



**CONNECT**

A Southeastern Massachusetts  
Public Higher Education  
Partnership

**2008 Year End Report**

Bridgewater State College

Bristol Community College

Cape Cod Community College

Massachusetts Maritime Academy

Massasoit Community College

University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

## About CONNECT

Established in January 2003, CONNECT is a partnership of public higher education institutions in southeastern Massachusetts – Bridgewater State College, Bristol Community College, Cape Cod Community College, Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Massasoit Community College, and the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

## Our Mission

CONNECT has two basic goals: to improve the quality, accessibility and affordability of higher education; and to advance the economic, educational and cultural life of southeastern Massachusetts.

## CONNECT Chief Executive Officers

### ***Bridgewater State College***

*President Dana Mohler-Faria*

### ***Bristol Community College***

*President John Sbrega*

### ***Cape Cod Community College***

*President Kathleen Schatzberg*

### ***Massachusetts Maritime Academy***

*President Richard Gurnon*

### ***Massasoit Community College***

*President Charles Wall*

### ***University of Massachusetts Dartmouth***

*Chancellor Jean MacCormack*

**A note from the executive director.....**

*Looking back on this past year, the signs of growth and potential were remarkable. In terms of growth, the powerful CONNECT communication infrastructure expanded to include nearly every administrative office on the six campuses, thereby creating an extensive network of people collaborating to maximize resources and benefit both our campus and external communities.*

*This growth in the support structure created endless possibilities. As you will read in the following pages, this year cross-campus teams of both administrators and faculty have hosted everything from service learning conferences, to leadership development programs, to prek-12 symposia, to sustainability workshops, to English and Mathematics conferences, to corporate meetings. As a result of the collaborative efforts of hundreds of campus personnel, CONNECT is now frequently cited statewide as a model for regional collaboration.*

*Supported and led by the campus chief executive officers, CONNECT shows no signs of slowing down. This year end report will summarize some major events for 2007-2008 and give you an idea of what is on the horizon. While there is a great deal currently in the planning stages, we are always open to your ideas and suggestions. Please feel free to contact CONNECT at [connect@connectsemass.org](mailto:connect@connectsemass.org). We would love to hear from you.*

*Sincerely,  
Jane*

*Jane M. Souza, Ph.D.  
Executive Director, CONNECT*

## CONNECT Sponsored Conferences & Events 2007-2008

### **CONNECT Composition Conference**

On May 27, 2008, the CONNECT Writing Group hosted its fourth annual composition conference. This year Massasoit Community College served as the host site for this event attracting faculty from all six campuses. Dr. Muriel Harris, director of the Writing Lab at Purdue University was the keynote speaker. The theme of the conference was *Working with the Struggling Writer*.

### **CONNECT Mathematics Conference**

The first ever CONNECT Mathematics conference was hosted by the CONNECT Mathematics working group on May 20, 2008. Chairman of the Board of Higher Education, Mr. Fred Clark, served as the special guest speaker at this event held at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy. More than fifty math faculty from across the six CONNECT campuses participated in the event.

### **CONNECT Service Learning Conference**

The third annual CONNECT Service Learning Conference was held at Cape Cod Community College June 19-20, 2008. Dr. Dwight Giles of the University of Massachusetts Boston, an international scholar in the area of service learning, facilitated the workshop. The conference this year offered a service learning opportunity on the Cape, giving participants concrete experiences on which to practice reflection.

### **CONNECT Sustainability Reception**

On September 19, 2007, the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Advanced Technology and Manufacturing Center in Fall River provided the site for the first CONNECT reception celebrating the Massachusetts public higher education commitment to sustainability and climate neutrality. Anthony Cortese, president of Second Nature and co-founder of the American College and University Climate Commitment Initiative, addressed the group which included the CONNECT chief executive officers. Eric Friedman, director of *Leading by Example*, also spoke to attendees. The event served as a lead-in to the Climate Commitment Workshops held on the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth main campus on the following day.

## CONNECT Sponsored Conferences & Events 2007-2008

Continued...

### ***Massachusetts Regional Alignment Workshop***

CONNECT teamed up with the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education, and the Educational Policy Improvement Center to host a regional Prek-16 workshop on April 15, 2008. The event was held in Fall River at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Advanced Technology and Manufacturing Center. The workshop brought together personnel from 19 school districts, 4 institutions of higher education, and the state offices of education to explore ways of improving college readiness. Dr. David Conley, author of *College Knowledge*, led the discussions.

