• Support for Main South
• President Carberry's Inauguration
• Scholarship Initiatives
A Message from President Gail Carberry

I was deeply moved by the recent inaugural events at which I was formally installed as the fifth President of Quinsigamond Community College. It was an opportunity for the College and the community to celebrate the rich history, the present, and the future of this wonderful community college.

It was a week of homecoming for retired faculty, a week of generosity as ten QCC students each received $2,500 scholarships from the QCC Foundation, and a week of dedicating campus spaces in appreciation of memorial gifts made to the College. As the morning rain cleared on the day of the inauguration, the sun shone brightly on the campus – a metaphor for the bright new possibilities that lie ahead for Quinsigamond Community College. With a record enrollment of 6,655 students this fall and building on a 44 year history of student centered service, QCC is moving in new directions to expand access within the community.

“Community” is at the center of our name and at the core of what we do in Greater Worcester. Key to our community involvement is our partnership with others in our region. Our service area embraces a wide geographic area and an even wider mix of individuals from various towns and neighborhoods. We know that our role is significantly enhanced when we join our educational mission with the assets and energies of others who are committed to advancing the quality of lives for local residents. The promotion of QCC’s partnership connections is one of the most salient reasons for the work of the Quinsigamond Community College Foundation. Through the efforts of the Foundation, QCC has been able to expand alliances with local public schools, create new scholarship programs, develop new business linkages, and improve responsiveness of the College to a range of community concerns.

Key to the work of the QCC Foundation has been a volunteer Board, led for 5 years by a dedicated Board Chair, James Harrington. Jim has devoted 16 years to advancing the QCC Foundation overall. This issue of Connections shines a well deserved spotlight on Jim. He has been not only a prime benefactor but also a passionate advocate and ambassador for QCC and an articulate spokesman for the College’s mission of social justice through higher educational access.

QCC envisions an even greater period of outreach and integration of its services into neighborhoods in which reside people who need QCC’s quality, affordable education. To that end, the Harrington Foundation, with the vision of Jim Harrington, has helped to advance new partnerships between QCC, Clark University and the Boys and Girls Club in the Worcester Main South area. Our collective goal will be the expansion of educational services for low income families in that neighborhood and, consequently, a lifting of hope and opportunity.

Jim Harrington’s commitment to QCC has been long and deep. And he continues to help the new QCC administration to advance a new vision of what our “community” connections can be. For all that Jim does for this College, and for the community we serve, we are truly grateful.
It was not a simple decision for James Harrington. He knew there could be numerous organizations in the future that might request support from his foundation, and all would have important and worthy causes that could use financial assistance. Still, looking forward, Harrington felt that the Francis A. and Jacquelyn H. Harrington Foundation, of which he is a trustee, would best make a difference in aiding a dynamically changing section of the city of Worcester, Main South, and focusing on an issue which Harrington holds close, education.

As a result, the Harrington Foundation announced a change in the focus of its grant making, with an emphasis on supporting three organizations that assist residents of the Main South neighborhood. Upon completion of current multi-year charitable pledge obligations, the foundation will dedicate the income from 75 percent of its total endowment to programs operated in the Main South neighborhood by Quinsigamond Community College, Clark University, and the Worcester Boys & Girls Club. Assuming the foundation retains its current value, at least $150,000 will be provided to each organization annually.

“These three organizations,” Harrington began, “play incredibly important roles in the city of Worcester. I can think of no better way to advance the positive movements in the Main South area than by helping the Boys & Girls Club, Clark, and QCC to bring forth new programs that will expand educational opportunities to both youth and adult residents of the area.”

Clark University will use its funding to continue its campus-neighborhood partnership programs. The Boys & Girls Club, which recently opened a $9 million clubhouse in the Main South area, will use the foundation’s grant for expansion of club services and programs for neighborhood children. Quinsigamond Community College will use its grant money to award scholarships to people living in the neighborhood.

QCC President Dr. Gail Carberry, who serves on the Board of the Boys & Girls Club, indicated that the College is expecting to open an education center at the Club in early 2008, designed to improve college access, particularly for parents, in the Main South community.

