Holiday dinner serves helping of cheer to the needy

GCC delivered much-needed holiday cheer Dec. 9 to an estimated 600 needy adults and children who attended the college’s 11th annual holiday dinner for the disadvantaged.

The enormous event is greater New Haven’s largest holiday party for the needy, busing in participants from shelters from across the region to the college’s Long Wharf campus. In 2008, the event served 400 people.

This holiday tradition is organized and hosted by volunteers from the GCC community that include faculty, staff and students. To see a collection of photos from the night on GCC’s Facebook page, click here. To see coverage of the event in the New Haven Independent, click here.

The event featured a full buffet dinner, as well as festivities that include Santa and Mrs. Claus, face painting and carolers. Every child left with a gift and a book. Every adult left with a bag of personal care items. And all participants left with a winter coat, hat, gloves and scarf.

“I always tell the faculty and staff that people don’t care how much you know, until they know how much you care,” said GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick. “Our mission is rooted in providing opportunity and hope to everyone in the community, and when you see the look of joy on the faces of the children and adults at this event, you can see we are doing just that.”

The holiday dinner is supported entirely through donations; no state funds are used. In addition to the generous donations of cash, toys and winter wear from the GCC community, many other organizations and businesses contributed toward helping make this year’s event a success. Among them: DATTCO bus company, which donated the buses and bus drivers’ time making the entire event possible; Schick, which donated razor kits for the adult personal care goodie bags; Stop & Shop; and Wal-Mart in New Haven, which donated $1,200 in gift cards after being contacted by Sharon...
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President’s Corner

President’s Corner is Gateway Community College’s campus newsletter. It is published by the college’s Public Relations and Marketing Department.

Gateway’s Mission

Gateway Community College offers high-quality instruction and comprehensive services in an environment conducive to learning. We respond to the changing needs of the community.

Sen. Blumenthal announces jobs bill at GCC

Sen. Richard Blumenthal unveiled a $5 billion bill that aims to address unemployment at a Nov. 14 press conference at GCC’s Long Wharf campus that was attended by the media, students, faculty and staff.

The Pathways Back to Work Act would earmark $1.5 billion for summer and year-round jobs for people aged 16 to 24, $2 billion to create new jobs and fill existing ones through workforce training for the chronically unemployed and those in the middle class, and $1.5 billion to competitive grants for work force development organizations and educational institutions.

“The initiative will empower families and individuals in Connecticut by providing the...
academic, occupational, technological, and cultural needs of a diverse population.

skills and opportunities necessary to reconnect them with the workforce,” Blumenthal said.

GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick also spoke at the event, praising the senator’s efforts, pointing out that although Connecticut unemployment rate is 8.9 percent, the rate among people age 16 to 24 is 48 percent.

New solar energy lab unveiled at ribbon-cutting event

GCC’s Center for a Sustainable Future unveiled its new solar energy laboratory Nov. 17 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and tour.

Located on our North Haven campus, the lab allows GCC to offer one of the region’s few solar installation training programs with a hands-on component. It also gives the region’s workforce a means to leverage the expected benefits of Connecticut’s sweeping energy legislation signed into law this summer, which contains numerous policies to promote solar energy deployment in the state.

The lab was made possible by a $100,000 grant from the Connecticut Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority (CEFIA) and a $70,000 grant from the Northeast Photovoltaic Training Network at Hudson Valley Community College in Malta, N.Y., a regional training association funded by the U.S. Department of Energy that is part of the national Solar Instructor Training Network (SITN), which is administered by the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC).

These resources allow GCC for the first time to offer hands-on, entry-level and advanced instruction on the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV), solar thermal and battery-based renewable energy systems. GCC has provided entry-level solar energy installation training to about 300 students since 2008 with a very limited hands-on component.

The lab includes classroom workspace and an exterior lab area outside that features solar PV panel arrays that are connected to the classroom, and a mock roof where students will practice installing, maintaining and monitoring solar energy systems. At full capacity, the lab’s solar photovoltaic panel array will produce 480 watts of electricity.

“This new solar energy lab is an example of Gateway’s combined commitment to delivering the relevant, state-of-the-art instruction that our region needs to keep its economy moving ahead while maintaining responsible stewardship of our environment,” said GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick. “We send our sincerest appreciation to the Connecticut Clean Energy and Investment Authority and the
Northeast Photovoltaic Training Network for their vision and leadership in helping us to make this lab a reality and, in turn, aid in the growth of sustainable and renewable energy in Connecticut.”

