NVCC faculty and staff make a difference – NVCC programs meet and beat academic NVCC is an engine of change within Waterbury

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To mark Manufacturing Month and to honor Waterbury’s proud history as a manufacturing center, NVCC hosted “Manufacturing Milestones and the Mattatuck Community Collection at NVCC.” The College and the Mattatuck Museum forged a collaboration to feature a collection of paintings at the College on long-term loan. Eleven art pieces were installed on campus last fall; another piece was slated to be installed in the spring.

The College hosted the fourth annual Greater Waterbury Educational Leadership Forum for educators from across NVCC’s service region. The event was a joint project between the College and the City of Waterbury to expand local knowledge and awareness for pre-collegiate partnerships. Three-hundred students in grades four through six visited campus for the annual Elementary Level School Leadership Conference organized by The Connecticut Association of Schools. The goal of the conference was to demonstrate the use of a multiple-talent approach in helping each child find his/her best way of developing leadership skills.

NVCC welcomed 250 local high school students for the Manufacture Your Future Student Expo. Coordinated by the Connecticut Business and Industry Associations Education Foundation, the event introduced students to local manufacturers, demonstrated the exciting high-tech careers available in manufacturing and brought students together to participate in hands-on workshops at the College’s Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center.

The College partnered with Bethel High School to host three dozen juniors and seniors from the school for a five-hour workshop focused on higher education opportunities. In addition to hearing success stories from prominent members of the community, students participated in two workshops, featuring topics ranging from advanced manufacturing technology and criminal justice to engineering technologies and nursing.

As academic year 2014-2015 comes to an end, I reflect on what a year of significant achievements it has been. We embarked on a series of activities to commemorate 50 years in the history of our college. It was good to celebrate the fact that our journey toward a splendid college continues because our work and our commitment to mission is tied to the most beautiful and democratic principles guiding our remarkable nation. These principles led to the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 but also to the founding of community colleges in Connecticut in the 1960’s.

It has been an outstanding year for Naugatuck Valley Community College precisely because we are a caring and highly effective academic community. The values that guide our work – fairness, equity, access and excellence – are supported by an engaged and collaborative college community and very supportive community partners. The summer months bring as a period of reflection on the work done and on the planning required for the work to be done during the coming academic year. We will take time to consider how far we have gone in our journey and how much further we need to go. Making a difference in the lives of our students and having a positive impact on the communities we serve is our finest goal.

It is in the spirit of engagement and collaboration in our journey to change the world for the better that we offer our annual report to the campus and our multiple community stakeholders.

Mi gracias y bendiciones.

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D. President
NVCC continued in powerful collaboration with the City of Waterbury during the third year of the GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) grant. An $11.2 million program, GEAR UP engaged more than 2,300 eighth- and ninth-grade students during and after school with mentoring, study-skills building and social development to improve their likelihood of college completion. The program extended its work into 10 Waterbury schools, with the first group of the GEAR UP cohort entering the city’s high schools.

The President’s annual High Tea Ceremony honored ten women who have overcome adversity to succeed at NVCC; the College’s Male International Business Honor Society. The inductees became members of the prestigious President’s Circle. Membership represents the highest achievement. Established by the President to challenge manufacturing sector. Forty agencies and 250 students attended the event. The College hosted a Community and Public Sector Career Expo which provided students of all majors an opportunity to meet with professionals in the criminal justice, early childhood education and human services sectors. Forty agencies and 250 students attended the event.

For the sixth year, the St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen stayed open on Sundays and holidays, an effort led by NVCC’s Hispanic Student Union to prepare and serve meals through the financial support of Webster Bank.

The NVCC Foundation launched an initiative to support jobs on campus, enabling students who are not eligible for financial aid to work on campus between and after classes.

The NVCC campus celebrated its 50th commencement ceremony held at the Palace Theater in Waterbury. It was the first commencement for the College as a designated HISI (Hispanic Serving Institution).

As of June 1, there were 1,055 graduates, including 305 students who received multiple degrees and certificates. Of these graduates, 190 graduated cum laude, 72 graduated magna cum laude and 29 graduated summa cum laude. This year’s valedictorian and salutatorian both received 4.0 GPAs. Members of the graduating class ranged in age from 17 to 77.

NVCC supported the State of Connecticut’s Go Back To Get Ahead program, which offered Connecticut residents up to three free credit courses when re-enrolling at one of the 17 institutions in the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) system. The College enrolled 54 students in the program for the fall 2014 semester.

