



The History of St. Patrick's Day and why it's celebrated

St. Patrick's Day was first celebrated in America in 1737, organized by the Charitable Irish Society of Boston, including a feast and religious service. This first celebration of the holiday in the colonies was largely to honor and celebrate the Irish culture that so many colonists had been separated from.

Early celebrations continued this modest tradition. In New York, the first celebration took place as a small gathering at the home of an Irish protestant. St. Patrick's Day parades started in New York in 1762 by a group of Irish soldiers in the British military who marched down Broadway. This began the tradition of a military theme in the parade, as they often feature marching military units. The holiday eventually evolved from the modest religious dinner into the raucous holiday we know today.

By: Jerry Wilson



Saint Patrick is the patron saint and national apostle of Ireland. St Patrick is credited with bringing christianity to Ireland. Most of what is known about him comes from his two works; the Confessio, a spiritual autobiography, and his Epistola, a denunciation of British mistreatment of Irish christians. Saint Patrick described himself as a "most humble-minded man, pouring forth a continuous paean of thanks to his Maker for having chosen him as the instrument whereby multitudes who had worshipped idols and unclean things had become the people of God." Many folk ask the question 'Why is the Shamrock the National Flower of Ireland?' The reason is that St. Patrick used it to explain the Holy Trinity to the pagans. Saint Patrick is believed to have been born in the late fourth century, and is often confused with Palladius, a bishop who was sent by Pope Celestine in 431 to be the first bishop to the Irish believers in Christ.

Saint Patrick is most known for driving the snakes from Ireland. It is true there are no snakes in Ireland, but there probably never have been - the island was separated from the rest of the continent at the end of the Ice Age. As in many old pagan religions, serpent symbols were common and often worshipped. Driving the snakes from Ireland was probably symbolic of putting an end to that pagan practice. While not the first to bring christianity to Ireland, it is Patrick who is said to have encountered the Druids at Tara and abolished their pagan rites. The story holds that he converted the warrior chiefs and princes, baptizing them and thousands of their subjects in the "Holy Wells" that still bear this name.

There are several accounts of Saint Patrick's death. One says that Patrick died at Saul, Downpatrick, Ireland, on March 17, 460 A.D. His jawbone was preserved in a silver shrine and was often requested in times of childbirth, epileptic fits, and as a preservative against the "evil eye." Another account says that St. Patrick ended his days at Glastonbury, England and was buried there. The Chapel of St. Patrick still exists as part of Glastonbury Abbey. Today, many Catholic places of worship all around the world are named after St. Patrick, including cathedrals in New York and Dublin city. May there always be work for your hands to do.



**Elections will be held on
March 10, 2014.**

**at each campus for
AFSCME Convention
in Chicago**

**Watch the union board
for updated information.**

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Thank - You!

The only way we made it through the winter this year, with several storms, and all of the cold, icy weather, was because of you. So, once again, we are grateful and appreciate your willingness to go the extra mile.

Table Officers of Local 1067



VISION PROJECT | College Uses Test Results to Show Value

Evaluating schools and teachers based on test scores has become a battleground in efforts to revamp K-12 education. But the nation's colleges and universities have long bristled at efforts to use similar metrics to scrutinize how well they teach students. Schools have resisted the Obama administration's call for a national college-rating system that could tie federal grants and loans to student performance during and after college. Any national system would likely include metrics like graduation rates and student-loan default rates. If assessments of what students learn are included at all, they would almost certainly be voluntary, an administration official said. ...That lack of information is "this huge paradox sitting at the center of higher education," said Richard Freeland, Massachusetts Commissioner of Higher Education. At most schools, "we don't really know what learning is going on."

COMMUNITY COLLEGE FUNDING FORMULA | New Massachusetts community college funding formula targets performance, growth

With discussions on the state's fiscal 2015 budget underway, some community colleges getting a bigger slice of the pie as Massachusetts implements a new funding formula. "We are trying to link budget allocations to our educational priorities," state Commissioner of Higher Education Richard Freeland said. "That's really an important principle of budgeting."

QCC's QUINSIGAMOND CC | 50 Guardians, Alumni Making a Difference: Sgt. Miguel Lopez

To celebrate Quinsigamond Community College's 50th anniversary, the college is naming "50 Guardians": QCC alumni and friends who have made a difference within the QCC and broader Worcester communities.

