

# 2012-13 COMMUNITY REPORT

YEAR THREE

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



## A Year of Significant Accomplishments...

My Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Naugatuck Valley Community College has had a very productive and rewarding year. My fifth year as President of the College saw sustained growth in enrollment, continued curricular and scheduling innovation, the strengthening of academic support, multiple accomplishments produced through implementation of initiatives in the third year of our strategic plan, significant improvement in student retention and graduation rates, increased engagement on campus and externally with our community partners, and another year where we celebrate a record number of associate degrees and certificates awarded.

The College continued its trajectory of fiscal responsibility. Our two-year-long reflection and self-assessment led to the College's renewed accreditation for another ten years. Successful implementation of our GEAR UP program and the birth of the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center have positioned us as innovators in education and social growth within our region. The Institutional Planning Committee continued its work to ensure quality programs and access for students, as exemplified by significant work on outcomes assessment and program review, the growth of our Danbury Center and the continued contributions of the College to the social fabric of life as exemplified by the beautiful installation of a mural by our Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence, the Father Cascia Award for Community Service for our participation in the St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen, the locating of the Smaller Manufacturers Association of Connecticut offices on campus and the continued growth in the number of rides taken by our students and Waterbury residents who avail themselves of evening bus services in the City of Waterbury. In addition, our Academic Center for Excellence is now certified by the College Reading and Learning Association's International Tutor Training Program, our Engineering programs continue to be ABET-accredited and our Allied Health graduates continue to have success in their licensure exams.

With these and so many other great works ahead of us, let us take a moment to be proud and reflect together on this past year's achievements. To all I wish a thousand splendid suns and offer many, many thanks. Mil gracias y bendiciones.

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.  
President





# Student Success

## ADDRESSING COLLEGE READINESS

**1650** + potential students were actively recruited to campus through information sessions, high school visits, workshops and conferences, the first annual NVCC Open House, principal-to-president scholarships and the Greater Waterbury Educational Leadership program.

**1370** sixth and seventh graders signed up for the pilot 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 1,000 students visited NVCC throughout the year to engage in the college experience.

**140** Waterbury eleventh and twelfth graders participated in the College Access Challenge (CAC) program to get their math and English skills college-ready.

**105** inner-city high school students participated in the Connecticut Collegiate Awareness and Preparation (ConnCAP) program.\* All of this year's 23 graduating seniors will attend college in the fall; 18 have enrolled at NVCC.

**80** underrepresented students joined the Community College Scholars (CCS) program, completed a First Year Experience (FYE) course and participated in weekly advisory and study sessions.

**26** Waterbury students enrolled in the College Connections program to take manufacturing courses at NVCC. Nine of these students graduated from NVCC with a certificate in manufacturing before graduating from high school.\*\*

**23** 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.\*\*

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

## EXPECTING ACADEMIC SUCCESS

The Center for Academic Planning and Student Success (CAPSS) continued efforts to support College-wide advising by expanding services to the Danbury Center. All NVCC students now have access to full academic advising, including graduation review clinics when they reach 45 credits or more, at their primary learning location.

The College piloted mandatory 1.5-credit First Year Experience (FYE) courses to first-year, full-time students in 2011-12 resulting in 75% cohort re-enrollment in fall 2012, 86% of cohort students having an overall GPA of C or better, and 75% of cohort students accumulating 20 or more college credits in their first year, putting them on track for successful college completion.

From Fall 2009 to Fall 2012, the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) experienced a 123% increase in student utilization. In Fall 2012, the overall pass-rate for developmental math was 15% higher for ACE users. Students who used the ACE five times or more during the same semester achieved an 84% pass-rate. In Spring 2012, developmental English students who regularly used the ACE had a 93% pass rate.

In response to Public Act No. 12-40, An Act Concerning College Readiness and Completion, the Math Department is reducing the amount of time students spend in developmental math. This year, the department piloted an Intermediate Algebra course, combining the outcomes for Beginning Algebra and Intermediate Algebra in one semester. An Introductory Algebra class will be piloted in the Fall 2013 semester, combining the outcomes for both Pre-Algebra and Beginning Algebra.

At the Honors Institute End-of-Year Showcase, nine students presented a semester's worth of work and research in independent studies. Formed in 2011, the Honors Institute challenges academically successful students to take higher-level courses and engage in research to receive an Honors designation on their transcript.

Five Human Biology students presented an abstract at the New England Science Symposium held at Harvard Medical School. The forum invites all students, from community college freshmen to postdoctoral fellows, to come together and share their biomedical and health-related research activities, exchange ideas and expand their professional networks.