Dr. Carberry stated, “Jim Harrington’s long-term role as Chairman of the QCC Foundation has made him acutely aware of the challenges faced by low income students who access our programs. We thank him for his vision in helping us to extend higher educational opportunities in Main South.” Harrington feels strongly that education is a key to self-betterment. Although much improvement has been made in the Main South area in recent years, with new development and the opening of the Boys & Girls Club, Harrington sees even more room for progress. In shifting its grant making to support the Main South community, his foundation is looking forward to helping the residents of the area continue to better themselves through educational opportunity.

“The Harrington Foundation is truly blessed to have such wonderful friendships with Quinsigamond, Clark, and the Boys & Girls Club. I am confident they will work together to energize Main South through their education initiatives,” Harrington added.

Dr. Carberry, herself a community college graduate, knows the importance of educational opportunities. She is thrilled that QCC will work with such outstanding organizations.

“It’s a pathway to upward mobility. Main South has needed this kind of infusion of support for some time, and so we’re delighted to be part of it,” Dr. Carberry added.
A **Celebration** of QCC and

If she had her way, President Gail Carberry would have been sitting unassumingly in the audience amidst her family, colleagues, esteemed guests, and students, looking up at the decorated stage, honoring and happily celebrating Quinsigamond Community College. It was, after all, her preference that her own inauguration ceremony instead be called a “Celebration of QCC.”

On this day, however, President Carberry took the stage to lead what she called a “celebration of Quinsigamond’s distinguished past, its vibrant present, and its promising future,” as she was officially inaugurated as the fifth president of Quinsigamond Community College on September 28, 2007.

The day began with the dedication of the College’s front slope in memory of President Carberry’s daughter, Amy, who passed away three years ago. Amy’s son, Brendan, and the President’s husband, Don, unveiled the new monument, which pictures a child sledding down a snow covered hill. It reads, “Amy’s Slope: Dedicated to children and the parents who love them.” The Carberry Family pledged a $100,000 life insurance policy to name the hill and eventually fund the Amy Carberry Endowed Scholarship Fund.

The inauguration ceremony began shortly after, with over 50 college delegates taking part in the processional accompanied by the Burncoat High School String Quartet. Guest speaker Dr. Andrew Scibelli, President Emeritus at Springfield Technical Community College, commended President Carberry and expressed his sincere congratulations. He then reminded QCC how fortunate the College is to have her as its new leader. Scibelli also welcomed the opportunity to share a few humorous stories about his former colleague, all of which kept guests laughing in appreciation of the obvious friendship the two continue to share.

After receiving the Oath of Office before Frederick Clark, the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education Chair, and Brent Andersen, Chairman of QCC’s Board of Trustees, President Carberry turned to face a standing ovation from the crowd of over 400.

Thanking many in attendance, she spoke specifically to the QCC faculty and staff, stating, “You are the spirit of QCC. A president cannot be effective without the support of an extraordinary team of people backing her up. I stand tall because you are with me here today and every day.”

President Carberry’s infectious optimism and energy were evident throughout her address. She called Quinsigamond a campus with a “history of planting seeds for success in the minds and hearts of students,” noting she feels “so very privileged to be back in Worcester where I grew up, working within an organization that makes such an important local impact.”

Looking forward, the president’s vision for the College is clear and bright. As part of a dedicated team, she vows to “continue leveraging the minds and talent of our faculty, staff, students and alumni in supporting a greater quality of life in the community and its surrounding areas.”
President Carberry envisions the construction of new state-of-the-art educational facilities, including new health and science labs as well as updated technology tools that will support the College’s capacity to build a local workforce that she says can compete effectively both regionally and globally.

Fittingly, President Carberry closed her address with the same passion and excitement she feels as QCC’s new leader. “We will publicly celebrate all that is extraordinary about Quinsigamond Community College and its students… I pledge my total commitment to the many tasks at hand. You may count on my energy and enthusiasm for QCC and in the truth of my word in all matters.”

The President’s address followed introductions and welcomes from QCC’s Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Brent Andersen, Senator Harriette Chandler, Representative James O’Day, Mayor Konstantina Lukes, Student Representative from the class of 2008, Chelsey Fortier, President of the Alumni Board, Lisa Smith, Chairman of the QCC Foundation, James Harrington, QCC Professor of English, Margaret Wong, and AFSCME Representative, Edward Crotty.
QCC Receives $750,000 National Science Foundation Grant

Research and Outreach for the Advanced Manufacturing Industry in Worcester to Begin

With a recent award from the National Science Foundation, Quinsigamond Community College has begun initiatives to change the perception that manufacturing in Worcester is a thing of the past.

