The defining attributes of Mount Wachusett Community College—quality education, access and affordability, student engagement, commitment to the community and the environment—are brilliantly reflected in the activities of the past fiscal year.

As you read through this report, you’ll discover exciting new programs and partnerships, achievements in academic excellence and extraordinary community service and outreach initiatives.

Among the many highlights of the past year, MWCC opened a new campus in Devens, received national recognition for the thousands of volunteer hours students devoted to service learning and civic engagement, and forged partnerships with four-year colleges and universities to create new opportunities for students seeking an affordable path to a baccalaureate degree.

In March, MWCC received a $1.6 million Community–Based Job Training grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to enhance our Biotechnology/Biomanufacturing program and fund a new partnership with Bristol-Myers Squibb. The grant is enabling the college to acquire state-of-the-art equipment for the Devens campus laboratories to ensure students enrolling in associate degree, certificate and noncredit programs have access to the most current technology as they’re trained to work in this burgeoning field.

In the area of renewable energy and conservation, this has been a banner year: the college made advances in new green energy initiatives and conservation measures that continue to enhance MWCC’s reputation as a national leader in the climate movement. In fact, we refer to this year’s report as “The Green Edition” due to the many accomplishments and accolades over the past year.

On behalf of the board of trustees, faculty, staff and students, I am proud to present this report to you, which contains many more noteworthy programs and activities. As I reflect on the past year, I continue to be amazed by the extraordinary accomplishments of our faculty, staff and students; and cannot help but look forward with anticipation to what we can achieve together in the coming year.

Thank you for your continued support of MWCC.

Sincerely,

Daniel M. Asquino, Ph.D.
President

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Innovative Articulation Agreements Expand Transfer Opportunities

New opportunities for students seeking careers in business, health care, public safety, technology and other fields were realized this spring with the creation of several new articulation agreements.

President Asquino and Nichols College President Debra M. Townsley established an “Associate’s to Bachelor’s” Business Program in March. MWCC students who enroll in the “A to B” program, also known as the “3 Plus One” program, will be jointly admitted to Nichols. After earning an associate degree in business at MWCC, students will complete a third year of business coursework at MWCC, then transfer all 90 credits—equal to three years—to Nichols College to pursue a baccalaureate degree in business administration in their fourth year.

Program flexibility is a significant advantage to students, as fourth-year coursework can be completed on the MWCC campus, on Nichols’ campus in Dudley, or online. Students enrolled in the new program will save money on tuition and traveling expenses and enjoy the benefits associated with being a Nichols graduate.

MWCC also signed “3 Plus One” articulation agreements with St. Joseph’s College in Maine and Franklin University in Ohio for multiple online bachelor’s degree programs. In May, MWCC and Quinsigamond Community College (QCC) in Worcester forged a new articulation agreement in healthcare careers. Under this agreement, MWCC students will have the opportunity to enroll in QCC’s Radiologic Technology program. Similarly, Quinsigamond students will be eligible to enroll in MWCC’s Physical Therapist Assistant program.

New Campus Serves Devens Region

In January, MWCC’s Devens campus relocated to the former Army Intelligence Building at One Jackson Place, 27 Jackson Road. Renovations during the spring and summer prepared the 38,000-square-foot facility for state-of-the-art biotechnology and biomanufacturing laboratories.

In addition to housing the college’s new biotechnology program, the Devens campus also will provide space for academic and workforce training, including the Emergency Medical Technician program, Liberal Arts and General Studies associate degree programs, Adult Basic Education, and Practical Nursing, Nurse Assistant and Medical Office certificate programs.

The Devens facility is a full-service campus providing student orientation, financial aid, admissions, registration, account services, advising, career, and transfer services, bookstore hours and wireless Internet access.

Achieving Excellence in Academics

Biotechnology Partnership Fueling Jobs

In March, MWCC’s new Biotechnology/Biomanufacturing program received a tremendous boost when the college was awarded a $1.6 million Community-Based Job Training grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to expand the program and fund the Biotechnology/Biomanufacturing Partnership Project, a collaboration with Bristol-Myers Squibb.

The grant is being used to train students in this burgeoning industry, acquire state-of-the-art equipment for the college’s new laboratories at its Devens campus, develop curricula and career-building programs, provide scholarships and hire training faculty.

“As this industry continues to grow, the job opportunities for graduates of this program will greatly increase,” said President Asquino.

More than 350 new jobs are anticipated at the Bristol-Myers Squibb facility under construction in Devens, in such areas as production operators, microbiology specialists, analytical chemists, technicians and support services. The pharmaceutical company will use biotechnology at the new facility to manufacture Orencia, a medicine used to treat rheumatoid arthritis.

MWCC launched its Biotechnology/Biomanufacturing associate degree and certificate programs in fall 2007. The Devens campus will serve as the college’s Science and Technology Center, with an emphasis on science, engineering, and math programming.
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First Year Experience Seminar to Engage New Students

To enhance student success, the Division of Academic Affairs revamped a college introductory course to create a new First Year Seminar that is more comprehensive, interactive and engaging.

Research shows that such courses increase student success and retention. The seminar will be a requirement beginning in the fall 2008 semester for all students who test into foundation reading and English courses.

In May, 12 full-time faculty and adjunct instructors participated in a two-day training program to prepare for more than 200 incoming students registered to take the class.

Dental Hygiene Program Expanding

The Dental Hygiene program added a seventh operatory at its training site at Burbank Hospital in Fitchburg. The renovation will enable the popular academic program to accept two additional students each year, beginning in fall 2008, for a total of 14 freshmen each year. On another high note, the program’s 2008 graduates had a 100 percent pass rate on the National Board Examination, matching the success of the program’s first graduating class, in 2007.