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GCC, Albertus Magnus sign pact to smooth transfers

GCC signed an agreement Nov. 29 with Albertus Magnus College that will ensure GCC graduates can transfer to Albertus Magnus to earn a bachelor's degree without losing any credits in the process.

This formal “articulation” agreement will facilitate the transfer of all credits associated with any GCC associate of arts or associate of science degree to any Albertus Magnus bachelor degree program in its Traditional Day College, its School of Evening and Graduate Programs or its School of New Dimensions.

Without this kind of articulation agreement, students who want to transfer from one college to another often lose some number of transfer credits that aren’t recognized by the accepting institution.

Albertus Magnus also announced that merit-based scholarships would be available to GCC graduates who transfer. Students who graduate with at least a 3.0 grade-point average (GPA) and transfer into Albertus Magnus College's Traditional Day College are eligible for $6,000 a year. Students who graduate with at least a 3.2 GPA are eligible for $8,000 a year. Students transferring into Albertus Magnus College's School of Evening and Graduate Programs or its School of New Dimensions are eligible for discounted tuition.

"The students who come to Albertus from Gateway are academically well-prepared and they are committed to continuing their post-secondary education," said Albertus Magnus College President Dr. Julia M. McNamara (right in photo). "We are pleased to help them attain their educational goals."

GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick (left in photo) said the agreement with Albertus Magnus formalizes what has been a long-standing, mutually beneficial relationship between two New Haven institutions that share a strong commitment to giving students the tools they need to succeed in school and in life. "We know that a great number of Gateway graduates have chosen to continue their education at Albertus Magnus," Dr. Kendrick said. "We expect that to continue and want to do everything we can to make that transition as seamless as possible."

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Dr. Henry Lee shares his community college roots

Dr. Henry Lee, the legendary forensics investigator known for finding the tiniest clues, visited GCC’s Long Wharf campus...
Nov. 17, reviewing the details of eight of the nearly 8,000 cases with which he's been involved.

He also discussed his career, which began at Manhattan Community College where he took an English As a Second Language (ESL) course because neither he nor his wife could speak English when they came to the United States from China with only $50 between them.

"His message was clear: if you work patiently and are hungry, the untouched possibilities for each of us are endless," said GCC Professor Franz Douskey, who organized the event. It drew a standing-room-only crowd and was sponsored by the Esther Haseltine Schiavone Endowment Fund for the Arts at GCC.

Over the past 40 years, Lee has assisted in the investigations of more than 6,000 cases, including many high profile cases like war crimes in Bosnia and Croatia, the suicide of President Clinton's former White House attorney Vince Foster, a review of the John F. Kennedy assassination and the death of JonBenet Ramsey. He is also founder and professor of the Forensic Science Program at the University of New Haven.

"The presentation was wise and, at times, very funny," Douskey said. "At the end of his talk, Dr. Lee was barraged with numerous questions, which he handled with style and enthusiasm. Eventually, he took a few last questions before the audience spontaneously arose and applauded for several minutes."

Douskey said the presentation was such a success, the endowment fund has invited Lee to visit the college again in the spring for another presentation.

Center for Working Students given national award

Two national non-profit organizations have honored Gateway Community College (GCC) for the work done by its Center for Working Students to promote student success and economic security.

GCC was one of 10 colleges nationwide to receive a 2011 College Innovator Award from The Annie E. Casey Foundation’s Center for Working Families, an initiative to help low-income families reach financial stability and move up the economic ladder, and MDC, an organization that works to close the gaps that separate people from opportunity.

The awards were distributed at the Center for Working Families’ annual fall convening event held Nov. 1-3 at Des Moines Area Community College at the Ankeny Campus in Des Moines, Iowa. Dr. James Boger (second from left), coordinator of GCC’s Center for Working Students, and GCC’s Dean of Students Dr. Wilson Luna (third from left) attended to accept the award. In photo on far left is Susan Gewitz, senior associate, Family Economic Success, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, and far right, Colin Austin, senior program director at MDC.

