

UPDATE



August 2013



Fund Raiser - Council 93

Council 93 - 7th Annual Golf Event was held July 19 in Melrose, at the Mt. Hood Golf Course.

AFSCME Council 93 golfers hit the greens in very hot weather at the Mt. Hood Golf Course in Melrose July 19th for the union's 7th Annual Memorial Scholarship Tournament.

Golfers of all skill levels formed a foursome and enjoy a fun and relaxing round of golf at one of the more challenging and picturesque courses in New England, with temperatures hitting over 100 degrees.

The tournament is open to the public and all proceeds benefit the AFSCME Council 93 Memorial Scholarship Fund, which provides college scholarships to Council 93 members, spouses, children, grandchildren and legal dependents. The scholarships are given in honor of all of our late AFSCME brothers and sisters.

Prizes were awarded to 1st and 2nd place teams and the winners of the "closest to the pin" and longest drive competition. Golfers also have the chance to participate in raffles for a number of great prizes including golf gear and sports memorabilia.



Important Information from GIC

To GIC Coordinators and employees in higher education locations: As there appears to have been a delay in employees of higher education receiving information on the DOMA-related GIC options, we are extending the opportunity to change health plans for same-sex couples in higher education to Friday, August 2. Please refer to the [DOMA FAQs](#) for the corresponding procedures. As always, an employee may add a spouse to their GIC coverage throughout the year.

We do not have any flexibility on extending the Flexible Spending Account enrollment or change of election amount deadline due to federal restrictions on what constitutes a qualifying event for tax purposes. Therefore, please be sure that if as a result of the DOMA overturn you wish to enroll in the Flexible Spending Account benefits or to increase your election amount, the deadline remains Friday, July 26.

Thank you for your attention to these dates.

Cindy McGrath Communications Director Group Insurance Commission

Maintain a file marked 'Me'

Try keeping a file on yourself for your own benefit...

Your employers keep files on you for various purposes. Try keeping a file on yourself for your own benefit. Keep a record of all your major assignments, successful projects, and people you've worked with—clients as well as co-workers. Don't include any proprietary or confidential information, but do highlight your career achievements as they occur. Over time, you'll develop a document that describes your progress and your career, which you can use to reinforce your own motivation and demonstrate your expertise when you're looking for advancement or other opportunities.

Table Officers E-Mail Addresses

- **Kevin Hanley** (khanley@bhcc.mass.edu)
Bunker Hill Community College - 617-228-2154
- **Carolyn Mathews** (cmathews@worchester.edu)
Worcester State University - 508-929-8647
- **Marzi Carlopoli** (mcarlopo@Berkshire.rr.com)
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Northern Essex Community College - 978-556-3763



imagine the possibilities

BOSTON, July 5, 2013

The art gallery at Bunker Hill Community College has been re-named the Mary L. Fifield Art Gallery following a unanimous vote by the BHCC Board of Trustees on June 24.

Mary L. Fifield, Ph.D., who retired as BHCC President on June 30 after more than 16 years of outstanding leadership, launched the gallery in 2004 with the support of the BHCC Foundation when she took an unused area of an auditorium lobby and created a vibrant, vital area to showcase local, regional, national and student art.

Reading from a statement by the BHCC Board of Trustees, Board Chair Marita Rivero said, "It was President Fifield's vision of this space that provided the opportunity for the college community to view both well known and little known artists, thought-provoking exhibits and BHCC student exhibits. She designed the space in a way that it is integrated into the A-300 lobby and indeed into the life of the College."

Since 2004, the galley has showcased paintings, photos, videos, sculptures and multimedia in a broad range of subjects, with featured exhibits on Black History, feminism, Fenway Park's 100th anniversary, the conundrum of kitsch and American politics, to name a few. Artists have included noted African-American painter Paul Goodnight, Boston Globe photographer Bill Brett, and Chelsea painter Arnie Casavant. The gallery also has become an inviting venue for meetings, receptions, dinners and a quiet moment to enjoy an artistic experience.

