

FALL
2024

A New Director of

DEI

Page 10

CONNECTIONS



QUINSIGAMOND
Community College

FALL | 2024

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QCC Connections is a publication of Quinsigamond Community College

Featured in this Issue

***Community College Are Agents of Social Change* 6**

***Alumni Stories*..... 17**

***QCC Awarded \$735,000 Workforce Training Grant* 25**

Give back to QCC

Donate to the QCC Foundation today and help support QCC's mission to be the gateway to advanced educational and economic opportunities in Central Massachusetts.



Social Justice is second nature at Quinsigamond Community College

As the largest community college in Central Massachusetts, Quinsigamond Community College has positioned itself as a leading advocate for social justice, addressing the unmet promise of affordable education for all and fostering a culture of inclusion and empowerment.

Today our students are more representative of the communities we serve thanks in no small part to a multitude of state programs that are enabling more of our under-served populations to have access to higher education. These programs run the gamut of expanded eligibility for in-state tuition, ensuring our non-U.S. citizens have access to in-state tuition and financial aid rates, as well as the MassReconnect program that funds free community college for Massachusetts residents 25 years of age and older who do not already have a college degree.

Not only are we offering more ways in which students can obtain an education, but we are also providing new supports for students to ensure their academic success. A couple of new supports include the Parenting Student Support Services office, which connects parenting students with services such as counseling, QCC's HomePlate Food Pantry and Resource Center, and scholarships. In addition, Siggy, our K9 community resource dog is now an important part of our college community and is available to assist students, faculty, and staff with helping to mitigate day-to-day life stresses. Studies have shown that interacting with dogs can improve mood and decrease stress.

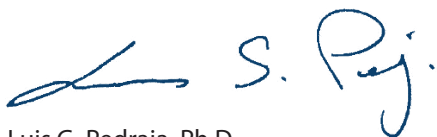
Other exciting updates include the college's recent reaccreditation by the New England Commission of Higher Education, which indicates that QCC meets or exceeds criteria for the assessment of institutional quality. This is a testament to the work our faculty and staff do for our students.

In May 2024, the College launched a new website that improves navigation for students, staff, and faculty. The site offers clearer pathways to higher education and provides a comprehensive and easy way in which new students interested in QCC can learn about our community.

Since QCC's inception in 1963, the college has been steadfast in its ability to pivot to meet the needs of an ever-changing demographic, while continuing to fortify its community partnerships through a vast array of corporate, industry, institutional, governmental, and non-profit partnerships.

Great things are happening here at QCC and we are excited for what the future holds.

I hope you enjoy this issue of Connections Magazine!



Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D.
QCC President



Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D.



Quinsigamond Community College has always been part of my environment. Growing up in Worcester, I knew that QCC was a college that provided affordable and high-quality education to people across Central Massachusetts. Many of my friends attended QCC and I used to spend some time on campus. Yet, it was not until I became a director of the QCC Foundation that I was able to grasp the extraordinary impact that the College has in the region. QCC transforms individual lives, communities, and Massachusetts, by providing access to quality education to over 9,000 students per year.

Central Massachusetts residents come to QCC to finish high school, learn English language skills, enroll in college courses while still completing high school, earn a certificate or an associate degree, and continue their education and expand their workforce skills. It is virtually impossible not to encounter a person in Worcester who has a connection to QCC.

Joining the QCC Foundation back in 2018 gave me the opportunity to learn firsthand about the students that QCC serves. They are hardworking, disciplined, determined, and goal oriented. Before being selected as President

of the Foundation, I chaired the Scholarships Committee. This gave me the opportunity to read hundreds of scholarship applicant essays. Each essay told a story of resilience, perseverance, and dreams. I read stories of single mothers raising families while attending college. I learned about students who are the first in their family to go to college. Many QCC students are first-generation born in the United States and others are non-native English speakers. What all these students have in common is the remarkable drive to achieve academic, occupational, and professional dreams.

In this issue of Connections Magazine, you will get to know Quinsigamond Community College better. You will meet some of its students and learn about its impact on the community and its relevance in the socioeconomic development of Central Massachusetts.

I am honored to be part of QCC's story and history. I encourage you to join me!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Wally'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Matthew E. Wally
QCC Foundation President



One of the joys of my life is seeing students achieve their academic and professional dreams. Therefore, for over 45 years, I have been blessed to be able to support Quinsigamond Community College's mission of providing an accessible, affordable, and high-quality education to thousands of people in Central Massachusetts. I have served the College as an instructor in the Dental Clinic, as a mentor for students, as a director and President of the QCC Foundation, and since July 2023 as the Chairwoman of the Board of Trustees.

In every role I have played at the College, I have witnessed firsthand the extraordinary work that faculty do in supporting our students to be great learners, from their first-year experience course to commencement day. Hardworking staff in all offices and departments provide supportive services that contribute to our students' success. QCC is in itself, a vibrant learning community that embraces diversity and fosters inclusion. It thrives when facing challenges, and always puts students first.



On May 17, 2024, during commencement, hundreds of QCC students crossed the stage as they were recognized and celebrated for completing a milestone in their lives. It fills my heart to see their joyful faces as they smile and wave to their families in the crowd. It warms my soul when I see our faculty members celebrating their students' success and accomplishments. Yet, nothing makes me prouder than seeing all those graduates making our communities better,

contributing to our economy, being our healthcare workers, business owners, community leaders, and teachers.

Serving Quinsigamond Community College is one of the highlights of my life.

Linda A. Maykel

Dr. Linda Maykel
Chair, Board of Trustees





COMMUN AS AGENTS

Community colleges stand as beacons of hope and opportunity, offering a pathway to social change through accessible and affordable education. Quinsigamond Community College is shaping the narrative of social progress and economic empowerment in our local communities through its steadfast commitment to providing equitable opportunities for its constituents.

This first begins by recognizing the needs of our diverse socio-economic communities. Higher education is often cost-prohibitive, particularly in our under-resourced communities, as people are often taking care of their families, working one or more jobs, and trying to take care of basic life needs. Obtaining a higher education is a way for people to start, advance, or change careers, and make a better life for themselves and their families, thus, finding ways to help fund higher education and support our communities through dedicated resources has become the ethos of community colleges such as QCC.



COMMUNITY COLLEGES OF SOCIAL CHANGE

Increasing Funding

Our Financial Aid department works closely with students to assist them in accessing the appropriate funding, regardless of whether it is local, state, or federal funds.

In late 2023, Governor Maura Healey instituted the **MassReconnect** program in an effort to improve access to higher education, especially for historically underrepresented individuals. This groundbreaking program enables individuals aged 25 or older to qualify for free college if they have not previously earned an associate or bachelor's degree or equivalent, and have been a legal permanent resident of Massachusetts for one year as of the start of classes. This state-funded grant is available to both full-time and part-time students who meet Massachusetts residency requirements, have completed the FAFSA, and demonstrate financial need for tuition and fees after accounting for all forms of grant and scholarship aid.

QCC was involved in the advocacy for the allocation of other recent financial supports for community college students as well.

MassGrant Plus Expansion provides financial assistance to students under the age of 25, who do not already have a college degree. This is a state-funded grant available to students who meet Massachusetts residency requirements, have completed the FAFSA, and demonstrate financial need for tuition and fees after accounting for all forms of grant and scholarship aid.

Community College Nursing Scholarship funds free community college for students who do not already have a college degree and are pursuing certain Nursing and pre-Nursing programs. This is a state-funded grant available to both full-time and part-time students who meet Massachusetts residency requirements, have completed the FAFSA, and demonstrate financial need for tuition and fees after accounting for all forms of grant and scholarship aid.

Finally, Massachusetts' new **Tuition Equity Law**, allows students who have completed at least three years of high school in Massachusetts and received a high school diploma or its equivalent in the Commonwealth, to access in-state tuition and be eligible for financial aid, largely regardless of immigration status.

Through targeted financial assistance, QCC empowers students to realize their full potential.

Invaluable Resources

The commitment to social change and community empowerment is palpable in every aspect of campus life, which includes offering robust support services and resources. QCC's HomePlate Food Pantry and Resource Center exemplifies the college's dedication to addressing food insecurity and supporting students' holistic well-being, by providing access to nutritious meals and essential housing resources. Since its inception in 2018, the HomePlate Food Pantry and Resource Center has assisted hundreds of students and their families who are food insecure. Today, close to 180 students per week regularly use the services that the HomePlate Food Pantry and Resource Center provides, with even more students who stop by sporadically. In addition, most students support between four to six family members.

QCC ensures that no student must choose between education and basic necessities in order to better their lives.

Furthermore, QCC's Parenting Student Support Services office assists students who are parents in achieving their goals, by helping them to get connected to college and community resources such as emergency funding, transportation, housing, and childcare. By offering comprehensive support services and resources, QCC empowers students to pursue their educational aspirations while balancing familial responsibilities.

Tutoring services are also available to students online or in-person in all disciplines, as well as a dedicated mathematics tutoring center and a writing center. Other supports such as advisors, mentors, and counseling services help to ensure that students have equitable access to higher education.

Vital Community Partner

While lower costs, flexible scheduling options, and support services have become lifelines for students from diverse socio-economic backgrounds, community colleges offer even more to the population at large, serving as dedicated partners and champions of social justice.

