

UPDATE



December 2013

It's Christmas and
we just wanted to say
"Thank You" and that. . .
It's been a pleasure
working with you this past year!

Hope you and your family
wonderful Holidays and
A Happy New Year!

From the Table Officers

Kevin, Carolyn, Marzi and Thomasine



December E-Board meeting we will be collecting unwrapped toys for toys-for-tots. Anyone wishing to donate may give their gift to the steward and they will bring it to the meeting. Any college wishing to hold a drive can do so and we will pick-up the toys.

Thank You for helping our community

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AFSCME's 1.6 million members provide the vital services that make America happen. We're the ones who maintain our roads, care for the sick and elderly, make our schools good places to learn, keep our communities safe, and much more. In so many ways, in so many places, each and every member does the important work of our cities and towns, counties and states, schools, correctional, health and public facilities that our communities depend on.

With members in hundreds of different occupations – from nurses to corrections officers, child care providers to sanitation workers – AFSCME advocates for fairness in the workplace, excellence in public services, and prosperity and opportunity for all working families.



Corrections



Early Childhood Education



Emergency Services



Environmental Stewardship



Health Care Workers



Higher Education



Home Care



Housing



Human Services



K-12 Schools



Law Enforcement



Library Workers



Nurses



Probation and Parole



Public Administration



Public Works



Transportation

BHCC Earns U.S. Department of Labor Grant to Build Workforce

BOSTON, Nov. 20, 2013 - Bunker Hill Community College is among seven Northeast community colleges and two national organizations that will share a \$23.5 million federal grant aimed at enhancing their communities' resilience by developing a workforce with skills in critical areas.

Announced last month, the grant was awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College Career and Training (TAACCCT) program to the Northeast Resiliency Consortium (NRC), which is composed of BHCC and six other community colleges in the Northeast, as well as Achieving the Dream and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Utilizing the grant, BHCC and other consortium members will develop training programs that address employment needs in health care, information technology and environmental technologies. The goal is to enhance community resilience by developing a workforce with skills in critical area that can respond to contemporary environmental, social and economic challenges.

"This funding will help us prepare unemployed persons, veterans, and other workers to obtain the skills and credentials needed for immediate and long-term employment in high-demand fields," said Pam. Y. Eddinger, President of Bunker Hill Community College. "The consortium will unite partner colleges in building stronger, safer and more prosperous communities."

The commitment to build resiliency means not only fostering communities with the capacity to adapt rapidly and effectively to immediate disruptions but also to the longer-term threats facing the workforce in a period of expanding global competition and evolving technologies. For the community colleges in the consortium, the funds will build capacity to create a set of employer-identified skills and competencies, create industry-recognized certificates and expand programs of study needed in the current and future labor market.



\$36 million Science Building at Cape Cod Community College

During a speech in front of business leaders Patrick is expected to announce plans to construct a \$36 million science building at Cape Cod Community College as well as state support for a permanent seasonal weekend rail service between the Cape and Boston.

The \$36 million project at Cape Cod Community College means Patrick's administration will have made Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics — or STEM — investments in every state and community college in Massachusetts, according to the statement from his office.

The new building will replace the existing science building, which was built around 1970, although the old building will likely be renovated for general coursework uses, college president John Cox said.

Designs for the new building are not complete, but previous estimates put it at 52,000 square feet, Cox said.

It will include laboratory space to support biology, chemistry, physics and astronomy classes as well as labs for advanced manufacturing and engineering, environmental science and renewable energy, he said.

The new building will allow the college to integrate its programs into the Capewide STEM strategy for kindergarten through Grade 12, Cox said.

It could attract four-year colleges to offer science courses on the Cape and help improve collaborative efforts with local institutions such as the Marine Biological Laboratory and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Falmouth, he said.

There is also discussion about creating a so-called "fab lab" and "makerspace" where community members and businesses could come to demonstrate technology and experiment, Cox said.

The layout of the building will enable a more modular approach so labs can be reconfigured as technology changes, he said.

"In terms of the equipment that's there it's easier to put it in and take it out," he said.

