

# COMMUNITY REPORT

JUNE 2020



## YEAR FOUR REPORT: Toward a Splendid College Strategic Plan 2016-2026

1. At NVCC, students achieve their goals.
2. NVCC faculty and staff make a difference—at the college, in the community, in their fields of study, and in the lives of students.
3. NVCC programs meet and beat academic and industry standards.
4. NVCC is an engine of change within Waterbury, Danbury, and the broader community.
5. NVCC is an effective, performance-based institution.



As I conclude my twelfth year as president of our Community College, I am proud to report that it has been a year of significant achievements. Naugatuck Valley Community College is living its mission.

As academic year 2019-2020 ends, the NVCC family has demonstrated great resilience and adaptability as we

transitioned our campuses to a virtual teaching, learning, and student support modality for the second half of the spring semester. The NVCC Foundation, the Connecticut Community Foundation, the United Way of Greater

Waterbury, and Fairfield County's Community Foundation along with NVCC faculty, staff, and administration donated generously to our COVID-19 Student Emergency Fund, allowing us to support students' financial and technological needs during this global pandemic.

Despite the challenges that NVCC has faced since March, academic year 2019-2020 was yet another year of powerful outcomes for our students and the College. We will once again award more than 1,000 degrees and certificates, our Nursing and Allied Health students continue to exceed the national pass rates on their licensure awards, and the College awarded more than \$18M in financial aid to support our students' educational goals. We continue our powerful work with the Waterbury Public School system through our Upward Bound and GEAR UP grants and with the Danbury Public Schools and the Early College Opportunities program. As you will see in this powerful report, these successes are just the beginning of the work we have done this past year as we continue our journey toward a splendid college.

It is evident that our work, our commitment to mission and what the College represents for so many is tied to the most beautiful and fundamental democratic principles. In that regard, every decision made always predicated on whether this is something that would support our students, contribute to the communities we serve, and encourage an engaged existence in civil justice. We are proud to reaffirm that our work continues to honor and support a vision of a just and inclusive society.

While I am bidding farewell to NVCC this summer, I will be taking away with me much hope for the College because there is a critical mass of students, faculty, administrators, staff, community partners, and NVCC alumni who affirm the everyday value of NVCC. I trust that I leave the College in very good hands—the NVCC Family.

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D., President  
Naugatuck Valley Community College  
Waterbury and Danbury Campuses

### **Believing in a Common Destiny**

"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

# NVCC'S INSTITUTIONAL CORE VALUES

## STUDENT SUCCESS PREVAILS

In March 2020, President Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D., collaborated with the deans, administration, faculty and staff to transition the remaining classes of the spring 2020 semester to an online format due to the COVID-19 pandemic, while making sure that students completed their studies in the spring semester. The virtual campus was developed to support students through online advising, enrollment, registration, tutoring, and library services, and provide access to bookstore, financial aid and technology services.



Despite the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic presented, NVCC awarded more than 1,000 associate degrees and certificates, for the ninth year in a row. This year's virtual commencement will

confer a projected 1,005 awards by August, 2020. Since Fiscal Year 2007-2008, the College has seen an 88% growth in the number of graduates, a 139% increase in the number of male graduates and a 653% increase in Hispanic student graduates.

## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS



NVCC's nursing program was ranked second in the top ten nursing programs in Connecticut by Nursing Explorer, a research organization that gathers and analyzes data from the U.S. Department

of Education, States Board of Nursing, Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, and Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, Inc.

Allied health licensure pass rates for the class of 2019 continue to reach well above the national average, with a 100% pass rate for the respiratory care program, and 94% and 95% pass rates for our strong nursing and radiologic technology programs, respectively. Physical Therapy Assistant program 2018 graduates achieved a 100% pass rate.

NVCC kicked off a campus-wide retention campaign in the fall of 2019, Doing Our P.A.R.T. (Paying Attention to Retention Today!) This campus-wide movement is a response to NVCC's recognition that as a caring academic community



we must work strategically to achieve greater impact in our efforts to increase students' successful course completion, retention, and success, and to close the equity gap.

The arts continue to thrive with generous contributions by Fermata the Valley, NVCC's a cappella group, the music department, powerful theater performances, dance showcases, and art exhibits that have made us a strong comprehensive community college. Their talent has been shared generously with our community partners as well.

NVCC celebrated its twelfth year of hosting Confluencia, a traditional evening of poetry which has become a destination for writers even from out-of-state and abroad. President De Filippis said, "It is the center stage where many voices have brought insight, a sense of beauty and social responsibility to the world around us."



