

# 2011-12 COMMUNITY REPORT

YEAR TWO

TOWARD A SPLENDID COLLEGE: NAUGATUCK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE STRATEGIC PLAN 2010-13



## Making Progress and Building Momentum

As I reflect on my fourth year as president of Naugatuck Valley Community College, there is so much to be grateful for and look forward to. Beginning with the NVCC Management Team and engaging multiple stake-holders, we have worked diligently together to ensure that the second year of our strategic plan would be successful as it integrated system and college-wide priorities and NEASC accrediting expectations.

In 2012, we awarded approximately 7% more associate degrees and certificates than in 2011, once again producing the largest graduating class in the history of Naugatuck Valley Community College. Our New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) self-study is in draft form now and being read and re-read by the college community to ensure that we are telling our story truthfully and in ways that reflect quality and impact. We continue to celebrate the powerful effect evening bus service has had on the city of Waterbury and the inspiring opportunities it has afforded our students.

As an engaged academic community and working in concert with many colleagues, the College has also competed for and been awarded funding to undertake three major initiatives in 2012-13:

- NVCC is one of three Connecticut community colleges to share \$17.8 million in state bond funding to build a state-of-the-art **Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center** on campus to meet local workforce needs.
- A **Fulbright Scholar-In-Residence** will join us for the 2012-13 academic year to enhance interational culture on campus. NVCC is the first Connecticut community college to receive this prestigious honor.
- After a highly selective process, the city of Waterbury was chosen by the state of Connecticut to become a **GEAR UP** district. NVCC will receive \$11.2 million over seven years to help the city prepare middle and high school students for college.

With these and so many other great works ahead of us, let us take a moment to be proud and reflect together on this past year's achievements. To all I wish a thousand splendid suns and offer many, many thanks. Mil gracias y bendiciones.

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.  
President



# Student Success

## ADDRESSING COLLEGE READINESS

The Bridge to College office secured more than \$12 million this year to prepare students to enter and succeed in college, including earning "GEAR UP" status, a designation that will advance \$11.2 million over seven years toward college readiness preparation for sixth and seventh grade Waterbury middle school students.

### BY THE NUMBERS

**200** + students from ten high schools were actively recruited to campus to take informational tours, meet with student services staff and learn about applying to college.

**105** inner-city high school students participated in the Connecticut Collegiate Awareness and Preparation (ConnCAP) program. Historically, 99% of ConnCAP students complete high school and approximately 90% go on to college.\*

**80** underrepresented students joined the Community College Scholars program, completing a First Year Experience (FYE) course and committing to 85% attendance and weekly advisory and study sessions.

**50** eleventh-grade Waterbury students participated in the College Access Challenge program to get their math and English skills college-ready.

**32** Waterbury students enrolled in the College Connections program to take manufacturing courses at NVCC. Twelve of these students graduated from NVCC with a certificate in manufacturing before graduating from high school.\*\*

**30** area juniors and seniors received a Principal-to-President Scholarship to take one 3-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)

\*\* Funded by WIB and Waterbury Board of Education

## RETENTION THROUGH INNOVATION

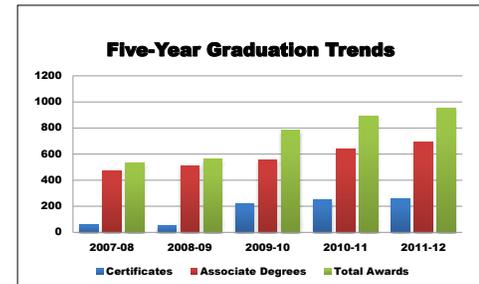
The Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) saw significant e-tutoring growth this year and expanded its services to the Danbury Center. In spring 2012, 22% of Waterbury students and 24% of Danbury students utilized ACE services. The retention rate for ACE students is 9% higher than the overall student population.

The College piloted mandatory 1.5-credit First Year Experience courses to first-year full-time students.

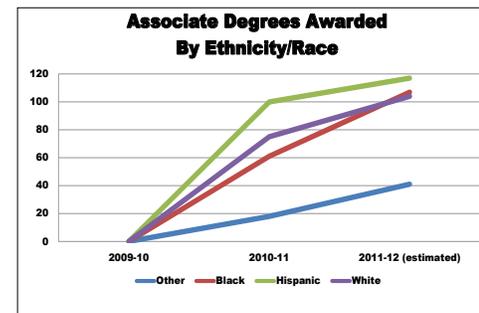
The Center for Academic Planning and Student Success (CAPSS) reports 100% of students have been matched with advisors. Targeted advising interventions have also been established, such as a Graduation Clinic for students with 45 or more credits to receive an early transcript review and guidance on applying for graduation.