Officials with the state Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance, which is responsible for state-owned building projects, have said design and construction of the building will likely take about three years, Cox said.

The final location of the building on the college's campus in West Barnstable has not been decided, he said.

Funding for the project was originally included in the 2008 bond bill and the college has been working closely with administration officials to make it happen, Cox said.

PUBLIC HIGHER ED | Mass. public college system enters limelight as private tuitions soar

Once overlooked amid the higher education elite of Massachusetts, the state's public universities and community colleges are stepping into the limelight with increased funding, state-of-the-art facilities, honors programs, affordable prices, and higher graduation rates. With the rising cost of a private school education, combined with the public system's big push to improve its standing locally and nationally, students are flocking to campuses all over the state. Interest and enrollment is up not only at the system's flagship, University of Massachusetts Amherst, but at institutions like UMass Lowell, Bridgewater State University, and local community colleges. "We have been working very hard for the last five years to increase public understanding and recognition of the quality of what's going on in public higher education and increasing support for it," said Richard Freeland, commissioner of higher education in Massachusetts.

GO PUBLIC | Standards getting tougher for h.s. graduation, college admission

Holden native Maryanna Owoc, a senior at Worcester State University, took the stage at North High School Tuesday and described how she has done work at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Institute and has even performed surgeries on mice. The packed house of 400 students from North, Doherty Memorial, Burncoat and South High Community schools gave that a mixed response but seemed impressed. "Your futures aren't fixed," Ms. Owoc said. "Take four years of math, take four years of science, so that when you get to college, you can take advantage of all the opportunities you didn't even know existed before." The event, which featured five college students, was part of Go Public!, a campaign by the state Department of Higher Education to build interest in state colleges and universities, such as Worcester State, Quinsigamond Community College and the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

BHE MEETING | Colleges' use of high-school GPA mulled

Massachusetts has a paradox to solve. The state regularly leads the nation in its math scores in national assessments, but its high-school graduates are often unprepared for their first college math class. At Mount Wachusett Community College on Tuesday, the state Board of Higher Education voted to give all public universities and colleges the option of using high-school grade-point average, or GPA, to determine which students need to take remedial classes. This pilot program follows recommendations from a task force charged with transforming the remedial math classes in public universities and colleges. That recommendation came with criticism from some college math instructors.

BRISTOL CC | BCC graduate and employee says higher education changed his life

Growing up in the city, Jeffrey Robbins said he never thought he would go to college. But Robbins, 41, not only attended Bristol Community College. He now works at the downtown campus encouraging people to enroll in its health care programs. "I never thought in a million years I'd be a part of a college," he said in his fourth floor Purchase Street office last Wednesday afternoon. It overlooks the newly built Custom House Square Park and the harbor. "One life path change took me to student government, led me to scholarships and UMass Dartmouth, led me to go abroad, and work in a job I love," he said.

MASSBAY CC | MassBay Community College campus project inches forward

The timeline for MassBay Community College's proposed downtown campus has taken another step back, after a spokesman for the school said the state agency leading the project won't submit a request for proposals until next spring. Back in August Jeremy Solomon had said college and state officials were hoping to have identified a site by then.

BERKSHIRE CC | BCC Looking to Connect Soldiers Through New Veterans Lounge

When soldiers return from war and go to college, they can be somewhat alienated by integrating with hundreds who have never seen or done the things they have. At Berkshire Community College, those veterans now have a place to call their own, where they can de-stress, talk with fellow veterans and connect with a specialist in filing forms to receive benefits.

BRISTOL CC | BCC trustees will address proposal to arm college's police force

The Bristol Community College Board of Trustees has invited the neighbors of its Elsbree Street campus and all other interested people to attend a public meeting addressing a proposal to arm the college's police force.

BRISTOL CC | Editorial: Armed with information for BCC decision

Too often, controversial policies are enacted in response to tragedy — after it's too late, and when emotions are running high. This can result in reactive, knee-jerk policies that defy rational debate and decision making. Therefore, Bristol Community College ought to be applauded for taking an open, proactive approach in devising a sound policy related to a hot-button issue under consideration since August: arming its college police force at all BCC campuses.

