Events

Smart Start Registration Events
» December 11 1PM Commons
» December 17 4PM Commons
» December 18 1PM Commons
» December 19 1PM Commons

Selective Programs Information Sessions
Nursing
» December 16 5-6PM RM TBD
» January 7 2-3PM RM 204
» February 3 5-6PM RM TBD
» February 4 2-3PM RM 204
» February 10 5-6PM RM TBD

Dental Programs
» December 11 2-3PM RM 204

Dual Enrollment
» December 17 3-4:30PM RM TBD
» January 21 3:45-4:30PM RM 104

Medical Assisting
» February 13 2-3PM RM TBD

Physical Therapist Assistant
» December 18 3-6PM RM 205

Practical Nursing
» December 16 5-6PM RM TBD
» December 19 2-3PM RM 204
» February 3 5-6PM RM TBD
» February 10 5-6PM RM TBD
» February 20 2-3PM RM TBD

Pre-Healthcare Academy
» December 18 3-4PM RM 204
» January 15 3-4PM RM TBD
» February 19 3-4PM RM TBD

Radiologic Technologist
» February 12 2-3PM RM TBD

Legend
○ = Gardner  l = Leominster  f = Fitchburg  d = Devens

For more information regarding the college’s events, call admissions at 978-630-9110.

HIREed Mission
To connect students of all ages with resources and opportunities for career growth in North Central Massachusetts and New England, and to inform its readership of the specific services and programs available at Mount Wachusett Community College.

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MC112-02 V3 | Nov13

MWCC seeks to provide equal educational and employment opportunities and does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, creed, disability, genetic information, gender, marital status, race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

On the Cover
Veteran, student leader and mentor Bryan Sanderson
» Story on page 6
IT IS WITH PLEASURE THAT WE PRESENT THE WINTER ISSUE OF MOUNT WACHUSETT COMMUNITY COLLEGE’S HIREed MAGAZINE. With a focus on specific trends and the distinct qualities of our students, you’ll find informative articles about transfer opportunities, our engaging faculty, the many support services available to all students, and new academic programs.

Community colleges are diverse institutions that serve a wide variety of needs. Our institutional mission is to provide access to education for learners of all ages, walks of life, and skill levels. Many community college students are seeking to upgrade their skills for a particular job, want to pursue an associate degree to transfer to a four-year institution, or are interested in pursuing a hobby or exploring new interests. Our purpose is unique, and the educational outcomes of community college students reflect our diversity.

For these reasons and more, we are committed to providing valuable and relatable information within each publication of HIREed. Enjoy!

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President
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23 CUSTOMIZE IT YOUR WAY
Choose the when and where of your education.
By Robin A. Duncan

WHETHER YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A NEW JOB, DEVELOPING NEW SKILLS, OR UNSURE OF YOUR CAREER DIRECTION, MWCC is a great place to help you find your way. It’s all about informed choices when finding a career, right? Sometimes it’s just a matter of evaluating the choices and developing strategies to get a job, even through the toughest of times.

Consider the following tips that could help you get (or keep) a job:

Be a lifelong learner and master the skills of the future

Technical careers, like information technology, and nontechnical jobs are requiring computer proficiency. Companies are automating many of their operations to streamline efficiencies and they need employees who are comfortable with, and can use, the Internet and common programs such as Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Excel. Technically interested or not, it is important to stay with the times and brush up on technological skills.

Look for a job that can’t be automated and needs a human touch

A career that depends on face-to-face attention or human intelligence may be the right choice for you. A computer can never replace work that requires physical presence and empathy. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, hard to automate and outsourced careers, such as medical assistant, human services, and business administration, make up a large sector of the fastest-growing occupations.

Choose a stable career that is needed

Life happens regardless of the economy. Two fields that continue to show a need and growing demand are education and healthcare. Why? Because schools stay open and people get sick. With an increasing percentage of teachers and nurses reaching retirement age, there are many career opportunities in both fields. Similar fields to consider are in allied health, dental hygiene, early childhood education, complementary health, medical coding and billing, and physical therapist assisting.

Check out MWCC’s Career Coach tool mwcc.edu/careercoach

It’s free, online, and designed to help identify potential career matches provided by the most current local data on wages, employment and job postings. It helps you identify your career potential with the educational opportunities needed to get you where you want to go.