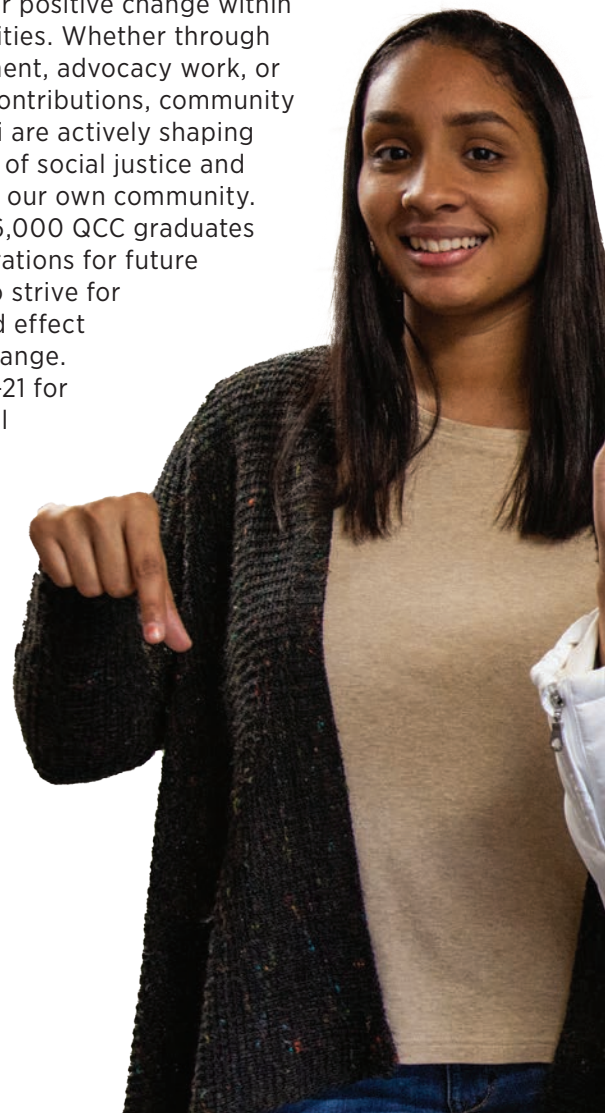
Many organizations are longstanding partners that experience firsthand the value of a community college such as QCC. Some of QCC's partners include Goya Foods, which supports the HomePlate Food Pantry, together with longstanding partner the Worcester County Food Bank. Additional partnerships with Massachusetts Biomedical Initiatives and AbbVie enabled the college to offer innovative entry-level

Biomanufacturing On-Ramp Workshops designed to help people upskill or reskill, so they can enter the biomanufacturing industry pipeline, an industry increasing exponentially in our region. QCC maintains crucial relationships with several Mentoring Core Partners. These partners include AbbVie, the City of Worcester, UMass Memorial Medical Center, Worcester County Bar Association, Family Behavioral Health, and the Hanover Group. Each of these organizations has contributed significantly to the program by sending 10 or more mentors from their respective ranks.

Working collaboratively with our community partners opens new doors for our students, creating a more inclusive learning environment that is designed to address workforce demands. This synergy is what makes a community college unique in the higher education sector.

Our Graduates

The impact of community college graduates extends far beyond the confines of the classroom. Armed with practical skills and a deep sense of social responsibility, our graduates serve as catalysts for positive change within their communities. Whether through civic engagement, advocacy work, or professional contributions, community college alumni are actively shaping the landscape of social justice and equity right in our own community. Today, over 36,000 QCC graduates serve as inspirations for future generations to strive for excellence and effect meaningful change. (See pages 17-21 for some powerful alumni stories)



Relevant Education

Community colleges are adept at revising and reinventing their programs to meet the needs of a rapidly evolving global job market. Through innovative programs and partnerships with local industries, QCC equips students with the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in a competitive workforce.

While degree and certificate programs are a prominent aspect of higher education, workforce development, and continuing education programs and courses are just as vital in strengthening and growing our communities. These high-value, low-cost training programs help people to quickly learn new skills or improve existing skills, which they can use immediately on the job or for professional development. QCC's Center for Workforce Development and Continuing Education offers Nurse Assistant/Home Health Aide training programs at no cost to the student.

This type of creative and relevant education helps to support a strong regional economy.

Reinforcing Education for Future Generations

Colleges like QCC serve as indispensable agents of social change, offering a beacon of hope and opportunity to individuals from all socioeconomic backgrounds. They also play a vital role in breaking down systemic barriers to education through initiatives such as QCC's Early College program, which enables high school students to earn free college credits (3-12 credits), while simultaneously attending high school. This not only gives students an idea of what college is like, but also gives them a head start in higher education after they graduate from high school.

QCC is part of the Early College Worcester program, which includes all seven Worcester public high schools and is also a designated Early College site for Marlborough High School, and most recently Southbridge High School.

By championing affordable, accessible, and relevant education, community colleges are fostering a more inclusive society and reshaping the landscape of higher education.



DEI

QCC's New Executive Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



Quinsigamond Community College made college history in September 2022, hiring its first Executive Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Kevin Lovaincy, after a national search. Lovaincy hit the ground running, updating college policies, streamlining existing DEI initiatives, and implementing DEI programming.

"Kevin is working to ensure our environment is equitable in its offerings and inclusive for all," said QCC President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D. "An inclusive and equitable community begins with each of us working together to recognize and understand what DEI is and actively addressing and eradicating bias."

Lovaincy said he's been able to accomplish a great deal thanks to the support of the president, the cabinet, the executive team, and especially the entire QCC community.

"It's not easy for someone in my role to come in as an outsider and make a lot of changes, but QCC welcomed me with open arms. I've made some progressive changes and implemented policies that were long overdue," Lovaincy said. "We've had good engagement at our events and trainings which has raised awareness. It's so important to come into a community that's accepting and willing to trust you."

Born and raised in Cambridge, MA, Lovaincy's upbringing exposed him to a spectrum of identities in a variety of spaces, which laid the foundation for his future work. He also credits his late mother, Solange Eloir, with setting an example for him by speaking up for marginalized communities who often are not heard. This helped to create an early interest in DEI. Seeing his mother advocate for others in her Haitian community showed Lovaincy that this work was not only important, but also attainable.

"When I was younger, I didn't fully understand why my mother would fuss over what seemed to be small issues, but as I look back, it was her way of advocating for those who didn't have a voice and doing what's right," Lovaincy reflected.



(from left) Director of Student Life and Leadership Ashlee Givins and Assistant Director of Student Life and Leadership Katelyn Hurley with Lovaincy during Drag Bingo



Lovaincy at QCC's Children's School

Others noticed Lovaincy's enthusiasm for DEI and after receiving his bachelor's degree from Tufts University, a mentor encouraged him to enroll in the school's first full-time Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Leadership master's program. The program ignited his passion for DEI, and he became a project administrator for Tufts, creating a pathway for students to join the master's program.

After graduating from Tufts, he went on to become the Assistant Director of Diversity and Inclusion for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, another newly created position that included multiple areas of responsibility, such as overseeing the hiring process, providing accommodations, investigating discrimination cases, and providing workshops.

"Supporting patients and staff at the public health hospitals was similar to supporting students in an academic setting. We're empowering them by providing resources, equitable paths, and space where they are heard, valued, and feel they belong," Lovaincy continued.

Because diversity, equity, and inclusion are core values at QCC, when Lovaincy started as the Executive Director of DEI, he immediately got to work analyzing policies and procedures to ensure that these principles were embedded

throughout all areas of the college.

One issue he took on was the lack of procedure around microaggressions, "the everyday verbal, nonverbal, and environmental slights, snubs, or insults, whether intentional or unintentional, that communicate hostile, derogatory, or negative messages that target a person based solely upon their marginalized group membership" (Sue et al, 2007). It is important to Lovaincy that QCC addresses all areas of discrimination, large and small. Now, if a microaggression occurs, the Office of DEI addresses the incident with the involved parties through an educational conversation.

Another matter that needed to be addressed was QCC's policy on lived names, also known as a chosen name. This is the name that an individual self-identifies by in their daily life, interactions, and communications, regardless of its alignment with their legal or birth name. Previously, there were several barriers for students and employees to update their lived names in the college's databases. Lovaincy has been collaborating with other departments to ensure that individuals can see their lived names reflected in QCC's platforms and resources such as student IDs, email, and Blackboard.

QCC was no stranger to DEI work before Lovaincy joined the college.

When he arrived, he noticed that six groups were addressing DEI issues; however, they were often siloed in their communication and overlapping work. He has since reinforced and restructured QCC's DEI committees into three areas. The President's Advisory Committee on Equity (PACE) shifted its focus to address DEI climate, the newly created Equity Council reviews policies with an equitable lens, and the Diversity Caucus funds and manages DEI-related celebrations.

The hiring process at QCC was also in need of a refresh to make sure its processes were as equitable as possible. Lovaincy has been working with Human Resources and the Equity Council to ensure hiring committees are diverse, employees are properly trained before serving on a hiring committee, and the entire process is timely and efficient. In addition, they revamped the onboarding process to be more robust, equity-based, and informative for new employees.

The Office of DEI also implemented a full programming schedule including events such as a faculty workshop on equity in the classroom and monthly celebrations to honor cultural and ethnic heritage months. Additionally, Lovaincy developed a DEI speaker series with assistance from the QCC Foundation, to bring in lecturers



such as award-winning journalist Mariana Atencio and Dr. Ilyasah Shabazz, Malcolm X's daughter.

"Through our programming, we acknowledge and celebrate different cultures and heritages each month. A lot of biases happen due to lack of knowledge or how someone was socialized, so these programs aim to raise awareness," Lovaincy said. "We have brought in knowledgeable people with lived experiences. This also provides representation where our students, faculty, and staff can see themselves within the speakers."

While Lovaincy acknowledges that a culture shift takes time and is a journey, he has seen a positive shift at QCC over the past year and a half.

"More people are speaking up, getting involved, and becoming engaged with the college community. People are also curious and willing to learn about the intersectionality of our QCC community," Lovaincy commented.

Brenda Safford, professor and coordinator of the Human Services program, and co-chair of PACE and the Diversity Caucus, has worked at QCC since 2003 and greatly contributed to the college's diversity, equity, and inclusion work. She was also instrumental in advocating for QCC to create the Executive Director of DEI position.

"Kevin is able to listen to every voice, story, and experience and understand how each enriches our collective journey towards a more just and equitable world. I admire his perseverance in the face of challenges and am inspired by the impact he creates," said Safford.

While this is an incredible amount of work for such a short period, Lovaincy has no plans of slowing down. A lifelong learner, he is currently enrolled at UMass Amherst to obtain a Ph.D. in social justice education.

"I want to make sure I continue to educate myself so I can be an effective change agent," he said.

There are more programs on the horizon and more training to keep employees current and engaged with DEI matters. This includes a new Manager's Academy co-led with Human Resources that will encourage respectful relationships in the workplace with an emphasis on equipping staff with improved management skills. Topics will include inclusive language, having difficult conversations, bias and microaggressions, employee accommodations, managing people from different backgrounds, and labor relations.

Lovaincy has also been co-leading an initiative with Dean of the School of English and Humanities Brady Hammond for a new non-credit DEI certificate program that aims to advance faculty

and staff understanding

and support of

diverse backgrounds, histories, and lived experiences. QCC is working collaboratively with other institutions on this effort which is being funded by the Higher Education Innovation Fund.

"We have a lot of opportunities to contribute to the DEI culture at QCC. You could be a mentor, join a DEI committee, contribute to the strategic plan, or simply come to my office and pitch an idea. As long as it's genuine and not performative, you're on the right track," said Lovaincy.