The College continued to use facilities efficiently and in ways that support students' needs by offering classes at 6:30 a.m. and on Sunday afternoon, and creating a Late-Start semester.

## IMPROVING TRANSFER

The Carnegie Statway program, a two-semester math pathway that combines developmental math and statistics, continues to be successful and was granted articulation agreements within Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (ConnSCU) until 2015.

To help further ease transfer within ConnSCU, faculty ratified the Board of Regent's Transfer and Articulation Plan Framework for General Education. The Framework specifies 11 common core competencies and learning outcomes for all 17 institutions. NVCC's General Education Committee is currently identifying common core courses across the curriculum that students can take to ensure exposure to the Framework competencies, and NVCC faculty serve on BOR Pathways committees that are charged with constructing system-wide, transferable programs of study in business, communication, psychology, nursing and biology.

NVCC held three college transfer fairs in Waterbury and Danbury. More than 40 colleges were represented and the fairs were attended by approximately 1,000 students.





# Workforce Development

## GROWING IN DANBURY

Enrollments at the Danbury Center continued to grow rapidly with an 11% increase from fall 2011 - 2012 and a 15% increase from spring 2012 - 2013. The College is currently in conversations with the Board of Regents and state agencies to acquire a larger leased space.

NVCC received approval from the Board of Regents to offer two associate degrees and two credit certificates in Danbury. Currently, students must take classes in both Waterbury and Danbury.

Workforce development activities resulted in a significant number of non-credit certifications including CNA, Pharmacy Technician, Patient Care Technician and Phlebotomy Technician.

Four recruitment events were held at the Danbury Center, providing students opportunities for both part-time and full-time employment.

Western Connecticut State University held five open sessions during the spring semester for students interested in transferring after graduation. An admissions advisor was available to meet with students one-on-one to facilitate the process.

On-site new student acceptance days were held at Danbury High School, Bethel High School and New Fairfield High School enabling students to apply to NVCC, meet with an advisor and arrange placement testing at their high school in a single meeting session. The Center also hosted visits from Western Connecticut Regional Adult Education, Bethel High School, Cultural Alliance of Western Connecticut, Vet Center of Danbury, The HORD Foundation and Ability Beyond Disability.

## BUILDING CAREER CONNECTIONS

The Electronic Engineering Technology program was reaffirmed by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to continue participating in the national Technical Operations Collegiate Training Initiative (TO-CTI) program. As a TO-CTI partner institution, NVCC offers students a unique opportunity to gain paid work experience at local FAA companies while earning their degree.

## PREPARING THE STATE'S MANUFACTURING WORKFORCE: YEAR ONE



NVCC was selected in January 2012 as one of three Connecticut community colleges to receive bonding dollars for a state-of-the-art manufacturing center on campus to meet the state's manufacturing workforce needs. Over the summer, the fourth floor of Technology Hall was renovated, staff was hired and 57 students were recruited for the fall semester.

In December, 51 students completed their certification. In this pilot class, 35 students maintained a GPA of 3.0 or better, earning a spot in a free winter intersession program sponsored by the Office of the President. The program included OSHA training, a field trip to the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology and two days of industry

## JOB PLACEMENT CENTER (JPC)

The JPC conducted 39 workshops for FYE classes, campus clubs, academic programs, Bridge to College students and service-region correctional facilities to familiarize students and alumni with job placement services.

Approximately 350 employers registered for and actively use the Central College Network online job posting board and 146 employers visited the campus this year.

Students attended three job/career fairs, individual employer recruiting events and a number of information panels on topics ranging from veteran services and opportunities to industry-specific employment.

In the Behavioral and Social Sciences Co-op program, nearly 100 students were placed into credit-based internships this year. Assistance was also provided to individual students seeking internship opportunities.

The JPC worked with 501 clients from the Department of Labor, registering 340 individuals into credit and non-credit courses.

## A COMMUNITY OF MANUFACTURERS

The Smaller Manufacturers Association (SMA) officially relocated its headquarters to NVCC in January to solidify connections between manufacturing training and the local workforce. The SMA also hosted its annual meeting at the College in May.

More than 45 advanced manufacturing students and professors toured the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology to get a first-hand look at technology currently being used in the manufacturing field.