Average salaries:

- Paralegal & Legal Assistant: $22 per hr*
- Physical Therapist Assistant: $25 per hr*
- Dental Hygienist: $39 per hr*
- Registered Nurse: $38 per hr*

*statistics received from Career Coach, visit mwcc.edu/HIREed/career for the most up-to-date data.
WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO OVERCOME THE OBSTACLES THAT OFTEN STAND BETWEEN A STUDENT AND A COLLEGE DEGREE? Persistence, guidance from others, and a steady eye on the prize.

Just ask Bryan Sanderson. He’s not only been there, he has created a campus support program that is helping other Mount Wachusett Community College students achieve academic, career and personal success.

Suddenly unemployed? Transitioning from the military to the classroom? Juggling a hectic home life? Wondering how to pay for college - and once there, how you’ll ever pass courses in your most challenging subject area, be it math, English or science?

These are some of the challenges Sanderson faced, and he wants students in distress to send out an SOS signal. He and other peer mentors will gladly respond.

After learning that many community college students struggle to stay in school for one reason or another, Sanderson crafted a success plan for himself, and then made it his mission to establish MWCC’s new Students Serving Our Students office (Students SOS), located within the college’s Center for Civic Learning and Community Engagement.

During its first semester, nearly 450 students tapped into the available resources and support. Student mentors in the SOS office provide peers with information, referrals, and hands-on assistance with life issues that are posing barriers to their academic success, such as childcare, transportation issues, financial assistance, food assistance, housing and heating oil assistance, as well as guidance for on-campus tutoring and other support services.

“In the military, you’re always looking out for the person next to you,” says Sanderson, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran who served in the 1990-1991 Gulf War.

“You’re always taught to have your battle buddy. You had to trust the guy next to you to look out for you and you had to look out for him. And that’s what we do in the SOS office. Students come to us with an issue or several issues. We’re not counselors, but we put on a counselor hat because we want to help them figure out the root problem that is keeping them from being successful.”

“It’s never too late to improve your situation... People my age have more to offer because of that life experience.” - Bryan Sanderson
The Lunenburg resident earned national recognition for his initiative. In March, Sanderson received the Newman Civic Fellow Award from Campus Compact, which promotes student involvement in community and service learning programs. Sanderson was among 181 students across the country honored with the award.

Sanderson enlisted in the Marines out of high school and following four years of military service, worked as a carpenter for about two decades. When the economy tanked in 2008, he found himself among the unemployed.

A dedicated husband, father of three young girls, and volunteer soccer coach, Sanderson decided to enroll at MWCC to pursue a degree in Human Services, and quickly became a highly engaged role model on campus, including through his involvement with the college's Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success.

“I think a lot of people my age or even younger think it’s too late to go to college,” Sanderson says. “It’s never too late to improve your situation. If that means going back to school after so many years, it’s not too late. People my age have more to offer because of that life experience.”

He has made the President’s List and Dean’s List for his academic achievements and has also served as a member of the Commonwealth Corps, as a student ambassador on campus, as a peer mentor for fellow veterans, and as an officer in the Veterans Group, which is a chapter of the Student Veterans of America organization. After earning his associate degree in May 2014, he plans to pursue his bachelor's and master's degrees in the field.

“We are extremely proud of Bryan for his leadership on campus and in the community, and are delighted that he has been recognized with the distinguished Newman Civic Fellow Award,” President Daniel M. Asquino says. “As a student leader at Mount Wachusett, Bryan has served in a variety of capacities and works tirelessly on behalf of others because he has a true passion for helping others.”

MWCC Criminal Justice student Andrew Brunell, a Marine Corps veteran of the Afghanistan war, considers Sanderson a mentor and friend. “He helped me navigate what's what around here as well as in my personal life. He helped me figure out what I wanted in life.”

“What has set Bryan apart is his interest in assisting other students in achieving their dreams,” says Fagan Forhan, Director of Experiential Learning Opportunities and Civic Engagement at MWCC. “Bryan is truly dedicated to improving the community he calls home. He serves as a motivator to others and inspires everyone he encounters to always be the best they can be.”
AT MOUNT WACHUSETT COMMUNITY COLLEGE, YOUR SUCCESS IS OUR SUCCESS. Whatever help you need — academics, career choices, financial or personal concerns — faculty and staff are there to support you. In addition to the Students SOS office (page 6), which provides peer support in a variety of areas, personalized support services at MWCC include:

Visions & Rx Programs
The Visions Program and Rx Program provide support for students who have limited income, disabilities or are first in their families to attend college. The Rx Program is specifically for students enrolled in health sciences programs. In these TRIO programs, students receive career and personal counseling, tutoring, academic advising and transfer counseling, and participate in cultural and recreational activities. For more, visit mwcc.edu/support/trio/visions.