GREENFIELD CC | GCC pleased with outsourced bookstore

Greenfield Community College officials have been pleased with their bookstore's first 16 months under private management and are looking forward to seeing small changes to the space this semester. Follett Corp., an Illinois-based company that runs nearly 1,000 college bookstores across the country, will undergo a \$30,000 renovation during the college's spring recess, the week of March 16.

WORCESTER STATE U | Worcester State Named as Top 75 Best Value College in U.S.

Worcester State University has been named one of the 75 "Best Value" public universities in the nation by The Princeton Review. Worcester State joins The University of Massachusetts Amherst as the only two Massachusetts public higher education institution on the list. "Worcester State University offers academic excellence at an affordable price," says President Barry M. Maloney. "Recognizing us as one of the best is not a surprise to me, as I'm sure it wouldn't be to the students who study here or graduate from here."

SALEM STATE U | Salem State U. provost to be second candidate for SUNY Potsdam president to visit campus

Dr. Kristin G. Esterberg will be on the SUNY Potsdam campus Feb. 20 and 21, the second candidate for the college's presidency to visit. Esterberg is provost and academic vice president at Salem State University. She has served as deputy provost at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell, where she was also associate provost and chair of the sociology department. Before that, she was the director of women's studies at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

GREENFIELD CC | Op-Ed: Pura/My Turn: Re-enlist in war on poverty

On Jan. 8, 1964, in his first State of the Union Address as President, Lyndon B. Johnson said, "Unfortunately, many Americans live on the outskirts of hope." He was talking, of course, about the large number of Americans living in poverty. He then declared "unconditional war on poverty." Fifty years later, poverty remains a national problem. ...We do not do that alone. GCC's ability to keep our doors open to all is made possible by each and every member of this community. GCC is but a fiber in the tapestry of this collaborative and caring community. We are all so blessed with small and big businesses, schools, banks and health care systems committed to creating community one account, one customer, one student, one patient, one client — one person at a time. Our Community Action is to live in a United Way.

BRIDGEWATER STATE U | Bridgewater State University mulls closing Park Ave.

During the school year, Bridgewater State University is buzzing with activity, students running from class to class, automobile traffic, and it all mixes together at Park Avenue. The two-way public street runs right through the heart of the campus. And this traffic pattern has created a concern for BSU.

MIDDLESEX CC | Lowell High recognizes Dual Enrollment students

Lowell High School recently held a graduation ceremony for students in the Dual Enrollment Academy at Middlesex Community College.

WORCESTER STATE U | Worcester State University president Barry Maloney named to NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics

The president of Worcester State University has been named to an NCAA committee on the future of women's athletics. Barry M. Maloney will be one of four Division III representatives on the nationwide Committee on Women's Athletics, the university said in a press release.

FRAMINGHAM STATE U | Framingham's Resiliency for Life program gets \$10K grant

Resiliency for Life at Framingham High School has received a \$10,000 grant from the MutualOne Charitable Foundation for programs this school year. Resiliency for Life helps provide academic and social support services to more than 70 students. The voluntary academic intervention and drop-out prevention program serves students who are at risk of academic failure, enabling them to persevere, thrive and lead productive lives.

GREENFIELD CC | GCC board votes to arm police officers

To better prepare for a potential gunman on campus, three full-time Greenfield Community College police officers will begin carrying handguns later this year. Approved unanimously by the college's board of trustees Wednesday morning, the decision comes after months of research and reflection — particularly by President Robert Pura, a longtime opponent of guns on campus. "GCC is a safe campus," Pura told the trustees. "That said, it is essential that we continue to do our work ... making sure that every possible (emergency) response is thought through."

BRISTOL CC | Letter: By Jack Sbrega: Grateful for police response to BCC scare

The morning of Feb. 11 brought a chilling report for Bristol Community College about a possible armed person on campus. With much thanksgiving, I can affirm, after some anxious moments, that the report proved erroneous. Nevertheless, the campus immediately implemented lock-down and shelter-in-place procedures just as we had practiced.

NORTH SHORE CC | NSCC President Gentile Impresses Delegation at Roundtable Discussion

Dr. Patricia Gentile, who took office in January as president of North Shore Community College, thanked U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, Congressman John Tierney and the Lynn legislative delegation for their support of higher education during a roundtable discussion at the North Shore Career Center in Lynn.

MASSBAY CC | MassBay, Natick center to offer courses through new collaboration

MassBay Community College and the town of Natick are collaborating on a pilot project to offer credit and non-credit college courses at the Community-Senior Center, 117 East Central St.