MWCC Expands Technology Use in Classrooms

MWCC was one of 42 colleges and universities in the United States and Puerto Rico to receive a 2007 HP Technology for Teaching Leadership Award. The grant, designed to enhance teaching and learning through the innovative use of technology and valued at more than $68,000, provided MWCC with 21 wireless Tablet PCs, program support funds and additional technology.

During the past academic year, Associate Professor Susan Taylor used the Tablet PCs in her Computer Technology course and Professor Kenneth Takvorian used the equipment in his algebra classes. The use of this interactive technology notably increased student engagement and retention and enhanced teaching strategies.

In June 2008, the college was one of 10 institutions selected to receive a second HP Technology for Teaching Leadership Award, valued at $131,000 in program support funds, professional development, and HP equipment, including 42 new Tablet PCs. During the upcoming academic year, a team of professors will collaborate to bring the technology to English, anatomy & physiology, photography and additional computer science courses, as well as pre-college outreach to high school students through MWCC’s College Access and Preparation Programs.

To further accommodate 21st century students, college faculty and staff are turning to MWCC’s new Center for Teaching & Learning to discover how to use the most current technology in their classrooms and offices. Services provided by Assistant Dean of Distance Learning & Instructional Technology Vincent Ialenti and Center Director Donald Westover include instructional design and strategy, course design, course content development, distance education, Blackboard support and training, assessment, technology integration, mobile technologies, software training, hardware technology training and web design.

Assistant Professor Julie Capezzzi, with President’s Academy students Sarah McKelligon, Ken Sena, Mark Jenkins and Ben Morse.

Students Learn Global Lessons

James Mangok Wol, one of 4,000 Lost Boys of Sudan who relocated to the United States over the past several years after fleeing their war-torn country, shared his story of survival.

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The International Club raised enough money through bake sales, a car wash, raffles and other activities to enjoy an end-of-year trip to New York City. Twenty club members and four MWCC staff members soaked in two days of sight seeing at Central Park, Ground Zero, Times Square, the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island.

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In another presentation during the fall semester, MWCC alumna Paula Mulqueen, RN, described to nursing students how she and her husband, Dr. John Mulqueen, provide medical care to infants, children and adults in one of the poorest regions of the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti. She and her husband founded Forward in Health, a nonprofit organization, which is opening a clinic in Les Cayes.

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Tuition and fees are waived for participants; the students only pay a $10 application fee and purchase the course's textbook.

The hybrid course met alternate weeks in a classroom with the remainder of the course taught online through MWCC’s Blackboard course management software.

The President's Academy is managed by the distance learning and instructional technology department, the Division of Access and Transition and the office of admissions.

Top High School Students Earn College Credit Through President's Academy

MWCC’s President’s Academy, now in its third year, delivered a unique learning experience this summer to 21 students from high schools throughout MWCC’s service area. Participants, who are all among the top percent of their high school class and are entering their senior year, had the opportunity to earn three college credits by enrolling in an Introduction to Psychology course.

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Student Leader Appointed to State Higher Education Board

Liberal Arts and Sciences major Katie Forgues served the past academic year as a member of the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education. Forgues was appointed in October 2007 as a student member of the board with full voting privileges. A graduate of Fitchburg High School and a 2008 graduate of MWCC, Forgues also served two terms as president of the Student Government Association, is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa international honor society, and volunteered in numerous ways for campus and community events.

MWCC Students Recognized on All-State Academic Team

MWCC students Katie Forgues and Colleen Hayes were honored as members of the All-Massachusetts Academic Team during a recognition ceremony at the Statehouse in April. The two exemplary students were also nominated to the All-USA Team for their outstanding academic achievements and their service to the college and the community. Both participated in the Visions program at MWCC and Phi Theta Kappa international honor society.

Setting the National Pace

In recognition of his exceptional leadership, innovation and support of college communication initiatives, President Asquino was named the 2008 Pacesetter of the Year by the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR), an affiliate of the American Association of Community Colleges. One of the organization’s most prestigious awards, the Pacesetter is presented annually to one community college president nationally. President Asquino received the award in March during the organization’s conference in Savannah, Georgia.

Distinguishing achievements that garnered the Pacesetter title included the president’s success in creating new academic programs reflecting the workforce needs in the state and region and establishing MWCC as a national leader in renewable energy and civic engagement.

Nursing Students Inspire Legislative Action

Students in the Practical Nursing program at Devens inspired the Massachusetts Legislature to become the second state in the nation to pass a joint resolution encouraging Congress to create an Office of the National Nurse. The national position would complement the Office of the Surgeon General and provide advocacy for preventive medicine to combat a rise in chronic health conditions such as obesity and type 2 diabetes.

The students and their professor, Collene Thaxton, wrote letters to legislators urging the action. State Representative Christine E. Canavan, (D-Brockton) embraced the cause and introduced the widely supported resolution, which was approved in March. Canavan, a registered nurse, reunited with the students in June as the keynote speaker during a traditional pinning ceremony.

Top Left: State Representative Christine E. Canavan (D-Brockton), front center, invited Devens Practical Nursing students, assistant professor Collene Thaxton, Director of Nursing Nancy Daphly and Dean of Health Sciences Eileen Costello to the Statehouse to recognize their advocacy for an Office of the National Nurse.

In October, Student Trustee Isaura Luna received the Dean Sullivan Award during the annual fall Leadership Conference on Cape Cod, sponsored by the Community College Student Life Association. The award is given annually to a student within the Massachusetts Community Colleges in recognition of their commitment and achievement as a volunteer leader. Luna graduated in May with a degree in Business Administration.

