test to get out.

[EARLY ED TRENDS | How did early education weather the Great Recession? -](#)

Barack Obama campaigned in 2008 on expanding early childhood education with an infusion of new funding, a vision he championed over the past year with a plan for universal preschool. But throughout his administration, the country has been grappling with economic turmoil. Five years later, what is the state of early education? A new report by the New America Foundation looks at a range of measures including student achievement, family well-being, and funding to see how children from birth through age eight, are faring.

[NORTHERN ESSEX CC PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH | State approves new NECC president -](#)

The selection of a new president of Northern Essex Community College is complete. Dr. Lane Glenn, academic affairs vice president at the college, will take over July 1. The Northern Essex trustees voted 5-4 on Dec. 22 to choose Glenn, who has been academic affairs vice president for four years. The runner-up was John O'Donnell, president of Stark College in Ohio. Before Glenn could claim the presidency, however, the state Board of Higher Education had to approve. The board met at Northern Essex yesterday and unanimously confirmed the trustees' choice of Glenn. ...Glenn, 43, said he plans to "keep the momentum moving" at Northern Essex, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Glenn said programs such as Achieving the Dream have helped Northern Essex students make "significant progress."

[NEW LEGISLATIVE APPOINTMENTS | Sannicandro named chairman of higher education committee -](#)

Rep. Tom Sannicandro, D-Ashland, was appointed chairman of the Joint Committee on Higher Education in the House of Representatives last week. Sannicandro previously had been the vice chairman on the Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities. Sannicandro said he was "deeply honored" to accept his new post. "The economic future of the Commonwealth will depend on the strength and vitality of our higher education system," he said. The Joint Committee on Higher Education will be reviewing a variety of bills concerning the state's colleges and universities throughout this session, including legislation filed by Sannicandro to appoint a commission to study student loan debt at the Commonwealth's proprietary schools.

[MASSASOIT CC | Gov. Patrick visits three communities in Brockton area -](#)

Gov. Deval Patrick discussed local budgets, city crime and, of course, this endless winter during a visit to Brockton on Thursday that capped earlier stops in two local towns....State Rep. Geraldine Creedon, D-Brockton, said that she and state Rep. Michael Brady and state Sen. Thomas Kennedy, both D-Brockton, had raised their legislative priorities with Patrick after his speech. The legislators promoted plans for a new health sciences building at Massasoit Community College, as well as discussing financial support for school districts that have taken in Haitian students, and ways to aid small businesses struggling to afford employee health-care costs, Creedon said.

[MASSBAY CC | MassBay student arrested with semiautomatic weapon on campus -](#)

Authorities have arrested a Massachusetts college student they say had a loaded semiautomatic weapon in his backpack.

[MASSBAY CC | MassBay looking for new president -](#)

Trustees at Massachusetts Bay Community College are discussing plans for replacing college President Carole Berotte Joseph when she leaves for a new job in New York in June.

[MCLA | MCLA Berkshire Cultural Resource Center Receives MCC Grant -](#)

The Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) announced that Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA) is a recipient statewide funding in 2011 from the MCC's Adams Arts Program for the Creative Economy. The \$32,000 awarded to MCLA is part of \$765,500 in Adams program funding MCC will invest this year to help revitalize communities and generate new economic activity through arts, science, and history projects across the state.

[BRISTOL CC | Community Foundation Funds award \\$112,500 in Workforce Development and Early Literacy Grants -](#)

The Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts recently awarded \$112,500 in workforce development and early literacy grants with funding from the Polaroid and Acushnet Foundation Funds. This is the Community Foundation's fifth year of managing the New Bedford Area grants program of the Polaroid Fund under contract with the Boston Foundation. ...Bristol Community College, \$15,000 for "Bridging ESOL to eLearning" which will provide nationally recognized Personal Care Assistant (PCA) training and ESOL specific to PCA courses.

[PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION | Between the Lines: The Rising Cost of Opportunity -](#)

During the recent recession, the U.S.'s public universities crossed an important boundary—an ominous boundary from the point of view of making higher education widely accessible. More than half of our public research universities, including UMass, now pay more than half their expenses with student tuition rather than with other sources of revenue. These institutions used to cover most of their operating costs with public money. At UMass, for example, according to state Sen. Stan Rosenberg of Amherst, in the 1960s and '70s the state paid 85 to 90 percent of the cost of running UMass. ...”Now,” Rosenberg said, “according to the university, depending on whose figures you believe, 18 to 25 percent is coming from the state.”

[MT. WACHUSETT CC | Energy Department Supports Projects at 2 Climate-Commitment Signatories - Buildings & Grounds -](#)

Recently, two institutions announced that major renewable-energy projects were either underway or about to begin on their campuses. Although both colleges have had various sustainability initiatives in the works, you don't usually see either among those rated as the nation's greenest. So give credit where it's due. Mount Wachusett Community College, in Massachusetts, has been interested in renewable energy since the college adopted a biomass heating system in 2002 to replace its expensive electrical system. Now the college is setting up two 1.65-megawatt turbines that will cover all of the college's electrical demand. Officials at the college expect the turbines to start generating power in March. The project will cost \$9-million, and it will be covered through \$3.2-million in U.S. Department of Energy grants, along with clean-energy bonds through the state and the federal stimulus package.

[MASS MARITIME | Mass. Maritime set to welcome more Chinese students -](#)

Massachusetts Maritime Academy's foreign exchange program with its counterpart in Shanghai will widen this winter. Sixteen MMA cadets will travel to China for spring semester study at Shanghai Maritime University. Fifteen Chinese students, who are versed in English, will arrive at Taylors Point. Admiral Richard Gurnon, MMA president, said visas are arranged and airline tickets purchased. ... Gurnon said MMA, meanwhile, has also made “great progress” on a student exchange program with the Dalian Maritime University in Dalian, Liaoning, China, which was founded in 1953. This is a “2 plus 2” program, Gurnon said. Two years at MMA; two years at Dalian. The exchange would afford participants both MMA and Dalian degrees. The exchange at this point would accommodate 20 Chinese students each year for two years at Taylors Point. ...”We might be able to start this fall,” Gurnon said. “We're working out a curriculum.”

[MT. WACHUSETT CC | Op-Ed: Daniel M. Asquino: Community colleges academically anchored -](#)

The newly published book, “Academically Adrift: Limited Learning on College Campuses,” is creating a national stir for its assertion that one-third of American college seniors aren't learning — and that academe is to blame. The book, the culmination of a study tracking the academic progress of 2,300 traditional-age students at two dozen private and public four-year colleges and universities across the country, is generating much debate among those who endorse the findings, those who oppose them, and those who land somewhere in between. Where consensus can be found, however, is in recognizing the study's success in heightening awareness about some key issues as institutions, including Mount Wachusett Community College, continuously seek methods to better assess and evaluate teaching and learning strategies and implement changes where needed.

[BUNKER HILL CC | Op-Ed: Lawrence Harmon: The 'transition coach' -](#)

Danny Rivera's office is a tiny turquoise table with ice cream parlor chairs set against a wall of the main lobby of Bunker Hill Community College in Charlestown. ...Rivera is one of 10 “transition coaches” from Success Boston — a college completion initiative funded by the Boston Foundation — who work on area campuses to ensure that struggling Boston students from the high school classes of 2009 and 2010 will persist in higher education at significantly higher rates than those from earlier classes. ... This level of informal, on-the-scene counseling is especially powerful for black students at two-year community colleges.

[FINANCIAL AID | Paying for college: Why it's important to explore your options early -](#)

[COLLEGE COMPLETION | Group Offers \\$1-Million Prize to Cities for Improved College Completion](#)

CEOs for

Cities, with support from the Kresge Foundation and the Lumina Foundation for Education, has announced a \$1-million prize for best performance on what the national network of urban leaders calls the most important economic-development strategy a city can undertake—increasing college attainment. The group will award its Talent Dividend Prize to the metropolitan area that posts the greatest increase in the number of postsecondary degrees granted per capita over a four-year period.