While Lovaincy is encouraged by the increase in engagement at QCC, he acknowledges that the battle is far from over. Current legislation and discourse that is pointedly trying to dismantle diversity, equity, and inclusion programs and initiatives across the country leaves an important question.

"There's an attack on DEI happening as we speak," said Lovaincy. "What are we, as an institution and community, going to do about it?"

One thing we can count on is that Kevin Lovaincy, the Office of DEI, and QCC won't give up the fight and will continue to foster diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout the community.



Wyverns Soar to New Heights

QCC Athletics Celebrates Remarkable Year

It has been an exhilarating year for the Wyverns sports teams, filled with triumphs and milestones that made the entire community proud. The 2023-2024 Women's Soccer team, led by coaches Andy Lynch and Andy Kupec, capped off a stellar season by earning the second seed in the NJCAA Region XXI semifinal tournament. Their remarkable performance on the field was a testament to the players' determination and teamwork.

The 2023-2024 Men's Basketball team also etched its name in QCC's athletic history, securing 15 wins and advancing to the NJCAA Semifinals for the second consecutive year. Head Coach John Preziosa commended his players' determination that propelled them to back-to-back conference appearances in their highly competitive league. The team's exploits even caught the attention of local media outlets and Boston radio personalities.

"This year's team hung its hat on a tremendous amount of grit and resiliency that a coach can't teach. They will not soon be forgotten," Preziosa said.

Director of Athletics & Fitness Center Lisa Gurnick was also impressed with the immense effort that this year's students put into competing all while focusing on academics.

"A huge thank you to our coaches for all they do, especially behind the scenes," Gurnick added. "It's a team effort here from coaches, student-athletes, and Athletic Center staff."

As the 2023-2024 academic year came to a close, QCC was excited to host the NJCAA Region 21 Baseball Tournament. While the Wyverns weren't in the tournament this year, they had a great season, which included Paul Landry, a player in his 50s who proved that a prosthetic limb shouldn't stop anyone from achieving their dreams. His inspiring story was featured on Boston 25 News, CBS, and the Telegram & Gazette, showing our community what Wyvern spirit means.

QCC's Athletics department also includes Women's Basketball, Men's Soccer, Women's Volleyball, and E-sports. Folks can support QCC Athletics by cheering on the Wyverns at a game on campus or tune into a livestream. Check out [QCC.edu/athletics](https://qcc.edu/athletics) for schedules and more information.



QUINSIGAMOND COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S

Board of



Trustees 2024

At Quinsigamond Community College the Board of Trustees plays a vital role in keeping the College moving in a positive momentum that supports student success and the economic vitality of Central Massachusetts.

QCC is governed by an 11-member Board of Trustees that establishes policies necessary for the administrative management of personnel, staff services, and the general business of the institution.

Staff attorney at Community Legal Aid in Worcester, Mariyam Basim Bhatti, Esq. (MB), is an alum of New England Law, Worcester State University, and QCC and has been a board member since 2022.

President and CEO of CENTRO, Inc., Juan Gomez, DHA (JG) has been employed at CENTRO since 2007. Gomez is an alum of Clark University, Assumption College, and QCC. He has been a board member since 2016.

Vice President of Rockland Trust in Worcester, Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees Eric Goodwine (EG), is an alum of Bentley University and QCC. He has been a board member since 2022.

Emergency Shelter Coordinator at the Office of Emergency Management in Shrewsbury, Lorraine Tice Jones (LJ), is an alum of Johns Hopkins University, University of Maryland, and Anne Arundel Community College. She has been a member since 2023.

Director of Performance Improvement at Whittier Rehabilitation Hospital in Westborough, Lynn Keeley (LK), is an alum of University of New Hampshire and Worcester State University and has been a board member since 2023.

As the former president of the QCC Foundation, and current Chair of the Board of Trustees Linda Maykel, DDS (LM) is a longstanding supporter of

QCC. She ran a dental practice for over 40 years and was also a clinical dental instructor at QCC. Maykel is an alum of Smith College, Washington University, and Northwestern University and has been a board member since 2022.

Student trustee for the 2023-2024 academic year, Maria Mikhaeil (MM), is in her first year at QCC.

President and CEO of The Guru Tax & Financial Services, Inc., Satya Mitra, Ph.D. (SM), started his business in Worcester in 1990. Mitra is an alum of Jabalpur University and Nagpur University and has been a board member since 2022.

Senior Research Scientist at University of Massachusetts Medical Center in Worcester, Barur Rajeshkumar, Ph.D. (BR), is an alum of University of Madras and has been a board member since 2022.

[QCC.edu/board](https://qcc.edu/board)



PASSING THE TORCH

QCC's Campus Police Welcomes New Chief as Longtime Leader Retires

In February of 2024, QCC commemorated its longtime Chief of Police, Kevin Ritacco, as he retired, and celebrated the promotion of current Chief of Police, Stephen DiGiovanni. While it's a larger role to fill than his former position as Deputy Chief of Operations, DiGiovanni is more than prepared to keep the QCC community a safe place.

"I enjoy the feeling of making a difference in people's lives," DiGiovanni said. "In municipalities, there's not a lot of room for outreach. On campuses, we're an outlet for people and we provide vital services for our students, faculty, and staff."

Starting at QCC as a patrol officer in 2008, DiGiovanni worked his way to Deputy Chief of Operations by 2015. DiGiovanni is excited to build upon the foundation that Ritacco developed in his over four decades with the college.

Ritacco, who started at QCC in 1981, saw many changes at the college over the years but said the goal of Campus Police has been the same from the start.

"We keep our students, faculty, and staff safe. We don't want to interfere with anyone and we want to help everyone be successful," Ritacco said.

Ritacco set high standards for the officers and the department. In 2019, he achieved a major goal when QCC became the first community college in Massachusetts to have a campus police force accredited by the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission. This accreditation is part of what keeps QCC's Campus Police Department using the best and most equitable practices, according to DiGiovanni.

"Law enforcement has had to relook at itself and how it operates. It's not required, but we wanted to become accredited and we follow the standards, especially about bias policing and marginalized groups," explained DiGiovanni.

In Massachusetts, all police officers have to complete 40 hours of service training, however QCC officers complete over 100 hours. This includes bias training such as how to assist the LGBTQIA+ community.

When Executive Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Kevin Lovaincy was hired at QCC, he started meeting regularly with Campus Police. Lovaincy assisted with revamping the hiring process which has resulted

in the hiring of more people of color and females for officer positions.

Another staffing change was Ritacco's reinstatement of a Campus Resource Officer, Nicholas Yacuzzi,

a position that DiGiovanni says maintains a partnership between Campus Police and the people who they serve. At Yacuzzi's suggestion, DiGiovanni facilitated an addition to the team with the onboarding of Sigg, QCC's Campus Resource Dog. Sigg assists with de-escalation during police visits and is available to spend time with students, faculty, and staff who need to unwind.

“

I enjoy the feeling of making a difference in people's lives.

— QCC Chief of Police Stephen DiGiovanni

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In reflecting on Ritacco's legacy at the college, DiGiovanni appreciates his former Chief's thoughtful approach.

"Kevin taught me how to see things through many different lenses—humanitarian, financial, social, and more. Every time we're with a student we try to use those lenses. Our students work very hard and we're here to help them as much as we can."



QCC Chief of Police Stephen DiGiovanni (left) with former Chief Kevin Ritacco

QCC Alum Slam Dunks His Way to a Successful Life

For QCC alum James Flynn, Quinsigamond Community College was more than a place to get an associate degree. It was an opportunity to develop the fundamentals of success. At QCC Flynn became active in the athletics department, serving as a member of the men's basketball team and an employee at the Athletics Center. He credits these experiences as the driving force behind his accomplishments at the College and his resiliency in life moving forward.



James Flynn, 2016 QCC alum

"Athletics gave me a lot of structure and the extra accountability that I needed,"

Flynn said. "Lisa Gurnick (Director of Athletics & Fitness Center) and Josh Cole (Assistant Director of Athletics & Fitness Center) were such a positive influence on me. Working at the gym and playing sports definitely excelled my academics. For me, it was better to be on campus, focus on school, and work on homework, instead of simply going to class and leaving."

Flynn ended up winning the Student Athlete Award during his last semester at QCC and graduated in 2016. He went on to obtain a bachelor's degree from Westfield State University and has since found a lucrative position at an insurance agency; however, his passion for basketball has only continued to grow. Not only is Flynn the head coach of the Dover High School girls' varsity team, but he also works with *Journeyman*, a nonprofit youth basketball program, as well as Amateur Athletic Union basketball clubs.

"I love the game so I'm in there sweating with the students. I love seeing them grow as players," Flynn exclaimed.

He also appreciates the socially reformatory power of athletics. Growing up in a difficult family situation, Flynn said he used basketball as an outlet when things were tough, and

witnessed players from a variety of other life situations do the same. He described coaching as his chance to pass that "socially reformatory power" on.

"You have all these different personalities and some people who don't know how to express their feelings. But I'm going to create a safe environment and help them through it," he said.

In addition to everything he gained from his involvement in athletics, Flynn also utilized several support services at QCC, such as the Advising Center and Transfer Services, where he enrolled in the MassTransfer program.

"You really get what you put in at QCC. There are so many opportunities to sharpen your skills, you just have to figure out what you need to do and go all in, grind it out. You will leave with your credits, but the mindset and perspective you'll gain is what will get you to succeed."

Embracing

Neuro

How QCC and Summit Campus Empowered Lauren Young to Discover her Passion in Culinary Arts

Like many college freshmen, when Lauren Young enrolled at QCC she wasn't sure about her professional goals but knew she was ready to start her higher education journey. Lauren is a resident at Summit Campus, a residential community for local college students with autism and other related diagnoses, and like all residents there, identifies as neurodivergent.

The experience of starting college felt very new for Young, but she found QCC to be a supportive environment and fully embraced the activities and services that QCC offered.