Below: President Asquino in front of a riverboat on the Savannah River with NCMPR immediate past president David Ross of Kwantlen University College, British Columbia, Canada, and NCMPR District 1 Director Kathleen Ceballos of Atlantic Cape Community College in New Jersey.

Board of Higher Education Chairman Frederick W. Clark, Jr., left, President Asquino, and All-State Academic Team honorees Katie Forgues and Colleen Hayes at the Statehouse.

Ashley Gough, editor of The Mount Observer, received a 2008 Payne Journalism Award for Ethics in the collegiate division. The prestigious national award is presented annually by the University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communications. Timothy Gleason, dean of the University’s School of Journalism and Communication, presented the award.

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Recognition at State and National Levels

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College Access: An Investment in Our Future

$1 Million Investment in Future Math and Science Scholars

Students from Gardner High School, Athol-Royalston High School and Murdock Middle/High School in Winchendon, with a propensity for math and science, will benefit from a $1 million, four-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education (DOE). MWCC’s Division of Access and Transition launched an Upward Bound Math Science (UBMS) program this past academic year to help low-income or first-generation college students develop their potential and encourage them to pursue postsecondary degrees in these subject areas.

“The Upward Bound Math Science program at Mount Wachusett Community College will give students the critical skills they need to achieve and thrive in college,” said Senator Edward M. Kennedy, in announcing the grant last fall.

Senator John Kerry also commended the DOE for investing in the young men and women of Massachusetts. “The Upward Bound program will allow Mount Wachusett Community College to open avenues, academic and professional, for talented math and science students that may have otherwise been unable to take full advantage of their natural ability.”

UBMS, one of the nationwide TRIO programs created through federal legislation nearly 40 years ago, is 100 percent funded by the U.S. Department of Education.

Summer UP Collaborative Benefits Youth

The Summer UP youth program began its fourth year in June 2008, providing employment opportunities to 135 area teenagers and free recreational activities to more than 1,000 children at nine park sites in Fitchburg, Leominster, Gardner and Winchendon.

The program, administered by MWCC in partnership with Fitchburg State College, the Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts, Workers’ Credit Union, local law enforcement agencies and private donors, provides summer employment, leadership training and field trips to middle and high school students, as well as safe recreation spaces, activities and meals to hundreds of area children age four and above. Summer UP is designed to decrease unsafe behaviors and provide meaningful service to the community.

“The Summer UP youth program is an extraordinary program because it impacts the most important element of our society—the kids, our future,” said President Asquino. “This is a collaborative program that has so many positive residual effects. This is what community is all about.”

“The Gateway to College program opens a new door of opportunity for students ages 16 to 20 who have dropped out or are on the verge of dropping out of high school, reside in Massachusetts and are significantly behind in high school credits for their age or grade. Gateway students are enrolled in small learning communities of 20 to 25 peers who take their first semester foundation classes together in preparation for the transition to the traditional college curriculum.

Fall 2007 enrollment in this program increased 25 percent, with more than 160 students enrolled. Now entering its third year, the Gateway to College program at MWCC began through a $300,000 start-up grant provided by Portland Community College, with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and their partners, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Ford Foundation and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and receives funding, from Massachusetts Chapter 70 Funds.

James Landry, a student at Gardner Middle School, was one of 135 Summer UP camp counselors this year.

Gateway to College Provides New Beginnings

Thirteen area students who previously left high school for various reasons reached a milestone when they received their diplomas as part of MWCC’s Gateway to College program. The students, who were dually enrolled at Gardner High School and MWCC, graduated from Gardner High in May.

The students meet at MWCC’s Gardner campus weekly throughout the academic year for math and science research projects, academic advising and mentoring, MCAS and SAT preparation, financial aid and scholarship workshops and educational and cultural field trips. A six-week residential program takes place each summer at Fitchburg State College, to simulate a college experience. In addition to Fitchburg State, other partners providing academic opportunities include Heywood Hospital, NYPRO Industries and the University of Massachusetts, Lowell.

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An Investment in Our Future

Upward Bound Math Science students include, from left, Emma Spencer of Athol-Royalston High School, and Gardner High School students Yang Fagan, Joe Santana and Shauna Pratt.

“An Investment in Our Future” - Senator Edward M. Kennedy

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Gateway to College 2008 graduates included, from left, Brittany Noonan, Courtney Stroschine and Amy Flanagan.

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Gateway to College Provides New Beginnings
Thirteen area students who previously left high school for various reasons reached a milestone when they received their diplomas as part of MWCC’s Gateway to College program. The students, who were dually enrolled at Gardner High School and MWCC, graduated from Gardner High in May.

The Gateway to College program opens a new door of opportunity for students ages 16 to 20 who have dropped out or are on the verge of dropping out of high school, reside in Massachusetts and are significantly behind in high school credits for their age or grade. Gateway students are enrolled in small learning communities of 20 to 25 peers who take their first semester foundation classes together in preparation for the transition to the traditional college curriculum.

Fall 2007 enrollment in this program increased 25 percent, with more than 160 students enrolled. Now entering its third year, the Gateway to College program at MWCC began through a $300,000 start-up grant provided by Portland Community College, with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and their partners, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Ford Foundation and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and receives funding from Massachusetts Chapter 70 Funds.

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MWCC was at the forefront of the climate movement when it converted its all-electric main campus in Gardner to a biomass heating system in fall 2002 to slash expenses and greenhouse gas emissions. Since then, the conversion has reduced the college’s carbon footprint by 22.3 percent, cut electricity usage by 26.9 million kilowatt hours (kWh), or 38 percent, water usage by 13.8 million gallons, or 52 percent, and achieved a cost savings of $2.93 million. The energy savings accomplished by this project provide significant environmental and health benefits from the reduction of air pollutants. Cumulative emissions reductions include 11,000 tons of carbon dioxide, 18 tons of nitrogen oxide and 47 tons of sulfur dioxide. This translates to the equivalent of planting 3,012 acres of trees and removing 1,920 cars from the roads.

