



Waterbury State Technical College • Mattatuck Community College

Success Highlights

Academic Year 2014-2015

“In Academic Year 2014-2015, NVCC embarked on a series of activities to mark 50 years in the history of our institution. Our work, our commitment to mission and what the college represents for so many is tied to the most beautiful and fundamental democratic principles. These principles led to the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and also to the founding of community colleges in Connecticut in 1965. I am proud to affirm that our work at NVCC continues to honor and support this vision of a just and inclusive society.”

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D., President

NVCC finished fiscal year 2014 in the black, and fiscal year 2015 is projected to yield a small or modest budget surplus despite two rescissions. The College awarded a total of \$14,796,186.00 in financial aid to students for the 2014-2015 academic year.

NVCC became the first community college in CT to award more than 1,000 associate degrees and certificates in 2012, an achievement surpassed for the fourth year in a row in 2015. At commencement on May 28, the College conferred an estimated 1,234 awards, including 845 associate degrees and 389 certificates to students from 80 municipalities across Connecticut and 7 states in total. The final numbers will be confirmed in August 2015.

Since Academic Year 2007-2008 the College has seen a 156% increase in the total number of awards, a 180% increase in the number of male graduates and a 409% increase in Hispanic student graduates.

Naugatuck Valley Community College has been designated an Eligible Institution by the U.S. Department of Education under Titles III and V of the Higher Education Act of 1965. This distinction allows the College to pursue grants under the Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) Program to expand educational opportunities for, and improve the attainment of, Hispanic students through enhanced academic offerings. The HSI Program seeks to help large numbers of Hispanic students complete postsecondary degrees.

NVCC faculty approved adoption of the Transfer Articulation Plan’s General Education Framework for all transfer and terminal degree programs. The General Education Assessment and Curriculum Design Committee has worked with program coordinators to ensure that all programs have adopted these new requirements which will be in place for new incoming students at the start of the Fall 2015 semester. The General Education Assessment and Curriculum Design Committee has mapped all of the college’s core courses to the Transfer Articulation Plan’s competency framework. This map is published on the college website: <http://www.nv.edu/Academics/General-Education/Approved-Courses>.

The College held its first industry sector summit at Kimberly Clark in New Milford, CT with a focus on Manufacturing. This event was the first in a planned series of seven industry sector events to help the College assess the needs of employers. In March of 2015, in collaboration with COCC of Southington, NVCC held a Cybersecurity Summit to explore the skills and education required by companies that specialize in the field of cybersecurity. The summit served to inform the decision-making process as the College builds an associate degree program in cybersecurity.

Evening bus service for the campus and the City of Waterbury advocated by NVCC and initiated in October of 2011, has reported citywide bus rides. Students using the UPASS (unlimited, free bus transportation for registered students) have taken over 423,500 day and evening rides, and over 747,700 Waterbury residents have utilized evening bus service. As a result of the success of the Waterbury UPASS initiative, the Student Government Association (SGA) voted this semester to offer UPASS benefits to students at the Danbury campus and to support a public bus between the Waterbury and Danbury campuses. The College is in the process of working with local transportation companies on the logistics of these services.

Under the leadership of the SGA, students organized a “Sidewalk Rally” to raise awareness for the need of sidewalks to be installed along Chase Parkway, a state highway, to address safety concerns for both students and community members utilizing public transportation. The College partnered with the City of Waterbury and St. Mary’s Hospital on these initiatives and through a generous sponsorship, the hospital provided funds to erect a bus shelter, while the City and the College split the cost of the new sidewalks along Chase Parkway.

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 in January 2015. The renovation has begun and progress is currently ahead of schedule.

NVCC Allied Health licensure pass rates for the class of 2014 continued to demonstrate the strength of the College’s programs through results above the national average with 100% pass rates for the Radiologic Technology, Respiratory Care and Physical Therapy Assistant programs, and an 88% pass rate for the Nursing Program- well above the national average of 79.26%.

The lease for the College’s new Danbury Campus location was approved by the Board of Regents in December 2014 and NVCC is planning for late fall occupancy with classes to begin in January 2016. Enrollment at the Danbury Campus continues to grow, with 1,008 students (459 FTE) registered for the Spring 2015 semester. The Danbury SGA members have assumed an active role in NVCC activities and events, and the first club to be established in Danbury- the Multi-Cultural Club- had an active semester and hosted a Student Reading and Open Mic.

The Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center’s (AMTC) evening cohort graduated 16 students, 14 of whom were placed in employment. One graduate decided to continue his education in lieu of immediate placement. The day cohort will graduate 28 students in late May, and 26 students are expected to be placed in employment. In the three years since program inception, the AMTC has a job placement rate of graduates of almost 90%.

