

Board of Regents for Higher Education



At a Glance

MARK E. OJAKIAN, *President, Connecticut State Colleges & Universities*

Jane Gates, *Provost & Senior VP for Academic and Student Affairs*

Elsa Núñez, *Vice President for State Universities*

David Levinson, *Vice President for Community Colleges*

Established – 2011

Statutory authority – Title 10a of the Connecticut General Statutes

System office – 61 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT 06105-2337

Organizational structure – The CT Board of Regents for Higher Education is the governing board for the Connecticut State College and University (CSCU) System. The CSCU System is comprised of 17 public institutions of higher education, including 12 community colleges, four state universities, and one distance learning college.

The Board consists of 21 members, including 15 voting members: nine members are appointed by the Governor, four members are appointed by legislative leadership, and two members are elected by students (the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Student Advisory Committee). The six non-voting, ex-officio members are the Commissioner of the Department of Education, the Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development, the Commissioner of the Department of Labor, the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health, and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Faculty Advisory Committee.

Members (as of 8/28/17)

Matt Fleury, Chair

Yvette Meléndez, Vice Chair

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Aviva D. Budd

Naomi K. Cohen

Dr. Lawrence J. DeNardis

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Hector Navarro*
Holly M. Palmer*
JoAnn H. Price
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Ex-Officio

Dr. Stephen Adair**
Scott Jackson**
Dr. Raul Pino**
Barbara E. Richards**
Catherine H. Smith**
Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell**

*Student Regent **Ex-Officio, Non-Voting

Institution Presidents

James Lombella, Asnuntuck Community College and Tunxis Community College (Interim)
Wilfredo Nieves, Capital Community College
John W. Miller, Central Connecticut State University
Ed Klonoski, Charter Oak State College
Elsa Núñez, Eastern Connecticut State University
Paul Broadie, Housatonic Community College and Gateway Community College (Interim)
Gena Glickman, Manchester Community College
Steven Minkler, Middlesex Community College (Lead Campus Administrator)
Daisy Cocco De Filippis, President, Naugatuck Valley Community College
Michael Rooke, Northwestern Connecticut Community College
David L. Levinson, Norwalk Community College
Carlee Drummer, Quinebaug Valley Community College
Joe Bertolino, Southern Connecticut State University
Mary Ellen Jukoski, Three Rivers Community College
John B. Clark, Western Connecticut State University

Full-time Employees (spring 2017) – 5,515

Part-time Employees (spring 2017) – 6,621

Recurring Operating Expenditures: Operating Fund – \$661,988,191

General Fund – \$568,694,620

***Building Value – Cost Basis: \$2,604,171,994 – Less Depreciation: (\$970,271,457) =
Net Book Value: \$1,633,900,537***

***Contents Value – Cost Basis: \$321,296,547 – Less Depreciation: (\$212,871,902) =
Net Book Value: \$108,424,645***

Total Student Enrollment (fall 2016) – 83,735

Mission

The Connecticut State Colleges & Universities contribute to the creation of knowledge and the economic growth of the state of Connecticut by providing affordable, innovative, and rigorous programs. Our learning environments transform students and facilitate an ever increasing number of individuals to achieve their personal and career goals.

Statutory Responsibility

The responsibility of the 17 institutions that make up the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities is to provide access to quality and affordable higher education to the people of the state of Connecticut. The Board of Regents for Higher Education is charged with setting policies to carry out that responsibility while aligning with the following goals:

- to ensure that no qualified person be denied the opportunity for higher education on the basis of age, sex, gender identity or expression, ethnic background or social, physical or economic condition,
- to protect academic freedom,
- to provide opportunities for education and training related to the economic, cultural and educational development of the state,
- to assure the fullest possible use of available resources in public and private institutions of higher education,
- to maintain standards of quality ensuring a position of national leadership for state institutions of higher education,
- to apply the resources of higher education to the problems of society, and
- to foster flexibility in the policies and institutions of higher education to enable the system to respond to changes in the economy, society, technology and student interests

Public Service

The chief beneficiaries of CSCU's work are the students served by our institutions. CSCU gauges its effectiveness by engaging in a variety of continuous improvement activities that surround assessment and the analyses of key performance indicators.

Assessment focuses on a data-driven process of educational change, and assesses student learning outcomes, student employment/income outcomes, courses, programs and the institutions that make up CSCU. The analyses of key performance indicators track opportunities for improvement in numerous areas, for instance; student success measures at different points in the post-secondary experience, student retention and graduation rates, changes in the diversity of the CSCU student, faculty and employee populations, as well as peer institution/system comparisons.

About Connecticut State Colleges & Universities

- In the last two decades, CSCU institutions have conferred over 260,000 degrees and

certificates.

- Connecticut State Colleges and Universities educate Connecticut students, and a small but growing number of out-of-state students. More than 97% of CSCU students are Connecticut residents.
- With over 83,000 students, the CSCU system is the second-largest public college system in New England.
- About 37% of all college students in Connecticut attend a CSCU institution.
- Approximately 87% of CSCU graduates remain in Connecticut after receiving their degrees.
- Non-credit programs, such as those targeting workforce training, serve an additional 30,000 students.

Notes and Achievements in 2016-2017

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

In April of 2017, President Ojakian proposed the two “Students First” restructuring strategies to put the CSCU system on a predictable and sustainable path for the future. The first is an administrative consolidation across all institutions and system office of non-student facing/administrative personnel. This involves integrating operations such as IT, Human Resources, Purchasing and Contracts, Facilities and other “back office” functions. The second is an operational consolidation of our 12 community colleges into one that is centrally managed and maintains the unique mission, geographic locations and local community connections. Planning teams involving stakeholders from across all 17 institutions are currently working to develop recommendations for the planning and implementation of these two strategies.

Additionally, the CSCU team has undertaken a number of other initiatives this year to support student success and ensure graduates’ skills match the demands of the 21st century economy, including:

- A marketing campaign titled “Make It. Here.” to support enrollment in CSCU’s Advanced Manufacturing programs. The “Make It. Here.” campaign was extremely successful, doubling enrollment in the 7 Connecticut Advanced Manufacturing Initiative (CAMI) colleges, and created broad-based awareness across the state of the benefits of enrolling in advance manufacturing programs. The campaign served as a strong foundation for the hard work to come for CSCU—producing thousands of skilled workers for Connecticut’s large and smaller manufacturers and suppliers in the next 2 decades to fuel growth for the manufacturers and the Connecticut economy.
- To address the issue of cost of attendance, CSCU launched a new program with DOT called the UPass which gives our students greater access to bus and rail transportation in the state at a significantly reduced cost.

