Assistant Secretary of Employment and Training Administration, United States Department of Labor, Jane Oates, Speaks at QCC

On October 19, QCC hosted Jane Oates, Assistant Secretary of Employment and Training Administration, at an afternoon event to discuss the Massachusetts Community Colleges and Workforce Development Transformation Agenda (MCCWDTA) implementation and impact to date. QCC is the lead institution in the administration of the $20 million grant funded through the US Department of Labor, currently one year into the development and implementation phase.

QCC President Dr. Gail Carberry made welcoming remarks, recognizing the “many people it takes, working hard to implement change of this magnitude,” in attendance. Dr. Carberry also stated that the event was “a celebration to mark the success of QCC students and employers affected by the work already accomplished.”

Assistant Secretary Oates (pictured below) expressed excitement over QCC’s implementation progress thus far noting “unbelievable productivity already” and that Worcester is ahead of the game because of its inclusive nature that is the catalyst for change. She believes that the funding was earned and not a gift and that it will help in the fight for the future of the American economy.

In addition to Assistant Secretary Oates, speakers included Congressman James McGovern; Secretary Joanne Goldstein; Dr. Dale Allen (also acting as emcee); Lance Hartford, Executive Director of the MA Biotechnology Education Foundation; Carol King, MCCWDTA Program Manager; Jeff Turgeon, Executive Director of Central MA Workforce Investment Board; Dawn Kiritsis, QCC College and Career Navigator and Veronica Kell, Adjunct Math Instructor, MWCC.

Remarks by Carol King perfectly summed up QCC’s vision for MCCWDTA, “We are committed to removing the barriers that may prevent people from accessing training and education opportunities that meet their personal goals. And we do this while ensuring we are in step with regional employer goals.”

A question and answer period concluded the event.
October 9, Fitchburg State College was the setting for an important collaborative event: Training the Advanced Manufacturing Workforce in Central Mass: Celebrating New and Transformative Collaborations.

As part of National Advanced Manufacturing week and in recognition of the critically important issues of Workforce Development for today’s and tomorrow’s advanced manufacturers, the leadership of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Public institutions of higher education in Central Massachusetts, MassMEP, Massachusetts Community Colleges Workforce Development Transformation Agenda, numerous industry partners, and Congressman Jim McGovern gathered to celebrate a new and exciting collaboration.

Officials and business leaders gathered to celebrate partnerships among the region’s colleges that allow for specialized training and educational opportunities for the state’s advanced manufacturing workforce.

State officials and legislators joined U.S. Rep. James P. McGovern, D-Worcester, and representatives from the Massachusetts Manufacturing Extension Partnership, Quinsigamond and Mount Wachusett Community colleges and Fitchburg State University to announce articulation agreements between the schools. QCC took a leadership role in organizing the event.

The agreements aim to create stronger partnerships between schools and workforce training development organizations, with the goal of better match people looking for work with job openings across the state, officials said.

Paul Reville, state secretary of education, said schools need to reach beyond the traditional boundaries of education and look to employers for help in determining what skills and knowledge students need to move from high school to post secondary education, and ultimately into employment.

(See related story, page three)
Secretary Bialecki Announces Adoption of QCC Model to Raise Awareness of Advanced Manufacturing

On Thursday September 13, the MA Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative, led by Secretary Gregory Bialecki (Housing & Economic Development) announced the roll-out of a statewide manufacturing promotional campaign using the highly effective outreach and messaging strategies developed by QCC’s Mass-TEC partners and collaborators. The “Future Earnings” chart (see link below) is drawn from Mass-TEC work and the working model for regional outreach and awareness will be built upon the grass roots strategies piloted here in central Massachusetts.

The link to the promotional campaign and its activities is at this link (AMPitUpMA): http://www.ampitupma.com/index.html or follow AMP it Up on Twitter at: @AMPitUpMA

In addition, Northeastern University announced the findings of its updated Staying Power report with a very encouraging message about the strength and future potential of manufacturing in the Commonwealth.

(See reference to QCC on page 2 of this article: http://www.bizjournals.com/boston/news/2012/09/13/mass-officials-boost-manufacturing.html)

The foundation Mass-TEC partners and collaborators along with QCC faculty and staff laid through our collective efforts and with generous funding from National Science Foundation has been leveraged into a statewide strategy.