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 grant kicked off at Abbott Tech (Danbury) with 17 students and the Kaynor Tech (Waterbury) incumbent worker courses will begin in June.

To meet job-training needs, NVCC expanded its Certified Nurse Aide Training Program to the New Milford VNA and Candlewood Valley Health and Rehabilitation Center. The new location provides a more convenient option for residents of New Milford, Brookfield and Danbury.

In a report issued by the BOR in December 2014, NVCC led all other CT community colleges in non-credit workforce certificate completions for AY2013-2014 with 739 completions.

NVCC's "Vet-Net" team was expanded this semester to increase support to our returning Veteran students. Each Veteran student is provided with a list of veteran network staff members in each office that has been trained to provide the appropriate support they need to achieve their academic goals at the College. The "Vet-Net" consists of a dozen staff members that actively participate in professional development opportunities to expand their knowledge on "best practices" to support our growing Veteran population. In addition, important resources have been made available to both students and staff to support student success and the College is working towards being designated a Veteran Friendly Campus.

The "Student Jobs on Campus" initiative received additional support in Spring 2015 with \$10,000 donated to the College to hire students to work on campus. This was an expansion of the original program that provided scholarships to 12 students. A total of eight students were employed during the spring semester; three are graduating this spring and transferring to a university in the fall. The College has just received a \$100,000 scholarship donation from Fairfield County's Community Foundation's Anne Leonhardt Scholarship Program. We will be using this support to expand the "Jobs on Campus" initiative for students at our Danbury campus.

NVCC began the three year celebration of the 50th anniversary of its merged campus (Mattatuck Community College and Waterbury State Tech) in September of 2014. The September 12 celebration was part of the College's annual All College Meeting to kick off the Fall semester. President De Filippis was presented the key to the city of Waterbury from Mayor O'Leary, and many other elected officials and local leaders, including Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro and members of the Connecticut General Assembly's Waterbury delegation provided citations and warm wishes.

The College hosted a number of distinguished speakers who spoke to NVCC faculty, staff and students on the important role of community colleges and higher education.

- Dr. Martha Kanter, Distinguished Visiting Professor of Higher Education and Senior Fellow at New York University and former U.S. Under Secretary of Education
- Dr. Tom Angelo, a nationally recognized expert on teaching in higher education
- Distinguished NVCC Alumnus Colonel Robert McNamara, Ph.D., Associate Provost of Graduate Studies at The Citadel
- Dr. Judith Summerfield, Professor of English Emerita, Queens College, CUNY and former CUNY University Dean for General Education

On October 30, 2014, in honor of Manufacturing Month, NVCC hosted "Manufacturing Milestones and the Mattatuck Community Collection at NVCC." This event honored the proud history of manufacturing in Waterbury and featured inspiring stories from six leading manufacturers in the region and celebrated the installation of the Mattatuck Community Collection at NVCC.

The Mattatuck Community Collection at NVCC, a community collaboration with the Mattatuck Museum, began with the long term loan and installation of eleven art pieces from the museum to the College in the fall of 2014. Another piece is slated to be installed this spring, and the College continues to work with the museum to grow this collection.

The National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) honored NVCC with two prestigious awards for marketing publications that promote the College, including honors in NCMPR's regional competition for the NVCC Strategic Plan "Toward a Splendid College 2013-2016" and the 2014 edition of "The Gardens of Naugatuck Valley Community College."

NVCC's student newspaper, the *Tamarack* received two design awards at the 2015 Connecticut Society of Professional Journalists Excellence in Journalism Awards ceremony on May 21, 2015.

AY2014-2015 was a year of artistic collaboration at the College. In October of 2014, NVCC hosted an international symposium in honor of poet Julia de Burgos' centennial. Speakers and guests from around the United States and the Caribbean helped commemorate the occasion. In addition, the College collaborated with Eastern Connecticut State University, Capital Community College and Quinebaug Valley Community College to ensure that Julia de Burgos was honored throughout the state. The College Chorale joined forces with the Waterbury Symphony, Connecticut Choral Society and New Jersey Choral Society to give two performances of the Verdi "Requiem" this spring. The Choir Society collaborated with the Stage Society and dance program to produce the spring musical "Hairspray" which played to nearly 1,000 people over the course of four performances, and band concerts in December and May included faculty and student soloists, and family-oriented activities. These concerts also featured collaboration with the dance, visual art and early childhood education programs.