MULTIPLE CAMPUSES | Springfield College, Greenfield and Holyoke community colleges moving to arm on-campus police officers

Although Greenfield Community College President Robert Pura said he long resisted the idea of arming the campus's small police force, the horrors of the mass shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School in December 2012 helped changed his mind. ...GCC joins Holyoke Community College and Springfield College in moving towards the arming of their on-campus officers.

WORCESTER STATE U | Students bristle at WSU mandatory meals plan fee

Harrison Ingles works a couple of part-time night jobs and attends Worcester State University full time as a commuter student. Always on the go, he rarely stops to eat on campus. Even so, Mr. Ingles, and all commuter students, are facing a \$100-per-semester meals plan charge — whether they eat on campus or not. The mandatory charge is part of a package of \$7,534 in fees (\$1,498 more if students buy health insurance through the school) that has more than doubled over the last decade and makes up the bulk of the cost of attending the university. Under the Massachusetts higher education system, tuition — at WSU, \$970 — is a small fraction of the total cost.

BRISTOL CC | Editorial: Fall River early college high school a good idea

Thumbs up to the resurrection of an early college high school proposal for Fall River Public Schools. The School Committee's Instructional/Special Education Subcommittee has proposed bringing the concept to B.M.C. Durfee High School. The subcommittee voted to form a panel to discuss the concept and a potential partnership with Bristol Community College.

FITCHBURG STATE U | FSU shines again at moot court nationals

The Fitchburg State Moot Court team continued its winning ways at the American Moot Court Associational National Tournament held at the Sandra Day O'Connor School of Law at Arizona State University in January. Nearly 400 teams entered one of the 10 regional tournaments across the U.S. last fall, including one held in November on the Fitchburg State campus. The national tournament brought together the top 80 teams, representing the best 20 percent from each region.

MIDDLESEX CC | MCC is in top 5 for Fire Science

Middlesex Community College has been named by Fire Science Online as one of the top five schools in the U.S. to offer Fire Science programs with significantly higher-than-average returns on investments. Students who graduate from MCC's Fire Protection and Safety Technology program and become full-time firefighters can expect an annual income five times the cost of one year of school, according to the website.

QUINSIGAMOND CC | QCC Kidseal dental program aids inner-city kids

Nobody actually looks forward to going to the dentist — especially children — but few people realize that dental care is widely regarded as a luxury. For nine Worcester elementary schools, their annual field trip to the Dental Hygiene Clinic at Quinsigamond Community College is a gift that is carefully coordinated by a bunch of big-hearted dentists. The program is called Kidseal, and it was founded 15 years ago by QCC Professor Emeritus Joyce Cooney, who saw a huge gap in care and wanted to help fill it.

GREENFIELD CC | GCC roundabout construction to begin this spring, summer

It appears construction of a \$1.7 million roundabout to improve the intersection at the entrance of Greenfield Community College, which was supposed to have started last fall, will now begin this spring or summer. Michael Verseckes, spokesman for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, said Warner Brothers Inc. of Sunderland will build the roundabout.

MCLA | Congressman Neal Tours Completed MCLA Center

Colleges like Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts are critical to providing the nation with new ideas, especially in the engineering, said U.S. Rep. Richard Neal. "I think MCLA plays a very important role ... successfully recruiting through higher ed more and more engineers," said the 1st Massachusetts representative.

SALEM STATE U | SSU's 'Kafka' kills in competition

Congratulations go out to Salem State University, which cleaned up with its original production of “Kafka in Tel Aviv” at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival Region 1 competition this weekend.

HIGHER ED TRENDS | Direct assessment and the feds take on competency-based education

Scores of colleges are gearing up to offer new competency-based degrees. But some college leaders are confused about whether the U.S. Department of Education remains supportive of a new form of competency-based education that does not rely on the credit hour standard. This approach is called direct assessment — as in directly measuring student knowledge and learning, rather than linking it to seat time and grades. Institutions that seek to try direct assessment first must get a green light from the department and their accreditor in order to qualify for federal financial aid.

HIGHER ED TRENDS | Private bridge programs expand to fill college-to-career gap

Historically, many four-year colleges haven't focused extensively on the transition out of their institutions — whether that's making sure students have all the skills they need to make it in the work place or helping them find an actual job. They've got come-as-you-will career centers, sure, and professional programs that prepare students in a narrow context. But in a post-recession era where many graduates (not just those in liberal arts) are still un- or underemployed, despite paying record-high tuition, pressure has mounted on colleges to do more.