Launched in 2009, GCC’s Center for Working Students provides GCC students with a comprehensive set of services and support designed to help
them complete a college degree, earn more money, and ultimately provide better futures for their families and children.

It acts as a concierge resource, connecting students to academic support services, career planning services, income and work support services, and financial literacy services. The center is funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation in collaboration with Workforce Alliance in New Haven.

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GCC Foundation event breaks fundraising record

The Gateway Community College Foundation (GCCF) raised more than $85,000 at its 14th Annual Hall of Fame Induction & Reception on Nov. 16, the most it has raised in the history of the event.

Since 1997, the Hall of Fame event has served as GCCF’s main source of scholarship revenue.

This year’s event honored four individuals for their exceptional contributions to the college community. It was held at the Shubert Theater in downtown New Haven and included a silent auction, reception and induction ceremony. The event was co-chaired by Althea Marshall Brooks of Empower New Haven and Kelly Wade Bettuchi of AT&T.

This year’s inductees (in photo with GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick and emcee Keith Koontz, WTNH-TV anchor) were:

- Corporate: John Emra, AT&T;
- Community: Bishop Theodore Brooks, Beulah Heights First Pentecostal Church;

“We are proud to highlight this year’s honorees for all they have done to give back to the greater New Haven community,” said Mary Ellen Cody, GCC’s dean of development and community partnerships. “Our strong partnership with First Niagara and our other sponsors and donors have made this event the most successful Hall of Fame ever and will allow the Gateway Community College Foundation to award many scholarships to deserving Gateway students.”

The following organizations contributed to the success of the event through
President’s town hall reviews enrollment projections

GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick hosted a town hall meeting Nov. 29 for faculty and staff, and a standing-room-only crowd of more than 150 people attended to hear updates on the college’s master plan, staffing needs for the new campus and reports from the transition teams.

Dr. Kendrick reviewed enrollment projections contained in the master plan compiled by Rickes Associates Inc. that predict GCC could have as many as 9,900 headcount students by 2014, more than 40 percent more than the 7,000 students projected as the maximum for 2014 back in 2005, when the size of the new campus was determined.

The plan estimated GCC will have about 8,200 headcount students in 2012, an increase of more than 12 percent over the 7,300 students it had in 2010. Given experiences with other campuses that open significant new facilities, projections call for a 15 percent increase in enrollment during the first year in the new campus. And today’s conservative enrollment projections show 15,000 students by 2022, 10 years after the new campus opens, more than double the 7,300 students in 2010.

Dr. Kendrick explained how the college is preparing to accommodate those increases and asked those in attendance to be part of the solution. “This is our college, our community and our future,” she said. “Help us invest in the future of our college.”

Male Symposium aims to increase graduation rates

GCC kicked off a college-wide initiative to try to increase the graduation rates of its male first-generation college students with a day-long “Male Symposium” Nov. 18 aimed at helping participants overcome barriers to success and exposing them to real-life success stories.

The event, which was held at the college’s Long Wharf campus, was open to all male students, but male students with risk factors associated with dropping out were the targeted group. Recent statistics show that over the past six years, 39 percent of male first-generation college students at Connecticut’s 12 community colleges graduated. The rates were even lower for minority males who were the first in their families to attend college.
The Male Symposium offered a day full of speakers to inspire the more than 70 students who participated and an opportunity to speak one-on-one with those speakers and other volunteers with a new college-wide male mentoring program designed to address the same issues.

Participants were welcomed by GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick and listened to presentations by Dean of Students at Manchester Community College Dr. Duncan Harris, and Rev. John Scott III, a master teacher at GCC (shown in photo on right talking with symposium participants).

Participants also heard success stories from a four-man panel that included two GCC alumni. The panel included: GCC alum Edwin Martinez Jr., who was just inducted into the GCC Foundation’s Hall of Fame; GCC alum Donnell Hilton, youth development program director at Children’s Community Programs of Connecticut; Kermit Carolina, principal at James Hillhouse High School in New Haven; and Miguel Peralta, now of Wesleyan University who was formerly the CONNTAC officer at GCC.

The event was co-chaired by Dr. James Boger, coordinator of GCC’s Center for Working Students, and Maribel Lopez, GCC’s associate registrar. It kicked off GCC’s new college-wide male mentoring Student Services initiative that has already trained 20 mentors to work with participating students.

