



# 2013-2014

# Community Report

## YEAR ONE: TOWARD A SPLENDID COLLEGE STRATEGIC PLAN 2013-2016

### GOALS

- I: At NVCC, students achieve their goals.
- II: NVCC faculty and staff make a difference—at the college, in the community, in their fields of study, and in the lives of students.
- III: NVCC programs meet and beat academic and industry standards.
- IV: NVCC is an engine of change within Waterbury and the broader community.
- V: NVCC is an effective, performance-based institution.



## MY DEAR FRIENDS, PARTNERS AND COLLEAGUES...

As academic year 2013-2014 ends, we are about to embark on a series of activities to commemorate 50 years in the history of our institution. Our work, our commitment to mission and what the college represents for so many is tied to the most beautiful and fundamental democratic principles. These principles led to the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and also to the founding of community colleges in Connecticut. We are proud to say that our work continues to honor and support that vision of a just and inclusive society.

It has been an excellent year for Naugatuck Valley Community College because we are a committed and caring academic community. There is transparency and engagement. The values that guide our work and support our students are recorded powerfully in both small and big ways around campus, in our classrooms and in the engagement of our faculty, staff and students. The summer affords us an opportunity to reflect and to plan. We will take this time to contemplate the journey we have undertaken together with intelligence, engaged minds and generous hearts, and to consider the difference we are making in so many lives and how we might continue to increase access to quality education for our students and the communities we serve.

It is in that spirit that we offer our annual report to the campus and multiple stakeholders. Mil gracias y bendiciones.



Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.  
President

## Achieving Goals



President De Filippis celebrates Commencement with students.

NVCC celebrated, for the fifth year in a row, the largest graduating class in its 50-year history at its 49th commencement ceremony held at the Palace Theater.

As of June 1, there were 1,050 graduates, including 200 students who received multiple degrees and certificates. Of these graduates, 186 graduated Cum Laude, 84 graduated Magna Cum Laude and 37 graduated Summa Cum Laude. This year's valedictorian and salutatorian received a 4.0 and 3.95 GPA, respectively. Combined, they earned eight recognitions at the 2013 and 2014 Honors Night ceremonies.

The college-wide Advisement Initiative was rolled out in the Fall of 2010 and is in full swing. Faculty and staff advising trainings are underway and an advising handbook is being developed to ensure accurate and consistent guidance for students.

NVCC is positioned to support the State of Connecticut Go Back to Get Ahead program this summer, which offers Connecticut residents up to three FREE 3-credit courses when re-enrolling at one of the 17 institutions in the Connecticut State Colleges & Universities system.

Inspired by the President's annual High Tea Ceremony, which celebrates women who have overcome adversity to succeed at NVCC, the NVCC Male Encouragement Network, M.E.N., recognized our outstanding male students for the first time this spring.

## Making a Difference

NVCC continued collaboration with the City of Waterbury during the second year of the \$11.3 million GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) grant. This year, the program hired a parent engagement specialist to improve communication between schools and families, established Student Leadership Teams at each middle school, created an English Language Learner Advocacy Team, and developed a four-week summer curriculum for students transitioning to 9th grade. Additionally this summer, 30 middle school students will participate in a Summer Youth Employment program sponsored by the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board.

More than 700 (+17%) students and parents attended the largest New Student Orientation in NVCC history in the fall. Approximately 600 (+50%) students and parents attended the College's Second Annual Open House this spring to meet with professors and student services staff, tour the campus and learn about degree programs and certificates. Students from Bethel, Crosby, Naugatuck, Wilby and Woodland

Regional High Schools participated in the second annual High School Culinary Competition at NVCC, led by the College's hospitality staff and students. The event is funded by a Carl D. Perkins College Career Pathways federal grant and aligns with system priorities to support growing career clusters including hospitality.

For the fifth year in a row, the St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen stayed open on Sundays and holidays, an effort led by our Hispanic Student Union to prepare and serve meals, and supported by Webster Bank.

The Financial Aid Office held a series of interactive workshops on campus for current and prospective students to help demystify the financial aid process. The Office held financial aid nights at area high schools, hosted weekend seminars at the College including the annual College Goal Sunday event, and met with parents in the Bridge to College programs to familiarize prospective applicants with the financial aid process as early as possible.

## COLLABORATION BY THE NUMBERS

**1,808** seventh and eighth graders participated in the second year of Waterbury GEAR UP, receiving additional academic support in math, science and English as well as bilingual, small group mentoring by NVCC students. More than **1,000** students visited NVCC throughout the year to engage in the college experience.