WESTFIELD STATE U | Westfield State University trustees preparing stricter spending rules

Westfield State University trustees gave preliminary approval Thursday to sharply reducing the use of credit cards by school officials, six days after President Evan S. Dobbelle stepped down amid three investigations into his spending. Meeting in Sturbridge, members of the trustees' finance committee agreed to recommend cutting the number of credit cards from 40 to approximately five and centralizing travel within one office at the university.

MASSBAY CC | Wellesley's MassBay to unveil \$100,000 of donated artwork

MassBay Community College will unveil 25 pieces of art worth an estimated \$100,000 on Thursday at its Wellesley Hills campus from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The art was given to the college in memory of Krystle Campbell, a MassBay alum who was killed in the Boston Marathon bombings in April.

WESTFIELD STATE U | Westfield State University's \$2 million for science center recommended for release

Less than a week after Westfield State University President Evan S. Dobbelle retired amid a two-month battle with trustees and state officials over his travel expenses and spending, the Massachusetts education chief said he would favor releasing \$2 million promised for a new science center. Higher Education Commissioner Richard M. Freeland said in a memorandum Wednesday he would recommend releasing the money, frozen since Oct. 4 over concerns about Dobbelle's financial management and his extensive travel. Dobbelle announced his retirement Friday.

WESTFIELD STATE U | Here's Evan Dobbelle's resignation letter to Westfield State's board

Westfield State University President Evan S. Dobbelle retired Friday, ending a bitter, 2½-month battle with trustees and state officials over his travel and spending habits. Dobbelle announced his departure just before 5 p.m. in an e-mail from Regan Communications, the Boston-based public relations firm that represents him.

FITCHBURG STATE U | Guest Column: By Robert V. Antonucci: Robert V. Antonucci: Fitchburg doesn't need

I believe in innovative approaches to the challenges facing our public schools. Fitchburg State University enjoys a robust collaborative partnership with the Fitchburg Public Schools, and we are proud to host the McKay Arts Academy on our campus. McKay is an Innovation School, given autonomies in staffing, budgeting and curriculum to help it respond to the needs of its students. Students learn through arts-based projects that inspire creativity and expression. In its first year as an Innovation School, McKay moved its state accountability status from Level 3 to Level 2. This designation is significant, reflecting tangible progress in improving student outcomes across all spectrums. Fitchburg's Longsjo Middle School also improved from Level 3 to Level 2, and Crocker Elementary has become the city's first Level 1 school. This progress does not occur in a vacuum.



COMMUNITY COLLEGES | Community colleges seeking STEM funds

Community colleges in the region are cooking up proposals to get a piece of a \$4.25 million pie the state is offering as part of a new effort to get more students ready to go into science- and math-based career paths. There's also a chance the state's 15 community colleges could submit a single response to the Department of Higher Education on behalf of the entire system, according to MassBay Community College spokesman Jeremy Solomon. "I'd hesitate to speculate" about how that would work, he said. "But MassBay would definitely be part of it." Responses to the state's request for proposals are due Nov. 25, with rollout of the funded projects expected to begin immediately after the start of the new year.

WESTFIELD STATE U | Former Westfield State University President Evan Dobelle's lawyer is billing the university for client's representation

The Hartford lawyer who sued Westfield State University on behalf of then-President Evan S. Dobelle is also billing the school for Dobelle's legal expenses. In the latest twist in the Dobelle saga, university trustees will meet Thursday to discuss whether to pay legal fees for Ross H. Garber, the high-profile defense lawyer hired by Dobelle after two state agencies began investigating his travel and expenses in August.

MASSBAY CC | State funding for MetroWest projects
Gov. Deval Patrick recently announced funding for infrastructure and education projects in the MetroWest area. The governor said \$1.6 million has been awarded to support roadway, pedestrian and bicycle improvements along Simarano Drive in Marlboro's Southwest Quadrant. ...In addition, Mr. Patrick committed to making MassBay Community College's Framingham campus a reality. Last year, the Patrick administration provided \$22 million for the project and is working with the Legislature to fill the additional funding gap.