President Fifield thanked the Trustees for recognizing her and said she was humbled by their decision to re-name the gallery in her honor.

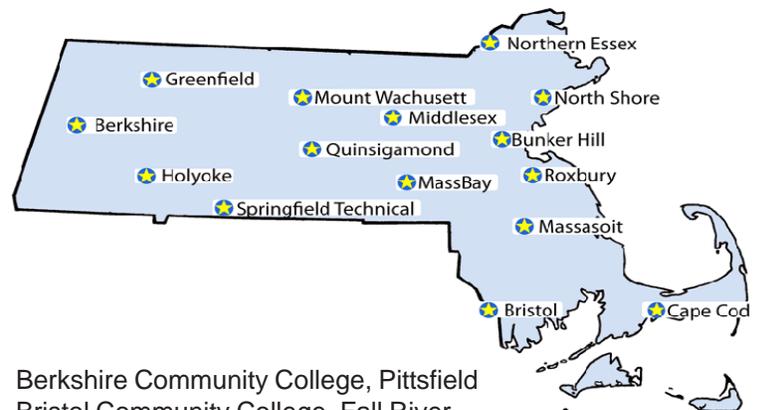
State Universities

Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater
Fitchburg State University, Fitchburg
Framingham State University, Framingham
Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Boston
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, North Adams
Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Buzzards Bay
Salem State University, Salem
Westfield State University, Westfield
Worcester State University, Worcester

Renewable Energy at Bunker Hill Community College

The College recently installed 48 solar panels on the roof of the Health and Wellness Center (G- Building). The 10 kW solar array features a specialized racking system that does not require any attachment points to the roof itself. The panels are secured with concrete blocks and also include wind deflectors. The only penetrations needed will be for electrical and data conduits. The G-building roof was selected because of its ideal southern location and because the roof membrane is the newest of all buildings on campus. Output from the panels will be available to the entire College community through flat screen monitors such as the "Building Dashboard" located in the lobby of the G- Building and another located in the quiet study area on the second floor of the G- Building. The panels are expected to generate approximately 15,000 kWh of power each year and represent the first adoption of renewable energy sources in the College's 40-year history. For more information, please contact the Office of Sustainability Management at Greeninfo@bhcc.mass.edu.

YOUR COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Berkshire Community College, Pittsfield
Bristol Community College, Fall River
Bunker Hill Community College, Boston
Cape Cod Community College, West Barnstable
Greenfield Community College, Greenfield
Holyoke Community College, Holyoke
Massachusetts Bay Community College, Wellesley Hills
Massasoit Community College, Brockton/Canton
Middlesex Community College, Bedford/Lowell
Mount Wachusett Community College, Gardner
North Shore Community College, Danvers
Northern Essex Community College, Haverhill
Quinsigamond Community College, Worcester
Roxbury Community College, Roxbury
Springfield Technical Community College, Springfield



Cape Cod colleges



By JASON COOK jcook@capecodonline.com July 12, 2013

SOUTH YARMOUTH — If Bridgewater State University establishes a satellite campus here in the next few years, it will not compete but rather coexist with Cape Cod Community College, officials said.

“Any programs would begin with 4Cs,” said Frederick Clark Jr., university executive vice president.

University officials have been meeting with town leaders for more than a year about the possibility of leasing the recently shuttered Laurence C. MacArthur School on Route 28, which closed at the end of this school year because of declining enrollment.

While the process is still in its early stages, college representatives held a public forum discussing the university’s planned expansion Thursday night in the school’s cafetorium.

Any decisions on what programs will be offered at the potential campus will be made later. However, overlap with the Cape’s community college “doesn’t make sense,” Clark said.

The university would coordinate with the college so as not to offer overlapping curriculum, he said. “We will fail unless we have a positive relationship with 4Cs.”

As envisioned, the campus would consist of five to six classrooms, each supporting between 20 to 25 students, said Karen Jason, associate vice president for facilities management and planning.

