



CONNECT *Chronicle*

CONNECT Newsletter - Volume 2 - Number 1 - Spring/Summer 2009

Presidents' Transfer Program Offers New Options

Each year, an increasing number of students apply to public colleges and universities – many of whom are turned away due to over enrollment. In response, the CONNECT CEOs have launched the CONNECT Presidents' Transfer Program – a cooperative agreement among the CONNECT institutions enabling students to earn their associate degree at any of the CONNECT community colleges, and offering guaranteed admission with junior status to Bridgewater State College, Massachusetts Maritime Academy*, or University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

Students are nominated to the program through the admissions offices at the four-year institutions. They are automatically accepted to the CONNECT community college of their choice (with the exception of some selective programs such as nursing, dental hygiene, radiologic technology & other specialized training programs). After enrollment in a Joint Admissions Degree program and completion of

an associate degree with a GPA of at least 2.5, students are guaranteed admission - with junior status - to any of the CONNECT four-year institutions *(additional coursework may be required at Massachusetts Maritime Academy).

In addition to guaranteed admission with junior status, other benefits of participation include personalized advising, early registration, smooth transfer of credits, articulation agreements, transfer scholarship opportunities, and reduced tuition to qualified applicants.

As of the fall semester 2008, more than 70 students enrolled as Presidents' Transfer Program students across the three CONNECT community colleges. It is expected this number will grow considerably, as applications at all CONNECT four-year institutions have risen dramatically. For more information about the CONNECT Presidents' Transfer Program, contact the CONNECT office at 508.531.1437 or email info@connectsemass.org.

CONNECT Member Institutions

Bridgewater State College
Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria
President

Bristol Community College
Dr. John Sbrega
President

Cape Cod Community College
Dr. Kathleen Schatzberg
President

**Massachusetts Maritime
Academy**
RADM Richard Gurnon
President

Massasoit Community College
Dr. Charles Wall
President

**University of Massachusetts
Dartmouth**
Dr. Jean MacCormack
Chancellor

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Chairs Professional Development Conference Held

The first CONNECT professional development conference for chairs, *Shaping the Academy of the Future*, was held Friday, November 14, at the Massasoit Community College Conference Center. More than eighty department chairs, division chairs, program chairs, deans and faculty who aspire to those positions, from across the CONNECT campuses, attended the conference.

Keynote speaker Dr. Bailey Jackson presented his model of Multicultural Organization Development. Participants were challenged to assess where their institutions were on the spectrum of becoming a multicultural/inclusive campus.

"Navigating Legal Issues" was the topic of a workshop facilitated by Carol Wolff Fallon and Gina Yarbrough of the Massachusetts Community College General Counsel's office. Participants learned the ins and outs of complex legal issues which frequently arise for department chairs, including sexual harassment and discrimination.

Toni Robinson, ombudsperson at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, facilitated a session on the effective use of an ombuds program on campus. The interactive workshop included tips on identifying roadblocks, strategies



CONNECT Conference Planning Committee

and other resources for handling everyday conflicts.

Closing plenary speaker Dr. Terrence Gomes, president of Roxbury Community College, addressed *Academic Leadership: Changing Roles for a Changing Academy*. His session challenged attendees to create more effective academic environments.

Plans already are underway for creating a second year of the conference to be held in November, 2009. The planning committee includes: Peter Akeke, MCC; Tafa Awolaju, BCC; Alan Comedy, BSC; Anne Folino, MMA; Steve Kearney, MMA; Allison Pickup, BSC; Keri Powers, BSC; Michelle Roderick, UMD; Mikel Satcher, CCCC; George Smith, UMD; Jane Souza, CONNECT; Kim Williams, CONNECT; Chet Yacek, CCCC, and; Joyce Zymaris, MCC.

Regional Workforce Issues Addressed



The **Southeastern Massachusetts Workforce Development Summit** was held on October 23, 2008, at the Conference Center at Massasoit in Brockton. This summit was part of the Massachusetts Regional Workforce Strategies Initiative sponsored by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development and the Commonwealth Corporation. The initiative brought together more than 120 leaders in business, education, government, and workforce development to generate plans and partnerships to fill jobs that are in demand in the region. Paul Harrington of The Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University presented new southeastern Massachusetts labor market data to assist regional partners in developing strategies to address workforce challenges.