MIDDLESEX CC | Middlesex Community College professor a Faculty Ambassador
Middlesex Community College Professor of Business Administration James Dottin has been selected to serve as one of six HP Life Faculty Ambassadors by the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship and HP, one of the world's largest technology companies.

MT. WACHUSETT CC | Local students positively inspired to volunteer
Nearly 500 students from Leominster, Fitchburg, Ayer, Townsend, Gardner and Winchendon spent a recent Friday morning at Mount Wachusett Community College learning how to design, implement and sustain their own community-service projects through United Way Youth Venture. Students began their morning with a welcome from President Dan Asquino, Mount Wachusett Community College. The college runs the program for United Way of North Central Massachusetts. Bob Chauvin, chairman of United Way, thanked the students for being leaders in their communities

BRISTOL CC | SouthCoast business in brief
The College Communications office at Bristol Community College earned six awards in the annual regional competition sponsored by the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR), the premier professional organization for community college communicators. ...Victory Media, a media entity for military personnel transitioning into civilian life, has named Bristol Community College as a top military-friendly school in the 2014 Guide to Military Friendly Colleges & Universities. A record number of schools responded to the extensive survey, and MAE staff evaluated each submission by strict criteria.

QUINSIGAMOND CC | Focused on their future
Over four semesters, QCC engineering students study subjects including calculus, physics, statistics, thermodynamics, linear algebra, materials science and chemistry. Students who want to go into biomedical engineering tack on a fifth semester to squeeze in biology, cell biology and molecular biology. At the end, students leave with 68 to 74 credits for transfer to four-year colleges and universities, where some qualify for extensive financial aid packages, thanks to Mr. Bigonahy's advice on how to pit college financial aid offices against each other. QCC's engineering students have gone on to Northeastern University, Boston University, the Georgia Institute of Technology, Carnegie Mellon University, Purdue University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Worcester Polytechnic University and other institutions, according to Mr. Bigonahy.

WORCESTER STATE U | Worcester State Raises More Than \$6 Million From Donors
Last week, Worcester State University President Barry M. Maloney announced to alumni that, in the fiscal year 2013, the University's fundraising surpassed the \$6 million mark. In all, \$6.12 million was raised from more than 3,500 contributors; more than double the previous year's, and more than any previous annual total for the school. "We are a university on the move," says Maloney. "Our graduation rate and retention rates are up, we are hiring more faculty and building a new residence hall and wellness center. Worcester State provided our alumni the foundation that led to their financial success, and they are giving back generously. Along with state legislators and the Governor, they are committing the resources we need to ensure that today's WSU students succeed."



VETERANS EDUCATION | Best colleges for vets track veterans' academic success

How well do veteran students fare academically at schools around the country? Answering that question is much harder than you might think. The Department of Education keeps stats in dozens of categories, from breakdowns of a school's recent hires by race and gender to data on how many students accepted to a school actually enroll. ...Top 5 2-Year Colleges: #4 - Mount Wachusett Community College, Gardner, Mass.

VETERANS EDUCATION | States fight for in-state tuition for student veterans

Since the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill went into effect in 2009, more than 1.5 million veterans have taken advantage of the legislation to help cover the costs of a college education. But it's not always a quick and easy road to an affordable degree. The bill covers veterans' college tuition at public colleges and universities up to the in-state tuition amount. If veterans choose to attend college in a state where they haven't established residency, they have two choices: pay the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition or prolong their college registration until they officially are a resident, which in some states can take up to a year. Since 2009, there has been more than a 17% increase in the number of veterans using their G.I. Bill benefits. As this number grows, some states are trying to change the residency requirement.

VETERANS EDUCATION | Valor Act II adds support for veterans

A new bill boosting benefits to veterans has the potential to help them with everything from finding jobs to paying less in taxes. "Jobs, education, housing, fees and accessibility are all important issues our veterans face, which are addressed in the law," said Shaw Tilton, a counselor at the Lowell Veterans Center, which serves 192 veterans. "Having support for veterans to become stabilized in these areas is a critical component of their well-being." The bill, called Valor Act II, is an extension of last year's Valor Act. It would allow veterans who are called away on active duty while enrolled in college to delay their classes without penalty or receive a full refund if they withdraw.

