CENTER STAFF

FAGAN FORHAN
Assistant Dean of K-12 Partnerships & Civic Engagement
fforhan@mwcc.mass.edu
978-630-9595

SHELLEY ERRINGTON NICHOLSON
Director, Senator Stephen M. Brewer Center for Civic Learning & Community Engagement
mnicholson5@mwcc.mass.edu
978-630-9219

LINDA TROWBRIDGE
Program Assistant, Senator Stephen M. Brewer Center for Civic Learning & Community Engagement
ltrowbridge@mwcc.mass.edu
978-630-9435

PATRICIA BREWERTON
Coordinator of Career Planning and Placement
p_brewerton@mwcc.mass.edu
978-630-9254

SUSAN MEAGHER
AmeriCorps*VISTA
smeagher1@mwcc.mass.edu
978-630-9358

UNITED WAY YOUTH VENTURE
LAUREN MOUNTAIN
Director
lmountain@mwcc.mass.edu
978-630-9201

MICHELLE BRENNAN
Assistant Director
mbrennan4@mwcc.mass.edu
978-630-9377

DONNA TOOTHAKER
Program Manager
dtoothaker@mwcc.mass.edu
978-630-9138

JAKE VANHILLO
Outreach Specialist
jvanhillo1@mwcc.mass.edu

RACHEL VARGELETIS
Outreach Specialist
rvargeletis@mwcc.mass.edu

MELISSA BEAULAC
Outreach Volunteer
mbeaulac@mwcc.mass.edu

STUDENT LEADERS IN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
Hanna Shailer  J Shelley  Chynna Donahoo  Justyce Gomez

SOS MENTORS & FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS
Francis Bumpus  Erin Jones  Elizabeth Lovern  Tim Specht
Chris Butler  Ashley Kabasinsky  Riya Patel  B. Tuttle
Mary Giancola  Karen Landry  Shannon Proctor
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## WELCOME LETTER FROM BREWER STAFF

- WELCOME LETTER FROM BREWER STAFF ................................................................. 4

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- AmeriCorps® VISTA ........................................................................................................... 6
- Students Serving our Students Office and Food for Thought: Campus Pantry .................. 7
- Faculty Mini-Grants ........................................................................................................... 9
- Student Leaders in Civic Engagement ............................................................................. 10
- Career Planning and Placement Job Fair ......................................................................... 12
- United Way Youth Venture ............................................................................................... 13

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Leadership Academy ......................................................................................................... 17
- 9-11 Thank You Cards ...................................................................................................... 17
- United Way Day of Caring ............................................................................................... 18
- Valentines for Vets ............................................................................................................ 19
- Hunger Games .................................................................................................................. 19
- Alternative Spring Break ................................................................................................. 20
- Cultural Engagement and International Service Trip: Costa Rica ................................. 22
- Enterprise Bank ............................................................................................................... 24
- Campus Conversations .................................................................................................... 24
- Political Events ................................................................................................................ 25
- Garrison Day of Service .................................................................................................. 25
- Coat Drive ........................................................................................................................ 25

## AWARDS

- Service Learning .............................................................................................................. 26
- Service Recognition ......................................................................................................... 27
- Service Learning and Volunteerism Celebration .......................................................... 28
- Sharyn Rice Award .......................................................................................................... 31
- Newman Civic Fellow .................................................................................................... 32

## IMPACT

- Total Impact Hours .......................................................................................................... 35
Hello,

It has been another eventful year at MWCC and the Brewer Center was proud to provide opportunities for faculty, staff and students to impact our community. Throughout the academic year, our students, faculty and staff engaged in exciting dialogues around challenging issues, made a lasting impact in our communities through service and volunteerism, and even traveled internationally to volunteer in Costa Rica while learning about its vibrant culture. Providing over 117,000 hours of service in one academic year is no small accomplishment and our students should be proud of their efforts.

