



# Fitchburg State University

## Board of Trustees and Fitchburg State Foundation joint meeting

Amended on March 28, 2018 at 10:20 AM EDT

### Date and Time

Tuesday January 23, 2018 at 8:00 AM EST

### Location

Landry Arena, 1000 John Fitch Highway, Fitchburg, MA 01420

Notice of a Meeting of the Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees  
Tuesday, January 23, 2018, at 8:00 a.m. at the Landry Arena, 1000 John Fitch Highway,  
Fitchburg, MA 01420

This meeting will be a joint meeting with the Fitchburg State University Foundation

### Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter	Duration
<b>I. Opening Items</b>			
<b>A.</b> Record Attendance and Guests			
<b>B.</b> Call the Meeting to Order		Deborah Phillips	
<b>C.</b> Public Comments			
<b>D.</b> Approve Minutes from the Board of Trustees November 14, 2017 meeting - VOTE (11-17/18)	Approve Minutes		
Approve minutes for Board of Trustees on November 14, 2017			
<b>E.</b> Approve minutes from the Fitchburg State Foundation Oct. 4, 2017 Meeting	Vote		
<b>II. Strength and Conditioning</b>			
<b>A.</b> Presentation by Dr. Danielle Wigmore and Dr. Jeff Godin, Exercise & Sport Science Department	FYI		
<b>B.</b> Presentation by Ms. Sue Lauder and Mr. James McGuire, Athletics	FYI		

**III. Alumni Relations**

- A.** Presentation by Mr. Christopher Hendry, Vice President of Institutional Advancement FYI

**IV. Notifications**

- A.** Personnel Actions (N04-17/18) FYI

**V. President's Report**

- A.** Opening of the Spring Semester FYI
- B.** Update on Collective Bargaining FYI
- C.** Winter Commencement FYI
- D.** Theatre Block FYI
- E.** Search Update FYI
- F.** DHE Trustee Conference March 1, 2018 FYI
- G.** News Articles FYI

**VI. Closing Items**

- A.** Adjourn Meeting Vote



## Cover Sheet

### Approve Minutes from the Board of Trustees November 14, 2017 meeting - VOTE (11-17/18)

**Section:** I. Opening Items  
**Item:** D. Approve Minutes from the Board of Trustees November 14,  
2017 meeting - VOTE (11-17/18)  
**Purpose:** Approve Minutes  
**Submitted by:**  
**Related Material:** Minutes for Board of Trustees on November 14, 2017



# Fitchburg State University

## Minutes

### Board of Trustees

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#### **Date and Time**

Tuesday November 14, 2017 at 8:00 AM

#### **Location**

Presidents' Hall, Mazzaferro Center, 291 Highland Ave., Fitchburg, MA 01420

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#### **Trustees Present**

A. Clementi, A. Cochran, C. Stimpson, C. Stover, D. Irving, D. Phillips, D. Tiernan, L. Barrieau

#### **Trustees Absent**

D. Nieto, F. O'Donnell, G. Rodriguez-Parker

#### **Guests Present**

A. Cardelle, A. Krishnamurthy, C. Canney, C. Hendry, G. Doiron, J. Bry, J. Murdoch, L. Bayless, M. Cloutier, M. Siderwicz, S. Swartz, S. Tully

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### **I. Opening Items**

#### **A. Record Attendance and Guests**

#### **B. Call the Meeting to Order**

D. Irving called a meeting of the board of trustees of Fitchburg State University to order on Tuesday Nov 14, 2017 @ 8:07 AM at Presidents' Hall, Mazzaferro Center, 291 Highland Ave., Fitchburg, MA 01420.

#### **C. Public Comments**

There were none.

#### **D. Approve Minutes from the October 19, 2017 meeting - VOTE (08-17-18)**

- D. Phillips made a motion to approve minutes from the Board of Trustees on 10-19-17.
- A. Clementi seconded the motion.
- The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
- D. Tiernan abstained.

## **II. Sabbatical Requests**

### **A. Act on President's recommendation for faculty sabbatical requests - VOTE (09-17/18)**

President Lapidus presented the list of faculty members that he recommended for sabbatical leave for the 2018-2019 Academic Year. These faculty members put together formal proposals that were submitted and reviewed by the Department Chairs, Provost and the President for approval. There are a slightly higher number of proposals than normal, but the university had budgeted for them. While on sabbatical, the faculty will be working on interesting and worthwhile projects. There was a discussion.

- D. Phillips made a motion to approved.
- A. Clementi seconded the motion.
- The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

## **III. Fitchburg State University Downtown Theater Renovation**

### **A. Official intent to renovate - VOTE (10-17/18)**

President Lapidus reminded the board that they had previously approved the Theater Block project. The project is now ready to move forward with next steps. The financing is very complicated. Pinck & Company has been retained to assist with the development of the project scope and funding. They are a highly reputable firm and the university looks forward to their recommendation. The timeline was discussed.

- D. Phillips made a motion to Approve.
- C. Stimpson seconded the motion.
- The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

## **IV. Student Success Initiatives**

### **A. Dr. Alberto Cardelle will provide an update on student success initiatives**

Dr. Cardelle stated that student success is a major priority. There is a moral imperative that students graduate without significant debt. He presented a PowerPoint that he discussed in detail related to student success. He highlighted that it is much more expensive to recruit students than it is to retain them. There was a discussion.

## **V. An Overview of Emergency Preparedness and Personal Safety Course Offerings**

### **A. Chief Michael Cloutier will discuss emergency preparation and safety.**

Chief Michael Cloutier was introduced and reviewed his PowerPoint presentation. He discussed some of the content in the updated campus safety guide and introduced components of the current comprehensive safety plan. The university is on a path of a constant cycle of preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation. He explained the emergency management team that includes 28 team members made up of campus and external members. Various training has taken place and the university has hosted some trainings that included table top exercises and physical drills. He informed the board that there will be a planned scaled active shooter exercise in the spring. There are currently RAD classes (Rape Aggression Defense), First Aid, VIPR (Violence Identification Prevention and

Reporting), and CPR classes offered to faculty, staff and students. The university continues to enhance the safety of the campus and the surrounding community. The President reiterated that safety is always a top priority.

## **VI. Notifications**

### **A. Personnel Actions (N03-17/18)**

The personnel actions were presented for informational purposes.

## **VII. Chair's Report**

### **A. Committee Membership update**

Chairman Irving discussed the committee assignments. Board members are to let him know of any changes to their committee assignments.

## **VIII. President's Report**

### **A. Open House update**

President Lapidus updated the board on the latest Open House. The numbers were slightly down from last year. The university was competing against SAT weekend and other schools open houses. The numbers for the personal tours and athletic tours campus have been strong.

### **B. Landry Arena Update**

President Lapidus provided an update on the Landry Arena renovation project. He reminded board members that it will soon become a multi-purpose facility. He invited any board member that would like to see the space to let him know.

### **C. Free Speech Panel event**

President Lapidus informed the board that some Free Speech programming had taken place and that the university continues to take a proactive approach on many of the hot button issues as it believes they are learning opportunities. He noted that the Free Speech event was well done.

### **D. Transgender speaker Nicole Maines**

President Lapidus reported on a recent transgender speaker. The university hosted Nicole Maines and her family. Ms. Maines was well received by the campus community. People got a sense of what her life has been like and she had some interesting things to say. Her visit provided insight to the administration.

### **E. News Articles**

The news articles were included for informational purposes.

## **IX. Dates for consideration**

### **A. Holiday Show - Glenn Miller - Saturday, December 9 at 7:00 p.m.**

President Lapidus invited board members to a number of upcoming events.

### **B. Holiday Gathering - Thursday, December 14 at 3:30 p.m.**

### **C. Winter Commencement Ceremony on Friday, December 22 at 6:30 p.m.**

President Lapidus stated the number of students graduating this winter is strong (122 graduates and 258 undergraduates) those indicating that they will participate in Winter Commencement currently is 258. He invited all board members to attend Commencement.

## **X. Closing Items**

### **A. Adjourn Meeting**

D. Phillips made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

C. Stimpson seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 9:16 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

D. Phillips

# Cover Sheet

## Approve minutes from the Fitchburg State Foundation Oct. 4, 2017 Meeting

**Section:** I. Opening Items  
**Item:** E. Approve minutes from the Fitchburg State Foundation Oct. 4, 2017 Meeting  
**Purpose:** Vote  
**Submitted by:**  
**Related Material:** Foundation Draft minutes 10-4-17.pdf

**Fitchburg State University Foundation, Inc.,  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
Wednesday, October 4, 2017 at 8:00 a.m.  
Presidents' Hall, Mazzaferro Center  
Minutes

**Present:** President Richard S. Lapidus, Jay Bry, Alberto Cardelle, Cindy Caroll, Nicholas DiNinno, Anthony Emerson, Eric Gregoire, Scott Foster, Rick Healey, John Mahan and Anthony Mercadante

**Absent:** Marc Bingham, David Celuzza, and Michael Montuori

**Ex-Officio:** Christopher Hendry

**Also Attending:** Steve Swartz and Carolyn Garrahan

**Welcome and Opening Remarks:**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by President Richard S. Lapidus, who welcomed the board and introduced the newest directors; Dr. Nicholas DiNinno, Jr., John Mahan and Tony Mercadante.

**Consideration of Minutes:** President Lapidus asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the June 28, 2017 Foundation Board Meeting.

***Upon a motion made by Scott Foster and seconded by Eric Gregoire, the directors voted unanimously (6-0) to approve the minutes of the June 28, 2017 Foundation Board of Directors Meeting. (Request # FB 01-100417)***

**President's Goals:** President Richard Lapidus explained that the Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees runs in tandem with the Foundation Board. He said that each year he proposes goals that are consistent with the campus strategic plan and are designed to support and strengthen the mission and vision. He discussed the following goals;

- Maintaining sound financial management and operational controls.
- Continuing to increase student enrollment.
- Initiating and completing searches for a business dean, executive director of the library and an admissions officer.
- Continuing the evaluation of the campus organizational structure and growing faculty and staff in support of the university mission.
- Overseeing ongoing capital projects and advocating for additional funding to address deferred maintenance and renovation needs.
- Continuing to strengthen university/community relationships.

**Campus Updates:** President Lapidus went on to share news of what is taking place on campus.

- Our enrollment numbers are strong with an expected 1100 incoming students from approximately 240 Massachusetts high schools. Students are also coming from 20 or more

states as well as international students from 26 different countries. President Lapidus commented that our campus is becoming more of a destination rather than just a regional option.