Academic Support Center
Students at all levels of academic achievement use the Academic Support Center for free individual, group or online tutoring. For more, visit mwcc.edu/lib/asc.

Academic Advising
MWCC students are paired with an academic advisor who helps them throughout their degree or certificate program, including course selection and building an education plan. For more, visit mwcc.edu/advising.

Career Counseling
Mount Wachusett students can tap into career counseling services whether they are choosing a major, exploring career options or conducting a job search. Students receive advising on every aspect of the job search. For more, visit mwcc.edu/career.

Veterans Services
MWCC’s Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success addresses the unique academic, financial, physical and social needs of veterans transitioning to college. The center provides a comfortable, community-based environment and centralized location for veterans and their dependents seeking a college degree. For more, visit mwcc.edu/veteran.

Students with Disabilities
MWCC is fully accessible, offering services and accommodations for those with physical and learning disabilities. The adaptive computer lab, equipped with assistive technology, helps students with disabilities achieve academic success. For more, visit mwcc.edu/support/disability.

"From diverse experiences and situations, our students connect their real world knowledge with our excellent faculty, challenging classroom experiences, and supportive community to find success at MWCC and beyond.”

- Deb Boucher, Director of Student Success
NANCY STORER WANTED TO GO TO COLLEGE RIGHT OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL, BUT AT THE TIME, THAT DREAM SEEMED OUT OF REACH.

“There was just this unspoken thing. College was not an option for me. I grew up in a very traditional, multi-cultural Middle Eastern home, and the expectation was that I would work, get married and have a family. So, I did,” she says.

While raising her children, Storer worked part-time jobs for 16 years. Yet she never lost sight of her dream of going to college. When her children were teenagers and the intense responsibilities of parenthood subsided a bit, she enrolled at MWCC. “I just jumped in and the ride has been amazing.”

She’s not alone. Half of MWCC students are age 25 and above. Many, like Storer, are enrolling in college for the first time, while others are returning to finish what they once started.

Storer’s decision to go back to school has made her feel better than when she was working at low-paying, unskilled labor positions. She felt dispensable, and that she had to work so hard for such little pay.

“Education is empowerment, and with empowerment comes confidence, and confidence is transformative,” she says. “Going back to school was 100 percent the right choice for me. I had been out of the labor force on a full-time basis for so long that my skills and credentials were no longer relevant, and the part-time unskilled labor that I dabbled in while my kids were small was a total dead end for me.”

While at MWCC, Storer was inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa honor society, was in the Commonwealth Honors Program, and served as treasurer of the Human Services Club. She was encouraged by faculty and staff to take her education a step further by pursuing a bachelor’s degree. She graduated in 2011 with an associate degree in Human Services, and then transferred to one of the most prestigious women’s colleges in the country, Wellesley College, on a generous financial aid package.
At Wellesley, Storer is majoring in Women and Gender Studies with a concentration in Public Policy. Her prior work in MWCC’s Honors Program colloquium course on the three waves of the Women’s Movement deeply influenced the direction of her future studies.

“I truly feel that community colleges are an ultimate example of social justice. Anyone can walk through the doors, take a placement test, and start on a path to educational attainment. I will forever be grateful to the Mount and a faithful supporter of community college education.”

DISCOVERING ONE’S CALLING

WHEN ASHLEY GOUGH ENROLLED AT MWCC IN 2007, SHE HAD A PASSION FOR WRITING BUT NOT A DEFINITIVE DIRECTION FOR A CAREER. A single mother, she embraced her studies as well as co-curricular activities, including serving as editor of the student newspaper, The Mount Observer. A member of the Commonwealth Honors Program, Phi Theta Kappa honor society, and the recipient of several academic awards at MWCC, Gough also received a prestigious national award, the Payne Journalism Award, in the collegiate division.

After earning an associate degree in Liberal Arts & Sciences, Gough packed up her credentials - and her daughter - and enrolled at Smith College as an Ada Comstock Scholar. There, she received a generous financial aid package and moved into family housing.

At Smith, Gough’s passion for writing grew in a new direction – teaching others to express themselves through the written word. She facilitates workshops for the Northampton-based nonprofit Voices from Inside at the Western Regional Women’s Correctional Center in Chicopee. Using the Amherst Writers & Artists’ method, she guides incarcerated women in writing exercises that are ultimately published. In addition, Gough also volunteers with the Prison Birth Project, another nonprofit that works with women in jail who are pregnant or new moms.