Participants selected one of four breakout sessions following presentation of the regional data. Sessions included: **Job Readiness for Immigrants:** Increasing the skills of this growing population; **Training Resources Available Now:** Funding opportunities for your company & employees; **Higher Education Skills Gap:** Developing curricula to address regional industry needs, and; **Growth in the Region:** Strategies for promoting a healthy economic environment. A complete summary report of the summit is available by contacting info@connectsemass.org.

Partners involved with planning the event included: The Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development; The Greater New Bedford Workforce Investment Board; The Brockton Area Workforce Investment Board; The Bristol Workforce Investment Board; The Metro South Chamber of Commerce; The Commonwealth Corporation, and; CONNECT.

Young Scientists Embrace STEM at Fall River & UMD Camps

Imagine spending your summer vacation analyzing fingerprints, hair samples and other evidence as a CSI detective, or perhaps creating your own eco-friendly sustainable city of the future as an environmental specialist... Such was the experience of middle school students across the Southcoast region who participated in week-long science summer camps.

Presented by the Southcoast Regional Prek-16 STEM Network and funded through the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education STEM Pipeline Fund, the two camps were a collaborative effort between the network, the Fall River Public Schools, and the UMASS Dartmouth Sustainability Center. CONNECT serves as the principle investigator of the STEM network.

Forensic Investigation was the topic of the Fall River Camp held at Durfee High School. Campers focused on exploring biotechnology through forensic investigation. Directed by Professor Elizabeth Correiro, UMass Dartmouth Department of Medical Laboratory Science, the camp was offered to middle school students from Fall River and surrounding towns. This camp engaged the students in real-life forensic investigations that *Continued on Next Page*

CONNECT Math on the Move

Since spring of 2006, a group of math educators has met for the CONNECT Math Project. Goals of the group have included: facilitating easier transfer of mathematics courses among CONNECT institutions; developing a compendium of the learning outcomes for college-level mathematics courses; and promoting greater consistency on the preparation of native and transfer students at the four-year campuses.

Toward that end, the group has aligned mathematics courses along seven different "tracks" (pre-calculus, calculus, liberal arts, computer sciences/CIS, business, elementary education, and statistics) and has collected data related to content, delivery, and outcomes of these courses.

In May 2008, the Math Group held its first conference, disseminating its work to colleagues. Information was gathered from individual instructors on topics stressed in their classes, minimum topics covered, levels of technology used, and topics considered essential. The conference helped the group gain valuable information to more closely align the courses.

The group continues to work toward fostering relationships with the DHE, Kaput Center, CUSP and other regional organizations. Additional focus includes investigating math transfer issues as they arise, synthesizing and distributing conference data, promoting consistency within math departments and between campuses, promoting conversations between schools and departments, and promoting the work that CONNECT Math has accomplished to date.

Work is underway to address deficiencies in mathematics preparation identified in the School to College Report by involving secondary education teachers in open conversations about readiness for college. This dialogue will include discussion of the topics and methods used to teach their math courses, their knowledge of the Accuplacer exam, and needs for college students. The 2009 CONNECT Math Conference (May 21 at MCC) will offer an opportunity to achieve many of these goals. For the first time, selected secondary education teachers will be invited in an effort to facilitate a broader vertical alignment of mathematics courses.

Members of the CONNECT Math Group are: Jane DeVoe, MCC; Lois Martin, MCC, Co-Facilitator; Rebecca Metcalf, BSC, Co-Facilitator; Mary Moynihan, CCCC; CJ O'Donnell, MMA; Glenn Pavlicek, BSC; Elaine Previte, BCC; Greg Sethares, BCC; Fran Tishevich, MMA; and Aaron Wan, CCCC. Sokratis Koumas & Ron Tannewald (UMD) are frequent contributors.



Students at the STEM Sustainability Summer Camp at UMASS Dartmouth work on their sustainable cities of the future. See related picture on next page.

Service Learning Conference Attendees Volunteer on the Cape

The Salvation Army, AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod, Cape Abilities Farm, and the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals were all beneficiaries of a half day of volunteer service by the thirty attendees of the third annual CONNECT Service Learning Workshop in June. This service was part of a two-day workshop with the theme of "Reflection in Service Learning." UMASS Boston expert in service-learning reflection, Dr. Dwight Giles, was the conference keynote speaker.

The volunteer service enabled the group to have common experiences on which to reflect while also giving back to the Cape. It was agreed that the experience was so valuable in efforts to learn better techniques and practices that participants suggested that service be incorporated into all future workshops.