In July, Quinsigamond Community College announced the award of a $750,000 National Science Foundation grant which will fund the creation of the Massachusetts Technician Education Collaborative, known as Mass-TEC.

“A number of people put great effort into applying for these NSF funds,” QCC President Gail Carberry stated. “We are excited to move forward with the Mass-TEC project to help Worcester’s manufacturing industry continue to thrive.”

Commissioned by the QCC Foundation, a report on the status of manufacturing in Central Massachusetts titled, “Worcester Area Manufacturing Workforce Competitiveness: A Report on the Status of the Industry, July 2007,” indicated that 73 percent of local manufacturers cited the lack of a pool of qualified, skilled workforce candidates as a top concern with the region’s employment climate and its effect on the manufacturing industry. In addition, the report indicated that the top two occupational areas in which the industry is facing the most severe employee shortages are CAD/CAM technicians and production supervisors.

“Like many manufacturers, Metso Automation is struggling to obtain the skilled resources that are essential to develop and implement advanced technologies,” David Bayreuther, vice president of engineering for Metso stated from one of the company’s major engineering and manufacturing centers located in Shrewsbury. “We are facing the stigma that manufacturing is on the decline in North America and the negative impact this has had on technology education.”

Quinsigamond’s newly formed Mass-TEC has begun work to fulfill these corporate needs by devoting its recent $750,000 NSF grant to researching Worcester’s manufacturing industry and beginning outreach efforts. The initiative is aimed at producing more engineering technicians and will target adult job seekers, K-12 students, and particularly under-represented minorities and women in the process of making career decisions.

Working with Quinsigamond Community College’s partners in Mass-TEC are the Worcester Public Schools, the Latino Education Institute of Worcester State College, the Worcester Family Engagement Coalition, Intel Corporation, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, the Commonwealth Corporation, the Massachusetts Manufacturing Extension Partnership and the Education Development Center, Inc.

Elsa Rivera of the Latino Education Institute reiterated the importance of outreach efforts to students, in particular to the large and fast growing Latino population in Worcester.

“We are excited to move forward with the Mass-TEC project to help Worcester’s manufacturing industry continue to thrive.”

- President Carberry

“The Latino Education Institute already has established relationships with parents of Latino students, so it makes sense to be involved in such an important initiative,” she explained. “In working with Latino parents already, they have been amazed at the shortage of skilled workers and the huge need there is to have more kids going into manufacturing.”

According to Kathy Rentsch, dean of instruction for business and technology at the College and a key facilitator in the creation of Mass-TEC, workers need more than a high school degree for the kinds of jobs manufacturers are looking to fill. “They are not all considered entry level, but rather they are highly technical,” she added.

Mass-TEC will support parents, teachers, and career counselors in promoting college-level technician education and career pursuits within advanced manufacturing. It will emphasize the disciplines of industrial robotics and automation, manufacturing, electronics, computer and information technology and engineering technology, and promote the educational opportunities in those disciplines offered by area colleges.

“In response to our report on manufacturing, QCC’s Board of Trustees recently approved the offering of a new CAD Certificate Program,” President Carberry stated. “Our partnerships with industry and education will further advance responses to this local competitive workforce issue.”

Left: Kathy Rentsch, QCC dean of instruction for business and technology, explains the Mass-TEC initiative at a news conference announcing the NSF grant.
Quinsigamond’s Foundation Sponsors Industry Forums

In spring of 2007, Quinsigamond Community College began a major initiative to investigate the region’s business and industry communities. Forum sessions, sponsored by the QCC Foundation, were planned as a way to directly speak with and learn from area businesses with regards to both their company’s needs and those of various industries as a whole.

QCC President Gail Carberry explained, “A major component of our College’s mission is to support the development of the state’s and region’s business and industry community through direct service and through the production of graduates trained to meet the workforce requirements necessary for continued economic growth in the region.”