Gough graduated from Smith in May 2013, earning a bachelor’s degree in American Studies. She plans to continue on for a master’s degree in social work and would like to continue working with the prison population. Ultimately, she would like to start her own nonprofit organization.

“Earning an associate degree at MWCC before transferring can provide substantial savings to students. Tuition and fees are far less than four-year institutions and by completing an associate degree first, students can save substantial sums off the overall cost of a bachelor’s degree.” - Academic Counselor for Transfer, Limari Rivera
Beginning an academic career at a community college and then transferring to a public or private four-year college or university is a popular strategy for students interested in earning a bachelor’s degree. From teens to adult learners and career changers, more students are taking this route for its many advantages, including low tuition, online courses, transfer agreements with public and private colleges and universities, and the opportunity to explore a variety of fields while determining a major.

MWCC students have transferred as far away as the University of Alaska and as nearby as Fitchburg State University. Transfer agreements between MWCC and four-year public and private colleges and universities allow graduates to transfer easily into bachelor’s degree programs. Agreements include:

2+2 Agreement
To provide students with an opportunity for a seamless transfer, the 2+2 agreement is a partnership established between MWCC and participating four-year institutions. After successfully completing an associate degree at MWCC in a designated program, students may enter as a junior at any participating four-year college or university to pursue a bachelor’s degree.

3+1 Agreement
MWCC and participating four-year institutions allow students to earn an associate degree plus an additional 30 credits at MWCC, at MWCC prices, before transferring for senior year into a 3+1 bachelor’s degree program. Participating schools include: Bellevue University, Charter Oak State College, Elms College, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Mount Ida College, Nichols College, Regis College, and Saint Joseph’s College of Maine.

Mass Transfer
Students can earn an associate degree at MWCC and then reap the benefits of guaranteed admission, full transfer of credit, and a tuition discount to certain bachelor’s degree programs within the Massachusetts public higher education system. The associate degree must be approved under MassTransfer and the benefit is based upon a student’s final GPA.

Ladder Your Skills from a Certificate to a Degree
MWCC students can also “ladder” skills by using credits from a certificate program toward a degree program. By first earning a certificate, which can take as little as one year to complete, students gain résumé-ready credentials while continuing their studies and working in their field of choice. Several MWCC certificates transfer seamlessly into the corresponding degree program.
What’s happening in your neighborhood?

At Mount Wachusett Community College, there is always a nearby and convenient option for you to continue your education. In addition to the main campus in Gardner, we have satellite campuses in Leominster, Devens and program-specific offerings in Fitchburg. Our courses, programs, certificates, and degrees provide you with the academic foundation, personalized attention and affordability to fit into your busy life. Take the first step toward your future dreams, explore the opportunities at one of our campuses or online and see how a college education can fit into your life!
FITCHBURG

The campus in Fitchburg is home to MWCC’s Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene programs. The Dental Assisting program is a part-time evening certificate program that prepares students for dental assisting board certification. The Dental Hygiene program is a full-time, day program that prepares graduates for licensure as registered dental hygienists. “Our students graduate from Dental Hygiene with an excellent knowledge base that has allowed them to successfully pass licensing board examinations and enter the workforce with superior clinical skills,” says Anne Malkasian, MWCC’s Director of Dental Hygiene programs.

LEOMINSTER

The campus in Leominster offers a wide variety of courses, including Accounting, Biology, Business, Complementary Health Care, Computer Information Systems, Criminal Justice, Economics, English as a Second Language and many more. “The success of the MWCC Leominster campus has been rooted in our response to community and student needs and our ability to enhance student success,” says campus Director John Walsh.

DEVENS

In 2010, MWCC President Daniel M. Asquino announced that the former Fort Devens intelligence building would be reinvented as an educational hub for emerging technology and healthcare programs to satisfy regional employers’ demand for technical and medical professionals. Since then, the college has offered a Biotechnology/Biomanufacturing certificate and degree program and an Energy Management certificate. “Devens is quickly growing in the areas of healthcare and biotechnology and we are now offering more and more programs focused in these areas,” says Julie Crowley, director of the Devens campus.