Workshop coordinators Diane Bell, director of the Community Service Center at BSC, and Dr. Nancy Moses, MACC Service Learning Fellow at Bridgewater, organized the workshop on



Volunteers at the Cape Cod MSPCA
the Cape in conjunction with CONNECT and Massachusetts Campus Compact. In addition to attendees from the CONNECT institutions, participants came from Anna Maria College, Berkshire Community College, Suffolk University, Tufts University, and Gateway Community College in Connecticut.

Conference attendees agreed that it was a positive experience, that what they learned would be of practical use for them, and the workshop was a positive professional development experience while learning and serving on Cape Cod.

Announcing *CONNECT Arts* Facebook Group

Connect Arts brings together art programs and departments, art faculty, students, artists, friends and all those interested in art, culture and art education in southeastern Massachusetts. CONNECT schools with art departments include UMASS Dartmouth CVPA, Cape Cod Community College, Bristol Community College, Bridgewater State College and Massasoit Community College.

Get connected on Facebook! Simply create a Facebook account, login and search for the group 'CONNECT Arts' or visit www.tiil.us/connect and click on Facebook. There are nearly 100 members already who can contribute and network instantly by sharing art images, videos, exhibition news, and leaving comments for group discussion. Find out what's going on across the CONNECT Arts network from one easily accessible location. See you on Facebook!

CAMPS • Continued from Previous Page

included fingerprint analysis, DNA testing, and hair analysis. This program modeled true CSI science, and students were able to identify how crimes are investigated and solved, as well as, identifying how movie and television CSI investigations might not portray the "real" science behind the scene.

Building student awareness of the impact of humans on the environment was the focus of the Sustainability camp held at UMASS Dartmouth. Susan Jennings from the Office of Campus and Community Sustainability coordinated this camp where students were able to apply their

science process skills throughout the week-long explorations and transfer their knowledge to design a model of a sustainable city. Campers constructed model communities with buildings, technologies and landscapes of the future. Additional activities included testing food samples to better understand the food pyramid and the energy needed to fuel the body, observing yeast growth and the carbon dioxide cycle to introduce the idea of a "food system" and the process of food production and transport, and the making of wind turbine models to study alternative and renewable energy sources.

Southcoast STEM News

Although no new STEM funds are available this fiscal year, there are still opportunities to be found. In November 2008, the Department of Higher Education invited the STEM Network directors to meet at Mass Insight in Boston to learn about an opportunity to fund regionally-based middle school pre-AP teacher training. Dr. Jane Souza, executive director for CONNECT, and director of the regional network, acted quickly to take advantage of this resource. "Our network members are so dedicated. They come to meetings, and share information and programs, even when we have no new monies to support their initiatives. It is wonderful to be able to offer them this funded training" said Dr. Souza.

Three districts responded to the invitation to learn more about this pre-AP training entirely funded through the Dept. of Higher Education and Mass Insight. Wareham, Attleboro, and Bridgewater-Raynham school districts will share 20 teacher-training spots. Bridgewater-Raynham will host the four-day training sessions this summer.

According to Patrick Schultz, director of school services for Mass Insight, "Our Pre-AP teacher training program is designed to do three things: Raise academic rigor through higher standards and aligned curriculum and instruction; empower teachers to be able to increase students' critical thinking, communication, and problem-solving skills; and provide wider access to advanced curriculum and courses in grades 6-12 in order to truly prepare students for college and career advancement."



These camps are scheduled to run again during summer 2009 in Fall River and at UMASS Dartmouth. For more information, contact Caroline Good, STEM Student Interest Project Director, good783@comcast.net.

Sustainability Summit Highlights Action

From conservation programs that save a million dollars annually, to the use of a wind turbine and solar panels, to tons of recycling, and even an on-campus community farm, the public colleges and university of southeastern Massachusetts are doing much to save energy and cut their greenhouse gas emissions.

These efforts were highlighted at the CONNECT Sustainability Summit held September 23 at Bridgewater State College. This gathering allowed CONNECT institutions to discuss the work each has done to reduce energy use and cut greenhouse gases.

Bridgewater State College President Dana Mohler-Faria welcomed all those to the summit and said that even though much has been achieved that it was important for CONNECT members to continue with sustainability initiatives.