- We have received clean audits for fiscal year 16 and fiscal year 17.
- The work deficit is down by 47% resulting in cost saving efficiencies.
- NEASC evaluates our strategic plan on a ten year cycle. They are required to visit us at the five year half point. That visit took place last year and the President is confident that our next ten year visit will be favorable.
- Our Criminal Justice Program graduates hired by police departments are taking the burden of the cost of putting them through the police academy off of the departments.
- Our on-line programs numbers have been positive.
- New hires include Deans, a Vice President of Student Affairs and a Director of Marketing.
- The early retirement incentive proved successful resulting in salary savings and making way for new hires to come on board.
- The President spoke of capital projects taking place on campus such as the new Highland Avenue chiller which will provide air conditioning to older buildings on campus, the Information Technology department's upgrade of wireless service, and improvements to parking and snow removal.
- There is a strong interest in living on campus as more students express interest in the traditional 4 year college experience. We have purchased Simonds Hall and the Office of Residence Life reports full occupancy.

#### **Presentation: Student Jobs:**

- Steve Swartz, Chief Information Officer, spoke about a project he is working on that will help find jobs for students on campus. He said that President Lapidus asked him why students left campus on weekends. The President said that he often hears students talk about the vibrancy of the campus on weekends, and their desire to stay, but the necessity to return to jobs at home. Steve, in trying to come up with a solution thought of Carolyn Crowley Stimpson, owner of Mount Wachusett Ski Resort, who hires Mount Wachusett Community College Students. Steve tried to come up with a way to find something similar for FSU students. A website has been developed that is only available to FSU students. Local businesses are able to post job openings which are sent to our server for approval. Then students can upload their resumes.
- President Lapidus added that national statistics show that students who engage in campus life are more likely to stay in school, have higher gpa's and higher graduation rates. The President has reached out, visiting the chamber of commerce and the mayor to help find jobs for our students. He asked for suggestions of other local companies that we can approach.
  - Cindy Carroll suggested the downtown retail merchant association.
  - Tony Mercadante commented that the Chamber of Commerce would be the best resource.
  - John Mahan suggested an e-blast to parents. He cited the importance of family awareness.
  - Scott Foster suggested talking to students about what kind of jobs they are looking for.

**Alumni & Development Update:** Vice President Christopher Hendry reported on gifts, events and grants.



- Richard Fisk has made a gift of \$161,451.79 of which \$156,000 is to be endowed. His gift will establish the *Richard and Elizabeth A. Fisk Nursing Scholarship*, in memory of his wife Elizabeth who graduated in 1958 with a degree in nursing. The scholarship is to provide one scholarship of \$5000 annually to a full-time upper-class nursing major.
- Vice President Hendry presented the 2017 Golf Tournament P&L saying that this year's tournament was very successful, with profits topping last year by about 2%. We reached the one million dollar mark. This was the 20<sup>th</sup> year of the event, and we invited the Bill Connors and Roberta Fitzmaurice Connors '63, who played a big role in beginning the tournament all those years ago. The Connors brought their daughter and three grandsons.
- Chris talked about homecoming weekend crediting the Office of Student Development for stepping up and providing fireworks and a bonfire, and activities that accomplished the goal of keeping students on campus. Eric Gregiore added that this year's homecoming provided the opportunity for different segments of our alumni population to participate in activities related to what they were connected to when they were here as students. He spoke about the Gold Key breakfast which was attended by alumni as far back of the class of 1949.
- Chris told the directors about the first ever "Day of Giving" to be held on October 17; an effort to raise money for athletics in a single day. This fundraiser has been promoted to alumni athletes, current student athletes and their parents.
- Vice President Hendry reported that the University has received the Upward Bound Math & Science grant, which will provide \$260,000 annually for the next five years. The grant will fund college preparation services for 60 first generation low income, students from Leominster and Fitchburg High Schools.

**Adjournment:** With no further business, President Lapidus thanked the directors for their continued support and adjourned the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Garrahan*

# Cover Sheet

## Presentation by Dr. Danielle Wigmore and Dr. Jeff Godin, Exercise & Sport Science Department

**Section:** II. Strength and Conditioning  
**Item:** A. Presentation by Dr. Danielle Wigmore and Dr. Jeff Godin,  
Exercise & Sport Science Department  
**Purpose:** FYI  
**Submitted by:**  
**Related Material:** Dr. Godin powerpoint.pptx

# Fitchburg State University Strength and Conditioning Center

Department of Exercise and Sports  
Science

Department of Athletics

Jeff Godin, Ph.D., CSCS

Associate Professor, Head Strength Coach





# I found myself here....





# Then this happened Summer/ Fall 2000



# Exercise and Sports Science Major

- Established in Fall 2002





# Exercise and Sports Science Major

- 155 North Street Renovation, Fall 2012



# What are they up to today?





# What are they up to today?



# What are they up to today?



# 15 Years Later





# 15 Years Later



# Strength and Conditioning Center: Academic Mission Statement

- The Academic Mission of the Strength and Conditioning Department is to foster an inclusive environment that promotes student, faculty, and professional staff engagement in a culture of learning and service. To provide learning experiences that extend beyond the classroom and prepares students to lead and serve in the profession of “Strength and Conditioning”.



# Thank you!

## This is the end, but really, we are just getting started.



# Cover Sheet

## Presentation by Ms. Sue Lauder and Mr. James McGuire, Athletics

**Section:** II. Strength and Conditioning  
**Item:** B. Presentation by Ms. Sue Lauder and Mr. James McGuire,  
Athletics  
**Purpose:** FYI  
**Submitted by:**  
**Related Material:** BOT SC Presentation 12318- Athletics.pptx

# Strength & Conditioning

Jim McGuire





# Our Mission

## □ PROTECT

- Reduce the risk of injury (strength, conditioning, mobility)
- Provide a safe, organized, competitive environment for our athletes to train in

## □ PREPARE

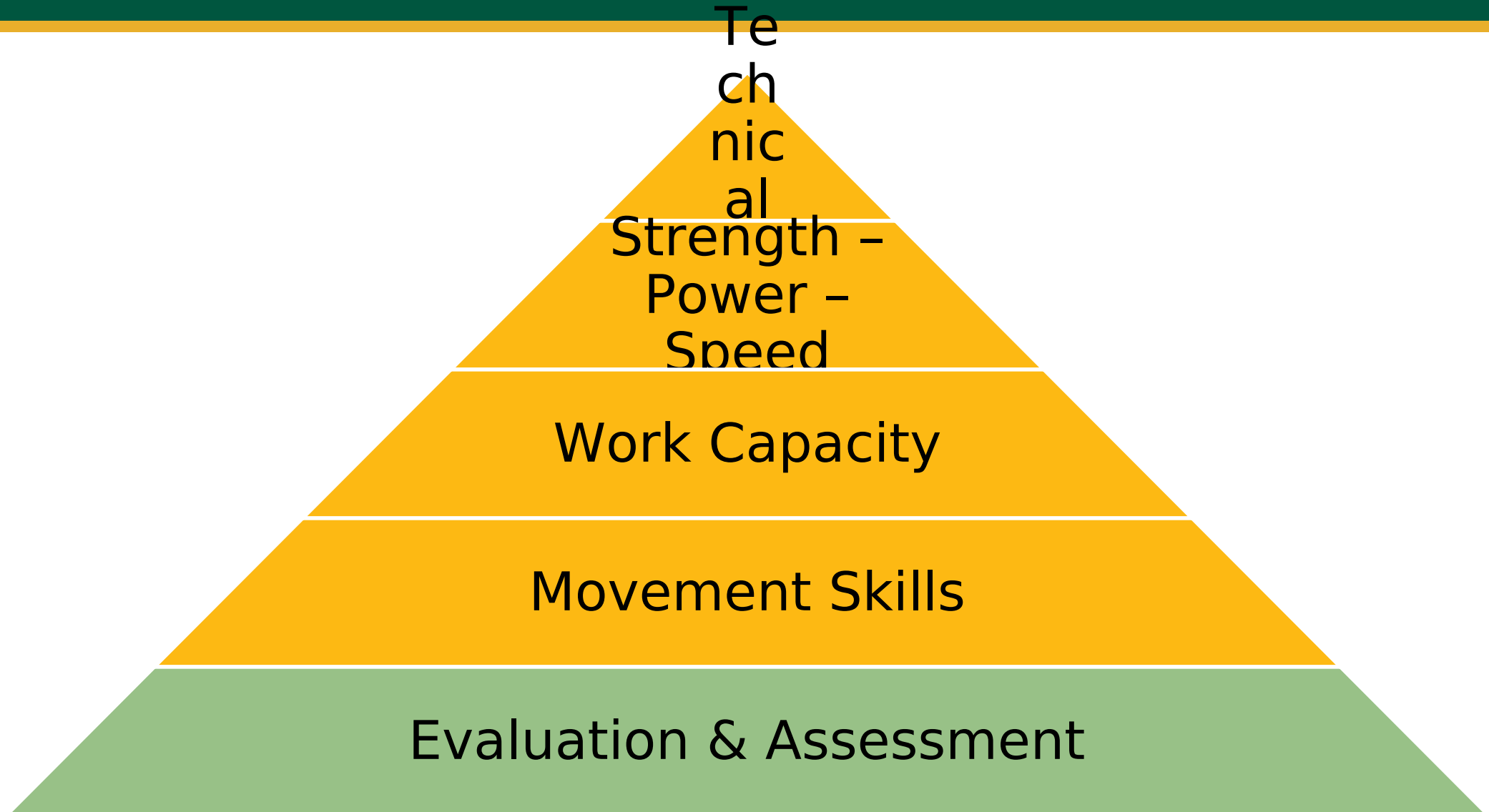
- For demands of college athletics (practice) and to begin practice with their Sport Coach to become a better player

## □ PRODUCE

- Durable, strong, well-conditioned athletes with great attention to detail and work ethic



# Athletic Performance Pyramid



# Evaluation & Assessment



## □ WHY

- Where are we now
- Where do we need to start our program
- Pre & Post - evaluate the effectiveness of a program or training method with a particular group (CoachMe Plus Software)

## □ HOW/WHAT

- Movement Skills
  - Functional Movement Screen (FMS Kits)
- Work Capacity
  - Shuttle Runs, Heart Rate Variability (Turf Areas, FirstBeat System)
- Strength
  - Lower Body Push, Upper Body Push + Pull (Free Weights)
- Power
  - Vertical Jump, Long Jump, Medicine Ball Throws, Lift Velocities (Vertec, MB/Wall, Turf Areas, GymAware Software)
- Speed
  - 10/20/40 Yard Sprints (Brower Timing System, Turf Areas)



# Movement Skills



## □ WHY

- More efficient movement results in increased performance capacity and decreased injury risk

## □ HOW/WHAT

- Pre Training Warm Up
- Focus on specific areas of need identified in screening process, injury patterns of a specific sport, and training emphasis of the day
- Bands, Hurdles, Stretch Straps, Foam Rollers, Turf Areas



# Work Capacity (Conditioning)



## □ WHY

- Team Sports require multiple bouts of maximal efforts
- Being strong & explosive one time, then having a major drop off, is not beneficial for sports performance
- In order to train hard for strength and power improvements, there must be a solid base of conditioning (repeat effort, recovery)