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**LEEDing the Way: Optimizing energy performance**

As anyone who lives in a house built in the 1900s and works in a 21st century office building can tell you, building design has come a long way, particularly in the arena of energy performance. And our new campus will be no exception.

It is designed to optimize energy performance to reduce the environmental and economic impacts associated with excessive energy use. It will achieve this goal in a variety of ways. It has a light-control system that includes daylight and motion detectors to turn off lights when there is adequate sunlight or no one is using an area.

It also has heat recovery units that use the heat in the ventilation system’s outgoing air to warm up the fresh air coming in. And it will have ice storage tanks in the lower level of the north building that will help reduce costs associated with air conditioning by producing ice in the tanks at night when electrical rates are lower and using that ice to cool the air in the building during the more expensive peak daytime hours.

This “LEEDing the Way” feature spotlights the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) aspects of our new campus, which is designed to be gold-certified in LEED. The LEED Green Building Rating System™ is a voluntary, consensus-based standard to support and certify successful green building design, construction and operations.

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**In the Media: Blumenthal bill, solar lab, foundation**
GCC was featured in a variety of media stories recently, including coverage of Sen. Richard Blumenthal’s press conference on campus, our solar energy lab ribbon-cutting and the Gateway Community College Foundation’s capital campaign.

To read the Connecticut Mirror’s coverage of Blumenthal’s announcement of a $5 billion bill to help reduce unemployment, click here.

To read the New Haven Register’s coverage of the unveiling of our new solar energy lab, click here.

And to read the Yale Daily News’ coverage of the GCCF’s capital campaign, click here.

Program Spotlight: Drug and Alcohol Recovery Counseling

Students interested in tackling the challenging, but rewarding, career of drug and alcohol counseling will find GCC offers one of the best programs in the state to prepare them for employment in a field that is expected to grow by 20 percent over the next five years.

GCC’s Drug and Alcohol Recovery Counselor (DARC) Program offers both an associate degree and certificate. Its graduates enjoy a pass rate on the national certification exam of between 95 and 100 percent, compared with the national pass rate for applicants with associate, bachelor’s and master’s degrees of approximately 70 percent.

“As a result of our excellent reputation and the ability of our students to sit for the national exam, our DARC graduates are highly marketable,” said Program Coordinator Cher A. Shannon, MHSA, LADC. “Many students are hired directly into their internship agency upon graduation and others generally find employment within six months of completing their degree or certificate.”

GCC’s DARC Program prepares students to enter the field of alcohol and drug counseling by providing high-quality instruction within a comprehensive curriculum. There are currently about 100 students enrolled in DARC courses and more than 20 participating in internships. The degree program includes a two-semester, 450-hour clinical internship in agencies approved to provide clinical supervision and oversight in conjunction with the school internship site supervisor.
Both the degree and certificate programs are approved by the Connecticut Certification Board, Inc. to provide all of the educational requirements for certification. In addition, DARC students are able to sit for the International Credentialing and Reciprocity Consortium certification examination. Students who complete the associate degree are hired as case managers, counseling assistants and counselors in training in substance abuse and co-occurring behavioral health agencies, which assist clients who suffer from both addiction and another mental health diagnosis.

One GCC graduate hired by the organization for which he interned is Waterbury resident Jason R. Schwarz, 37, who now works as an addictions counselor at West Main Behavioral Health at Waterbury Hospital. “What appealed to me most about Gateway’s program was its reputation for helping students achieve their academic goals and the focused nature of the associate degree, which cannot be achieved outside the state of Connecticut,” Schwarz said.

Fairfield resident Karina Andre, MS, LADC, a 2006 graduate, said the program “blends addiction science and practice very nicely through the classroom work and internship.” “DARC students are exposed to newest drug addiction approaches and learn about evidence-based treatment, assessment, and prevention strategies that are used in the field of addiction,” she said.

Many GCC DARC graduates continue on to clinical bachelor’s and master’s degrees. At the master’s level, they can apply for licensure in Connecticut.

Guilford resident Monya Zurkus, 45, graduated in 2010 and works full time at The Connection Inc., allowing her to give up her two part-time jobs. She’s enrolled at Charter Oak State College and hopes to earn a bachelor’s degree in psychology by 2014, and earn a master’s degree after that.