We are living in an incredibly divisive time in our nation’s history. As such, we are the Brewer Center, try to provide every opportunity for our students to learn about the democratic process, challenge themselves on issues of equality and engage in the local community. We at the college are also very aware of the challenge facing college students today and as such we have continued to provide services, programs and referrals to aid our students in their retention and success. This year, the food pantry passed the 200 client milestone and began a partnership with the Worcester County Food Bank to ensure access to free nutritious foods. MWCC is the first to partner with the WCFB and are humbled to be chosen for this pilot. Being provided with food for the pantry at no-cost, through this partnerships, guarantees the long term sustainability of the pantry.

In the 2012 presidential elections only 46% of MWCC students voted (data on 2016 has yet to be released). 57.5% of all eligible voters in the United States participated in the 2012 presidential election. Why the disparity? There are many barriers students experience when attempting to
vote; transportation, on-time registration, childcare, etc. One of the missions of the Brewer Centers is to engage students in the election process and to that end, we hosted a speaker who talked about rank choice voting. Students, faculty and staff were intrigued to learn several states were already engaged in this practice and yet Massachusetts was not one of those states. We also worked with the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce to host a local candidate meet and greet. It is these opportunities which encourage students to view the democratic process (and their role in it) in a different light!

At our end of the year service celebration, Hanna Shailer, a Student Leader in Civic Engagement, addressed the gathering of 76 faculty, staff and students. She spoke of her love of and commitment to service on a local and international level. She also spoke of how the unique space we share, called affectionately “The Mount” is one of welcoming and a place for second chances. It was truly humbling to hear her words and at least for me, it reinforced the importance of the work we do every day with our amazing students.

As I envision what the 2019-2020 academic year will bring, I see hope and excitement. This November will mark the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Today, July 20th marks the 50th anniversary of the moon landing and in 2020 we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of women’s right to vote. These are all significant milestones in our history. It gives me great hope for all we can accomplish in the future.

Thanks,

Shelley Errington Nicholson

Director, Senator Stephen M. Brewer Center for Civic Learning & Community Engagement
This year the Brewer Center hosted Sue Meagher as the Southern New England Campus Compact AmeriCorps*VISTA. Sue was partnered with the Gardner CAC, Catholic Charities and our own SOS program with the focus of hunger alleviation and education on campus and to create a pipeline for disadvantaged community members to earn an education.

Under Sue’s coordination, the SOS Office sponsored a training for students who are interested in applying for SNAP (food stamps) and received a grant from University of Massachusetts Medical School to allow us to process SNAP applications through the college. An additional focus this year was on building admissions pipelines for CAC and Catholic Charities patrons.
STUDENTS SERVING OUR STUDENTS AND FOOD FOR THOUGHT: CAMPUS PANTRY

The Students Serving our Students (SOS) peer-to-peer mentoring program is a student-created and student-led service offered within the Brewer Center. With the goal of helping MWCC students succeed in their education, this program offers a variety of services to help students overcome personal barriers. Mentors assist their peers by connecting them with external social and community services, as well as internal supports at the college. These referrals aid the students in overcoming a variety of issues including financial concerns, childcare challenges, transportation issues, food insecurity, and housing.
The SOS office is structured such that student mentors guide the implementation of the program, which allows for mentors and volunteers to have a truly empowering experience. SOS mentors and volunteers acquire skills in critical thinking, communication and collaboration; increase their knowledge about resources and opportunities available in the North Central region; and are afforded the opportunity to develop both civic and professional experience.

Food for Thought: Campus Pantry embarked on a partnership with the Worcester County Food Bank (WCFB). We are the first college to join the WCFB, and in the short time we have been with them, we have been able to offer our students a diverse array of previously unavailable higher cost items at no cost to the pantry or students. These items include juices, shelf-stable milk, and allergy sensitive products.

This year, over 150 students were served by 21 SOS mentors for a total of 1508 hours of service. The SOS/Food Pantry retention rate from Fall 2018 to Spring 2019 was 77.5%.