A number of challenges are impacting the region, including an aging workforce, increasing global competition, and shortage of employees with comprehensive technical skills. Through the business partnership forums, QCC will seek the advice of corporate CEOs from among the region’s top industry leaders.

The first forum was held in March, with 11 representatives from companies in the manufacturing industry. The group met on campus for two hours, discussing topics ranging from the employment climate to challenges each company faces in technology, energy, and operations. Participants responded to a series of questions in an interactive format. Also discussed were areas of employee technical skills and shortages. When completed, the College compiled the data in an official report on the Worcester area manufacturing industry.

The initial forum was a great success. The manufacturing report has been completed and released, and the healthcare forum, which took place in September and featured 19 representatives from the healthcare industry, was equally successful. When completed, a summary report will be similarly released. A forum on tourism and the biotech industry are in the planning stages.

“The QCC Foundation is pleased to fund these forums,” stated Michael Seppala, vice president of institutional advancement. “QCC is granted multiple opportunities to build relationships with these businesses, which is vital to the advancement of the College.”

Robert Lepage, consultant for The Clemens Group which is assisting with the forums and reports, added, “We are pleased to be a part of QCC’s growth to meet Worcester’s workforce and regional economic needs.”

In assessing the needs of various area industries, QCC is, in essence, educating itself on how to best prepare its students for entry into the workforce as it continues to offer a first-rate education to the Worcester community and surrounding areas.
For the last two summers, QCC’s Betty Lauer, associate professor of computer systems engineering technology, has supervised 30 middle schoolers taking part in QCC’s Summer Technology Academy for Girls. She has watched in amazement as the young girls built computers from a pile of individual parts, loaded software, and created web sites using their own digital pictures. Their success led Lauer to create an Advanced Robotics Intensive which, thanks to a generous Microsoft grant, will benefit 300 youths during the 2007-08 academic year and further strengthen the College’s connection to the Worcester Public Schools.

In May, Microsoft Corporation’s U.S. Partners in Learning Massachusetts Education Innovation Grant program awarded $139,000 to Quinsigamond Community College in support of the College’s new Advanced Robotics Intensive for underserved Worcester Public School boys and girls in grades six through 12. Quinsigamond is one of only four organizations in the State to receive this prestigious grant out of an original applicant pool of 78.

“We are thrilled to receive this award,” Lauer stated. “It is clear that Microsoft shares the same sentiments regarding the importance of technology programs for Worcester youths.”

QCC will work in partnership with an organization called Innovation First – For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology – using its economically priced and transportable FIRST-VEX robot and game board model in the Worcester Public Schools.

Microsoft’s Massachusetts Education Innovation Grant program is designed to support and extend after-school programs that focus on science, technology, engineering and math, known as the STEM fields. For nearly five years, QCC has offered Worcester Public Schools its Women in Technology program and Summer Technology Academy, both of which have included a Robotics component.

According to Albert Vasquez, WPS student and staff support manager, QCC’s programs “do something the WPS system simply does not have the resources or capacity to do itself: provide ‘hands-on’ training and continuous exposure to possible educational and professional paths in STEM disciplines.”

Lauer explained that the program is not all about robotics. “Rather, it focuses on skills needed for engineering careers in the 21st century. Robotics is used as a method of relaying teaching and learning. Students learn not just robotics, but the engineering process cycle, project management, communications, teamwork, and information technology, all in a hands-on, project-based environment.”

QCC faculty and 20 Quinsigamond student mentors are assisting the Worcester public school teachers in mentoring the 300+ students, who will make up 24 robotics teams throughout the city. Students will hail from all Worcester public high schools and middle schools, and a few elementary schools. As with many of Lauer’s technology programs, most students will come from economically underserved families and likely lack both a computer and a professional mentor at home. Many need improvement in science, math, and English. Lauer knows first-hand the importance of hands-on learning opportunities in STEM disciplines for these students.

“We want our technology outreach ‘graduates’ to return as part of Worcester’s labor force and help their communities break the cycle of poverty and lack of access to these fields,” she stated.

