

2014-2015 Community Report



YEAR TWO: TOWARD A SPLENDID COLLEGE STRATEGIC PLAN 2013-2016

GOALS

- I. At NVCC, students achieve their goals.
- II. NVCC faculty and staff make a difference – at the College, in the community, in their fields of study, and in the lives of students.
- III. NVCC programs meet and beat academic and industry standards.
- IV. NVCC is an engine of change within Waterbury and the broader community.
- V. NVCC is an effective, performance-based institution.



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 us 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.

Mil gracias y bendiciones.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daisy Cocco De Filippis".

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.
President



Achieving Goals



President De Filippis with SGA President Iralis De Jesus at 2015 Commencement.

NVCC celebrated, for the fourth year in a row, a graduating class of over 1,000 awards, at its 50th commencement ceremony held at the Palace Theater in Waterbury. It was the first commencement for the College as a designated HSI (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 3-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.



President De Filippis with 2014-15 President's Circle.

The College inducted ten new students and two returning students into the prestigious President's Circle. Membership represents the highest honor a student may receive while matriculating at NVCC. These students have a minimum GPA of 3.4; they represent a select group of outstanding achievers who serve as the College's Student Ambassadors.

Thirty-four students of NVCC's Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center (AMTC) were honored with awards for high academic achievement. Established by the President to challenge manufacturing students to excel, the awards recognize students with GPAs in the top tenth percentile of their class.

Forty NVCC students were initiated into the Alpha Beta Gamma International Business Honor Society. The inductees became members of the Tau Chapter of the society, pledging "in the conduct of our activities, truth shall be our quest, diligence our staff, and achievement our purpose."

Twenty-one students were honored at the annual Physical Therapy Pinning Ceremony, which occurs after students finish their Physical Therapy Assistant coursework.

The President's annual High Tea Ceremony honored ten women who have overcome adversity to succeed at NVCC; the College's Male Encouragement Network recognized nine outstanding male students.

Making a Difference

NVCC continued its 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-skill 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.



NVCC hosts the inaugural Male Youth Summit in April.

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 advance 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 Zinser 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 prepare and serve meals through the financial support of Webster Bank.

Meeting and Beating Standards

LIBERAL ARTS, GEN ED & TRANSFER

The College hosted its third annual Spring Open House, welcoming more than 450 potential students, parents and educators to campus.

In November and April, the College hosted transfer fairs for students to obtain information about the transfer process to the four Connecticut State Universities, Charter Oak State College and private institutions.

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 were available to walk prospective students through the financial aid process.

IMPROVING JOB PLACEMENT

As part of a coalition of Connecticut's 12 public community colleges, NVCC shared in a \$1.7 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor under the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training competitive grant program. The College is using its share of the funding to launch incumbent worker training in manufacturing at Abbott Technical High School in Danbury and Kaynor Technical High School in Waterbury.

NVCC's Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center reported an 87 percent job placement rate and partnerships with 135 companies. The College's workforce training enrollment and completion numbers for 2013-14 were among the highest within Connecticut's 12 public community colleges.

The Smaller Manufacturers Association, which continues to occupy an office at the College, assisted students with job placement and helped create additional opportunities for students to work with local manufacturers.

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.

Supported by generous contributions from two benefactors, 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.

Maximizing Effectiveness



Governor Malloy and President De Filippis (center) lead a groundbreaking ceremony for NVCC's Center for Health Sciences.

The State Bond Commission approved a \$39 million allocation—the largest in the history of the College—to bond the renovation of Founders Hall and establish NVCC's Center for Health Sciences. The College hosted Governor Dannel P. Malloy, state and local dignitaries, and NVCC students, faculty and staff for a groundbreaking ceremony in April.

In an effort to be a designated "Veteran Friendly Institution," NVCC created a welcoming environment for veterans, which includes vet-to-vet mentoring, services for veterans with disabilities and veteran-focused events in the Oasis Center, a campus lounge dedicated exclusively to veterans.

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 2013-2016" and the 2014 edition of the Garden Book "The Gardens of Naugatuck Valley Community College."

COLLABORATION BY THE NUMBERS

STUDENT SUCCESS JUST KEEPS GROWING...

2,500+ potential students were actively recruited to campus through information sessions, high school visits, workshops and conferences, the third annual NVCC Open House, and other outreach.

2,300+ eighth and ninth graders participated in the third year of Waterbury GEAR UP, receiving additional academic support in math, science and English as well as bilingual, small-group mentoring by NVCC students. More than 400 students visited NVCC throughout the year to engage in the college experience.

100 inner-city high school students participated in the Connecticut Collegiate Awareness and Preparation (ConnCAP) program.* Twenty-four of this year's 25 graduating seniors will attend college in the fall; 6 have enrolled at NVCC; one enlisted in the Marine Corps.

37 NVCC students participated in the Community College Scholars (CCS) program this year. Fourteen students have graduated with two more on track for August conferral. The majority of graduating CCS students earned an associate degree within two years. Between fall 2013 and fall 2014, the program boasted an overall retention rate of 82 percent. In addition, students in the 2013 cohort finished their fourth semester with a retention rate of 74 percent.

30 high school juniors and seniors received a Principal-to-President Scholarship to take one three-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.**

17 Waterbury-area high school juniors and seniors enrolled in the College Connections program to take manufacturing courses at NVCC. Of these students, 7 seniors graduated from NVCC in May with a certificate in manufacturing before graduating from high school.**

* Funded by the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board (WIB) and the Waterbury Board of Education

** Funded by WIB



NVCC Advanced Manufacturing Technology student, Chris Umar.

Being an Engine of Change in Waterbury and Beyond...

PARTNERSHIPS & PRESENCE



In collaboration with COCC of Southington, NVCC developed a Cybersecurity Summit to explore the skills and education required by companies that specialize in the field of cybersecurity. The summit also served to inform the decision-making process as the College builds an associate degree program in cybersecurity. It was the second of seven industry sector summits planned by NVCC, to help assess the needs of employers. The first, held at Kimberly Clark in New Milford, focused on manufacturing.

NVCC and COCC host a Cybersecurity Summit.

NVCC partnered with Saint Mary's Hospital and the City of Waterbury to improve bus service to campus. Through a generous sponsorship, the hospital provided funds to erect a bus shelter; the College and the City split the cost of new sidewalks along Chase Parkway. A groundbreaking/ribbon-cutting ceremony was held 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.



Celebrating 50 years of NVCC!

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. Eleven art pieces were installed on campus last fall; another piece was slated to be installed in the spring.



NVCC marks Manufacturing Month.

PRE-COLLEGIATE PATHWAYS

The College hosted the fourth annual Greater Waterbury Educational Leadership Forum for educators from across NVCC's service region. The event is a joint project between the College and the City of Waterbury to expand local awareness and opportunities for pre-collegiate partnerships.



NVCC hosts annual Elementary Level School Leadership Conference.

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 Association's 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.

"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