The conversion is also paving the way for new green energy initiatives on campus, including solar and wind power, and elevating the college’s standing as a national leader in renewable energy. The 2007-2008 fiscal year brought an abundance of accolades and other forms of recognition to the college for its efforts.

Above: In December 2007, MWCC was featured prominently in The Chronicle of Higher Education cover story, “Colleges Strain to Reach Climate-Friendly Future.” President Asquino appeared on the front page of the national publication to illustrate the lead story on campus climate initiatives.

New lighting fixtures in the Fitness & Wellness Center will save more than $20,200 in annual energy costs.

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MWCC a National and Regional Model
MWCC was featured in Higher Education in a Warming World: The Business Case for Climate Leadership on Campus, a newly released report of the National Wildlife Federation showcasing schools that are leading the way toward a sustainable future.

The report highlights “the business, educational and moral arguments for reducing greenhouse gas emissions on campus, with best practices from U.S. colleges and universities.” The report demonstrates how 100 schools are stepping up efforts in response to the potential threats of global warming. MWCC is one of four institutions highlighted for large reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

MWCC was also featured in “Renewable Energy: A Primer for Massachusetts Campuses,” a guide published in April by Clean Air-Cool Planet.

Fitness Center Lightens Up
How many MWCC employees does it take to change a light bulb in the Fitness & Wellness Center? None — for the first 30,000 hours of illumination.

The college’s Department of Facilities Management obtained $20,000 in state grants from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and another $27,500 in energy rebates from National Grid to cover more than half of the cost of replacing every light fixture and bulb in the Fitness & Wellness Center. More than 100 metal halide light fixtures were swapped with long-lasting, energy-efficient fluorescent fixtures and new control panels were installed to minimize unnecessary usage.

As a result, the college will save more than $20,200 in energy costs each year, recoup the cost of the project in less than two years, and reduce the manpower hours previously spent changing light bulbs.

The environment wins, too. The lighting retrofit translates into an estimated annual reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 162,223 pounds of carbon dioxide, 428 pounds of sulfur dioxide and 178 pounds of nitrogen oxide. Eliminating these air pollutants would be the equivalent of planting 21 acres of trees and removing 14 cars from the road annually that would have consumed 10,025 gallons of gas.

Studies to conduct a lighting retrofit for the main campus building are underway.

MWCC Leads the Way to a Sustainable Future
MWCC received a Climate Champion Award from Clean Air — Cool Planet (CA-CP), a leading environmental organization in the Northeast dedicated to finding and promoting solutions to global warming. MWCC was selected to receive the award in recognition of its commitment to the environment and ongoing renewable energy initiatives.

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In March, MWCC received the Wachusett Chamber of Commerce’s first environmental award, which was established to recognize individuals or organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to environmental issues and have made an outstanding contribution to benefit the environment in the Wachusett region.

“As the first recipient of this award, the college serves as a model for other businesses to emulate,” said Wachusett Chamber Executive Director Maegen McCaffrey.

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Wind Turbines:

Wind Power Studies Completed

With $35,000 in funding provided by the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative and the Division of Capital Asset Management, the college completed the feasibility analysis for one or two wind turbines at the Gardner campus. Two turbines in the range of 1 to 1.5 megawatts would generate enough power to provide half of the campus’ electricity needs, according to studies conducted by Boston-based engineering consultants Jacobs, Edwards and Kelcey.

The project is currently in the federal permitting stage, a year-long process required for any federally-funded turbine installation as part of the National Environmental Protection Act.

As part of this permitting process, the college is currently conducting environmental impact studies to mitigate impacts on birds, bats, noise, visual disruptions, wetlands and other issues.

Studies were completed this year on MWCC’s wind energy proposal to install one or two wind turbines.

Solar Panels to Save Even More Energy

MWCC received $900,000 in federal and state funding to support the installation of a new photovoltaic solar array that will generate in excess of 100kW.

The funding includes $310,000 in federally-sponsored Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREB), issued by MassDevelopment on behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. MWCC was one of 11 facilities across the state selected to receive CREB funding to support the installation of solar energy cells, and one of five facilities selected to receive the largest amount awarded.

By participating in the no-interest bond program, Massachusetts will save more than $1 million in borrowing costs, along with $180,000 in annual energy costs, while reducing the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere by 500 metric tons each year.

“Governor Patrick and I consider the bonds issued by MassDevelopment an essential tool for helping state agencies invest in renewable energy and lead by example toward a clean energy future for the Commonwealth,” said Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Ian Bowles.

This spring, the college installed a white, reflective roof over the entire main building at the Gardner campus in preparation for the installation of the new solar cells. The white roof will increase the efficiency of the new solar panels.

MWCC Demonstrates Global Leadership in Green Initiatives

In December 2007, MWCC Executive Vice President and Resident Engineer Edward R. Tercero, Jr., was invited by the German government to join a delegation of 12 U.S. engineers, professionals, educators and congressional staff to study how Germany has prepared its workforce to support tremendous growth in the field of renewable energy.

The study tour, sponsored by Germany’s Ministry of Education and Research and the Heinrich Böll Foundation – North America, is helping MWCC prepare academic and workforce development training programs in renewable energy technology.

In March, Tercero was asked to participate in the global ministerial conference that took place during the Washington International Renewable Energy Conference (WIREC) in Washington, D.C. Attendance at the ministerial-level meeting is by invitation only. Hosted by the U.S. government in cooperation with the American Council on Renewable Energy, WIREC 2008 was the third global, ministerial-level conference on renewable energy, following conferences in Beijing in 2005 and Bonn in 2007.