Leominster Campus Offers Law Enforcement Certificate Program

Are you looking for a fast track option to get into the law enforcement field? The Leominster campus is now offering a Law Enforcement Certificate during the evening. Certificate programs provide you with up-to-date expertise for a specific career and connect you with quick training needed to launch your career, strengthen current skills, or pursue an interest. You can complete the course work in as few as two semesters full-time or attend part-time to still get the education you need amidst work, kids and other life obligations. Our outstanding criminal justice faculty includes working practitioners and instructors with expertise in law enforcement, prosecutorial systems, and corrections. Visit mwcc.edu/programs for more information.
Christine Oakes is among the many adults choosing to work in two completely different fields, joining the growing ranks of slash careerists.

A slash careerist refers to people who pursue two or more careers or vocations simultaneously, as noted by author Marci Alboher in her 2007 book *One Person/Multiple Careers.*

As an accountant/wellness instructor, Oakes could not have picked two more different careers. After graduating 30 years ago from Southern Connecticut State University with a bachelor’s degree in accounting, she moved to Los Angeles to work as an accountant for the Hard Rock Café. One day after work, a coworker invited her to take a yoga class at Billy Porter’s acclaimed Urban Yoga Institute. For Oakes, the trip sparked a lifelong passion for yoga and fitness.

In 1988, she returned to the East Coast where she raised two daughters, Sarah and Rihana. When they left for college, the Troy, N.H. resident saw the typical “empty nest syndrome” as a chance to explore new opportunities and pursue her passion. At the time, her daughter Rihana was attending MWCC and Oakes began thumbing through the academic program brochure. A believer in signs, when she came across the Complementary Health Care program, she knew it was the right choice for her.

She recalls her first yoga course, and how nervous she felt. “I barely said a word during my first class. I felt so out of my element as an older student surrounded by younger students. It turned out that I was nervous for no reason. By the end of the course, I could call every one of those students my friend.”

In May, Oakes earned an associate degree in Complementary Health Care and received the department’s curriculum award...
for her academic achievements. She is now teaching yoga and kickboxing classes at Kickboxing Keene.

“I had the greatest experience at MWCC,” Oakes says. “The instructors were so professional and taught me what I needed to know to start teaching yoga to others just one month after graduating. It was not a program where I wondered if I would ever use what I was being taught. I used all of it and I am using it now to teach classes.”

In 2007, Oakes began practicing martial arts and received her second-degree black belt in 2012. As both a student and teacher of yoga and kickboxing, she discovered the importance of philosophy and the connection between soul, mind and body. Her experience and knowledge in yoga have helped her maintain balance in other areas of her life, particularly the business environment, where she works with her husband, Ed.

“I used to go home and be stressed out about people’s finances and if something was not right, I would see it as my fault and take it very personally.” After learning and practicing the yoga mindset, she can bring those practices to her accounting business and relieve stress through breathing exercises and meditation. Oakes says the differences in these two careers give her the balance she is looking for to keep both her mind and body active and at peace.

“We believe Christine Oakes may be the most relaxed accountant ever,” says Margaret Jaillet, associate dean of MWCC’s School of Health Professions, Public Service Programs and Social Sciences and a Complementary Health Care professor.

“At MWCC, I learned that doing yoga is not strictly a physical activity,” Oakes says. “Yoga, like martial arts, is about applying what you learn during session off the mat and into the real world. I try to keep myself in the yoga lifestyle and wellness mindset of kindness, gratitude and discipline. I reread my textbooks, even after graduating, to make sure that I’m staying on top of my field and staying focused.”

**Complementary Health Care**

MWCC offers an associate degree in Complementary Health Care as well as a 10-course certificate program.

The programs provide an excellent option for those who are currently working in healthcare, human resources, teaching, or other professions and wish to enhance their skills, as well as professionals who need college credits to meet Continuing Education Unit (CEU) requirements to maintain licensure in nursing, physical therapy, counseling, teaching or other careers.

The programs focus on complementary health care philosophy, theories and practices and offer an innovative opportunity to study complementary and holistic approaches to maintaining health and supporting recovery from injury or illness. Training in several modalities is offered, including reiki, reflexology, yoga, and stress management.

Career options include coordinating programs at fitness and wellness centers, hospitals and spas. Many practitioners may be self-employed or combine training with certification in other health disciplines.

Interested in having your own slash career? MWCC offers a variety of degree and certificate programs in areas such as art, photography, computer graphic design, energy management, business administration, and small business management.
By Janice O’Connor

THE ROAD TO SUCCESS FOR SOME IS FILLED WITH MANY TWISTS, TURNS, BUMPS, DETOURS, AND OBSTACLES. Others, like Templeton residents Gerald and Renay Bankowski, find that the journey can be predominantly smooth when equipped with a road map, directions, a traveling companion, and a destination in mind.

