Start Near...Go Far
As reflected in our slogan, we encourage Mount Wachusett Community College students to "Start near . . . Go far." We help them to realize their potential, to follow their dreams . . . to literally go anywhere with the skills they gain here. We are a stepping stone for students to find who they really are, what their dreams really are, and to start fulfilling them. As an institution, we thrive on these same principles. Therefore, we pride ourselves on providing innovative programs, which often become best practices and models for the national and international community.

MWCC now unfolds the results of the college’s first-ever capital campaign, which resulted in raising nearly $4 million. Because of the success of the capital campaign and the philanthropy of the community we serve, MWCC received the highest match from the state’s Endowment Incentive Matching program. We have now finished construction and opened the Garrison Center for Early Childhood Education, dedicated the college’s library to Leo and Theresa LaChance, and completed Phase I of library renovations. Furthermore, one of the individuals at the heart of this campaign, MWCC trustee and foundation board member Jim Garrison, received national recognition with a 2006 Benefactors Award from the Council for Resource Development for his dedication to the mission of MWCC.

MWCC is also “going far” with its online courses and services. MWCC was recognized as one of the country’s top tech-savvy community colleges by the Center for Digital Education and the American Association of Community Colleges this spring. Almost 25 percent of MWCC students now take at least one online course and most faculty members use online course tools in their classes.

MWCC is at the forefront of renewable energy, both nationally and internationally. In April, MWCC was ranked the fourth top U.S. college (and only community college) for renewable energy practices by the National Wildlife Federation and received an Award of Excellence from the Boston chapter of the International Facility Management Association.

On behalf of the board of trustees, faculty, staff, and students, I am proud to present this FY07 report to you, which includes several more inspiring projects and activities. Reflecting on the last year, there is so much to celebrate at MWCC. Meanwhile, we look confidently, and optimistically to the future as we continue to expand our academic and student services to current students, as well as grow our outreach efforts to the more than 20,000 MWCC alumni in our local communities. We will continue to “Start near” and aim “further and further” all the time.

Thank you for your continued support of MWCC.

Sincerely,

Daniel M. Asquino, Ph.D.
President
Start Near…Go Far
Achieving Excellence in Academics

Tech-savvy College Award

Twenty-three percent of MWCC students are taking at least one online course each semester. With a click of a mouse, individuals can apply to MWCC, and all students can register online. These and other digital enhancements to services and operations recently earned the college recognition as being one of the country's top tech-savvy community colleges. The Center for Digital Education and the American Association of Community Colleges' ranking was established based on the third national Digital Community Colleges Survey, which examined how colleges are deploying technology to streamline operations and better serve students, faculty and staff.

Accomplishments in Online Learning:

During FY07, 1,710 students took an online course, a 12.8% increase from FY06
During spring 07, MWCC offered 82 online courses, a 64% increase in online courses offered since spring 05
All MWCC courses are assigned online resources with 65% of full-time faculty using online resources to enhance student learning in their courses
During spring 07, 23% of MWCC students took an online course, a 35.3% increase from the fall of 2005
Upgraded Blackboard learning management system to Enterprise edition v.7.2; 24/7 customer service is provided
Hired a director of instructional design to assist faculty in improving teaching and learning
Dental Hygiene Program Receives Full Accreditation

MWCC’s new Dental Hygiene Program at HealthAlliance’s Burbank campus in Fitchburg received full accreditation from the Commission of Dental Accreditation and also earned the rare distinction of receiving two commendations for excellence.

The program was commended in the area of educational support services and facility for incorporating “the use of modern technology and equipment in both the classroom and clinic. The faculty and administration are commended for providing a state-of-the-art learning environment and fostering student success.” In the category of institutional effectiveness, the program was commended for having “exceptional financial support from the local and state dental societies, as well as grants from private foundations.”