NVCC launched its first One Book, One College initiative during the Spring 2015 semester. This year's book When the Emperor Was Divine, by Julie Otsuka is a work of historical fiction, depicting a Japanese-American family's experiences in an internment camp during World War II. Otsuka's powerful novel was critically examined and explored in a total of 11 different activities this semester, including a lecture and discussion led by Christine Reardon, Professor of East Asian history and cultural studies at UConn's Torrington campus.

The third annual College Open House was held on April 26, 2015 with approximately 450 individuals in attendance. This year it was expanded to include the +50 program and all GEAR UP students and their families.

The GWEL (Greater Waterbury Educational Leadership) breakfast was held once again with representation from schools throughout not just greater Waterbury but also Danbury and others within our service region. After College updates on TAP, PA 12-40 and the Founders Hall expansion, community partners had the opportunity to speak to academic Division Directors regarding specific programs and participate in campus tours.

This year the NVCC Workforce Achievers Value Education (W.A.V.E.) Program will be completing its 10th year at the college. The W.A.V.E. Program, which is funded by The Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board, provides support and guidance to students as they transition to post-secondary education. In the last 10 years W.A.V.E has worked with well over 130 students achieving an 88% graduation rate. In 2015 W.A.V.E. graduated fifteen students, twelve of whom will be going on to further their education, one who will be continuing on at NVCC in order to obtain her AS and two others who have obtained full time employment.

The first GEAR UP Career Day was held in April. Approximately 100 GEAR UP students were brought to campus for a "reverse pathways" initiative to connect careers to programs of study. Students learned about credit and non-credit certificates and degree opportunities at the College. The event was very successful and will be held again next year.

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 students actively engaged in numerous activities in support of not only our student body but the community as a whole. As part of the "Make a Difference" initiative, students and staff volunteered their time and talents to help clean up Fulton Park in Waterbury. In recognition of Earth Day, students volunteered their time and energy to help clean up campus, clearing overgrown brush along the pond and arboretum where students and community members often visit. A group of students and staff also traveled to New Jersey as part of Habitat for Humanity to help rebuild a home damaged by Hurricane Sandy. Recognizing the growing need within the city, students continued to volunteer their time and energy to support our community by participating in many activities and events including collecting for Homeless Connect, Literacy Volunteers of Greater Waterbury, Salvation Army "Giving Tree" and Relay for Life.

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

More than 80 leaders from education, government, business, and community attended the annual community meeting to review the progress on *Toward a Splendid College*, the NVCC 2013-16 strategic plan. The meeting theme was "Today's Plans...Tomorrow's Results." The event focused on NVCC partnerships with area school systems, with remarks from the superintendents of schools in Waterbury and Danbury and the superintendent of the Connecticut Technical High School System. Roundtable discussions explored ideas about growing those partnerships and advancing other aspects of the college's five strategic planning goals.

On January 9, 2015, six state legislators, two first selectmen, and 40 others attended the annual Leadership Breakfast to explore mutual interests, particularly NVCC's goal for state bonding to renovate Founders Hall and construct the new Center for Health Sciences. The college and government leaders discussed ways to advance the project through advocacy in the Governor's Office and among legislators at the Capitol. NVCC and the United Way of Greater Waterbury unveiled early plans to address the findings in the recently published report, *Meet ALICE* (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed). ALICE citizens are increasing in numbers and, though working, are finding it difficult to keep up with the costs of housing, transportation, child care, and health services. The United Way and NVCC will collaborate on a series of financial management workshops to help ALICE citizens, with a focus on NVCC students. The NVCC Foundation is participating in the collaboration.

The NVCC Foundation is leading the upcoming equipment and technology funding campaign for the new Center for Health Sciences. The focus of the Campaign is advancing NVCC's Nursing and Allied Health programs as they respond to the communities' growing need for job-ready healthcare professionals.

As part of the NVCC strategic plan goal to become a performance based institution, the college embarked on the first phase of an effort to improve standards of service to students and the community. Each unit of the college (e.g., academic, administration, student services, etc.) met to review the areas they would address over the year to provide excellent services. The project includes identifying the needs for continuing and improved services, measuring those improvements, and adjusting their services approaches where needed. The units identified near-term and long-term service standards.

The Office of Human Resources (HR) is currently participating in a pilot project with the System Office and two vendors to digitize employee personnel files. An electronic repository is being created based on our specifications and we are expecting to begin the scanning phase of the project in May 2015.

In October 2014, the Director of HR completed the Train the Trainer Certificate Program offered by the Connecticut Training & Development Network and the Department of Administrative Services and became a certified trainer. This now allows HR to conduct many mandatory and other types of trainings at no cost to the College.