

QCC awarded \$735,000 workforce training grant

WORCESTER — Today, Quinsigamond Community College was awarded a \$735,000 workforce training grant from the Baker-Polito Administration. A total of \$15 million in workforce training grants were awarded to the Commonwealth's 15 community colleges in support of the creation and expansion of training programs in high-demand industries, such as healthcare, education, manufacturing, information technology and cybersecurity.

"Education is at the heart of all economic growth and this type of revenue stream goes a long way in supporting our region's employers, incumbent workers and potential workers," said QCC President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D. "Our students, our industries, and our Commonwealth will all prosper from

this funding."

In late June, QCC was also awarded \$500,000 in state funding to train and help place over 70 participants into biotechnology jobs. Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito, along with Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development, Rosalin Acosta, visited QCC's Healthcare and Workforce Development Center to announce the grant, which is part of the Senator Kenneth J. Donnelly Workforce Success Grants for Expanded Training Capacity & Employment Program Performance.

During the Donnelly Workforce Success Grant announcement, Lt. Governor Polito and Secretary Acosta also toured some of QCC's healthcare labs and interacted with the college's state-of-the-art, hands-on simulation

equipment.

"I'm encouraged by the work that's being done here at QCC and all the grantees that have been awarded today. I'm very optimistic that our academic institutions are going to step up to meet this moment. We need our community colleges more than ever. You have the best platform to get this work done," Secretary Acosta said.

The training programs will assist those populations who have traditionally experienced higher rates of unemployment, as well as barriers to employment identified by the Black Advisory Commission and the Latino Advisory Commission. Priority will be given to those who are unemployed and underemployed.

"One of the goals of these grants is

to help address shifting economic conditions that occurred for many residents brought on by the COVID-19 crisis, and persistent racial inequities and workforce challenges that existed in the Commonwealth before the pandemic," said Education Secretary James Peysr. "We anticipate these new training opportunities will make it easier for more people to move into high-demand, higher paying careers."

Approximately one third of the \$15 million grant funding will be allocated toward training programs for the healthcare industry, which is in high demand across the Commonwealth.

To learn more, visit QCC's Center for Workforce Development and Continuing Education.

Golden Bear pride shines brightly as Western NE University welcomes newest members to alumni family

SPRINGFIELD — Western New England University held its undergraduate commencement ceremony on May 21 in the Anthony S. Caprio Alumni Healthful Living Center, celebrating the Class of 2022. The keynote speaker Nick Newell ('08), a professional Mixed Martial Artist, talked about the power of dedication. "To be great, you must be willing to do things others will not so you can achieve things that others can't." He told the class of 2022 that they have proven their resiliency and encour-

aged them to continue chasing their goals.

Congratulations and best wishes to the newest Golden Bear Alumni. WNE is proud of you!

Megan E. Hueras of Charlton graduated Cum Laude with a BA in Law & Society. Megan also graduated with a double minor in Criminal Justice and Political Science.

Adelina Antoinette Hough of Charlton graduated with a BS in Chemistry. Adelina also graduated with a double minor in Criminal Justice and Forensic Science.

Jack S. Krukonis of Charlton graduated with a BSBA in Entrepreneurship and BSBA in Marketing.

Jenna Marie Hebert of Uxbridge graduated Summa Cum Laude with a BSE in Computer Engineering.

Joshua David Bolte of Brimfield graduated Summa Cum Laude with a BSE in Electrical Engineering.

Joseph Joshua Gonzalez of Holland graduated Summa Cum Laude with a BSE in Electrical Engineering.

Western New England University (WNE) is a pri-

vate, nationally ranked, comprehensive institution with a focus on preparing work-ready and world-ready graduates. Founded in 1919 in Springfield, Massachusetts as a division of Northeastern College, WNE's 215-acre suburban campus serves more than 3,700 students, including over 2,500 full-time undergraduates. More than 47,000 alumni have earned degrees through its 90-plus undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs at Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, and Pharmacy and Health Sciences,

and School of Law. Students come from 39 U.S. states and territories and 23 countries. Of 45,104 living alumni, 30% remain within the region, residing in the four Western Massachusetts counties and northern Connecticut.

WNE is classified among nationally ranked universities in US News and World Report, and among the Top 100 Undergraduate Engineering programs, and in the Doctoral/Professional Universities category in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

Alexandra Fish awarded degree from American International College

SPRINGFIELD — Alexandra Fish, of Fiskdale, has been awarded a degree in Nursing from American International College (AIC) in Springfield. Fish joins 216 undergraduate students representing five countries, twelve states, and Puerto Rico in receiving congratulations.

Founded in 1885, American International College (AIC) is a private, co-educational, doctoral granting institution located in Springfield, Massachusetts, comprising the School of Business, Arts and Sciences, the School of Education, and the School of Health Sciences. AIC supports and advances education, diversity, and opportunity for its students and the community.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Photo Courtesy

Devin Robert from Charlton turned 11 on July 12, and was surprised by Charlton Fire Department with a tee shirt and hat. The people at the station were awesome to him. The listened to him and talked to him about becoming a future fire fighter. A big thank you to Captain Ouellette and his crew for making Devin's day so special! On Devin's part, he gave a donation to the fire department as his way to say thank you for all they do.



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