Childcare Center Groundbreaking

More than 100 people gathered on the college’s back courtyard for the groundbreaking ceremony for the Garrison Center for Early Childhood Education and Molly Bish Institute for Child Health & Safety.

The new building, being built behind the main campus, will double the size of the current childcare facility run by MOC Child Care & Head Start Services and provide observational classrooms for Early Childhood Education students.

The center is the first project funded in part by MWCC’s first-ever capital campaign. The state also has allocated nearly $1 million for the project.

Dental Hygiene Program Begins

The college’s new Dental Hygiene program at HealthAlliance’s Burbank campus in Fitchburg is unique in the state, President Daniel M. Asquino told 100 people gathered in the Bullock Building to celebrate the milestone.

“This center is about hope and opportunity. It will provide a state-of-the-art training environment for the students enrolled in our Early Childhood Education program and it will provide space to house the Molly Bish Institute for Child Health & Safety.”

– President Asquino

Milestones

“The Mount was a huge stepping stone for me. It enabled me to reach higher for aggressive, attainable goals, such as getting into a four-year college like Amherst College.”

– Jimmy S. Pappas

MSA, CPA, CFE
With the help of donations, grants and support from HealthAlliance, MWCC located the Dental Hygiene program in the same building as Community Health Connections, Dental Service, a clinic that serves low-income patients on the HealthAlliance Burbank Campus. Students help attend to the clinic’s high volume of dental care cases. They also promote oral care in the community.

At the conclusion of the program’s first academic year, students had provided care to 191 patients from the Community Health Center.

Practical Nursing Program Expands to Devens Campus

The college celebrated the expansion of its Practical Nursing (PN) program to the Devens campus.

“This is another chapter in our story of working diligently to train more nurses to work for the health care providers in Central Massachusetts,” said President Asquino. “Moving the PN program to Devens allowed us to strengthen our partnerships with Nashoba Valley health care providers.”

The changes at the Devens campus add 30 more full-time and 30 part-time seats to the PN program.

College Part of New Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Initiative

MWCC is one of more than 50 community colleges around the country and six in Massachusetts to develop transfer programs for a Jack Kent Cooke Foundation initiative aimed at increasing the number of high-achieving, low-income community college students who earn bachelor’s degrees from selective four-year institutions.

The foundation is partnering with eight renowned colleges and universities—Amherst College, Bucknell University, Cornell University, Mount Holyoke College, the University of California-Berkeley, the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the University of Southern California—to invest $27 million in this initiative. It is the largest shared investment to date by leading colleges and universities to overcome the lack of opportunities low-income students have at such schools.

MWCC students are eligible to attend Amherst College through this initiative.

MWCC Part of College Group with $217M Economic Impact

The four colleges comprising the Central Massachusetts Public Higher Education Alliance (Central Links) released a study showing that the combined economic impact of the colleges on Massachusetts is $217 million.

Fitchburg State College, Mount Wachusett Community College, Quinsigamond Community College and Worcester State College worked with UMASS Amherst students who conducted research for the study.

According to President Asquino, the governor’s budget falls short of the Board of Higher Education budget request.

“These colleges are economic engines for the region and the state. It is in everyone’s interest to invest in the future of our Commonwealth,” he said.

According to the study, 60 percent of Central Links’ alumni currently live in Worcester County and 85 percent live in Massachusetts.
MWCC Chosen as a Gateway to College Site

The college was chosen by Portland Community College (PCC) of Oregon to implement a Gateway to College dropout recovery program, creating an “early college high school.” With $300,000 in planning and startup funding from PCC, MWCC is replicating PCC’s model of the national Early College High School Initiative to serve young people ages 16 to 21 who have either stopped attending high school or are at risk of dropping out.

MWCC’s program is part of a national initiative funded and sponsored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Ford Foundation and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to launch 170 “early college high schools” by 2008. It is one of nine schools selected by initiative intermediary PCC.

Gardner Public Schools is a partner in the program.

MWCC Receives Second GEAR UP Grant

The college announced the award of a six-year, $4.4 million grant from the US Department of Education for a new GEAR UP program. The grant is one of only three given in Massachusetts, one of two partnership grants offered in the state, and the only one awarded to a community college.

MWCC, the Fitchburg School Department and seven other partners will match the federal funds with $4.8 million in funding and in-kind services. The partners are the University of Massachusetts, Boys & Girls Club of North Central Massachusetts, Clegborn Neighborhood Center, Twin Cities Latino Coalition, Spanish American Center in Leominster, Fitchburg Juvenile Court and Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority.