The partnership developed out of interest in the local dental community for MWCC to offer a dental hygiene program to address the North Central Massachusetts region’s critical shortage of dental hygienists. In addition to HealthAlliance, partners who helped make the program possible include the Massachusetts Dental Society Foundation, the Wachusett District Dental Society, the Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts, the Delta Dental Foundation and the Oral Health Initiative of North Central Massachusetts.

BHE Approves Biotechnology Program

The Board of Higher Education approved the college's proposal to offer a Biotechnology/Biomanufacturing technician training program, making it the sixth Massachusetts community college to have a Biotechnology program.

“With the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council reporting that a significant percent of biotech companies’ employees need associate’s degrees, it is essential the college respond to this workforce training need,” said President Asquino. “These will be high-paying, entry-level jobs within a reasonable commuting distance for residents of North Central Massachusetts.”

Clinical Laboratory Science Program Introduced

In response to a critical shortage of laboratory personnel within the healthcare industry, MWCC introduced a Clinical Laboratory Science program this fall in partnership with Heywood Hospital. The associate's degree curriculum integrates general education courses with science and hospital rotations. Students enrolled in this program will learn how to use sophisticated biomedical instrumentation and computers to analyze blood and other body specimens. The generation of accurate results of laboratory tests allows physicians to detect, diagnose and treat disease.

Through grants, donations, tuition, legislative funding and internal resources, the college plans to invest in highly trained faculty and specialized equipment for a biomanufacturing center at or near the Devens campus.
“Learning has no boundaries. We are expanding our reach through service learning, quality educational opportunities in and out of the classroom, and by continually outreaching to the community in a variety of ways.”

— President Asquino

Students Conduct Health Assessments at 5K Run/Walk

It’s natural to assume that participants in the inaugural Bob Wilson 5K Run/Walk are fit individuals. Precisely how hale and hearty is something Anatomy and Physiology (A&P) and Computer Information Systems (CIS) students wanted to find out.

Under the guidance of Biology Professor Bill Lefrancois and CIS Associate Professor Tina Wilson, students worked together to develop a health assessment measuring tool to survey the public as their service learning project. The A&P students outlined what they wanted in the tool; the CIS students created it.

One group of A&P students randomly surveyed the 5K participants and another group gathered participants’ blood pressures, pulses, heights and weights—skills they had practiced in class. They also randomly surveyed and tested students, faculty and staff at MWCC’s Gardner campus.

Library’s ‘My College Freshman’ Summit

How to make students at any age better scholars was discussed at length during the second annual “My College Freshman is Your High School Senior 2007: A Unique Opportunity for Teachers and Librarians’ summit sponsored by the Leo & Theresa LaChance Library in June. MWCC’s Ellen Madigan Pratt, distance and outreach coordinator; Heidi McCann, instructional services coordinator; Lorie Donahue, English professor; Sue Taylor, Computer Information Systems associate professor; Sue Goldstein, English assistant professor; Tina Wilson, Computer Information Systems associate professor; and Sue Blake, English associate professor, participated in the event.

More than 140 librarians and teachers met to talk about expectations for students that pertain to research and writing; how students can be better prepared for the papers and projects they encounter; research and writing skills students need to be successful; and how librarians can work with teachers to prepare students to do research. The summit was funded by the Central Massachusetts Regional Library System.
To celebrate the Week of the Young Child, the Early Childhood Education (ECE) department held a Children’s Art Show in April. The art exhibit, hosted by students in the Curriculum and Program Planning class, showcased artwork created by the children attending the Garrison Center for Early Childhood Education. Notecards featuring the children’s artwork were sold. Proceeds benefited the fund for a sandbox in the center’s playground. ECE students, from left, Erinn McKary, Lisa Dubrule, and Amy Moores stand with MWCC Trustee Jim Garrison, whose $1.4 million donation to the recent capital campaign helped fund construction of the center, scholarships for ECE students, and childcare stipends for MWCC students.