The Microsoft grant will be used to purchase robotics equipment for the schools, pay teacher stipends and QCC mentors, and provide transportation for the students in their field trips. A number of activities, including local and regional tournaments, are planned. The Advanced Robotics Intensive began with a kickoff event in September. Two hundred students and teachers learned what the program would entail and excitedly checked out the FIRST game board they would be using later. December 15 is set as the final competition date.

“Students love robotics because it’s hands-on action. Teachers love robotics because kids want to do it. You can combine many applied science and math topics in the curriculum,” Lauer added.
QCC's Children's School
35 Years of Early Childhood Education Celebrated

QCC celebrated 35 years of early childhood education at the College in June with a reunion and family get together. The celebrations took place on campus, outside the Child Study Center school, and were highlighted by the presenting of two citations from the State Senate and House of Representatives given to honor the Early Childhood Education Department and Children's School.

The family-centered get together celebration brought over 50 families to the school and featured entertainer and singer, Rick Goldin, as well as free food and games for the children. There was also a Molly Bish identification table and QCC dental hygiene students were on hand offering their identification tool, “toothprints,” for any child.

The reunion celebrated the accomplishments of ECE graduates and provided alums the chance to tour the Children’s School, meet Ann Reale, the commissioner for Early Education and Care, and speak with local government representatives. Guests also visited with fellow alums, QCC faculty, and school staff. In conjunction with both events, preschool students from the Children’s School exhibited original works of art, and a slideshow of ECE alumni was looped on a television screen for all to view. Approximately 100 alums, faculty, and staff took part in the reunion.

“QCC's lab school is one of only a few on college campuses throughout New England. It's what distinguishes the College's early childhood education program from others. Senator Harriette Chandler and Representative James O’Day, who both spoke at the reunion, recognized that distinction with official citations from the city and state. Senator Chandler’s official congratulations read, “In recognition of the joyous celebration of the program’s 35th anniversary.” Representative O’Day, who extolled Quinsigamond’s superior childcare and early childhood education program, officially cited the program’s “35 years of dedicated service.”

James Leary, former state representative and current Chief of Staff for Lieutenant Governor Tim Murray, also addressed the audience. His children attend QCC’s Children’s School and their experience has been nothing but positive.

“It was heartwarming to hear Jim Leary, whose children attend our program, articulate the importance of early education and care from both a personal and professional perspective,” stated Charlene Mara, coordinator of the early childhood education program. “He shared with the participants the impact that quality programs, such as the Quinsigamond Children’s School, can have on school success.”

She added, “Families and programs need to form partnerships to enable parents to work or attend school knowing that their children are in quality educational settings.”

Certainly, the College continues to be proud of the early childhood education program it provides year after year.
Maykel Family Names Atrium

QCC Foundation Board member, Albert “Al” Maykel, and his family recently made a generous contribution to the College’s Capital Campaign.

The Maykel family donated $10,000 to name the Maykel Atrium in the Harrington Learning Center in honor of Judge Albert E. and Mary Maykel, and Dr. William G. and Helen Maykel.

The Maykel Atrium is a small and brightly lit area located on the second floor of the Learning Center, next to the stairwell to the library. The Maykel family held a ceremony to unveil its plaque on the wall. In addition, the donation will go toward scholarships for future QCC students.

Tenth Annual QCC Golf Classic a Huge Success

Over 120 people comprising 30 foursomes took part in the 2007 QCC Foundation Golf Classic on a beautiful September 24th day. Golfers raised over $25,000 for QCC student scholarships.

Held at Wachusett Country Club, the tournament featured a range of activities surrounding the round, including lunch, dinner, contests, photos, a silent and live auction, as well as awards and prizes. On hand were nine of the ten students who received a $2,500 tuition scholarship from the Foundation: Therese Ripley, Randy Pierce, Dan Mascroft, Martin Simmons, Lauren Jonielunas, Oliver Fletcher, Judith Serdahl, Yamira Gonzalez, Keona Gavin, and Stephanie Mero.

Special thanks to our sponsors and patrons. The support of the College’s generous friends affects many QCC students. Thank you for all you do!

Metso Automation Scholarship

Beginning next fall, Metso Automation, a world-wide company with a manufacturing facility in Shrewsbury, will provide an annual scholarship to a graduating senior of Worcester Technical High School who will attend QCC and major in electromechanical technology.