Restroom upgrades, expanded parking, and conference and office space additions would be part of the renovations, but officials have no plans to expand the building’s footprint, she said.

September 2014 or 2015 has been set as a goal for the finish of phase one of construction, with the project’s full completion slated for January of 2017, officials said.

The building is ideal because of its size and location, said Clark.

Bridgewater does not own the rights to the building, but officials are optimistic about securing them, Clark said. “We’re very confident we’re coming to Cape Cod.”

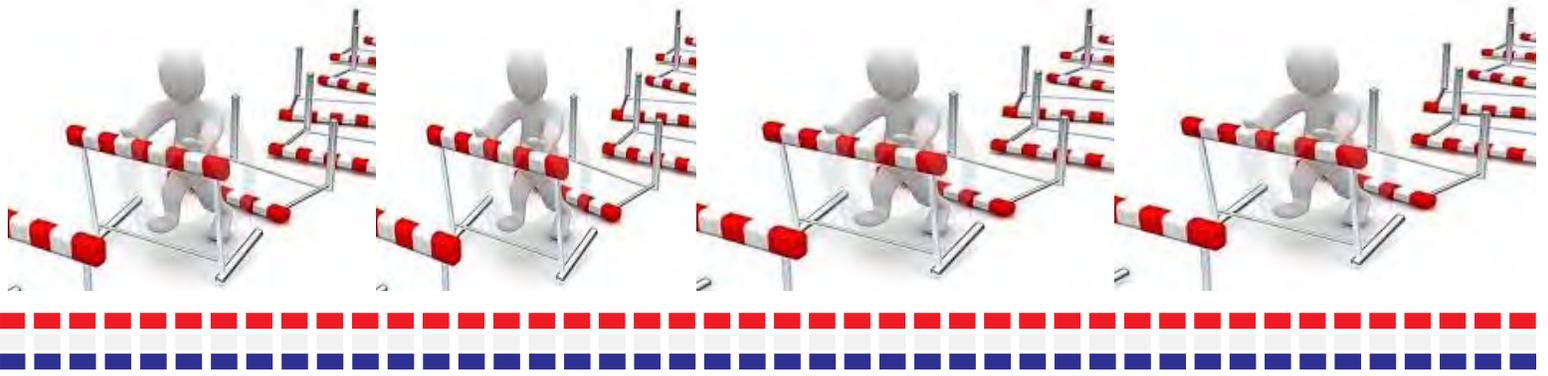
About 350 students commute from Cape Cod to the college every day, so there is a demand, he said. “Not a deep pool, but deep enough,” he said of a potential student body.

Reactions from those who have heard of the plan has been “overwhelmingly positive,” said Clark.

Clark doesn’t believe an increase on traffic would be noticeable, as only about 40 cars would be coming into the parking lots and rarely at the same time.

With more young people leaving Cape Cod after high school, another higher education option would offer “huge” benefits to Yarmouth and the area as a whole, said Lynn Mason-Small, a Yarmouth resident and member of the Cape Cod Young Professionals. “Education drives that choice,” she said of young people choosing to avoid Cape Cod as a place to live.

Representatives from the college plan to return to Cape Cod in August to discuss this issue further, Clark said.



Senate's Student Loan Bill Heads Into Hurdles

The Senate may have finally found a student loan fix that philosophically may be palatable to both parties—even to House Republicans—but its cost may end up killing its chances of passing. It's been 10 days since July 1, when the interest rate on new federal loans for 7 million lower-income students doubled after Congress had failed to pass a fix. The rates reset from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent for subsidized Stafford loans for needy undergrads.

According to Bloomberg News, under a tentative Senate plan reached on Wednesday night, all undergrad loans (both subsidized and unsubsidized) would be set at 1.8 percentage points above the 10-year Treasury note. The rate would be capped at 8.25 percent, according to the New York Times. Grad student and parent loans would be set at 4.5 percentage points above the 10-year Treasury note, with a 9.25 percent cap, Bloomberg News reports.

