

# LOCAL NEWS

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## EDUCATION

# Fitchburg State makes pick for provost position

Patricia Marshall will have many responsibilities

### Submitted Article

**FITCHBURG »** Fitchburg State University President Richard S. Lapidus announced Monday the appointment of Patricia A. Marshall as the institution's next provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Marshall, who has served as deputy commissioner for academic affairs and student success at the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education since 2015, will report to the Fitchburg State campus in July, according to the university.

She was selected for the Fitchburg State post after a national search to succeed Alberto Cardelle, who left in 2021 to assume the presidency of the State University of New York College at Oneonta.

President Lapidus said Marshall's statewide work to enhance racial equity, narrow achievement gaps and improve student success made her an ideal fit



COURTESY OF

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Patricia A. Marshall has been named as Fitchburg State University's next provost and vice president for academic affairs.

for Fitchburg State's position.

"Dr. Marshall's proven track record of success, and her demonstrated commitment to improving outcomes for all students, align perfectly with Fitchburg State's strategic goals," Lapidus said. "I am confident that Dr. Marshall's dedication to creating opportunities for students, and realizing the institutional evolution that will support them, will serve Fitchburg State well."

"I am excited to join Fitchburg State University, whose objectives of being a student-ready campus with an emphasis on social justice truly align with the work I have been doing with the Department of Higher Education," Marshall said.

Commissioner of Higher Education Carlos Santiago praised Marshall as an exceptional leader within the department and the state's system of higher education.

"Dr. Marshall will be sorely missed by her colleagues in the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education and by me, personally," Santiago said. "I know that the knowledge and experience gained since joining the DHE will serve her and Fitchburg State University well. The mixed emotions that I feel in losing her from the DHE are tempered by my confidence that she will continue her great work in the Massachusetts public higher education system."

As provost and vice president for academic affairs, Marshall will be the Fitchburg State's chief academic officer, overseeing major curricular initiatives and supervising the deans of the university's five academic schools.



## EDUCATION

# Fitchburg State student project beautifies middle schools walls

### Submitted Article

**FITCHBURG »** Fitchburg State University senior Devin Tormey has always loved to paint, and

when she found she could make money selling her paintings as a business, she saw an opportunity to merge two passions.

The senior business adminis-

tration major from Fitchburg decided to develop a formal business plan for her artistic pursuits as her capstone thesis project for the university's Hon-

ors Program, the university said in a recent press release.

She credits her adviser, Assistant Professor John Crawley of the Business Administration De-

partment, who encouraged her to fold her artwork into those plans.

"Devin is a tremendously talented

ARTIST » 8A

## Artist

FROM PAGE 1A

ented student and artist," Crawley said. "Her work in the classroom is exceptional and her artwork moves the viewer."

Crawley brought Honors Program Coordinator Catherine Buell, herself a member of the university's Mathematics Department faculty, into a discussion of how to proceed.

"We began to discuss stepping outside the conventional academic box to include some of her art in a way that would bring added meaning and life to the development of her business plan and support a community interest," Crawley said.

The ensuing discussions and shared connections led Tormey to Samoset Middle School in Leominster, where Dean of Students Kenneth Ricker advised her to consider creating murals on the gymnasium walls.

Tormey applied her business skills to the design of the murals, creating a questionnaire for members of the Samoset community and conducting interviews with students about what the words in the school's mission and values mean to them.

"That was really important in helping me design the murals," she said. She



COURTESY OF FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Fitchburg State University senior Devin Tormey of Fitchburg poses near the murals she created at Samoset Middle School in Leominster.

sketched her ideas and projected them onto the blank walls of the gymnasium, ultimately spending about 50 hours over nine days creating the finished work.

The resulting murals each measure eight feet by

12 feet. One features a striking, blue and white depiction of the Samoset Wildcats mascot. The other includes aspirational words — civil, achieve, respect and encourage — backed by stylized text from Tormey's research,

bearing phrases like "Equal rights for all," "Stay Positive," "Be Kind to One Another" and "Grow Thru What You Go Thru."

