

# COMMUNITY

## Year Three Report: Toward a Splendid College Strategic Plan 2016-2026

5 goals • 10 priorities • 40 targets



# REPORT

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.



### NVCC: A CARING COMMUNITY OF PURPOSE



**"... (Naugatuck Valley Community College) is not just a community college; it is a cloud filled with silver linings and dreams, aspirations and goals, and a lot of winners..."** - excerpt from a May 17 thank you note from Belinda Dupre, NVCC Food Service Management Student

As I conclude my eleventh 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 2018-2019 ends, we recently completed a beautiful cycle of celebrations of achievements, renewing with vigor our commitment to change lives and communities for the better. It has been a remarkable year both in present achievements and in our ability to engage community, within and outside the confines of our splendid campuses, in planning, implementing and continued collaboration. As a result, we have experienced powerful outcomes at both the Waterbury and the Danbury Campuses.

We are happy to report that our Founders Hall Capital Campaign has seen pledges turn into contributions, meeting and exceeding our \$1 million goal. A report on our Capital Campaign has been prepared to present to the Foundation, as we request that they engage in other fundraising projects of their choice, based on our Facilities Master Plan or our strategic goals for academic and student support. This year also saw significant grant funding awarded by federal and state agencies, and an increase in philanthropy by our industry and community partners that has resulted in additional support for our students totaling approximately \$1,200,000. In addition, our NVCC Foundation had another very successful Leadership Breakfast that resulted in a significant increase in scholarship funds for our students.

As I review our work this past year, it is evident that despite significant budget reductions, 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 predicates 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.

We have so much to celebrate, so much to consider, but we stand firm, believing that our mission and our strategic plan will keep us on the right path, that of the caring community of purpose our students and our splendid College deserve.

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

# PEOPLE

Diversity and Equity



**Student Success**  
 NVCC became the first community college in Connecticut to award a total of more than 1,000 associate degrees and certificates in 2012. This achievement will be repeated for the eighth year in a row in 2019 when the College will confer a projected

1,117 awards by August 2019.

Since AY2007-2008 NVCC has seen 103% growth in the number of graduates, 506% increase in the number of Hispanics graduating, and 112% increase in the number of male students graduating.

**Community Service** - We are still good neighbors each Sunday and celebrate our eleventh year of community service at the St. Vincent de Paul soup kitchen. This year, the NVCC Student Food Pantry received generous support from the United Way, the Connecticut Food Bank, the AmeriCorps program, and a number of support activities that signal kindness and generosity by our NVCC family.



**Social Justice** - A number of activities guided by our faculty and administration, including the opening of a Center for Racial Dialogue and Communal Transformation. The Center, supported by students and staff,

engaged the college in the creation of vehicles to support social justice, civic engagement, racial harmony and a spirit of kindness and support of each other and the larger community. The powerful speaker series included a ribbon cutting ceremony with Representative Jahana Hayes and Mayor Neil M. O'Leary, and a Community Forum on Adichie's *The Danger of a Single Story* and How It Impacts Dialogue about Patriotism.

*The Tamarack*, our award-winning student newspaper, launched a year of focus on social and civic engagement that illustrated beautifully the values of NVCC.



**Celebration of Diversity**  
 In mid-April, NVCC celebrated its third International Center for the Arts (ICA) Festival, welcoming more than a thousand participants to the Waterbury Campus over the course of three days.

This year's theme was "Crossing Borders: Africa," featuring Aguibou Sanou and a multitude of cultural events including an art exhibit, poetry readings, an open mic, an original student play, improvisation by NVCC's Terpischorean Dance Club, international films, storytelling, a drum circle, dance workshops, and a symposium on Burkina Faso traditions and education.

**Grants and Awards** - NVCC was awarded a CCAMPIS (Child Care Access Means Parents in School Program) grant from the federal Department of Education that will allow NVCC's Center for Early Childhood to implement a sliding scale for the Center's tuition, of zero dollars per Pell-eligible student. The grant is estimated at approximately \$89,000 for the first year and is renewable for four years.

NVCC was awarded a \$75,000 PASS grant from the Connecticut Office of Higher Education. The Promoting Academically Successful Students grant supports 50 NVCC students from underrepresented groups who are on academic probation. In response to the grant award, the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) created four academic coach positions to address academic skills and created weekly academic skills workshops that included time-management, mindset, reading for college, note taking and more.

In July 2018, NVCC was awarded a grant from the Connecticut Community Foundation to implement the Women's LEAP (Lead, Empower, Achieve and Persist) program. The Women's LEAP program will support the needs of a select group of women at risk who, despite overwhelming challenges, have demonstrated resilience and tenacity in furthering their educations. This initiative will serve to enhance their college experience with relevant workshops and mentorships helping to improve retention leading to graduation and preparing these women for meaningful careers.