MWCC’s second GEAR UP grant will focus on the classes of 2011 and 2012, a total of 978 students, in Fitchburg schools.

MWCC Hosts Candidates’ Debates

A standing-room-only crowd of over 100 gathered in the commons area of the Gardner campus for the first of two candidates’ debates in the race for the Second Worcester District seat in January. Nearly 100 people gathered in the commons area for a second debate in February. The debates were co-sponsored by the college and The Gardner News.

President Asquino moderated both debates.

An Historical Moment

College Trustee Jim Garrison announced that he would donate more than $1 million to the college’s Early Childhood Education program at MWCC Foundation, Inc.’s annual dinner.

Garrison, retired president and CEO of Instron Corp. in Norwood, was honored at the dinner as the 2005 Harold E. Drake Jr. Citizen of the Year Award recipient. Outstanding MWCC students who received foundation scholarships also were honored.

Garrison’s donation, the largest single donation in MWCC’s history, will provide stipends to students who need child care and scholarships for Early Childhood Education students. MWCC first recognized his dedication to early childhood education at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Garrison Center for Early Childhood Education and Molly Bish Institute for Child Health & Safety.
“Jim’s incredible generosity has already inspired so many. His characteristically humble announcement to give even more to benefit children serves as an example to us all.” – President Asquino

The Gardner Rotary Club presented a generous donation of $3,000 to MWCC Foundation, Inc. for student scholarships. The money was raised during the club’s annual auction. Pictured, from left, are Ellie Fox, president of the Gardner Rotary Club; Andy Boucher, chairman of the Rotary Club’s annual auction; Darlene Morrilly, executive director of the MWCC Foundation; and Jim Garrison, MWCC trustee.

Capital Campaign Exceeds Expectations
Jim Garrison’s donation brought the total for MWCC’s first-ever capital campaign to nearly $4 million. Contributions to the “Where Learning Never Ends” campaign will also support endowed scholarships, library renovations and the Center for Democracy & Humanity.

The campaign was headed by chair Leo P. LaChance, who joined the Ronald M. Ansin Foundation, Garrison, and Sterilite Corp. in pushing contributions over the $1 million mark before the public kickoff in September 2004.

“We have witnessed both expanding student enrollment and shrinking financial support from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,” said President Asquino. “The community’s generous support for our mission will help us bridge this gap.”

MWCC Foundation Awards $60K in Scholarships
MWCC Foundation, Inc. awarded $60,000 in scholarships for the 2005-06 academic year and for the first time in its 34-year history, was able to award scholarships to incoming freshmen.

“Mount Wachusett Community College means everything to me at this point in my life,” said Laura Gage of Winchendon, a student in the Early Childhood Education program. “By awarding me with this scholarship, you are helping me to come one step closer to the success of reaching my goals.”

05-06 MWCC Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors

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GFA Federal Credit Union

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UEL Contractors, Inc.

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Business Attorney

Andrei Soran
Nashoba Valley Medical Center

Marie Trottier
Harvard University

Regina Wironen
Leominster Public Schools

VFW Ovila Case Post 905 presenting a check to Executive Vice President Edward Terceiro, Jr. for the Vietnam Veterans Scholarship. Pictured, from left, are: Howard Sands, quartermaster; Terceiro; Francis Cyr, senior vice commander; William Hallett, post commander; Jim Moran, junior vice commander; Don Progen, veterans scholarship committee; and Paul Malboeuf, veterans scholarship committee.
Innovate

College Wins State Energy Award

MWCC was the only college and one of only two state agencies presented with an energy award at a State House ceremony. The college received the 2005 University Environmental Purchasing and Sustainability Award from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The award recognizes "the leadership role that MWCC has assumed in implementing a broad range of initiatives that serve to promote sustainable practices throughout both the campus and the community."

Congressman Olver Secures $1M for Wind Energy Demo Project

The US House of Representatives approved $1 million to develop a wind energy demonstration project at the college, according to Congressman John W. Olver.

"Wind technology holds great promise as a local, renewable form of energy," Olver said. "This demonstration project will show how wind energy will reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, increase national security and encourage local economic development."

This funding will allow the college to develop a renewable energy demonstration project to examine the feasibility of constructing wind turbines to increase the use of renewable wind energy for area residents.

MWCC has been successful in demonstrating other renewable energy technologies such as the photovoltaic array installed on the roof, the biomass heating system and a wood cogeneration gasification system.

The results of this project will be used to demonstrate the viability of similar projects throughout the region and to help spur economic development by creating a demand for turbine component manufacturing in the Northern Tier region of Massachusetts.