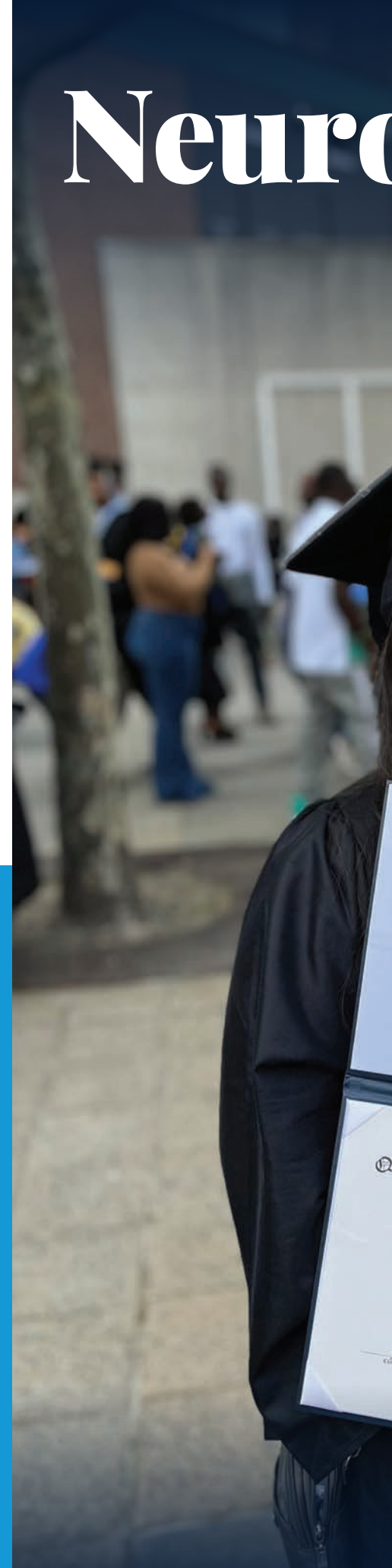
"Summit is phenomenal and so is QCC," Young said, adding, "I saw so much diversity at QCC and everyone is really supportive. If something isn't working for you, you can change it!"

"Student Accessibility Services (SAS) at QCC has a history and tradition of partnering with agencies throughout Central Massachusetts," said Director of Student Accessibility Services Kristie Proctor. "We are fortunate to have Summit Campus close by. Summit Campus provides an experience for community college students that is unique to this region – a living environment with their peers where they can learn and be challenged. I hope the opportunity for students with autism to attend college and be independent, while key support is accessible when needed, will grow across the state. Summit Campus is a huge win for these students, QCC, and the city."

Living away from home for the first time, coupled with adjusting to college-level coursework, required the Summit Campus team to develop a strategic and intentional approach to Young's programming. QCC's Student Accessibility Services also provided meaningful guidance and facilitation to help Lauren access QCC's resources, the writing and math centers in particular.

"The math and English tutoring helped a lot. In English, I was expecting a B or even a C but I ended up being surprised with an A," said Lauren.

Encouraged by Summit and her SAS coordinator, Lauren fully embraced life at QCC. She worked out at the college's fitness center and joined the Gaming Club where she met other people who enjoy one of her favorite video games, *Pokemon Violet*. Lauren also mentioned that the size of the campus is perfect when you don't have a car, and while it was intimidating at first, she adapted to using the Worcester Regional Transit Authority bus system to get around.



odiversity



Lauren Young, 2023 QCC alum

After getting comfortable with college life, Lauren could focus on exploring her academic and professional interests. It became clear that she was a visual and kinesthetic learner, with an affinity for cooking.

In 2020, Young's mother encouraged her to help with cooking at home and Lauren became inspired. She switched her major to Culinary Arts and discovered a passion.

"(Professor of Hospitality and Recreation Management) Pat Hutchinson and (HRM Program Food Service Lab Site Supervisor) Matt Sullivan were really helpful. They were so understanding if I needed more time or accommodations. I also loved being in a commercial kitchen for the first time. I worked hard my first year, but when I got into something I was passionate about, the hard work became part of my routine."

After receiving her Culinary Arts Certificate in 2023, Young has since found employment at Table Talk Pies in Worcester.

"All that hard work finally paid off," Young said after graduating. "I'm doing fantastic. Having my certificate absolutely helps in my job. It shows I'm capable of this stuff and honestly, makes me proud of myself."

Young says she loves to work at Table Talk Pies where her coworkers are very kind and her boss is accommodating of her need for breaks when feeling overstimulated. She enjoys seeing how things are crafted behind the scenes at the Worcester-based factory and would love to grow with the company, but is also keeping her options open for other culinary or hospitality-based jobs.

"Lauren is a true Summit Campus and QCC success story. She exemplifies our core belief that with the right supports, individuals can not only achieve their goals but also exceed expectations. We are so proud of Lauren," commented Summit Campus Director of Residence Life Nikki Koppel.





“

QCC had such a welcoming atmosphere – friendly students and staff who were always there for you.

”

Aragan Ali, 2023 QCC alum

Caring for Others and Herself

How Aragsan Ali Excelled at QCC and Beyond

Recent graduate Aragsan Ali has been busy. As a parenting student, a former member of multiple QCC groups such as the Black Student Union, SHE Club, and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, she is an inspiration to many. After graduating from QCC in 2023 with highest honors, she transferred to Worcester State University as a nursing and psychology student.

“I like taking care of people. I take care of my kids and I’ve taken care of elders, which is why I want to become a nurse,” Ali said. “And I like school a lot. If I’m not taking care of my kids, I’m doing school work.”

Aragsan is originally from Somalia and came to the United States seven years ago. She didn’t know any English when she arrived so she enrolled in the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program at QCC’s Adult Community Learning Center. Her instructor noticed her passion for education and recommended she continue at QCC in a credit program.

“QCC had such a welcoming atmosphere - friendly students and staff who were always there for you. I sometimes miss that sense of inclusivity, but things are going great here at my new school, too,” Ali said. “I’m really grateful for the foundations QCC gave me, and I’m using them to succeed here.”

When she started the General Studies program, she was still nervous about higher education

and a friend recommended the TRIO program to her. TRIO is a federally-funded program that offers support services to students who are either first-generation, economically disadvantaged, or have a disability. TRIO serves 140 students per year and Aragsan was one of 20 TRIO students who graduated in 2023.

TRIO advisors walked Ali through the registration process in a way that taught her how to navigate the process herself when the time came. They also assisted her with financial aid and provided a quiet place to study. The guidance that TRIO offered allowed Ali to focus on her courses, which helped her to be successful academically.

“TRIO is my favorite thing in the school. I would stop by every day,” Aragsan said.

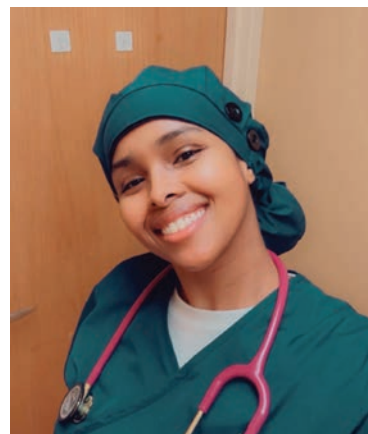
“Aragsan was the definition of what a TRIO Student embodies,” said TRIO Counselor Jonathan Moraes. “She is determined, resilient, and a leader both in and out of the classroom. One quality that made Aragsan stand out from her peers was her ability to go the extra mile when helping others. Whether it’s recommending certain classes to take, helping with an assignment, or just being there as someone who will listen. Even with all the sacrifices she has had to make in her life to get to where she is today, she still achieved all the goals she set for herself. As a future RN, Aragsan

is going to make countless positive impacts on every patient she sees.”

Aragsan lights up when she talks about her children. She said even though it’s challenging to raise children and go to school at the same time, she loves being a role model for them and can tell they are proud of her.

“I have had some challenges because I’m a single mother and I don’t have family here. Sometimes I would struggle to find after-school care for my children and TRIO would help me find childcare,” she said, adding, “When I do my homework in front of them, they do theirs too. QCC is a good school for parents because there’s flexibility, support, and great professors.”

Her advice to parents considering higher education is to ask for help and find a support system like the TRIO Program.





Second Chance Culinary

How QCC's Re-Entry Program is Helping Formerly Incarcerated

Quinsigamond Community College received \$160,000 in funding in 2022 to continue its food service worker training program for previously and currently incarcerated individuals. The Re-Entry Workforce Development Demonstration Program is an initiative of the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, and provides industry-supported curriculum in culinary training for post-release students, as well as assistance with career readiness and job placement.

"QCC is committed to providing training opportunities to all individuals seeking to enter into employment in Central Massachusetts. The work we do with returning citizens is especially important as it provides the skills needed for employment and provides our returning citizens a pathway to self-sufficiency and economic independence. Our strong partnership with the Massachusetts Restaurant Association not only provides employment opportunities

but also offers the prospect of career advancement and college credits through our culinary apprenticeship program," said Dean of Center for Workforce Development and Continuing Education, Kathie Manning.

One graduate of the program was inspired to participate by the passion of the staff at Worcester County House of Correction and QCC, as well as the support of his family.

"I will need to work and provide for myself, so this gives me more options, more tools. The whole program was good, pushing myself to do it, sticking to it, showing up. We learned different styles of cooking, but also about being in a work environment and working with people," he said.

The culinary certificates awarded to graduates are part of QCC's non-credit offerings, however, they can also be used to receive college credit. One student received her certificate in June of 2022 and was able to start at QCC the following September with

nine credits toward her associate degree in hospitality and recreation management.

"There is a stigma as a formerly incarcerated individual, but coming in with this certificate helps a lot," she said, adding that she is already working in food service and eventually wants to open her own restaurant.

According to the Massachusetts Restaurant Association, there is a severe need for people to fill vacancies in the hospitality industry, especially entry-level positions. Participants in this program earn industry-recognized credentials including ServSafe Food Handlers, FEAST, and Mass Allergen



Right: Dean of College and Career Pathways Carol King



inary

Find Employment

certifications which are necessary for the culinary industry.

The program is made possible by a strong partnership between many organizations. QCC, Worcester County Sheriff's Office, Worcester House of Corrections, Snapchef, Mass. Restaurant Association, Latin American Health Alliance, LIFT Worcester, MassHire Central Region Workforce Board, and MassHire Career Center all collaborated to make this program a success.

"I've always believed that the best social program is a job," commented Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis. "We are proud of the partnership between Quinsigamond Community College and the Worcester County Sheriff's Office that allowed for the development of this program. Graduates of the program are able to pursue extraordinary employment opportunities upon release."

"It's these types of community partnerships that are making positive changes to our region and will have long-lasting, positive implications for our local economy," said QCC President Dr. Luis G. Pedraja.



Suzanne Graham Anderson, Alumni Association President and 2016 QCC alum

QCC Alumni Association: Strengthening Bonds and Building a Brighter Future

QCC's Alumni Association, at more than 36,000 strong, is a pillar of support and camaraderie for all those who share a connection with QCC. The Alumni Association aims to foster a sense of belonging and engagement, with a focus on supporting students, faculty, staff, and the local community.