“I recommend this program to friends all the time,” Zurkus said, “The personal growth I experienced while completing this course work is irreplaceable.”

GCC’s DARC faculty includes highly skilled, licensed alcohol and drug counselors who have many years of clinical training and experience. “They add breadth and depth to the classroom learning environment,” Shannon said. “Their specialties range from criminal justice to marriage and family therapy, social work, and mental health. They are a dedicated group of teachers who are enthusiastic and excited about teaching in the DARC program.”

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Friendly Reminders

Precautions can make this a safe holiday season

GCC Dean of Administration Lou D’Antonio reminds the GCC community that, with the holiday season upon us, in combination with the continued challenging economy, the incidence of theft likely will increase.
Therefore, pocketbooks, laptops and other items should not be left unattended in classrooms, offices or restrooms, as they become easy targets for theft.

“I strongly advise everyone to keep their personal and state items locked and secured as necessary,” he said. “This also applies to your car in the parking lot. It is recommended that you do not keep items visible in your car even if it is locked.”

Anyone who sees suspicious behavior or activities are asked to report them to the Security Department. Due diligence by all will help us maintain a safe campus and working environment.

Faculty, Staff Highlights

Faculty, staff live on $4/day for hunger awareness

More than a dozen members of GCC’s faculty and staff participated last month in a National Hunger Awareness Week Challenge where they tried to eat for just $4 a day per person, the average national food stamps benefit, also known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP benefit.

The program was sponsored the week of Nov. 14 by GCC’s Business and Nursing departments in commemoration of National Hunger Awareness Week. Participants also were asked to donate a non-perishable food item to GCC’s Core Committee food drive and, if they chose, donate to the Student Government Association’s Campus Hunger Awareness Collection. In all, almost $200 and about 25 pounds of food were donated.

Lee Tripler, GCC’s AmeriCorps Vista member, was one of the organizers and she also participated. She said some people started the challenge, but found it too difficult to complete a whole week.

“Everyone who participated was very supportive of each other throughout the process,” Tripler said. “Professor Lorraine Li brought in a food scale so we could measure our food to deduct what we were consuming from our budget for the day. I really had to plan out my food for the week before the challenge started. Although my body started adjusting towards the end of the week, it really had an impact on my stamina and I found myself fatigued earlier in the day than I normally felt.”

GCC professor hosts ‘Taste of the Chamber’

Stephen Fries, GCC professor and coordinator of our Hospitality Management Program, hosted the “Taste of the Chamber” event Nov. 16 at the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce’s Business Expo at the Oakdale in Wallingford.

The 3rd annual Taste of the Chamber included sample menu items from several of New Haven’s finest restaurants, including the Black Bear Saloon, Wicked Wolf New Haven, Elm City Market, Leon’s, Box 63, Delia Inc., Red Lentil, Zaroka Bar & Restaurant and Kelly’s Restaurant & Bar.

Fries is also the food columnist for the New Haven Register and host of cookbookslive.com. A frequent contributor to WTNH’s News 8 CT Style’s “In the
Kitchen,” Fries is also vice president of the Elm City Market board of directors and host of “Worth Tasting,” a culinary walking tour of downtown New Haven.

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ELC personnel present ‘Dads’ workshop

Marge Weiner, director of GCC’s Early Learning Center (ELC), and Josh Berrios, the ELC’s male involvement coordinator, presented their “Calling All Dads” workshop at the annual Connecticut Association for the Education of Young Children conference Oct. 21-22.

This was the second year Weiner and Berrios presented their workshop, which GCC has been lauded for piloting. The first ELC Male Involvement event took place Nov. 3 when community resource representatives provided information on employment training, parenting, men’s health and community organizations for men attending.

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Survey aims to help maintain respectful workplace

GCC’s Office of Institutional Research last week completed a survey of faculty and staff at the college as part of a new initiative to maintain a respectful workplace environment that was launched at the beginning of this semester.

The 12-question online Intergroup Experience Survey was confidential and designed to assess the level of respect present in the college’s workplace environment. In all, 226 of the faculty and staff participated. All full- and part-time employees were invited to participate. About 65 percent of the full-time employees responded the survey.