The rate would be set at the beginning of each fiscal year, based on what it costs the government to borrow, and would remain fixed for the duration of the loan. If the bill passes, it would retroactively apply to any loans issued since July 1. If a student were to borrow now under this proposed plan, the rates would be lower than under the current law.

As we've reported, both President Obama and the House GOP wanted student loan interest rates to more closely reflect market rates, rather than be fixed at one rate, regardless of the economic environment. The biggest questions have been how much more students would pay over the government's borrowing costs and—the most contentious point—whether there would be a cap on how high interest rates can go.

Compared to the tentative Senate bill, the House plan has slightly higher undergrad rates and a slightly higher cap; it offers the same graduate student rates with a slightly higher cap. The biggest difference between the bills is that the House plan proposes rates that fluctuate with the market over the life of a loan, rather than be fixed at the beginning.

So the success of the tentative agreement will hinge on a few questions:

- First, what will it cost? Democrats had insisted that it must cost no more than the existing program (and surely Republicans would require the same)—and their hopes may have been dashed in the afternoon after the Congressional Budget Office said the bill would cost \$22 billion over a decade, according to the Wall Street Journal.
- Will the Democrats allow loans to be tied to market rates? They've been wary in the past, but with this proposal they won a cap on rates, which they've said is essential. Iowa Democrat Tom Harkin, a long-time advocate for students, was part of the group negotiating the bill. If his approval is any indicator, it's not a huge leap to imagine other Dems signing off on it.
- Will House Republicans accept rates that are set at the beginning of a loan, rather than able to fluctuate over time? Again: not a huge leap, given that it's a shift closer to the market.

So while the bill may be ideologically palatable to both parties, the budget costs are a major handicap to passing. And the clock is ticking till the next school year starts.

On their plate Salem State to purchase historic diner

BY TOM DALTON STAFF WRITER The Salem News Jun 27, 2013,

SALEM — When Salem State University put together its long-range strategic plan, the phrase “acquire diner” was not high on the list. In fact, it wasn’t on the list at all.

But that appears to be the next order of business for Salem State, which announced yesterday that it has reached an agreement to purchase the Salem Diner for \$600,000.

The real estate closing is expected to take place in the next few weeks, according to the university.

“This is another opportunity to continue the enhancement of industrial property in the South Salem neighborhood at a time when the city of Salem is undertaking major improvements along Canal Street,” Salem State President Patricia Meservey said in a press release. “Furthermore, the chance to acquire such a unique and significant piece of Salem history and protect and preserve it for future generations is unparalleled.”

Technically, the diner will be bought by the Salem State University Assistance Corporation, a legal entity created in 1996 to acquire the GTE Sylvania Property on Loring Avenue, which the college turned into its central campus.

The tiny diner, located across from that campus, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, according to a college spokeswoman. It was manufactured in 1941 by Sterling Diners of Merrimac.

A few years ago, it gained fame as the regular breakfast spot of Red Sox legend Johnny Pesky, who died last year. The diner even dedicated its own “Pesky Pole.”

The Salem Diner, 70 1/2 Loring Ave., is next to the former Weir Valves & Controls industrial property, a 3.5-acre site that the assistance corporation acquired three years ago for \$4.5 million. Currently, Salem State uses the Weir property for the temporary storage of its library collection and as offices for Information Technology and other departments.

The long-range plan for the Weir site has not been determined, a university official said yesterday.

Although plans for the Salem Diner have not been announced, it could continue as a restaurant.

“I think, at this point, we’re exploring different options,” said Salem State spokeswoman Karen Cady. “If a restaurateur wants to come in and run the business, I think the university would be interested in having a conversation and exploring any proposals.”

Cady stressed, however, that no decisions have been made and many options are on the table. Whatever happens, she said, the diner will be preserved.

The property is owned by G&Z Realty Trust of Belmont and has an assessed value of \$246,000, according to city records. Salem State plans to make payments in lieu of taxes to the city to offset lost real estate taxes.

