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Press Release

for immediate release

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MWCC Opens Entrepreneurship Center in North Quabbin Area

GARDNER – Mount Wachusett Community College's Life Long Learning and Workforce Development Division announces the grand opening of a new North Quabbin Entrepreneurship Center located in downtown Athol. In conjunction with the town of Athol and its Community Development Block Grant program, the new center will begin offering courses on January 18th at the North Quabbin Adult Education space at the new senior center annex (a.k.a. the former Mt. Video location) located at 80 Freedom Street.

A variety of over twenty business-oriented classes, ranging from \$39 to \$299 a course, will be offered through May on different days and at different times. Additional classes will be offered from June to August. Classes include Starting Your Own Business, Writing Your Business Plan, Designing Ads and Marketing Materials, How to Keep Books, and Developing Presentations for Prospective Investors. Classes are unique to the Athol location, and detailed descriptions are available on-line at www.mwcc.edu/wf. Classes are tailored to benefit, both, those persons interested in starting their own businesses, and current small business owners looking to enhance their entrepreneurial skills or find ways to more effectively run their businesses.

MWCC Associate Vice President of Life Long Learning Jeremiah Riordon commented, "We are extremely excited about the new Entrepreneurship Center located in the Quabbin Region. We know there is a lot of interest out there with people looking to improve their business processes, and even those interested in starting their own small businesses. We anticipate great success with our first round of classes with hopes of growing into a larger facility in the near future."

While open to anyone who wants to register for classes, tuition waivers will be made available through the town's CDBG program for income eligible residents from Athol, Petersham, Phillipston and Royalston, as a priority. Income eligible residents from Erving, New Salem, Orange, Warwick and Wendell will also be eligible for tuition waivers as class limits allow. Only 15 seats will be held for waivers in each course. Participants will be required to complete a self-declaration form that will include family income in order to be determined as income eligible.

For more information, contact the town's Office of Planning and Development at 978-575-0301 or via email at planning@townofathol.org. To register for classes, contact Teresita Encarnacion at the MWCC Workforce Development Office at 978-630-9575 or via email at tencarnacion@mwcc.mass.edu

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