- Launched a Guided Pathways program designed to promote the on time completion of degree programs at the CSCU's Universities and Community Colleges. Such an outcome will also promote greater economies of degrees for students, by enabling them to follow the most direct path to graduation.
- Expansion of CSCU's Colleges Connections and 5th Year programs in advanced manufacturing to more community colleges and, thus, more of the state's students. These programs provide students the opportunity to learn about advanced manufacturing while in high school, as well as the opportunity to earn college credits in these programs while still in high school. These programs will further support filling the advanced manufacturing skilled worker pipeline needed to fuel Connecticut's growing manufacturers.
- Our Transfer and Articulation Pathways have expanded to 22 pathways and 25 associated academic majors. Coupled with the Guided Pathway effort now underway, the system is promoting stronger student advising and support and seamless transfer. Teams of CSCU faculty, staff and administrators are taking part in this national initiative led by Jobs for the Future, Complete College America and the Community College Research Center.
- Upgrade of the Banner software is underway. In addition to lifting the enterprise system to the cloud and providing 24 hour support and security, we are modernizing the software to enhance our student-facing services.
- With state funding, CSCU implemented an outcomes based funding pilot that expanded workstudy opportunities at our 17 schools to promote greater student retention. A total of 587 students participated earning \$1.4 million in wages and early indications are that the strategy is having positive effect on retention.
- Expanded the mission of the Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium (CTDLC) to include providing inbound/outbound call center services to the community colleges. These services enable students and those interested in becoming students simplified and more convenient response to consistent information relating to courses, programs, billing, financial aid, and a whole range of other topics.
- CSCU worked closely with CTDLC and the Student Advisory Committee to promote Open Educational Resources (OER) which drive down the cost of textbooks. Our new contract with Follett for our community college bookstores also includes cost savings of 10% to students on textbooks and a greater availability of OER.
- Over 100 students participated last school year in the dual enrollment initiative and 642 students in the second chance initiative with many of them in the manufacturing programs.

ASNUNTUCK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- The college successfully completed over \$40 million in construction and renovation projects, including a front entrance/ monumental tower project that fundamentally changed the

complexion of the college. The front entrance project included nearly 10,000 square feet of renovated space allocated for student use. The project also included a new conference center which, in addition to its potential as a revenue vehicle, the college plans to use as a venue for a wide array of large community events, including scholarship fundraisers.

- On June 19, 2017, Asnuntuck opened its new state of the art 27,000 sf Advanced Manufacturing Technology building. Governor Malloy, President Ojakian, and local elected officials were present for the ribbon cutting ceremony to open the new building. The new facility is equipped in the latest technology in Additive Manufacturing, Computerized Measuring Machine (CMM) labs, Computer Labs, and an 11,000 sf Machining Center with more than 90 machine tools. The new facility has the ability to educate more than 250 machining graduates annually. To that add the Welding and Electro-Mechanical programs, Asnuntuck will be contributing upwards to 500 personnel annually to the ranks of manufacturing career employment in Connecticut.
- Asnuntuck experienced unprecedented enrollment growth during 2016-2017. The college saw an increase of 18.5% in full-time-equivalent (FTE) enrollment during the fall 2016 semester, and an increase of 11% in FTE for the spring 2017 semester. Both figures comfortably led public colleges in the state of Connecticut.
- *G.I. Jobs* has selected Asnuntuck Community College to be designated as an official Military Friendly School every year since 2009. This honor ranks Asnuntuck in the Top 15-20% of all colleges and universities nationwide as a Military Friendly School.
- Asnuntuck Community College opened a Food Pantry on campus in March and we currently have over 175 students registered as confidential clients and 24 student volunteers who helped to run the pantry. The Asnuntuck Pantry is a member of Foodshare of CT, CUFBA (College and University Food Bank Alliance) and is supported by the Enfield Food Shelf, Enfield Rotary, Future Farmers of America, Shop Rite and the ACC Student Government Association.
- Asnuntuck was awarded a three-year grant of \$226,000 from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving to support the creation of the position of Success Coach to work with SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) students and to deliver a computer literacy class, with priority given to SNAP students then opened to all Asnuntuck students.
- Faculty developed curriculum to meet industry demand and received approval for multiple advanced level certificates for Advanced Manufacturing Technology, including: Additive Manufacturing, Advanced Manufacturing Machine Tech. II, CAD/CAM, Metal Fabrication, and Quality Inspection.
- During spring break 2017, a group of eleven students and four faculty/staff members visited the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. The two-day trip was Sponsored in part by the ACC Foundation, the Black Student Union, and the ACC Campus Activities Board.

- Asnuntuck is one of four CSCU colleges chosen to participate in the Second Chance Pell Initiative which provides Pell grants to incarcerated students. Over 300 students were enrolled in Advanced Manufacturing, Marketing, and Human Services certificates.

CAPITAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- A signature program at Capital Community College (CCC) is the Hartford Heritage Project (HHP) that emphasizes placed based learning and has expanded the college campus into the city through courses linked with the city's cultural and historic institutions and places. The success of HHP has led to the development and approval of Capital's associate degree program in Theater Arts. The program will prepare graduates for entry-level employment in various aspects of theater production, such as stage and production management, stagecraft as well as performance and will provide General Education and foundational Theater Arts coursework in accordance with the CSCU's Transfer Articulation Policy to provide seamless transfer to Connecticut State Universities' baccalaureate programs.
- In partnership with The Hartford, CT Department of Labor (DOL) and U.S. Department of Labor, Capital designed and launched Connecticut's first Insurance Registered Apprenticeship Program. The Program is federally approved by the U.S. Department of Labor and the first established by a domestic employer. Students are employed by The Hartford part-time during the program and upon successful completion will earn their degrees, U.S./CT DOL Registered Apprenticeship Certificate, 3-credits for the College's Introduction to Insurance course, industry recognized Associate in Insurance and Associate in Claims credentials from The Institutes and a full-time job.
- Funding and support from Guardian Life Insurance has resulted in the establishment of the FIRST (Financial Independence to Reach Success and Transformation) Center. The Center provides the Personal Finance credit course, non-credit financial literacy workshops, budget coaching, tax preparation services, resources and referrals, and other support services for our student. United Way, Hartford Loan Fund, CWEALF, CURET, Community Solutions, and the Village for Children and Families are collaborating with the college on this project. Over 400 tax returns were submitted for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) in the 2016 tax year, representing a total of \$737,093 in refunds and an average refund of \$1,802.
- Capital completed its Self-Study Report and hosted a successful Commission on Institutions of Higher Education-New England Association of Schools and Colleges evaluation team site visit resulting in the college's continued accreditation.
- Workforce development training program offerings and work based learning experiences were increased through the Northeast Resiliency Consortium grant. Training programs were developed in mobile applications development, food service, community health, and weatherization. Prior Learning Assessment for programs and pathways to credit have been established.
- Capital Community College was honored by the YWCA of the Hartford Region as its

Community Partner Creating Opportunities Award recipient. The college was recognized as a vital partner in its YW Career Women Program that helps women to fulfill their educational pursuits for employment in health care careers that pay a family a sustainable wage.