For the Bankowskis, that destination wasn’t far away. Like many graduates of Massachusetts’ public colleges and universities, the couple chose to remain in the community they consider home to live, work and raise a family of their own.

Jerry Bankowski and Renay Gingras met at Narragansett Regional High School, where he was a member of the football team and she was a cheerleader. After graduating in 1977, the high school sweethearts continued their studies at Mount Wachusett Community College. Jerry graduated in 1980 with an associate degree in Business Technology (now Business Administration) and Renay earned an associate degree in 1981 in what was then the college’s Executive Secretarial program.

Following an internship at Heywood Hospital, Renay was hired to work as a medical secretary, in the X-ray department and laboratory, and later worked for a urologist in the local area for several years.

“ I like the small business atmosphere. You feel like you are really helping others in the community. It’s nice to give back.”

-Jerry Bankowski
“The degree and internship definitely opened up doors for me. I got the job I desired afterward,” she says.

“The experience was good and the professors always gave you individual attention,” Jerry recalls. “It helped prepare you for the world in general, not just your concentration, and the courses prepared me for a smooth transition to Nichols College. For us, it was affordable and a good education. I’m very happy I took the path I did.”

At MWCC, the couple met fellow students that remain lifelong friends to this day and continue to use the college’s amenities, such as Theatre at the Mount and the Fitness & Wellness Center. They have two adult sons, Greg and Jeff, who as children played many youth soccer league games on the MWCC fields and enjoyed swimming in the indoor pool. “We felt fortunate to have such an updated facility close to home,” Renay says.

At Nichols, Jerry earned a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration and then worked for six years at a national accounting firm before coming back to Gardner. After working for 12 years at BDO Seidman, he became a managing partner with Venning & Jacques, P.C., a firm established in 1978 by Robert Venning and David Jacques, and is licensed as a certified public accounting firm by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Board of Accountancy. Under Jerry’s leadership, the firm expanded and now has satellite offices in Orange and Fitchburg, where Renay works for the family-run business.

Jerry has extensive experience in performing financial statement audits for a diverse range of clients, including manufacturing, distribution, financial institution, foreign-owned, closely-held and publicly-held businesses. He also has experience in mergers and acquisition accounting and domestic and international consolidations, as well as extensive experience in individual and corporate taxation.

“I like the small business atmosphere,” he says. “You feel like you are really helping others in the community. It’s nice to give back.”

He currently serves as a director for GFA Federal Credit Union, and served as a director and treasurer of GVNA Healthcare, Inc., as a trustee, treasurer and finance committee member for Heywood Hospital, and as a trustee at Stetson School in Barre.

Professionally, he is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Massachusetts Society of Certified Public Accountants. “He has accomplished quite a lot in his career. I’m very proud of him,” Renay says.
EDUCATION
Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from Anna Maria College
Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology from Anna Maria College
Chairperson of the Human Services & Behavioral Sciences Department

HOBBIES
Gardening, reading, visiting flea markets & yard sales

HOME STATE
Born and raised in Gardner

RECENTLY VISITED
New Orleans, Miami Beach, Hilton Head, SC & Cape Cod

PHILOSOPHY
Strive to make classroom theory relevant to diverse life experiences

FAVORITES
Course to teach: Introduction to Psychology and Human Growth & Development
Student moment: I teach at MWCC for those moments when students discover their own inner motivation to learn.
Quote: “Who dares to teach must never cease to learn.” (John Cotton Dana)
Book: The Help by Kathryn Stockett and Far From the Tree by Andrew Solomon
In Front of the Class with JANICE GEARAN
Professor of Psychology

By Sarah McMaster

PROFESSOR JANICE GEARAN FIRST CAME TO MWCC AS A COORDINATOR OF THE MENTAL HEALTH TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATE GRANT PROGRAM and an adjunct instructor in psychology. Now she is a full-time faculty member with a passion for Human Services and education.

Before her time with the college, Gearan worked hands-on as a social worker, case manager, adult foster care coordinator, and intake supervisor. This real world experience helps her give MWCC students the best career-track education in Human Services.

When she isn’t busy teaching and mentoring students, Gearan is engaged with our community. A former member of the Gardner Council on Aging and the Gardner VNA (now GVNA Healthcare, Inc.) Board of Directors, she currently serves as Secretary of the New England Organization for Human Services and as a board member of the Montachusett Home Care Corporation. Outside of her many civic engagements, Gearan’s favorite moments are spent with her family, especially her grandson.