## COMMUNITY SERVICE

For the third year in a row, NVCC hosted the United Way's annual Stock the Pantry weigh-in at the Founders Hall parking lot where more than 18,000 pounds of food was donated.

For the eleventh year in a row, St. Vincent DePaul's Soup Kitchen remained open on Sundays and holidays as NVCC students, clubs, faculty and staff prepared and served meals to soup kitchen guests, with the financial support of Webster Bank. This year the Student Government Association created over 120 shoe boxes to send to troops overseas for the holidays with food and personal hygiene items from staff, students and clubs.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

In fall 2019, President De Filippis welcomed Congresswoman Jahana Hayes (CT -05) and Connecticut Attorney General William Tong to an Immigration Panel hosted by NVCC. The panel touched on a number of issues surrounding immigration, including family separations at the border and actions the state has taken to protect undocumented immigrants living in Connecticut.



The Connecticut Society of Professional Journalists honored NVCC's student newspaper, *The Tamarack*, with five Excellence in Journalism awards in the Collegiate Division of its 2019 contest. The award-winning newspaper covered various topics including neurological differences, gender disparity, LGBTQIA representation, homelessness, and immigration.





In fall 2019, NVCC's Social Justice Series held workshops, panels, and discussions on the theme, "The Stories We Tell," that addressed the narratives about our individual and collective pasts. Events planned for spring 2020 will be rescheduled for fall 2020.

## CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY

NVCC's Center for Racial Dialogue and Communal Transformation and President De Filippis hosted a



"Conversation with Congressman Adriano Espaillat (NY-13)" to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month 2019. Congresswoman Jahana Hayes (CT-05) commented, "It was an honor to welcome Congressman Adriano

Espaillat to my district, my hometown, and my alma mater, Naugatuck Valley Community College, to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month and pay tribute to the generations of Hispanic Americans who have positively influenced and enriched our nation and society."

Four students from the Danbury Campus attended a CREAR Futuros (College Readiness, Achievement and Retention) three-day seminar, sponsored by the Hispanic Federation. The program addresses the systemic barriers that prevent Latinos from earning a college degree. NVCC students collaborated with fellow mentors from colleges throughout the country.

The Black Student Union, Hispanic Student Union, Pride Alliance, and the Multicultural Club (Danbury) are among NVCC's 34 student clubs which hosted various student events and activities throughout the year.

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

NVCC is one of three Connecticut community colleges partnering with local public schools to implement the seven-year, \$25.8 million GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Program) grant from the U.S. Department of Education. NVCC will work with the Waterbury Public School system to support approximately 1,200 students in seven middle schools starting in seventh grade to increase the number of low-income students prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. Students from high-need areas will receive early college awareness and support activities like tutoring, mentoring, academic preparation, financial education, and college scholarships to improve access to higher education for low-income, minority and first-generation students and their families.



The NVCC Center for Early Childhood Education received another Waterbury School Readiness Grant as well as a CCAMPIS grant (Child Care Access Means Parents in School) which provides funding for eligible NVCC students' children to attend the center for free.

NVCC was awarded \$150,000 to support the Promoting Academically Successful Students (PASS) program at NVCC. This program is an initiative of the Minority Advancement Program (MAP) at the Connecticut Office of Higher Education to provide additional academic support to students of color who are not making satisfactory academic progress and need additional support to address their academic standing.

Through the Women's Lead, Empower, Achieve and Persist (LEAP) program, NVCC continues to support the mentoring and personal development needs of female students with workshops and mentorships. This initiative, funded through a grant from the Connecticut Community Foundation, (CCF) improves retention and leads students to graduation and successful careers.

The CCF also awarded the NVCC Hospitality Program a \$20,000 grant for internships to encourage students to explore careers in local assisted living facilities.

NVCC was one of five colleges in Connecticut to receive a Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority (CHEFA) client grant to support STEM education and careers. This \$71,662 grant will enhance NVCC's advanced manufacturing technology program to include welding technology in its Danbury service area.

## STEM SUCCESS

In fall 2019, more than 500 middle and high school students attended the annual Manufacturing/STEM Expo in collaboration with the Waterbury Public Schools and the Waterbury Chamber of



Commerce. Students engaged with local manufacturers and learned about job and career opportunities from area leaders in manufacturing. President Daisy Cocco De Filippis joined WATR Radio hosts on "Talk of the Town" and "Manufacturing Matters" with Shawn Wooden, Connecticut State Treasurer and Colin Cooper, Connecticut's newly-appointed Chief Manufacturing Officer, to talk about the manufacturing program at NVCC.