"There is still work to be done, but we have a great commitment to carbon neutrality here in southeastern Massachusetts," he said.

Things like conservation and sustainability should be part of the mission of all higher education institutions, said Dr. Anthony Cortese, co-founder and co-coordinator of the Higher Education Associations' Sustainability Consortium, who delivered the conference's morning address.

"We are here for 2 reasons, to educate students and to do what we can do to make the world a better place," he said.

A year ago, the CONNECT institutions signed on to the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, a national movement of colleges and universities to take the lead in finding and employing ways of addressing global warming. The commitment also asks institutions to educate students in sustainability and to produce individuals concerned with the earth's welfare.

Over the past year, each campus has undertaken at least two of the seven interim actions as mandated by the commitment, including a waste-management program, an Energy Star procurement policy and LEED-certified buildings. Highlights to date included:

- Bridgewater State College — Savings on utilities of more than 25% (nearly \$1 million annually) due to new conservation program. Finished first in the state in



Above, L - R : Deborah McLaughlin, v.c. A&F, UMD; Jack Sbrega, BCC president; Charles Wall, MCC president; Tony Cortese, keynote speaker; Kathleen Schatzberg, CCCC president; Dana Mohler-Faria, BSC president; Richard Gurnon, MMA president.

recycling competition among institutions of higher education.

- Massachusetts Maritime Academy — Has constructed its own wind turbine and implemented the use of solar panels.

- Cape Cod Community College — Continues to operate the first fuel cell ever installed on a community college campus (1999). The college has an environmental technology program, and has plans for a wind turbine.

- Bristol Community College — Has equipped one of its main buildings with solar panels with plans to expand the program to others. The college also has a community farm, and offers an organic farming certificate program. Will complete energy- and water-conservation project this fiscal year.

- UMass-Dartmouth — Piloted a green roof program (planting extensive gardens on rooftops to save energy), and made changes to its landscaping and added "green" courses to curriculum.

- Massasoit Community College — Implemented a new, single-stream recycling program in all its buildings, and projections include the recycling of up to 50 tons by year's end. Entered into MASSRIDES partnership to explore commuter options.

The conference included an afternoon talk by Jennifer Andrews, campus program manager, Clean Air - Cool Planet, who talked about ways institutions can achieve carbon neutrality.

The event comes at a time of soaring energy costs and when global warming is a top issue, on the streets and on the campaign trail. Those in attendance at the conference said educators must play a leading role in stemming that tide.

(John Winters & Rob Matheson, BSC Office of Institutional Communications)

Writing Conference Survey Yields Data

In addition to learning strategies for "Working with the Struggling Writer," attendees at the fourth annual CONNECT Composition Conference shared valuable information on the impact of the CONNECT Writing Group.

Attendees of the May 2008 conference were surveyed to assess the following: 1) how well the CONNECT common outcomes have been disseminated over the past four years; 2) how many attendees have visited the CONNECT website; 3) how the CONNECT Writing Project has influenced the work of the attendees, and; 4) how often participants have attended the Composition Conference since its inception in 2005.

Responses indicated that nearly all attendees were familiar with the CONNECT common outcomes. In addition, they used the outcomes in a variety of ways including: to design a course, to introduce rubrics, to discuss generic writing course objectives, to create a rubric for portfolio evaluation, to display on a syllabus or Blackboard, and as a component of peer evaluation sessions. Most participants surveyed had visited the CONNECT website, praising the site for its sample syllabi and teaching ideas and for its improved navigation. Visit www.connectsemass.org/writing.

The survey showed that the CONNECT Composition Conference has influenced the work of faculty who attend in various ways, for example, by: 1) informing their teaching, 2) giving them an understanding of collective standards, 3) offering new teaching techniques and ways to interact with students, 4) helping shape their courses and assignments, and 5) offering a network of other writing instructors and a forum to share ideas. Finally, the survey reflected that, in addition to continuing to draw new faculty, the CONNECT Composition Conferences have established a critical mass of repeat attendees. The 2009 Composition Conference is May 21 at BSC.

Members of the Writing Group are: Evelyn Pezzulich, BSC; Linda Cohen, BSC; Anne Doyle, BSC; Linda Mulready, BCC; Deb Anderson, BCC; Tom Grady, BCC; Michael Olendzenski, CCCC; Jim Morgan, MMA; Susan Keith, MCC; Rita Jones-Hyde, MCC; and Patty White, UMD.