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Student Highlights

1st Student Appreciation Lunch serves 600

About 600 GCC students were served lunch Nov. 22 by college faculty and staff from student services on both our Long Wharf and North Haven campuses as part of the college’s first-ever Student Appreciation Lunch.

Dean of Students Wilson Luna said the event, held to show the college’s appreciation for our students and provide them with a healthy lunch, was co-sponsored by the Gateway Community College Foundation and the cafeteria, led by John Tarasidis.

In all, 25 members of the GCC faculty and staff, along with three Student Government Association representatives, did the serving. Our thanks go out to the committee who helped coordinate the event, which included Wilson Luna, Mary Ellen Cody, Susan Swirsky, Marcia Doran, Alice Pandolfi, Michael Buccilli, John Tarasidis, and SGA President Samantha Heltke.
46 students inducted into Phi Theta Kappa chapter

Forty-six academically outstanding students were inducted into GCC’s Alpha Xi Theta chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society in a ceremony and reception held Nov. 18 at GCC’s North Haven campus.

The mission of the Phi Theta Kappa is to recognize and encourage the academic success of students attending two-year colleges. Members have the opportunity to participate in honors and leadership programs, community service and fellowship programming. Students who are inducted have completed 12 hours of course work while achieving a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.


Entrepreneurship students teach pre-K innovation

A GCC entrepreneurship class met Nov. 22 with about 20 preschool children from GCC's ELC to teach them about innovation and entrepreneurship.

The project, which was sponsored by GCC’s Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE), included reading a children’s rhyme to the preschoolers about how the Frisbee was invented from a pie plate in New Haven and students working one-on-one with the children to develop an idea for a new animal cookie that could go into a box of animal cookies.

Later the children voted for their top cookie ideas and a GCC culinary baking class is making the cookies to present to the preschoolers and their entrepreneurship mentors to show them how ideas can become a reality.

To learn more about the event, click here to read an article in the New Haven Register about it.
Calendar Highlights

Dec. 15: President’s Holiday Gathering

GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick invites all GCC faculty and staff to join her for a Holiday Gathering on Thursday, Dec. 15, in room 213 on the Long Wharf campus. The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Refreshments will be served.

Dec. 28: Winter intersession begins

Registration is underway for GCC’s popular winter intersession schedule, where students home for winter break can complete many transferable three-credit general education courses in just three weeks.

Courses begin Dec. 28 and end Jan. 13. There are more than 30 courses offered this year, including many evening and online courses for working students. Early registration is encouraged for the best chance at getting a preferred class. For more information, an application or to schedule a campus tour, call the Office of Admissions at (203) 285-2010.

Jan. 18-20: Faculty, staff tours of new campus

Faculty and staff are invited to participate in a second round of tours of our new downtown campus Jan. 18-20.

Each tour will take approximately 40 minutes and a shuttle bus will be provided to and from the new campus site downtown. To sign up, contact Brenda Haase at bhaase@gwcc.commnet.edu to reserve a seat on the shuttle bus.

All participants will have to complete a waiver form and have it with them the day of the tour to give directly to Dimeo Construction Co., which will provide participants with required safety vests, goggles and hard hats. Those who participated in tours earlier this year must complete the forms again. The forms are available through Brenda Haase as well.

Jan. 29: College Goal Sunday event planned

On Sunday, Jan. 29, GCC’s Long Wharf campus will be a host site for College Goal Sunday, a statewide college planning event for would-be students and their parents.

Participants can visit with financial aid counselors and college staff from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and receive one-on-one, expert advice about financial aid and planning for
GCC is one of 12 campuses across Connecticut hosting the event. In a single afternoon, participants can become familiar with college entrance requirements, learn about planning for college, and obtain on-site assistance in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA.

“Participating in College Goal Sunday not only gives students and their families an opportunity to complete the FAFSA with the help of industry professionals, but also gives them a chance to ask questions in a comfortable and relaxed setting,” said Associate Director of Financial Aid Steven J. McDowell.

Participants are asked to register for the event at www.collegegoalsundayct.org. For more information about GCC’s event, contact the Financial Aid Office at 203-285-2030.

College Goal Sunday is funded and sponsored by the Lumina Foundation for Education, the Connecticut Association of Professional Financial Aid Administrators, the Connecticut Association of Educational Opportunity Programs and the YMCAs of Connecticut.