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Students Offer Free Tax Prep. Service

About 30 MWCC Business students helped nearly 100 low- and moderate-income taxpayers prepare and file their federal tax returns for free as part of the federal Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. The service was provided at the Gardner and Leominster campuses.

The Business students who passed the IRS’ Link and Learn Taxes certification exam were among the many trained community volunteers across the nation who not only helped taxpayers with their federal forms, but also identified their qualifying special credits, such as Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit and Credit for the Elderly.

This was a service learning project for the students and was coordinated by the Division of Lifelong Learning and Workforce Development and the Business department.

First High School Musical Theatre Awards

Theatre at the Mount hosted the first-ever High School Musical Theatre Awards (The TAMYS) in June to recognize the exceptional accomplishments in the production and performance of musical theatre in area high schools. This program, coordinated by Theatre at the Mount Director Gail Steele, publicly acknowledged the outstanding effort local schools make striving for excellence in the performing arts and celebrated the year’s casts, crews, directors and designers who made outstanding musical theatre happen.

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Author and former Peace Corps volunteer Kris Holloway spoke and read from her book, Monique and the Mango Rains: Two Years with a Midwife in Mali, at the Gardner campus in March. Her appearance was sponsored by the academic affairs office and the Leo & Theresa LaChance Library in observance of Women’s History Month.

Leominster Campus Reception

The addition of learning space, the opening of the Center for Democracy & Humanity and the relocation of English as a Second Language classes to the Leominster campus were celebrated at a special reception attended by community leaders in May. “I’m delighted with the growth of our Leominster campus,” said President Asquino. “Our connection to this community has grown both in depth and in breadth.”

MWCC has operated the Leominster campus for 10 years and now occupies 23,000 square feet of space. Course registrations at this campus grew by almost 25 percent between 2004 and 2006. The Entrepreneurial Resource Center (ERC) and the Center for Democracy & Humanity have offices at this campus. The reception kicked off the 2007 Business Plan Competition, which is coordinated by the ERC.
Celebrating Success
Governor Deval Patrick Addresses MWCC Graduates

More than 500 associate’s degrees and 250 certificates were granted at the college’s 42nd commencement. Graduates who attended the ceremony were urged to become active citizens while pursuing career success by keynote speaker Governor Deval Patrick.

“With the education you have received here and that I hope you will continue, you must assume your special role in our democracy as active citizens and use the power of reason to overcome the politics of fear,” he said. “Saying ‘never mind’ to facts or fairness is not okay. Your job, as informed and educated citizens, is to remind our community of this, to keep America true to who she is.”

Diane Castelli of Fitchburg, who earned her associate’s degree in Nursing in 1983, was honored as the 2007 Alumna of the Year at commencement. Castelli, the training manager for AMD Telemedicine Inc., also holds a bachelor’s degree in Nursing as well as two master’s degrees, in Forensic Nursing and Communications, from Fitchburg State College.

Ninety-four Nursing graduates and 62 Practical Nursing graduates were honored at pinning ceremonies throughout the year. The new Dental Hygiene program, which was accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation also pinned its first nine graduates.
Kimberly Blanchard Recognized at Annual Dinner

Celebrating 35 years of supporting outstanding students and the college, MWCC Foundation, Inc. honored Kimberly Blanchard of Ashburnham as the 2006 Harold E. Drake Jr. Citizen of the Year, at the Annual Foundation Dinner in September 2006. "In May of 1971, the foundation organized to help anyone in North Central Massachusetts to further their education or vocational skills and to support financially the growth and improvement of the college," said Foundation Executive Director Darlene Morrilly. "Thirty-five years later, the foundation holds true to this charter."

Angela Verheyen of Orange, who received the first Ellen Daly Dental Hygiene Scholarship, said, "I feel that everything I have achieved has been through a combined effort of a supportive family, a college that cares about the success of its students and professors who provide an education comparable to a university."