Metso specializes in automated flow control and information management systems. The idea to implement a scholarship began with John Kennedy, supervisor to Metso employee and current QCC student, Manny Gomez. Gomez, not far from obtaining his associate’s degree, has been working at Metso for two years and performed exceptional work. Metso formed a partnership with Worcester Technical High School and Quinsigamond to create the scholarship.

“Our partnership with the Worcester Technical High School and QCC provides Metso Automation the opportunity to shape the educational path of students to create the skills we anticipate needing in the future,” said Kristin Richard, PHR Recruitment & Development Supervisor. “Additionally, it is a way for Metso Automation to support our local community from both an educational and employment perspective.”
Presidential Scholarship Initiative

Every Dollar Helps Support a QCC Student

LIZ WOODS
Dean of Students

"In my 10 years here at QCC I have been amazed at the things our students have given-up, overcome, and struggled through. I gave to the Presidential Scholarship Initiative to help all those students, to help put the goal of an education that much closer to their grasp. I gave to acknowledge all that I have been given."

ANNONYMOUS
QCC Professor

"I have often been asked why I chose to teach at QCC. The truth is our students are amazing, and when they compel me to address their inventiveness, their creativity, and distinctive views on the world, I am given much more than I can ever give. My contribution to the Presidential Scholarship Initiative is the least I could do in return for what I have received. I made my gift anonymously because I wanted to maintain my privacy and to have the focus be on the gift rather than the giver."

As part of the College’s Presidential Scholarship Initiative, an appeal to alumni, faculty, and staff began in October. Funds raised through the campaign will go toward scholarships for QCC students.

“As members of this College community, we see first-hand how private support benefits QCC,” said Michael Seppala, vice president of institutional advancement. “Who better than us, our staff and faculty, to serve as positive examples of support. We see our students’ needs each day.”

President Gail Carberry pledged a lead gift with a $100,000 life insurance policy which will eventually fund the Amy Carberry Endowed Scholarship. She also named the slope in front of the College in her daughter’s name. Annmarie Incutto, clerk III of the registrar’s office, recently made a $2,500 donation to the initiative. She made her donation for reasons, she explained, relating to her childhood.

"I gave because I remember what it was like growing up and needing people to help my family,” Incutto began. “My aunt and uncle always helped out my mother and me when I was younger and times were tough. They never wanted payment back. That was my inspiration to give."

Several other people made significant gifts as well, of whom just a few are highlighted here. Seppala added that he and his department are "incredibly appreciative of all our gifts. Every contribution makes a difference in the lives of our students."

If you would like to emulate these generous faculty and staff members, by supporting scholarships for deserving students, please contact the Development Office at 508-854-4520.

New Alumni Representative to the Board of Trustees

Safford was a 1998 graduate of Quinsigamond. She is currently the director of multicultural affairs at Assumption College in Worcester. As the QCC alumni representative to the Board, Safford will attend regular meetings of the Trustees, which take place six times a year. She will serve a five year term.

Safford’s selection came as the result of a call for nominations that appeared in the previous Connections Magazine edition. She was selected from a number of qualified nominations that were brought forth. The College welcomes her to this important position.

QCC Board of Trustees

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Spirit Night ‘07

At least for one night, the Athletic Center on campus became a home of witches, warriors, and ballers as “Spirit Night 2007” took place on October 31. The evening was the kickoff event for the basketball seasons at QCC, as well as a Halloween celebration for children.

A whirlwind of activities for kids took place, including a Halloween costume contest and an “around the world” basketball shooting game. There was also a free throw competition among faculty and staff. The men’s and women’s basketball teams competed in some shooting contests as well, with the activities culminating in the slam dunk contest by the men’s team.

Both QCC basketball teams hope to build off the championship seasons each had last year!

Texas Hold ‘Em Event A Success

QCC’s development department and alumni association held a unique and festive fundraiser last spring with their first Texas Hold’em poker tournament. Over 70 people attended with funds going toward the College’s study abroad program. Faculty, staff, friends, and students from the study abroad group all took part in the event. The Harrington Learning Center’s first floor was transformed into a fun poker tournament setting with energy at a high throughout the evening. QCC staff is hoping the creative fundraiser will become an annual tradition!