



A Southeastern Massachusetts Public Higher Education Partnership

Active Working Groups

CONNECT coordinates 22 standing and ad hoc working groups of higher education leaders to promote collaboration and sharing of resources and best practices:

Chief Executive Officers
Chief Academic Officers
Chief Financial Officers
Chief Information Officers
Campus Liaisons

Academic Support Directors
Admissions/ Enrollment Managers
Affirmative Action/Diversity Officers
CONNECTing in the Sciences
CONNECTing in the Social Sciences, Psychology, and Humanities (new)
External Affairs/Workforce Development
Grants Directors
Human Resources Directors
Institutional Research Officers
Internship/Career Placement/Experiential Learning Coordinators (new)
Library Directors
Math Group
Public Affairs Directors
Public Safety/Campus Police Chiefs
Student Affairs Leaders (new)
Sustainability Steering Committee/ Task Force
Transfer Coordinators

Highlights from the Working Groups

CLDP Alumni Session

Thirty-four professionals from the CONNECT campuses and four other schools participated in the 2010-11 Collaborative Leadership Development Program. The first-ever CLDP alumni session took place October 29, 2010 at Bridgewater State University. More than sixty alumni attended seminars on Conflict of Interest, Changes to the ADA, and New Responsibilities for Supervisors.

“Common Grounds” Librarians Conference Yields New Collaborations

A one-day professional development conference welcomed 85 CONNECT library staff to Bridgewater State University on January 4, 2011. Attendees from all six CONNECT campuses attended presentations on topics including “The Regional Student,” “Workforce Development and Lifelong Learning,” and customer service. Breakout sessions fostered collaborations in areas such as digital services and archives/special collections.

Transfer Partners Work to Ease Student Transitions

The transfer representatives from the six campuses focused on developing agreements in nine areas ranging from Engineering to Laboratory Science to Nursing. The group continued working to implement the Department of Higher Education’s MassTransfer program and updated informational materials on the Presidents’ Transfer Program.

CONNECTing in the Sciences, Social Sciences, Psychology, and Humanities

A new group in History joined last year’s faculty cohorts in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics/Engineering, who convened for a second time in June 2011. Participating faculty met for one-day conversations around curriculum content, articulations, and transferability of credit.

Math Group: CONNECT Math Transfer Agreement

At their March 2011 meeting, the Chief Academic Officers of the CONNECT institutions signed the CONNECT Math Transfer Agreement. This compact culminated years of work and represents the commitment of the Chief Academic Officers, along with the Math faculty, to perform regular reviews of course equivalencies and accept listed courses as equivalent on each campus. During 2010-2011 the CONNECT Math Partnership focused on Statistics, Elementary Math, and Finite Mathematics and reorganizing the Calculus track sequence. Over 40 faculty attended a CONNECT Math Spring Seminar May 11, 2011 at Bristol Community College.



Standing, from left to right: President Richard Gurnon, President John Sbrega, Executive Director Kathleen Kirby, President Dana Mohler-Faria. Seated, from left to right: Chancellor Jean MacCormack, President Charles Wall, President Kathleen Schatzberg.

CONNECT Leadership

CHAIRMAN

Dr. Charles Wall
President
Massasoit Community College

TREASURER

Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria
President
Bridgewater State University

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Kathleen Kirby

Dr. John J. Sbrega

President
Bristol Community College

Dr. Kathleen Schatzberg

President
Cape Cod Community College

RADM Richard Gurnon

President
Massachusetts Maritime Academy

Dr. Jean F. MacCormack

Chancellor
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth



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FY2011 YEAR-END REPORT

CONNECT’s mission: to improve the quality, accessibility and affordability of higher education; and to advance the economic, educational and cultural life of Southeastern Massachusetts.





CONNECT PRIORITIES 2010-2011: Economic Development, College Readiness, Sustainability

Southeastern Massachusetts Economic Development Summit, November 9, 2010

More than 150 leaders from business, industry, education, and the community gathered in Kingston, MA to discuss regional economic development. The program featured panels with leaders from area companies discussing industry needs in six sectors: Renewable Energy and Green Technology, Health Care and Life Sciences, Marine Science and Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Public Service, and Applied Computer Graphics/Technology.

Attendees were the first to receive the CONNECT Economic Impact Report 2010. Highlights:

- Collectively, over 53,000 students were enrolled in the six CONNECT institutions in FY09.
- Last year, the six CONNECT colleges and universities awarded over 5,000 degrees and nearly 700 certificates, and provided non-credit training for more than 18,000 individuals.
- Eighty-two percent of students came from Southeastern Massachusetts. A majority of alumni remain in Southeastern MA – 105,000 are known to live here.
- The six colleges and universities employ 9,400 faculty, staff, and students – making the partnership one of the top five employers in the region.
- The estimated regional economic impact of the CONNECT institutions is \$670 million.