This year, 110 new students registered for the campus pantry. We served over 200 students, and gave out 8,344 items equaling 1,859.8 lbs. During the government shutdown in January, the pantry offered double (40) the number of allowable items to students who were on EBT.

A series of sessions were held on all three campuses at Mount Wachusett Community College in conjunction with the CHNA9 of North Central Massachusetts and The Montachusett Regional Planning Commission. The aim of these sessions was to determine the transportation needs of students, faculty and staff and discuss the best possible ways to meet those needs. One positive outcome of these sessions was Montachusett Regional Transit Authority changed the morning bus schedule to ensure that students would arrive before the start of the 8AM class period, allowing students who rely on public transportation to take 8AM courses.
The Brewer Center sent out a call for proposals to fund service and civic learning opportunities to encourage innovation and collaboration on projects that encourage students to analyze their beliefs and prepare them to engage in meaningful ways in our community and beyond. Faculty and staff were eligible to apply. Seven proposals were submitted and three were selected for funding.

The first funded proposal was a joint effort between Art Professor Tom Matsuda and student Vanessa Lynch. With co-sponsorship from the Brewer Center, they were able to hold an event on campus entitled, “Hope and Moving Forward: A Symposium on Peace”. The event, held in November, involved many student clubs and organizations for the purpose of gathering a diverse group of individuals to share knowledge and experience. People left with a renewed feeling of hope and empowerment to make changes that allow us to achieve peace in trying times.

The second funded project was proposed by Dr. Diane Boucher, an adjunct history instructor who hosted Annawon Weeden of the Mashpee Wampanoag and Pequot tribe to address her class, History of New England, and address the college at large. This occurred in November, Native American History Month, to highlight the importance of the Native American experience when thinking about Thanksgiving.

The final funded project was proposed by Maureen Provost, Professor of Early Childhood Education (ECE) and advisor for the Early Childhood Education student club. Their project, “Shade & Nature”, was already aggressively fundraising before the proposal was submitted. In fact, the ECE Club had already raised $180 towards providing shaded space in the Garrison Center playground. The project was unique in that it not only served a functional need, but it presented the opportunity for ECE course curriculum on how health and safety can impact a child’s ability to learn. Further, the ECE students then presented workshops to the Garrison Center children on safety, health and trees.

These mini grants provide service and civic learning opportunities to encourage innovation and collaboration on projects that encourage students to analyze their beliefs and prepare them to engage in meaningful ways in our community and beyond.
During the fourth year of the program, the Brewer Center hosted four Student Leaders in Civic Engagement (SLiCE) members. SLiCE members engage students and the community by creating and sustaining a culture of lifelong leadership development, training, and education. The SLiCE program provides paid employment opportunities for MWCC student leaders to coordinate service programming, and assist with volunteer recruitment and management. This helps provide meaningful opportunities for MWCC students to engage on campus and in our community.

This year’s SLiCE members included J. Shelley, Hanna Shailer, Justyce Gomez and Chynna Donahoo. SLiCE members work 500 hours over the course of the year in the Brewer Center and for Food for Thought Campus Pantry.
HANNA SHAILER
Hanna is a Human Services major at MWCC. She plans to graduate and transfer to a four-year school. Hanna says she feels passionate about working with children in a nonprofit organization. She aspires to make this a career, which will include doing international missionary work and counseling. She has spent several summers volunteering in Haiti and has been instrumental in the success of the Food for Thought Campus Pantry since it opened in October, 2017.

J SHELLEY
Julia, known as “J”, is from Winchendon, MA. She is a Gateway to College student at MWCC. J worked with the Center as an SOS Mentor and spent many hours helping out in the Food for Thought Campus Pantry.