STEM EDUCATION | A Better Handle on the Gap in STEM Education

The STEM achievement gap between U.S. students and students in other industrialized countries, such as Singapore, is inciting national policy discussions. And now a National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES) study offers a new way to see if our public schools are making progress toward a STEM-literate society. The recent study linked the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) scale to the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) scale. That means we can get a much more accurate reading of where our students stand internationally.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT | Massachusetts is Number One in Education. Is That Enough?

Ask any Massachusetts employer about the challenges facing his or her business and you are bound to hear some variation of: "I can't find people with the skills and education needed to work in my company." ...The gap between the knowledge required by globally competitive Bay State employers and the knowledge offered by job seekers remains a major impediment to economic growth across Massachusetts. It is a gap that has persisted throughout the Great Recession, ranging from software companies that could hire dozens of programmers tomorrow but cannot find them, to precision manufacturers starved for young workers with the mathematical and mechanical skills to do high-tolerance machining.

HIGHER ED TRENDS | Study finds no impact on student success from having adjunct instructors

Most of the existing research on the employment of adjunct faculty and student success shows a negative relationship, not because adjuncts are bad teachers but because their working conditions prevent them from being as effective as they could be. But earlier this fall, a much-cited study disputed by some, showed the opposite: that students actually may learn more from adjunct faculty members — at least at research universities that can afford to pay part-timers well and that may discourage tenure-track faculty members from focusing on teaching. Now, a preliminary study is mixing up the literature once again, concluding that employment of adjunct faculty has no impact on student success in community colleges.

HIGHER ED TRENDS | Students are unlikely to graduate if they stop out more than once, study finds

Community college students face long odds of eventually earning a bachelor's degree. And those odds get worse if they leave college more than once along the way. That is the central finding of a new study that tracked the progress of 38,000 community college students in Texas. Toby J. Park, an assistant professor of educational leadership and policy at Florida State University, conducted the research. His working paper was presented Thursday at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education in St. Louis.

HIGHER ED TRENDS | Op-Ed: By Sergio A. Lagunas: Helping youth make higher education a priority

Increasingly more programs and initiatives are reaching out to younger generations of underrepresented students, and increasingly more youth are instilled with the power of a college education. This has contributed to an increase in the number of Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), where the Hispanic population of full time undergraduate students is 25 percent or higher. The result is better opportunities for Latino youth and better leaders to return to our communities. However, many students are insecure as to whether a college degree is worth it and whether higher education is worth the struggle.

HIGHER ED TRENDS | House, Senate education committees meet — NSSE results — New rules for waiver renewals — A reality check on school safety

Another busy day for education in Congress as both the HELP Committee and the Committee on Education and the Workforce hold hearings. —Senate hearing on financial aid: The House hearing on simplifying federal financial aid programs Wednesday included plenty of confusion from just about everyone involved. Now it's the Senate's turn. While the House focused solely on streamlining financial aid programs for efficiency, the Senate will talk more about college access. Kristin Conklin, founding partner of HCM Strategists, who testified before the House on Wednesday, is a witness again. She'll be joined by Kim Cook, executive director of the National College Access Network; Judith Scott Clayton, an assistant professor at Columbia University; and Bridget Terry Long, dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Education. The hearing begins at 10 a.m.

HIGHER ED TRENDS | Facebook Launches Open Academy To Give Kids College Credit For Open Source Contributions

A perfect GPA isn't cool. You know what's cool? Advancing an open source project. To help computer science students prepare for jobs (and boost its own recruiting efforts) Facebook today publicly launched Open Academy. The partnership with premier CS universities sets up a special class where students get college credit for contributing to open source projects. After a successful pilot at Stanford last year, Open Academy is expanding to a total of 22

HIGHER ED TRENDS | Michelle Obama, in new education initiative, challenges youth to 'take control of your education'

Edging into a broader policy role, Michelle Obama is joining President Barack Obama's efforts to get the United States on track to have the highest percentage of college graduates by 2020. The first lady spoke to students Nov. 12 at Bell Multicultural High School just a few miles from the White House. Officials say the event is part of what will be a broader focus for the first lady on getting students — especially those in underserved communities — on track to attend college.

