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NEXT DEADLINE

for Announcements
noon Wednesday,
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Next issue will be released
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SUBMISSIONS

to Karen Hart
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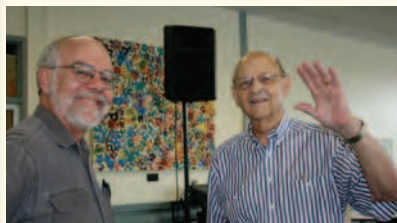
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President David Levinson greets returning faculty and staff at Fall Convocation 2010.

WELCOME BACK FALL CONVOCATION



Professor Ed Grippe, left, with adjunct instructor Al Shansky.



Professor Estelle Dattolo, left, with Librarian Ann Sommers.



Ty Griese, Associate Director of the Wellness Center, left, with Carrie McGee-Yurof, Director of Finance and Administration.

More photos on page 6.

Returning faculty and staff gathered for brunch at the Fall 2010 Convocation on Wednesday, August 25.

President Levinson complimented the great energy and enthusiasm generated by the gathering and proclaimed the coming academic year "The Year of Civility and Engagement." After presenting new faculty and staff, President Levinson described the process by which the College will participate in crafting a strategic plan that will carry Norwalk Community College through 2016.

Please be on the lookout for an email from the President's Office that will describe the details of the strategic planning process. Representatives from all areas of the College will be invited to participate on the Strategic Planning Task Force, which will be forming soon. Planning meetings will be structured using a World-Cafe format designed to engage the entire NCC community.

At right, Andres Gomez, who has just been appointed acting Director of Student Activities, described upcoming events.



New Staff and Appointments Announced at Fall Convocation



Martha Kruy, Librarian

The following people have just joined the NCC community or have received new appointments:

Mary Campagna, Acting Child Development Teacher

Helen Cloherty, Instructor of Mathematics, NCC Adjunct faculty since 2009

Heather DeDominicis, Instructor of Developmental English, Adjunct at Naugatuck Valley CC and Middlesex CC

Nancy Fleming, Instructor of Developmental Mathematics

Montserrat Garcia, Lecturer in Spanish (one-year appointment), Adjunct at NCC since 2000

Andres Gomez, acting Director of Student Activities

Forrest Helvie, Instructor of Developmental English Adjunct at Naugatuck Valley CC and Tunxis CC

Martha Kruy, Librarian

Fnu Mihir, Director of Institutional Research from Southern Louisiana University

Stefanie Ortiz, Clerk Typist, Admissions Office

Estela Ruiz, Lecturer in Biology/Chemistry (one-year appointment), Adjunct at NCC since 1994

Aaron Sanders, Affirmative Action Officer

Keysha Whitaker, Minority Fellow (working with Lori Soderlind) Currently pursuing MA in Fine Arts and Creative Writing at New School in NYC

NCC Named ATD "Leader College"



Norwalk Community College has been recognized as a leader in the national student completion movement by Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count. Norwalk Community College was designated as an Achieving the Dream Leader

College for demonstrating sustained improvement and accomplishments on key student achievement indicators.

"Norwalk Community College is honored to be named a Leader College because it recognizes the significant progress we've made in helping students persist and complete their degree or certificate," said NCC President David L. Levinson, Ph.D.

Leader Colleges have demonstrated commitment to and progress on the four principles of Achieving the Dream: committed leadership, use of evidence to improve programs and services, broad engagement, and systemic institutional improvement.

Leader Colleges also have shown three years of sustained improvement of student success on at least one of the following measures of performance: course completion, advancement from remedial to credit-bearing courses, completion of college-level math and English courses, term-to-term and year-to-year retention, and completion of certificates or degrees. Additionally, each college has successfully implemented at least one student success intervention or initiative that is advancing student outcomes that are of sufficient scale to benefit a substantial proportion of students.