Although the diner is sandwiched in the middle of university property, Salem State was not eyeing this tiny site for possible acquisition, according to Cady.

“We saw an opportunity and seized it,” she said.



Promotions and appointments announced at Fitchburg State University

President Robert V. Antonucci recently announced several promotions and appointments on the campus.

Jay Bry has been promoted to serve as the university's vice president of finance and administration. Bry joined Fitchburg State in 1999 as the assistant dean of students/director of campus living. He was then promoted to the assistant vice president of administration and finance in March 2004 and served as the university's chief operating officer.

He earned a bachelor of science degree in landscape architecture and a master of science in business administration management from Purdue University. He has more than 23 years of experience in various aspects of college administration, and has also worked in positions at Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville, Ga.; and Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind.

As vice president of finance and administration, Bry will provide leadership and direction for the university's and Fitchburg State University Foundation's finances, which includes budgeting, accounting and procurement. Bry will continue to provide leadership and strategic vision for the capital planning and operations division.

"Jay has supervised the development of several large-scale projects in recent years that have significantly changed both the physical plant and overall campus environment for students, faculty and staff," Antonucci said. "His oversight and responsibility of the financial operations of the university reflects his effective fiscal management for the financial well-being of the university, its capital projects and housing operations. Jay has a natural, creative ability for improving the university while remaining mindful of our student needs."

Cathy Daggett has been promoted to serve as comptroller for the university. Daggett has worked at Fitchburg State for 14 years in various roles within the university's Department of Financial Services, most recently as director for financial reporting and analysis. Antonucci said her willingness and abilities to accept diverse challenges have allowed the university to continue to excel in managing its fiscal climate.

Daggett graduated from Fitchburg State in 1994 and soon thereafter became a certified public accountant, spending many years in public accounting providing services to clients in a variety of industries, governments and non-profit organizations throughout New England. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Massachusetts Society of Certified Public Accountants and the Government Finance Officers Association.

As comptroller, Daggett will provide leadership and direction for the daily financial operations of the university and foundation. Her responsibilities include budgeting, purchasing and accounting.

"Cathy exemplifies her professional demeanor with her strong business acumen," Antonucci said. "This will complement the financial services team."

Emily Austin-Bruns recently joined the campus as the new director of alumni relations. Austin-Bruns came to Fitchburg State after five years at the North Central Charter Essential School in Fitchburg, where she served as assistant to the executive director and, most recently, director of development and community outreach. Prior to her appointment at the charter school, Austin-Bruns worked in the entertainment industry as director of development and distribution at New Amsterdam Entertainment in New York City. Austin-Bruns is a 2002 graduate of Syracuse University.

"Emily brings a strong set of interpersonal skills and a commitment to Fitchburg and the region which will only help strengthen our alumni network and engage new members of the Fitchburg State community," Antonucci said.

Michael Kushmerek has assumed the role of director of annual giving. Kushmerek has earned two degrees from Fitchburg State – a bachelor of science in history and political science in 2008 and a master's degree in history in 2013.

"Mike has been a valuable member of the alumni and development team for five years," Antonucci said. "In his new role he will play a key role in fundraising, which has become an ever more critical function as we seek to keep public education affordable and accessible for students."

Fitchburg State University enrolls 7,000 day and evening students in more than 50 programs of study. The university was established in 1894.



Jay Bry



Cathy Daggett



Emily Austin-Bruns



Michael Kushmerek

FITCHBURG
STATE
COLLEGE



President
Robert V. Antonucci



Roxbury Community College

Dr. Valerie R. Roberson as its next President

Valerie R. Roberson, Ph.D. - Biography Valerie R. Roberson has been a community college administrator for twenty-eight years. She has served as president, vice president of academic affairs and of institutional advancement, district associate vice chancellor, dean of academic support, and director of adult education.