CHYNNA DONAHOO
Chynna is a Human Services major who completed a 150-hour internship at the SOS Food for Thought Campus Pantry in the Brewer Center. Upon completion of her internship, she was hired as a SLiCE member. Chynna will graduate in December 2019 and hopes to work with at-risk youth.

JUSTYCE GOMEZ
Justyce had long been a participant in Brewer Center activities and events when she decided she wanted to deepen her involvement and applied to be a SLiCE member. During her time with SLiCE, Justyce worked in the food pantry as well as with the Program Assistant on service learning paperwork and data.
Career Planning and Placement’s annual job fair, held on April 3rd, had over 350 participants this year including students and community members. The high participation rate was, in much part, attributed to increased visibility in the classrooms, a more directed marketing campaign as well as a successful Dress for Success Expo. This year, 32 employers were in attendance representing various fields such as human services, criminal justice, substance abuse, marketing and management as well as STEM fields.
Youth are a vibrant, yet often underutilized, source of power for creating and leading positive community change—but that is not necessarily the case in North Central Massachusetts. Young people involved in United Way Youth Venture (UWYV) through one of 22 partnering schools develop leadership skills, build confidence, provide countless services to their communities and most importantly, are given the chance to make lasting positive change in others as well as themselves.

During the UWYV process, youth learn how to identify and confront problems, and find creative solutions. A consistent presence in the region over the past 17 years, UWYV has changed the perception of how adults view youth in the communities served by the program. Youth are invited to share perspective, help make decisions, and lead change. They are a driving and inspirational force of creative, problem-solving energy, who are empowered with the skills and encouragement needed to improve their communities.

United Way Youth Venture is a three way partnership between Mount Wachusett Community College (MWCC), the United Way of North Central Massachusetts, and Ashoka’s Youth Venture which serves as the theoretical underpinnings for UWYV programming. Young people involved in UWYV combine their passions and skills to address a problem they see in their community through an entirely youth-led and youth-created social venture.
UWYV PROGRAM EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

This year, United Way Youth Venture (UWYV) hosted several events including an invigorating Fall Kickoff event with over 350 elementary, middle, and high school students in attendance, a fourth annual Spring Showcase, highlighting the dreams and successes of Venture Teams to the larger community, and a Celebration event at Wachusett Mountain Ski Area to recognize Changemaker educators from MWCC, Fitchburg and Leominster Public Schools.

UWYV facilitated year two of Changemaker Education Framework aimed to explore ways of adopting a Changemaker mindset and culture individually, in the classroom, institutionally, and within the community. Innovators in education from partnering school districts attended five full-day professional development sessions to help them cultivate the next generation of Changemakers. Several Changemakers from the pilot year elected to become trainers and coaches to their peers. All Changemakers were recognized at the second annual Changemaker Celebration at Wachusett Mountain Ski Area in June.

Staff also facilitated a Champion Training and Roundtable to educate and support our partnering school staff. UWYV hosted a fifth annual Administrators Breakfast for school superintendents and principals who heard an energetic and motivating speech from Maria Milagros Vazquez about the importance of “filling their own cup” in order to be able to give of one’s self to others, and most especially the youth that they serve.

Finally, UWYV and MWCC hosted 200 Crocker Elementary School students on Clean Energy Appreciation Day to explore wind energy by getting up close to one of the college’s wind turbines. They heard from Mass Clean Energy Center CEO, Stephen Pike; Mass CEC staff, Tameka Jacques; special guest speaker on offshore wind energy, Jennifer Cullen of Vineyard Wind; and MWCC’s own Bob LaBonte, vice president of finance and administration. The highlight of the field trip was undoubtedly the actual tour, where the more than 200 students not only got to see a taste of college life, but spontaneously began “jumping rope” over the roving shadow of the turbine’s blades on the ground.