QCC’s Dr. Lori Corcoran Honored by Alternatives Unlimited, Inc.

Dr. Lori Corcoran, Dean of Special Populations, was honored with an award at the Alternatives Unlimited 36th Annual Thank You Reception on September 26. Dr. Corcoran received the “Community Bridging Award” for the support of Alternatives’ new initiative at QCC called the Employment Academy.

500 people attended the recent reception, Celebrating Successes, with over 100 people nominated for awards; only handful from the community were honored. Dr. Corcoran commented, “It is such a pleasure to work at QCC and to be allowed to develop these meaningful relationships and collaboration within the community. The award itself is beautiful.”

Alternatives of Whitinsville, MA is a non-profit human services agency currently serving over 1,200 adults with developmental and psychiatric disabilities in 55 residential, employment and day programs throughout Central Massachusetts.

Left to right: Dennis Rice, Alternatives Executive Director; Lori Corcoran and Lorrie Adams, Alternatives Community Liaison
Gateway to College Open House

On October 18, the Gateway to College program hosted an Open House at their new location in Room 005 of the Surprenant Building. Staff and current Gateway to College students provided an overview of the program as well as shared their experiences and answered questions.

Fall Transfer and Employment Fair a Success!

The Transfer and Career Placement Offices jointly conducted a highly successful Fall Transfer and Employment Fair on October 24 at HLC 109 A and B.

The goal of the event is to facilitate pathway options and inspire QCC students to take the next step - either to obtain employment or transfer to a 4-year college.

This year, over 500 students attended - doubling the number of attendees from last year. Participating colleges included Anna Maria College, Becker College, Clark University, Emerson College, Nichols College, Roger Williams University, UMass - Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth and Lowell and many more. Approximately 20 employers attended including IBM, Hanover Insurance Group, Reliant Medical Group and more. Both employers and college representatives had very positive comments about the high volume event.

The October 24 Fair was the first combined Transfer and Employment event.
QCC Professors Participate in National Endowment for the Humanities “Bridging Cultures” Project in Hawaii

In July, English professor Amy Beaudry, history professor Kenneth Wong and Sociology professor Gaelan Benway (pictured below) traveled to the University of Hawaii to participate in a National Endowment for the Humanities “Bridging Cultures” project. The team spent eight days at the East-West Center in Honolulu, learning about Asian history, culture, philosophy, religion, and art, as well as how to incorporate “Asian ways of being and knowing” into QCC’s curriculum.

The three QCC professors joined forty-two other teachers and administrators from community colleges throughout the country; representatives from fifteen different colleges attended the symposium. For this grant, partially funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, QCC partnered with Middlesex Community College and Bristol Community College.

Despite the Hawaiian setting of the Bridging Cultures conference, it was far from a tropical idyll. Before attending, the QCC professors had to read “literally thousands of pages:” histories of Eastern and Southeastern Asia, a book on Western and Eastern understandings of culture, and a new translation of Confucius’ Analects, as well as dozens of scholarly articles relating to art, history, culture, and religion.

The forty-five convention delegates spent eight-hour days attending panels and lectures presented by acknowledged experts on Asia, with limited opportunity to enjoy the Hawaiian scenery.

The conference at the East-West Center was only the first component of a three-year program in which Professors Wong, Benway, and Beaudry will work to incorporate aspects of Asian culture, experience, and understanding into QCC’s curriculum. The project continues into 2015; plans for the next few years include new course development and modules with Asian content; mentoring visits from leading academics in Asian studies, a follow-up conference in Massachusetts, and close collaboration with Bristol and Middlesex, the other two schools in the Massachusetts cluster. There are also plans for the fifteen participating schools to mark the end of the grant in 2015 with a book of original research published by SUNY Stony Brook.

After returning from Hawaii, the professors began planning ways to incorporate their learning from the Bridging Cultures seminars into QCC curriculum. Soon, QCC students may find themselves watching Thai historical epics, visiting the Buddhist sculpture at the Worcester Art Museum, or reading the Analects in Intro to Liberal Arts. Even this early in the process, it’s clear that this National Endowment for the Humanities grant has exciting things in store for QCC. Professor Benway pointed out how “remarkable it is that community colleges, which educate so many students nationwide, are able to participate in programs like this that offer top-flight professional development” and looked forward to continued work sure to “enrich the communities their colleges serve.”