The current association board is ready to roll out various new, fresh ideas to reenergize and reengage alumni. Look out for networking events, family activities, and info sessions on topics such as first-time home buying.

"Our alumni are represented in every sector of the community and are proud of their time at Quinsigamond Community College," said Alumni Association President Suzanne Graham Anderson. "As a former student, I believe that everyone has a home here, regardless of their story or reason for attending. My goal is to maintain and build on this sense of belonging, making it a place where alumni can come back to socialize, enjoy recreational or educational activities, catch up with old friends, meet new friends, and give back. Leaving college is not the end of your journey; instead, it's one more place that you can always return to."

With the demand for a skilled workforce nationally and locally, the Alumni Association is a great way for business owners to connect with alumni who are ready to put their skills to work.

"QCC has been here for 60 years and we're not going anywhere. The community college model is having a huge moment right now," said Director of Development Michelle Vigneux. "Our local employers need a skilled workforce, and our alumni have those skills."

The association is also a great way to give back to the community. QCC's alumni entrepreneurs make great mentors and can change the life of a current student, while enriching their businesses and connecting with other area business owners. In addition, the association will have opportunities to support the alumni scholarship, which is awarded to students in need each year.

"Please share your milestones with us so we can celebrate you," Anderson encouraged. "You are a part of something bigger than yourself, something no one can ever take away from you. Shine your light so brightly that others will be inspired to shine theirs too. Remember daily that your uniqueness is what makes you amazing, and your authenticity is what the world deserves, and more importantly, it's what you deserve."



(from left) Dean of Students Theresa Vecchio, Manager for Student Resources Bonnie Coleman, former Senator Harriette Chandler, QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja, and Senator Robyn Kennedy

QCC's Legislative Breakfast and Food Pantry Ribbon Cutting Spotlighted Student Hunger

In September of 2022, local legislators, community organizations, food pantry donors, and members of the Quinsigamond Community College community gathered for a legislative breakfast and ribbon cutting of the college's HomePlate Food Pantry and Resource Center. In addition to showcasing the new space, QCC students shared their stories of the impact that the food pantry and resource center has had on their lives.

Many members of the QCC community referenced how QCC's HomePlate Food Pantry and Resource Center allowed students to continue their education by assisting with basic needs.

"The food pantry is used by many types of people who just want to better their lives. Now they don't have to choose between school and work," said QCC Student Resource Manager Bonnie Coleman, who added that this is helping to remove the stigma from food insecurity.

A student survey done in 2018 by Wisconsin Hope Lab found that close to 50% of students at QCC were food insecure and 11% were homeless. To address this issue, QCC opened the first iteration of the college's food pantry in July 2018. In 2021, the food pantry doubled in size due to increased student need.

Today, the HomePlate Food Pantry and Resource Center offers fresh produce, dairy, and personal hygiene products, in addition to shelf-stable food items through the Worcester County Food Bank and Goya Foods. The food pantry serves approximately 150 students per week at the West Boylston Street campus and 25 students per week at the Federal Street campus. Many of these students also feed their families with items they receive from the food pantry.

Thanks to a grant from United Way, which provided a software program similar to Instacart, students can safely pick up food each week in a grocery store-type setting. The Greater Worcester Community Foundation also provided funding for a refrigerated truck and food lockers to increase efficiency.

"It's a truly collaborative effort," said Dean of Student Affairs Dr. Theresa Vecchio.

"Our own Hotel Restaurant Management program is creating grab-and-go meals to supply the HomePlate Food Pantry."

Julia Rooney, a QCC criminal justice graduate, spoke about her experiences working in the food pantry as an employee.

"I'm thanked by many different people, including someone I'm lucky enough to now call a friend. She told me that without the food pantry, she and her two-year-old son would still be living in a homeless shelter. I'm happy to tell you that now she has a full-time job and an apartment and graduated this spring," Rooney said.

Former State Senator Harriette Harriet Chandler and current State Senator Robyn Kennedy attended the breakfast and presented a congratulatory citation from the state senate for QCC's work in fighting food insecurity.

"I've seen this school from the beginning, and I'm honored to see what it's become. This breakfast is an important opportunity to educate your legislators. You (QCC) ask for very little, but when you do I know it's important. It's been a pleasure to represent you," Chandler said.

"Our responsibility here is not just to listen, but to act. We are lucky to have a team at QCC that acts," former Chairman of the QCC Board of Trustees, Alex Zequeira added.

\$735,000

QCC Awarded \$735,000 Workforce Training Grant

In July of 2022, 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 2022, QCC was also awarded \$500,000 in state funding to train and help place over 70 participants into biotechnology jobs. Former Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito, along with former 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.

Polito and Acosta toured QCC's healthcare labs and interacted with the college's state-of-the-art simulation equipment.

"I'm encouraged by the work that's being done here at QCC and all the grantees that have been awarded today. 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 Peyser.

“

We need our community colleges more than ever. You have the best platform to get this work done.

— Former Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development, Rosalin Acosta

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Approximately one-third of the grant funding was allocated toward training programs for the healthcare industry, which is in high demand across the Commonwealth.



(from left) QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja, former Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development Rosalin Acosta, Assistant Dean of the School of Healthcare Shanan Stratis, and former Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito

Breaking Down Barriers to Dental Care:

Quinsigamond Community College's Innovative Partnership Delivers Free Services to Seniors

Quinsigamond Community College is helping to bridge the dental care gap for underserved seniors through an innovative partnership with The Central Massachusetts Agency on Aging (CMAA) to offer free dental care to seniors. QCC's Dental Clinic offers culturally sensitive, professional preventative dental services for older adults, as well as a chance for QCC students to gain invaluable real-world experience working with senior patients. The CMAA was able to provide funding through an American Rescue Act Plan Title III grant.

"A lot of seniors have complicated medical situations, which is good for the students to learn about. It's also great to see the student and the patient develop a relationship. You can see that the patients just love the students," said Dental Clinic Operations and Facilities Manager Sheryl Ficorilli.

QCC has been offering low-cost dental care to seniors for over 20 years; however, through the collaboration of CMAA there is no cost to patients who are over 55 and reside in Massachusetts. The free service covers cleanings, deep cleanings, assessments, fluoride treatments, and necessary x-rays. The CMAA also has a partnership with Yellow Cab and can provide free transportation to and from the dental clinic.

"Dental care is a key part of overall wellness. However, many older adults lack access to dental care due to cost, not having insurance, transportation issues, and other barriers," said Dr. Moses Dixon, president & CEO of Central Massachusetts Agency on Aging, Inc. "We are proud to partner with QCC to ensure that seniors have

access to the health resources and services they need."

Due to increased student enrollment in the Fall 2023 semester along with support from the grant, the clinic was able to increase the number of patients it can accommodate. During the first year, the program served 270 patients with over 578 visits. The average patient age was 71.

"Most of these seniors don't have dental insurance and Medicare does not cover routine and preventative dental services. Close to 70% of seniors in our area have periodontal disease which is the leading cause of tooth loss and is associated with heart disease and respiratory illness. It's critical that our seniors have access to dental care and our partnership with CMAA is addressing this issue," said Professor and Coordinator of the Dental Hygiene Program Jane Gauthier.

This community partnership caught the attention of Dr. Joia Stapleton Mukherjee, associate professor of Global Health and Social Medicine and Director, Master of Medical Sciences in Global Health Delivery, HMS in Global Medical Education and Social Change at Harvard.

"Dr. Mukherjee was instrumental in the tracking and containment of COVID-19 and was impressed by all the safety measures we put in place to get our clinic open during COVID," Ficorilli said.

"Older Americans, particularly low-income, underserved seniors, often lack access to dental care. Thanks to this partnership with the CMAA, we are helping to provide equitable access to important dental care for this vulnerable population, as well as enabling our dental hygiene students to become better prepared to care for senior patients when they enter the workforce," President Pedraja said.



Phi Theta Kappa at QCC: Empowering Students Through Leadership, Service, and Scholarship

When it comes to community service, it's hard to top QCC's Alpha Zeta Theta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK). As an internationally recognized two-year college honor society, PTK is known for providing students with opportunities for growth and development through participation in leadership and service programming.

QCC's PTK chapter has been one of the most robust in New England, achieving placement in the top 100 national chapters multiple times and the New England Region's Most Distinguished Chapter in 2011, 2012, and 2013.

"Phi Theta Kappa is very social justice focused," said Bonnie Coleman, who started as the coordinator for PTK in 2005, transitioning to the Manager for Student Resources in 2021.

QCC's PTK students have completed

countless projects that have directly contributed to social programs in central Massachusetts. From 2015 to 2019 PTK raised \$60,000 for the Worcester Public Library Book Mobile. In 2023, PTK collaborated with the President's Office and Parenting Student Support Services to create activity kits for the children who often accompany their parents to QCC's front-line offices.

PTK students are always willing to roll up their sleeves for events such as cooking meals at Jeremiah's Inn, a residential treatment center for substance use disorder, or organizing birthday celebrations and donations for local

unhoused children.

"As a group, we have done a lot for the school and community," said 2023-2024 PTK President Kimberly Lindsey. "And as

an individual, I have seen the inner workings and leadership at QCC by getting more involved, which has improved my leadership, research, and collaboration skills."

PTK also offers many scholarship and transfer opportunities, helping students break through the barriers to higher education while growing their academic

and professional resumes. An astonishing average graduation rate of 90% shows how engagement through PTK can solidify retention.



Fostering Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Inside the Student Life Department



2024 student leaders

At QCC, the Student Life department serves a diverse student body with a wide range of backgrounds and experiences. Director of Student Life and Leadership Ashlee Givins and Assistant Director of Student Life and Programming Katelyn Hurley aim to foster an equitable and inclusive environment where all students feel safe, heard, and supported.

"When a student sees someone that looks like them in a position of power there's comfortability," Givins said. "Representation does matter."

The department facilitates impactful programming around diversity, equity, and inclusion including cultural events, conversations about wellness, and social justice education. The team also organizes pride events, panels on immigration, and more.

Student groups play a key role in providing peer support and advocating for marginalized communities. The Pride Alliance, Black Student Union (BSU), Multicultural Club, and others offer safe spaces for open dialogue.

Moving forward, the department plans to continue diversity training and spotlighting student voices. With an emphasis on representation, awareness, and growth, Student Life strives to help all students thrive.

"We want to create equitable environments for each student and help them build skills to advocate for themselves," Givins explained. Through continual collaboration and education, the team brings this vision of social justice to life.