“I want to thank the many people who make up the foundation and the college for this honor and for the great work you all do in the community,” Blanchard said. “It means so much to me and the many volunteers whose work keeps the ripple effect [of good deeds] going.”
Library Dedicated to Leo & Theresa LaChance

More than 50 people gathered at the college for the dedication of the Leo & Theresa LaChance Library in August 2006. Leo LaChance was the chair of MWCC Foundation’s “Where Learning Never Ends” capital campaign, which raised nearly $4 million in two years. In addition, LaChance was one of the campaign’s four leadership donors. The others were Ronald M. Ansin, Jim Garrison and an anonymous donor. “Leo and Theresa's support of our work here is helping us prepare students to be successful in the 21st century,” said President Asquino. “I’m so proud we can honor them by making this important place—the library—theirs.”

In addition to donors, area legislators and politicians, members of the LaChance family, community leaders, and college faculty, staff, and students attended the ceremony.

Council for Resource Development Honors MWCC Benefactor Jim Garrison

MWCC trustee, foundation board member, and community activist Jim Garrison, whose $1.4 million donation improves the delivery of Early Childhood Education through scholarships and the construction of a childcare and student training center, received a 2006 Benefactors Award from the Council for Resource Development. The 10 donors honored at a gala dinner in Washington, D.C., in November 2006 have given gifts totaling over $50 million to community colleges in the United States. They were selected from 75 nominations across the country, representing donors to more than 1,200 community colleges.
More than 100 people celebrated the opening of the Garrison Center for Early Childhood Education and the Molly Bish Institute for Child Health & Safety in October. The center is the first project funded in part by the college’s capital campaign.

The new building provides an observational classroom for Early Childhood Education students and a childcare center run by Montachusett Opportunity Council Child Care & Head Start.

“Children’s health and safety is our number-one priority,” said President Asquino. “The Garrison Center gives these children a safe, cozy learning environment. Across the hall, the Molly Bish Institute gives them and their parents resources to always be healthy and safe.”

Following a juice-box toast, Asquino announced the second phase of fundraising for the center. Donations to this campaign will be earmarked for an “opportunity playground” for children of all abilities.

Joining Asquino at the ribbon-cutting portion of the ceremony were Jim and Peggy Garrison, John and Magi Bish, President of Marlin Firearms and H&R 1871 Robert Behn, CEO of GFA Federal Credit Union Chuck Bowles, President of GFA Federal Credit Union Tina Shrega, MWCC Executive Vice President Edward Terceiro Jr., state Sen. Stephen Brewer, state Rep. Anne Gobi, Gardner Mayor Gerald St. Hilaire, Fitchburg Mayor Dan Mylott, members of the MWCC Foundation Board of Directors and MWCC Trustees.
MWCC Recognized for Renewable Energy Initiatives

National Wildlife Federation Award
MWCC was ranked the fourth top U.S. college shifting away from using fossil fuels to heat campus buildings by judges in the National Wildlife Federation Chill Out Contest in Washington, D.C., in April.

The competition, featured on a live webcast shown at the Gardner campus, recognized colleges and universities around the country that are implementing innovative programs to reduce the impacts of global warming, the number one environmental threat facing the nation. MWCC was one of eight winning schools chosen from over 100 competition entries received from colleges nationwide.

“I congratulate Mount Wachusett Community College for receiving this well-deserved award,” said Massachusetts Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Ian Bowles. “When it comes to switching to renewable energy sources, conserving energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, Mount Wachusett is truly leading by example.”

Presidents’ Climate Commitment
President Asquino committed in December 2006 to sharply reducing and eventually eliminating all of the college’s global warming emissions, and accelerating the research and educational efforts to equip society to re-stabilize the earth’s climate. The pledge came with Asquino’s signing of the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment, joining the leaders of many other institutions across the country. “Global warming is a defining challenge of our time,” Asquino said. “That means taking serious action today to stop adding global warming pollution to the atmosphere. MWCC is committed to leading the way.”