Tower to Gauge Wind Speeds

College facility crew members, with the technical assistance of the University of Massachusetts Renewable Energy Resource Lab team, erected a wind metering tower to clock wind speeds at the main campus. Data collected from the metering system, which was funded by a $10,000 grant from the State Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, will determine the feasibility of installing wind turbines on the campus as part of the college’s renewable energy initiative.

“...I envision MWCC becoming an alternative energy laboratory for our students. The research component of this project is another way we can provide that opportunity.”

– President Asquino

MWCC plans to make the wind data available to students in its Natural Resources and renewable energy programs as well as to the public. The project’s Second Wind software creates charts, which will be accessible via a website.

Business Plan Competition Jumpstarts Speed-Demon Inc.

Speed-Demon Inc. of Lunenburg won the grand prize in the Entrepreneurial Resource Center’s first annual Business Plan Competition.

The competition’s three finalists, Speed-Demon in the startup business category, High Impact Health & Fitness Services in the Fitchburg “Main Streets” category and Crystal House Clubhouse of Gardner in the nonprofit category, each won $2,000 in cash and $2,300 in services in the semi-finalist contest. Speed-Demon also won $4,000 in cash and $2,900 in services; High Impact received the Fitchburg business grant award of $3,000 in cash; and Crystal House Clubhouse won the job creation prize of $2,000 in cash.

Ronald Ansin of The Ronald M. Ansin Foundation; Chris Bowman, chief of staff of the Massachusetts Office of Economic Development; Reinaldo Lopez, CEO of Resource Management, Inc.; and Kim Philbrick McCabe, executive director of the Center for Nonprofit Management at Stonehill College, were the judges.

Fourteen entrepreneurs, small business owners and nonprofit organizations submitted business plans.

MWCC was named a 2006 Bellwether Award finalist in the Planning, Governance and Finance category for the competition.
Class of 2006 Encouraged to Use Education to “Change the World”

Philanthropist Ronald M. Ansin told nearly 600 graduates to use their education to “change the world” during his commencement address at the college’s 41st graduation. President Asquino presented Ansin with an honorary doctorate in Humane Letters. “Thanks to this degree,” Ansin said proudly, “I’m now an alumnus of Mount Wachusett Community College.”

The college also honored three area business leaders as 2006 Service Above Self Award recipients: The Gardner News President and Publisher Dr. Alberta Saffell Bell, Leominster Credit Union President and CEO Jack Caulfield, and Tim Richards, founder and owner of the Orchard Hills Athletic Club. Vice President of Student Services and Enrollment Management Ann McDonald introduced 2006 Alumnus of the Year Jimmy S. Pappas, who graduated in 1991 and is now the founder of Passio Consulting in Boston. Asquino bestowed emeritus status to Dr. Richard Pastor, associate vice president of student services and enrollment management, and Janice LeClair, vice president of institutional advancement. Both are retired.

A total of 668 degrees and certificates were awarded to 594 graduates.

Future Nurses Welcomed to Profession

Eighty-eight graduates of the Registered Nursing (RN) program were presented with pins during the Class of 2006 RN Pinning Ceremony in May. During a ceremony one month later, 28 graduates of the college’s newly expanded Practical Nursing (PN) program at Devens also received pins.

In December, the college celebrated the third annual Pinning Ceremony for graduates of the Orange PN program. The pins symbolize that the nurses completed their studies to become an RN or PN and distinguish them from other health care professionals.

“I know by looking at each one of you that great change is not only possible with this class—it is inevitable.”

– President Asquino
Recognition

Professor Bonnie Toothaker Receives E-learning Award

Bonnie Toothaker, chair of the Criminal Justice program, was one of 15 professors from Massachusetts state and community colleges recognized as e-learning pioneers at the second annual Massachusetts Colleges Online (MCO) E-Learning Conference at Bridgewater State College. Courses taught by these professors were selected from over 900 courses offered through MCO, a consortium of the nine state and 15 community colleges in Massachusetts designed to deliver online education. Faculty members were recommended for selection based on the success of their course and their innovative use of technology as a tool to enhance the teaching and learning process.

Twin Cities Latino Coalition Celebrates Student Excellence

Nearly 50 Latino middle-school, high-school and college students earned recognition and certificates for their achievements in academics, personal leadership and community involvement at the first annual Latino Youth Achievement Awards. The Twin Cities Latino Coalition is a partnership between the college, local Latino community and business leaders and organizations, such as the Cleghorn Neighborhood Center in Fitchburg, the Spanish American Center in Leominster and Fitchburg and Leominster public schools, as well as regional and national organizations. About 150 students and their families and friends attended the celebration.