Director of Community Engagement Sean Harris (left) with Kwame Appiah

QCC Presents First Community Impact Award to Kumasi Soccer Club

In October 2023, Quinsigamond Community College presented its first Community Impact Award to Kwame Appiah and his family members for their work and founding of the Kumasi FC Soccer Club. The Kumasi FC Soccer Club has been serving the Greater Worcester community since 2010 and offers a variety of soccer workshops to children ranging from toddlers (age 2) to 15-year-olds.

The Community Impact Award was the brainchild of QCC's Director of Community Engagement Sean Harris. According to Harris, the award is designed to spotlight local individuals and/or organizations who do impactful work with young people from underserved communities.

"It is so important to acknowledge and honor those people who are working every day to make our communities better," Harris continued.

"This is a happy moment for me. When I graduated from Burncoat High School in 1998, I enrolled at Quinsig and that's the best decision I think I've ever made," Appiah said, adding that like the connections he made at QCC, the children who participate in the soccer club end up making friends from new areas and backgrounds.

Social Justice and Community Service Go Hand-in-Hand for QCC Students

In the fall of 2022, four Quinsigamond Community College students, Britney Acquah, Whitney Acquah, Gabrielle Gedeon, and Eva Kadriu, were chosen as Woo Labs Hanover Fellows. The Woo-Labs program offers community-focused, equitable, project-based learning to K-12 students. Fellows work with the staff of area organizations to create and implement learning projects for groups of young students.

The Woo-Labs program was designed to help college students experience the joys and challenges of working with youth as teachers and mentors, in the hopes that they would "catch the bug" and want to pursue these career pathways, according to QCC's Program Administrator for STEM Initiatives Adrienne Linnell.

The Fellows were given training and professional development prior to and during the program and were placed at various community-based organizations, such as African Community Education and the YWCA.

"Working with children of different cultures, faiths and educational backgrounds is something I'll need in the career I want to go into. Critical thinking and psychology helped me with that. I used what I learned in class at QCC and visualized it while working with the kids," said Gedeon, a nursing major.

Participating organizations also noticed the benefits of Woo-Labs.

"The Woo-Labs program has been terrific for our organization. The Fellows seem to be learning a lot about childcare in general and seeing what it takes to make such a large program flow," said Director of School Age Programs, Nicole Martin from Guild of St. Agnes. "When children learn to work as a team, ask important questions and find answers together, it promotes some sense of social justice. No matter the topic being discussed, when we hear about various opinions and concerns it forces us to see things from a different point of view. Helping our children to think out of the box and be more open-minded is always a goal of ours."

QCC OTA Students Connect with Unhoused Community through Service Learning

In December 2022, Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) students took part in hands-on learning with members of Worcester's unhoused community at St. John's Food for the Poor Program, located at the St. Francis Xavier Center in downtown Worcester.

"As occupational therapy assistant students at QCC, we're trying to improve our understanding of the unhoused community in Worcester," explained Rebecca Gervais. "It was really amazing to see that even when individuals are struggling and have very little, they are still really a community and do so much to support each other."

The occupational therapy assistant students hosted various activities that fostered social participation and health management. The students set up stations at the Xavier Center that offered participants small first-aid kits and access to information on housing, food and health resources.

"In occupational therapy, we believe that simple classroom learning is not enough to prepare students, so we pair our course work with field experiences where we engage with the community to learn the occupational needs of different populations," said Erin Connor, professor of QCC's OTA Program.



Class of 2023 OTA student Hannah Waldron (left) and Steven Naranjo

"We realized that we share this community with an increasing number of people who are unhoused – really we're the ones coming into their neighborhood each day for school. As OTA students, we're supposed to think about potential clients as whole people who engage in activities that bring meaning to their lives," said Jonathan Dudley.



QCC Secures Funding to Prepare Diverse Biotech Workforce

In 2022, QCC received the Workforce Challenge Grant funding to support a new 18-hour, stand-alone cell culture module that was added to the existing 10-week Biomanufacturing Technician program. QCC also received an Increasing Diversity in STEM Challenge Grant to support diversification in STEM through accessible early college courses, youth exposure to STEM and STEM careers, and adult learning programs.

"The work QCC is doing is vital to ensuring a healthy, vibrant, and diverse life sciences workforce," said Jon Weaver, president and CEO of MBI. "QCC embraces our Challenge Grant ideals by partnering with industry to create opportunities for new and diverse populations to join the growing industry."

"Central Massachusetts has a vibrant and growing life sciences industry. It's vital that we are preparing the workforce to be able to hit the ground running to meet those needs," said Kathy Rentsch, former associate vice president for Strategic Academic & Workforce Initiatives (and current vice president for Academic Affairs) from QCC. "We are grateful to MBI for helping us make the connection with industry so that we can design programs that meet their needs and for supporting that programming through the Challenge Grants."

A report from CBRE titled *Life Sciences Research Talent 2022* ranked Worcester the 15th best market in the US for life sciences research talent. In addition, MassBio predicts that 40,000 new Life Science jobs will be created by 2024. As a result, there is a growing need for programs that assess future job opportunities and generate certificates that align with the minimum requirements for employment within the industry.





QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja welcomes the crowd at QCC's first Attorney General debate.

QCC Gets Front Row Seat to Democracy at Attorney General Debate

In August 2022, QCC and the Worcester County Bar Association hosted a candidates' forum for the Massachusetts Attorney General election. The forum was the first that took place with all four Massachusetts Attorney General candidates. The Democratic candidates were former Boston City Councilor Andrea Campbell [Campbell won the election in November 2022], Attorney Shannon Liss-Riordan, and Massachusetts Director of Federal Funds and Infrastructure Quentin Palfrey. The Republican candidate was Attorney Jay McMahon. The event was moderated by Gina Plata-Nino, a former attorney with the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, and deputy director for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

"The Massachusetts Attorney General acts as the 'people's attorney' for citizens of the Commonwealth. We were honored to co-host this event with the Worcester County Bar Association to inform our citizens of the candidates and their platforms, particularly as they relate to our local region," said QCC President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D. "Building strong local and regional partnerships such as this one is vital to educational success for our students and increased prosperity for our community. These partnerships create networking and job opportunities for students, which in turn infuses our region's economy with a skilled workforce."

Counseling & Wellness Launches Online Peer-to-Peer Support Network

The Office of Counseling and Wellness has joined a platform called *Togetherall*, a peer-led online support network for college students. QCC students can use this free service to anonymously connect with students from around the world and discuss topics that affect their academic, personal, or professional lives. They also gain access to resources such as self-help courses, a personal goal setter and an online private journal.

QCC's Director of Counseling and Wellness Tina Wells was excited to get this program off the ground after recognizing the need for more student support resources. QCC is currently the first community college in the state to utilize a service like *Togetherall*.

"This platform is basically an extension of the Counseling and Wellness Office. We are limited in the number of hours we can offer services, so *Togetherall* expands our scope of support. Students can access the platform 24/7. Also, some students don't want to attend traditional therapy," said Wells, adding, "This method helps to normalize finding support and provides equitable access to mental health services."

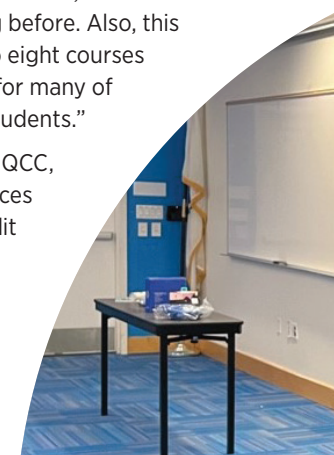
In addition to the chat forums, there are chat groups that students can join such as Parents and Caregivers, Student Life, or Laugh and Uplift. Students from around the world interact on the platform, which can help to show members that they aren't alone in their problems, while also offering diverse points of view that they may not be exposed to in their daily life.

Future Focus Programs Receives Funding for Adult Learners Transitioning to College

Quinsigamond Community College was awarded \$675,000 in Transition to College funding from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) in the fall of 2023. The funding covers a three-year period and supports QCC's Future Focus program for adult learners from adult basic education programs.

"This funding is so phenomenal," said the Coordinator of the Future Focus Program, Gilmarie Vongphakdy. "Transition programs such as Future Focus help support some of our nontraditional students who are often parents, working full-time, or individuals who haven't used the English language in a college setting before. Also, this funding allows us to increase our offerings from five courses to eight courses and provide laptop loans. Lack of technology is a big barrier for many of our students."

The Future Focus program fully integrates students into QCC, provides academic and college readiness support services to enhance student retention and provides college credit coursework at no cost to the student. Students receive free tuition, fees, books, supplies and transportation if needed.



NFL Star Inspires Next Gen at QCC and Early College Worcester 'Day of Empowerment'

In May of 2023, Quinsigamond Community College and Early College Worcester (ECW) hosted a Day of Empowerment for 200 Worcester high school students featuring former NFL player and motivational speaker Shawn Harper, along with workshops on goal setting and motivation.

Early College Worcester is a partnership involving Quinsigamond Community College, Worcester Public Schools (WPS), and Worcester State University that enables WPS students to earn college credits while still in high school. These early college high school students also participate in college and career readiness activities that help to prepare them for higher education.

Keynote speaker Harper told the students about his journey from struggling student, to award-winning athlete and business owner.

Harper started at a community college in Iowa and transferred to Indiana University where he received a National Achievement Award. Harper then went on to play in the NFL for the Rams and the Colts, as well as NFL Europe.

Harper encouraged ECW students to prioritize education on their journey to success.

"My greatest accomplishment is my degree. You are going to have a dramatic impact on our future. Be all in. Give studying your full attention because education gives you leverage," he said.



Shawn Harper, former NFL player and motivational speaker

Accounting Students Offer Multilingual Tax Assistance to Diverse Central Mass. Community

Quinsigamond Community College continued to offer free tax assistance through the IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program in the spring. Certified volunteers and QCC students assist with preparing tax returns for people who make \$60,000 or less and people with limited English language skills. The VITA program provides services primarily at the Main South Community Development Corporation but also offers workshops at QCC's main

campus in Worcester and QCC's Southbridge campus.

Assistant Professor of Accounting Eduardo Rivas started volunteering with the VITA program in 2013 and began coordinating QCC's involvement with the VITA program in 2018, offering student volunteers credit for prior learning. In 2019, QCC began offering Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (ACC 225) as a credit course that Rivas teaches.

Rivas noted that one of the challenges of doing this work is the language barrier that can often arise; however, the students who assist with the program often speak multiple languages. He is thankful for students like Christian Santos in the accounting certificate program and who speaks fluent Spanish. Other students in ACC 225 also speak Portuguese, Arabic, French, and Vietnamese.