□ *We also implement the FirstBeat Sports Tracker system to monitor conditioning, output, training load, and resting heart rate to track conditioning levels*

## □ HOW/WHAT

- Shuttle Runs + Tempo Runs
  - Turf Area
- Sled Sprints
  - Push Sleds, Turf Areas
- Metabolic Stations
  - Ropes, Medicine Balls, Sleds



# Strength – Power – Speed



## □ WHY

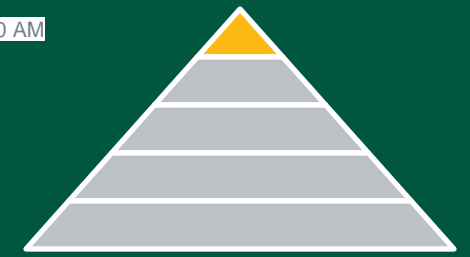
- With all other factors being equal, the more POWERFUL athlete is going to WIN more often than not
- Power = Strength/Speed
- In order to increase Power, we must first build a foundation of Strength
- Athletic Strength/Power = FORCE applied to the GROUND

## □ HOW /WHAT

- Olympic Weightlifting Variations, Squatting Variations, Lunge Variations, Deadlift Variations
  - Barbells, Racks, Platforms
- Jumping
  - Hurdles, Boxes, Turf Areas
- Med Ball Throws
  - Wall, Turf Areas
- Sprinting
  - Turf Areas, Sleds, Bands



# Technical Skills



- This is when the Strength & Conditioning Staff turns over the athlete/team to the Sport Coach
- We give them a more durable, conditioned, strong, powerful team that they then use their expertise to make better at their sport



# Thank You!

- Our doors are always open to you and we invite you to come see our student-athletes putting our great new facilities to use!





# Cover Sheet

## Presentation by Mr. Christopher Hendry, Vice President of Institutional Advancement

**Section:** III. Alumni Relations  
**Item:** A. Presentation by Mr. Christopher Hendry, Vice President of Institutional Advancement  
**Purpose:** FYI  
**Submitted by:**  
**Related Material:** 180122 Alumni Slides.pptx

## Quick Background

### □ Alumni Population by State University's

Institution	Population	Opened
Bridgewater	60,000 +	1840
Salem	59,000 +	1854
<b>Fitchburg</b>	<b>45,000 +</b>	<b>1894</b>
Westfield	37,000 +	1838
Worcester	36,000 +	1874
Framingham	40,000 +	1839
MCLA	18,000 +	1894
MassArt	12,000 +	1873
Mass Maritime	7,500 +	1891

## New For 2017-2018

### □ Travel Program

- Partnering with Collette Travel to start program
- Year-long alumni survey to identify top interest travel areas
  1. Great Britain/Scotland (June 9-18, 2018)
  2. Italy/Greece
  3. New Zealand

### □ Surveys

- Goal of greater engagement/understanding of alumni interests
- Engaged Ken Berry '00, founder and president of jibunu

## **New For 2017-2018**

- Student Engagement Committee**
- Alumni Mentor Program**
- Athletics Relationship**
  - Seven sport-specific alumni events this fall
  - Two schedule for January/February
  - Engaging more than 300 alumni and friends
  - Day of Giving - Go Falcons Challenge

# Cover Sheet

## Personnel Actions (N04-17/18)

**Section:** IV. Notifications  
**Item:** A. Personnel Actions (N04-17/18)  
**Purpose:** FYI  
**Submitted by:**  
**Related Material:** BOT Notifications 012318.pdf

**FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Board of Trustees**

**NOTIFICATIONS**

<b>TO:</b> Board of Trustees	<b>DATE:</b> January 23, 2018
<b>FROM:</b> The President	<b>NOTIFICATION NUMBER:</b> N04-17/18
<b>SUBJECT:</b> Personnel Actions	

**New Hire**

Susan Beddes, MA Effective: 1/21/18	Staff Assistant, Academic & Career Coach Career Counseling & Advising	\$53,000.00
Neeru Chawla, MS Effective: 12/3/17	Staff Assistant, Banner Finance Liaison Technology	\$60,000.00
Karen Chrobak, BS Effective: 1/29/18	Staff Assistant, Accounting Administrator Finance & Administration	\$77,000.00

**Change in FTE (spring semester only)**

Lori Leonard Effective: 1/14/18	Instructor (From 1.0 to .92 FTE) Mathematics	\$27,146.90
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**Salary Adjustment**

Sean Rollins Effective: 9/1/17 (retro)	Associate Professor Biology/Chemistry	From: \$69,666.28 To: \$71,836.80
Kiel Szivos Effective: 9/1/17	Assistant Director Admissions	From: \$47,476.00 To: \$48,976.00

**Retirement**

Patrice Gray Effective: 1/15/18	Professor English Studies	\$102,755.60
Jeffrey Leary Effective: 3/10/18	Staff Assistant Finance & Administration	\$71,949.91

Elizabeth Walsh Effective: 5/31/18	Associate Professor Behavioral Sciences	\$83,014.93
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**Resignation**

Maqsood Ali Mughal Effective: 12/30/17	Professor Industrial Technology	\$69,000.00
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Ronda Thompson Effective: 1/9/18	Assistant Director, IT User Services Technology	\$92,783.08
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**Full Year Sabbatical (1/2 pay)**

Katherine Jewell Effective: 9/1/18 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor Economics, History & Political Science	\$64,766.77
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**1/2 Year Sabbatical with Pay (Fall 2018)**

Christopher Adams Effective: 9/1/18 End: 1/21/19	Associate Professor Psychological Science	\$76,836.43
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Marcel Beausoleil Effective: 9/1/18 End: 1/21/19	Associate Professor Behavioral Sciences	\$72,298.58
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Yasser Derwiche Effective: 9/1/18 End: 1/21/19	Associate Professor Humanities	\$74,447.83
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Steven Edwards Effective: 9/1/18 End: 1/21/19	Associate Professor English Studies	\$69,941.34
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Sean Rollins Effective: 9/1/18 End: 1/21/19	Associate Professor Biology/Chemistry	\$71,836.80
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Abdulkeni Zekeria Effective: 9/1/18 End: 1/21/19	Associate Professor Mathematics	\$95,581.87
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**1/2 Year Sabbatical with Pay (Spring 2019)**

Patricia Arend Effective: 1/22/19 End: 5/31/19	Associate Professor Behavioral Sciences	\$68,507.63
Laura Baker Effective: 1/22/19 End: 5/31/19	Professor Economics, History & Political Science	\$88,456.65
Rala Diakite Effective: 1/22/19 End: 5/31/19	Professor Humanities	\$87,398.15
Anne Howard Effective: 1/22/19 End: 5/31/19	Professor Education	\$111,834.98
Mathangi Krishnamurthy Effective: 1/22/19 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor Biology/Chemistry	\$73,554.06
Monica Maldari Effective: 1/22/19 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor Exercise and Sports Science	\$66,872.23
Irene Martyniuk Effective: 1/22/19 End: 5/31/19	Professor English Studies	\$102,865.00
Kevin McCarthy Effective: 1/22/19 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor Communications Media	\$64,878.79
Audrey Pereira Effective: 1/22/19 End: 5/31/19	Associate Professor Business Administration	\$90,440.16
David Svolba Effective: 1/22/19 End: 5/31/19	Associate Professor Humanities	\$70,681.05



Elisabet Takehana Effective: 1/22/19 End: 5/31/19	Assistant Professor English Studies	\$61,560.21
Kisha Tracy Effective: 1/22/19 End: 5/31/19	Associate Professor English Studies	\$71,103.47
Richard Weibe Effective: 1/22/19 End: 5/31/19	Professor Behavioral Sciences	\$102,401.05
Paul Weizer Effective: 1/22/19 End: 5/31/19	Professor Economics, History & Political Science	\$142,018.07

# Cover Sheet

## DHE Trustee Conference March 1, 2018

**Section:** V. President's Report  
**Item:** F. DHE Trustee Conference March 1, 2018  
**Purpose:** FYI  
**Submitted by:**  
**Related Material:** Trustee Conference March 1, 2018.pdf

**From:** Commissioner Santiago <[Commissioner@dhe.mass.edu](mailto:Commissioner@dhe.mass.edu)>  
**Date:** January 16, 2018 at 4:38:32 PM EST  
**To:** DHE-DL - State College Presidents <[SCPresident@dhe.mass.edu](mailto:SCPresident@dhe.mass.edu)>, "DHE-DL - Community College Presidents" <[CCPresidents@dhe.mass.edu](mailto:CCPresidents@dhe.mass.edu)>, "Meehan, Martin" <[MMeehan@umassp.edu](mailto:MMeehan@umassp.edu)>  
**Subject:** **DHE Trustee Conference – Thursday, March 1, 2018**  
**Reply-To:** "Santiago, Carlos (DHE)" <[CSantiago@dhe.mass.edu](mailto:CSantiago@dhe.mass.edu)>, "Noyes, Matt (DHE)" <[MNoyes@dhe.mass.edu](mailto:MNoyes@dhe.mass.edu)>

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Community College Presidents  
State University Presidents  
Martin Meehan, President, University of Massachusetts System

**FROM:** Carlos E. Santiago, Commissioner

**DATE:** January 16, 2018

**SUBJECT: DHE Trustee Conference – Thursday, March 1, 2018**

I am excited to announce that we have launched registration for the upcoming annual Trustee Conference. As previously mentioned in my November 20<sup>th</sup> memo, the conference will be held on Thursday, March 1 at the Doubletree Hotel in Westborough. This year, we will hold a pre-conference New Trustee Training and Orientation from 9:30 a.m. to 10:50 a.m., with the Main Conference running from 11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Please share the information below with members of your Board of Trustees and encourage them to attend. All participants must register for the conference by visiting [this link](#) by Friday, February 16.**

The conference is an invaluable opportunity for trustees to network and learn more about their fiduciary responsibilities, the current challenges facing individual campuses, and the shared vision for the public higher education system at large. It is vital that we have strong representation from all institutions at this important convening. I hope that you and members of your Board of Trustees will be able to attend.

If you have any questions or would like more information about the conference, please do not hesitate to contact Matt Noyes, Director of Trustee and Governmental Relations, at [mnoyes@dhe.mass.edu](mailto:mnoyes@dhe.mass.edu). Mr. Noyes will follow up with a separate email to Chairs with registration information that you will be copied on.

I look forward to seeing you and trustees from the campus boards in March.

