

QCC invests in community by eliminating student debt

WORCESTER — Today, Quinsigamond Community College announced it will use more than \$2.5 million of the institutional portion of the Federal Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds it received in May to erase college-held debt for students. The debt relief program is exclusively for those students who were enrolled in credit degree or certificate programming during the start of the pandemic

(March 13, 2020) through the end of the current Spring 2021 semester. "Our goal with this initiative is to remove the financial barrier of institutional debt that keeps many students from completing their education and achieving their goals in life. The under-privileged and under-served in our community were hit hard by the pandemic. These students are often unable to continue their

education due to the debt they are carrying. By choosing to invest in our students by removing this barrier, we are investing in our community and strengthening our workforce," said QCC President Dr. Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D. "We are leveling the playing field for our students so that they can succeed. This enables our students to realize a better future for themselves and their families, and in doing so, increases our community's economic prosperity."

The College is taking this unprecedented approach to eliminate the number one barrier in students' achieving their goals for a higher education. This program will help put skilled workers into the

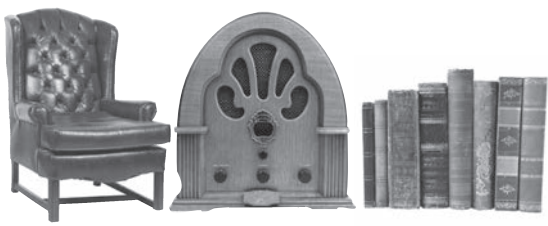
workforce, assisting companies that are struggling to find qualified employees. The funding will assist 1,687 students, with an average amount of \$1,525 of institutional debt forgiveness per student. Furthermore, this program is helping those affected the most by the COVID-19 pandemic. Students eligible for debt forgiveness through this initiative represent 52 percent students of color, 58 percent are female, and 48 percent are Worcester residents.

"We know education is the greatest equalizer, lifting people out of poverty and making lasting and positive change to our communities and our nation. By eliminating this debt, we are taking an equitable approach to higher education.

We find that students with debt are less likely to enroll or stay in college. This eliminates that barrier," President Pedraja said, adding, "As we recover from the pandemic, we want to give our students in need a fresh start to a better life and a way to enter the workforce with the skills and knowledge they need, and our businesses need, in today's new world."

QCC will be notifying students on their debt relief eligibility and is asking that students not reach out to the College directly.

For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu.



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QCC receives \$25 million bond investment for creation of I3Q Center

WORCESTER — The Baker-Polito Administration today announced that Quinsigamond Community College has received \$150,000 and a total state bond investment of \$25 million for a renovation to create an innovation center for advanced manufacturing and robotics.

The investment will allow the College to upgrade and expand its current Athletic Center to Showcase and highlight advanced manufacturing, robotics, artificial intelligence, and hospitality programming. These programs will help address a significant workforce and regional economic development need.

Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D., QCC President said, "This investment from the Commonwealth is another validation of the amazing work that our faculty and staff perform to ensure that our students are being trained not only for the jobs of today, but for the jobs of tomorrow. I thank

the Governor, Lt. Governor, and their entire administration for the faith they have in us to continue meeting the needs of our students and our community."

When completed, QCC's new I3Q Center will provide state of the art training for the following high growth, high demand disciplines:

- Robotics/Advanced Manufacturing
- Advanced manufacturing
- Artificial intelligence
- Drone training
- Robotics
- Mobile app development
- e-Gaming testing lab
- Website design & usability
- Hospitality and
- Foodservice

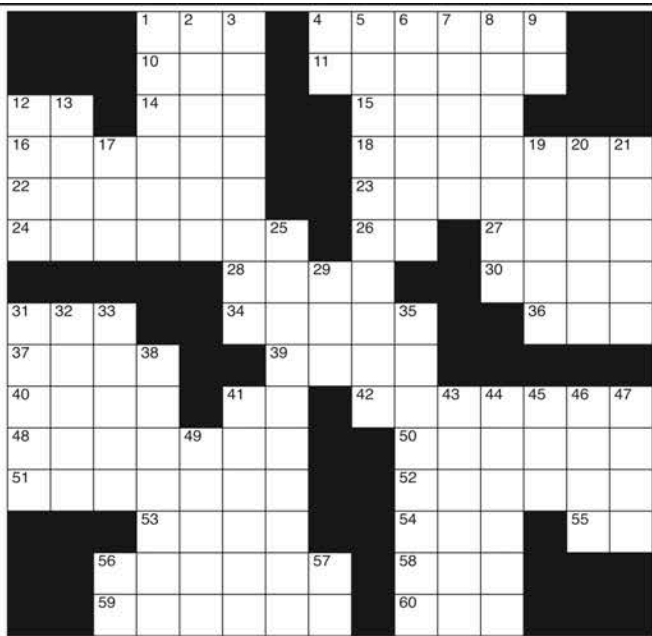
The I3Q Center will also provide flexible space for students, faculty, staff and the community to gather to share ideas, networking and mentoring opportunities, receive counseling and

wellness services and attend training conferences and workshops.

As a renovation/expansion of the College's existing Athletic Center, the I3Q Center will also house Wyvern Athletics intercollegiate sports teams as well as a full health and wellness center for the college and the community.