**1,700** + potential students were actively recruited to campus through information sessions, high school visits, workshops and conferences, the second annual NVCC Open House, and other outreach.

**100** Waterbury eleventh and twelfth graders participated in the College Access Challenge (CAC) program to get their math and English skills college-ready.

**100** inner-city high school students participated in the Connecticut Collegiate Awareness and Preparation (ConnCAP) program.\* All of this year's **24** graduating seniors will attend college in the fall; **9** have enrolled at NVCC.

**50** first year students participated in the Community College Scholars (CCS) program again this year, completing a First Year Experience course and committing to bi-weekly advising sessions, field trips to 4-year universities for transfer planning, and monthly workshops throughout the year. All of the students were retained from the fall semester to the spring semester, and **90%** successfully completed their entire first year. This summer, **30** members will take two courses funded by CCS to stay academically engaged.

**20** Waterbury students enrolled in the College Connections program to take manufacturing courses at NVCC. Of these students, **9** graduated from NVCC with a certificate in manufacturing before graduating from high school.\*\*

**22** high school juniors and seniors received a Principal-to-President Scholarship to take one three-credit course at NVCC for free.

**20** ConnCAP students took part in the ConnCAP/Workforce Investment Act (WIA), an in-school youth employment program that provides year-round instruction, tutoring, mentoring, career exploration and enhancement of work-readiness skills.\*\*

\* Funded by the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board (WIB) and the Waterbury Board of Education

\*\* Funded by WIB



## Meeting and Beating Standards

### LIBERAL ARTS, GEN ED & TRANSFER

“The Fifth Year of General Education” on campus culminated in the adoption of competency-based general education requirements closely aligned with the system priorities set forth by the Connecticut Board of Regents for Higher Education. Articulation agreements have been signed with four-year institutions to provide our graduates with smooth transitions as they pursue their bachelor’s degrees.

The College hosted its second Fulbright Scholar-In-Residence, renowned author Oonya Kempadoo. Ms. Kempadoo taught Caribbean Literature and Creative Writing both at NVCC and at Capital Community College, and established the ongoing, multi-media, interactive story project “Naniki” as her educational legacy.

Careful assessment and review of the College’s 100+ academic programs is underway, with those reviews culminating in presentations before the President’s Cabinet. The findings of these program reviews will inform planning and priority setting for Academic Affairs.

The NVCC Drug and Alcohol Recovery Counseling (DARC) program is the first in Connecticut to earn national accreditation through the National Addiction Studies Accreditation Commission.

NVCC partnered with Charter Oak State College and Western Connecticut State University to institute reverse transfer agreements for students who have transferred 15 credits or more to one of these colleges, and earned at least 60 credits total, to offer an associate degree from NVCC ex post facto.

NVCC doubled the number of President-to-President Scholarships presented to NVCC students to include Central, Eastern, and Western Connecticut State Universities, Charter Oak State College, University of Connecticut – Waterbury, Post University and the University of Hartford.

### IMPROVING JOB PLACEMENT

According to the most recent report by the National Council of State Boards for Nursing, 97% of Naugatuck Valley Community College nursing students passed their NCLEX-RN licensing exam between April and September 2013, making the program the most successful in the state and placing it in the top 5% nationally. Connecticut currently offers 21 associate, baccalaureate and master’s-level nursing programs.

The Department of Labor’s 2010-2020 Occupational Projections identifies Physical Therapist Assistants (PTA) as the fifth fastest growing labor market for associate degree earners. The past three PTA classes have sustained a 100% employment rate for graduates, with the majority of students securing employment at the facilities where they are placed for clinical internships.

The Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center (AMTC) awarded 113 Level I and Level II certificates in its second year of operation. Of the 49 Level II graduates, 35 have been offered full-time employment and several others have offers pending. Grant applications have been submitted to create a Level III certificate program and the College continues to partner with the Smaller Manufacturers Association to meet the needs of our students and local manufacturers.

The AMTC was recognized by Connecticut State College and Universities (CSCU) at the first system Manufacturing Awards Ceremony for its impressive start. NVCC student Darlene Blumenthal was honored with the Outstanding Student Award. Douglas Johnson, vice president of operations for The Marion Manufacturing Company in Cheshire and

member of the NVCC Manufacturing Advisory Council, received the Industry Partner Award.

The Job Placement Center (JPC) hosted mock interviews, a job fair, and a variety of career panels for students to interact with executives in finance, engineering technology, hospitality management, social services, criminal justice and information technology among a variety of other fields. It also organized a behind-the-scenes tour of Mohegan Sun Resort and Casino for hospitality students.