Dr. Roberson is currently the Vice President of Academic Affairs at Joliet Junior College. Joliet is recognized as the nation's first public community college and presently serves approximately 15,600 college credit students in over 100 degree and certificate programs. Community College Times recognized Joliet Junior College as one of the top 100 associate degree producers in the nation (June, 2012) as a result of college efforts and projects that she led.

She served as President of Olive - Harvey College, of the City Colleges of Chicago, for over five years. Olive - Harvey College serves approximately 7,500 students annually from a predominately African - American, and growing Hispanic, population on the southeast side of Chicago. Dr. Roberson was appointed Interim President and was then selected as permanent President from a national pool of candidates.

Under her leadership, Olive - Harvey College improved its overall image, increased student enrollments, developed new academic programs, and increased college financial resources. Dr. Roberson was an active board member of the South Chicago Chamber of Commerce and several other community organizations. She was recognized by Chicago Public Schools for her efforts to expand post-secondary opportunities for area high school students. Dr. Roberson worked to increase workforce training, internships, and student employment and to ensure that academic programs prepared students to meet and exceed industry requirements. Dr. Roberson also refocused the college on improving student engagement and student success. In 2009, Olive - Harvey College was recognized in the national publication, Making Connections: Dimensions of Student Success by the Center for Student Engagement.

Dr. Roberson earned her doctorate in higher education administration from Illinois State University in 2002. She holds a master's degree in adult education: employee training and development from Roosevelt University and a bachelor of science in psychology from Bradley University.

40 Hour Week - Alabama

There are people in this country who work hard every day
Not for fame or fortune do they strive
But the fruits of their labor are worth more than their pay
And it's time a few of them were recognized

Hello Detroit auto workers let me thank you for your time

You work a forty hour week for a livin' just to send it on down the line

Hello Pittsburgh steel mill workers let me thank you for your time

You work a forty hour week for a livin', just to send it on down the line

This is for the one who swings the hammer, driving home the nail

Or the one behind the counter, ringing up the sale
Or the one who fights the fires, the one who brings the mail

For everyone who works behind the scenes

You can see them every morning in the factories and the fields

In the city streets and the quiet country towns

Working together like spokes inside a wheel
They keep this country turning around

Hello Kansas wheat field farmer, let me thank you for your time

You work a forty hour week for a livin', just to send it on down the line

Hello West Virginia coal miner, let me thank you for your time

You work a forty hour week for a livin', just to send it on down the line

This is for the one who drives the big rig, up and down the road

Or the one out in the warehouse, bringing in the load

Or the waitress, the mechanic, the policeman on patrol

For everyone who works behind the scenes
With a spirit you can't replace with no machine

Hello America let me thank you for your time

August 2013 Daily

Lughnasadh, Aug. 1. A traditional Gaelic holiday that originated as a harvest festival.

International Beer Day, Aug. 2. Enjoy your favorite brew—in moderation, of course.

International Left-Handers' Day, Aug. 13. There's nothing sinister about it—stand up for your right to be left-handed.

World Humanitarian Day, Aug. 19. A day to honor humanitarian workers who have lost their lives or suffered injuries in the course of their work, and to acknowledge the ongoing efforts of humanitarians around the world.

Dog Day, Aug. 26. Take some time to appreciate the love and value that dogs bring to our daily lives, and do your bit for homeless and abused dogs of the world.

August 2013 Weekly

International Clown Week, Aug. 1-7. The word “clown” comes from the old Icelandic word klunni, which meant a clumsy person, and is related to other words like clod, clump, or, in old Middle High German, klutz.

International Assistance Dog Week, Aug. 4-10. Created to recognize all the devoted, hardworking assistance dogs who help individuals manage their disability-related limitations.

Elvis Week, Aug. 10-17. Celebrate the King at Graceland—or wherever you happen to be. Listen to his music, watch the movies, swivel your hips, and share the love.

National Aviation Week, Aug. 15-21. Observed annually during the week of Orville Wright's birthday, Aug. 19, National Aviation Week promotes education, awareness, and celebration of aviation.