- Josh Hummel, CCC's Coordinator for the Music Industry Program, received the National Band Association's 2016 Merrill Jones Young Composer Competition for his wind band piece, *Fanfare for the Appalachian's: I-77*.
- Wilfredo Nieves was recognized by the Connecticut Association of Latinos in Higher Education. He was presented a Lifetime Achievement Award for his exemplary dedication and strong commitment to promoting access and educational opportunity to Latina/os in Connecticut Higher Education.

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

- American Savings Foundation Endowed Chair in Banking and Finance, Howard Pitkin, coordinated a Distinguished Lecturer in banking presentation in April. The speaker was US Comptroller of the Currency Thomas Curry. The Comptroller of the Currency charters, regulates, and supervises all national banks and federal savings associations as well as federal branches and agencies of foreign banks, and is one of the top officials in the US Dept. of Treasury.
- CCSU Athletics won a league high four Northeast Conference Championships: Baseball, Men's Cross Country, Women's Swimming and Diving, and Men's Track.
- The O'Neill Endowed Chair/Center for Public Policy and Social Research was contracted to develop a major report for CT AFL-CIO, prepared by three CCSU faculty in the Department of Economics, on the state of CT's economy. The report, "Opportunities for Growth: Business Tax Advantages, Economic Strengths and Quality of Life Perceptions in Connecticut," was published in April 2017.
- CCSU Student Center was cited by "College Rank" as one of the top 25 student unions in the country (#6). This is the second time we were selected by a national survey when we were highlighted on "Best College Values" as one of the top 30 student centers in the country.
- Signed a partnership agreement with the Ana Grace Project to assist the K-12 school systems of Central Connecticut with their social and emotional student needs. In collaboration with the Ana Grace Project, the University raised over \$60,000 for the Finish the Race, and hosted the event on campus in April 2017, with the participation of over 400 students from Northend Elementary School, Chamberlain Elementary School, Smith Elementary School, and DiLoreto Magnet School.
- Dr. Sylvia Halkin was recently given the *Educator of the Year Award* from the Hartford Audubon Society.

- Associate Professor Linda Reeder received The BOR Top Research Award. She had a book published *Net Zero Energy Buildings: Case Studies and Lessons Learned*. She was elected to the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects in 2016 in recognition of her work.
- Dr. Myungjin Chae received the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) outstanding reviewer award by the Journal of Pipeline Systems Engineering and Practices.
- History professors Mary Anne Mahony and Daniel Broyld were awarded Fullbright Scholarships:

CHARTER OAK STATE COLLEGE

- Received 10 year regional reaccreditation from New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).
- Enrolled 78 students in the college's first master's degree—Master of Science in Organizational Effectiveness and Leadership.
- Redeveloped the first three courses most students take using Open Educational Recourse (OER) materials resulting in an estimated \$76,700 annual savings to students.
- Received reaccreditation of Early Childhood Alternate Route to Teacher Certification from CT State Department of Education.
- Completed three major non-credit training evaluations that can be transferred towards a Charter Oak degree: American Red Cross blood collection (27 credits) and product manufacturing (31 credits) and Massachusetts Municipal Police Academy (30 credits).
- Became a member of SARA (State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement) which allows the college to serve online students residing outside of CT without seeking additional approvals from the students' home state saving the college annually over \$20,000 in fees and at least an equivalent amount in staff time.
- Charter Oak State College Foundation created the Michael A. Marusa endowed scholarship with over \$12,000 of family donations.

Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium (CTDLC)

- CTDLC's Student Engagement Services have resulted in increased student enrollment and retention at the CSCU institutions and private schools throughout the state. This includes targeted one stop services across multiple departments for eight community college campuses as well as outbound call campaigns to high risk students across the CSCU system. The call center is staffed by local college students, giving them the opportunity to

develop professional workplace skills while performing a much needed service to Connecticut higher education institutions.

- CTDLC continues to lead an Open Education Resources (OER) awareness and adoption campaign throughout the State of Connecticut and the surrounding region to build awareness and facilitate the adoption of open education resources to increase student access to course materials while greatly reducing the cost of college textbooks. CTDLC coordinated a CSCU-wide Math OER pilot program that resulted in over 700 students saving a total of \$120,000 in textbook costs.
- CTDLC continues to expand and support the CT Education Academy program to facilitate state employee training and professional development through an online learning platform. The program has served over 6,000 unique users from 89 different agencies/organizations, accessing 67 different courses with over 9,000 enrollments since the program's inception in 2015.
- CTDLC's online tutoring program (eTutoring.org) continues to support colleges and universities across North America, collaboratively serving over 140 institutions across 15 states (including 12 in CT) and in two Canadian provinces.
- CTDLC continues to provide a virtual high school program for the Adult Education centers throughout the state. This partnership program with the State Department of Education provides online high school courses for adults seeking to complete their high school diploma and serves over 2,000 enrollments across 20+ adult education centers annually.

EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

- To support academic innovation, faculty research and other institutional initiatives, Eastern has received more than \$2 million in grant support in the past year, including a \$200,000 grant from the Davis Educational Foundation to support first-year writing/reading programs; a Spencer Foundation Grant to study children's mathematics learning; a private donation to create a Digital History Laboratory; and a joint \$1 million, multi-year project with the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to develop training materials in support of preschool home visitors.
- Eastern launched a new major in Criminology in fall 2016, and already have more than 150 students enrolled in the program. In addition to extensive classroom courses, the program offers student internships for this high-demand occupation in Connecticut and the nation.
- Eastern students continue to demonstrate that the University has the strongest undergraduate student research program among Connecticut public institutions. Of particular note, for the fourth year in a row and the sixth time in 10 years, an Eastern student represented Connecticut at the Posters on the Hill Conference in Washington, DC, this past April. In addition, over the past four years, twice as many Eastern students presented at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research as all other Connecticut public universities combined, including the University of Connecticut. This summer, Eastern students have

received grants and fellowships from the National Science Foundation and the NASA CT Space Consortium, among others to continue their research.