"We're extremely excited these murals will be a showcase for the school," said Ricker, who noted stu-

dents at Samoset have enjoyed studying the embedded messages inside the murals. "It really brightened up an area we'd been looking to improve for some time. Devin is such a nice person and she did a great job. It was a win-win

for everybody."

Buell said she was thrilled to join Tormey, Crawley and other members of the school community when the murals were showcased this week at Samoset, where a plaque acknowledging Tormey's contributions was unveiled.

"I remember when Devin presented her work after the first semester of her thesis," Buell said. "While talking about her artist business plan, she showed us pictures of her paintings. The last 15 minutes of the presentation was all of us gushing over her work and thinking of all the ways we could help her get her talent out there."

Buell said Crawley's ideas, connections and passion helped bring the mural project to life.

"We always hope that the Honors Thesis Project will be transformative and personalized to students, but also challenges them to accomplish work they didn't expect they could do," Buell said. "The one-on-one guidance from faculty is a unique opportunity and becomes an experience of partnership that transcends the classroom."

Tormey is also proud of what she achieved. "It was really, really fun," she said.

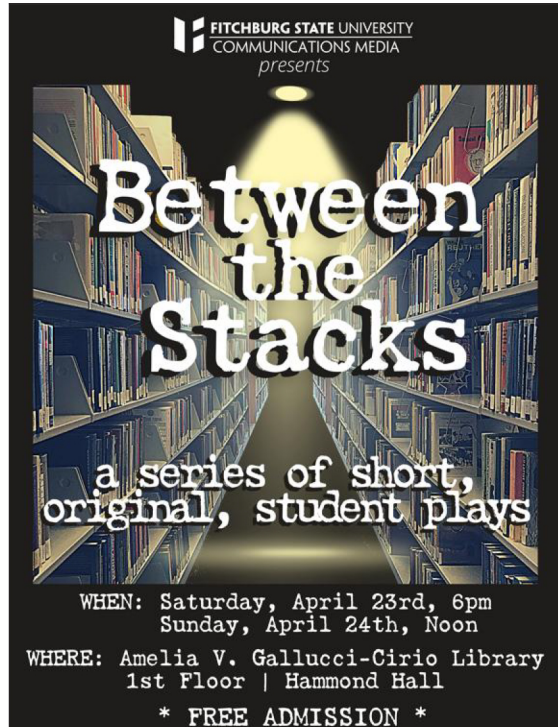
After graduating this May, she plans to pursue her master's degree in business administration.



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## FITCHBURG STATE THEATER



COURTESY OF FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Performances of several original scenes involving the library will be performed at the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library in Hammond Hall at Fitchburg State University on Saturday and Sunday.

## Go 'Between the Stacks' for drama

### Submitted article

**FITCHBURG »** Theater lovers can experience a series of original pieces in an original location this month when Fitchburg State University presents “Between the Stacks,” a sequence of original scenes that will be performed at locations in and around the campus library, accord-

ing to an announcement from the university.

The scenes will be performed at 6 p.m. Saturday and 12 p.m. Sunday starting on the first floor of the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library in Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St. Admission is free and open to the public. External guests will be asked to attest they are free of COVID-

**STACKS » 4A**

## Stacks

**FROM PAGE 3A**

19 symptoms, and face coverings remain required in the library.

Professor Kelly Morgan, of the university’s Communications Media Department, said the scenes were written by students in his playwriting course.

The scenes will be performed at assorted locations within the library, from the circulation desk to seating areas and the book stacks themselves.

All four floors of the library will be used for the show, which includes scenes of collaboration and conflict.

“It’s going to convey that more goes on in the library than just checking out books,” Morgan said.

The performance is composed of 10 scenes, each about 5 minutes in length, and will be followed by a discussion.

“Between the Stacks” is presented by the Communications Media Department in collaboration with the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library.



