QCC’s Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Brings STEM Awareness to Young Girls in South County; Honors in Action Project - All Systems GO!

Since last Spring, QCC’s PTK members have been hard at work toward the completion of their Honors in Action project, a requirement to earn the Five Star Chapter distinction. This year’s Honors Study topic is The Culture of Competition. (The international honor society for community colleges requires two service projects to be completed each year to maintain status as members.)

PTK Honors in Action projects are designed to use or develop significant leadership abilities to make a positive difference through service, open to all PTK chapters. Members choose a study topic and develop actionable goals to create a final project to enter into the Hallmark Awards competition, which pits all PTK Chapters’ Honor in Action projects against each other to earn distinction as a distinguished chapter internationally. Currently, PTK is at the highest level of membership - Five Star.

After determining their theme, “One Small Step, One Giant Leap; Competition and Science, Math and Technology,” work progressed rapidly. On Saturday, November 10, they completed the service component of their project; a rocket launch with the Bling Bling Sisterhood, a girls church group led by PTK member and Public Relations Officer, Cindi Beeman.

The project included an educational component with fun learning materials (created in cooperation with Berkshire Community College’s chapter of PTK) rocket construction, decoration and a LAUNCH! Chad Bleakney, PTK’s V.P. of Scholarships, an Engineering student and Engineering Club member took the lead on the construction and launch. PTK provided 12 rockets which were predominantly assembled by PTK members, then the Bling Bling Sisterhood took over. The 46 member-strong girls group is composed of 4th, 5th and 6th grade girls (and some 3rd graders, affectionately dubbed Mini-Blings!) from a wide range of towns (from North Hampton and Brimfield to Sturbridge and the Brookfields) who assemble regularly at the Quinebaug Valley Baptist Church in Brookfield.

PTK President, Jodi Christian says, “the day was a huge success! The girls had a great time while learning the importance of STEM education and how it can affect their future, while we were able to complete this important piece of our project.

Photos: Institutional Communications

PTK member, Asma Chaudri, assists girls with rocket decoration.
Commonwealth Citations Awarded to QCC Faculty and Staff

On October 23, Bonnie Coleman, PTK Advisor; Richard Leoni, Automotive Program Tool Technician and Don Morin, Coordinator of the Automotive Technology program were each recognized with the Commonwealth Citation for Outstanding Performance at a ceremony in Leominster. The Citation is given to employees of the Commonwealth who have demonstrated exemplary work performance.

Faculty and staff from Fitchburg State University and Mount Wachusett Community College were also recognized at this event.

QCC’s Hospitality and Recreation Management Program in the News

The November 4 edition of the Worcester Telegram and Gazette ran an item on the Casino industry in MA, highlighting QCC’s HRM program.

QCC is one of the few colleges state-wide to offer a Casino Management course. Pat Hutchinson, Coordinator of the program says she is very pleased with the recognition and also, “delighted that QCC’s HRM program graduates can work in any of the regions under consideration [for a new casino].”

Read the full article at: http://www.telegram.com/article/20121104/NEWS/111049846/1002/newsrewind

QCC Student Awarded Scholarship from the MA Society for Respiratory Care

Tammi Chisholm, Respiratory Care Class of 2013 has been awarded the MA Society for Respiratory Care (MSRC) student scholarship.

She was presented the award on October 3 at the MSRC’s annual meeting in Sturbridge after submitting a winning essay. Ms. Chisolm, who will graduate in May is from West Brookfield.

Congratulations Ms. Chisolm!

Dr. Lori Corcoran to Present at NASPA Annual Conference

Dr. Lori Corcoran, Dean of Special Populations’ program proposal, titled, “Listening to Student Voices in the First Year” has been accepted for presentation at the 2013 NASPA Conference.

Dr. Corcoran’s program was selected as one of approximately 400 programs, drawn from a pool of nearly 1,000 programs submitted, selected by peer review.

NASPA is the leading association for the advancement, health, and sustainability of the student affairs profession. The 2013 conference will be held March 16 - 20 in Orlando, FL.