“We are proud that our efforts at Mount Wachusett Community College are not only resulting in a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, but are also having a positive impact on the way our students view their relationship with the environment.”

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MWCC Named Among Top 50 Green Colleges

MWCC was named one of the country’s top 50 green schools in September 2007, in Kiwi magazine’s inaugural “Green College Report.” The national parenting magazine listed environmentally conscious schools “that will help your kids help the planet.”

By making the grade, MWCC was placed in the company of Cornell, Duke and Stanford universities.

MWCC was also included in the magazine’s list of academic institutions that have signed the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment. President Asquino is a charter signatory of the Presidents Climate Commitment and is a member of its Leadership Circle. In this capacity he encourages other college presidents to exercise leadership in their communities by modeling ways to minimize global warming emissions and educate students about environmental issues.

Tercero has presented on renewable energy at numerous conferences and workshops throughout the country and abroad. He currently serves on the Higher Education Committee of the American Council of Renewable Energy and is a member of the technical advisory committee of the Association for the Advancement in Higher Education.
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MWCC Executive Vice President Edward R. Terceiro, Jr., at the manufacturing plant of Solar World AG in Bonn, Germany.

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Service Learning:
A Cornerstone of an MWCC Education

MWCC Students Organize Food Drive
A trio of Paralegal Studies students organized a food drive to benefit Ginny’s Helping Hand food pantry in Leominster as part of the Feinstein Foundation’s $1 Million Giveaway to Fight Hunger initiative. More than 94,000 items poured in to Ginny’s in March and April through this three-campus drive and other collections in the community.

The contributions were matched with a $50,000 donation from the Rhode Island-based foundation, the maximum amount donated to any one organization.

Ginny’s pantry and thrift shop founder Ginny White said the efforts of MWCC students Nathaniel Katisch, Valerie Daigle and Sara Vaz increased awareness and participation throughout the greater community, resulting in a final tally that more than doubled the prior year’s drive.

The students placed collection bins at several city locations, conducted raffles and bake sales and placed signs throughout the community to raise awareness about the hunger crisis, now significantly affecting more families and individuals than ever due to the economic crisis.

Nursing Students Show Link Between Health and Nutrition
Freshmen Nursing students assisted Heywood Hospital healthcare professionals in presenting health and wellness information to approximately 300 Gardner Middle School students in March as part of a diabetes education and screening program.

The 22 nursing students, along with faculty members Meghan Picone, Lisa Gandrin and Raeann LeBlanc, helped the adolescents understand the relationship between health and nutrition.

The free DREAM program, which stands for Diabetes Risk Education, Assessment and Modification, is offered as a community service by Heywood Hospital and the Heywood Physicians Hospital Organization to middle school students in Gardner and Winchendon.

“I am extremely proud of our students, who consistently demonstrate a willingness to go above and beyond to serve residents in our community, and I am equally proud of our faculty and staff who have embraced service learning and integrated it into their curriculum and programs.”

-President Asquino

Nationally Recognized for Service Learning and Civic Engagement
Proving the act of giving truly is its own reward, nearly 500 MWCC students collectively volunteered 10,000 hours this academic year through service learning and community activities benefitting children, adults and organizations throughout North Central Massachusetts.

The outpouring of service to others, in such areas as preventive healthcare, education, tax preparation, business services and environmental conservation, earned MWCC a place on the 2007 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, with Distinction. Of the 528 institutions selected for the Honor Roll, MWCC was one of just 127 named with distinction.

Launched in 2006, the Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition a college or university can achieve for its commitment to service learning and civic engagement. Honorees for the award are selected based on a series of selection factors including scope and innovativeness of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers academic service learning courses. The Honor Roll is a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service and is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the USA Freedom Corps and the President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation.

Cynthia Haley and Laura Travisono were two of 20 MWCC students who chose handiwcs and hammers over sunscreen and swimming by volunteering in the college’s first Alternative Spring Break in March. The students, along with four staff members, spent a portion of spring break helping Habitat for Humanity-North Central Massachusetts build a house in Townsend for a family of six. The community service project was organized by the office of student life.

Ginny’s Helping Hand founder Ginny White with MWCC Paralegal Studies students Sara Vaz, Valerie Daigle and Nathaniel Katisch.
Top: Elizabeth Peters was one of six art students, also including Joel Cameron, Audrey Cocci, Matt Dunn, Corinne Godrich and Linda Simon, who volunteered to paint murals for a Gardner beautification project initiated by Colonial Co-operative Bank. The students devoted many hours in June creating murals that covered boarded windows at the vacant Goodnow Pearson building on Main Street while a sale and renovations were pending. The murals depict a department store theme spanning the decades Goodnow’s was in operation as a popular department store.

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Taking learning and integrated service beyond the classroom, Nursing students Bethany Nordman, left, and Ashley Ashmore, presented information about the amount of sugar in various breakfast foods during a diabetes education and screening program at Gardner Middle School.

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Kid Expo 2008 Teaches Children about Health and Safety

The fifth annual Molly Bish Kid Expo at the Gardner campus drew a record crowd of more than 8,000 children, parents, grandparents and caregivers for a day of fun focused on health and safety. Over 2,000 attended a similar event at HealthAlliance Hospital, Leominster.

The free festival, hosted by the Center's Molly Bish Institute for Child Health and Safety with the support of numerous community sponsors and partners, raises awareness of child health and safety issues by providing hands-on learning opportunities. At the heart of the event is the distribution of free Child Safety I.D. kits provided by the Molly Bish Foundation.

“We do this in Molly’s memory,” President Asquino said during the event. “She is here in spirit, encouraging us to continue to do this for the individuals who are the most vulnerable of our society and who are the future of our communities.”