NCC is Leader in Student Success

"Despite – or perhaps because of – the tough economic conditions, more community colleges across the country

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The first of two orientation days for new students and their parents was held at NCC on August 27. President Levinson, Dean Pamela Edington and Dean Barbara Drotman joined faculty members in welcoming students to campus and informing them about college resources. Orientation was held in various classrooms on the East Campus. NCC faculty and student volunteers wearing T-shirts printed with the words "Ask Me" were on hand to give directions and answer questions. Left photo: Friends (from left) Erik Bonilla and Dorn Heard of Westhill High, with Brandon Gorman who attended Stamford High. Middle photo: from left, Natalie Nowakowski and Christeena Jarvis of AITE with Danielle Walker of Central High in Bridgeport. Right photo: Dean Barbara Drotman, Nancy Merlino and President David Levinson donned "Ask Me" t-shirts for orientation.

are focusing intensively on low student completion rates, and are implementing reforms to bolster student success,” said Achieving the Dream President and CEO, Dr. William E. Trueheart. “Norwalk Community College joins the ranks of now nearly 30 exemplary institutions that have made significant advances in the lives of their students across the country.”

NCC President Levinson noted that many students—particularly low-income and minority students—have the ability and desire to earn a degree but face overwhelming obstacles on the road to graduation, including inadequate academic preparation, the pressure to support a family and lack of funds.

Since being named an Achieving the Dream College in 2006, Norwalk Community College has implemented several successful achievement initiatives. NCC has expanded Learning Communities (groups of students enrolled in paired courses), helped students to create e-portfolios (online journals of their academic and personal progress) and launched a Student Success Center which provides individualized academic and career counseling.

By establishing a Mathematics Recitation program, NCC also increased by 8 percent the number of new, first-time students completing the first college level math course (Intermediate Algebra) with a grade of C or better. During recitations, faculty review the week’s class materials. Nearly 20 percent of NCC mathematics students are voluntarily attending these recitation sessions to help them succeed in their classes.

B.E.S.T. Program Wins Innovation Prize

Going green has earned Norwalk Community College a silver award.

NCC’s B.E.S.T. certificate program—an initiative to train workers in green building and renewable energy practices-- has been awarded a Silver 2010 Quality Improvement Innovation Prize from the Connecticut Quality Improvement Award (CQIA) Partnership.

The award is America’s first state level quality award using the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award criteria for performance excellence. Baldrige was a former CEO from Connecticut who served as U.S. Secretary of Commerce in the Reagan administration.

The award recognizes companies and nonprofit organizations from Connecticut which demonstrate innovative practices leading to improved quality, performance and marketplace competitiveness.

This year, prizes in the Platinum, Gold and Silver categories were won by 22 manufacturers, 29 service companies, two healthcare organizations, three educational institutions and one state agency.

NCC will receive a Silver prize on October 29 at the 24th annual Connecticut Quality Improvement Award Conference on Quality and Innovation at the Water’s Edge

Resort and Spa in Westbrook, Connecticut.

The NCC Building Efficiency and Sustainable Technology (B.E.S.T.) certificate program prepares students for new “green collar” jobs in sustainable building and design, alternative energies and energy efficiency auditing.

“We are thrilled that NCC and the B.E.S.T. program have been recognized for innovation. Our program is cutting-edge, bringing together building science, green building, sustainable energy and energy efficiency under one streamlined program,” said program coordinator Eric Gribin. “We are excited to be providing students with excellent training and job placement for new careers in this expanding field.”

The 26-credit B.E.S.T. program prepares graduates to take the Residential Energy Services Network’s Home Energy Ratings Systems (HERS) Certificate course and the Building Performance Institute’s Building Analyst Certificate examinations, two nationally recognized accreditations. “Even in a faltering economy, Norwalk Community College has shown that forward-looking organizations bring forth new products and services,” said Sheila Carmine, founder and executive director of the Connecticut Quality Improvement Award Partnership.

The Connecticut Quality Improvement Award Partnership, Inc. is a Connecticut non-stock, not-for-profit, 501c3 corporation. The Partnership is a growing group of active business people, educators, health care executives, and government officials concerned with improving the economic vitality of our state.

NCC Gets “Thumbs Up” in Advocate Editorial

NCC is proud to be part of a successful collaboration with St.Luke’s LifeWorks which brings educational and employment opportunities to members of the community who have had limited access to professional job training in the past.

The following accolade for the program appeared in the Stamford Advocate.com “Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down” Editorial column, published: at 04:52 p.m. on Tuesday, August 24, 2010:

“Thumbs up to two of the great organizations in Fairfield County working together to give an innovative leg up to those who need a boost toward becoming self-sufficient.

St. Luke’s LifeWorks -- which provides temporary housing for homeless families, among other vital services -- and Norwalk Community College have joined to train St. Luke’s clients to enter job fields that tend to pay higher than the minimum wage, an absolute must for people who want to support themselves in this region.