NLNAC Reaccredits Nursing Program

The college hosted a visit by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) as part of the application process for continued accreditation of the popular Nursing program. NLNAC re-accredited the program through 2014.

The Nursing program at MWCC began in 1972 and received initial accreditation by the National League for Nursing in 1977. The last NLNAC visit was in 2001.

College Honored by Chambers of Commerce

The college was one of the winners of Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce’s Community Service and Leadership Awards at its annual dinner ceremony. President Asquino accepted the Roy L. Jeannotte Award, which is given to outstanding companies or organizations.

The college was also named the 2006 Business of the Year at the Wachusett Chamber of Commerce 91st Annual Meeting. “Mount Wachusett Community College truly embraces its role of improving our communities,” said 2006 Annual Meeting Chair Kerry Flathers of the Perkins School in presenting the award to President Asquino. “The college responds to the changing needs of our children, students, parents, business professionals and our seniors,” she added.
College Launches Center for Democracy & Humanity

The Center for Democracy & Humanity was established to oversee the many programs and services offered by the college as part of the college's Decade of Civic Engagement. The center has been recognized as a national model for its unique partnerships with a variety of community and national organizations including the United Way of North Central Massachusetts, United Way of America, the American Association of Community Colleges and Ashoka: Innovators for the Public.

Community Builders Partnership Continues to Grow

Ten Community Builders Fellowships were awarded at the United Way of North Central Massachusetts’ 25th Annual Meeting. The awards culminated a series of outreach efforts over the past year by Community Builders, a partnership between MWCC and the United Way, to build volunteer capacity. The fellowships were given to individuals or organizations with innovative ideas to solve a local social problem and increase volunteerism.

In addition, the United Way and the college’s Center for Democracy & Humanity are partners in the local Youth Venture program, which encourages young people to start new community-serving ventures to benefit schools, neighborhoods or the larger community.

There are currently seven area schools participating in Youth Venture, a national program that provides schools with all the tools necessary to create civic-minded organizations, clubs or businesses: Leominster Public Schools, Shirley Public Schools, Fitchburg Public Schools, Ayer Public Schools, North Middlesex Public Schools, Parker Charter Essential School and North Central Charter Essential School.

Many MWCC students and community residents visited the Community Builders Volunteer Expo, held at the Gardner campus, to learn more about community service opportunities in North Central Massachusetts.

The Expo aimed to match community organizations in North Central Massachusetts with volunteers based on interests and skill sets.

For the keynote address, Bemis Associates President Scott Howard spoke about why employer-endorsed community service policies are good for businesses and communities.
PN Students Teach Healthy Habit to Children

Students in the Devens Practical Nursing program took their expertise to elementary school children during a health fair at Johnny Appleseed School in Leominster. The students in Instructor Collene Thaxton’s class demonstrated the importance of frequent hand washing as the best protection against colds and the flu.

The students sprinkled “glowgerm” powder on hundreds of little hands, which revealed germs when placed under an ultraviolet light. The future nurses also prepared posters, handouts and other educational material and raffled off gift baskets filled with healthy prizes as part of the project.

Additional Devens practical nursing students presented a similar program at Sky View Middle School in Leominster.

Students Say It’s Time to Stop the Fine Print

Product disclaimers displayed in miniscule type and broadcast at a record pace in TV and radio commercials troubled a group of students so much that they launched a public awareness campaign and citizens petition drive to make these disclaimers fairer for consumers.

Started by business administration students Jack Wilson and Brad Parsons, the duo soon sought the expertise of web design students Tony Cravatta and Aisha Rosario, broadcast student Jheri Gamboa, computer graphic design student Bri Nobrega and photography student Jen Tourtellot to complete this service learning project. The students aimed to generate enough citizen support for a proposed state law that would require companies to present their “consumer information clearly and conspicuously so that it is actually noticed and understood by consumers.”
Some of the students, as part of Associate Professor Michael Greenwood’s economics class, moved their service learning project a few steps forward during the spring semester when they presented a draft of their “Stop the Fine Print” bill to State Representative Ann Gobi, D-SPENCER, and State Senator Stephen Brewer, D-BARRE. Gobi also spoke to the class about the economics of legislation. Brewer, visiting as part of the Distinguished Speaker program sponsored by the economics class, praised students for their ongoing outreach efforts in the community and encouraged their continued civic engagement endeavors.