HIGHER ED TRENDS | Remedial College Courses Face a New Test

A new state law here is trying a novel approach to determine whether incoming students are prepared to move on to college-level coursework: let them decide for themselves. More than half of community-college students in the U.S. take at least one remedial class, according to the Community College Research Center, at the Teachers College of Columbia University. This typically comes after students fail to pass proficiency exams in math, reading or writing. But educators and policy makers increasingly are concerned that shunting students immediately into catch-up classes—which students must pay for even though they garner no credits—deters too many from completing their studies. States are trying alternatives, from adding basic tutorials to college-level classes to weighing high-school grades in addition to test scores.

HIGHER ED TRENDS | Teacher license test pass rates vary

There seem to be a million ways to rank a college, but for people going into fields that require a professional license, there is yet another measure: Pass rates on the licensing tests. Teachers must take the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure, known as MTEL, and Central Massachusetts' nine teacher preparation programs vary significantly in their recorded pass rate on the tests.

HIGHER ED TRENDS | Editorial: College affordability in Western Massachusetts challenge for region's future

High school seniors across Western Massachusetts are clutching college and university acceptance letters and debating their next educational move. Students' decisions — now more than ever — will be rooted in financial realities. They'll be considering financial aid packages. And they'll also be asking themselves whether they'll land a post-college job that will pay well enough to service their student debt. These are tough questions. And the answers aren't crystal clear.

HIGHER ED TRENDS | Can Underfunded Community Colleges Provide More Job Training?

Community College leaders are in Washington lobbying for more money and a bigger role in training Americans for the workforce. In most states though, community college funding has been slashed. It's unclear if the schools can open their doors to more people or create new job-training programs.

HIGHER ED TRENDS | Going To College May Cost You, But So Will Skipping It

In America, total student loan debt tops \$1 trillion and a four-year college degree can cost as much as a house — leaving many families wondering if college is really worth the cost. Yes, a new study of young people finds. by the Pew Research Center, looks at income and unemployment among young adults. Paul Taylor, executive vice president of special projects at Pew, says it's pretty much case closed when it comes to the benefits of going to college.

HIGHER ED TRENDS | Op-Ed: By Jack P. Calareso: In defense of the liberal arts

A few weeks ago, President Obama made headlines when he said, “I promise you, folks can make a lot more, potentially, with skilled manufacturing or the trades than they might with an art history degree ... I'm just saying you can make a really good living and have a great career without getting a four-year college education as long as you get the skills and the training that you need.” In this case, the president has widespread bipartisan support. Similar disdain for majors in the liberal arts has been expressed by Mitt Romney, former governor of Massachusetts and Republican presidential nominee, Rick Scott, Republican governor of Florida, and Patrick McCrory, Republican governor of North Carolina.

HIGHER ED TRENDS | Earnings gap between grads, non-grads widest since 1965

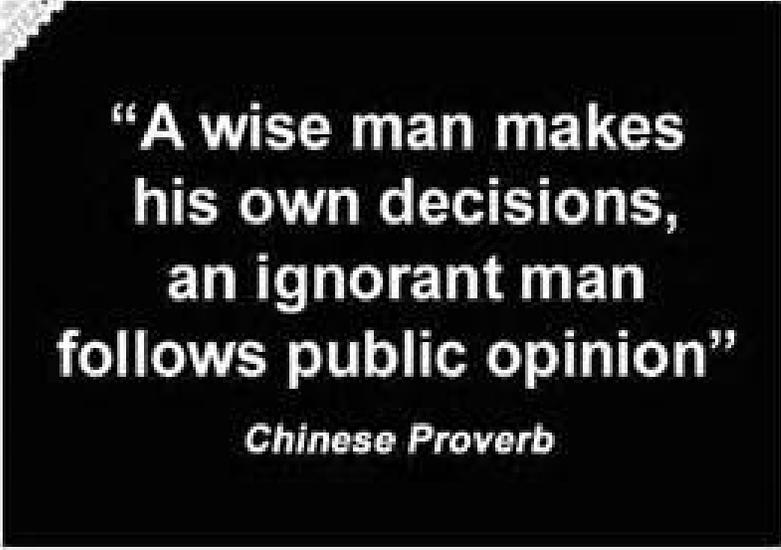
The earnings gap between young adults with and without bachelor's degrees has stretched to its widest level in nearly half a century. It's a sign of the growing value of a college education despite rising tuition costs, according to an analysis of census data released Tuesday. Young adults with just a high-school diploma earned 62 percent of the typical salary of college graduates. That's down from 81 percent in 1965, the earliest year for which comparable data are available.