"This is an exciting day for the future of QCC and for our entire community," said Dr. Pedraja. "I thank our entire QCC Family for their hard work and vision in developing a proposal that will ultimately come to fruition to enhance the workforce development and advanced training of our region."

For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 or orjmartin@qcc.mass.edu.



CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. "Sleepless In Seattle" actress Ryan | 34. Order of architecture |
| 4. One of Santa's reindeer | 36. Investment account (abbr.) |
| 10. Before the present | 37. Snakelike fishes |
| 11. Type of butter | 39. Children's tale bear |
| 12. Location of White House | 40. Norse personification of old age |
| 14. Motion | 41. Atomic #58 |
| 15. Tree part | 42. Moving your head |
| 16. Regions around the North Pole | 48. 1878 Kentucky Derby winner |
| 18. Fits on a boat's gunwale | 50. Frankfurter |
| 22. Discuss after it's happened | 51. Small, seedless raisin |
| 23. Milk substitute for coffee | 52. Device in papermaking machine |
| 24. Describes one who believes in supreme being | 53. Go |
| 26. Equally | 54. Open payment initiative (abbr.) |
| 27. Famed director Forman | 55. "Westworld" actor Harris |
| 28. Popular apartment style | 56. Saturated with salt |
| 30. British School | 58. Marry |
| 31. Advanced degree | 59. Report on |
| | 60. Midway between north and northeast |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. Rays | 25. Works with |
| 2. Self-centered person | 29. Partner to "to" |
| 3. One you look after | 31. Rewards (archaic) |
| 4. Prosecutor | 32. One of Caroline Islands |
| 5. Portion | 33. Type of alcohol |
| 6. Speaks ill of | 35. Eat a lot |
| 7. Formal system for computer programs | 38. Nuns |
| 8. To make angry | 41. Dog |
| 9. Rural delivery | 43. Become more serious |
| 12. Group of languages | 44. Choose |
| 13. Large First Nations group | 45. Newspapers use it |
| 17. Circulating life force in Chinese philosophy | 46. World's longest river |
| 19. Excludes | 47. Commanded to go faster |
| 20. Body cavity of a metazoan | 49. Cabs |
| 21. Swedish monetary unit | 56. Mr. T's "A-Team" character |
| | 57. Document signed (abbr.) |

Charlton resident Marc D. Widing, Jr. graduates from Westfield State

WESTFIELD — On Friday, May 14, Marc D. Widing, Jr. graduated from Westfield State University summa cum laude.

Marc received his Bachelor's degree, double-majoring in both Criminal Justice and in Spanish.

He is a proud member of Alpha Phi Sigma (Criminal Justice Honor Society) and Sigma Delta Pi (Spanish National Honor Society).

Additionally, Marc received the Westfield State University Academic Excellence award for Excellence in Spanish.

Kaylie Gonya of Uxbridge named to Lasell University Dean's List

NEWTON — Kaylie Gonya of Uxbridge was named to the Lasell University Dean's List for their academic performance in the Spring 2021 semester.

To be named to the Dean's List, Lasell students must complete at least 12 credits as a full-time student and achieve a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

For more information contact: Samantha Mocle, assistant director of communications at smocle@lasell.edu or at 617-243-2386.

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Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical
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CHURCH LISTINGS

• **Charlton Federated Church**, 64 Main St., 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. www.fedchurchcharlton.org

• **Charlton Baptist Church**, 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488, www.charltonbaptist.org, Sunday worship 10 a.m.

• **Charlton City United Methodist**, 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: CharltonCityUMC.org

• **St. Joseph's Church**, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862, www.stjosephscharlton.com, Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday Life/TEEN Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.

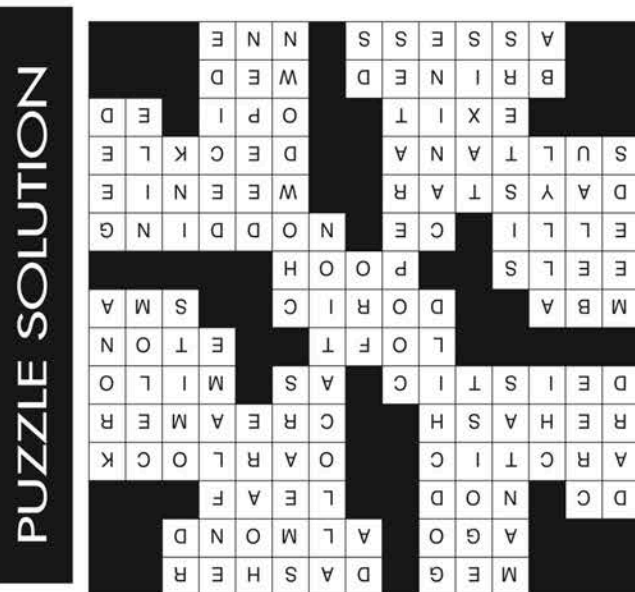
• **Hope Christian Fellowship**, 6 Haggerty Road, 248-5144

• **Assemblies of God Southern New England District Headquarters**, Route 20, 248-3771, snedag.org, Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

• **Living Word Church of Charlton**, 10 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor, Charlton, MA 01507, Pastor Craig Bellisario, (508) 233-8349 Sunday Service 10:00am.

www.livingwordcharlton.com

• **New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel**, 307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA, Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.



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