EVENTS HOSTED

- Fall Kickoff
- Spring Showcase
- Changemaker Celebration
- Changemaker Education Events
- Champion Training & Roundtable
- Clean Energy Appreciation Day
UWYV BY THE NUMBERS

22 elementary, middle & high schools
Also, MWCC & Girl Scout Troop 61150

over 9,000 youth actively engaged in workshops, team development or volunteering

62 new Venture teams
launched in FY19 across 22 schools with an additional 60 teams in the pipeline well on their way to becoming a launched Venture

UWYV staff delivered 161 workshops to Venturers helping develop their understanding of 21st century entrepreneurship skills and deeper social & emotional learning

more than 12,500 area youth reached

650 students leading Venture Team efforts with 466 newly engaged this year

$25,082 in seed funding awarded in FY19 to launch Venture efforts

over 250 adults engaged in supporting Venture teams by undertaking the role of panelist, ally, and/or volunteer
THE FAB 5: A STORY OF SUCCESS

The Fab 5 Team is a shining example of amazing transformation. This Team experienced tremendous growth which began early in their Youth Venture Team development process. They were quiet, shy, and nervous when we first met them and they really struggled during the mock panel with presentation skills, confidence, and focus. However, following a couple weeks of practice, they allowed their passion for helping the elder community to take over and at their Community Panel, blew the UWYV staff and the panelists away. And this was only the beginning.

During the research phase of their planning process, the Fab 5—with a goal of visiting Apple Valley Assisted Living Home and supplying games, coloring books and other activity items for residents—at first could not muster the courage to make a single telephone call to Apple Valley to see what supplies they might need. Fast forward to after the Team launched and the Fab 5 managed to create one of the most successful student-led fundraisers in UWYV history. They created a calendar raffle sale, which including calling more than 35 businesses to get donations of gift cards and items to be raffled off each day of the month. Once these donations were collected and calendars readied for sale, they then knocked on over 500 doors and spent more than 100 hours as a Team selling the calendars. They sold 250 calendars, earning a staggering $2,500. Fab 5 will be receiving a national presidential service award for their community service work from the White House.
The Brewer Center runs annual service events that have become our signature programs. Students look forward to the diverse opportunities to engage with their communities on and off campus. These events include Leadership Academy, Alternative Spring Break, and many more. The following are highlights from our 2018–2019 signature events:

**LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**

This year's Leadership Academy, held on August 21st and 22nd, welcomed incoming student leaders. These students had the opportunity to learn about resources on campus, build connections, and jump into the college culture of giving by participating in a day of service. Each year, the Brewer Center partners with the Office of Student Life to find community service projects for participants and introduce them to a culture of service. This year, 52 students completed 156 hours of service on nine different community projects. Some projects included assembling back packs for children in foster care, organizing donations at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore, harvesting vegetables at Many Hands Organic Farm, and cleaning the hiking trail at Heywood Hospital.

**9-11 THANK YOU CARDS**

In memorial of September 11th, 2001, SLiCE members in partnership with the Veterans Center, table sat to collect signed cards for first responders in our community. We collected 25 cards with over 100 signatures that were sent to local fire and police departments.
During the annual United Way Day of Caring, the Brewer Center hosted a variety of on-campus projects for students, faculty, and staff. Projects included creating 46 cat toys for the Gardner Animal Shelter, 15 handmade cards and 41 paper flowers for the Leominster Senior Center, 100 bags of oral hygiene products for HIV Clinics and homeless AIDS patients through AIDS Project Worcester, planting of over 50 vegetables and herbs to benefit the Food for Thought Campus Pantry, and the participation of 18 Garrison Center children (2.5–5 years old) in planting seeds and flowers through Growing Places. Fifty three volunteers served 156.5 hours of service.
VALENTINES FOR VETS

Valentines for Vets is a campus-wide event to create valentines for veterans in our community to ensure they knew that we appreciate them and their service. SLiCE recruited 38 student volunteers and collected 42 cards that were donated to Montachusett Veterans Outreach Center.