August 2013 Monthly

American Artist Appreciation Month. America has been the home to some of art history's most talented and celebrated artists, people like Georgia O'Keeffe, Norman Rockwell, Jeff Koons, Mary Cassatt, and many others. Take some time during August to visit a museum and rediscover your favorites—and find some new ones to admire.

National Goat Cheese Month. The hot temperatures of August make it the perfect month to enjoy the lighter varieties of goat cheese. Pair it with a Chardonnay wine or a wheat beer for a refreshing snack.

National Immunization Awareness Month. This event highlights the need for improving national immunization coverage levels and encouraging people to protect their health by being immunized against infectious diseases. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention supports and encourages state and local health departments and other immunization partners to spread awareness of immunization issues.

National Truancy Prevention Month. Established in 2008 by the U.S. Senate in a resolution which noted: “The incidence of truancy in a recent national survey found that 11 percent of eighth grade students, 16 percent of tenth grade students, and 35 percent of twelfth grade students reported skipping 1



School's in! Tips for success in college—and beyond *These tips for succeeding at college can help...*

A college education has come to be seen as essential to success in life. It doesn't guarantee riches and fame, of course, but as your children prepare for college in the fall you want them to be ready to take advantage of the opportunity to learn and grow. These tips for succeeding at college can help:

- **Go to class.**

Resist the temptation to blow off classes just because parents aren't there to make you show up.

- **Prepare for every class.**

Don't sit down and wait for the professor to do all the work. Do the reading and think about the subject as if every session will include a pop quiz.

- **Ask questions.**

Professors want to see that their students are engaged. Ask questions that show you've thought about the topic and want to know more, and you'll stand out from the rest of the class.

- **Study as if it's your job.**

You'll spend less time in class, but if you make up for it by studying consistently every day you'll understand your subjects thoroughly and learn more.

- **Get to know your professors.**

Don't stalk anyone, but make a point of talking to your teachers and showing interest in their subjects. They'll be more willing to help if they have a good idea of who you are.

- **Manage your time.**

Create at least two schedules: a weekly list of your classes, meetings, and activities, and a semester (or quarter) schedule of due dates, midterms, finals, and other major events. This will help you stay focused and up to date.

- **Be flexible.**

You don't have to declare a major right away. Spend some time taking classes in a variety of areas and explore your interests before locking yourself in to a particular course of study.

- **Just say no.**

College isn't all about going to classes and studying until all hours of the night. Enjoy yourself, make friends, but don't overdo the parties and other experiences that might distract you from your main goal.





Message from AFSCME LEE SAUNDERS, *President*

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

In Michigan last week, Gov. Rick Snyder authorized Detroit's Emergency Financial Manager Kevyn Orr to file for Chapter 9 bankruptcy, an act that a state judge almost immediately deemed in violation of the state constitution's pension protections. Snyder and Orr are misleading the public into thinking pensions and public workers are responsible for the current crisis facing Detroit. As you know better than most, this is utter nonsense.

The non-uniformed workers of Detroit – 70 percent of whom are represented by AFSCME (along with another roughly 40 percent of retirees who are AFSCME members) – had their pension benefits reduced by approximately 40 percent since 2012. Our average pension is \$19,000 per year. We took a 10 percent pay cut during the past fiscal year. The pension contribution to the General Retirement System is only 4 percent of the total revenue Detroit receives.

Here's the latest on what's happening in Detroit. As you will see, the implications are not limited to the Motor City. If this bankruptcy is allowed to proceed, it will negatively impact cities nationwide:

- On Wednesday, a federal bankruptcy court judge let stand an earlier ruling that Snyder violated the state's constitution by filing the bankruptcy. The judge did rule that, for now, Snyder and Orr can proceed in federal court with their scheme to revoke the hard-earned retirement security of public service workers in Detroit.
- Emergency Manager Kevyn Orr publicly said he "bent over backwards" to work with constituencies in Detroit. Not true. Despite many requests, Orr refused to meet with us. As recently as three weeks ago, Orr refused our request to meet to discuss pensions and health benefits for retirees. Just two weeks ago, his representatives assured us that we had "months" to address these issues.
- It is estimated that the bankruptcy will cost Detroit more than \$100 million in professional fees, including massive fees paid to Orr's former law firm. That money could be used to make streets safer, restore parks and libraries, and meet the general obligations of the city.