- Two signs of institutional stability: Eastern achieved a balanced budget for the 11th straight year, largely through continuing to meet enrollment goals, and now has a fund reserve of \$24 million. In addition, Eastern was recently named a “Great College to Work for” by the Chronicle of Higher Education. This marks the eighth time Eastern has received this honor. The University was the only public four-year institution in New England to receive this recognition, and was one of only 42 institutions on the national Great Colleges Honor Roll.
- Eastern provides the highest amount of financial aid in dollars per student in the CSCU System.
- For the first time, Eastern student-athletes were recognized as the best in their conference—on the playing field and in the classroom. Eastern won the Little East Conference’s (LEC) Presidents Cup for the third year in a row for having the highest cumulative GPA among the conference’s eight schools. For the first time, Eastern also won the LEC Commissioner’s Cup for having the top aggregate athletic record across the conference’s 19 sports.
- President Núñez is the current Board Chair of the American Association of Colleges and Universities.
- Dr. Carmen Cid, Dean of the School of Arts, has been elected a 2017 Fellow of the Ecological Society of America (ESA). The lifetime achievement award honors ESA members who have made outstanding contributions to the field of ecology — the study of how organisms interact with their environments — through research, education and outreach.
- Dr. Elizabeth Cowles, chair of the Department of Biology, has been elected as the president-elect of the National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT); her term began on Jan. 1, 2017. Comprised of 3,500 members, the NABT is the nation’s premier organization life-science teacher development. Professor Cowles has been a member for 20 years, most recently as a member of the board.
- Double major (history and political science) and a Barnard Scholarship awardee in 2016, Quanece Williams ’16 was awarded a Fulbright Student position to teach in the Czech Republic in 2017–18.
- Political Science Professor William Salka was awarded an ACE Fellowship for 2017–18.

GATEWAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Gateway Community College is a partner on The Connecticut Older Adult Collaborative for Health (COACH) HRSA program with Yale University School of Medicine and several of the local health clinics to provide primary healthcare providers with the skills and tools to improve geriatric healthcare in the region.

- SNAP E&T program has provided over ten vocational training opportunities to approximately 100 participants.
- The Greater New Haven Chamber has joined forces with THE GREAT Center at Gateway Community College to offer the region's premier leadership program.
- NPR Studio is set to begin broadcasting from Gateway's Downtown Campus in the fall 2017.
- College Readiness Initiative (CRI): Dual enrollment with New Haven high schools. Over 150 students successfully enrolled and completed developmental Math and English courses taught at the high schools. Eight of the thirteen public high schools in the city participated.
- Implemented the First Year Experience Course in the college's General Studies program. The course is designed to create structured advising for program and career advancement, navigating key campus offices such as financial aid and support services, contextualized in a theme-based class where students examine critical issues relevant to today's world.
- Held first High School Donor/Scholar Luncheon on campus for the new incoming students who received scholarships from the Gateway Community College Foundation and the scholarship donors. Staff and faculty from the college attended the lunch to talk about the services provided.
- Set up the Dorsey L. Kendrick Access to Success Endowed Scholarship Fund to assist students with financial needs.
- Associate Professor Elizabeth Keefe (College Advancement Studies) received the Board of Regents Faculty Full-time Teaching Award and Dr. Leonardo Kurachi Ube (Math/Science Department, Biology) received the Adjust Teaching Award.
- Gateway's Women's basketball team made it all the way to the region 21 championship game. They finished the season as the number 2 team in the region.
- Kellie Danso, Director of Student Engagement and Career Development, received the John S. Martinez Community Service Award for her contributions to the Columbus House Board of Directors.
- Michelle Fraser, Associate Director of Admission, received a Certificate of Recognition from the Black Student Association.
- Elizabeth Vega, Associate Director of Admissions, was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation at ACES Schools on October 19, 2016.
- Tony Carberry, Director of Enrollment Management, was elected co-chair of the CSCU System-wide Admissions Directors Council.

HOUSATONIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- HCC hosted 25 instructors from various two-year colleges from China in October 2016 for a one-day exchange on technical education. Bill Griffin, Professors Pam Pirog, Charles Meyrick, and Kyle Pepin traveled to China in June 2017 and made eight presentations over an eight-day period to industry and technical colleges on how we teach business and engineering to community college students.
- The Open Educational Resources initiative conducted a workshop for faculty on developing OER resources for the classroom which resulted in 104 sections of courses offering free or low-cost text materials in AY 2016-17. Professor Jennifer Nohai-Seaman and Academic Dean Michael Brown presented on Housatonic Community College's OER experience at the Northeast Regional OER Symposium in Amherst, MA in April. Since 2014, the use of OER resources have saved students over \$450,000 in textbook costs. In addition, faculty from the Math and Science Department worked with publishers to considerably lower the price of texts and lab manuals.
- Launched our Associate's to Bachelor's in Connecticut or A to B in CT that will keep students on track towards future enrollment at Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU). The "A to B in CT" program helps guide students toward completion of an A.S. degree and helps minimize potential student debt.
- An Associate Degree in Radiologic Sciences is now available to students at HCC through a partnership with St. Vincent's College. Some courses will be taken at HCC, and other courses at St. Vincent's College. After satisfactorily completing all courses, students will earn an Associate Degree in Radiologic Sciences from St. Vincent's College. Through this partnership agreement, students will pay the community college tuition rate for all the courses in the degree. Students wishing to continue their education past the Associate Degree will be able to seamlessly transfer their courses into the Bachelor's Degree in Radiologic Sciences offered by St. Vincent's College. Upon successful completion of the program, the student is eligible to take the ARRT examination for registration and licensure.
- Professor Tony Pappantoniou and his students presented their research entitled "Population Dynamics of the Painted Turtle from a Connecticut Farm Pond" at the Metropolitan Association of College and University Biologists. The poster was based on research that students did at the Connecticut Audubon Society.
- Professors Jamilet Ortiz and Geoffrey Sheehan, theatre program student workers and the HCC Student Life Office sponsored a one-woman performance of *Tres Vitas* examining the lives of three legendary Latin American Women: Mexican painter Frida Kahlo, Salvadoran peasant activist Rufina Amaya and Argentinean poet Alfonsina Storni. The work was performed by The Core Ensemble of NYC.
- HCC students took all three of the top prizes at the 2017 Connecticut Community College Fall Elevator Pitch Competition for student entrepreneurs held at the University of

Bridgeport. Jarissa Barnwell received the first place award, Kaity Cadoret took second place, and Jeanie Cameron was awarded third place. The college is now a member of the National Association of Community College Entrepreneurship.