HIGHER ED TRENDS | Students and grads of for-profit colleges praise experience, question investment

The extensive marketing that some for-profit colleges use to woo prospective students and the intense criticism voiced by some Democratic politicians have largely dominated the national discussion about the college sector. A new survey from Public Agenda seeks to insert a set of missing voices into the dialogue — those of students and alumni — and their assessment is mixed.

HIGHER ED TRENDS | Wisdom of massive open online courses now in doubt

They have been touted as the biggest revolution in higher education since Plato opened his academy, but a growing number of educators are saying that MOOCs — “massive open online courses” offering free instruction through cyberspace — may not be ready for a cap and gown. Academic administrators at top colleges are increasingly questioning the rigor of MOOC courses, the rates of success for students and the financial viability of teaming up with private companies using aggressive marketing tactics.



**“A wise man makes
his own decisions,
an ignorant man
follows public opinion”**

Chinese Proverb

May there always be work for your hands to do.

May your purse always hold a coin or two.

May the sun always shine on your windowpane.

May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain.

May the hand of a friend always be near you.

May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS ~ March 10, 2014

1. Poll Supervisors shall officially call the convention meeting to order and open the polls for voting. Poll Supervisors, and other election officials should be at the voting site at **15 minutes** the day of the vote.
2. Poll Supervisors shall insure that prior to the opening of the polls, ballot boxes, voting lists, a table for challenge ballot procedures and a private area for voters to fill out their ballots have all been properly set up.
3. Ballot boxes at every voting site shall, immediately prior to opening the polls, be closed after inspection by election officials and voters then present. The only opening on the box shall be the slot for voters to deposit ballots. The ballot ***shall be identified with a sample ballot taped to the outside of the box.*** Challenge ballots shall be placed in the regular box in accordance with the procedure in 6b below. Election officials shall observe to insure that at no time shall any person touch or otherwise tamper with a ballot box. In the event a mistake is made, no attempt shall be made to retrieve a ballot from the box.
4. Only official poll workers shall be allowed to remain in the voting area.
5. Voters shall be given a ballot and shall be checked off the voting list by placing a check mark beside his/her name. **Do NOT cross their name off the list.**
6. Every effort shall be made to insure that those eligible to vote, and wishing to vote, get to vote.
 - a. Poll workers will, as appropriate and within reason query potential voters to check job titles and seek potential spelling errors on the voting lists to see if a voter's name is elsewhere on the voting lists than initially thought.
 - b. If, however, a person's name is not on the voting list, s/he may vote a Challenged Ballot. S/he shall be given a ballot and receive a small blank envelope. After marking his/her ballot, s/he shall place the ballot in the small blank envelope and seal the small blank envelope. A **poll worker** will fill out the necessary information, as received from the person, on the larger challenge ballot envelope. This information shall consist of Name, Address, College, and Job Title. The challenged voter shall then place the small blank envelope containing his/her ballot in the large challenged ballot envelope, seal the envelope and deposit it in the ballot box.
7. Election officials will be available at all times to explain the vote and to answer questions.
8. **No partisan view will be allowed in the voting area.** Poll Supervisors are responsible to have sufficient ballots and related documents available during the vote. **Kevin Hanley should be called if any problems come up.** Contact him at 617-228-2154.
9. **All supplies, including voters lists,** should be put back in the supply bag and returned with the ballot box. **Do NOT use any other list than the one provided.**
10. The convention meetings are to be officially adjourned and polls closed at the time that you have designated.
11. The **Supervisor**, in the presence of a witness, should sign their name across the top taped area of the ballot box to ensure that the tape is not removed before counting. **The Supervisor is responsible for returning all voting lists, election records, extra ballots and supplies to the count site or pickup location.**
12. If the Supervisor is not delivering the ballot box to the official count site, they should deliver the ballot box and all supplies to the College's Campus Police Department for pickup by the chief steward or appropriate person.
13. Counting of ballots will be done by Joe Nee's Committee on Tuesday, March 11, 2014 ~ 8:30 a.m. at

Worcester Elks Hall

Mill Street, Worcester, MA

LOCAL 1067



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