Wilson also gave a presentation about the bill at the Statehouse.

**Computer Students Reach Out to Chernobyl Children**

Students in Associate Professor Tina Wilson’s computer technologies class raised money for the Chernobyl Children’s Project USA to bring a child from the radiation-contaminated parts of Ukraine, Belarus or western Russia to the Boston area for respite and medical attention.

“One of the reasons I picked this project was I watched the ‘Chernobyl Heart’ video and realized I had forgotten about it,” Wilson explained. “It’s important to remember there are people who have significant health issues because of this terrible accident.”

**MWCC Introduces New Mascot: The Mountain Lion**

MWCC’s new college mascot, the mountain lion, premiered during this year’s annual Spring Fling. “The new college mascot will be used to instill pride and college spirit among our student body,” said Director of Student Life Greg Clement.

“Our students participate in a variety of activities, competitions, and events on-campus and with other colleges. The new mascot will serve to unify our college community during these types of events.” Clement and Director of Marketing Nichole Carter worked with Plan B. Branding of San Diego, California to develop the design.

The college community voted on the new mascot through a competition raising money for the Gardner Community Action Committee. Clement and Carter then facilitated focus groups with the college community to direct the design. “The end result is a mascot that stands proud, face forward, looking toward the future,” said Carter. “This reflects the pride our students feel for MWCC and the bright futures that lie ahead of them. You could also say it is indicative of the college’s slogan ‘Start near…Go far.’”

Isuara Luna, president of MWCC’s ALANA (Asian, Latino, African, Native, American) Club and vice president of the Student Government Association helped to encourage student participation in the mascot development process, and Student Project Volunteer Jack Wilson assisted in executing focus groups and compiling data.

**New Students Help Build a Home**

About a dozen incoming students spent a morning helping to build a Habitat for Humanity home in Ayer as part of the college’s first Summer Leadership Camp for new students. The goal of this two-day camp was to offer new students an opportunity to get the most out of their college experience, develop leadership skills and learn the benefits of being involved in their college community. Helping with the project introduced the students to the college’s civic engagement initiative. MWCC students have given more than 6,000 hours of community service in the North Central Massachusetts region.
MWCC: at a Glance

MWCC Board of Trustees

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Dr. Sergio Paez
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Tuan Nguyen
Student Trustee

James Garrison

Raymond F. LaFond

Lance D. May

Albert H. McCarthy

Jonathan P. Raymond

Tina M. Shrega

FY 05 and 06 Enrollment Highlights

FY 2006

Total credit and noncredit annual unduplicated headcount 8,968

Credit

Credit course registrations 23,316

Annual credit enrollments 5987

Full time 47%

Part time 53%

Female 67%

Male 33%

Average Age 27.7

Under age 18 1.0%

18-19 22.0%

20-24 32.4%

25-34 20.9%

35-49 18.9%

50-65 4.5%

Students with previous college experience 67%

Degree-seeking students receiving financial aid 49%

Average class size 15

Noncredit

Total noncredit course registrations 6,907

Workforce development noncredit course registrations 5,574

Number of students graduated in 2005 655

Associate degrees 442

Certificates 202

Career preparation

Placement rate of career program graduates 70%

Accreditations

Mount Wachusett Community College is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Several programs have additional, industry-specific accreditations.

Notice of Non-discrimination

Mount Wachusett Community College seeks to provide equal educational and employment opportunities and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious creed, age, physical or mental disability, sex, national origin or ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, genetic information or veteran status.

MWCC:

Financials

MWCC Foundation Inc.

Balance Sheet as of June 30

Current Assets:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Cash and equivalents</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marketable securities</td>
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<td>Accounts receivable and prepaid expenses</td>
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<td>Current portion of pledges receivable</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
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<td>Marketable securities</td>
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Other Assets:

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<td>Pledges receivable, net of current portion</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
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Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities:

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<tr>
<td>Deferred revenues</td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
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Net Assets:

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<td>Unrestricted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Permanently restricted</td>
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<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,081,507</strong></td>
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Total Liabilities and Net Assets 3,111,280 1,772,971

MWCC Financial Operations

FY06 Revenues

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Appropriations*</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition and Fees</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>9,800,462</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>36,670,335</strong></td>
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FY06 Expenditures

<table>
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<tr>
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<td>Student Services</td>
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<td>Academic Support</td>
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<td>Maintenance &amp; Plant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Institutional Support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Service</td>
<td>934,949</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditures</strong></td>
<td><strong>36,670,335</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Includes capital appropriation

Design: © Peapod Design, New Canaan, CT