- The Business Department and the Advanced Manufacturing Program worked with the Girl Scouts of Connecticut to provide a Saturday coding workshop for students called *Random Hacks of Kindness*.
- The College sponsored a Workforce Summit on April 21. Featuring leaders from aerospace, healthcare, and financial services the Summit focused on making stronger connections between industry and education and building a stronger workforce. The program engaged attendees in group discussions to address the common skills that employers require to operate and grow their businesses, and that individuals need for workplace success.
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- Professor Pam Pirog presented with colleagues from other community colleges on a presentation called Facilitation of Intercollegiate Electives: Allowing One Instructor to Teach a Section Composed of Students from Multiple Schools; and Rob Nelson presented on Crossing Borders, Building Bridges: Boosting Retention and Student Success Through Interdisciplinary Studies.
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- HCC partnered with the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) to offer the Course in Effective Teaching Practices for 15 faculty members in the spring, 2017 semester. The course is the first course designed for higher education faculty that leads to a nationally-recognized Certificate in Effective College Instruction endorsed by the American Council on Education (ACE). The college participated in this pilot program with the goal of increasing student retention, persistence and graduation.
- “HCC Phi Theta Kappa (Chi Rho Chapter) lead advisor, Debbie Kuchmas, won the Phi Theta Kappa Paragon Award for New Advisors. Recipients were selected by a panel of judges from over 56 nominees worldwide.
- Assistant Professor Laura Turiano, (Psychology and Human Services, Behavioral and Social Sciences Department) received the Board of Regents Faculty Full-time Teaching Award.
- Alese Mulvihill and Family Economic Security Program (FESP) was chosen as the Bridgeport Regional Business Council’s 2017 IMPACT Award recipient for outstanding achievement in education.

MANCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- MCC was ranked the number 1 two-year destination school among high school graduates in Connecticut according to the StudentTracker® for High Schools Aggregate Report prepared for the Connecticut State Board of Education by the National Student Clearinghouse®. The report included data from 206 school districts and more than 500,000 students.

- MCC's five-year interim report was approved by NEASC at their April meeting. Additionally, the music studies program received specialized accreditation by the National Association of Schools of Music. MCC is one of just a few schools in New England with the specialized accreditation. Other programs receiving specialized accreditation include the Veterinary Assistant program, receiving accreditation from the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA). The accreditation makes MCC's Veterinary Assistant program the only approved program in Connecticut.
- MCC hosted a number of conferences including the Connecticut Association of Latinos in Higher Education student conference in October and the White House Summit on Educational Excellence for African Americans in December. Combined more than 500 students, faculty, and staff attended the conferences focused on student success.
- MCC was the proud recipient of many grants focusing on student success including: Aurora Foundation grant to expand the FIRST themed cohorts, SSS Trio (continuation) allowing the expansion of the STARS program to serve 140 low income/first generation students, and WiSTEM which focuses on women in STEM fields.
- MCC, in an effort to provide additional services to students, created new programs focused on student enrollment and retention. Creation of the Damato Assistance Micro Grants provided \$47,000 in gap funding to more than 100 students. These students were also provided financial literacy workshops. Additionally, the Advising and Counseling Office adopted the Six Dimensions of Wellness-National Wellness Institute model as a theoretical framework for holistic support.
- Lucy Hurston '93, Professor of Sociology, was invited by publisher HarperCollins to record a nationally syndicated podcast regarding MCC's Common Read program, featuring *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, by Zora Neale Hurston.
- Doreen Forbes-Rogers, custom training coordinator, was recognized by Connecticut Workforce Partners for being an Outstanding Professional in her work on the Best Chance pre-manufacturing program. The award was presented at the 1st Annual Best Chance Awards and Recognition night.
- MCC Radiography Students won the annual Connecticut Society for Radiologic Technologists (CSRT) Bowl, competing against institutions such as Gateway and Middlesex Community Colleges as well as the University of Hartford and Quinnipiac University. The CSRT Bowl provides a fun way to test students' knowledge before the sit for the national certification exam administered by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT).

MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- MxCC celebrated its 50th Anniversary with special events and celebrations held throughout the year. These included: a "Presidents Panel Discussion" in May during which President Anna Wasescha and eight of the eleven past Presidents provided a reflection on the first 50

years at Middlesex Community College; a pictorial exhibit placed on display at the State Capitol building during the start of the legislative session; and, successful anniversary-themed Red Moon Gala and 5K Road Race scholarship fundraising events.

- In the summer of 2017, MxCC launched the Middlesex Accelerated Associates Program. “MAP” offers students a way to earn an Associate Degree in just 13 months. Instead of enrolling in traditional 15 week semesters, MAP students complete their coursework in 5-week mini-semesters, taking mostly online courses with intensive academic support. Students may choose to major in either General Studies or Criminal Justice; Business Administration will be added for the 2018-19 academic year.
- MxCC entered a new partnership with the Meriden Public Schools to relocate its satellite center from downtown Meriden to Orville H. Platt High School, which recently completed over \$100 million in renovations. Developing this partnership was a collaborative effort among college and school system leaders, the Meriden Board of Education, the Mayor’s Office, and the city’s legislative delegation. A key feature of this partnership is reserving five seats per class, at no cost, to qualifying Meriden high school students and school employees.
- Beta Gamma Xi, the MxCC chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the international honor society for two-year college students, celebrated its recognition as a Five Star Level Chapter. This is PTK’s highest recognition of chapters with outstanding leadership and service, and for stimulating an interest in continuing academic excellence on their campuses.
- On March 1, Middlesex Community College and Post University administrators gathered on the Middletown campus to announce a formal transfer articulation agreement between the two colleges. The schools agreed to partner in the correlation of academic programs and facilitate the transfer of MxCC students to Post University for those pursuing a number of baccalaureate degrees.
- MxCC student Sarah Lombardo was named a 2017 Newman Civic Fellow, a recognition bestowed by Campus Compact on students who demonstrate a commitment to civic engagement and finding solutions for challenges facing communities throughout the country. She is one of 273 students to receive this honor nationwide. Sarah received her Associate Degree of Human Services, *summa cum laude*, at Commencement this May.
- MxCC history professor Dr. Victor Triay was appointed Visiting Scholar at the Cuban Research Institute at Florida International University. During the summer of 2017, Dr. Triay served as the principal investigator for a project on the oral histories of the veterans of the Bay of Pigs Brigade 2506. He conducted intensive interviews with surviving members of the brigade, who carried out the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion of 1961.
- At a special induction event held on May 4, 2017 former MxCC Academic Dean John Coggins was inducted into the Haddam-Killingworth Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame honors individuals who display an exemplary commitment to the service of children and/or show an outstanding record of service to their community. For his part, Dean Coggins served as chair of the Haddam Conservation Commission and the Haddam Inlands Wetlands and Water

Courses Agency (1970-84), and also served on the Haddam-Killingworth Recreation Authority (1984-97).