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## FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

# Writer Sam Roe will speak today

## Won Pulitzer Prize in journalism

### Submitted Article

**FITCHBURG** » Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative journalist Sam Roe will deliver the keynote address of Fitchburg State University's yearlong Community Read at 6 p.m. today. The virtual event is free and those wishing to view online may register at [http://tiny.cc/Investigate\\_April5](http://tiny.cc/Investigate_April5).

Roe will discuss the journalistic process of creating compelling narratives that document the struggles and triumphs of real people through investigation of social, economic, and political landscapes. His talk is entitled "Investigate: How Journalists Shed Light on Life and Society, and Influence Public Policy."

Throughout the academic year, the Community Read has explored Jessica Bruder's acclaimed book "Nomadland: Surviving America in the Twenty-First Century," which was adapted into the Oscar-winning film of the same name. Programming has included book club talks, film screenings and social media discussions based around themes in the book, which explores the precarious financial state of older Americans who take to the roads to support themselves.



Sam Roe

The programs culminate in this keynote address by Roe, a Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative journalist and four-time Pulitzer finalist. His stories have resulted in broad health and safety reforms, including a U.S. ban on the export of mercury, a reduction in toxic chemicals in toys and household furniture, major safety improvements at the nation's pharmacies, and \$15 billion in payments to injured nuclear weapons workers, according to a press release from the university. An investigative reporter at the Chicago Tribune for 20 years, he is now an investigative editor for Gannett, the nation's largest newspaper chain. He is also an adjunct journalism instructor at Columbia College Chicago.

For more information, visit [fitchburgcommunityread.com](https://fitchburgcommunityread.com).



## Holy Cross endowment at \$1 billion

Here's how much money  
colleges in area have

**Jeff A. Chamer**

Worcester Telegram & Gazette  
USA TODAY NETWORK

WORCESTER — The College of the Holy Cross added \$283 million to its endowment last year, pushing its total to more than \$1 billion.

The next two largest college endowments in Central Massachusetts are Worcester Polytechnic Institute with \$650 million and Clark University at \$514 million.

Holy Cross said fiscal year 2021 was a recording-breaking year, with the college receiving \$65.9 million in gifts including a \$25 million gift from the estate of former trustee Agnes Williams.

Holy Cross received \$29.5 million in contributions that were specifically designed for the endowment during fiscal 2021, said Daniel Ricciardi, associate vice president for investments and institutional resources at Holy Cross.

Ricciardi said \$23.3 million was restricted, principally for financial aid.

After Holy Cross, WPI and Clark, there is a large gap in endowment totals across Central Massachusetts colleges.

Assumption University has an endowment of \$114.3 million, Worcester State University has an endowment of \$44.6 million, Nichols College has an endowment of \$32.1 million and Fitchburg State University is \$30.2 million.

At Worcester State University, unrestricted funds, "are used to support various initiatives of the university such as academic initiatives, lectures and community programs," said Vice President of University Advancement Thomas McNamara.

**See COLLEGES, Page 5A**



# Colleges

Continued from Page 1A

“Unrestricted,” funds means that “the interest income can be directed to a variety of uses,” said Jeffrey A. Wolfman, vice president for institutional advancement at Fitchburg State University.

There are also “restricted” portions of the endowment, Wolfman said, with more narrow uses such as scholarship funds that specify requirements for eligible students.

A portion of donations or money fundraised can also be allocated towards an institution’s endowment, Wolfman said.

The smallest endowments in the region are Quinsigamond Community College at \$4.6 million, Anna Maria College at \$7.2 million and Mount Wachusett Community College at nearly \$13 million.

Endowments are “an investment fund, basically,” said Carla Zottoli, executive director of development at the Mount Wachusett Community College Foundation.

Since they are an investment, it is a number that goes up and down with the stock market, she said.

Consideration is given to how endowments are invested, such as Anna Maria College, which focuses entirely on “Catholic responsible investment options,” said Chief Financial Officer Alex Mowatt.

This also means, however, that the university also has restrictions about the companies or industries the endowment may be invested in if it does not align with the university’s religious values.

