

# 2010-11 COMMUNITY REPORT

YEAR ONE

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



## A Year in Review...



Naugatuck Valley Community College has had a very productive and rewarding year. My third year as president saw enrollment growth, curricular and scheduling innovation, the strengthening of academic support, multiple efforts to support the implementation of our new strategic plan, significant improvement in student retention and graduation rates and engagement on campus and externally with our community partners. Of particular significance, the leadership and engagement of the College brought together a number of agencies to lobby for evening bus service to the College and the city of Waterbury.

The College continued to manage a budget whose stagnant condition did not match enrollment. We continued to support our mission by earmarking tuition revenues to provide scholarships for students and to support the renewal and renovation of facilities in support of student learning. We also benefited from capital bond funds allocated during the summer of 2010, which helped fund the renovation of the library, laboratories and “smart classrooms” in support of teaching, learning and technology on campus.

“Community” and “student-centeredness” have now taken root and are placed at the center of our work in support of high aspirations for our students. We have established our core values, founded on student success, respect and trust, effective communications, support for human diversity and civic engagement and accountability. These values have served us well, particularly during the spring semester as we continued to be engaged and productive in an environment of organizational and budgetary uncertainty. The tremendous perseverance of our College community shines through as we review the highlights of this year’s accomplishments and contributions. To all who have helped bring this light to our campus, as always, I wish you a thousand splendid suns and offer many, many thanks. Mil gracias y bendiciones.

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.  
President



# Student Success

## EXPANDING ACCESS

NVCC Danbury Center moved to Main Street in October increasing capacity by 25%, establishing a new CNA/Health Lab and consolidating learning space with administrative services. Danbury enrollments increased 71% from spring 2010 to spring 2011.

NVCC increased the available time blocks for students to take courses by adding classes at 6:30 a.m. and on Sundays. "Late Start" courses began this fall, enabling students to take courses after the commencement of the traditional semester.

## BUILDING BRIDGES TO COLLEGE

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

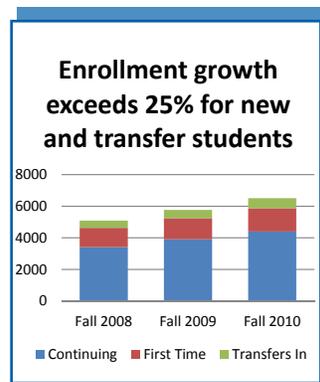
**92** high school students in Waterbury toured and applied to NVCC, took the College placement test, participated in a financial aid seminar and learned about registering for classes in April on behalf of the KnowHow2Go - Connecticut Post-Secondary Access and Success Grant.

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

**29** Waterbury juniors and seniors enrolled in the College Connections program to take manufacturing courses at NVCC. Eight of these students graduated from NVCC with a certificate in manufacturing.

**23** area juniors and seniors received a Principal-to-President Scholarship and took 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.



More than 50 Connecticut students attended the first College Goal Sunday at NVCC to learn about and apply for financial aid. More than \$13 million in aid was awarded in 2010-11.

Students overwhelmingly voted to self-impose a \$10 per semester transportation fee for U-passes, which provide unlimited local bus rides to students.

## SUPPORTING RETENTION

NVCC graduated more students in 2011 than ever before and continues to seek out ways to help our students complete college.

Incoming students attended New Student Orientation and joined learning cohorts centered around mandatory First Year Experience courses.

The consolidation of counseling, career services, disability services, academic advising and testing into the Center for Academic Planning and Student Success (CAPSS) expanded student access to support services. New college-wide academic advising and mentoring programs also improved one-to-one interaction between students and College employees.

Self-paced developmental math and Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching "Statway" courses were incorporated to create bridges out of remedial math for students.

Library and Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) hours were extended to evenings and weekends. During exam week, the two facilities participated in "Late Night Exam Crams," which offered food, prizes and study kits to students who stayed on campus to study.



# Workforce Development

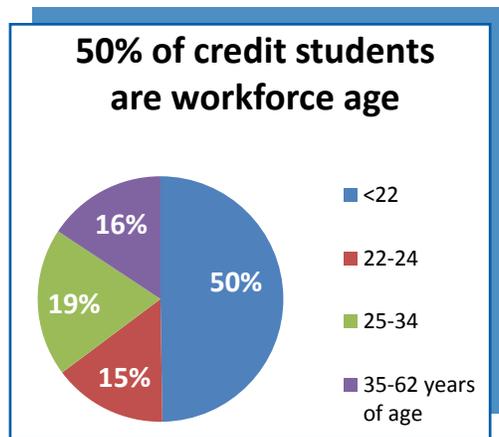
## MATCHING STUDENTS WITH JOBS

### Healthcare

Students are answering the community's call for healthcare service providers and becoming certified in their fields with high levels of success.

| 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%                 |

Data as of 08/23/2011



### Workforce Achievers Value Education (WAVE)

Thirty-two underrepresented students are currently pursuing certificates or associate degrees while receiving enhanced academic support, credentials, job seeking skills and work experience thanks to funding from the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board (NRWIB). The 3-year graduation rate for certificates and associate degrees among WAVE students is approximately 82%.