### ***CONNECT/MEDITECH College Readiness Workshop***

MEDITECH, an active CONNECT corporate partner, co-hosted a meeting on their Canton campus on March 12, 2008. The purpose of the regional workshop was to prepare Prek-12 and higher education for the Regional Alignment Workshop held in April 2008. Shelly Tinkham, policy analyst for the Department of Higher Education, gave a presentation on the newly released School-to-College report.

### ***CONNECT Regional Leaders Breakfast***

October 26, 2007, the CONNECT chief executive officers hosted a regional leaders breakfast at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Advanced Technology and Manufacturing Center in Fall River. Agenda items included a review of the needs articulated at the last regional leaders meeting and the CONNECT responses to those needs. Steps for future collaborations were discussed. Attendees included state representatives, school superintendents, hospital executives, mayors, corporate executives, and higher education administrators.

### ***CONNECT Nursing Initiative Meeting Sponsorship***

The CONNECT Partnership continued to sponsor the Department of Higher Education Meetings of the regional nursing professionals. This year the group launched its state-funded centralized clinical placement website. All meetings were held at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Advanced Technology and Manufacturing Center in Fall River.

## Presentations by CONNECT Personnel

### ***October 2007***

#### **Fifth Annual Conference of the New England Center for Inclusive Teaching**

University of Massachusetts Boston

*Adjunct Faculty Identity in the CONNECT Model:* Patty White, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

*Identity in Transfer Students:* Peg Norris, Massasoit Community College

### ***November 2007***

#### **American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges, Minneapolis, MN**

*The Work of the CONNECT Mathematics Group:* Members of the CONNECT Mathematics Group

### ***January 2008***

**Massachusetts College & Career Readiness Summit**, sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education and the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education

College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA

Regional Session facilitated by Dr. Jane Souza, executive director, CONNECT

### ***February 2008***

**Association of American Colleges & Universities, Boston, MA**

*The Work of the CONNECT Mathematics Group:* Members of the CONNECT Mathematics Group

**Boston Area Advanced Technology Education Connections (BAYTEC)** Information and Communication Technology Transfer Summit at Middlesex Community College  
*CONNECT, a Model for Regional Collaboration:* Dr. Jane Souza, executive director, CONNECT

## Presentations by CONNECT Personnel

**Continued...**

### **April 2008**

**Conference on College Communication and Composition**, New Orleans, LA

*CONNECT-ing Realities: From Initial Conversations on Common Outcomes for First-Year English to an Annual Composition Conference:* Michael Olendzenski, Cape Cod Community College, Debra Anderson, Bristol Community College, Patty White, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, Dr. Evelyn Pezzulich, Bridgewater State College, Dr. Anne Doyle, Bridgewater State College

*Email that Spawned a World of Change:* Michael Olendzenski, Cape Cod Community College

*Changing Realities: From Outline to Online – Expanding Audience While Deepening the Writing Realities of Model Outcomes:* Linda Cohen, Massasoit Community College

### **May 2008**

**Student Transfer Symposium**, Museum of Science, Boston, MA

Sponsored by the Museum of Science and the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

*CONNECT, A Model for Regional Collaboration:* Dr. Jane Souza, executive director, CONNECT

*Work of the CONNECT Mathematics Group:* Lois Martin, professor of mathematics at Massasoit Community College

### **June 2008**

**Student Success Conference**, Bridgewater State College

Sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

*Work of the CONNECT Mathematics Group:* Lois Martin, professor of mathematics at Massasoit Community College

## Publications

Fliegler, C. (2008). *Partnerships that work: Community colleges are strengthening connections with K-12, other higher education institutions, and public agencies to enrich the education pipeline and bolster economies*. University Business, January 2008.

Kleniewski, N. (2007). *Joint authorship: Faculty members from six institutions collaborate to measure writing competence*. The New England Journal of Higher Education, Fall 2007, XXII (2).