For more information on the conference, visit www.eastwestcenter.org/node/33465 - “NEH Thinking through Cultural Diversity Summer Symposium.”
QCC Veterans Support Attends Opening Session of Community College Trustees Annual Meeting

Dr. Lori Corcoran, Dean of Special Populations, David Lauzon (QCC student veteran) and Debbie Ryder, Clerk III (pictured below) attended the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Opening Session of the national meeting held in Boston, MA on October 10, 2012. During the meeting, ACCT recognized veterans from each branch of the armed services who are attending community colleges including QCC student David Lauzon.

New Faculty and Staff

On October 9, 2012, Administrative Services welcomed April Carlson to the Business Office as Accountant I – MCCWDTA Grant. Ms. Carlson brings over 10 years of accounting experience from both the public and private sector, to QCC. Ms. Carlson earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management from Becker College.

On October 15, 2012 Administrative Services welcomed Mark Davidson to Auxiliary Services as Chef Manager. Mr. Davidson brings 23 years of food services and Chef Management experience to QCC from both the public and private sector, including six years as a prior Director of Food Services at QCC. He earned an Associate degree in Culinary Arts, a Bachelor’s degree in Food Service Management and a Bachelor’s degree in Travel and Tourism from Johnson and Wales in Providence, Rhode Island.

Also on October 15, Enrollment Services welcomed Felicia Asmus to Disability Services as Clerk III-Disability Services. Ms. Asmus brings over 12 years of customer service and administrative assistant experience from the private sector, to QCC.

On October 17, 2012, Academic Affairs welcomed Michelle Sheehan as Clerk III – Program Assistant, MCCWDTA. Ms. Sheehan brings over 20 years of customer experience in the public and private sector to QCC, most recently providing administrative support to the MASSTEC and MCCWDTA grant funded programs at QCC.

On October 22, 2012, Enrollment Services welcomed Jennifer Lambert to Disability Services as Clerk III-Disability Services. Ms. Lambert brings over seven years experience in the areas of customer service, business operations, and disability services to QCC, most recently serving as a tutor, note taker and proctor for the QCC Disability Services Office. She earned certificates in Biotechnology Technician and Medical Assisting as well as Associate Degrees in Medical Support and Business Administration from QCC.

The QCC Family welcomes Ms. Carlson, Mr. Davidson, Ms. Asmus, Ms. Sheehan and Ms. Lambert into their new roles at QCC!

Professor Marie Scichilone Awarded Quality Matters Certification

Professor Marie Scichilone was recently awarded a Quality Matters certification for her on-line psychology class, “A Survey of Lifespan Development: Conception to Death.”

Quality Matters certification is a national, faculty-centered, rigorous peer review process that is designed to certify the quality of online and blended courses. The Quality Matters organization serves to promote and improve the quality of online education and student learning as well as honor the most successful programs.

Professor Scichilone has been an adjunct professor for over 20 years and has taught online courses since 2007.

For more information on Quality Matters, visit www.qmprogram.org.

Congratulations to Professor Scichilone on this well-deserved honor!
Campus News

Pictured is QCC Southbridge’s entry into the Publick House’s annual Halloween lawn display community competition, courtesy of Professor Donna Silverberg, titled, “Something to CROW About!”

The Wyvern in the Wild

Ann O’Connell, one of QCC Southbridge’s evening administrators, spotted the Wyvern guarding QCC’s entry to the community competition.

PTK News

PTK Honor Society will again be selling holiday cards for the upcoming holiday season drawn by children from Sherry’s House. The cards are $12/pack and each pack contains 10 cards. Proceeds will benefit Sherry’s House.

To purchase cards, see any PTK member, stop by the PTK Office (Room 160A) or contact Advisor Bonnie Coleman at ext. 7412 or by e-mail at Bonniec@qcc.mass.edu for more information.

The Road Bowl Walking Challenge

The Road Bowl Walking Challenge ended on October 26 at midnight. Before official tallying, the top five teams are:

1. Sole Surfers
2. QC Milemania
3. The Gym Rats
4. Walking Wyverns
5. Walkamoles

Congratulations to all participants!

REVEL IN THE RIVALRY!