NVCC's strong Danbury Early College Opportunities (DECO) program had another successful year working with Danbury High School. The DECO initiative, in partnership with New Oak and Danbury High School, is now in its fourth year. From the first cohort of DECO students, seventeen students joined NVCC graduates at our May 2019 commencement, earning an impressive eleven associate degrees and twelve certificates among them.



The manufacturing program in Danbury recently received a \$225,000 scholarship from Praxair in support of a cohort of new students in Danbury; the Praxair Skills Pipeline had a successful launching

this past spring, and will begin its first cohort in the fall.

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. NVCC plans to use the \$73,681 grant to enhance its advanced manufacturing technology program to include welding technology in its Danbury service area.

# PROGRESS

High Touch and High Tech

**STEM Success** - Professors Rebecca Binney, Peter Angelastro, and Marian Zerbi are principal investigators for a National Science Foundation (NSF)'s S-STEM: Broadening Participation and Institutional Capacity Grant. The grant awards approximately \$650,000 to create the Naugatuck Valley STEM Inclusive Opportunity Network. NViSION will provide 75 students with \$1,000 to \$5,000-per-year scholarships.



**Healthy Campus**  
Professor Sandra Valente has secured a third Connecticut Healthy Campus grant and continues to facilitate monthly NARCAN trainings for

students, faculty and staff, supported by this award.

**Collaborating for Progress** - NVCC engaged in collaborative efforts with Danbury area educational partners: an MOU was signed for space to open an AMTC and a physics lab at Western Connecticut State University to support growth in enrollment for the programs. At the same time, Abbott Tech High School will share space with NVCC to hold the welding labs purchased with the CHEFA grant and to offer classes in this space to the first NVCC/Praxair Skills Pipeline cohort of manufacturing students.



**Financial Aid** -We support students and communities in generous and thoughtful ways. During academic year 2018-2019, we awarded a total of \$12,064,340 in financial aid.



**Program Success**  
The Cybersecurity A.S. degree program saw a significant growth in the number of majors and continued collaboration with Webster Bank's

community experts in the field.

Allied Health and Nursing licensure pass rates for the class of 2018 continue to reach above the national average, with 100% pass rates for the Respiratory Care program, our perennially strong Nursing and Radiologic Technician programs report 98% and 95% pass rates, respectively. Physical Therapy Assistant Program students achieved an 83.3% pass rate on their exam.



The NVCC Radiologic Technology Program was awarded continuing accreditation status by the Joint Review Committee on Education in

Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) following the May 2018 site visit. This reaccreditation is awarded for an eight-year period—the maximum award of accreditation from the JRCERT.

The Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) ranked NVCC's Respiratory Therapy program as meeting and exceeding certain national thresholds for 2018. In the three-year period from 2015 through 2017, the program reported job placement rates of 100%, 100%, and 91%, respectively. To put this into perspective, the national average for job placement is 86% according to a 2017 CoARC program outcomes report.

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.



**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 three years remaining, in addition to other grants. All focused primarily on college preparation and access to college for high school students

The Union Savings Bank Cynthia Stevens Grant for \$15,000 was awarded to NVCC's Danbury Campus to grow the Summer Bridge Program and support classes of high school or first-semester college students in their English courses.



**Engine of Change**  
NVCC continues to be an engine of change, contributing \$626.5 million in total annual income to the North-West region of Connecticut, according to EMSI.

For every dollar invested in NVCC, Connecticut will gain \$10.80 in added state revenue and social savings. For every dollar NVCC students spend on their NVCC education, they will gain an addition \$7.10 in lifetime earnings.

# PARTNERSHIPS

Citizenry and Civility



**Fulbright Scholar**  
The Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence program approved our fourth scholar for the 2018-2019 academic year and NVCC welcomed Aguibou Bougobali Sanou

from Burkina Faso, West Africa. He is an international performer specializing in African Dance. Our partner in this beautiful initiative was the Waterbury Arts Magnet School. Sanou taught classes at NVCC, taught a Master Class at Eastern Connecticut State University, collaborated with grant partners, held dance-related community activities, choreographed the NVCC musical *Little Shop of Horrors*, and headlined the annual International Center for the Arts community celebration.

**Our Alumni** - The NVCC Alumni Association in collaboration with the NVCC AMTC hosted an event this past fall, to reconnect alumni and support NVCC students in manufacturing. The event raised over \$7,000 to support the educational expenses of manufacturing students with an unmet need.



In October 2018, the NVCC Alumni Association hosted its inaugural speaker series in which four distinguished NVCC alumni—Charles J. Boulier, III, Kathryn Luria, Jim O'Rourke, and

Geraldo Reyes, Jr.,—discussed their paths to leading successful careers. The event featured an opening reception sponsored by a grant awarded by the Connecticut Community Foundation.