The Molly Bish Institute was established by MWCC and John and Magi Bish in memory of their 16-year-old daughter Molly, who was abducted while serving as a lifeguard at Comins Pond in Warren in June 2000.

“I am thrilled that this has become such a big event and that it involves so many activities focused on preventive measures,” said John Bish. “Mount Wachusett Community College has become recognized for making the safety of children a pivotal focus. Every child who leaves here, leaves here happy and safer, and that makes me happy.”

The Center for Democracy & Humanity’s mission is to promote civic engagement, positive social change and healthier, more vibrant communities through innovative programming and partnerships that benefit the college and the greater community.

What’s Next? Speaker Series Brings Critical Issues to the Forefront

Economic development in North Central Massachusetts was the theme of the 2007-2008 What’s Next? Speaker Series. Gardner Mayor Mark Hawke, Leominster Mayor Dean Mazzarella and Fitchburg Mayor Lisa Wong addressed municipal issues and collaboration in the first panel presentation, “Embracing the New Economy,” in November.

The second session, in January, “Emerging Opportunities in the New Economy,” took an in-depth look at how certain industries affect development, including healthcare and the biomedical industries. Panelists included Lorie Martiska, vice president of community relations at Heywood Hospital; Rick Mohnk, chief information officer for HealthAlliance Hospital; Richard Elmer, training manager, learning and development, for Bristol-Myers Squibb; and Edward Terceiro, executive vice president of MWCC.

The speaker series continued in March with the presentation, “Living and Working in the New Economy,” which focused on housing, transportation, municipal growth, ecotourism, local farming and quality of life issues. Panelists included Ronnie Bicocchi, north central regional director for the Massachusetts Office of Business Development; Michael Ellis, president and chief executive officer of the Greater Gardner Chamber of Commerce; Diane Silva, senior vice president of mortgage lending for Enterprise Bank and Trust; and Carly Antonellis, legislative aide to State Representative Jennifer Flanagan.


The series was sponsored by MWCC’s Center for Democracy & Humanity in partnership with The Trustees of Reservations, the North Central Massachusetts Development Corporation, and the Partnership for Latino Success. The speaker series continued in March with the presentation, “Living and Working in the New Economy,” which focused on housing, transportation, municipal growth, ecotourism, local farming and quality of life issues. Panelists included Ronnie Bicocchi, north central regional director for the Massachusetts Office of Business Development; Michael Ellis, president and chief executive officer of the Greater Gardner Chamber of Commerce; Diane Silva, senior vice president of mortgage lending for Enterprise Bank and Trust; and Carly Antonellis, legislative aide to State Representative Jennifer Flanagan.
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The series continued in March with the presentation, “Immigration: The Community’s Roadmap to Success,” also in March. The series concluded in April with the presentation, “Entrepreneurial Spirit: The Pulse of the New Economy,” with speaker Bob Auein, chief executive officer of MassInnovation.

The series was sponsored by MWCC’s Center for Democracy & Humanity in partnership with The Trustees of Reservations, the North Central Massachusetts Development Corporation, and the Partnership for Latino Success.

The Center for Democracy & Humanity’s mission is to promote civic engagement, positive social change and healthier, more vibrant communities through innovative programming and partnerships that benefit the college and the greater community.
Compassion Capital Fund Grant Benefiting Area Nonprofits

In October 2007, MWCC was awarded a three-year Compassion Capital Fund grant totaling $600,000 from the Administration for Children and Families of the federal Department of Health and Human Services.

The grant, which is being administered by the Center for Democracy & Humanity’s Institute for Nonprofit Development (INPD), will pay for professional consultants to provide social service agencies in North Central Massachusetts with intensive, collaborative strategic and financial planning.

Each year, a competitively selected group of agencies will receive training and assistance in the five critical areas of capacity building: leadership development; organizational development; program development; revenue development; and community engagement.

In addition to direct service, the grant will enable the INPD to award a total of $80,000 each year for the next three years to competitively selected organizations. North Central Massachusetts organizations selected in the first year for training provided by Community Wealth Ventures of Washington, D.C., in partnership with the United Way of North Central Massachusetts are Cornerstone Performing Arts Center; the House of Peace and Education, Inc. (HCPE), the Multi-Service Center; The Bridge of Central Massachusetts, Inc.; and the Young Entrepreneurs Society, Inc. Organizations selected for training provided by Cause & Effect, Inc. of Providence, RI are Warner Winters, Montachusett Interfaith Hospitality Network, Literacy Volunteers of the Montachusett Area, TeenAIDS-FeetCorps, Inc., Montachusett Addiction Council, and Coghorn Neighborhood Center.

High School Students Get Civics Lesson

A group of Fitchburg High School students took part in MWCC’s Citizenship Academy, earning six college credits and gaining invaluable experience planning and implementing community service projects.

The 14-week Citizenship Academy introduces high school students to higher education, civic engagement and community service. As part of the college’s “Decade of Civic Engagement” initiative, MWCC offers the Citizenship Academy to students completely free of charge, including tuition, fees and books. The program is administered by MWCC’s Center for Democracy & Humanity in collaboration with the Division of Access and Transition.

This year, Citizenship Academy was integrated into the existing schedule at Fitchburg High for the first time, a change that enabled participants to have easier access to the two college-level sociology courses, Introduction to Sociology and Social Problems. Students were required to test into English Composition I, which is a prerequisite for the Citizenship Academy courses.

The students met three days a week for classes led by an MWCC instructor, once a week for a homework assistance class and once a week for a service learning and civic engagement class. Guest speakers during the semester included Fitchburg Mayor Lisa Wong and State Representative Stephen DiNatale.

Fitchburg Mayor Lisa Wong with Citizenship Academy students.