At Mount Wachusett, which has its endowment managed by a foundation, meaning that the foundation decides how the money is invested, on a macro level, Zottoli said.

“They select an investment company and funds within that company but they are not selecting particular stocks and bonds that are within those funds,” Zottoli said. “That is why it is crucial to deal with a reputable investment company that adheres to your requirements on ‘ethical’ investing.”

For community colleges, the pandemic made it difficult to fundraise, Zottoli said.

“We have put much more emphasis on grants lately,” Zottoli said.

For community colleges in the Northeast, it is pretty standard to get most of its donations from corporate donors, rather than alums, Zottoli said.

“We are having our first event in almost three years in April and, frankly, fundraising is not going well, many of our ‘corporate contacts’ are gone and it is almost as if we are starting over,” Zottoli said. “Having said that, fiscal year 2021 Grants and Contributions were \$591,393.”

## College of the Holy Cross

**\$1.04 billion**

As of June 31, 2021, the College of the Holy Cross endowment was valued at \$1.04 billion, an increase of \$283 million, or 37.2%, during the year, Ricciardi said.

“Approximately \$556 million of this is donor restricted, meaning it is designated for specific causes such as financial aid, faculty support, academic programs or mission programs,” Ricciardi said.

He said at the end of the fiscal year 2021, the endowment contributed \$35 million in operating support to the institution, 19.5% of the college’s total operating revenue.

The college does not have any formal restrictions, he said, but they give “substantial” consideration to, “whether an investment is inconsistent with the basic values of the college as a Jesuit and Catholic institution as part of our due diligence process and ongoing portfolio monitoring.



The main entrance to the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester. FILE PHOTO

“As we do with all members of our community, Holy Cross calls on our investment management partners to consider the impact of their activities on the world around us,” Ricciardi said.

## Worcester Polytechnic Institute

**\$650 million**

The university said that, as of Dec. 31, 2021, the university’s endowment is \$650 million, which represents a 29% increase over the previous year.

“On average the university draws on 4.7% of the endowment annually to fund scholarships and operations such as faculty and student support and faculty research,” the university said in a statement.

## Clark University

**\$514 million**

“The Clark endowment is invested to balance the current needs of the university with its requirement to intergenerational equity,” Clark University said in a statement. “The portfolio is invested across asset classes with the objectives of growing in excess of inflation plus required spending, while also maintaining sufficient liquidity to meet the university’s regular draw to support operations.”

As of June 30, 2021, Clark University’s endowment was \$514 million and asset allocation was as follows: Equities 50%, alternative assets 20%, private investments 12%, cash and fixed income 10%, real assets 5%, hybrid investments 3% and other, less than 1%.

“Clark employs Hall Capital Partners to manage the endowment as its Outsourced Chief Investment Officer,” said the university.

## Assumption University

**\$114.3 million**

According to Assumption University, at the end of December 2021, the balance of its endowment was approximately \$114.3 million.

## Worcester State University

**\$44.6 million**

“Under the direction of the Worcester State Foundation, the endowment provides critically important long-term financial stability for the university, be-

yond state funding,” said Vice President of University Advancement Thomas McNamara. “All of the dollars we receive enhance our ability to provide Worcester State students with an excellent education.”

McNamara said that the fiscal year 2021 endowment market value for the university was \$44.6 million, a 31% increase from \$34 million the previous fiscal year.

“13% of the endowment is unrestricted,” McNamara said. “The funds are used to support various initiatives of the university such as academic initiatives, lectures and community programs.”

Meanwhile, 87% of the endowment is restricted by donors.

“Primarily for student scholarships, student and faculty academic awards and scholarly research by faculty and students,” McNamara said.

## Nichols College

**\$32.1 million**

Jamie Skowyra, vice president for business and finance and the chief financial officer at the College, said that the endowment, as of June 30, 2021, was \$32.1M, representing an increase of \$10.2M from June 30, 2020.

However, by January of this year, the endowment had risen to about \$40 million.