**Community Partnerships** - The College continues to make significant contributions to the social fabric of life and our communities: exemplified by our support in implementing two successful Working Cities grants, one in Waterbury and the other in Danbury; our Dance and Music programs with students participating in activities designed to support the



Greater Waterbury Arts Collaborative and the Mattatuck Museum; close work with the United Way of Greater Waterbury on a number of projects, including the VITA

program; the continued location of the Smaller Manufacturers Association of Connecticut offices on campus; and hosting of a number of manufacturing-related activities on campus.

NVCC hosted the Waterbury Chamber of Commerce STEM Expo titled "Build the Future Workforce and Support Youth and Career Development" November 2018 and exposed over 400 area high school and middle school students to MET, EET and MFG engineering labs, as well as exhibitors in education and industry.

Evening bus service continues to enable students and area citizens to attend class and travel to work. Since it began, bus ridership is approaching 1.7 million riders.



**NVCC Foundation**  
The NVCC Foundation hosted its second annual Leadership Breakfast fundraiser to support the educational needs of NVCC students.

The program featured a keynote address by Adam Grossman, Executive Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer of the Boston Red Sox.



The College celebrated the unveiling of the sculpture, "Ricordo di un bacio mancato" (Memory of an Unfulfilled Kiss) on the front lawn of Technology Hall. The sculpture

was gifted to the College by Eduardo Giannattasio, and fabricated by Pisani Steel Fabrication. Giuseppe Pisani honored the memory of his wife, MaryJean with this gift to the College, and it stands as a symbol of the connection between the college and our industry partners.



**Community Events** - We also point to the many community events held at NVCC, attended in many instances by over 100 community partners, such as the NVCC Foundation

Leadership Breakfast, the Legislators and Leaders Breakfast, the meetings of the Regional Advisory Council and the Annual Community Meeting every June which sees over 125 leaders congregate to hear about our work during the past academic year and our plans for the next academic year.

# PRAISE and thank you!



**Accolades** - In February 2019, the NVCC Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center (AMTC) was one of ten finalists nationwide to be invited by the Bellwether College Consortium to present how

our Advanced Manufacturing Technology program drives workforce development in our service region.



Faculty and students in the Horticulture Program put together a landscape display for the CT Flower Show at the Hartford Convention Center and competed

against many landscape businesses and trade organizations throughout the state. NVCC's horticulture design won two awards: "Best Outdoor Living Space" and "Best Urban Garden."



The Max R. Traurig Library celebrated the grand opening of a new "Reading Commons" on the College's Waterbury Campus. The books and redesign were made possible thanks to the 2018 Excellence in Academic Libraries

Award that NVCC's Max R. Traurig Library received from the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL).



In October 2018, President De Filippis was inducted as a member of the Connecticut Immigrant Heritage Hall of Fame. President De Filippis also participated in the eighth annual Coloquio Internacional

de Latino Artists Round Table (LART) delivering the keynote on October 24. The title of her presentation, in Spanish, was "Retazos de vida: Reflexiones de una académica-abuela" (translation: "Snapshots of Life: Reflections of an Academic-Abuela").

President De Filippis was one of six inductees to receive a "Wonder Woman" Award from the Malta House of Care which honors women who "improve their communities on-stage or behind-the-scenes."

In December 2018, CALAHE (the Connecticut Association of Latinos in Higher Education) recognized NVCC for its achievements as a designated Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). CALAHE also honored President De Filippis with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

**Academic Success** - ABET, the accreditation board for engineering and technology continues to accredit our certificate and degree programs.

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) announced that NVCC's Early Childhood Education (ECE) associate degree program earned full 7-year accreditation. The report commends the ECE program on several strengths, namely that it is a program where "strong learning opportunities are provided for all of the key elements." The NAEYC report also cites that a strength of the program is its collection of data on standards from the revised assessments and that it uses that data to improve teaching and learning. The program's emphasis on student advising and its "highly qualified and stable faculty" were also cited as strengths.



Twelve NVCC students, along with Program Director for Respiratory Care, Margaret Guerrero, set up an Asthma Camp at Waterbury's Driggs Elementary school on March 12. They

coordinated engaging educational events to help K-5 children learn more about their asthma and how to better manage it in a fun "camp-like" environment.

In Fall 2018, the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) expanded the successful "Un-workshop" program, which focused on academic skills. More than 150 students participated from the First Year Experience (FYE) and Communications classes. In addition, the ACE YouTube channel reached over 1,000 views in 2018. Students spent close to 2,000 hours watching ACE videos that assist students with science, writing, and academic skills.



**LEED Success**  
The U.S. Green Building Council awarded NVCC's Founders Hall Center for Health Sciences with LEED Gold certification. LEED, or Leadership in

Energy and Environmental Design, is the most widely-used green building rating system in the world and is a globally recognized symbol of sustainability achievement.

# YOUR COMMUNITY COLLEGE



# EXPLORING



# COMMUNITY HORIZONS