# Please Join Us for the 2018 Statewide Trustee Conference

## Details:

**Thursday, March 1, 2018**

Doubletree Hotel | 5400 Computer Drive | Westborough, MA

## Preliminary Agenda:

**9:30 a.m. –10:50 a.m. New Trustee Training and Orientation**

**11:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Main Conference**

## The conference will feature:

- **Morning training session/orientation** for new Trustees;
- **Keynote and discussion** with Commissioner Santiago and BHE Chair Gabrieli;
- **Breakout sessions** to include topics based on areas of interest to trustees, including Presidential Evaluation, State Budget Process Overview and Outlook, Diversity in Campus Leadership Positions, and Enrollment and Transfer Trends;
- **Opportunities to network** with colleagues;
- An **afternoon panel**: "Campus Climate Change: From Free Speech to Hate Speech and Back Again" (or How to Safeguard, Not Stifle Students) featuring representatives of MA public college and universities.

# Cover Sheet

## News Articles

**Section:** V. President's Report  
**Item:** G. News Articles  
**Purpose:** FYI  
**Submitted by:**  
**Related Material:** News clips for Jan 23.pdf

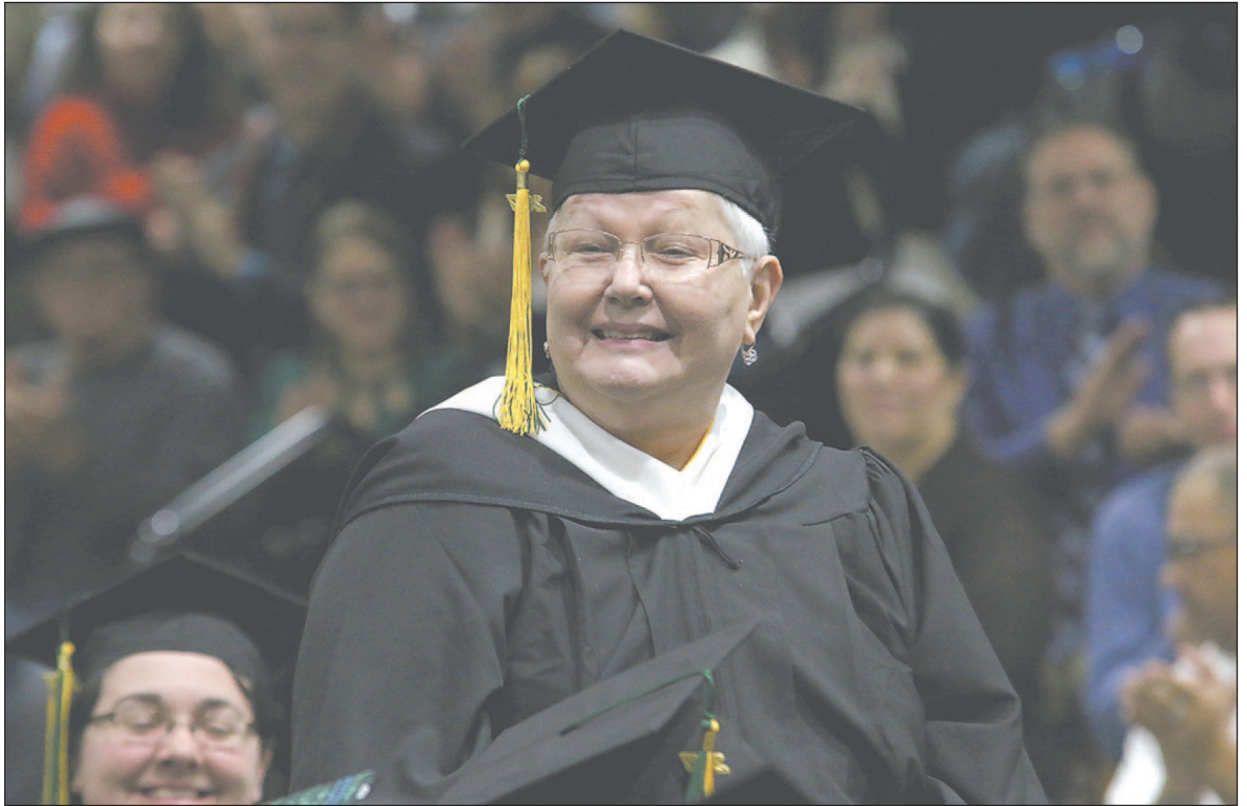
# Sentinel & Enterprise

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Fitchburg State University graduate Claire Cabanillas, 76, stands as she is recognized by President Richard Lapidus as an outstanding student during his address at FSU's 121st Annual Commencement on Friday. **See a slide show at [photo.sentinelandenterprise.com](http://photo.sentinelandenterprise.com).**

SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE PHOTOS / JOHN LOVE

## Journeys celebrated at Fitchburg State graduation

### 383 students graduate

By Elizabeth Dobbins

[edobbins@sentinelandenterprise.com](mailto:edobbins@sentinelandenterprise.com)

FITCHBURG — It wasn't about platitudes Fitchburg State University's 121st commencement. It was about the students.

University President Richard Lapidus shared the stories of several of the 383 graduates during his commencement address in the school's recreation center Friday night.

"These student interactions show me everyday I can make a difference," he said. "I would like to share with you this evening three of many student stories that celebrate the unyielding spirit of purpose

Please see **GRADUATION/10**



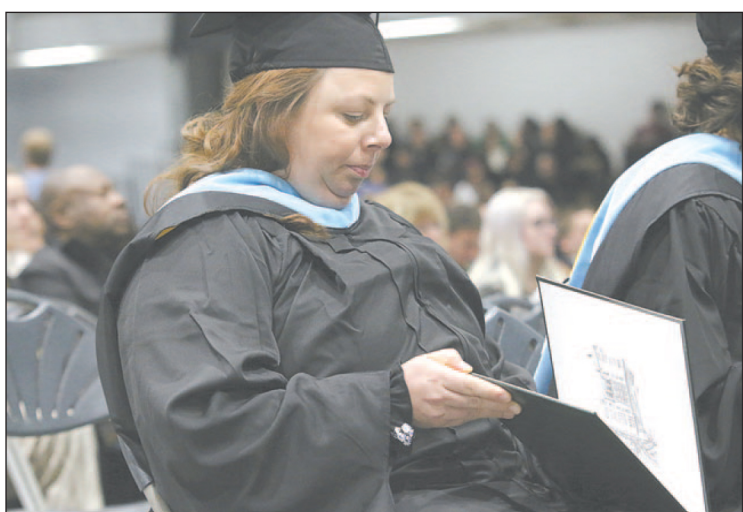
Fitchburg State University President Dr. Richard Lapidus addresses the graduates at the school's 121st commencement on Friday.



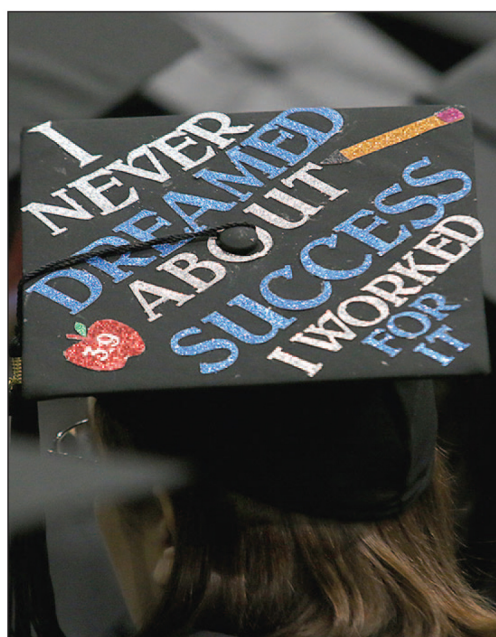


Graduates line up to receive their diplomas during Fitchburg State University's 121st Annual Commencement on Friday.

SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE PHOTOS / JOHN LOVE



**ABOVE:** Courtney Bell of Leominster looks at her diploma on Friday night. **RIGHT:** The mortarboard of one of Fitchburg State's graduates.



# Journeys celebrated at FSU

**GRADUATION**/From Page 1 that is our Fitchburg State University body."

Among the graduates: Souleymane Wane, a nearly seven-foot-tall former basketball player.

Wane grew up in Dakar, Senegal and came to the U.S. over 15 years ago when he was 19. Following a college and international basketball career, Souleymane began coaching and teaching French at Haverhill High School in 2008. He later started a graduate degree in curriculum and teaching at Fitchburg State, according to Lapidus.

"He sees his job as a motivator, telling his students and athletes that

they have to work hard to make good things happen," Lapidus said.

Then there's Claire Cabanillas, who retired from her civil service job at age 59 and used her retirement to "(broaden) her horizons." Over a decade after starting classes at Mount Wachusett Community College, Cabanillas graduated from Fitchburg State Friday at age 76 with a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies.

Lapidus also spoke about a group of educators from Martha's Vineyard who approached Fitchburg State about starting a masters degree program for island teachers.

"This community of educators joins our grow-

ing community of Falcons, from varied backgrounds but all committed to realizing their dreams the Fitchburg State way," he said.

Two students also delivered addresses. Valedictorian Alexander Steacy, who studied biology after nearly a decade in human services, reminded students that they are leaving their education and entering into a divided world.

"We should admonish hate when we encounter it," he said. "We must work together, acknowledge each other and value our shared moments."

Raneé Mareé Wright, recipient of the Graduate Student Leadership Award, discussed her choice to pursue a masters

degree in forensic nursing.

Wright, who worked as a nurse in Wisconsin for 14 years, came to this decision after a late night of reading while on duty in a prison's maximum security unit.

"Recognizing violence as a health care issue is the first step," she said. "We can see the impact that less nurturing environments have had over the generations. The environments in which children are raised affects them, and their genes."

She urged her fellow graduates to never forget their passions.

"It is one thing to be happy once you achieve your dreams and goals, but to appreciate your dedication and investments will continue that desire for inspiration and passion," she said. "That is when you can create change."

Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale asked students to consider using that drive and knowledge in their own communities.