The NViSiON program of the five-year NSF-STEM grant provided STEM students with \$25,000 in scholarships in fall 2019 and spring 2020, with another \$4,000 anticipated to be distributed to support summer 2020 coursework.

# EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS • COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## FINANCIAL AID

During academic year 2019-2020, NVCC awarded more than \$18 million in financial aid so students could achieve their goals.

In February 2020, two NVCC students from the Advanced Manufacturing Technology program shared their stories at the Appropriations Committee Public Hearing on the Governor's FY21 Budget Adjustments for the state's higher education agencies.

## COLLEGE PREPARATION

Our colleagues in the Waterbury Public School System continue



to welcome our Bridge to College Office, which this year housed four Upward Bound grants, totaling \$5.25 million over a five-year period, with two years remaining, in addition to other grants. The program

exposes first-generation, low-income students to engaging, project-based learning in a collegiate environment.

Our Danbury Early College Opportunities (DECO) program had another successful year and enrolled 88 Danbury High School students. The DECO initiative, in partnership with New Oak and Danbury High School, is now in its fifth year. Seven of these students graduated at our 2020 virtual commencement.

The Advanced Manufacturing College Connections program sent 22 seniors from two Waterbury high schools to NVCC five mornings per week for an hour and half of manufacturing training.

STEP 2 NVCC (Secondary Transition Education Program) enrolled 10 Waterbury Public School students (18-21) with diverse learning styles.

## ENGINE OF CHANGE



NVCC President Daisy Cocco De Filippis hosted a press conference at the NVCC Waterbury Campus when Governor Lamont announced his newest initiative to bring higher education, public

and private partnerships and employers together in pursuit of workforce development. Lamont signed an Executive Order to establish the Governor's Workforce Council.

In fall of 2019, Connecticut State Representative Gregg Haddad (D-Mansfield), Chairman of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, and Senator Will Haskell (D-Westport) joined President De Filippis and the 4C's Union in a forum to discuss the "Debt-free Community College in Connecticut" initiative. The forum at NVCC was part of a statewide tour of community colleges centering around the state's upcoming debt-free community college program.



The NVCC Vanguard Leadership Academy hosted a professional development conversation with keynote speaker, Nicholas M. Donofrio. A member of numerous professional organizations, Donofrio has served on the Connecticut Board of Regents for Higher Education and is a passionate advocate for NVCC.



Now-retired IBM Executive Vice President of Innovation & Technology, and IBM Fellow Emeritus, Donofrio is a generous supporter of higher education. He established the Donofrio Students Jobs on Campus Project at NVCC which primarily supports underrepresented minority women who seek an associate degree and transfer to one of the four universities in the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system.



The Connecticut chapter of the Association of Latino Professionals for America (ALPFA) featured NVCC President Daisy Cocco De Filippis to participate as one of four panelists at its "Woman of ALPFA" June 13, 2019 meeting held at the Holiday Inn in East Hartford. The conference's theme was "The Power of Your Networking Community."





# CIVIC ENGAGEMENT • BEAUTIFUL AND POSITIVE IDEAS

## ACCOLADES

The *Washington Monthly* magazine ranked NVCC 25th in 2019's "Best 2-Year Colleges for Adult Learners." This guide is based on the contribution to the public good that colleges make in social mobility, research, and service.

Three NVCC faculty members were recognized by the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) Board of Regents for excellence in teaching and research. The Board of Regents Teaching Award (Campus-based) was awarded to Dr. Gil Harel, Assistant Professor, Music. The Board of Regents Scholarly Excellence Award was presented to Mark A. Schnubel, Associate Professor, Automotive. The System-Wide Adjunct Faculty Teaching Award was given to Douglas Goodrich, NVCC Adjunct Professor of History.



The Connecticut Rivers Council of the Boy Scouts of America awarded Naugatuck Valley Community College President Daisy Cocco De Filippis the Elbert K.

Fretwell Outstanding Educator Award at their second annual Vale La Pena Breakfast.

*Fresh Ink*, NVCC's publication of literary and artistic works from students and community members, was recognized by the Community College Humanities Association (CCHA) for two student poems published in the 2019 edition as "Outstanding Student Works."