"I love getting to know the community. It's very diverse, especially here in Worcester," said student Nathalia Paes de Souza, adding, "Most people are really nice and understanding."

"We serve every corner of this community, every race, every age," De Jesus added.



Coordinator of Future Focus Program Gilmarie Vongphakdy (right) with student Aidan Owusu Mensah.

State Innovation Fund Backs DEI Certificate for QCC Faculty and Staff

In May of 2024, QCC was awarded \$51,968 from the Healey-Driscoll Administration's Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF). QCC is using the funds to create a new non-credit Diversity, Equity and Inclusion certificate program for faculty and staff. QCC partnered with Anna Maria College, Middlesex Community College, Worcester State University, and Worcester Polytechnic Institute to implement the program. The goal of the program is to prepare faculty and staff to support the lived experience of all students and shift towards an inclusive campus environment.

"By working together as a collective community, we are fostering an inclusive environment to meet the needs of diverse student populations in our region. This collaborative approach to educate faculty and staff will increase student recruitment and retention, improve classroom dialogue and advance student success," said QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja.



QCC Community Uplifts Women's Voices for Change on International Women's Day

QCC students, staff and faculty gathered in March 2023 to celebrate International Women's Day and share stories of their successes and struggles, discussing the structural barriers women have faced and continue to face, as well as how we can collectively overcome these barriers.

S.H.E. (Support, Help and Encourage) Club, sponsored the event, which included student speaker and Vice President of S.H.E. Reagan Condry, former Vice President of External Affairs Dr. Viviana Abreu-Hernandez, Human Services Professor Brenda Safford and Executive Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Kevin Lovaincy. Student and S.H.E. member Lisa Sarfowaa also performed several inspiring poems.

"Women are socialized to not take up space. But it's ok to speak up. Your voice is important and you are important. We need to teach women that their safety is more important than someone else's feelings," said Condry.



QCC's Children's School: Early Childhood Education Lab School

QCC One of Five Community Colleges Nationwide Selected for Parenting Students Grant

Quinsigamond Community College secured a \$30,000 grant in May 2024 from New America to expand its support of parenting students. QCC was one of five community colleges chosen from across the United States to be part of New America's Child Care for Student Parents at Community Colleges Cohort.

QCC has over 1,400 students who have been identified as parents and Parenting Student Navigator Michelle Brennan estimates that there are even more.

"Parenting students are some of the busiest students. They are juggling school, children, work, and home. They're also some of the most driven students because not only are they trying to change their life, but also the lives of their children," said Brennan. "Research has shown that when parenting students are given targeted support, they will graduate faster and with a higher GPA."



(from left) Director of Athletics Lisa Gurnick, student Reagan Condry, Assistant Professor of Computer Information Systems Gargi Chug, Administrative Assistant for College & Career Pathways Deb Fratturelli, and student Lisa Sarfowaa

Workforce Training Grant Aims to Promote Diversity in Healthcare

QCC was awarded \$100,000 in March 2024 from the Healy-Driscoll Administration for workforce training programs for adults. QCC will use the funds to enroll 30 individuals in a home health aide training program. The program will be completely free for participants. The grants are part of the Training Resources and Internships Network (TRAIN) program.

QCC will focus on recruiting underemployed and unemployed individuals in the Worcester and Southbridge areas. Recruitment will also target populations that have historically encountered barriers to employment. Such populations include veterans, single parents, people of color, people with disabilities, women, people with low incomes, and limited or non-English speakers.



Occupational Therapy class at QCC

“Classes will be taught in both English and Spanish to not only prepare individuals for meaningful careers but also foster inclusivity and diversity within the healthcare landscape,” said QCC’s Director of Workforce Development Operations Kathleen O’Connor.



2023 Gateway to College graduate Allison Dola

Award-Winning Gateway to College Program Celebrates a Decade of Success

QCC’s Gateway to College program celebrated its 10th anniversary in the summer of 2022. Gateway to College is an early college program that helps students who are experiencing barriers to obtaining a high school diploma in a traditional high school

setting. The program provides wraparound support services and offers students the ability to obtain free college credits.

QCC’s program has been recognized multiple times for its success and best practices and has been a model for other

Gateway programs. In 2022, QCC’s Gateway to College program won the Program Excellence Award from Achieving the Dream, for the fifth year in a row.

One Gateway graduate, Lisa Sarfowaa came to Worcester from Ghana when she was in high school. She said she felt the education system here wasn’t right for her, so she gave Gateway to College a try on the recommendation of a family member.

“They have a really good staff, and I was able to share my culture with them. It motivated me to make good use of the opportunity. This place changed my life,” said Sarfowaa, adding that she will be continuing at QCC in the nursing program and plans to become a midwife in the future.

“One of the things I love about Gateway is not only are these students who have so many barriers achieving their high school diploma, but they are also earning so much college credit. Many of them are right on the borderline of having enough credits to achieve a certificate,” said Dean of College and Career Pathways Carol King. Since its inception in 2012, 260 students have graduated from QCC’s Gateway to College program.

IN MEMORIAM

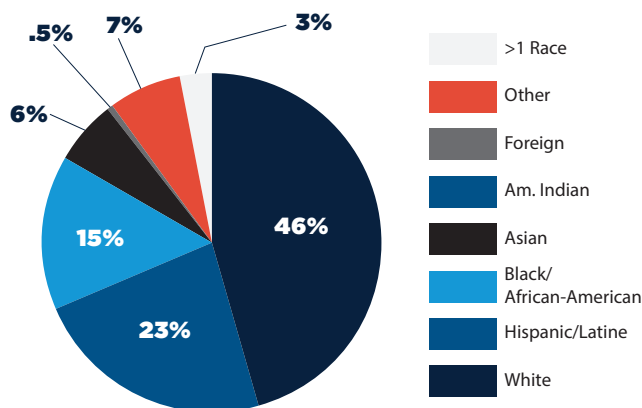
We're sorry to hear about the loss of our alumni. Join us in expressing our condolences to the families of the following:

Paul Collette '90 6/2/2021	Kathryn Deschaine '76 7/12/2022	Craig Teschner '71 7/7/2023
Diane Robinson '79 6/8/2021	William Perron '88 7/13/2022	Domenic Genatossio '76 7/14/2023
Karen Donovan '95 6/14/2021	Beryl Pettiford '16 7/22/2022	Bryan Bibeault '85 7/16/2023
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Francis Arsenault '73 6/19/2021	Ronald Studley '65 8/13/2022	Laurie Abbott '97 8/3/2023
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Ewa Zieliwski '05 7/8/2021	Kathleen Richter '68 9/15/2022	Marianne Peterson-LeBlanc '87 . 8/21/2023
Lynne Maloney '74 7/11/2021	Robin Harrington '75 9/21/2022	Marjorie Hunter '14 8/22/2023
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Eileen Beaudin '19 10/15/2021	Joseph Liberty '98 1/8/2023	Dale Bailey '80 10/28/2023
Charles Solomon '83 11/28/2021	Amanda Hernandez '21 1/14/2023	Laura Belliveau '89 11/2/2023
Judith Dennis '70 12/12/2021	Allen Jenkins '08 1/31/2023	Robert Donahue '12 11/3/2023
Karen Handy '93 12/27/2021	Joseph Ares '72 2/7/2023	Frederick Parker '75 11/5/2023
Debra Frost '84 1/1/2022	Eugene Cox '04 2/18/2023	Victor Matherly '02 11/7/2023
James Mooney '81 1/11/2022	Cynthia Barry '08 2/27/2023	Doris Holland '02 11/29/2023
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Rita Armstrong '75 2/16/2022	Cynthia Hart '13 3/7/2023	Sharon Biemiller '75 1/10/2024
Nancy Anderson '71 3/14/2022	Melanie Gillis '77 3/22/2023	Edward Friel '95 1/21/2024
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Richard Wolanski '91 7/10/2022	Dawn Osterman '76 7/7/2023	

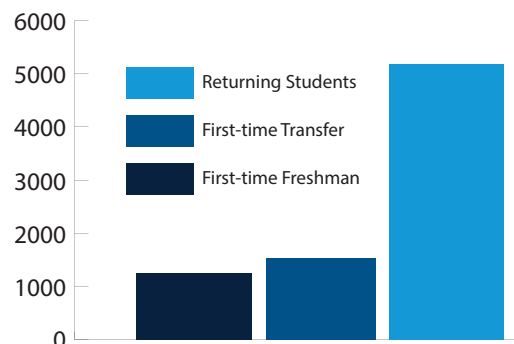
QCC STUDENT FAST FACTS

Fall 2023

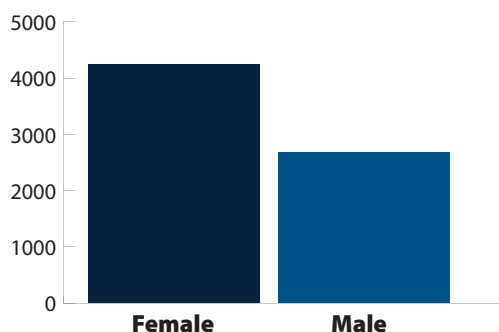
RACE/ETHNICITY*



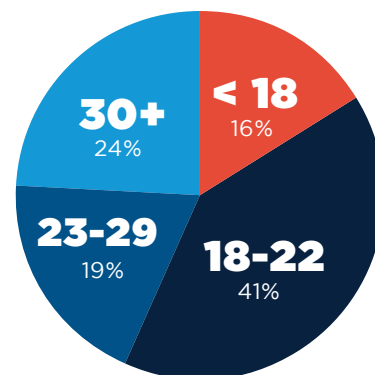
ENROLLMENT STATUS*



GENDER*

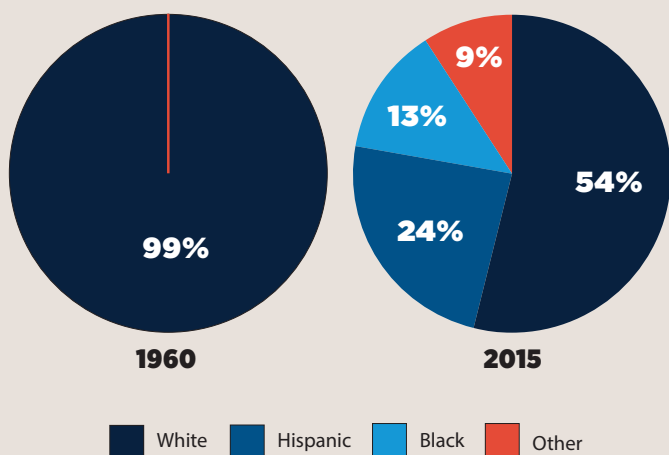


AGE*



WORCESTER STATS

RACE/ETHNICITY**



TOP 5 COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN**

1960	2015
U.S. Census: both foreign born and children of immigrants	Donahue Institute, foreign born only
Ireland	Ghana
Canada	Dominican Republic
Italy	Vietnam
U.S.S.R.	Brazil
Sweden	Albania