“The expectation of Nichols College’s new president, Glenn Sulmasy, is continued growth of the endowment, as he is emphasizing fundraising and endowment growth as a measure of his presidency – and it already seems to be working,” Skowyra said.

Skowyra said that the unrestricted portion was \$6 million and will be used for future operations.

## Fitchburg State University

**\$30.2 million**

Fitchburg State University’s endowment is currently valued at \$30,196,080, up from \$24,077,104 the prior year, said Wolfman.

He said the university employs a conservative investment strategy designed to weather market volatility.

About \$2.5 million of Fitchburg State’s assets are unrestricted. However, the majority of the assets are in restricted accounts, Wolfman said.

“Our number one priority is affordability, which we address through scholarships and financial aid,” said Wolfman, who noted that more than 90% of

Fitchburg State’s students qualify and receive some form of financial support.

## Mount Wachusett Community College

**\$13 million**

“State funded colleges and universities in Massachusetts are not allowed to accept private donations or grants — although that rule has become a bit more ‘fluid’ of late for some institutions,” said Zottoli. “This means that ‘technically’ and in our case absolutely the college does not control their endowment.”

Zottoli said the MWCC Foundation is a completely separate nonprofit with its own board of directors and is in charge of the endowment and donations at the college.

“In our case those entities are pretty separate, for good reason,” she said. “As they say, ‘Sunshine is the best disinfectant,’ and in this case transparency and separate oversight is crucial to a well-managed and judiciously utilized pot of money.”

Zottoli said that the total endowment for current school year, as of Dec. 31, 2021, is \$12,989,335, an increase of \$1,796,824 from Dec. 31, 2020, when the endowment was \$11,192,511.

## Anna Maria College

**\$7.2 million**

The current endowment for Anna Maria College is \$7.2 million, more than 75% of which is unrestricted, said Mowatt.

That also marks a \$1.18 million growth from the previous year’s \$6.022 million endowment, he said.

“The funds are to ensure our secure future and not really tapped except for scholarships,” Mowatt said.

This includes environmental, social and governance and socially responsible investments.

## Quinsigamond Community College

**\$4.6 million**

When asked about the college’s endowment and investments, a spokesperson said, “Quinsigamond Community College doesn’t have an endowment. There is a QCC Foundation endowment, which is a private entity.”

According to the QCC website, the college’s endowment is about \$4.6 million.



## FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY



DANIELLE RAY / SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE

Miss Kris channels Adele and collects bills in her voluptuous cleavage at the 15th annual Fitchburg State University Gay Straight Alliance benefit drag show on Thursday evening.

## Gay Straight Alliance performs benefit drag show

By Danielle Ray

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**FITCHBURG »** The energy inside the Athletics and Recreation Center at Fitchburg State University was palpably electric on Thursday evening, where over 800 people gathered for the 15th annual Gay Straight Alliance benefit drag show with proceeds supporting the newly created LGBTQ Student Scholarship at the school.

“This Drag Show is an important part of the fabric of LGBTQ life at Fitchburg State and her surrounding communities,” stated FSU Associate Director of Student Development Shane Franzen in a press release. “It shows that Fitchburg State does not discriminate based on sexual orientation, color, race, or identity. It solidifies the openness of the Faculty, Staff, community, but most importantly, the students. With the changing climate of the country, it is now more important than ever to show off our cul-

**SHOW » 6A**



DANIELLE RAY / SENTINEL & ENTERPRISE

Fitchburg State University Associate Director of Student Development Shane Franzen opens the 15th annual Fitchburg State University Gay Straight Alliance benefit drag show on Thursday in a dapper ring-master ensemble, a popular event he has supervised the development of since its inception on campus.





DANIELLE RAY PHOTOS / SENTINEL &amp; ENTERPRISE

Leominster's own Lady Sabrina collects bills from audience members following a rockin' performance as part of the 15th annual Fitchburg State University Gay Straight Alliance benefit drag show on Thursday evening.

## Show

FROM PAGE 1A

ture. The Students of GSA work tirelessly for hours upon hours and for many months putting the show together. It is a privilege to be their advisor, and an honor to watch them grow and flourish as active citizens of the LGBTQ+ community and to share who they are to all."