QCC Foundation’s Innovation and Excellence Fund Now Accepting Proposals

The QCC Foundation is accepting proposals from faculty and staff for the Innovation and Excellence Fund. Proposals for the development of creative ideas, projects and/or programs that improve student experiences and meet community needs will be considered. Proposals may also be designed to strengthen current programs, partnerships or curricula. The maximum award is $2,500. Funds may not be used for stipends, professional development or travel.

Proposals will be judged on the relationship of each proposed project to one or more of the six strategic priorities captured in QCC’s Strategic Plan.

The deadline for proposals is December 1, 2012 for projects taking place from January 1 to June 30, 2013. Applications must be made directly through the on-line form: www.qcc.mass.edu/QCCfoundation/olf/Default.asp, which is located on the QCC Intranet under “Frequently Used Forms”.

Awards will be announced at All College Day on Tuesday, February 5, 2013.

Congratulations Ms. Chisolm!
TRiO Student Support Service Fast Forward Program Marks Second Year

QCC’s TRiO Student Support Services (SSS) Program, funded by the U.S. Department of Education has completed the second year of a five-year, $1.1 million federal grant affecting 140 students each year, in August.

The Department of Education’s TRiO programs began in the 1960’s after the passage of the Higher Education Act of 1965 with programs such as Upward Bound, Educational Talent Search, and Student Support Services. These three programs coined the name TRiO. Student Support Services goal is to help students who are first-generation college students, who are economically disadvantaged, or who have disabilities. The Student Support Services grant assists both part-time and full-time students, including nontraditional and returning learners.

QCC’s SSS office has two full-time staff members, two part-time tutors, and one part-time administrative assistant. SSS students come to the office for academic advising, tutoring, and financial and career planning.

Students served by the SSS grant choose how often they use the office’s services: One student might come by just once or twice a semester for help or counseling, while another might spend a five hours each week in the office. Many, but not all, students in the program hope to receive an associate degree, often in General Studies, and then transfer to another school. Already program graduates have transferred to schools such as Anna Maria College, Worcester State University, and Cornell University.

The Student Support Services office relocated from the Surprenant building to the Administration building in August. The new, larger, and more central space has allowed SSS to expand and enhance services and activities offered to the SSS students.

The second year of TRiO has gone extremely well according to Ricky Frazier, Student Support Services counselor. Year 2012/2013 promises to be even better, with “even more student participation” and “more students graduating.” Frazier stated that the greatest satisfaction for the SSS staff is “seeing students graduate, receive an associate degree, and walk across the stage”.

Applications to the SSS Program are accepted throughout the year; however acceptance into the program is each fall semester only. Applications are available in Room 170A; students can also email trioss@qcc.mass.edu or phone 508.854.4458 for more information.

Be an Angel

In the spirit of the Holiday Season, QCC Counseling Services invites you to:

A HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, November 29, 2012
Room 107A
8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

QCC students, faculty and staff are asked to “be angels” and bring a new unwrapped toy for a QCC Feed a Family child. Your toy will delight a child and register you in the holiday raffle.

Please join Counseling Services for home baked goodies and/or a light lunch.

COMEC Winners!

Congratulations to Philomena D’Alessandro and Sethu Sekhar for winning the COMEC Raffle. Ms. D’Alessandro won a parking space for one year and Mr. Sekhar won a Bookstore gift certificate.

The COMEC Campaign is closing in on its goal; thanks to all who have donated thus far.
On November 8, QCC honored 26 outstanding male students at the annual “You’re A Star” ceremony. Students are nominated by faculty and professional staff on the basis of their academic standing, accomplishments, character and skills, in particular their ability to overcome great odds, make a difference in their home or school community and any achievement that has distinguished them from fellow students. While not attending class, many are on-campus tutors, outstanding athletes, dedicated parents and loyal employees and volunteers - often challenging combinations to manage successfully while attending college.

The yearly program is co-sponsored by Counseling Services and the Vice President of Academic Affairs. The STAR designation stands for Someone To Admire and Respect. The equivalent female award ceremony, Women of Distinction, is celebrated in May.
Campus News

Random Act of Kindness

The QCC Family invites you to participate in “A Random Act of Kindness!” to support Planting Seed Foundation, Inc.

Please donate (any size, any gender, any color, etc.,) children’s hat and mittens for Worcester-area needy children and adolescents. (Check donations are also accepted - make checks payable to QCC and drop off to Susan LaPrade or Elizabeth Ortiz, Rm. 132A or to Nancy Chosta, Rm. 119A.)