MWCC Training Programs Highlighted in MIT Workforce Study

MWCC’s training and development programs were featured this past spring in the North Central Massachusetts Workforce Development Strategies Plan, a study conducted by a Massachusetts Institute of Technology research team.

The study, initiated by the North Central Massachusetts Economic Development Council, of which MWCC is a partner, was conducted to research and explore the region’s current economic conditions and create new strategies that can be implemented by the council.

The report notes MWCC’s success in assisting area businesses with writing and obtaining state workforce training grants, as well as its new partnership with Bristol-Myers Squibb to provide training in the field of biotechnology. The report also highlights the college’s renewable energy and “green” initiatives, as well as plans to develop curriculum that will train students to work in the clean energy industry, which is expected to grow significantly in Massachusetts and nationally.

Encouraging Business Growth in North Central Massachusetts

Third Annual Business Plan Recognizes Local Entrepreneurs

Art to Gogh, a mobile company that reinforces the importance of art and creativity by bringing hands-on activities to homes, businesses, schools, festivals and other outlets, was the grand prize winner in MWCC’s third annual Business Plan Competition. The competition is sponsored by MWCC’s Entrepreneurial Resource Center with the support of numerous business sponsors.

Entrepreneur Lynn Toomey of Lunenburg won $13,400 in cash and in-kind services, plus six months of free office space, to grow her company, which has since been renamed Let’s Gogh Art. The grand prize included $3,000 in cash for business expansion and a variety of services from sponsors, such as legal guidance, web design, marketing, printing and Chamber of Commerce membership.

Toomey, a wife and mother whose academic and career background in business, marketing and art led her to found the company, said the competition winnings will enable her to increase marketing efforts and develop a licensing program to launch the business model to other independent owners. The business offers art-based creative education and entertainment services for children and adults.

MWCC and Worcester Tech. Partner on CISCO Agreement

Worcester Technical High School students now have the opportunity to earn college credits from MWCC under a new Information Technology articulation agreement approved this past spring. This agreement provides a pathway to advanced training in networking and CISCO certification.

Under the agreement, Worcester Tech. students may take seven courses at the high school that earn MWCC credits. Students can then choose to take just four additional courses at MWCC to earn a certificate in Electronic Communications & Digital Media. be prepared to take CISCO Certified Networking Associate exams and continue on for advanced CISCO networking certification.
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“Good Morning America” News Anchor Addresses Graduates at MWCC’s 43rd Annual Commencement

Service to community was the theme of MWCC’s 43rd Commencement in May, when 642 students were awarded associate degrees and certificates. Ron Claiborne, news anchor for ABC’s “Good Morning America” weekend edition, urged students to remain engaged citizens of their communities and of the world. “Service to community is not just an ideal and it’s not just a goal. It is our assignment,” the veteran newsman said. “You’re lucky. You have attended an institution that understands that service is an important part of our lives.”

During the ceremony, Service Above Self Awards were presented to dedicated community volunteers Suzanne Farias, general manager of the Four Points by Sheraton Leominster, Ladd Lavallee, co-president of Laddawn, Inc. in Sterling, and Dr. John Mulqueen and Paula Mulqueen, RN, of Gardner, founders of Forward in Health medical outreach to Haiti.

Honorary degrees were presented to retiring Vice President of Academic Affairs Peter Trainor, State Senator Stephen Brewer and Ron Claiborne.

International Journalist Recognized as 2008 Alumna of the Year

International journalist Birgit Brauer, a 1989 graduate of MWCC’s Broadcasting and Telecommunications program, was honored as the 2008 Alumna of the Year during Commencement. Brauer came to MWCC as an international student from Germany, eager to learn about a career in the media, and continued on to achieve tremendous success both academically and professionally. “Her determination to reach her goals truly serves as an inspiration to our students,” President Asquino said.

After earning her degree at MWCC, Brauer graduated cum laude from Harvard Extension School in 1991 with a bachelor’s degree in Social Sciences, and received a master’s degree in International Journalism from American University in Washington, D.C. in 1993, and her Ph.D. at the Center for Russian and East European Studies at the University of Birmingham in the UK, in 2008.

Based in Kazakhstan, Brauer is a correspondent for The Economist, writing articles on the political, economic and social situation in Central Asia. She previously worked as a correspondent for The New York Times, Bloomberg News and the Associated Press.

“Graduating from ‘The Mount’ was in itself a tremendous achievement for me back then,” she said. “I was the first woman in my family to attend college. For me, the Mount was a great place to start out and I look back on my studies with great fondness.”
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Richard W. Nobile Honored as 2007 Citizen of the Year

Richard W. Nobile, long serving volunteer in North Central Massachusetts and executive vice president of IC Federal Credit Union, was presented with the 2007 Harold E. Drake, Jr. Citizen of the Year Award during MWCC Foundation, Inc.’s annual dinner. The October celebration at the Colonial Hotel in Gardner attracted more than 300 attendees, including community and business leaders from throughout the region. MWCC student scholarship award recipients also were honored during the event.

Nobile received accolades for his tireless efforts as a co-founder of the Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts in 2000. The organization quickly grew to become an integral part of the community and provides funding for numerous programs that benefit area residents, agencies and organizations, including several civic engagement initiatives of the college. Nobile also has volunteered for many years with the United Way of North Central Massachusetts and currently serves on its board of directors and as a member of its executive committee.

“I believe that this region possesses some of the most creative community leaders in the nation,” President Asquino said. “Our honoree is one of these leaders.”