## CONNECT Grants

### ***Science, Technology, Engineering & Math [STEM] Pipeline Fund***

Cape & Islands Prek-16 Regional STEM Network

Year 2 of 3-year grant

Cape Cod Community College Principal Investigator \$276,000

Southcoast Regional Prek-16 STEM Network

Year 2 of 3-year grant

CONNECT Partnership Principal Investigator \$227,000

Southcoast Regional Prek-16 STEM Network

Year 1 of 3-year grant

CONNECT Partnership Principal Investigator \$150,000

### ***Calderwood Foundation***

Year 3 of 3-year grant

CONNECT Writing Group Principal Investigator \$ 40,000

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**Total grant awards for period 2006-2010 \$693,000**

## CONNECT Initiatives

### ***CONNECT Presidents' Transfer Program***

Launched in January 2008, the program enables students who were not accepted into the CONNECT four-year institutions to begin their higher education careers at a partner community college with many benefits. These benefits include personalized advising, early registration, smooth transfer of credits, scholarship opportunities, and transfer with junior status to qualified applicants. The program was designed to encourage students to pursue their dreams of higher education degrees.

### ***CONNECT Collaborative Leadership Development Program***

This 8-month, high quality leadership program is now in its fourth year. Run by the CONNECT Human Resource Directors, this professional development opportunity is designed to increase the leadership skills and competencies of mid-level professionals. The program is one way in which the CONNECT Partnership responds to its own workforce development needs.

### ***CONNECTing Faculty Mini-grants***

The CONNECT Partnership funded its second round of grants to connect faculty in like disciplines from across the six institutions. The purpose of the grant is to provide an opportunity for faculty to discuss areas of interest in an informal, collegial setting to promote greater understanding of each others' academic programs and support ease of transfer for students across institutions. The following faculty members were awarded grants to facilitate their respective groups:

Dr. Dion Dennis, Bridgewater State College - Criminal Justice  
Dr. Greg Nelson, Bridgewater State College, - Early Childhood  
Dr. Phyllis Wentworth, Bristol Community College – Psychology  
Dr. Lynda Farley-LaRocca &  
Dr. Hemant Chikarmane, Cape Cod Community College – Biology  
Cristina Ajemian, Massasoit Community College – Modern Languages  
Dr. Robert Darst, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth – Sustainability

### ***CONNECT STEM Leadership***

The executive director of CONNECT hosted meetings of the Southcoast Regional Prek-16 STEM Network to craft a proposal for the Enhancing Student Interest STEM Pipeline Fund Grant. The office also served a principal investigator for the grant and drafted the first Strategic Plan for the Southcoast Regional Prek-16 STEM Network. This year also marked the launching of the STEM website on the CONNECT home page.

## CONNECT Communication Infrastructure

The groups listed below are meeting across the six campuses of the CONNECT Partnership. Meeting time is key to identifying opportunities for effective collaborations. Additionally, these strong communication links allow CONNECT to respond quickly to calls for action both internally for our campus communities and externally for our regional communities.

Chief Executive Officers  
Chief Academic Officers  
Chief Information Officers  
Chief Financial Officers

Admissions Officers  
Affirmative Action Officers  
Arts & Culture Group  
Business Group  
CONNECT Liaisons  
Diversity Officers  
English Composition Group  
Enrollment Management Officers  
Grants Directors  
Healthcare Leaders  
Human Resource Directors  
Library Directors  
Mathematics Group  
Police Chiefs  
Public Relations  
Service Learning Group  
STEM Leaders  
Sustainability Leaders  
Transfer Officers

## CONNECT – Looking Forward

- On September 23, 2008, the CONNECT Sustainability Task Force will host a sustainability conference and workshop on the campus of Bridgewater State College. The day will be co-sponsored by CONNECT and the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative.
- On September 25, 2008, the CONNECT Partnership will host a workforce development strategies session in collaboration with the office of the Secretary of Labor and the area chambers of commerce. Secretary Suzanne Bump is scheduled to address the group which will include higher education administrators, chamber leaders, workforce investment board leaders, and corporate partners. Paul Harrington will provide workforce projections specifically focused on southeastern Massachusetts, and the Cape & Islands.
- November 14, 2008 is the date set for the first CONNECT workshop for department chairs, division chairs, deans, and faculty who aspire to those positions. Scheduled workshop presenters include Dr. Bailey Jackson, former dean and faculty member at the University of Massachusetts Amherst; Ken Tashjy, JD, general counsel for Massachusetts Community Colleges; and Toni Robinson, JD, ombudsperson at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- In the fall of 2008, the Arts & Culture group anticipates launching a uniquely designed social networking web site designed by artists for artists. It will demonstrate the creative use of technology applied in an educational context and link all those with a vested interest in the creative arts across our community and across the World Wide Web.
- The possibilities are endless....watch the CONNECT website at [www.connectsemass.org](http://www.connectsemass.org) for information on new events as they are planned.