NVCC hosted manufacturing panelists ranging from NVCC students to mayors, legislators, state commissioners, economic development representatives and local manufacturers this fall. The event provided a venue for conversations about manufacturing's future in the area and was moderated by Rep. Jeff Berger.

shadowing with a Waterbury area manufacturer. The top ten students also earned a free, five-day "Introduction to Welding" course.

Of the 51 students who received Level I certification, 42 moved on to the Level II manufacturing certification program in spring 2013. Throughout the semester, 30 students were placed in internships with 21 participating companies from our service area. At this time, 17 job offers have been extended, 10 have been accepted and many more are in progress.

Because of the program's initial success, the College added a small evening cohort of Level I manufacturing students in spring 2013. In total, 110 Level I and Level II certificates were awarded in 2012-13.



# Community Engagement

## GROWING OUR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### THROUGH DEVELOPMENT

NVCC applied for and received external funding for a number of initiatives including the creation of the Bridge to College Office, an Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center (AMTC), a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence for 2012-13 and for 2013-14, and the multi-million, multi-year Waterbury Gear Up grant.

The NVCC Foundation worked with the College to raise \$165,000 to support the work of the AMTC. Major donors included the Smaller Manufacturer's Association, The Leever Foundation, Carmody and Torrance, LLP, the Connecticut Community Foundation, H&T Waterbury, Inc., Luvata Waterbury, Inc., the NVCC Foundation and Truelove & MacLean, Inc.

### THROUGH GOAL TRACKING AND ACCREDITATION

The Institutional Planning Committee (IPC), established four years ago, ensures that College goals are supported and carried through and it continues to serve as an effective vehicle for communication and in support of goal setting and subsequent follow ups. With the support of the IPC and the enthusiastic engagement of more than 1,000 campus and community stakeholders, the College received its 10-year reaccreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). In its official letter, NVCC received accolades for "operating in a deliberative and strategic manner" and for "the leadership of a dynamic, forward-looking president, dedicated faculty and staff, prudent resource management and an entrepreneurial and student-centered spirit."

## AND OUR COLLEGE COMMUNITY

### THROUGH ACCESS

Since its inception a year and a half ago, evening bus service has provided rides for over 300,000 Waterbury residents in the evening. In addition, NVCC students using the U-PASS have taken over 176,000 day and evening rides. The College's role in bringing evening bus service to the City of Waterbury was praised in the College's reaccreditation letter and was named the most significant project of the year by the Department of Transportation in 2011.

The Financial Aid Office held a series of interactive workshops for current and prospective students to help demystify the financial aid process. The Office held financial aid nights at area high schools, hosted week-end seminars at the College, and met with parents in the six Bridge to College programs to familiarize prospective applicants with the financial aid process as early as possible.

More than 600 students and parents attended the largest New Student Orientation in NVCC history in the fall and approximately 400 students and their parents attended the College's First Annual Open House in the spring to meet with professors and student services staff, tour the campus and learn about degree programs and certificates.

The College hosted the third annual Greater Waterbury Educational Leadership Forum for educators in the service region. The event is a joint project between the College and City of Waterbury to expand local awareness and opportunities for partnership.

### THROUGH VOLUNTEERISM

The College received the St. Vincent de Paul Mission Father Cascia Community Service Award in recognition of keeping the Soup Kitchen open on Sundays and holidays. This initiative was established in 2008 by the Hispanic Student Union and serves an average of 200 people each week with food provided in part by a grant from Webster Bank.

Waterbury AmeriCorps members provided mentoring to hundreds of Waterbury students through GEAR UP and various after-school programs. In recognition of AmeriCorps Week, the group teamed up with the Greater Waterbury YMCA to clean up the Berkeley Warner Community Center.

Other faculty, student and staff volunteer efforts throughout the year supported veteran services, victims of violent crimes, local food banks, community members with learning disabilities, the American Red Cross, Project Homeless Connect and various social services organizations.

### THROUGH EDUCATION

In 2012, Pascal Meccariello became the first Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence to teach at a Connecticut community college. In addition to his teaching duties, Pascal presented at UConn Waterbury's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and at the Mattatuck Museum.

Four local high schools joined NVCC students for the annual Scott Pond Memorial Women in Science Fair to learn about STEM careers.

The College Access Challenge program provided professional development and support for Waterbury High School teachers and NVCC instructors to enhance understanding of Common Core State Standards for college and career readiness.

President Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D., was named Dominican Mayor of the Day in recognition of her significant contributions to education in Waterbury.

Faculty and staff members showcased their individual fields of expertise in professional journals, news articles and internationally published works.

*"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*