Gearan’s dedication does not go unnoticed. She has been the recipient of a National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development Excellence Award, an Anna Maria College Alumni Award, the Anna Maria Everyday Heroes Award, an MWCC “HerStory” recognition honoring female faculty, and the Massachusetts 29 Who Shine faculty recognition.

“Professor Gearan is an excellent, amazing, inspiring professor and mentor. She is encouraging and compassionate and helped me reach academic goals that I never thought I could achieve. She honestly cares for her students and wants them to learn to the best of their abilities.”
-Christine Eck, 2013 graduate & Student Trustee 2012-2013

Human Services

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, human services is one of the fastest growing career fields and job prospects are excellent. MWCC offers an associate degree and a certificate in Human Services for those interested in building a rewarding career helping others. A majority of the courses can be completed online, during the day or in the evening at the Gardner or Leominster campuses.

The associate degree program prepares graduates for entry-level positions in social services or for transfer to a four-year college or university to pursue a bachelor’s degree in human services, psychology, social work, sociology, or other related majors. Volunteer opportunities, service learning, and civic engagement components enhance the classroom experience.

Career options include:

- Mental health assistant
- Case manager
- Intake specialist
- Community organizer
- Counselor
- Domestic violence worker
- Residential staff and house manager
- Advocate
- Substance abuse worker
- Social service aid and a wide variety of related professions

Explore MWCC’s many options by visiting:
mwcc.edu/catalog
OPPORTUNITY starts here...

APPLY for ADMISSION

ONLINE: mwcc.edu/apply
PAPER: Stop by any campus or download an application at mwcc.edu/apply

APPLY for FINANCIAL AID

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). fasa.gov

SMART START advising & registration

An academic advisor will discuss your test scores, develop an educational plan, review support services and online class options, and register you for classes. mwcc.edu/smartstart

PAYMENT

Arrange for payment options, waive health insurance and learn about the Mountain Lion Debit Card. mwcc.edu/accounts

TEXTBOOKS

Purchase your textbooks either through an outside vendor, on campus, or through MWCC’s online bookstore: bnctextbookrental.com

Start near. Go far. Achieve success! Attend class, visit professors during their office hours, stay connected with services on campus, and seek help if you need it.

Admissions: 978-630-9110
Financial Aid: 978-630-9169
Health Services: 978-630-9136
Student Accounts: 978-630-9149
North Central Educational Opportunity Center: 978-630-9823
Academic Advisors:
Gardner: 978-630-9109
Leominster: 978-630-9812
Devens: 978-630-9569

mwcc.edu/HIREed | 877-324-6815
What is financial aid?
Financial aid is money provided by federal, state and college sources to help students pay their expenses while attending college. In general, all U.S. citizens and eligible non-citizens who are enrolled in an approved degree or certificate program are eligible to receive some type of financial assistance.

If I receive financial aid now, do I need to pay the money back later?
There are many grant and scholarship programs available that offer “free money” that does not have to be repaid. Other financial aid programs are in the form of low interest loans that do require repayment, but only after the student has stopped attending school.

How can I get financial assistance if I’m not even sure how to apply?
Applying for financial aid can be confusing. At MWCC, many workshops are offered to assist students with the online application process. There is also one-on-one assistance available through the North Central Educational Opportunity Center (NCEOC) located at our Leominster Campus.

I’m not sure I qualify for financial aid. Should I complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)?
Yes. The best way to determine what funds you qualify for is by completing this free application. Your financial eligibility will be determined by a number of factors including family income, the size of your family and number of family members attending college.
You can complete the FAFSA online at fafsa.gov. Follow the on-screen instructions, which will help guide you through the process.

When do I apply?
File as soon as you can, even if you are unsure about your college plans. Meeting financial aid deadlines is important, however, even if you have missed a deadline, you should still apply as soon as you decide to attend college.

Missing information letter
Some financial aid applications are selected for a verification process. Students who are required to complete this process will receive a “missing information” letter once the MWCC Financial Aid office receives your results. The letter will indicate the forms you will need to submit to complete your file. A financial aid award determination cannot be made until all required documents are submitted.

Award letter
Award information is made available to students 24/7 using the online self service system called WebConnect. An email is sent to the MWCC student email account once the file has been reviewed and packaged.

For more information call: 978-630-9169
Manufacturing remains a vital part of Massachusetts’ economy and is constantly evolving toward more automated and productive operations, yet there continues to be a shortage of skilled workers for several key roles within the changing face of manufacturing. One key to industry success is to have an educated entry-level-ready workforce.