Follow Elizabeth Dobbins on Twitter @Dob-

## FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY GRADUATION LIST - FALL 2017

**Ashburnham:** Steven P. Drury, BS, Exercise and Sports Science; Christine A. Keslake, BS, Psychological Science; Matthew W. Marchetti, MA, English; Makayla M. Porter, BS, Biology; and William J. Stanhope, BS, Criminal Justice

**Ashby:** Josephine A. Dorazio-Giardi, BS, Business Administration; Melanie R. Saari, MED, Elementary Education 1-6; and Jade Salvatore, BS, Nursing, RN to BS

**Ayer:** Andrew J. St. Germain, BS, History; Clara E. Watson, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies Education; and Hayley R. Wilcox, BS, Psychological Science

**Fitchburg:** Waleed Ahmad, BS, Business Administration; Robina P. Ahmad, BS, English Studies; Zoe Amanatidis, BS, Sociology; Morgan M. Awtry, BS, Human Services; Claire L. Cabanillas, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies; Douglas J. Carmichael, BS, Business Administration; Kerryann Coppinger, CAGS, Educational Leadership/Mgmt; Jamison T. DiGeronimo, MBA, Business Administration; Jeffrey V. Fanelli, BS, Business Administration; Christopher M. Faulkner, BS, Criminal Justice; Yomayra C. Figueroa, BS, Human Services; Venkatesh Gangiseti, MS, Computer Science; Carlos J. Garcia-Rivera, BS, Business Administration; Kara L. Gravel, BS, Communications Media; Tyler C. Hopp, BS, Game Design; Sai P. Jettigari, MS, Computer Science; Christina A. Karis, MED, Special Education; Harish Kumar Reddy Kondreddi, MS, Computer Science; Christine D. Leamy, CAGS, Interdisciplinary Studies -GR; Abigail D. Leclair, BS, Communications Media; Pothuganti M V N M Sai Ram, MS, Computer Science; John A. Maki, BS, Communications Media; Kyle R. Prudhomme, BS, Communications Media; Debra A. Rennick, MED, Special Education; Lyndrunette A. Ross, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies; Annette C. Saddler, BS, Nursing, RN to BS; Frank T. Schembari, BS, Political Science; Elyzabeth A. Taylor, BS, English Studies; Lawrence A. Teague, MBA, Business Administration; Sarah S. Tuomala, BS, Biology; Venkata Jyothsna Varadhi, MS, Computer Science; Michaela F. Vecchiarelli, BA, Biology; Lakshmi S. Vegesna, MS, Computer Science; Matthew P. Wheeler, BS, Business Administration; Nou Yang, BS, Industrial Technology; Paying Yang, BS, Biology

**Gardner:** Amy A. Clayman, BS, Business Administration; Jozlin E. Diaz-Patterson, BS, Game Design; Angela M. Mossey, BSE, Special Education; Andrew D. Pierce, BS, Business Administration; Deidre Raboin, BS, Biology; Adam D. Stephano, BS; Economics; Nicholas L. Stvartak, BS, Psychological Science; Catherine A. Woods, MAT, English

**Lancaster:** Sven Anderson, BS, Exercise and Sports Science; Carmella A. Di Verdi, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies Education; Julie M. McCormack, BS, Comp Info Systems

**Leominster:** Kathleen M. Alera, MED, Early Childhood Education; Nicolette J. Alves, BS, Human Services; Courtney A. Bell, MED, Curriculum and Teaching; Andrea E. Charpentier, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies Educ; Hannah K. D'Alessandro, MED, Special Education; Anthony J. D'Olimpio, BS, Business Administration; Sheri R. Dellogono, MED, Early Childhood Education; Nicholas R. Fadden, MAT, English; Marisa E. Galloway, MS, Applied Communication; Joseph Grullon, BS, Industrial Technology; Danielle M. Haas, BS, Criminal Justice; Eugene J. Halbrooks, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies; Haley J. Koskinen, BSE, Elementary Education 1-6; Daniel Lafond, BS, Economics; Kaylee J. Lanza, BS, Biology; Joseph C. Mailet, BS, Psychological Science; Mikayla L. Martinez, BS, Exercise and Sports Science; Sean T. O'Neil, BS, Computer Science; Matilda Okyere, BS, Business Administration; Ashley E. Plamondon, BS, Communications Media; Hoeb Pou, BS, Sociology; Colleen A. Regan, BS, History; Meghan R. Roberge, MED, Elementary Education 1-6; Edward I. Sanchez, BS, Communications Media; Hannah E. Tonry, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies Educ; Nina J. Trobaugh, MED, Elementary Education 1-6; Tyrone M. Twerefour, BS, Biology; Danielle M. Vallee, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies Educ; Thomas R. Vargeletis, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies; Nicole J. Walker, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies; Akhiel D. Willis, BS, Exercise and Sports Science

**Lunenburg:** Amy L. Cowley, BS, Human Services; Julianne E. Delahunty, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies Educ; Christine D. Fanning, BS, Biology; Phillip M. Karampatos, MBA, Business Administration; Sheila M. Lapointe, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies; Lynn M. Marabello, MED, Elementary Education 1-6; Carissa M. Thebeau, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies; Jennifer K. Trocquet, BS, Business Administration

**Princeton:** Chelsea Jackson, MED, Middle School Education; Nicholas C. Savell, MED, Special Education

**Rutland:** Connor P. Daigle, MBA, Business Administration; Erin A. Molnar, MED, Special Education

**Shirley:** Cherie Chartier, BS, Environmental & Earth Science; Nicholas Hearne, BS, Business Administration; Kyle Owens, MED, Special Education; Deanna E. Wood, BS, English Studies

**Townsend:** Justin M. Keohane, BS, Communications Media; Danielle C. Mannion, BSE, Elementary Education 1-6; Shane P. Martin, BS, Business Administration; Cheryl Meserve, BS, Industrial Technology; Cynthia L. Messina, BS, Communications Media; Krissy L. Olson, MED, Early Childhood Education; Christopher M. Schiavo, BS, Computer Science; Brittany A. Thomas, BS, Human Services; Lindsay M. Wilkins, MED, Early Childhood Education

**Westminster:** Nicole R. Boucher, MED, Special Education; Jessica L. Daigle, MAT, English; Ashley Erskine, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies Educ; Michael A. Fontaine, BS, Business Administration; Andrew C. Nalewski, BA, English Studies; Claritza L. Taylor, BS, Criminal Justice



[Home](#) > [News](#) > [On-Island masters program graduates its first class](#)

# On-Island masters program graduates its first class

By **Jack Shea** - December 6, 2017

Sixteen Island residents will travel to Fitchburg State University (FSU) on Dec. 22 to receive masters of education degrees from the state program. Next June, four more Island teacher/residents will receive masters of education.

The graduates are the first in decades who did not leave the Island to pursue higher education, courtesy of a new program developed by Adult and Continuing Education (ACE MV) and FSU to bring education to the Island.

ACE MV and FSU celebrated their first class of masters' candidates on Nov. 30 at the Harbor View Hotel, attended by the grads, their on-Island professors, ACE MV staff, and FSU representatives, led by Lisa Moison, who directs the FSU educational outreach program.

"FSU has 40 off-campus partnerships, of which only six are degree-conferring. Sam Hart and the superintendent of schools [Matt D'Andrea] articulated the Island need clearly," Ms. Moison said this week.

FSU offered students a combination online and classroom curriculum, selecting four veteran



ce at the college and university level. Lynn Ditchfield, Margaret (Peg) Regan, Marge Harris, and Suzanne Alberich were vetted and selected by FSU as adjunct professors.

Sam Hart, executive director of ACE MV, said the program benefits prospective students, the Island educational system, and the community. It began in January 2016.

“The program complies with new state laws regarding teaching licensure, and allows our professionals to advance educationally without having to leave the Island at significant cost to them, the schools, and the towns which support them,” Mr. Hart said. “My master’s cost me \$36,000. The FSU/ACE MV program costs \$12,000, and saves on tuition and travel reimbursement, hiring substitute teachers to take classrooms when candidates are off-Island.”

The teacher graduates and their Island schools are Jennifer Fournier and Ryan Leandro (Edgartown School); Melissa Braillard, Mary Lee Carlomagno, Olsen Houghton, Jane McGroarty Sampaio, Tiffiney Shoquist, Elsbeth Todd (MVRHS); Emily Anderson, Julie Brand, Sean DeBettencourt, Hope Fecitt, Reuben Fitzgerald, Meredith Goldthwait (Tisbury School); Kristen Parece, Brian Roesler (West Tisbury); Brooke Evans, Kathryn Phelps (Bridge program), Lorena Crespo (Head Start) and Janet Holladay (

# COMMENTARY

## T&G/FACULTY FORUM

# Approaches for helping bridge the national divide

Welcome to an occasional feature of the Telegram & Gazette, the T&G/Faculty Forum, showcasing local perspectives on important issues from the faculties of the many institutions of higher education in Worcester and Central Massachusetts. Last year, we focused on the consequences of the Brexit vote that reach into Central Massachusetts. Today's forum addresses our national divide and what can be learned from the experiences and approaches at local colleges and universities. Our question was: "Given the country's serious political divisions, what approaches are succeeding on your campus or in your classrooms in bringing together a diverse student population that may serve as examples to help heal our divided society."

### Resolutions to political differences

At our public institution enabling access to all and as public servants, we try to instill a public and community service spirit to help our students learn, adapt, and advance knowledge, understanding, and determination to contribute



Joshua Spero

to society. Forging generations of graduates to succeed academically and professionally, we help build or their strengths,

abilities - so they might better help others.

For nearly two decades across a wide student/societal political spectrum, my teaching/mentoring combines theory-to-practice in developing, honing, expanding student skills for high-quality public or private sector careers.

In international relations/security courses, my methodology focuses students on key international advisory role-playing - actively learning, pushing them to step inside other mindsets globally - considering many sides to issues, viewpoints, factually-based arguments.

They role-play how real world public and private sector leaders in institutions, organizations, nations struggle when challenged by crises - as foreign policymaking, business, or non-governmental leaders.

By writing cutting-edge research papers or analytical policy memoranda, students expand talents from team simulated role-played crisis management decision-making weekly.

They're challenged to grapple in discussions, debates, negotiations, simulations with war and peace's complexities, crafting multiple answers to well-framed questioning, objective-based prioritizing.

Importantly, they test international theories and applied case studies for how they might better contribute locally, regionally, nationally, internationally in exciting careers regarding our rapidly changing world.

To get beyond frequent political differences, we help one another avoid descending into name-calling, yelling past one another, racing from compromise - underscoring well-conceived potential for conflict management, resolution.

Leadership stems from critical, constructive thinking, reading, research, analysis - and gives each student chances to improve, excel individually in team-based crisis management.

By participating, "doing" actively, students analyze, synthesize, evaluate, critique as constructively as possible. These skills allow students more effectively inside/outside the classroom to: organize time, resources; coordinate, collaborate, cooperate; negotiate, tolerate, compromise; manage and, hopefully, prevent daily conflicts.

*Joshua B. Spero, Ph.D., is professor of Political Science/International Politics, coordinator of the International Studies Minor Program, and internship coordinator, Political Science & The Washington Center Programs in the Department of Economics, History, and Political Science at Fitchburg State University.*

## COLLEGE TOWN

**By Bonnie Russell**

Telegram & Gazette Staff

### **FSU creates portal to help students find part-time jobs**

Fitchburg State University recently launched a new website that will connect local businesses looking for part-time help with the university's students.

The service will be free for students as well as businesses.

At [studentjobs.fitchburgstate.edu](http://studentjobs.fitchburgstate.edu), local employers may submit their part-time job openings for review by the university. Once posted, students can search for jobs or upload their own information for businesses to review.

Employers interested in the jobs portal should contact Erin Kelleher at [ekelleher@fitchburgstate.edu](mailto:ekelleher@fitchburgstate.edu).