Richard W. Nobile was honored as the 2007 Harold E. Drake, Jr. Citizen of the Year. With him, from left, are Executive Director of MWCC Foundation Darlene Morrilly, Board of Trustees Chairman Jay Davis Drake, President Asquino, Senator Stephen Brower and Representative Robert Rice.
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MWCC Foundation, Inc. awarded scholarships totaling $140,000 to 137 students during the past academic year, and awarded an additional $100,000 to launch the college’s Community Scholars program in fall 2007.

The 12 students selected for the program are receiving full, two-year scholarships, textboks and leadership training while they work in paid internships at nonprofit organizations throughout the region.
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, online, and in other convenient formats.

### About MWCC

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### Enrollment Highlights

**FY 2008**

- Total credit and noncredit annual unduplicated headcount: 11,000
- Credit
  - Credits course registrations: 24,298
  - Annual credit enrollments: 5,882
  - Full time: 44%
  - Part time: 56%
  - Male: 35%
  - Average Age: 28
  - Under age 18: 2%
  - 18-19: 21%
  - 20-24: 32%
  - 25-34: 21%
  - 35-49: 20%
  - 50-65: 4%
  - Students with previous college experience: 66%
  - Degree-seeking students receiving financial aid: 51%
  - Average class size: 14.2
- Noncredit
  - Total noncredit course registrations: 14,103
  - Workforce development noncredit course registrations: 12,579
  - Number of students graduated in 2008: 642
- Career preparation
  - Placement rate of career program graduates: 69%
  - MWCC licensure exam pass rate:
    - Dental Hygiene: 100%
    - Registered Nursing: 88%
    - Practical Nursing: 89%
  - Number of associate degree programs: 23
  - Number of certificate programs: 19

### Financials

#### MWCC Financial Operations

**FY Revenues**

- FY08: 17,323,757
- FY07: 15,770,155
- State Appropriations: 17,323,757
- Capital Funding: 1,638,697
- Tuition and Fees: 12,145,725
- Grants: 10,145,682
- Other Income: 1,384,987
- Total Revenue: 42,838,848

**FY Expenditures**

- Instruction: 12,778,139
- Scholarships: 4,894,266
- Tuition and Fees: 7,888,737
- Academic Support: 5,295,614
- Maintenance & Plant: 4,814,011
- Institutional Support: 5,117,007
- Public Service: 3,003,236
- Auxiliary Enterprise: 1,097,818
- Total Expenditures: 42,838,848

#### MWCC Foundation, Inc.

**Statement of Financial Position**

(June 30)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>FY08</th>
<th>FY07</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and equivalents</td>
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#### Assets

- Current assets: 251,616
- Noncredit: 485,530
- Marketable Securities: 3,404,268
- 3,512,018
- Other Asset
  - Pledges receivable, net of current portion: 29,326
  - 143,367
- Total Assets: 3,685,210

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- Total Assets: 3,685,210

#### Liabilities and Net Assets

- Liabilities and Net Assets: 3,685,210
- Liabilities: 4,140,915
- Net Assets: 4,140,915

#### 2008

- Current Assets: 251,616
- Noncredit: 485,530
- Marketable Securities: 3,404,268
- Other Asset
  - Pledges receivable, net of current portion: 29,326
  - 143,367
- Total Assets: 3,685,210

#### 2007

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- Noncredit: 485,530
- Marketable Securities: 3,404,268
- Other Asset
  - Pledges receivable, net of current portion: 29,326
  - 143,367
- Total Assets: 3,685,210

#### FY Expenditures

- Instruction: 12,778,139
- Scholarships: 4,894,266
- Tuition and Fees: 7,888,737
- Academic Support: 5,295,614
- Maintenance & Plant: 4,814,011
- Institutional Support: 5,117,007
- Public Service: 3,003,236
- Auxiliary Enterprise: 1,097,818
- Total Expenditures: 42,838,848

#### FY Revenues

- FY08: 42,838,848
- FY07: 39,623,050
Enrollment Highlights

FY 2008

Total credit and noncredit annual unduplicated headcount 11,000

Credit
Credits course registrations 24,298
Annual credit enrollments 5,882
Full time 44%
Part time 56%
Female 65%
Male 35%
Average Age 28
Under age 18 2%
18-19 21%
20-24 32%
25-34 21%
35-49 20%
50-65 4%
Students with previous college experience 68%
Degree-seeking students receiving financial aid 51%
Average class size 14.2

Noncredit
Total noncredit course registrations 14,103
Workforce development noncredit course registrations 12,579
Number of students graduated in 2008 642
Associate degrees 446
Certificates 196

Career preparation
Placement rate of career program graduates 69%
MWCC licensure exam pass rate:
Dental Hygiene 100%
Registered Nursing 80%
Practical Nursing 80%
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 daily, evenings, online, and in other convenient formats.
Thank you to our Donors

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Gardner Rotary Club
Gardner Visiting Nurses Association
GFA Federal Credit Union
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Jay Gearan
Marta Gilman
James & Mary Lou Geasler
Jennifer Gosselin
Christine Gosselin
David Godin
Nancy Greenlaw
Gardner Lodge of Elks

Kurt Geary
Kathleen Gendreau
Donna Gendreau
Lori Geary
Jane Cook
Karen Connell

Terry Howlett
Susan Howe

Wendell P. Clark Memorial Association
Lorraine Wickman
Regina Winson
Laura Wool
Workers’ Credit Union
Walter Zahnle
Michele Zide

Alumni Giving
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Theresa Chenausky Adams
James Adams
Bernadino Alvarez
Joel Anderson
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Claire LaGasse
MWCC exists to meet the education, training, and lifelong learning needs of an 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**


**Foundation Grants**

Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts

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Legacy Gifts

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Institutional Mission

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MWCC Service Area


MWCC Foundation

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Points of Light Foundation
Robinson Broadhurst Foundation, Inc.
President’s Report

FY2008