Biomass Pioneer Visits
Using a canister design supporting air circulation, Dr. Thomas Reed showed Renewable Energy Sources students that his camp stove can burn wood chips, twigs, cobs, shells and other natural material for cooking with little smoke. It boils one quart of water in five minutes. Reed explained that the impact global warming and the dwindling supply of fossil fuels will have on his children and grandchildren motivated him to market this small stove and improve on its design.

Reed is a former researcher with the Solar Energy Research Institute in Golden, Colo., and the Colorado School of Mines. Since 1994, he has managed the Biomass Energy Foundation with his wife, Vivian, also in Golden. Following publication of his seminal article on methanol as a fuel in the journal Science in 1974, Reed’s career began to change from material science to alternate fuels. Today, he calls himself a future fuels chemist.
Bridging Cultures.

Promoting Understanding.

Making Change Happen

The Twin Cities Latino Coalition, a program administered by MWCC, sponsored a panel discussion with the Trustees of Reservations, titled “Meeting the Changing Face of Our Future: Facing the Challenges of Changing Today in Response to the Emerging Future.” Guided by moderator Dr. Peter Senge, author of *The Fifth Discipline* and world-renowned guru in the field of organizational change and leadership development, the audience listened to a diverse panel representing a variety of professions talk about what they do to spur positive changes in the Fitchburg and Leominster communities.

The panelists were Attorney Mary Yanneth Bermudez Camp; Angelita Santiago, a Fitchburg public schools instructor; Dr. Sergio Paez, language acquisitions director, Leominster Public Schools; Pati Gregson, vice president of access and transition at MWCC; Edward Cronin, chief of the Fitchburg Police Department; and Juan Rivera of the Spanish American Center in Leominster.
MWCC Fulbright Brings Her Experience to the Classroom

Foreign language students are becoming more familiar with the South American countries of Argentina and Uruguay. Dr. Madhu Sharma, professor of English as a Second Language who also teaches Spanish at the college, spent all of August 2006 in Argentina and Uruguay as part of the prestigious Fulbright-Hayes Seminars Abroad program. Sharma integrated lessons about Argentine and Uruguayan culture, geographic location and language variations into her Spanish courses.

‘Direct Access to the Muslim World’

A three-week-long, intense conversation about the complex role Islam plays in world affairs took place at MWCC in February and March with the help of Fulbright Visiting Specialist Dr. Mohamed Azam of Malaysia.

In Malaysia, Azam is a lecturer at the Centre for Islamic Thought and Understanding at Mara University of Technology in Selangor. He earned a Bachelor of Shari’a in the field of Shari’a and Law from the University of Malaya and master’s and doctorate degrees in law from the University of London’s School of Oriental and African Studies.

His visit was part of the Fulbright Visiting Specialists Program: Direct Access to the Muslim World, and was made possible in part by Four Points by Sheraton and Wachusett Village Inn. The Johnny Appleseed Trail Visitors Center also contributed to his stay.

Civil Rights Icon Visits

As he intertwined songs and stories—funny and serious—of his childhood, attending North Carolina Agricultural & Technical College and adulthood, Jibreel Khazan, who was born Ezell Blair Jr., brought the story of the Greensboro Four’s first sit-in at the F.W. Woolworth lunch counter to life for nearly 200 MWCC students, faculty, staff, and local high school students gathered in the theatre in March.

Implementing Diversity Training

MWCC became a campus affiliate of the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI), a leadership training company in Washington, D.C., to offer diversity training workshops. Members of the campus community were trained as facilitators to present NCBI’s welcoming diversity and conflict resolution workshop. Since fall 2006, NCBI team members have presented workshops in classrooms and for faculty and staff. Workshops allow participants to gain self awareness, stretch beyond their comfort zone, and develop new understanding of different groups. The workshops are interactive, experiential, and highly energetic.
Center for Democracy & Humanity
Builds Community

Community Scholars Build Social Capital

Fulfilling President Asquino’s vision of students using their skills and knowledge to build social capital in the region, the first 12 Community Scholars were selected to attend MWCC for free and earn a paycheck working for local nonprofit organizations.