## Maximizing Effectiveness

In spite of a reduced budget, the College continued to earmark tuition revenues to provide scholarships for students.

Capital Bond Funds supported planning for a Campus-wide Improvement Plan, the renovation of Founders Hall into the Center for Health Sciences and the renovation of three science labs.

The College established a Winter Intersession to maximize campus utilization and offer students alternative pathways to completion.

The Precision Metalforming Association (PMA) donated support for advanced manufacturing promotion and recruitment initiatives.

A reinvigorated NVCC Alumni Association built up its presence over the year, culminating in the first annual Alumni Social in April.

The College repurposed space in Technology Hall for the Inter-Faith Center, which will support students spiritually on campus.

The Northwest CT Workforce Investment Board also continued to support the College Connections program, which cross-enrolls high school students in College-level manufacturing certification courses.

The Smaller Manufacturers Association, which continues to occupy an office at the College, assisted students with job placement and helped create additional opportunities for students to work with local manufacturers.

Through the efforts of the NVCC Foundation, the College added five new scholarships and doubled the amount of scholarship money granted in Honors Night awards, provided support to keep the library and ACE open on weekends during the spring semester and raised \$60,000 to support the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center. Through the development team, the College qualified for Title III support.



The Center for Health Sciences will accommodate all of NVCC’s allied health programs beginning in 2017.

# Being an Engine of Change in Waterbury and Beyond...

Members of W.A.V.E.  
(Workforce Achievers Value Education)



Four local high schools joined NVCC students for the annual Scott Pond Memorial Women in Science Fair to learn about STEM careers.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Junot Diaz made NVCC the only community college stop on his international book tour to promote his latest work, *This Is How You Lose Her*. The event was hosted by The Tamarack Student Newspaper.

The Bi-Annual Conference of the Dominican Studies Association (DSA) was held for the fifth time at NVCC. The Conference draws hundreds of scholars and students to panel discussions that explore the multiple narratives documenting the Dominican experience.

Naugatuck Valley Community College partnered with Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty (CT-5) in the local launch of the first annual House Student App Challenge. To support the initiative, the College hosted an App Workshop led by NVCC computer programming instructor Charles Lasky for approximately 50 Waterbury students to learn about app design and try basic coding.

## PARTNERSHIPS & PRESENCE

The New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) officially accredited NVCC's Danbury Center as a full-service campus, enabling the College to customize academic offerings with full instructional and administrative supports for students. NVCC expects to sign a lease for a new campus location, tripling its space, this fall.

Enrollments in Danbury for Spring 2014 continued to climb to 448 FTE and 977 head count, representing a 10% growth in FTE compared to the Spring 2013 semester. Workforce development activities in Danbury continue to produce significant numbers of non-credit certificates.

The Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) held their annual Elementary Level School Leadership Conference at the College. Approximately 300 students in grades 4-6 attended 15 sessions related to communication, productive thinking and decision making led by NVCC students.

Legislators, city officials and NVCC administrators, staff and students came together for the College's fourth annual Leadership Breakfast to address challenges and opportunities moving forward.

Industry partnerships in manufacturing continued to grow through the presence of the Smaller Manufacturers Association on campus and the College's leadership in a number of activities including the June Manufacturing Summit at Kimberly Clark, Inc.

The College worked with municipal leadership to identify non-credit allied health courses and certificates to offer in New Milford next year.

Over 40 students from the Advanced Manufacturing program attended the STEM/Advanced Manufacturing Technology Expo sponsored by the Waterbury Chamber of Commerce.

Evening bus service for the campus and the City of Waterbury advocated by NVCC and initiated in October of 2011, has reported citywide bus rides. Students using the U-PASS have taken over 200,000 day and evening rides, and over 400,000 Waterbury residents have utilized evening bus service.

Advanced Manufacturing Students and Supporters with the Precision Metalforming Association.



## PRE-COLLEGIATE PATHWAYS

The College hosted the third annual Greater Waterbury Educational Leadership Forum for educators in the service region. The event is a joint project between the College and City of Waterbury to expand local awareness and opportunities for pre-collegiate partnerships.

Early college partnerships have been formed and planning is underway in both Danbury and Waterbury to offer courses for college credit to high school students.

The College applied for and received continued funding for a number of initiatives that support the continued good work of the Bridge to College Office (funded by ConnCap, the WIA in-School Youth program, Community College Scholars Program, and College Access and Challenge Program).

*"All paths lead to the same goal; to convey to others what we are . . . but in this dance or in this song, there are fulfilled the most ancient rites of our conscience in the awareness of being human and of believing in a common destiny."*

*Pablo Neruda, Nobel Laureate Speech*