The National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) honored NVCC with two prestigious awards for marketing publications that promote the College. The College earned honors in NCMPR’s regional competition for the NVCC Strategic Plan “Toward a Splendid College 2013-2023” and the 2014 edition of the Garden Book “The Gardens of Naugatuck Valley Community College.”
IMPROVING JOB PLACEMENT

GEAR UP collaborated with STARBASE (a nationwide education program designed for fifth graders), the NVCC Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Division and the Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund to host a G20 Summit. More than 100 eighth-grade GEAR UP female students engaged in activities to foster awareness of STEM careers, encourage young women to explore STEM-related subjects in high school and beyond and to provide resources to young female students which will prepare them for success in college.

In addition of the fall 2014 semester, seven NVCC students and three faculty and staff members traveled to Neptune, New Jersey, an area hit hard by Superstorm Sandy in October 2012, to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity's Collegiate Challenge.

Equipped with rakes, clippers and even a pair of waders, NVCC students, faculty, staff and retirees cleaned out the pond along the Shakespeare Garden to mark Earth Day. They then adjourned to the Zinner Rose Garden to turn on the fountain for the season—an event poised to become an annual tradition.

On a cold, damp Friday in October, 24 NVCC students, alumni, faculty and staff braved the elements to participate in Make a Difference Day at Waterbury's historic Fulton Park. Celebrated around the world, the day recognizes the power of people to effect positive change.

The NVCC Foundation launched a new partnership with the United Way of Greater Waterbury to better understand the challenges of ALICE (Assets Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) citizens and to provide educational vehicles to assist in transforming their lives.

For the sixth year, the St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen stayed open on Sundays and holidays, an effort led by NVCC's Hispanic Student Union to appeal to the power of people to effect positive change.

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Maximizing Effectiveness

In advance of the fall 2014 semester, NVCC hosted 525 first-year students and their families for an orientation session as an introduction to campus and College resources.

For the third consecutive year, NVCC participated in College Goal Sunday, to assist students seeking to continue their studies at an institution of higher education. Volunteers from the College are available to walk prospective students through the financial aid process.

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Chase Parkway. A groundbreaking/ribbon-cutting ceremony was held through a generous sponsorship, the hospital provided funds to erect a hospital and the City of Waterbury to improve bus service to campus. 22 towns to its annual Leadership Breakfast. The College welcomed area legislative and municipal leaders representing training program to the New Milford Visiting Nurse Association and to meet job-training needs, NVCC expanded its certified nurse aide program. Health effects of burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan. Convened a roundtable forum at NVCC’s Veterans’ Oasis, to discuss the U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal and Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty urban scholars writing program. Stages with state agencies. NVCC anticipates spring semester occupancy, the lease for the College’s new Danbury Campus location is in its final phase, bus transportation to Danbury Campus students. NVCC’s Student Government Association voted to extend unlimited free in May. NVCC’s Student Government Association voted to extend unlimited free bus transportation to Danbury Campus students. The lease for the College’s new Danbury Campus location is in its final stages with state agencies. NVCC anticipates spring semester occupancy, with classes to begin in January 2016. The first club to be established on NVCC’s Danbury Campus, the Multi-Cultural Club, hosted a student reading and open mic. The event was held at the historic Marian Anderson Recital Hall, and was sponsored by the Urban Scholars Writing Program. U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal and Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty convened a roundtable forum at NVCC’s Veterans’ Oasis, to discuss the health effects of burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan. To meet job-training needs, NVCC expanded its certified nurse aide training program to the New Milford visiting nurse association and Candlewood Valley health and rehabilitation center. NVCC began a three-year celebration of the 50th anniversary of its merged campus (Mattatuck community college and waterbury state technical college). The celebration was part of the College’s annual all-college meeting to kick off the fall 2014 semester. The College welcomed area legislative and municipal leaders representing 22 towns to its annual leadership breakfast. Dr. Robert McNamara, a 1984 alumnus of Mattatuck Community College, returned to the NVCC campus to discuss his challenging beginnings and how education provided a path to a better life. He also made a return trip to NVCC in May to present the College’s 2015 commencement address. To mark manufacturing month and to honor waterbury’s proud history as a manufacturing center, NVCC hosted “manufacturing milestones and the Mattatuck community collection at NVCC.” The College and the Mattatuck Museum forged a collaboration to feature a collection of paintings at the College on long-term loan. 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