In the past two years, 19 St. Luke’s residents have entered the program, and eighteen have completed it. Of them, 12 are working in the fields of their choice, including as nurses aides, home health care aides and a bank teller.”

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New Webinar! Student Parents Supporting Success at the Community College



Family Economic Security Program (FE\$P) Director Kristina Testa-Buzzee is one of the leaders who will be featured in a new Webinar - Student Parents: Supporting Success at the Community College, which will air online on Wednesday, September 22 from 2-3:30 p.m.ET. The webinar will address “How can community colleges keep student

parents enrolled in school and help them successfully complete their college education?” Panelists will share their professional experience with programs that promote access to, persistence in, and completion of higher education. The discussion will include a variety of services and programs currently being offered to student parents as well as ways to provide increased support to students with children. During this interactive program, participants will gain insight into:

- how to provide support to student parents to improve institutional retention and graduation.
- the techniques for creating a welcoming environment for student parents without a large financial investment.
- how to examine models that assist student parents in meeting their academic, personal, career and financial goals.
- Strategies for identifying and cultivating allies within the institution and the community.
- how to successfully integrate private philanthropy and the community college mission to advance student parent success.
- the importance of capturing data early and discuss ways to use research effectively to help institutionalize successful components of a grant program.

This Webinar will give national attention to the Family Economic Security Program (FE\$P).

PLEASE HELP!

Welcome Ambassadors Needed ASAP!

Lois Aime and Lisa Dresdner report that, based on the feedback they got from the Professional Day last April, they are asking faculty and staff to act as “Welcome Ambassadors” during the first few days of classes (Wednesday, 9/01, Thursday, 9/02 and Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9/07, 08 and 09).

If you are willing to commit to this, you will be asked to do the following:

1. Wear a red shirt with white lettering that will say “ASK ME.” To order a shirt, please e-mail either Lois Aime



The Baker Library has two new C-PODs in one of the group study rooms. A “C-pod” (short for Collaboration Pod) consists of one single CPU, one monitor, three keyboards, and three mice. It allows students to work on group projects concurrently using Microsoft Office and the internet (including of course the Baker Library’s fantastic online resources). They are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

at laime@ncc.commnet.edu or Lisa Dresdner at ldresdner@ncc.commnet.edu with your name and the size of the shirt you would like. Scheduling is done using a Google calendar.

2. Make yourself available on campus at a specific time to respond to student questions that might include: Where is room XXX?; Where do I go to reset my password?; How do I get a photo ID?; How can I get a copy of my schedule; How and/ or where do I add/drop classes?; etc. (All answers will be supplied on a cheat sheet.)

Contact either Lois Aime at ext. 7288 or Lisa Dresdner at ext. 7291 ASAP for additional information.

Lifetime Learners Registration

The Lifetime Learners Institute at NCC has announced that registration begins August 30 for its fall 2010 schedule of classes. Most classes will begin the week of September 19. Registration will be held in the lobby of the NCC West Campus on August 30-31 and Sept. 1 (times to be announced).

The Lifetime Learners Institute at NCC is a volunteer organization of people over age 50 who want to continue learning. Members come from all over Fairfield County. Classes are taught by Institute members who are experts in their fields.

Approximately 50 classes will be offered this fall. Subjects include history, languages, the arts, literature, music, health, opera, sports, movie clips, mysteries, books, computers, memoirs, current events and more.

These classes meet once a week for four to eight weeks. Classes are either 45-minutes long or one hour long. Class times are 1:10 p.m and/or 3:10 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 10 a.m. to noon Friday.

Throughout the academic year, Lifetime Learners also hosts a Brown Bag Lunch and Learn program on most

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Fridays. The program includes a noontime social hour with refreshments and a one-hour special guest presentation on a different subject of general interest each week. These Friday afternoon programs are free to all Lifetime Learners members, as is the use of the NCC Fitness Center.

Annual membership dues are \$30 per year (June 1 to May 31). Course fees are \$20 per course.

Detailed course catalogs will be available at the end of August. For more information, contact Lifetime Learners at (203) 857-3330.