# Local News

SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE, FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2017

## Fitchburg State aims to connect students with local employers University unveils online job board

By Elizabeth Dobbins

edobbins@sentinelandenterprise.com

FITCHBURG — A new job board will connect Fitchburg State University students looking for employment to local businesses.

University President Richard S. Lapidus said the board is meant to provide contacts for students who want to stay in Fitchburg on the weekends, but still work a part-time job.

“What I was constantly hearing was students wanted to have a traditional college experience,” he said. “We’re seeing growth in residence halls. We’re seeing an interest in extra-curricular activities, yet there seemed to be a little bit of a disconnect.”

The disconnect: many students are going home on the weekend.

“Initially I thought maybe you’re going home to see your parents or to see a boyfriend or a girlfriend or something of that nature, but many expressed the need to just go home and work to earn a little bit of cash to get them through the next week,” Lapidus said.

The online job board — [studentjobs.fitchburgstate.edu](http://studentjobs.fitchburgstate.edu) — rolled out this semester and focuses on part-time positions. Some recent postings include open positions clearing snow or working as a valet or bank teller.

Steve Swartz, the school’s Chief Information Officer, said the website is based on one created for a class by two students at the University of Vermont.

The students, Peter Silverman and Max Robbins, have gone on to work with other schools to help set-up similar sites, he said.

With a few tweaks, the site went live this fall and the college is in the process of advertising the service to connect the first students to jobs, according to Swartz.

Lapidus said the university plans to reach out to chambers and cities about the service and has already begun working with the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber President and CEO Roy Nascimento, said the board fills a workforce need in the region.

“I think it’s a nice opportunity for the students,” Nascimento said.

*Follow Elizabeth Dobbins on Twitter @DobbinsSentinel.*



DECEMBER 7, 2017

## Fitchburg State reaches QCC, MWCC articulation agreements



COURTESY

Fitchburg State University President Richard Lapidus, left, and Mount Wachusett Community College President James Vander Hooven signed a nursing agreement Wednesday.

BY GRANT WELKER

Fitchburg State University has signed articulation agreements with Quinsigamond and Mount Wachusett community colleges to help students earn a bachelor's degree.

Mount Wachusett Community College and Fitchburg State have signed in agreement in which students in Mount Wachusett's registered nurse program will have guaranteed admission to Fitchburg State's online nursing program.

The two colleges signed the agreement Wednesday.

On Friday, Fitchburg State and QCC will sign an agreement in which Quinsigamond students who graduate from the deaf studies associate degree will have guaranteed acceptance into the deaf studies and American Sign Language bachelor's programs at Fitchburg State.

In the Mount Wachusett program, students will be able to register for classes at Fitchburg State during their final semester. They will be invited to participate in all health and nursing-related special events at Fitchburg State during their registered nurse studies at Mount Wachusett, the community college said.

Employers are increasingly looking to hire nurses with bachelor's degrees, Mount Wachusett said.

The agreement will be effective with the **spring 2018 semester.**

# Quinsigamond, FSU sign agreement on Deaf Studies transfers

WORCESTER — Students in the Deaf Studies program at Quinsigamond Community College will be able to more easily continue their studies at Fitchburg State University thanks to an articulation agreement signed by both schools on the QCC campus in Worcester, according to a press release.

“This agreement offers QCC students enhanced educational and career opportunities, further demonstrating QCC’s continued commitment to student’s success,” QCC president Dr. Luis Pedraja said. “Deaf studies is a fast growing career field

with high growth rates and average salaries starting over \$44,000.”

The agreement guarantees acceptance into the deaf studies and American sign language baccalaureate programs at Fitchburg State for QCC students who meet the criteria. This includes GPA requirements and adherence to the Fitchburg State’s transfer admissions process.

Of the 41 graduates and 24 students currently enrolled in the program at QCC, all are eligible for the transfer program, according to a spokesman for the community college.

Fitchburg State President Richard Lapidus said associate degree offered by QCC aligns with the school’s expanded deaf studies and American sign language programs.

“This agreement pro-

vides a unique opportunity for students to advance their studies and gain valuable career credentials,” he said. “Students who complete these two degree programs will have a solid liberal arts foundation and skills that

will serve them on a variety of career paths.”

The programs develop

students’ skills to work with deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

## COLLEGE TOWN

By Bonnie Russell

Telegram & Gazette Staff

### FSU, MWCC sign nursing agreement

Mount Wachusett Community College President James Vander Hooven and Quinsigamond Community College President Richard S. Lapidus recently signed a new agreement that offers students more opportunities to pursue rewarding careers in nursing.

The agreement, effective for the spring 2018 semester, confirms that all students admitted to Mount Wachusett's registered nurse program will have the option of guaranteed admission to Fitchburg State University's online RN to Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, pending successful degree completion and entrance examination.

Admitted students will be able to register for classes at FSU during their final semester at MWCC. This will also allow MWCC RN graduates to work as registered nurses while completing their B.S. in Nur



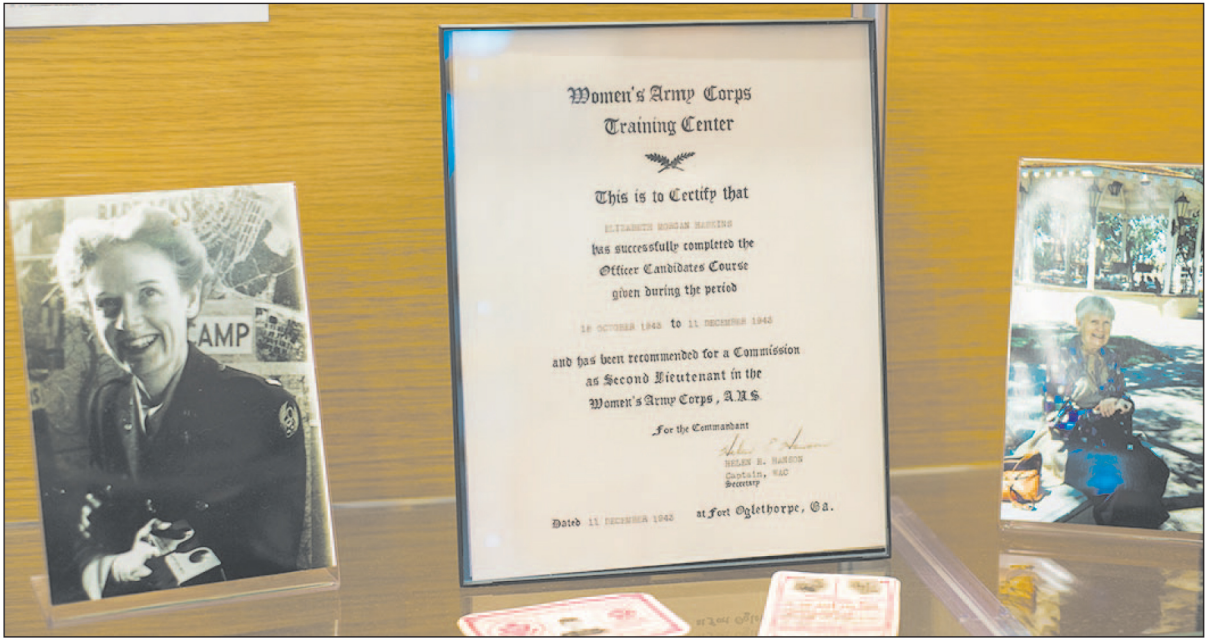
# Sentinel & Enterprise

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FRIDAY, November 10, 2017

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Artifacts from local female veterans Anna Zimmerman, Elizabeth Morgan Haskins and Lt. Annie B. Wurts on display during the opening of the “World War II-Era Women of Fitchburg and Leominster” exhibition at Fitchburg State University.

SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE / ASHLEY GREEN

## FSU exhibit focuses on women who served during World War II

By Elizabeth Dobbins  
edobbins@sentinelandenterprise.com

FITCHBURG — The book selected for this year’s Community Read program, “The Girls of Atomic City,” tells of a group of women who supported war efforts from American soil during World War II.

Not all women stayed home.

“The women who worked in factories during World War II have been covered pretty well, but not the women who served,” said Fitchburg State University Archivist Asher Jackson.

These women are the subject of the latest Fitchburg State University exhibit, which opened Wednesday.

The exhibit displays items and papers from three women who served in World War II that will be available for viewing through the end of March in the university’s library in Hammond Hall.

Jackson and Public Services Librarian Connie Strittmatter compiled the exhibit from the university’s archives with help from the Leominster Historical Commission.

“We wanted to really underline through this exhibit that the women mentioned in ‘Atomic City’ were not only supporting the men who went to war, but the women who went to war too,” Jackson said.

Among the women: Lt. Annie B. Wurts. Wurts — a Leominster resident and daughter of an owner of Sholan Farms — joined the Army Nurse Corps in 1941 and went to the Pacific Theater, according to Jackson.

Please see **WOMEN/6**



A poster and photos from the “World War II-Era Women of Fitchburg and Leominster” exhibition at Fitchburg State.

SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE / ASHLEY GREEN

# FSU exhibit highlights women in WWII

## WOMEN/From Page 1

She was in a tunnel when it was captured by Japanese forces nearly a year later.

Before the capture, she and other nurses were offered one of 20 seats on airplanes out of the area.

“She was one of the 20,” Jackson said. “However she and another nurse that were selected for evacuation refused to leave. They said there are people who are sicker than we are. ... Which meant that she basically knew she was going to be captured, but did it anyway.”

She spent three years as a prisoner of war before her release from the Santo Tomas POW camp in 1945. In 1946, she returned to civilian life in Leominster.

Elizabeth Morgan Haskins was an aerodynamics researcher at Massachusetts Institute of Technology when she

enlisted in the Women’s Army Corps in 1943.

“Because of her familiarity with airplanes they used her to interpret aerial photographs.” Jackson said. “She was also a mathematician, so she could estimate distance and size.”

After leaving the military in 1946, she taught math and physics at Fitchburg State until her retirement in 1978.

What exactly the third woman, Anna Zimmerman, did during her military service is unclear, according to Jackson.

“We know she started out at Fort Custer and then went to the Pentagon, which is probably why we don’t know exactly what she did,” he said.

Zimmerman graduated with a degree in education from Fitchburg State before serving and she later endowed an Irish Studies fund at the university.

Leominster resident



University Archivist Asher Jackson speaks during the opening of the “World War II-Era Women of Fitchburg and Leominster” exhibition at Fitchburg State University.

SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE / ASHLEY GREEN

Roberta Serafini stopped by the opening Tuesday. She said her own mother, while not in the military, served in the Pacific Theater through the Red Cross.

When she heard about the exhibit, she said she

was intrigued.

“I thought my goodness,” she said. “I know my mother, but I don’t know anyone else hired in that regard.”