HUNGER GAMES

SLiCE and Brewer Center staff coordinated a campus-wide food drive competition to benefit Food for Thought based on the movie, the Hunger Games. Campus departments acted as “districts” and competed against one another to collect the most pounds of donations for the pantry. Five MWCC groups participated in the food drive, and 260 pounds of food and other pantry items (556 items) were collected. The Testing Center/Library won second place and The Office of Student Life took first place with the largest donation this year.
Eight MWCC students completed a total of 48 hours of service at the Habitat Re-Store during their spring break. Providing a service opportunity over spring break has become a tradition and the students look forward to partnering each year with Habitat for Humanity on a build site or helping out in the store. This year, students helped with inventory, stocked shelves, unloaded trucks, and arranged merchandise.
This year, MWCC staff accompanied seven students to Costa Rica for one week in June on an international service trip. Students and staff planted trees, played with local school children, painted a mural at a local school, volunteered at an animal sanctuary, painted a home, participated in a beach cleanup and engaged in cultural exchange. 679 hours of service were completed over one week. Other highlights included a tour of the National Theater, the Costa Rican National Museum, Zip lining and horseback riding as well as parasailing. Students raised over $8,000 in order to participate.
**THE NONPROFIT COLLABORATIVE: A PARTNERSHIP WITH ENTERPRISE BANK**

On October 11th, Enterprise Bank hosted a Non-Profit Collaborative Seminar for community partners on developing capital campaigns. Fifteen individuals attended from local non-profit organizations. In April, Enterprise Bank hosted another seminar on Gender in the Workplace. Bunker Hill Community College Dean of Students, Dr. Julie Elkins, led participants in an activity based discussion on gender dynamics, sexual harassment and gender parity in the workplace. Eleven individuals from six non-profit organizations attended the event.

**CAMPUS CONVERSATIONS**

The Brewer Center hosted events this year in an attempt to bring the campus community together to discuss topics and encourage engaging discourse. A dialogue was held in the fall on breaking down labels. Faculty, staff and students participated in a robust conversation around stereotyping while sharing some of their own personal experiences and challenging how society labels individuals. In the spring, a new program, Brewer Café, was introduced to give students the opportunity to visit the Brewer Center and have coffee with Retired State Senator, Stephen Brewer. Students engaged in conversations about politics, college funding, student loan debt and the electoral process.

---

Faculty, staff and students participated in a robust conversation around stereotyping while sharing some of their own personal experiences and challenging how society labels individuals.
**POLITICAL EVENTS**

This year, the Brewer Center sponsored a series of events on political engagement. These included a presentation on the benefits and drawbacks of rank choice voting, as well as a semester long voter registration drive. The college sponsored two events in partnership with local Chambers of Commerce including a candidate meet and a political debate with 85 attendees.

**GARRISON CENTER DAY OF SERVICE**

This year, MWCC students joined the children at the Garrison Early Childhood Center in a service project. MWCC students went into the two preschool classrooms and explained the importance of pet shelters and caring for animals. The preschoolers then worked side-by-side with MWCC students to create pet toys for the cats at the Gardner Animal Shelter. 70 cat toys were made by 32 Garrison students with the assistance of 10 MWCC students.

**COAT DRIVE**

Throughout the month of December, the Brewer Center conducted a coat drive. We collected 35 coats; 7 sweaters/shorts/vests; 25 scarves; 12 pairs of gloves; 41 hats; 2 pairs of boots; 6 blankets, 1 pair of snow pants and 12 additional warm clothing items for students and their families. The items were available for students throughout the months of January and February with the remainder were donated to the Gardner CAC.
Service learning is a transformative pedagogy with a long history at MWCC. According to data collected on students in 2014-2016, students who participated in a service learning course during their first year had a higher rate of semester-to-semester retention than their peers. This was particularly true for full-time students. This data suggests service learning at MWCC is a positive high impact practice to ensure student retention and success.