According to the press release the sold out "Greatest Showman" themed event was designed to entertain, enlighten and share a great cultural experience with the community. Franzen, who has supervised the development of the show since its inception on campus, donned a dapper ringmaster ensemble complete with a red sequined blazer and a black top hat to welcome the excited attendees.

"We all deserve a night like this," he said, noting that they were unable to hold the popular event the past two years due to the pandemic.

The lively program featured dancing and cabaret-style performances by 12 professional stage performers including Leominster's own Lady Sabrina who was joined by fellow show alumnus Mizery, Miss Kris, Karisma, Onyx, Ivy League, Vita Summers, Destiny, and G Licious G, and newcomers Abby Cummings and Jada Pinket Fox.

Raquel Blake, whom Franzen called "the hostess with the mostest," nailed it as the Mistress of Ceremonies and kicked off the

drag queen performances with "This is Me" from "The Greatest Showman" movie soundtrack.

"I should have worn roller skates," Blake joked after her energetic act.

DJ Scotty P spun tunes and the FSU Performance Team graced the stage with an energetic dance number to a tune from the movie soundtrack as the show opener.

The highly anticipated Drag Race, involving several willing participants, crowned FSU student Ben Sacramone as Drag Queen, and for the first time, a Drag King - FSU student Evy Akombi.

The rambunctious throng was full of energy, with applause and shouts of joy in abundance throughout all the performances. Each of the drag queens lip synced, danced and sashayed around the tables and snaked among the audience in stunning outfits, pumping the crowd up and gathering fistfuls of bills - some in their voluptuous cleavage.

G Licious G threw out hundreds of glow sticks into the audience, Abby Cummings performed Ariana Grande's "breathin'" while the audience clapped to the beat, and Jada Pinket Fox slayed it in a midriff bearing knockout outfit and got the crowd on their feet cheering loudly and dancing.

Miss Kris, who recently turned 51, donned a glittering sequin mini dress for her Adele medley that started with "Rolling in the Deep" before a loud ringing interrupted the performance. "Hello?" Miss Kris deadpanned,



Audience members handed over fistfuls of bills to Jada Pinket Fox, who slayed it in a midriff bearing knockout outfit and got the crowd on their feet cheering and dancing during the show.



The Fitchburg State University Performance Dance Team graced the stage of the 15th annual Fitchburg State University Gay Straight Alliance benefit drag show on Thursday night with an energetic dance number as the opener.



Mistress of Ceremonies Raquel Blake kicked off an evening full of electric performances with 'This is Me' at the 15th annual Fitchburg State University Gay Straight Alliance benefit drag show.

drawing raucous laughter from the crowd. She personalized the lyrics to "Hello" with lines such as "F- you and your stupid lies," much to the delight of the crowd who noisily cheered her on.

"What a beautiful love song," Blake quipped after the performance.

Ivy League lip synced to "All That Jazz" dressed to the tee as Velma Kelly, one of the main characters in the successful Broadway musical "Chicago," and Lady Sabrina rocked platinum blonde locks and glittering red fringe outfit as she performed and collected donations.

Blake said they had the largest amount of non-student audience members at the show, a tribute to its popularity and those who want to support the cause. She gave a high five to the youngest audience member, the 1-year-old son of an FSU alumnus who said it was her son's second

drag show.

"My babies have four legs," Blake joked as someone handed her a five-dollar bill she held up to the light in jest.

The morning after the event a tired but happy Franzen said that they were thrilled with the turnout and to be able to bring the show back and feature the talented drag performers who hail from all over the country.

"It is a four-star production that we put on," he said, adding that while they won't know the total amount raised until they tally the large amount of bills collected, he thinks they "did very well this year."

"It was just so wonderful to have so many people there," Franzen said. "The timing couldn't have been better because we just cleared the mask mandate on campus recently. It is a great way for people to come out and have a good time and throw their cares away, if only for a few hours."