Follow Elizabeth on Twitter @DobbinsSentinel



# Local News

SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE, FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2018

## Registration now open for FSU's ALFA program

FITCHBURG — Learn to play the harmonica, explore regional and international history, pick up some fitness tips or take a virtual culinary trip to Italy through Fitchburg State University's Adult Learning in the Fitchburg Area (ALFA) program.

Registration opens Wednesday, Jan. 3 for ALFA's spring programs, offering a robust array of non-credit daytime courses taught mostly at the McKay Complex at 67 Rindge Road. Visitors may register online at [fitchburgstate.edu/ALFA](http://fitchburgstate.edu/ALFA).

ALFA is a lifelong learning institute that offers non-credit daytime courses and special activities. It provides an opportunity for lifelong learners with similar interests to meet in an informal setting and pursue their

ing for enrichment and personal growth.

This spring courses include explorations of Autism Spectrum Disorder, the impact of economic and social inequality, Fitchburg's industrial history and the Italian-American experience. Other offerings include fitness classes, guided meditation and courses on art and film.

The ALFA offerings also include group outings and free lectures. For a full list of spring programs and to register, visit [fitchburgstate.edu/alfa](http://fitchburgstate.edu/alfa).

ALFA is sponsored by the Center for Professional Studies and the Office of Graduate and Continuing Education at Fitchburg State University, in collaboration with volunteer representatives of the community. Classes generally will be held in the C-wing of the McKay Campus School located at 67 Rindge Road.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Restoration of City Hall part of broader downtown revitalization

The city of Fitchburg's downtown corridor is primed for a renaissance.

At Fitchburg State University, we have begun a multimillion-dollar renovation of the Main Street theater block that we purchased in 2016. The first phase of the project will include an interdisciplinary idea lab that will nurture collaboration among students, faculty and the community. Following the restoration of retail storefronts on the block, we will begin the renovation of the theater itself, a project that has transformative potential for the campus and our host city.

Nearby, the university is supporting the redevelopment of the former B.F. Brown School into a live-work community for artists. This project, backed by NewVue Communities and the Fitchburg Art Museum, will bring renewed vitality to the heart of the city.

We believe the restoration of Fitchburg City Hall is an important element in the broader vision of a revitalized downtown. The entities making significant investments in this corridor will inspire further private development, and our elected officials now have an opportunity to lead by example. In addition to reclaiming a historic building, the restoration of City Hall will send a clear message that Fitchburg is a smart investment.

**RICHARD S.  
LAPIDUS  
President  
Fitchburg State  
University**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2017

# Arredondo Family Foundation hands out turkeys to local veterans at FSU



FITCHBURG — Veterans and their families came to the Fitchburg State campus Saturday to receive Thanksgiving turkeys courtesy of the Arredondo Family Foundation.

The charitable foundation was founded by Carlos Arredondo, the Boston Marathon bombing hero seen in an iconic photo wearing a cowboy hat as he helped rescue victims.

In addition to the giveaways on Saturday at Fitchburg State, the foundation gave away turkeys in Holyoke, Boston, Norwood and Bedford over the weekend.

The foundation was established in 2015 by Carlos and Melida Arredondo in honor of Carlos' sons Alex, a U.S. Marine who died in Iraq on 2004, and Brian who took his own life in 2011.

From left, Brian Malone and Melida Arredondo from the Arredondo Family Foundation, Fitchburg State University Vice President for Institutional Advancement Christopher P. Hendry, Fitchburg State President Richard S. Lapidus and David Demosthenes from the Fitchburg State Alumni Board were on hand while turkeys were being distributed on campus on Saturday.

# LOCAL

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# Colleges face drought of high school grads

**Local campus officials remain optimistic they will remain competitive in recruiting**

**By Scott O'Connell**  
Telegram & Gazette Staff

Colleges in the region that have been waiting for the shrinking number of local high school graduates to finally rebound will have to wait even longer, a new state report suggests.

According to the latest college enrollment trend analysis from the state's higher education department, the annual high school graduate count in Massachusetts,

already down over the past few years, will continue to decline over the next two decades. That revised projection is less optimistic than earlier reports that estimated the numbers would trend upwards again after 2025.

"We knew (the high school graduate population) would be going down," said the state's Commissioner of Higher Education, Carlos Santiago. "The pessimism here is that we thought there would be a recovery a lot earlier. It's very disappointing, but it's just the reality."

The state's latest enrollment

**See COLLEGES, B3**



**Worcester Polytechnic Institute is among area colleges that have prepared to meet the challenge of fewer high school graduates.** [T&G FILE PHOTO]

## Annual high school graduates

According to the state higher education department's recent 2017 enrollment report, the latest demographics projections show the annual number of new high school graduates in Massachusetts will decrease over the next 15 years:

**2016 (actual):** 75,203  
**2017 (projected):** 73,335  
**2020 (projected):** 72,534  
**2025 (projected):** 73,420  
**2030 (projected):** 67,586  
**2032 (projected):** 67,006



# COLLEGES

From Page B1

report says that this past year there were just over 75,000 new high school graduates in the state, a number that is expected to shrink next year but still hover in the 71,000 to 74,000 range over the next decade. But in 2026 – right around the time earlier projections forecast the start of a recovery – the number of new graduates is now expected to fall off even more sharply, dropping to just under 67,000 by 2031, which would be the lowest amount since 2003.

Officials at local colleges contacted by the Telegram & Gazette last week said the latest student population projections did not come as a real surprise; several said the state's latest report was reiterating data that had been circulating previously. Some schools said they also haven't seen much negative fallout so far from the leveling off of high school graduate numbers over the past few years.

The state university system, for example, which enjoyed a steady increase in applicants up until around five years ago, when its enrollments started to plateau, has nearly maintained enrollment since then. Between 2013 and this fall, for instance, Worcester State University's enrollment slipped only from 5,556

students to 5,496, according to the state higher education department's records, while Fitchburg State University went from 4,245 to 4,135.

Community colleges, however, have seen a precipitous decline in students, although that has a lot to do with the country's economic rebound since the start of the decade. In the region, from 2011 to this fall, Quinsigamond Community College's enrollment dropped from 9,130 students to 7,370, and Mount Wachusett Community College's fell from 4,755 to 3,854, state data shows.

Fall enrollment data for local private colleges, meanwhile, was not readily available from most campuses contacted by the Telegram & Gazette. Some, like Worcester Polytechnic Institute, said they've seen flat to modest gains the last few years, which they expect to continue.

Andrew Palumbo, WPI's dean of admissions and financial aid, acknowledged that the latest demographic data projections means "we've sort of climbed the mountain and reached the peak – now we're on our way down."

But WPI, he said, "has been preparing for this for years," focusing much of its efforts on trying to bring in more applicants from groups that have traditionally been less represented in the sciences, like women and people of color.

"We want to make sure we're continuing to break

down those barriers," he said, noting as an example WPI's recent grade-school level programming it offers on its Institute Road campus, the intention of which is to introduce a new generation of students to the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields.

In the public higher education realm, local campuses also see diversifying their recruiting efforts as a possible counter to the expected decline in high school graduates – out-of-state and international students and adult learners are some of the populations they'll be leaning more on. They also expressed confidence their evolving degree offerings will continue to attract applicants – "programs like game design and our criminal justice police concentration continue to attract high numbers of applicants, for example, and we are confident that new programs launching now and in development will help us remain competitive," said Matthew Bruun, the director of public relations at FSU.

Student retention will also be an important goal over the next two decades, according to Ryan Forsythe, WSU's vice president for enrollment management, who said officials at the university "are optimistic we'll be able to maintain our enrollment." But the predicted demographics changes in the state have also motivated them to undertake

a new "large-scale positioning study," he said, that will help them get a better understanding of "what the future of Worcester State looks like" in that more competitive environment.

Community colleges, meanwhile, are not as beholden to swings in high school graduate numbers, given they already serve a more diverse population than their four-year counterparts. Their struggles the past few years are tied in part to the stabilizing of the local economy, which has allowed many would-be students to find work or keep their current jobs without having to go to college.

"I think that's always going to be the key determinant for us," said Luis Pedraja, the new president at QCC. "I think we're better positioned to respond to that decline (in high school graduates)."

Mr. Pedraja added QCC has been able to weather its ongoing enrollment contraction. "I don't see an immediate impact at this time," he said of this fall's numbers specifically.

MWCC communications specialist Sam Bonacci, meanwhile, pointed to the college's variety of degree and certificate programs "designed to meet the wide array of needs in the region, from traditional college-age students, those returning to school after some time away, or professionals looking for continuing education," as a source of confidence for college officials as

they continue to deal with the declining high school-age demographic.

That trend is still impacting even community colleges, however, he said – "we are happy with our (fall enrollment) numbers given the stagnation" of the local high school graduate population.

While the community colleges' continued enrollment decline is "a source of concern," Mr. Santiago said, Central Massachusetts' two campuses at least "are probably in better standing" than the two-year schools in some other parts of the state, like Western Massachusetts and the South Shore. "They're adjusting within their resource base" to deal with the financial impact of their lower student counts, he said of the state's community colleges, as well as cooperating more to share facilities. "I think we're seeing more of those collaborative efforts."

In general, Mr. Santiago added, to get through the next 15 years, the state's public higher education system will "need to respond more as a collective of institutions, rather than 29 separate ones."

"I think we've been moving in the direction that I think will help us respond better" to the state's demographic changes, he said.

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## Local leaders make their predictions for 2018

### Fitchburg State University President Richard Lapidus

“I predict that Fitchburg State University and our host community will continue our positive progress and fruitful collaboration. With the university’s investment in the downtown theater block, combined with ongoing efforts to revitalize City Hall and the B.F. Brown project, the city’s



Richard

is bright. We will see more students visiting the city center, assisting in this revitalization. A shared vision of Fitchburg as a “college town” will be a boon for all.

# TELEGRAM & GAZETTE

Thursday, November 9, 2017

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## More rapes reported at local colleges

**Survivor advocates fear new government guidance could put chill on future reporting**

**By Scott O’Connell**  
Telegram & Gazette

WORCESTER – Once again, the number of reported rapes on college campuses in the region ticked up last year, with some colleges reporting twice as many incidents in 2016 than the year before.

Rape survivor advocates say those increases are generally an encouraging sign that more survivors are comfortable reporting assaults. But new guidelines recently coming down from the U.S. Department of Education could have a chilling effect on men and women who come forward in the future, some of those advocates fear.

According to data provided by all of the colleges in the region in their annual Clery Act reports,

**See RAPES, A8**

### Reported rapes

Central Mass. campuses

College	2015-16	2016-17
<b>Anna Maria</b>	0	0
<b>Assumption</b>	8	7
<b>Becker</b>	1	2
<b>Clark University</b>	3	3
<b>Fitchburg State</b>	2	4
<b>Holy Cross</b>	3	6
<b>Nichols</b>	4	5
<b>MCPHS University</b>	0	0
<b>Mount Wachusett</b>	0	0
<b>Quinsigamond</b>	0	0
<b>UMass Medical</b>	0	0
<b>WPI</b>	1*	1
<b>Worcester State</b>	3	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>34</b>

\*Listed as fondling in report

Source: 2017 Campus Clery Act reports

Powered by BoardOnTrack:G STAFF

# RAPES

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34 rapes were reported on Central Massachusetts campuses last year, up from 25 in 2015 and 21 the year before that. Worcester Polytechnic Institute also had several off-campus rapes reported last year.