The Math Department continued self-paced courses to improve remedial math completion. The Carnegie Statway program, a two-semester math pathway that combines developmental math and statistics, had a successful pilot year with a 71% completion rate compared to the national average of 50%.

Five students were inducted into the President's Circle to serve as the College's student ambassadors. The Honors Institute piloted in the spring, elevating qualified students to graduate with an "Honors" designation on their transcript.



NVCC moved from a one-semester to a one-year academic schedule to improve students' curriculum planning. Next year, the College will post a two-year schedule.



Twenty male NVCC students formed "M.E.N.," the Male Encouragement Network. The group is dedicated to addressing social, environmental, institutional and political barriers toward male college completion.

## IMPROVING TRANSFER

In fall 2011, the 17 Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (ConnSCU) were combined under the Board of Regents for Higher Education to streamline transfer and assist students in selecting appropriate courses in their field of study. Each year, more than 3,000 students transfer from a community college to continue their studies.

To help further ease transfer within ConnSCU, the NVCC General Education Committee has worked across campus to create program-specific core competencies that students must master by graduation. These competencies have been integrated into the academic curriculum.

The College offered a college transfer fair for evening students featuring 38 universities from across New England and the tri-state area. The event was attended by approximately 300 students.



# Workforce Development

## LOCAL NEEDS-BASED TRAINING

### CLEAN AND GREEN ENERGY

Non-Credit Lifelong Learning (NCLL) trained 42 students who were certified as Building Analysts and 14 students who were certified as Envelope Professionals. NCLL also created and ran the CNC Operator Certificate at the request of the Department of Labor. Eleven students completed the fall pilot and two additional sections are presently running with 27 students total.

The Solar Technology Lab has been completed with funding from Hudson Valley Community College, U.S. Department of Energy/ Department of Labor and Connecticut Clean Energy Finance Authority grants. The solar program was redesigned to provide one-room-schoolhouse opportunities for small cohorts to complete multiple welding certificates. NVCC was approved as a testing site for Department of Transportation welding certification.

### HEALTHCARE

St. Mary's Hospital is utilizing Department of Labor funding to send employees through the Nurse Aide Certification program as part of a collaborative with the Naugatuck Valley Project.

The first cohort of Patient Care Technician students completed training in Danbury. Future students will be able to complete their clinical requirements at Danbury Hospital.

Program	Graduates	First-time pass rate
Certified Nurse Aide	172	98%
Nursing	91	95%
Physical Therapist Assistant	15	85%
Radiologic Technology	13	100%
Respiratory Therapy	10	100%

The Central Sterile Processing certificate is now offered twice a year to meet new certification mandates of area employers.

### DANBURY GROWTH

Leaders in the Danbury region came together to discuss the educational and economic future of college and workforce-aged communities. The meeting was prompted by Governor Malloy's call to increase job development programs in the state. In the past, NVCC offered primarily non-credit courses in Danbury but credit enrollment has steadily increased, with a 21% growth from spring 2011 to spring 2012. The College looks to offer a job-related credit certificate and is working with leaders to determine need.

### AND MORE...

The Bristol Board of Education approved teacher participation in the NCLL Teacher CEU program.

Computer Skills for the Workplace, Office Professional Certificate, and Personal Fitness Trainer were approved for Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board funding.

## JOB PLACEMENT CENTER

The Job Placement Center (JPC) was established in fall 2011 to provide students and alumni with a one-stop shop for career planning, cooperative education, internships, employer connections, work study, student assistantships, workforce transitioning and job search help.

In its first year, the JPC incorporated an online job posting board, [www.collegecentral.com/nvcc](http://www.collegecentral.com/nvcc), that enables students to scan available jobs, store resumes and portfolios online and take advantage of job-related podcasts to stay on top of the market.

## ADVANCED MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY CENTER



NVCC was selected in January as one of three Connecticut community colleges to receive bonding dollars for a state-of-the-art manufacturing center on campus to meet the state's manufacturing workforce needs. The Board of Regents solicited proposals in response to the passage of Governor Dannel P. Malloy's bipartisan Jobs Bill, which encouraged new job creation while developing and strengthening the state's workforce competitiveness.