### Green Technology

The Alternative Energy Systems Technology certificate is one of eight sustainable energy programs offered at Connecticut Community Colleges. The certificate prepares students for nationally recognized certification exams and to enter the "green" jobs market.

A free non-credit green technology series was also launched, including LEED certification for construction professionals and weatherization techniques for homeowners.

## MANUFACTURING PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

The Waterbury Board of Education is preparing to expand the College Connections program, a collaborative training partnership between the NRWIB and NVCC. The program is designed to provide high school juniors and seniors with opportunities to consider career paths in manufacturing.

Through the program, students from local high schools can participate in a series of courses in machine shop practices and related subject matter, which earn both high school and college credits. The coursework involves both classroom and manufacturing lab settings and includes regularly scheduled exams and independent assignments. The classes are conducted at NVCC during the regular school day.

As of April, the program enrolled 29 city students. In May, eight of those students graduated from NVCC with 23 college credits and a certificate in manufacturing.

President Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D., and Catherine Awwad, executive director of NRWIB, have both committed to helping expand the program per the city's demands.

"We will do everything we can to help cultivate this partnership," said President De Filippis. "As a College our mission is to respond to community needs and provide opportunities for our students. More job-ready manufacturing graduates will not only help transform lives, but also our community."



# Community Engagement

## MAKING FRIENDS AND BECOMING A BETTER NEIGHBOR

### Leadership

Evening bus service will begin in Waterbury this October thanks to the dedication of College leadership and the support of NVCC students, the city of Waterbury, Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley, Connecticut Department of Transportation, Waterbury and Saint Mary's Hospitals, UConn Waterbury, Waterbury Regional Chamber, State Senator Joan V. Hartley and other local officials. Waterbury is the only city in Connecticut that doesn't currently offer evening bus service.

The Institutional Planning Committee (IPC) continued to support the College's strategic plan, *Toward a Splendid College: Naugatuck Valley Community College 2010-2013*, and serve as an effective vehicle for communication, goal setting and tracking success. With the support of the IPC and the engagement of stake-holders, we were able to tie our goals to system-wide priorities and accrediting expectations.

The growing NVCC Foundation was restructured to better support the strategic goals and needs of the College, adding six new members, electing new leadership, expanding the executive board and raising approximately \$55,000 for the College.

Under new dynamic leadership and membership, the Regional Advisory Council brought school superintendents and principals on campus for information and tours, reviving a partnership that will help champion College programs and resources in area middle and high schools.

The Office of Community Engagement brought local legislators together for the first annual Legislative Breakfast in January to begin conversations toward common goals; organized the College's second annual Community Event, which reported on the substantial progress of 40 community partnerships and established new collaborations for the upcoming year; helped raise support and funding for the renovation of the College's Veterans Oasis, the naming of Technology Hall classrooms and the creation of two new teaching gardens.

### Engagement

- The Jane Doe No More Foundation and Women's Business Development Center were welcomed into the new Women's Center to support our students and strengthen outreach.
- The revamped *Fresh Ink* literary magazine hosted a widely attended writers conference.
- The College presented *Confluencia*, a poetry reading, in Danbury for the first time in partnership with the Danbury Palace Theater.
- Union Savings Bank partnered with Non-credit Lifelong Learning to offer a free, six-part "Green Technology Homeowners Series" in Waterbury and Danbury.
- Twenty engineering students attended NVCC with support of a "Latinos in Engineering" grant from the Connecticut Community Foundation. Engineering students also received support from the Northeast Utilities Foundation, The Siemon Company and Luvata Waterbury, Inc.
- Six students were inaugurated into the first President's Circle of Student and Faculty Advisors and led lobbying efforts in Hartford against proposed budget cuts.
- The College embarked upon a campus-wide self-study in preparation for our upcoming accreditation.
- NVCC hosted two conferences for the American Council on Education, Connecticut Women in Higher Education Network.
- With funding from Webster Bank and volunteer support from the president, staff and students, St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen is now able to open and feed the hungry on Sundays.
- The president's monthly e-newsletter was distributed to community leaders and legislative delegation throughout the academic year.

"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