HIGHER ED TRENDS | Op-Ed: By Sandy Baum, Kristin Conklin and Nate Johnson: Stop Penalizing Poor College Students

The Pell grant program is the federal government's main strategy for helping low-income students finish college, but the way the program is designed makes it harder for those same students to graduate on schedule. The problem is that the program provides support for only 12 credit hours per term, which the government defines as full time for financial aid purposes. To complete a bachelor's degree in four years, though, students need to enroll for 15 or 16 credit hours. Categorizing students as full time even though they aren't taking enough credits to graduate, the Pell program works against the interests of the very people it seeks to help.

HIGHER ED TRENDS | Different Strategies in Online Education

While public and private institutions have chosen different strategies on online education, academic officials in both camps face the same challenges with getting faculty members on board with the efforts, according to new research conducted by the Learning House, Inc., of members of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and the Council of Independent Colleges. None to report

HIGHER ED TRENDS | Record Number Of International Students Attend U.S. Colleges

International students who come to the U.S. for college contribute more than \$24 billion to the economy, according to an analysis that came out Monday. A record number of international students — nearly 820,000 — came to U.S. colleges in the 2012/2013 school year, says the Institute of International Education. The rise continues a return to growing numbers after a decline that was tied to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Much of the recent growth was driven by students from China and Saudi Arabia, according to the , which is compiled with the help of the U.S. State Department.

HIGHER ED TRENDS | Student loan debt has increased 39%

The average student debt at graduation for students in Massachusetts who took out loans is \$27,181, according to the president of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Massachusetts. Nationally, the average annual student loan amount increased 39 percent between 2000-1 and 2010-11, and a legislative hearing at the College of the Holy Cross Friday raised some of the reasons why. On one hand, leaders of private colleges said, they have been trying to keep tuition and fees down, but families need more and more assistance. Family incomes have decreased, said AICUM President Richard Doherty.

HIGHER ED TRENDS | Study: Most First-Generation Students Not Prepared for College

While surveys show that most of those who would be first-generation college students want to attend college, a majority are not prepared to succeed in key courses, according to a report released Monday by ACT and the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE). The study found that 52 percent of first-generation 2013 high school graduates who took the ACT met none of the four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. That compares to 31 percent of all ACT-tested graduates who met none of the benchmarks.

HIGHER ED TRENDS | Northeastern to revamp its presence in Roxbury

Northeastern University plans to transform its presence on Columbus Avenue with the construction of a new science and engineering building and the rebuilding of the city-owned William E. Carter Playground. ...Northeastern also is pledging to increase its purchasing and contracting relationships with small businesses and women- and minority-owned ventures, and to hire more neighborhood residents and provide employment training, education programs and job fairs for community members. In addition, the university would work with the community to sponsor college-readiness events and to develop programs that encourage students from Roxbury Community College and Bunker Hill Community College to transfer to Northeastern.

HIGHER ED TRENDS | Adult Education: How To Translate Adult Education Into Job Skills

(Audio) Adults wanting to go back to school have the odds stacked against them. They juggle many responsibilities, there are and often there isn't a connection between what they learn in class and the skills they need to get a job. But a program offered in Washington state has been so successful in getting adult students into the workforce that more than 20 states are implementing the model. It's called Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training, better known as I-BEST. About 10 years ago, the Washington state community college system realized it had a serious problem. They had too many people who wanted jobs and too many jobs unfilled. "And instead of hiding it and saying, 'Wow, we're not doing a good job,' we really exposed it and said, 'Wow! We're not doing a good job!'" says Louisa Erickson, who helps run I-BEST programs. "And asked the people doing the work, what do you think we can do?"



Greenfield Community Colleges Chief Steward of Unit II Jose (Tony) Torres proposes to the love of his life, Debbie at the 21st Biennial Convention of Council 93 in Danvers Massachusetts. The two witnesses for this exciting moment were Frank Moroney, Executive Director of Council 93 and Gordon Blaquiere, State & Higher Education Field Service Director.