The selected high school graduates will learn and earn the following:

- An associate's degree from MWCC at no costs, taking up to 12 credits per semester (tuition, fees and books—valued at over $10,000)
- Two years of employment at a partnering nonprofit organization in North Central Massachusetts, earning $10 per hour for up to 1,000 hours (estimated to be approximately 10 hours a week during college semesters and 30 hours per week during summer months)
- A $1,000 education award toward a bachelor's degree at any four-year college or university
- Leadership training and development through a “summer bridge” program

Community Scholars worked on a Habitat for Humanity project during Leadership Camp.

Above: 2007-2009 class of Community Scholars with President Asquino, Civic Engagement Coordinator Fagan Forhan, and AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer Samantha Cesario.
“What’s Next?” Speaker Series Features Renowned Speakers

The Center for Democracy & Humanity (CDH) and the Montachusett Opportunity Council (MOC) encouraged a renewed focus on poverty with the “What’s Next?” Speaker Series. “The roots of poverty are far-reaching and deep, and extend beyond having access to affordable, high-quality education,” said President Asquino. “This year’s ‘What’s Next?’ series inspired action in our communities to decrease the number of our neighbors who go hungry. We were proud to collaborate with MOC in this series as they redoubled efforts to eradicate poverty in North Central Massachusetts.”

The events were held at the Doyle Conservation Center in Leominster and the college’s Gardner campus. The series began with a panel discussion titled “The Many Faces of Poverty.” The lecturers included Jack Foley, vice president for government and community affairs and campus services at Clark University; Paul Dudley Hart, director-at-large of Mercy Corps; and David Hanson, professor and director of the program in Philosophy and Education at Teachers College, Columbia University.

Making Politics More Accessible

Former State Representative and college Trustee Raymond M. LaFontaine was named chair of the CDH’s Democracy Project, a program aimed at making politics more accessible to MWCC students and the community. “Ray LaFontaine has been a long-time friend of the college, and his willingness to lead our Democracy Project shows he continues to be committed to civic engagement and building social capital,” said President Asquino. “His leadership will inspire our students and area residents to civic action.”

This year, the Project’s “Democracy Cafe” events focused on the 2006 Massachusetts Gubernatorial Election and the 2008 Presidential Election. LaFontaine and WTAG talk show host Jordan Levy moderated discussions.

Over 5,500 Attend 4th Annual Kid Expo

Over 5,500 people attended the fourth annual Kid Expo, sponsored by the Molly Bish Institute for Child Health & Safety in June. The free event featured Molly Bish Foundation child safety I.D. kits, r.a.d.KIDS self-defense demonstrations, health screenings, food, music, entertainment and games.

Through the Molly Bish Foundation and the generosity of John and Magi Bish, more than 350 children received an I.D. kit with their fingerprints and photograph. Over 550 bike helmets were donated by Heywood Hospital and fitted by the Gardner Police Department. The event featured r.a.d.KIDS self-defense demonstrations with campus police, car-seat safety inspections, a health and safety resource fair, free raffles, and many safety- and health-themed exhibits and activities.
MWCC Receives Spirit Award

The Student Government Association (SGA) won the Community College Student Leadership Association Conference Student Spirit Award in part for raising the most money, $1,100, for the nonprofit Houses for Haiti. The award was also given for professionalism and participation in the conference workshops, school pride and spirit, and the SGA's entry in the conference's banner competition.