Building on that success, over the past few years, the Brewer Center began working with faculty to offer more project-based service learning opportunities for students. These opportunities involve working on specific projects or issues over the course of the semester with community-based partners. Students serve in a consulting capacity in alignment with the particular focus of the course such as strategic management, health and nutrition, graphic design, etc. This style of service learning encourages more mutually beneficial outcomes for students, faculty, and community partners alike. Students typically work in groups to achieve goals tied to course objectives, exercising 21st century skills such as teamwork, problem-solving, effective communication, and project management skills.

Students engaged in service learning this academic year indicated an increase in their ability to empathize with others, have gained a deeper understanding of their identity and its influence on their values, are more confident in entering the workforce as a results of their service learning experience and articulated a commitment to continue to be involved in their community.

This year 264 graduating students qualified to be recognized for their service to the community at our annual Service Learning Celebration. 76 staff, faculty and students attended the event to celebration our student’s commitment to the community.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOURS VOLUNTEERED</th>
<th>ITEM(S) AWARDED</th>
<th>STUDENTS RECOGNIZED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>• Lapel Pin</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>• Medallion</td>
<td>1147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>• Outstanding Achievement Pin • Medallion</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100+</td>
<td>• Outstanding Achievement Pin • Medallion • Presidential Service Learning &amp; Volunteerism Award</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This year’s Service Learning and Volunteerism Celebration had 76 students, faculty, and staff gathered to celebrate our students’ service to the community. A variety of awards were presented during the Celebration, including Presidential Service and Volunteerism Awards to students who completed over 100 hours of service at the college. Student Leaders in Civic Engagement and SOS Mentors were also recognized for their outstanding efforts and meaningful contributions in supporting our work.

Two service learning scholarships were awarded, to Brittany Waseleski and Jonathan Lerew. The Hillary Bartlett Newsome Scholarship, a scholarship created in memory of former Early Childhood Education graduate, Hilary Bartlett Newsome who was actively involved in her community while pursuing her degree at MWCC, was awarded to Brittany Waseleski, an Art student who assisted adjunct instructor, Mary Crawford, teaching Intro to Sculpture to non-art majors as well participating in a class based service learning project to create public art for the city of Gardner.
The second Service Learning Scholarship was awarded to Jonathan Lerew, a Graphic Design student, for his project with Fitchburg High School students and the Fitchburg Art Museum. Jonathan began working with his Service Learning client even before the spring semester began. He exhibited an “emerging professional” level attitude as he worked with the client to meet the needs of the project and its short deadline, exhibiting a self-directed manner while advocating for the needs of the project.

Susan Blake, Professor of English, was awarded this year’s Faculty Civic Engagement Award for her leadership and years of dedicated service through MWCC’s National Endowment for the Humanities award. The Human Services Club was presented with the Above and Beyond Club Award for their exceptional commitment to service, and willingness to volunteer for campus programs and events. Ginny’s Helping Hands was awarded the Community Partner of the Year Award for their commitment to our programs and students.
Student remarks at the celebration were given by SLiCE member, Hanna Shailer. Hanna talked about her passion for service since an early age and some of the service experiences she has had around the world, as well as the other areas of the globe where she would like to volunteer in the future. She also spoke about the impact that MWCC has had on cultivating that passion and the support she has received as a student.

“I have learned from speaking with peers and working with fellow students in both the SOS office and campus pantry that many of the people here have grown through time spent at MWCC. We all have a past, have experienced hardships and loss, and for so many, including myself, MWCC was a new beginning. Many of you wandered onto this campus from high school, maybe you wanted to change a career you had become tired of, or maybe you just became sick of working dead end jobs and knew there was more out there for you to do. Whatever brought you to MWCC, this is a part of your story and of your growth. You came here as a seed in the wind and were planted in the heart of community college where staff and professors nurtured you and encouraged your budding seed to grow. They watered you in knowledge and pushed you to join clubs and go to events. They promoted you to be successful and offered guidance while you blossomed.”