NAUGATUCK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- In September 2016, the U.S. Department of Education announced that NVCC is among the top 25 community colleges nationwide that advance opportunities for low-income students. Colleges were ranked by their effectiveness in serving low-income students with relatively high outcomes.
- NVCC's student newspaper, *The Tamarack*, received seven awards in the collegiate division at the 2017 Connecticut Society of Professional Journalists' Excellence in Journalism Awards ceremony.
- In November 2016, NVCC's Marketing Department was awarded two medals for marketing materials by the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations at their annual awards ceremony.
- The Waterbury Sportsmen's Club honored NVCC as their Organization of the Year at the Club's 43rd Annual Awards dinner on April 9, 2017.
- President De Filippis was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in the Humanities by the University of Santo Domingo (UASD) on October 6, 2016. The UASD conferred the honorary degree in recognition of the President's contributions to Dominican, Caribbean and Dominican Diaspora literature. The conferral ceremony was covered by several major media outlets in the Dominican Republic.
- President De Filippis was honored by Eugenio María de Hostos Community College as the Educator of the Year at their annual Scholarship Benefit on May 5, 2017. President De Filippis was recognized for her dedication and perseverance in advancing the communities where she has worked.
- Nicole Hayes, a 2017 graduate, was awarded a full scholarship to Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT, with a generous aid package totaling more than \$70,000 per year.
- In May 2017, NVCC was notified by the U.S. Department of Education that our three Upward Bound grant applications to increase collaborations between NVCC and Crosby, Kennedy and Wilby high schools in Waterbury, were selected for funding at \$257,500 each, per year, for an annual total of \$772,500. The grants are renewable for up to five years.
- NVCC became the first community college in CT to award a total of more than 1,000 associate degrees and certificates in 2012. This achievement was reached again for the sixth year in a row in 2017 when the College conferred more than 1,000 awards at commencement on May 25. Since Academic Year 2007-2008, NVCC has seen a 136%

increase in the total number of awards conferred, a 135% increase in the number of male graduates and a 465% increase in Hispanic student graduates.

- NVCC's Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center (AMTC) reports 100% full-time job placement for the December 2016 certificate recipients from the Waterbury evening cohort as well as 100% full-time job placement for the spring 2017 daytime cohort graduates. With more than 200 industry partners, NVCC provides its highly-skilled AMTC graduates with a vast range of internship and job placement opportunities.
- In Academic Year 2016-2017, NVCC led the way with 162 certifications from the National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) awarded this academic year. Celebrating the highest number of certifications out of the seven community colleges in the state system that have Advanced Manufacturing Technology Centers (AMTC), NVCC makes a difference in local workforce training.
- NVCC Allied Health licensure and certification pass rates continued to demonstrate the strength of the College's programs. The NVCC Nursing program has some of the highest pass rates on licensure exams in the state; for 2016-2017 the pass rate was 96%. Two Allied Health Programs, Radiologic Technology and Physical Therapy Assistant, have 100% pass rates on their licensure exams.

NORTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Wallethub.com ranked NCCC the highest Connecticut Community College, as well as 62nd out of 821 community colleges nationally, in August 2016.
- Joyner Health Science Center opened in August 2017: The cost of the 24,400 gross square foot building was \$22.5 million.
- NCCC partnered with the CT Food Bank to provide much needed food and basic supplies to students through a student food pantry known as *Food for Thought*.
- Dean Patricia Bouffard, DNSc, was recognized for outstanding achievement in nursing by the Connecticut League for Nursing.
- Jess Tessman, 2017 NCCC graduate, was named a 2017 New Century Scholar through the All-USA College Academic Team national competition, which ranked her as the top Connecticut community college graduate among 50 graduates nationally. She also attended a Human Rights Conference at Oxford University, England in March 2017 as a guest of Quinnipiac University.
- Jeremy Marchand, 2017 NCCC graduate, was named a Bronze medal winner through the All-USA College Academic Team national competition and received a scholarship award for his achievement.

- President Michael Rooke attended a *Strategic Perspectives in Non-Profit Management* weeklong seminar in July 2017 at Harvard Business School, which was funded by the Berkshire-Taconic Community Foundation.

NORWALK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Norwalk Community College was one of 60 colleges nationwide honored at The White House as a winner of the White House Healthy Campus Challenge. President David L. Levinson, Ph.D. accepted an award for the efforts of NCC students to promote Affordable Care Act enrollment.
- NCC received a \$2.3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Developing Hispanic-Serving Institution's Title V Program. Funding will be used to increase the success and completion rates of Hispanic and low-income students through academic pathways and a new Orientation, Advising and Retention system.
- NCC's Veterinary Technology degree program received accreditation from the American Veterinary Medical Association. The Vet Tech program graduated its first class in May. Every student received a job offer in the field before graduation.
- Enrollment in the Norwalk Early College Academy (NECA), a Pathways in Technology program jointly founded by NCC, IBM and the Norwalk Public Schools, grew from 150 students in 2016 to more than 250 in 2017. NECA enables high school students to earn both a high school degree and a tuition-free Associate Degree from NCC within six years. The first class will graduate in 2018; many of them ahead of schedule.
- NCC established a series of Home Health Aide training programs for recent immigrants in collaboration with Building One Community. Participants receive English as Second Language instruction and learn in-demand health care skills in NCC non-credit certificate programs. Home health care is the fastest-growing field in the U.S.
- The NCC Foundation awarded nearly \$3 million to NCC this year in support of scholarships, programs and faculty development. The Foundation also completed its capital campaign to raise \$5 million in celebration of its 50th anniversary.
- The 2016 *Best and Worst Community Colleges* study released by Wallethub.com ranked NCC second nationwide in Lowest Student Default Rate and third nationwide in student Career Outcomes. The report analyzed 821 community colleges across 12 key metrics ranging from tuition cost to return on educational investment.
- With support from the NCC Committee for Diversity and Inclusion, NCC opened a Center for Multicultural Affairs in fall 2016. The center provides a large and comfortable space for college events celebrating diversity, acceptance, inclusion and cultural heritage.

- A delegation of educators from Quandong Province in China visited NCC in October to observe Architectural Engineering classes and learn best practices for developing a construction technology curriculum in their own country.
- NCC students Lydia Gjuraj, Eric Bissell and Michael Koutumbas were selected for NASA's Community College Aerospace Scholars Program, a competitive training program for STEM students. They completed a five-week online program on aeronautical engineering and interacted with rocket scientists at regional NASA Space Centers.
- In summer 2017, NCC student Matthew Stromberg participated in the Community College Abroad program in Paris, France, for engineering and environmental science students. Matthew and the program, which is sponsored by the French Embassy, were featured in the 07/24/17 issue of *The New Yorker* magazine.
- Three students in the NCC Class of 2017 have each received a full tuition scholarship worth \$130,000 from the Mount Holyoke College Frances Perkins Scholarship program. The program aids women age 24 and older whose college education has been interrupted or postponed. Two of the students are in their 50s.

