

TLSD Conference keynote speaker discusses attaining equity in higher education

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College was host to the 2021 Teaching, Learning, and Student Development (TLSD) Conference earlier this month. This year's conference was held virtually with over 1,000 attendees from all 15 Massachusetts Community Colleges in attendance. The main focus of the Conference was the disparities students of color face in the higher education system.

"This is a time where we have reached a crossroad in our nation and as educators we can lead the discussion on systemic racism and bridge the gap that divides our nation," said QCC President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D.

The event featured keynote speaker Danette Howard, Ph.D., Senior Vice President & Chief Policy Officer for the Lumina Foundation, and offered attendees 36 breakout sessions, access to teaching resources, as well as live questions and answers periods with speakers and presenters.

"COVID-19 has exposed inequities across our state, and it has been made clear that we in higher education must look in the mirror and be willing to change the way we do

business," said Carlos E. Santiago, Massachusetts Commissioner of Higher Education.

Keynote Speaker Dr. Howard has spent the bulk of her career improving and increasing student access and success in postsecondary education. She oversees several of the Lumina Foundation's key strategies to increase Americans' attainment of high-quality postsecondary degrees and credentials, including strategic work in both state and federal policy and efforts to leverage states as the drivers of credential attainment. She also leads the Foundation's Equity First efforts to embed racial equity and justice in all aspects of Lumina's strategic work and operations.

"Most of us are still reeling from 2020. It seems the ground is still shifting beneath our feet," Dr. Howard said, noting the nation was dealing with two pandemics – the COVID-19 pandemic and the country's reckoning of the sordid history of racism.

During her keynote, Dr. Howard addressed the disproportionate way in which the COVID-19 virus affected communities of color, devastating

those already struggling to survive. When the pandemic struck and colleges and universities went to 100 percent virtual learning, inequities in these communities widened, as many students were without broadband access and depended upon smartphone connectivity for access to their courses. She suggested it might be time to consider broadband access, "in the same way we think of electricity and water."

Additionally, with today's students representing 42 percent people of color, 40 percent working full-time, 37 percent non-traditional students 25 years of age or older, and 40 percent attending community college, there is a need for an equity lens to be used in higher education that honors students' lived experiences.

"These students need to be identified and supported," Dr. Howard said.

When it comes to overall educational attainment (associate degree or higher), Massachusetts exceeded the national average (61.6 vs. 51.9 percent), yet it lags behind in short-term credentials, which are of particular benefit to under-privileged and under-

served communities.

"What could community colleges be doing to lean into the need to have short-term credentials?" she posed.

Another area Dr. Howard addressed as a way toward equity is assisting the thousands of adult learners who started college but never finished. In Massachusetts alone, 636,015 people have some college credit but no degree.

"How do we put a strategy and plan in place to target this population?" she asked.

In 2020, the Lumina Foundation recognized Massachusetts as one of five states that have demonstrated a commitment to improve higher education attainment for students of color.

"The nation is watching Massachusetts with great interest to see what you do with equity," Dr. Howard said, adding, "Justice is achieved when the underlying policies, practices and root causes of inequitable outcomes are eliminated."

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

Mock Code Team at Bay Path: real-life training teaches communication and clinical skills

CHARLTON — The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy announced the members of 2021 Mock Code Team (MCT): Monique Bull of Worcester, Khamphan Houatchanthara of Southbridge, Carolyn Jenkins of Cherry Valley, Stefanie Lauretano of Webster, Brianna Laforest of Webster, Julia Martinez of Spencer, Meghan Reidy of Auburn, and Tianna Welcome of Oxford.

Each practical nursing student knows every second counts in a code response to save patients' lives. Seconds make a difference in a patient's life. The mock code provides the practical nursing students with real-life training and teaches communication and clinical skills. The MCT acts quickly and efficiently with each member knowing exactly what their role is.

In 2017, the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy MCT was formed to improve resuscitation skills and comfort level for practical nursing students. The MCT will meet for a full day preparation, with members practicing

as much as possible. On Mock Code Day, scheduled for May 11, the MCT will run the code scenarios multiple times.

According to Gretheline Bolandrina, MSN Ed, RN CRRN Academy Director, "this is not an easy feat in a rigorous practical nursing program." Mock codes are a learning opportunity to make sure that practical nursing students are clear about their role so that there is no hesitation to help, no errors.

"We are lucky to have the expertise of Professor Jennifer DeFilippo, MSN, RN; Professor Cheryl Cahill, MSN, RN; and MSN student from Framingham State University, Tara Johnson, BSN, RN," Bolandrina added.

Since 2017, Mock Code Day at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy has been a part of the Nurses Week Celebration. The formation of the MCT increased mock code opportunities and participation to twice an academic year. Participation in mock codes increases comfort level. An effective code team is one who acts safely,



Photo Courtesy

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efficiently, and saves lives. The MCT aims to be proficient with skills and knowledge, effective with communication, and highly organized. Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy aims to increase the number of times Mock Code Days are held.

"Since a code, in real life is going to be chaotic because it is unplanned and no one can predict when it is going to happen," Bolandrina said, "our goal is to make it a point to have our graduates better prepared, fall into their roles and begin resuscitation."

LEGALS

TOWN OF STURBRIDGE CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The Sturbridge Conservation Commission, in accordance with M.G.L. c. 131, §40, and the Town of Sturbridge Wetland Bylaws, will hold the following virtual Public Hearing relating to work within a wetland resource area and/or within the 200-foot jurisdictional buffer zone on May 4, 2021 at 6:35 PM.

This Public Hearing is in regards to a Notice of Intent submitted by M. Farrell, Green Hill Engineering for Construction of a single family home, and associated site work located at 28 Camp Road and 704 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA.

The Sturbridge Conservation Commission elect, consistent with Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 "Order Suspending

Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §20", to hold the public hearing virtually. Details

regarding how to virtually access a meeting can be found here: <https://www.sturbridge.gov/townadministrator/pages/how-access-virtual-meeting>.

For those unable to participate virtually, written comments will be accepted in advance of the public hearing.

Arrangements can be made to view the application packet by contacting the Sturbridge Conservation Department at (508)347-2506. Any person interested or wishing to be heard on this petition should appear virtually at the time and place designated.

Submitted by:

Ed Goodwin, Chairman
STURBRIDGE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

COMMISSION
April 22, 2021

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This Public Hearing is in regards to a Notice of Intent submitted by S. Morrison, EcoTec for Additional site work to complete the project located at 30 River Road, Sturbridge, MA.

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This Public Hearing is in regards to a Notice of Intent submitted by L. Jalbert, Jalbert Engineering for a Raze, rebuild of a single family home, and associated site work located at 59 Bennetts Road, Sturbridge, MA.

The Sturbridge Conservation Commission elect, consistent with Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 "Order Suspending

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This Public Hearing is in regards to a Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by M. Lavigne, Ground Effects for landscape improvements located at 93 Shore Drive, Sturbridge, MA.

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