A copy of the report, videos of Summit speakers, and other resources are available at the CONNECT website:

<http://www.connectsemass.org/economicdevelopmentsummit.htm>

CONNECT will work in the coming year to address three of the Summit's overarching recommendations:

1. Through the Southeast Regional PreK-16 STEM Network, to generate student enthusiasm and achievement in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math;
2. To expand cross-registration opportunities and create more numerous and flexible higher education pathways;
3. To explore options for expanding the numbers of our students serving the area's non-profits and businesses through internships and co-ops.



“ Outstanding conference linking education, industry, emerging technology and economic development.”

ECONOMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE ATTENDEE

Faculty Fellow in Sustainability

Ann-Marie Burke, Assistant Professor of Biology and Environmental Science at Massasoit Community College, was selected for the role of Faculty Fellow in Sustainability in Spring 2011. Throughout the spring semester, Prof. Burke worked with liaisons from the six campuses and CONNECT staff to build an inventory of credit and non-credit courses and degree

programs related to sustainability at the CONNECT schools, a contact list of faculty currently incorporating or interested in incorporating sustainability in teaching, and a list of green facilities, resources, and equipment. These resources will be posted to the CONNECT website.

The fellowship has been extended through Fall 2011 to allow for planning a

conference, tentatively titled “Sustainability and Engaged Student Learning: Best Practices and Innovative Ideas.” This meeting will bring together CONNECT faculty and staff who are passionate about sustainability to discuss sustainability curricula, research and outreach on the CONNECT campuses and to explore further collaborations.

Pathways to College Readiness and College Success, April 13, 2011

Over 300 Southeastern Massachusetts educators attended the College Readiness Conference in Kingston, Massachusetts. High school and higher education faculty and administrators gathered to build a bridge between the region's K-12 schools and colleges, forging a better-aligned P-20 curriculum that will set more students on the path to post-secondary success.

One of the primary motivations for the CONNECT CEOs in initiating the conference is the high proportion of incoming freshmen who require remedial work in English and mathematics: as much as 65 percent at the commonwealth's community colleges.

The keynote speaker at the Readiness Conference was Mr. Allison Jones of Achieve, the national organization tasked with developing the new PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) assessment that will eventually replace MCAS. Jones was followed by speakers



Keynote speaker Allison Jones, Commissioner Richard Freeland, and Susan Wheltle of DESE.

from the Departments of Higher Education and Elementary and Secondary Education who described currently-unfolding changes in educational policy and standards. DHE Commissioner Richard Freeland discussed “The Vision Project.” Susan Wheltle, DESE's Director of the Office of Literacy and Humanities, gave an overview of the new Common Core standards. Closing sessions brought the region's K-12 and college and university faculty together for collegial conversations around curriculum

alignment and “next steps” for continuing the conversation.

The conference was planned in partnership with the Southeastern Massachusetts Readiness Center, with sponsorship from the Nellie Mae Education Foundation, the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education, The College Board, and ACT. Conference presentations and videos are available on the CONNECT website: www.connectsemass.org.

Leadership in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)

CONNECT administers the Southeast/Cape & Islands Regional PreK-16 STEM Network, with support from the Department of Higher Education STEM Pipeline Fund. In the last year, the Network focused on developing infrastructure: an Advisory Council was empanelled representing K-12, higher education, government, industry, workforce development, and community educational organizations. The Network's new website launched, featuring a searchable directory of Southeastern MA/Cape and Islands STEM agencies and organizations. The first Spotlight on Southeast STEM E-newsletter was published February 23, 2011, and five more editions have been issued through June 2011 to a newsletter mailing list that has grown to over 500 recipients. Signing up for

the newsletter can be done at the click of a button: <http://www.connectsemass.org/STEM>.

The March 13, 2011 meeting of the STEM Network brought together representatives from the region's K-12 and higher education communities. Fifteen presenters from six Southeastern Massachusetts colleges and universities shared information about projects such as Tech Fairs and career days, web site contests for high school students, professional development, STEM-focused summer camps, and a traveling geography exhibit. The list of programs presented, along with contact information, can be found on the SE MA STEM website: <http://www.connectsemass.org/STEM>.

Summer of Science

For the second year, CONNECT coordinated and promoted summer STEM experiences for elementary, middle and high school students on its member campuses. “Summer of Science” is meant to inspire enthusiasm for invention and exploration and to encourage young people to pursue STEM education and careers. Massasoit Community College joined the other CONNECT institutions with a new program this year titled “Bees, Bakugans, and Bioengineering,” focusing on agriculture and design challenges.

The other campuses offer their own unique programs, with Massachusetts Maritime Academy and Bridgewater's Whale of



Students learn to measure liquids at the BSU Whale of a Mystery booth at the Summer of Science.

a Mystery focusing on marine biology, the environment taking the spotlight at UMass Dartmouth, and Cape Cod Community College and BSU's ACE camp incorporating aerospace engineering. Students at Bristol's Kids College enroll in a range of classes similar to those college students take, from game design and digital photography to robotics and computer programming.

The program was launched last July, 2010, at Massachusetts Maritime Academy, with more than 150 people of all ages enjoying free ice cream and hands-on activities such as steering an underwater ROV, creating sand sculptures, manufacturing slime, and walking inside a giant Earth balloon.