QUINEBAUG VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- For the sixth consecutive year, QVCC students transferred to a four-year college or university or entered the workforce without any federal loan debt, thanks to the resolute generosity of donors to the QVCC Foundation's scholarship fund and the diligent efforts of the Financial Aid team.
- In fall 2016, QVCC opened the 10,000-square-foot Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center that houses programs in advanced manufacturing machine technology, lean manufacturing, supply chain management, mechatronics, and metrology. Designed by Silver/Petrucci & Associates Architects, the facility positions QVCC among the leading providers of advanced manufacturing in the region. With the loyal support of community members, the QVCC Foundation established the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center endowment fund that now stands at \$500,000. Since becoming an Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center in 2012, the College has provided training to 243 students (both credit and non-credit) and has awarded 304 NIMS certificates.
- In January 2017, QVCC became a tobacco- and vape-free campus, earning applause from the Northeast Connecticut District Department of Health and the Presidents' Climate Leadership Network.
- QVCC is one of 67 colleges in the country participating in the Second Chance Pell Program. During the 2016-2017 academic year, QVCC enrolled 141 students from the Brooklyn Correctional Institution. The College also was one of 44 postsecondary institutions in the nation selected to participate in the Dual Enrollment Pell Experiment for high school students.

- For the eighth consecutive year, Victory Media named QVCC one of the most military friendly community colleges in the United States. In keeping with that distinction, the College hosted its second annual Veterans' Stand Down in June 2017.
- For the second year, the Robotics Club captured first place in the NASA Quadcopter challenge.
- Karla Desjardins, Associate Director of Human Resources, completed the Aspiring Leaders Executive Development Program co-sponsored by the Department of Administrative Services and the Connecticut Training and Development Network.
- The University of Connecticut named Jakob Spjut, Professor of Engineering, a Joule Fellow and participant in the daVinci Project during the summer 2016.

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

- The School of Education partnered with a regional group of school superintendents in a new initiative seeking to increase the number of minority students pursuing a career in K-12 education. The School is able to offer scholarships for minorities entering its teacher preparation programs thanks to a bequest of more than \$2 million by a former faculty member. Supported by the state Department of Education, the initiative also includes mentorship programs, including partnering education majors with high school students considering a career in teaching and existing K-12 teachers with Southern students.
- Southern received initial approval to offer two joint master's degree programs as part of its blossoming Trans-Atlantic partnership with Liverpool John Moores University: an M.S. in coastal resilience, under the umbrella of the Department of Environment, Geography, and Marine Sciences and its LJMU counterpart, and an International Master's of Business Administration, offered by the respective Schools of Business. Built on a hybrid platform of online courses combined with time on the ground at both institutions, the new programs are seen as a draw for international students. The addition of these programs, tentatively set to launch in fall 2018, would place SCSU and LJMU in rarified territory as the only American/Anglo universities offering more than one joint master's program.
- Southern's graduate degree programs instructing educators on the teaching of reading earned a full three-year accreditation from the International Dyslexia Association (IDA). Southern is one of only 26 schools in the country – and only the second in Connecticut – to receive this designation. The accreditation applies to both the Master of Science degree and Sixth-Year Certificate programs in reading and is awarded to institutions deemed by IDA to best be able to train teachers to alleviate, prevent or remediate reading difficulties, including dyslexia.
- The New Haven-based Community Alliance for Research and Engagement (CARE) partnered with Southern to enhance its ongoing efforts to improve the health of residents in New Haven's lowest-income neighborhoods. Since its founding in 2007 at the Yale School

of Public Health, CARE has worked to identify solutions to health challenges such as diabetes, asthma, and heart and lung diseases through community-based research and projects focusing on social, environmental, and behavioral risk factors. During the next three years, CARE will transition from Yale to Southern's School of Health and Human Services, with Southern becoming responsible for CARE's community engagement work and eventually, its research agenda.

- The university received a third consecutive recognition by the Princeton Review in its Guide to the 322 Greenest Campuses in America. The guide includes "Green Facts" about each selected institution, with details on the availability of transportation alternatives and the percentage of the school food budgets spent on local/organic food. Southern's Academic and Laboratory Science Building earned a Gold LEED certification. Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, recognizes construction designed and built to the highest "Green" standards. This is the second gold recognition at Southern – the first was the new home for the School of Business - and adds to the university's growing recognition as an environmentally friendly campus.
- Dr. Terrell "Terry" Ward Bynum, a global leader in the cutting-edge field of computer ethics, is honored as Southern's newest CSU (Connecticut State University) professor, one of the most prestigious faculty awards within the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system. Dr. Bynum is the founder of Southern's Research Center on Computing and Society, organized the first international computer ethics conference in 1991 and was a recipient of the international INSEIT/Joseph Weizenbaum Award for his outstanding research, service and vision in the field of information and computer ethics.
- A team of Southern science students earned a bronze medal at a prestigious international synthetic biology competition for its work to find a faster method to detect tuberculosis. This first-ever Southern team to compete at the International Genetically Engineered Machine Competition in Boston was one of just three from Connecticut. The team was recognized for its research efforts in developing a screening test for tuberculosis that is both accurate and speedy. Currently, the most accurate tests require a wait of up to several weeks before the results are available.
- Southern's nursing program ranks among the top 10 percent in the country, according to NursingSchoolsAlmanac.com, a prominent online resource for future nursing students. Southern was lauded for its 90-percent pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX), the test that a nursing student must pass to attain a license. It was also noted that the university's Accelerated Career Entry (ACE) program students garnered a pass rate of between 93 and 100 percent on the NCLEX since 2010. ACE is geared toward students who are looking to make a career change into nursing. Reflecting this impressive rating, Nursing Department Chair Lisa Rebesch was honored with a "Nurse Excellence Award" from the Connecticut League for Nursing.

THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Three Rivers Community College was named one of the top 25 community colleges nationwide that advance opportunities for low-income students. The U.S. Department of Education (DOE) ranked public two-year colleges for their effectiveness in serving low-income students with relatively high outcomes.
- Three Rivers was honored as a "2017 Great College to Work For." The College earned its place from a survey conducted by The Chronicle of Higher Education, and it achieved this recognition on its first participation in the survey, which is the largest and most comprehensive workplace study in higher education.
- Director of Learning Initiatives Jodi Calvert received Outstanding First-Year Student Advocate at the 36th Annual Conference on the First Year Experience in Atlanta. She was one of only two in the nation to be recognized for her work at a community college.
- The Three Rivers College Foundation awarded a record-breaking number of scholarships to 206 students. The total sponsorships awarded came to just over \$400,000, which is a 23% increase over last year. This includes \$51,000 awarded in a pilot initiative of summer scholarships, which have never been granted before.
- The CT Department of Labor recognized the Eastern CT Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative as a quality pre-apprenticeship program that prepares students for Registered Apprenticeship careers and strategies for long-term success. Three Rivers, in partnership with the Eastern Workforce Investment Board, has successfully trained over 170 students in our Pipeline Initiative since April 2016, and the program boasts a 93% employment rate.
- Three Rivers received the Gold Award from Education Digital Marketing Awards in the category of Electronic Advertising for Two Year Colleges with an enrollment of 2,500-7,500 for its summer digital marketing campaign, Building Fall 2016 Enrollment
- The State Bond Commission passed almost \$920,169 in funding for Three Rivers Community College to renovate the tutoring center. The renovated center will open in the fall '17 semester.
- Madeleine Holly, a nuclear engineering technology student, received a Student Award for Notable Performance in a Technical and Scientific Area - Nuclear Technology at the America Technical Education Association (AETA) conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

TUNXIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Tunxis Community College is one of fewer than 10 recipients of a one-year \$20,000 grants from the French Embassy offered in the Transatlantic Friendship and Mobility Initiative grant competition, to increase study abroad for U.S. and French college students. The award comes on the heels of four Connecticut community college students attending an

“Environment-Energy Bootcamp” in Paris, France this past June, sponsored by the French Embassy in the United States and several partners. Three Tunxis CC students and a Norwalk CC student were among only 20 students accepted to the boot camp in a nationwide competition.

- BOR System-Wide Teaching Award (and TXCC Teaching Award) were presented in April 2017 to Business Administration Professor Amy Feest. Professor Feest has also designed a fully online option for the Business Administration Associate Degree that can be completed in 22 months.
- During the 2016 fall semester the College, along with the Director of the Program Director of the Farmington Public Schools, sponsored a Saturday morning Multicultural Arts Saturday Program. One hundred students grades 2-5 from Farmington, New Britain and Plainville participated in this campus program. The program was taught by area high school faculty, high school and Tunxis student mentors. The program aim was improving thinking and language arts skills through arts and technology.
- During the 2016-2017 academic year, The Tunxis Veteran’s Oasis, an organization providing support to the college’s veteran population, more than doubled their financial and product contributions from community businesses and organizations including Farmington Bank, the Farmington Rotary Club, Avon VFW and the Farmington Valley Health District.
- The Tunxis Cyber Café and Room 6/127-128 were upgraded with state of the art audiovisual equipment, allowing faculty to augment learning strategies with technology.

WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

- For the second year in a row, Western’s Department of Theatre Arts won five top national awards from the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. This year’s awards were for the fall 2016 production of “The Drowsy Chaperone.” Professor Tim Howard won Outstanding Director of a Musical and student Jillian Caillouette won Outstanding Performance by an Actress. WCSU also won first place in the national competition for overall production, choreography and ensemble performance. The department’s performance of “Parade” was cited the previous year.
- Allison Vas is the fifth WestConn student in eight years to earn a Fulbright scholarship, one of the premier international awards offered in the academic community. Vas grew up in Danbury and had offers from every university she applied to. She chose WestConn because the Kathwari Honors Program offered intellectual stimulation and a full scholarship. During her Fulbright year, Vas, an Elementary Education major with a concentration in English, will be teaching English at a primary school in Estonia.
- In the past year, three WestConn professors published well-received books in their fields. Dr. Kevin Gutzman, a professor of History & Non-Western Cultures, wrote “Thomas Jefferson — Revolutionary: A Radical’s Struggle to Remake America.” Jefferson was so involved in

the founding of the country, Gutzman writes, that the effects of his work are still experienced by every American every day. Lionel Bascom wrote “Harlem: The Crucible of Modern African American Culture.” Bascom shows that when black intellectuals were minimized in other parts of the country, they came to Harlem, where they created the big ideas of the Civil Rights Movement. Dr. Christopher Kukk wrote “The Compassionate Achiever: How Helping Others Fuels Success.” The book grew out of a 2012 visit of the Dalai Lama to Western and the founding of the WCSU Center for Compassion, Creativity and Innovation, which Kukk directs. Kukk shows through research in biology, neuroscience and economics that compassion not only improves others’ lives, it can transform our own.

- A revamped Career Success Center is helping more WestConn students than ever find internships while they are students and jobs after graduation. Director Kathleen Lindenmayer has added several new job preparation software programs, created more face-to-face opportunities with potential employers, and brought in experts to guide students on subjects like LinkedIn and other opportunities to increase career success. “Our goal is for all WestConn students to have at least one internship during their time here and to prepare them with the essential skills needed for the ever-changing job market when they graduate,” Lindenmayer said. “We’re robustly engaging all students to let them know about this resource.”
- Dr. Neeta Connolly, associate professor of biological and environmental studies, received a \$1.6 million grant from the Centers for Disease Control to conduct a four-year study of ticks. Connolly is a recognized expert on the ticks that carry Lyme disease as well as director of the university’s Tick-Borne Disease Prevention Laboratory. In her study, Connolly and students collect tick samples from homes in Connecticut and Rhode Island, and then test methods to control them before they bite humans.
- Surveys by national nursing organizations place the WCSU Nursing Department at the top of its field. RegisteredNursing.org ranked Western No. 1 among 20 public and private nursing schools statewide. The evaluation was based on criteria including the quality and breadth of academic and clinical training, the affordability of a nursing education, and the percentage of graduates who pass the nursing licensing exam. Also, a Nursing Schools Almanac survey of more than 3,000 nursing schools nationwide placed Western at No. 20 among nearly 150 schools rated in the New England region.
- The WCSU Women’s Basketball Team placed in the national Academic Top 25 Team Honor Roll for the first time, with a ninth-place ranking. WestConn’s team, with a cumulative GPA of 3.593, shared the Top 10 with the likes of Emerson College, New York University and MIT, and finished ahead of William Smith, Vassar and Ithaca colleges. The honor roll is compiled each year by the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association.
- Nobel Peace Prize winner Leymah Gbowee led a public discussion and offered leadership lessons to more than 100 high school and middle school students during a WCSU visit. Gbowee led a women's peace movement that helped end the Second Liberian Civil War in 2003. Gbowee and two others were awarded the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize. Gbowee appeared at WCSU as part of the 2016 PeaceJam Conference.