In response, Mount Wachusett Community College is reaching out to adults of all ages, experience and education for training in the high-growth fields of medical device and advanced manufacturing. Scholarship programs are available. In fact, students interested in working in this field who meet specific eligibility requirements can have their entire tuition covered through scholarship funds.

Candidates for these training programs include unemployed or underemployed adults veterans and recent high school graduates. Successful students will become part of the much-needed workforce pipeline of advanced manufacturing workers with skills for the future.

MWCC offers a five-week, 75-hour Medical Device Manufacturing (MDM) Training Program that focuses on the needs of employers in this field. The course includes hands-on, lecture-based material and self-paced KeyTrain computerized curriculum leading to the National Career Readiness Certification.

Program content prepares eligible students for entry-level positions as assemblers, operators, inspectors and technicians.

Scholarship funds for the MDM Program are available through a grant to MWCC and Operon Resource Management by the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education Rapid Response Program. Students in the AMC Program may be eligible for a grant by the Commonwealth Corporation through the Workforce Competitive Trust Fund or a separate scholarship through the Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts.

MWCC offers a five-week, 75-hour Medical Device Manufacturing (MDM) Training Program that focuses on the needs of employers in this field.

Certificate of Completion, OSHA 10-hour Safety Certification and National Career Readiness Certification, while learning about working in the modern manufacturing field.

Information sessions take place regularly at MWCC’s Devens campus, 27 Jackson Road.
To register call: 978-630-9569
Customize your education by choosing courses offered during the day, evening and online. Attend classes at one of MWCC’s convenient campuses locations in Gardner, Leominster and Devens, as well as the program-specific site in Fitchburg.

**Monday**
- 8am @ Gardner - Statistics 143
- Work @ 9am
- 4:30pm - Pickup Charlie at daycare

**Tuesday**
- 8am @ Devens/Hybrid - English Comp 2
- Work @ 9am
- Intro to Photography - Online

**Wednesday**
- 8am @ Gardner - Statistics 143
- Work @ 9am
- 4:30pm - Pickup Charlie at daycare

**Thursday**
- 8am @ Devens/Hybrid - English Comp 2
- Work @ 9am
- Intro to Photography - Online

**Friday**
- Work @ 9am
- 8pm - Dinner at Cindy’s house

Start exploring your educational options: mwcc.edu/programs

For more information on MWCC academic programs and gainful employment information, please visit mwcc.edu/programs.
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE?
Let MWCC take you there.

Degrees & Concentrations
- Accounting
- Allied Health
- Art
- Audio Engineering
- Automotive Technology
- Biotechnology/Biomanufacturing
- Broadcasting & Electronic Media
- Business Administration
- Clinical Laboratory Science
- Communications
- Complementary Health Care
- Computer Graphic Design
- Computer Information Systems
- Corrections
- Criminal Justice
- Dental Hygiene
- Early Childhood Education
- Elementary Education
- Fire Science Technology
- Fitness Leadership & Exercise Science
- General Studies
- History & Political Science
- Human Services
- Law Enforcement
- Liberal Arts & Sciences
- Plastics Manufacturing Technology
- Medical Assisting
- Natural Resources
- Nursing
- Paralegal Studies
- Photography
- Physical Therapist Assistant
- Pre-Engineering
- Theatre Arts
- Video/Film

Certificates
- Accounting
- Allied Health
- Automotive Technology
- Biotechnology/Biomanufacturing
- Business Administration
- Complementary Health Care
- Computer Graphic Design
- Dental Assisting
- Energy Management
- Human Service Technician
- IT Support Specialist
- Law Enforcement
- Medical Coding & Billing
- Medical Office
- Office Assistant
- Paralegal
- Patient Care
- Personal Training
- Practical Nurse
- Professional Photography
- Small Business Management

Campuses
- Gardner
  444 Green Street
  Gardner, MA 01440
  978-630-9110

- Leominster
  100 Erdman Way
  Leominster, MA 01453
  978-630-9810

- Fitchburg
  275 Nichols Road
  Fitchburg, MA 01420
  978-630-9413

- Devens
  One Jackson Place
  27 Jackson Road
  Devens, MA 01434
  978-630-9569

Other Options
- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Emergency Medical Technician Training
- English as a Second Language Courses
- Honors Program
- Phlebotomy Certificate of Completion
- Radiologic Technologist Articulation Agreement

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