“You came here as a seed in the wind and were planted in the heart of community college where staff and professors nurtured you and encouraged your budding seed to grow. They watered you in knowledge and pushed you to join clubs and go to events. They promoted you to be successful and offered guidance while you blossomed.”

MWCC Student, Hanna Shailer
SHARYN RICE AWARD

The Sharyn A. Rice Community Leadership Award is presented to a MWCC student each year in honor of past Senior Vice President Sharyn Rice, who retired in 2013 after 25 years of service to the College and the greater community. The awardee is a student of good character that demonstrates a clear commitment to the community. This year’s Sharyn A. Rice Award was presented to Lisa Ferrara-Caron, a 2019 business graduate who is now employed at the college. She was honored due to her life-time commitment to service and her leadership in running the annual Character Breakfast to benefit the Food for Thought Campus Pantry.
Cassie Carlson graduated MWCC this spring with a degree in Human Services and the intention of transferring to a four-year institution to receive a degree in social work. Her long-term goal is to obtain a Masters in Social Work and begin a career at the Veterans Administration as a social worker. She graduated with a 4.0 GPA and was chosen as the MWCC student representative at the 3rd District Congressional debate held at Fitchburg State University. Cassie was selected as a 2019 Coca-Cola Academic Team Silver Scholar, which included a $1,250 scholarship. The national competition had more than 2,000 applications, and Cassie was one of only four awardees. Cassie was a work-study student in the Student Life Office where she helped plan campus activities and orientations. She sought out QPR (suicide prevention) training to be a better advocate and mentor to her fellow students. Finally, Cassie was also a member of the Veteran's and Allies Club on campus where she was an active member for several years and most recently served as the Secretary.

When speaking of Cassie, Student Life Programming Assistant and 2014 Newman Civic Fellow, Kathy Matson said, “Cassie Carlson is a natural leader on campus. She is the president of the Human Service club and an active member of the Veteran’s and Allies club. This year she spearheaded a community service project with both groups to support Wreaths Across America in providing wreaths at the Winchendon Veteran’s Memorial Cemetery. Collectively the groups raised $400 and also sent about a dozen volunteers, organized by Cassie, to help lay the wreaths. Cassie worked...
tirelessly on campus as a student leader volunteering at events, assisting new students at orientation, and generally being a friend to all. Because of Cassie’s outgoing personality her peers find her friendly and supportive, always willing to lend a hand where needed."

Cassie, an Honors student, received numerous scholarships and awards for her academic achievements as a first generation student. She also served as a mentor to other low-income first generation students by developing a leadership model based on empowerment which she has shared through panels and workshops for United Way Youth Venture to inspire young entrepreneurs and facilitating at the annual student leadership retreat. Cassie believes it is very important to give back to the MWCC community and as such she took the lead in a service learning project for Abnormal Psychology last spring. Cassie coordinated her fellow students in planning, organizing and executing four information tables and a panel addressing mental health stigma as well as a semester long anti-stigma campus-wide campaign. As with most of what she does, Cassie certainly went above and beyond the requirements of the course.

As if her on-campus achievements were not enough, Cassie also volunteers in her local community as the president of the Gardner High School Booster Club and she is raising five children. Prior to enrolling at Mount Wachusett Community College, Cassie served for four years in the United States Marine Corps where she was a diesel mechanic and obtained the rank of E-5 Sargent. Cassie is an extraordinary student, mentor, and mother. She is a true leader on campus and in our community, always looking for new ways to engage and positively impact the lives of people around her.
## ENGAGEMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NUMBER OF STUDENTS</th>
<th>NUMBER OF HOURS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>444</td>
<td>5,224.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Learning</td>
<td>482</td>
<td>7,222.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-profit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intern/Extern/Co-op</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>7,881.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practicum</td>
<td>960</td>
<td>97,640</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IMPACT**
TOTAL HOURS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY: 117,968.35

TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT: $3,792,682