This week, the AFL-CIO Executive Council is meeting and we will take the lead in urging them to pass a resolution calling upon President Obama and Congress to commit to an immediate infusion of federal assistance for Detroit, and to demand that the federal financial commitment be matched by the state of Michigan.

And we are calling upon the White House to convene immediately an Urban Crisis Task Force. The crisis in Detroit is not limited to that city's borders. It threatens urban centers across the country. This task force must be invested with responsibility for and ability to execute workable solutions to the economic problems of severely struggling American cities. Privateers nationwide are eyeing the collapse of public infrastructure, knowing there is money to be made by targeting workers and outsourcing their jobs.

Finally, we are calling upon Governor Snyder to make whole the city of Detroit, which saw its share of state revenues slashed by \$66 million from 2011 to 2012 by his hand. In total, state aid to Detroit was cut by \$160 million from 2002.

Bankruptcy is not the answer for Detroit. Bankruptcy accelerates Detroit's race to the bottom.

AFSCME will not stand by and let Detroit, or any American city, die. We will not let our sisters and brothers become pawns to corporate greed. President Obama, Congress, and the leadership of Michigan must stand with us, and with the people of Detroit.

In solidarity,

LEE SAUNDERS President



Vermont homecare providers are on the move. They are reaching out to one another and coming together to form their first union, AFSCME Vermont Homecare United, and they are speaking out about it with pride.

More than 7,000 providers throughout the state give in-home care to Vermont's elderly and people with disabilities. While they care for Vermont's most vulnerable citizens, and these programs save the state millions of dollars, they work for poverty wages with no benefits. They are compensated by the state through a non-profit corporation, but they have no way to negotiate for better wages, benefits or training. That's why they want a union of their own.

The providers who have volunteered to build a union through AFSCME Vermont Homecare United have worked hard to get this far. They have testified before the Legislature on the need for a union, and they have been meeting their fellow providers for months, building strong relationships face-to-face.

In May, the Legislature gave final approval to groundbreaking legislation giving the providers the right to collectively bargain with the state. Soon after, the governor signed the bill and then AFSCME Vermont Homecare United submitted approximately 4,500 support cards signed by homecare providers from across the state to the Vermont Labor Relations Board. Vermont homecare providers are seeking a representational election as soon as possible so they can begin negotiating improvements with the state and build a strong voice for providers and consumers. An election date is expected soon – and the providers don't want any delay.

Voluntary Member Organizers (VMO's) still needed for historic organizing campaign in Vermont

As the historic AFSCME Vermont Home Care (<http://vthomecareunited.org>) Worker Organizing campaign continues to move forward,

AFSCME Council 93 is making another plea for Volunteer Member Organizers (VMOs) to assist with the efforts.

The Council is seeking AFSCME leaders and members who would be willing to volunteer their time in one or two week blocks. However, shorter time periods can be arranged and would also be both helpful and appreciated.

Campaign training and orientation sessions will be held weekly to ensure volunteers are prepared and all volunteers will be partnered with an experienced AFSCME organizer. Please consider coming to Vermont to work with other AFSCME leaders and members from around the country or contact us to schedule another time in May or June. Council 93 will provide volunteers with:

Hotel accommodations (double occupancy)

Reimbursement for lost wages (paystub required for documentation)

Reimbursement for gas expenses (receipts required)

\$25.00 per day payments for meals.

AFSCME retirees will be paid \$100.00 a day

If you are interested in volunteering some time please email Pat Glynn (pglynn@afscmecouncil93.org). Members can also call Pat at the number below: Pat Glynn (617-367-6042) Please consider being part of this important and rewarding organizing effort.



Have a safe Summer 2013