Individually, some campuses saw significant increases in reported rapes from 2015-16 to 2016-17: Worcester State University went from 3 to 6, Fitchburg State University went from 2 to 4, and the College of the Holy Cross went from 3 to 6, according to their Clery reports.

"I think that often tends to happen, as we increase the visibility of the Title IX office" said Tracy Kennedy, Holy Cross director of Title IX initiatives. Expanded educational programming, enhanced training and other efforts tend to make survivors more likely to come forward, and make their classmates more likely to support

At a [Fitchburg State University - Board of Trustees and Fitchburg State Foundation joint meeting - Agenda - Tuesday January 23, 2018 at 8:00 AM](#)

While the Clery reports, which all higher education institutions are required by federal law to submit each year, don't show the outcomes of those incidents – they don't indicate whether there was a criminal conviction, for example, or whether the alleged perpetrator was removed from campus – colleges across the country have been operating with a heightened awareness of their role in handling sexual assaults over the past few years.

and help them, experts say.

While the Clery reports, which all higher education institutions are required by federal law to submit each year, don't show the outcomes of those incidents – they don't indicate whether there was a criminal conviction, for example, or whether the alleged perpetrator was removed from campus – colleges across the country have been operating with a heightened awareness of their role in handling sexual assaults over the past few years.

Obama administration, many schools have taken rape reports from students more seriously and have established a larger role for themselves in administering justice in those cases.

That trend could come to a halt, however, now that President Donald Trump's education secretary, Betsy DeVos, has rescinded the Obama-era policy. The government is now encouraging colleges to better balance the rights of the accuser and accused in rape cases. Critics of the old guidance argued that it led some schools to have a tribunal system in which the accused was put at an automatic disadvantage.

The new guidance is just temporary, however, until the Education Department can gather feedback on the revisions and make new permanent rules. While the interim instructions allow colleges to change how they approach sexual assault cases, several colleges in the region said they plan to stick with their current system.

"The college is concerned with the administ

IX, however (Assumption) will maintain its current policy of vigorously investigating such incidents should they occur," Daniel DiTullio, the Title IX coordinator at Assumption College, said last week.

Becker College in a statement also said it intends to "follow the rules and guidelines previously put in place by the Obama administration, and continue to monitor the Department of Education information and guidelines."

Fitchburg State said it will "review the ever changing landscape as it relates to awareness and prevention regarding acts of violence" in general. "The university wants to make sure that an impartial process remains and that either party has the same opportunity to address the alleged behaviors that were brought forward," Fitchburg State said in a statement.

Holy Cross is also largely keeping its current practices in place, although Ms. Kennedy said the college, in response to the new federal guidance, changed some language

convey the rights afforded to both parties involved in sexual assault accusations.

"We're continuing to just ensure we're educating the community about their options," she said, adding that Holy Cross is "really committed to supporting a respectful environment" on campus.

But some survivor advocates worry about how the shift in the government's approach to the issue will be received by assault survivors.

"It's pretty damaging, in a number of ways," Marie Vazquez, a campus advocate for Worcester-based Pathways for Change, said of the Education Department's latest rules. "If you're a survivor trying to come forward, it complicates things even more for you."

Specifically, she was concerned the new guidance will once again put survivors on the defensive in assault cases. Ms. Vasquez, who works with students at Assumption College through her role with Pathways, said there's "been a lot of fear" about

the government's shift in approach to the issue under President Trump.

Alison Carr, a student at Assumption and member of the college's Peers Advocating Wellness for Students program, said students have asked the college president, Francesco Cesareo, to submit his comments on the new guidance to the Department of Education, and that PAWS in general has tried to highlight the issues surrounding sexual assault on campus. Bystander intervention education offered on campus has made a difference, she said. For example, at a recent party, when a couple of students looked to be in a potentially dangerous situation, "people actually stepped in to break it up."

Ms. Carr said she hopes that progress won't be stalled by new guidance that could allow college officials to think "it's not our problem anymore, so we don't have to pay attention to it."

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# Weekender

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2018

## The Who's 'Tommy' gone bluegrass to play at FSU



Experience The Who's classic rock opera "Tommy" reborn as an unforgettable bluegrass work by the progressive Missouri-based band The HillBenders at 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, at the Falcon Hub in Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St.

COURTESY PHOTO

FITCHBURG — Experience The Who's classic rock opera "Tommy" reborn as an unforgettable bluegrass work by the progressive Missouri-based band The HillBenders when Fitchburg State University Center-Stage welcomes the band Saturday, Feb. 10, at the Falcon Hub in Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St.

Nearly 50 years after the original release of "Tommy," this classic of rock has now been fully realized as a full-length bluegrass tribute featuring The HillBenders. Conceived and produced by SXSW co-founder and long-time musician/producer Louis Jay Meyers, this "Bluegrass Opry" brings a new perspective to "Tommy" while paying total respect to its creators.

The HillBenders are one of the few bluegrass groups that recognize their ability to bridge the gap between the

common music consumer and the bluegrass genre, selecting material that defies any hillbilly stigmas. With their widely varied influences, they are trying to bring to bluegrass songs that unify.

"We wanted to pair bluegrass with the other music we grew up with — rock 'n' roll," says HillBender Nolan Lawrence.

"Tommy" was originally composed by guitarist Pete Townshend as a rock opera that tells the story about a deaf, dumb and blind boy, including his experiences with life and the relationship with his family.

The original album, released in 1969, has sold 20 million copies and has been inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame for "historical, artistic and significant value." In 2003, Rolling Stone magazine ranked "Tommy" number 96 on its list of the

500 greatest albums of all time.

Meyers had been looking for the right band to pull off the high-wire bluegrass approach for several decades, and The HillBenders are the right band. With a perfect mix of virtuoso musicianship and rock-star vocals, The HillBenders bring Townshend's original vision to life in a new and exciting way.

Tickets are \$28 for adults, \$25 for senior citizens and Fitchburg State alumni and staff, and \$5 for Fitchburg State students. Doors open at 7 p.m. for the 8 p.m. performance. Tickets can be purchased at the Weston Box Office in Weston Auditorium, 353 North St., or by calling 978-665-3347. The box office is open Thursdays and Fridays, from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Tickets can also be ordered online at [fitchburgstate.edu/centerstage](http://fitchburgstate.edu/centerstage).

es and Fitchburg State Foundation joint meeting - Ager

# Fitchburg State University and Fitchburg High Schools plan free concert

FITCHBURG — The Fitchburg State University choirs will be joined by local high-school vocal ensembles for the free performance, Choral Kaleidoscope, on Monday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m., in Weston Auditorium, 353 North St.

The concert will include the Fitchburg State Concert Choir and Chamber Choir under the direction of professor Jonathan Harvey.

The university groups will be joined by the Fitchburg High School Concert Choir, directed by Tabitha Greenlees; the Gardner High School Select Choir, directed by Joanne Landry; the Narragansett Regional High School Concert Chorus, directed by Bobby Rathbone; and the university's a-cappella group Harmonic Velocity.

"The six choirs will each perform a set of their own, and the concert will close with several selections performed by everyone all together onstage," Harvey said. "There's a huge variety of music on this program, and that's why it's called 'Choral Kaleidoscope.' It's going to be a constantly shifting program involving many different groups and styles."



# Glenn Miller Orchestra puts ready to put FSU 'In the Christmas Mood'

FITCHBURG — Fitchburg State University invites the community to get into the holiday spirit with the Glenn Miller Orchestra's "In the Christmas Mood," on Saturday, Dec. 9, at 7 p.m., in Weston Auditorium, 353 North St.

With its celebration of swing and jazz, the Glenn Miller Orchestra is one of the greatest bands of all time. With traditional holiday classics like "Winter Wonderland," "Jingle

Bells" and "Let it Snow," it will surely get you In the Christmas mood.

Featuring an ensemble of 18 musicians, this holiday concert spectacular brings the season to life with timeless sound and iconic melodies of Miller's unmistakable music. The Glenn Miller Orchestra delighted a packed house when it last visited Fitchburg State, and you won't want to miss this chance Powered by BoardOnTrack to see them again.

Tickets for "In the Christmas Mood" are \$30 for adults, \$28 for seniors and FSU staff and alumni, and \$5 for students and guests 18 and younger.

The Weston Box Office, located inside Weston Auditorium, is open Thursday and Friday, from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., and can be reached at 978-665-3347. Tickets may also be purchased online at [fitchburgstate.edu/](http://fitchburgstate.edu/) centerstage. 70 of 71





Fitchburg State University Professor Richard McElvain's will perform his acclaimed one-man adaptation of Stefan Zweig's short story *The Chess Player* at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 20 at the Performing Arts at the McKay Complex, 67 Rindge Road.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

## 'The Chess Player'

FITCHBURG — The curtain rises on Professor Richard McElvain's final production at Fitchburg State University next week, and the accomplished actor and director is going out with a flourish.

Just days after the successful run of the McElvain-directed *Into the Woods* — the university's first musical theater production in more than a decade — he will bring his acclaimed one-man adaptation of Stefan Zweig's short story "The Chess Player" to the Wallace Theater for the Performing Arts at the McKay Complex, 67 Rindge Road, at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 29.

Admission is \$20 for the public and \$10 for students, with all proceeds going to support students' upcoming trip to Scotland for the

Edinburgh Fringe Festival, the world's largest theater festival.

It was in Edinburgh that McElvain first performed "The Chess Player," a one-man play about a man struggling to maintain his sanity in solitary confinement at the hands of the Nazis. Reviewers described McElvain's performance as "masterful," and "astonishing," and called the show "an absolute must see."

McElvain plays five major characters in the 75-minute show, along with half a dozen smaller roles. It's a high-wire act, but one he relishes. "It's a personal dare, and something you can only do in theater," he said. "There's real magic. It's a game of catch you're playing with the audience."

That immediacy is the power of live theater in general, he contin-

ued. "It's really there, it's really happening," he said. "It's something that is unique to every performance. It's a precious thing to have, and to engage in."

McElvain helped shape live theater at Fitchburg State for 20 years, mounting annual productions in addition to his teaching, from farcical comedies to gut-wrenching dramas, with titles from Shakespeare to new works, some written by Fitchburg State alumni.

McElvain is retiring from Fitchburg State, but not from the footlights. "I'm returning to my professional career," he said. Thanks to a Fulbright scholarship, he will spend five months in Finland and London with "The Chess Player," and is looking at other international engagements for the production.