"Having a workforce that is able to fill manufacturing jobs is vital to spurring economic growth, and these Manufacturing Centers will play a significant role in boosting those efforts." *Governor Malloy*

"Waterbury is a manufacturing town and the College has built strong ties to support that. We are deeply aware of the social responsibility and economic value of this entrustment." *President De Filippis*

"The NVCC Foundation will be very much engaged both in a fund raising and advisory capacity." *Dan Sherr, chair of the NVCC Foundation*

"The coordinated efforts of all the partners who worked to secure this funding signifies that all involved acknowledge the revitalization of manufacturing in Connecticut and the urgent need to train workers to fill the hundreds of manufacturing job openings that now exist in the state." *Cathy Awwad, director of the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board*



# Community Engagement

## BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Since the start of the NVCC Strategic Plan in 2010, 70% of full-time faculty have engaged in one or more professional development activities. Approximately 60% of full-time faculty are actively involved in professional organizations related to their field of expertise.

New faculty orientation sessions have provided immediate opportunities for integration into College activities. The Faculty Senate rewarded adjunct faculty for high engagement and student support with an end-of-year reception and peer-nominated recognitions.

A grassroots faculty, staff and student group launched the "One Book, One Community" reading series with *The Book Thief*. The semester-long initiative brought all levels of the College community together in interactive, intellectual conversations.

The ongoing New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) self-study entered its final stages this spring with more than 100 faculty and staff serving on committees for the eleven standards. The accrediting team will arrive on campus in November 2012.

The Early Childhood Education program received accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children in April 2012. Only 10% of early childhood education programs are accredited nationally.

The College purchased an alternate URL address to improve access to the NVCC website. The abbreviated address, *nv.edu*, will enhance college outreach efforts.

## AND OUR COLLEGE COMMUNITY

### PARTNERING FOR ACCESS

After a two-year campaign, Waterbury has finally joined major Connecticut cities in offering evening bus service to residents. NVCC students spoke out locally and in Hartford alongside NVCC administrators, community leaders and government and elected officials to advocate for service.

Students voted last spring to install a \$10 per semester transportation fee to support costs during the three-year evening bus service pilot period. As part of the fee, students receive a "UPass," which offers unlimited rides on city buses. From October to April, students have accounted for 80,000 bus rides and citywide, more than 100,000 bus rides have been taken in the evening.

### PARTNERING FOR VOLUNTEERISM

The NVCC-Waterbury AmeriCorps program launched in September 2011 with competitive grant funding to promote volunteerism in Waterbury. The group consists of 35 members from NVCC, UConn Waterbury and the community who have committed 450 hours to community and academic mentoring services. AmeriCorps currently partners with Waterbury Public Schools, Boys and Girls Club, Girls Inc., Family Services of Greater Waterbury, Salvation Army, Brass City Harvest and the Children's Community School. It is funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service and administered by the Connecticut Commission on Community Service, Office of Financial and Academic Affairs.

With funding from Webster Bank and support from college staff, students and faculty, the St. Vincent De Paul Soup Kitchen continues to provide meals on Sundays.

### PARTNERING FOR EDUCATION

The College invited counselors, principals and superintendents from Waterbury and the greater region on campus to learn about NVCC programs and tour campus facilities. The College also hosted the second annual Legislative Breakfast, the Connecticut P-20 Council Workshop on college and career readiness, and state university presidents and Board of Regents members to foster collaborative partnerships. The third annual Community Meeting event will be held in June to discuss past and future planning initiatives.

The Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) division hosted 90 middle school females at the second annual "Girls and STEM Expo," an all-day immersion in STEM education and career opportunities sponsored by Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF) and Generating Girls' Opportunities (G2O).

### PARTNERING FOR THE ARTS

The Dominican Studies Association held the bi-annual Dominican Studies Conference at NVCC, inviting students and community members to engage in intellectual discourse about the U.S. Dominican experience.

NVCC applied for and received funding for a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence to enhance international culture on campus in 2012-13. NVCC is the first Connecticut community college to serve as a Fulbright host institution. UConn Waterbury, Mattatuck Museum and local schools and community agencies will partner to showcase the scholar throughout the city.

*"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*