Registration and Advising of WIA and TAA Students

There are two specific populations of students that are now registering for classes that should be directed to meet with either Patrick Boland or Ann Mitchell in the Academic Center for all of their registration and advising needs. These populations, WIA (Workforce Investment Act), and TAA (Trade Adjustment Assistance) are directed to us from the Connecticut Department of Labor and Connecticut Works.

If students are seeking credit programs they should be directed to Patrick Boland in the Student Success Center at East 107, or call (203) 857-7234. If students are seeking non-credit programs they should be directed to Ann Mitchell in the Academic Center office, West 106, or call (203) 857-6868.

Staff and Faculty News

Acting Director of Student Activities Named



Andres Gomez has been named acting Director of Student Activities at Norwalk Community College.

Gomez has more than five years of academic and non-governmental organization (NGO) work experience in multi-cultural settings.

He is former director of Cultural Blueprint, an education and cultural immersion organization that provides students with cross-cultural immersion experiences in the United States and Latin America. In that position, he designed curricula and student leadership modules and taught English as a Second Language.

Prior to that, Gomez taught in the TRIO Upward Bound Program at Fordham University, an academic preparation and outreach program for students in urban low-income areas.

A native of Colombia, Gomez is fluent in Spanish and English and speaks conversational French. At Fordham University, he earned a Master's degree in Humanities and Sciences and a Bachelor's degree in International Policy Economy and Visual Arts.

From 2005 to 2008, Gomez was international programs manager for the Institute of International Humanitarian Affairs at Fordham University, an academic institute and NGO in consultative status with the United Nations. In that role, he implemented recruitment procedures and raised awareness of global political, social, cultural and economic crises. He also developed a practical manual for humanitarian workers dealing with global emergency responses.

Gomez also has worked with the Financial Services Volunteer Corps, an international NGO which provides financial training to communities in Africa; and with Global Action on Aging, an international NGO which advocates and reports on the needs and potential of older people within the global economy.

He earned an International Diploma in Humanitarian Assistance at the United Nations Systems Staff College in Bossey, Switzerland, and has studied art at the Marchutz School in the south of France.

The NCC Student Activities Office is located in Room W111 in the West Campus building. Gomez can be reached at (203)857-7234.

NOTICES

Wellness Center Fall Hours of Operation

(Beginning Wednesday, September 1)

Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-7p.m.

Note: Tuesday/Thursday Closed from 3:50-5p.m. for the Weight Training class.

Friday 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

NCC Bookstore Late Fall Hours

Monday, Aug. 30 8:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Orientation

Wed. & Thurs. Sept. 1 and 2 – 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Fri. & Sat., Sept. 3 and 4 – 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Mon. Sept. 6 Closed for Labor Day

Tues., Wed., Thurs. Sept. 7, 8, 9 – 8:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Regular hours are Mon. - Thurs. – 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Fri. – 8:30 a.m. – 12 noon.

PAY CHECK DATES

FOR ALL 16 WEEK CREDIT COURSES

ALL OTHER COURSES

Eight Payments -Payment dates are based upon appointment period.

Paycheck Dates: 9/24/10, 10/8/10, 10/22/10, 11/5/10, 11/19/10, 12/3/10, 12/17/10, 12/30/10

IMPORTANT NOTE:

The above pay dates are for PTLs who have completed and submitted their employment paperwork to the Human Resources Office, the assigned course(s) have been approved by the Academic Affairs Office and the HR/Payroll

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Office has received the assignment for payroll processing.

Payroll checks will be available in the Payroll Office, Room W120, AFTER 3:00 p.m. on the Thursday before payday. If you did not already instruct us to mail your check, and your check is not picked up by noon on Friday, your check will be mailed to your home address.

If you DO NOT want your pay check mailed, you must fill out a "HOLD CHECK" form in the Payroll Office. If you have your check Direct Deposited, we will continue to place your "Advice" in the interoffice mail on the Thursday before payday.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE NOT YET SIGNED UP FOR DIRECT DEPOSIT, there are many benefits when you have your check Direct Deposited:

- No chance your pay check will be lost in the mail or misplaced.
- Your money is available to you on the Thursday before the pay date at 9:00 a.m.
- Convenient – No more standing in line at the bank.

Questions? Please call:

Diane Annetta: (203)857-3367 (Full-Time Payroll.)

Barbara Billingham: (203)857-7244 (Adjunct/ PTL Payroll)

Hank Moss: (203) 857-7129 (Student Payroll)

FALL CONVOCATION 2010