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Eva Kadriu '24
Jessica Marroquin '24
Robert McNabb '24
Wilmarie Robles '24

Private Grants

Greater Worcester Community Foundation (2)
The Hanover Insurance Group Foundation, Inc.
John H. and H. Naomi Tomfohrde Foundation
George W. Wells Foundation
Vanguard Charitable

Matching Gifts

Abbvie Employee Engagement Fund
Massachusetts State Endowment Incentive Program

In-kind and Other

Microsoft Rewards/Give with Bing
PC Design LLC

UMass Memorial Medical Center
UMass Memorial Health
Marlborough Hospital

Tribute Gifts

Barbara and Dan Garvey in honor of Terry Vecchio (QCC Employee) and SuEllen Hamkin

Linda Maykel in honor of Student Trustee Maria Mikhaeil

Barur Rajeshkumar in honor of Barur Rajarathinam

Shelley and Todd Rodman (The Feiner Rodman Charitable Fund at Vanguard Charitable) in honor of

Senator Robyn Kennedy and QCC board of Trustees Chairwoman Linda Maykel

Melinda Torbin in honor of Terri Rodriguez (QCC Employee)

In Memory of John Hunter Belding, Jr., Retired QCC Faculty Member

Anonymous

Helga Beatty

Belchertown Council on Aging Advisory Board

Deborah Belding

Edwina Belding

Ethan Belding '00

Walter Belding

Nancy Donohue-Berthiaume

Carol Foster and Bob Drinkwater

The Friends of Clapp Memorial Library

Jessica Hanson

Ann Marie Incutto '90

James Knittel

Pamela G and Walter M Kozlowski Charitable Fund at Schwab Charitable

Marilyn Leeds

LouAnne Lundgren

Clifford Morcom

Christine and William Muller

Libby Overly

Spanish American Center, Inc.

Jane Starr
Priscilla Underwood
Susan & Peter Valaas
Sarah Wojnas
Rita and Edward Wojnas

In Memory of Dennis "Denny" Blair '89, Endowed Scholarship Fund Donor

Jeanmarie Coleman

Phil and Lori D'Agostino

Deborah DeYoung

Ann Marie Incutto '90

Mike & Ellen Jeffers

Todd R. LaBranche

Stephen Marini and Sharon Marini '12

Marjorie Pratt

Lisa Small

Law Office of St. Pierre & St. Pierre

Michelle Stumm

Ann Trotto

Chris Valeri

In Memory of Dr. Anne Brown, Father of QCC Employee

Mary Abate

Michael Bauer

Paul Chamberlin

Daniel Daly

Patrick Damish

Aderito Dos Santos

Elizabeth Hanlan '12

Michael Kolakowski

Stephen Marini and Sharon Marini '12

Paul Mombourquette '68

Nina O'Brien

WB Manufacturing LLC

Barbara Zawalich '03

In Memory of Peter Drob, Retired QCC Faculty Member

Linda A. Maykel

In Memory of Andreana Grimaldo '02, QCC Adjunct Faculty Member

Denise Robichaud

In Memory of Patricia Lapierre '79, Grandmother of QCC Graduate

Mary Ellen Gordon

Claire Halvey

Susan Hebert '02 and John Hebert

Theresa Omalley

Gary Peters

Mary Tarquinio

In Memory of Jane Gail Steadman

Charles Heil and Genine Keene
George and Elaine Manneh

In Memory of Michele Perry '06

Joan Perry '89

The Economic Value of Quinsigamond Community College



Alumni impact

Impact of the increased earnings of QCC alumni and the businesses they work for

\$276.9million

Added income



An economic boost similar to hosting the World Series

43x

OR

2,738 Jobs supported



Operations spending impact

Impact of annual payroll and other spending

\$67.2million

Added income



Enough to buy **1,422** new cars

OR



1,115 Jobs supported



Student spending impact

Impact of the daily spending of QCC students retained in the region

\$3.6 million

Added income



Enough to buy **244** families* a year's worth of groceries

OR

55 ●

Jobs supported



Construction spending impact

Impact of expenditures for ongoing construction projects

\$2.1million

Added income

OR

22 ●

Jobs supported

● = 50 jobs
* = family of four



About QCC



8,597

Credit students



1,343

Non-credit students



1,058

Employees

Investment analysis



For every \$1...



Students gain **\$5.10**
in lifetime earnings



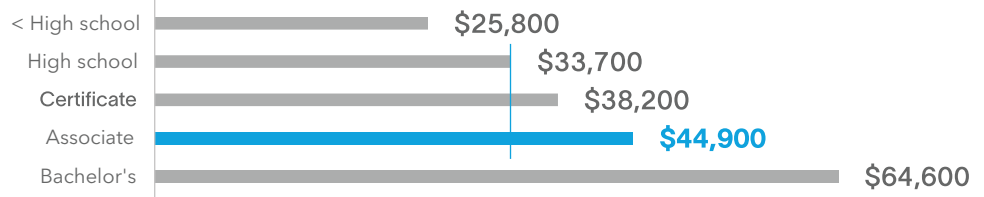
Taxpayers gain **\$1.30**
in added tax revenue and
public sector savings



Society gains **\$7.00**
in added income and
social savings



The average associate degree graduate from QCC will see an increase in earnings of **\$11,200** each year compared to someone with a high school diploma working in Massachusetts.



QCC Foundation

The QCC Foundation is a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization that is fiscally and legally separate from the College. All gifts are tax deductible as allowed by law. The QCC Foundation supports the College in its efforts to provide accessible, affordable, and high-quality educational and training programs and services. One of its primary goals is to ensure that every student who needs a scholarship receives one.

We invite you to consider establishing an annual scholarship fund or lifelong scholarship fund* to memorialize a loved one or honor someone, or contribute to an already established fund. For more information, please contact Shirley Dempsey at 508.854.4520 or sdempsey@qcc.mass.edu.

**A lifelong scholarship fund is placed in the endowment and held in perpetuity, with 50% of the net income awarded to students annually. Endowments help to guarantee a financial future for QCC's mission of educating students and is an important source for scholarships at a time when less than 30% of QCC's budget is funded by state appropriations.*

QCC Foundation Board

Matthew E. Wally,
President

James M. Griffin.
Vice President

Linda Cavaoli, *Treasurer*

Diane M. Giampa,
Clerk/Secretary

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Timothy Hally

Jean A. King

Micah Klayman

Linda S. Larrivee

Mary Meade-Montaque

Gladys Rodriguez-Parker, MS

New Director of Development Michelle Vigneux Fostering Engagement and Impact

In May of 2023, QCC welcomed Michelle Vigneux as its new Director of Development. A 20-year veteran of development work, Vigneux has held roles at Clark University, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and most recently Abby Kelley Foster Charter School.

"I have a deep commitment to education and the opportunities that come with a degree. My piece is small, but part of a larger vision of a school where social justice is championed," said Vigneux.

Vigneux grew up in Kingston, MA, and attended Lebanon Valley College in Pennsylvania but has called Worcester home since 2001. She lives close to QCC's West Boylston Street campus and after meeting many people in the community that went to QCC, she was eager to join the College in its mission when the development role opened in 2023.

"The community here is real. I think the work we do at QCC is bettering the world for my kids and for everyone."

Under her leadership, the Alumni Association aims to build a stronger community and make a significant impact. Vigneux has already orchestrated several engaging events such as the Alumni Basketball Game in January of 2024.

She is also supporting QCC projects such as the Athletic Center and Hebert Auditorium renovation, which will benefit the college as well as the broader community. With Michelle Vigneux at the helm, the QCC Alumni Association is poised to foster a sense of togetherness, create valuable opportunities, and contribute positively to both the college and the community it serves. Donate to the QCC Foundation today and help support QCC's mission to be the gateway to advanced educational and economic opportunities in Central Massachusetts.



CHANGING THE LIVES OF QCC STUDENTS THROUGH PLANNED GIVING

A 2018 study done by the Wisconsin Hope Lab found that 11% of Quinsigamond Community College students experienced some form of homelessness; 54% were housing insecure, and 49% had low or very low food security. This is a situation the College immediately addressed, developing a food pantry and resource center to help students in need. However, it is just the tip of the iceberg in what is needed to ensure that all students achieve 100% student success.

Making a positive difference in the lives of students is the premise behind Quinsigamond Community College and the QCC Foundation; however, we cannot do this without the help of the community.

There are many ways to support QCC. A planned (or estate) gift can help to fund a multitude of programs and services at QCC, from the College's food pantry and resource center, to scholarships for students, and academic and student services programs. There are several, simple and direct ways in which you can include QCC in your estate planning.

Please contact Shirley Dempsey, assistant director of operations at 508.854.4520 or sdempsey@qcc.mass.edu.

Give back to QCC

Donate to the QCC Foundation today and help support QCC's mission to be the gateway to advanced educational and economic opportunities in Central Massachusetts.



Life Insurance

Life insurance policies also make an excellent giving opportunity. You may donate an existing policy to the Quinsigamond Community College Foundation, Inc. or name the QCC Foundation as the beneficiary of that policy.



Bequest

This is the easiest way to make a planned gift. With a bequest, you can leave a specific amount of money or a percentage of your estate to the QCC Foundation in your will.



Retirement Plans

Did you know that you can name the QCC Foundation as a beneficiary of your IRA, 403(b) or other retirement accounts? Talk to a financial advisor regarding this option.



Gifts of Appreciated Securities

Stocks or shares of mutual funds provide a great way to avoid capital gains tax and your gift is based on the current market value, not what you originally paid for the stocks. To maximize the tax benefits available to you, your shares must be transferred to the QCC Foundation before they are sold.



QUINSIGAMOND

Community College

670 West Boylston Street • Worcester, MA 01606

www.QCC.edu

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 304
Worcester, MA



QCC Alumni & Friends Night with the WooSox

August 30

6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Polar Park



More Information:
alumni@qcc.mass.edu