WHEN: November 26 – December 13, 2012
WHERE: Drop box locations on campus:
• HLC, Library front desk
• Ahlfors Building, Faculty Development Room
• Hebert Auditorium
• Administration Building, First Floor, Room 119A
• North Wing entrance
• Fuller Student Center
• Bookstore/Cafeteria
• Athletic Center
• Millbrook street and QCC Southbridge

And feel warm all over!

PTK News

Another PTK holiday tradition is upon us - The Annual Poinsettia Sale has begun! This is the only event PTK conducts to raise funds for working capital for their chapter. Please place orders at the PTK Office, Rm. 154A or e-mail Bonnie Coleman at BColeman@qcc.mass.edu. Plants will be in Thursday, November 29 and are $10 each.

Letters for Santa!
PTK is also assisting Macy’s fund-raising efforts for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. For each letter to Santa collected, Macy’s will donate $1 to the foundation. Stop by the PTK office for a letter template or drop your letter off!

Road Bowl Ends, Winning Teams Are...

The Road Bowl Walking Challenge ended on October 26 at midnight. A closing ceremony was held November 5 during which the winning teams were announced. Once again, QCC “walked” away with a first place team and a runner up team. Congratulations to:

QCC’s First Place Team: MILEMANIA
Captain: John Mitchell
Team Members: Mark Bashour, Pat Noyce, Gilmarie Rivera and Lamont Slater
( Winners of $250.00 prize from Fallon Community Health Plan.)

QCC’s Runner Up Team: SOLE SURFERS
Captain: Eleanor Dailida
Team Members: Kelly Ashe-Dailida, Liz Hanlan, Kim McManus and Pat LaRochelle

Congratulations to all who participated!

Revel in the Rivalry!

QCC Attendees at Closing Ceremony, left to right: Laurie Comeau, Diane Maple, Nancy Chosta, John Mitchell and Pat Noyce
Campus News

New Faculty and Staff
We are pleased to announce the recent appointment of Carol King as the new Director of College & Career Pathways.

Ms. King has been with the college for the past five years, serving as both the Project Director, Massachusetts Technician Education Collaborative (Mass-TEC), and as Director of Early Career and College Awareness. Additionally, she brings a wealth of experience from the private sector involving technology education collaboratives. Ms. King received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Knox College, Illinois and a Master of Arts degree from the Graduate Institute, Bethany, Connecticut.

Also on November 26, Academic Affairs welcomed Carroll Webb as HRM Program Food Service Lab Site Supervisor. Mr. Webb brings over nine years of managerial and instructional experience in food service. Most recently, he served as the General Manager and Executive Chef for a catering and dining service, and has many years of service as a Culinary/Baking & Pastry Instructor, Chef Instructor, and ServSafe Instructor. Mr. Webb earned an Associate Degree in Culinary Arts, a Bachelor’s Degree in Food Marketing, and a Master of Arts Degree in Teaching (Food Service Education) from Johnson & Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island, and is a US Navy Veteran.

The QCC Family welcomes Ms. King and Mr. Webb into their new positions!

QCC Announces Juried Art Show; Call for Entries
All artists within the QCC community, including faculty, staff, students and alumni are invited to submit original works of art – photographs, drawings, paintings, digital, montages, fiber and more to Mary Newman at mnewman@qcc.edu. All submissions must be sent as low resolution jpg files but high resolution files (24”x36” at 300 ppi) will be required for winning submissions to be printed and framed.

The art will be judged by a jury panel consisting of QCC Faculty and Staff. The deadline for submissions is January 2, 2013. The selected art will be printed as giclées by Applied Arts students, mounted, framed and hung permanently in the new North Wing to decorate and promote the talent on campus.

QCC Student Athletes Named to NJCAA Division III 2012 All New England Team
The following student athletes were honored on November 15 at a luncheon ceremony, naming each to the NJCAA Division III All New England Team:

Bill Derosier - First Team All New England
Dylan Pond - First Team All New England
Mike Mastrototaro - Second Team All New England
Mike Ryan - Second Team All New England
Mike Van Hoof - All New England Honorable Mention

Congratulations to all QCC student baseball players!