Building Student Leadership

About 30 incoming students spent a day in August helping to build a Habitat for Humanity home in Fitchburg, as part of the college's second Summer Leadership Camp. 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 Fitchburg home introduced the students—who live as close as Fitchburg and as far as Sturbridge—to the college's civic engagement initiative. Research shows that the more students are actively engaged in college co-curricular activities, the more likely they are to reach their academic goals.
Clinton Wellness Center won the grand prize in the college’s 2006 annual Business Plan Competition. Wrap-It Products of Fitchburg was the startup business finalist and Sterling Music Exchange Inc.’s Step Up to Music was the nonprofit finalist. Wrap-It Products also won the Fitchburg business prize; Step Up to Music won the Community Builders volunteer program prize. Innovation is important to thriving communities, and entrepreneurs are a key source of this, President Asquino noted before the grand prize was awarded. The judges were Ronald M. Ansin of the Ronald M. Ansin Foundation; Darrell LeMar, integration director of business resources at Massachusetts Executive Office of Economic Development; Worcester State College Professor Dr. Shiko Gathuo; and Patsy Lewis, a nonprofit management and board development consultant.

Lisa Derby Oden, director of academic programs at the Leominster Campus, directs the Entrepreneurial Resource Center and the Small Business Plan Competition.

Above: 2006 Small Business Plan Competition finalists: Pete Cormier, founder of Sterling Music Exchange; Donna Henderson, founder of Wrap-it Products; and Maureen Kittredge, founder of the Clinton Wellness Center.
Making Higher Education Accessible

First Gateway to College Graduates

Matthew Jee and Tatiani Alberti were the first Gateway to College students to graduate from this new dropout recovery program. MWCC is one of two Massachusetts colleges to replicate the program started by Portland Community College. Gateway to College is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, their partners, Kellogg Foundation, Ford Foundation and Carnegie Corporation of New York, and Chapter 70 School Choice funds.

After getting their diplomas at Gardner High School’s commencement in June, Jee and Alberti planned to seek their associate’s degrees at MWCC. Jee plans to major in Liberal Arts and Sciences with a Theatre Concentration. “Matt and Tatiani are one semester ahead of their peers who start college in the fall,” said Gateway to College Director Deborah Bibeau.
President Asquino, Fitchburg School Superintendent Andres Ravenelle and Fitchburg High School Principal Richard Masciarelli spoke about the importance of the ongoing collaboration between MWCC and Fitchburg Schools in winning the grant that made the Student Success Center possible. AT&T Foundation representative Dave Mancuso said the grant is an investment in the future high-tech workforce.

MWCC Receives Inclusion Grant

MWCC was awarded a $275,000 grant to participate in the state Department of Education’s Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment Partnership Programs for Students with Disabilities. Thirty students from Gardner, Fitchburg and Oakmont Regional high schools participated in the program. They took credit courses and foundation reading and writing courses, and used student services and activities offered at MWCC. “We are proud to introduce these students to the college experience. They benefited from our small classes, student services and student activities,” said President Asquino.

Visions Students Take Trip to Washington D.C.

This past May, 15 Visions Program participants and three staff members took a trip to Washington D.C. The group toured George Washington University, explored the National Mall monuments and memorials with a Park Ranger, met with the staffs of Senator Kennedy and Congressman Olver, toured the Capitol and the Supreme Court, explored the Holocaust and Smithsonian museums, saw a play at the Kennedy Center, viewed the Constitution and Declaration of Independence at the National Archives, saw the production of U.S. currency at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and much more. They even bumped into an MWCC alum at the Kennedy Center! As one student said afterwards, “It was the trip of a lifetime.”

The Visions Program is an educational opportunity TRIO program funded by the United States Department of Education. The program helps student participants persist in college through graduation and assists those who wish to transfer to four-year institutions.
MWCC: at a Glance

Enrollment Highlights

FY 2007

Total credit and noncredit annual unduplicated headcount 10,124

Credit

Credit course registrations 23,387
Annual credit enrollments 5,710
Full time 44%
Part time 56%
Female 67%
Male 33%
Average Age 27.9
Under age 18 2%
18-19 21%
20-24 31%
25-34 21%
35-49 20%
50-65 4%
Students with previous college experience 70%
Degree-seeking students receiving financial aid 51%
Average class size 14.5