NVCC's Horticulture team won the highest honor presented at the 2020 Connecticut Flower Show—the Excellence in Design Award. They also took home awards for Most Educational Landscape, Most Environmentally Sensitive Landscape, and Best Fulfillment of Intent.

The 11th annual High Tea commemorating Women's Heritage Month and International Women's Day was celebrated by President De Filippis and NVCC faculty and staff. The program, featuring keynote speaker Kimberly M. Goff-Crews, Secretary and Vice President for University Life at Yale University, celebrated the success of NVCC students who have overcome significant challenges.



## NVCC FOUNDATION

The NVCC Foundation hosted the annual Donor Appreciation Recognition event in February, 2020. Student speaker, Shakera Jones, a fourth-semester business student took the podium to thank the



donors and shared her own story about the difference NVCC faculty, staff and support from the Foundation made in her life.



Naugatuck Valley Community College Foundation, Vice Chair, Charles Pagano, Jr. donated \$25,000 to the NVCC Foundation to establish a scholarship to support students majoring in a STEM discipline. Pagano will be awarded a Presidential Medal of Honor and a designated respiratory

classroom and laboratory in the Center for Health Sciences will be named in his honor.

The NVCC Foundation hosted the Dr. Christopher Love Fundraising Breakfast in June 2019. More than \$3,000 was raised from the breakfast which will go towards a \$10,000 goal to create a permanent endowment at the Foundation to support African American students at NVCC who demonstrate leadership and academic excellence. Nearly 100 community members, friends and family of Love, and several elected officials including Representative Jahana Hayes (CT-05) attended the breakfast.



The Connecticut Community Foundation awarded the NVCC Foundation \$30,000 to support scholarships, Jobs on Campus, and Advanced Manufacturing.

Our NVCC Foundation, community members and members of the NVCC faculty, staff, and administration supported a COVID-19 emergency fund that helped close to 500 students during the spring semester.

## FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR

NVCC will welcome a fifth Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence, Stacey Sacks during the 2021-22 Academic Year. Sacks is a comedian, writer, producer, and director of short films and leading performer in television appearances. In addition to teaching theater at NVCC, she will collaborate with Capital and Tunxis Community Colleges, community organizations, and theater-related groups.





# STUDENT CENTEREDNESS • ACADEMIC RIGOR • LEADERSHIP

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

NVCC responded in many ways to address the needs of our students and community through the COVID-19 pandemic. College instructors collaborated with St. Mary's Hospital and Danker Design, LLC to create protective face shields and ear protectors for medical professionals. In partnership with the NVCC Foundation, the college raised \$55,000 to create the COVID-19 Student Emergency Fund to assist NVCC students struggling with financial hardship. A \$5,000 grant was awarded to the college through the Connecticut Community Foundation and United Way of Greater Waterbury COVID-19 Response Fund to support NVCC Student Food Pantry Home Packages during the COVID-19 pandemic.

NVCC was awarded the Fairfield County Community Foundation COVID-19 Resiliency Grant in the amount of \$7,000 to support Danbury NVCC students experiencing technological hardships needed for studies online during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The college continues participating in two successful Working Cities grants, one in Waterbury and the other in Danbury. Our Dance and Music programs are alive with students participating in activities that support the Waterbury Region Arts and Culture Collaborative and the Mattatuck Museum. Our strong partnership with the United Way of Greater Waterbury is evident in various projects, including the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program. NVCC continues to host the Smaller Manufacturers Association of Connecticut office and various manufacturing-related activities on campus.

Praxair and NVCC have renewed their partnership to offer their Skills Pipeline™ Workforce Development Program in Danbury to prepare students for employment in high-demand, manufacturing-related occupations.

With more than one million rides since its institution in 2010, evening bus service in Waterbury continues to make a difference for students to attend college and the community to get to work and home at night.

## OUR ALUMNI

In the fall of 2019, NVCC hosted its second annual alumni speakers' panel featuring John DiCarlo, Director, Municipal Shared Services, Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments; David Love, Team Lead, Edgewood Chemical Biological Center; and Mari-jean Morelli, RN, BS, Senior Case Manager, Alexion Pharmaceuticals.

The alumni speakers spoke about their days at NVCC and all shared in common the theme of empowerment.

NVCC alumni gathered for the second year with the Advanced Manufacturing and Technology Center (AMTC) alumni, current students, faculty and staff at the Brassworks Brewing Company. This annual event raised more than \$13,000 to support manufacturing students and provided an opportunity for students to network with industry leaders.