Noncredit

Total noncredit course registrations 7,637
Workforce development noncredit course registrations 6,270

Number of students graduated in 2006

665
Associate degrees 455
Certificates 210

Career preparation

Placement rate of career program graduates 68%
NWCC licensure exam pass rate:
  Registered Nursing 93%
  Practical Nursing 89%
Number of associate degree programs 23
Number of certificate programs 19

About MWCC

Mount Wachusett Community College is an accredited, public two-year institution serving 29 cities and towns in North Central Massachusetts. The college offers over 40 associate degree and certificate programs, as well as adult basic education/GED programs, education and training for business and industry, and noncredit community service programs.

MWCC students enjoy many support services and resources including the Fitness & Wellness Center, the Academic Support Center, The Center for Democracy & Humanity, and the 555-seat Theatre at the Mount.

Courses are offered days, evenings, and online.
MWCC Financial Operations

FY07 Revenues

- State Appropriations* 16,531,469
- Tuition and Fees 11,308,982
- Grants 9,887,195
- Other Income 1,895,404

Total Revenues 39,623,050

FY07 Expenditures

- Instruction 11,623,146
- Scholarships 4,140,359
- Student Services 7,194,690
- Academic Support 5,372,429
- Maintenance & Plant 4,013,077
- Institutional Support 4,684,101
- Public Service 1,150,160
- Auxiliary Enterprise 1,445,088

Total Expenditures 39,623,050

*Includes Capital Appropriation

MWCC Foundation, Inc.
Statement of Financial Position (June 30, 2007)

Assets 2007 2006

Current Assets
- Cash and equivalents $303,756 $403,465
- Marketable securities - 625,000
- Accounts receivable and prepaid expenses 9,486 4,500
- Current portion of pledges receivable 172,288 375,096

Total Current Assets 485,530 1,408,061

Marketable Securities 3,512,018 2,501,297

Other Asset
- Pledges receivable, net of current portion 143,367 300,892

Total Assets $4,140,915 $4,210,250

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities
- Accounts payable and accrued expenses $119,208 $63,682
- Deferred revenues 17,500 20,970

Total Liabilities 136,708 84,652

Net Assets
- Unrestricted 298,060 -11,915
- Temporarily restricted 3,463,922 3,895,288
- Permanently restricted 242,225 242,225

Total Net Assets 4,004,207 4,125,598

Total Liabilities and Net Assets $4,140,915 $4,210,250
Thank you to our Donors
Alumni Giving

Susan Adams
Bernadino Alvarez
Ernest Aubuchon
Tracey Bennett
Cheryl Benson
Lyne Bernard
Jane Bettez
Sandra Biernacki
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Bernadette Richard

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Deborah Bibeau
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Deborah Brennan
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Margaret Bronson
JoAnn Brooks
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Melissa Fama
Jacqueline Feldman
John Fielding
Rebecca Forest
Judith Forrester
Anne Garber
Janice Gearan
Taunja Golding-Tule
Suean Goldstein
Institutional Mission
(excerpt)
MWCC exists to meet the education, training, and lifelong learning needs of an educationally, economically, and culturally diverse population living and working in North Central Worcester County. As a publicly-supported, community-focused institution of higher education, the college provides open access to affordable, high quality programs and services that are relevant and responsive to the changing and dynamic needs of the students and residents we serve. We offer a broad and focused array of credit and noncredit pre-baccalaureate learning opportunities that facilitate transfer to a four-year institution of higher education; acquisition of occupational and workforce knowledge, skill sets, and credentials for entry and lifelong maintenance of skill currency in an ever-changing world of work; and the development of fundamental academic and learning skills essential for underprepared students to successfully transition to college and the workplace.

MWCC lives its mission by adhering to the following key operating principles:
• Learning is the central purpose
• Belief in human potential for success
• Civic engagement links learning to the fabric of the community

MWCC Service Area

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Start Near…Go Far
President's Report
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Mount Wachusett
Community College