

TRiO

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

April & May 2022

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE VISIONS AND RX PROGRAMS

THE DIGITAL ISSUE

April Reflections

by Gaurav Khanna,
Director of the Visions and Rx Programs

Ah, New England... I wrote my welcome for the March newsletter on a 60 degree day in February, and today I'm writing my welcome for the April/May newsletter at the end of March and the thermometer shows that it's 25 degrees outside! Just as quickly as the mercury shoots up and down, the semester is fast approaching its final months. We're past the last day to drop classes, and now it's the "finals" stretch.

We have a busy schedule for April, kicking off with a TEAS workshop on April 5, FinLit seminar on the Psychology of Money on April 13, Finals Countdown to help you finish strong on April 19 & 27, and transfer seminars on April 20. All seminars are on Zoom.

After a hiatus of two years, we are also planning on bringing back our end of year gathering this year. Look for a

communication from us with details, and save the date for Monday, May 16, 2022. If you are graduating or transferring, please make sure to let us know so we can recognize you! Celebrating all your successes at the end of the year is one of our favorite activities!

In March I was able to go to Washington, D.C. to advocate for continued funding for TRIO programs. We are fortunate to live in a state where our congressional delegation (both senators and nine house members) strongly support TRIO programs which in turn support students like you from middle school to grad school. If you ever have the opportunity to interact with any of their offices, make it a point to thank them for their ongoing support. We also regularly take TRIO alums to D.C. to talk about their TRIO experiences. If you would like to go

sometime in the future, make sure to stay in touch with us!

Registration will get underway next week—for the first three weeks, continuing students have the opportunity get first dibs on classes for the summer and fall semesters. We will have a couple of group registration sessions on April 4 and 5 from 12:30 to 1:30 as well as individual appointments available to help you get your schedules squared away.

Finally, if you're running into challenges in any area of the college, please check in with us. We are here to support you—let's get to that finish line strong and successful!



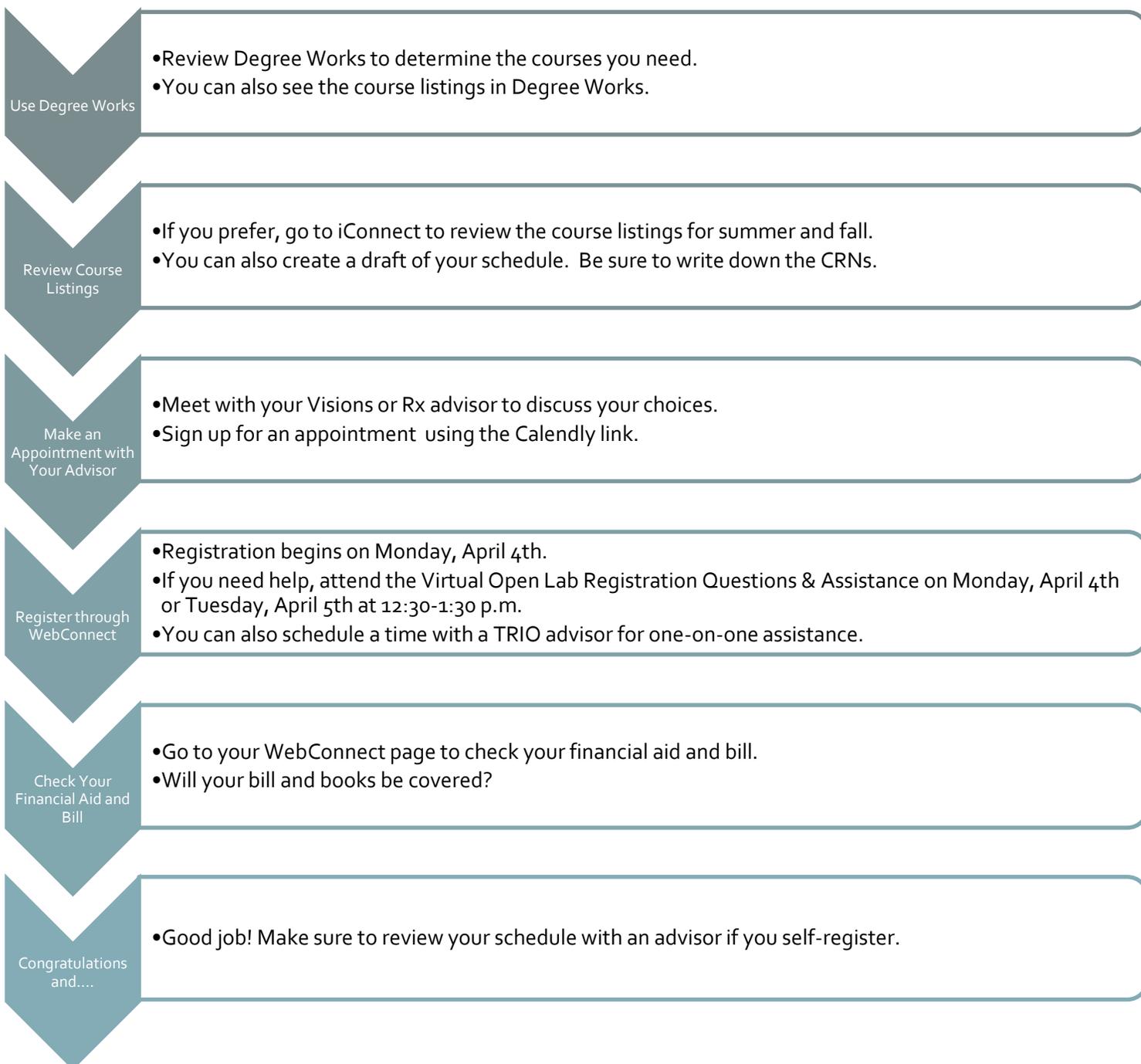
Registration for summer *and* fall semesters has arrived!

by Alaina Lucchetti
Rx Transfer Counselor

When: Current continuing students have registration priority starting April 4th—new students have to wait! You can register after current student priority registration, but beware, you may not get all the classes you need at the times you want.

Where: Schedule your registration appointment using the individual advisor Calendly links provided in your email. For scheduling assistance, call 978-630-9297 or visit the Virtual Office <http://bit.ly/rxvisionsonline>.

How to prepare: Please see the graphic below for helpful information on how to make the most of your registration appointment.



MWCC Scholarships

By Amy Moury

Rx Retention Specialist

Could you use some EXTRA MONEY to help pay for classes? Any little bit will help, am I right? If you're looking for some additional financial support, consider applying for scholarships through Award Spring.

Each spring, the Mount Wachusett Community College Foundation offers students an opportunity to apply for a number of generous scholarships. The MWCC Foundation gives out more than \$325,000 annually! This money can be used to cover the cost of classes or books, or it may be sent to you as a refund if your financial aid covers those costs. Scholarships are not loans – you do not have to repay these!

Here's how to apply:

1. Log into iConnect.
2. Click on the Award Spring app.
3. Click on "Application" on the left side.
4. Answers all of the questions, including the essays (more on those below).
5. Submit!

Many of the scholarships have qualifications based on where you live or work, major, GPA, financial need, or community service. Your answers on the application will help determine what scholarships for which you are eligible. Once you submit, your answers are matched with qualified scholarships, and your application is sent to those review committees. Scholarship winners will be notified and funds will be applied to your



MWCC account. Awards vary from \$250 to \$2000!

There are two short essay questions. We recommend drafting your answers in Word or Google Docs first so you can edit and revise as needed. We also suggest submitting the essays to a writing tutor for review to make sure that your submission stands out against other candidates. The Academic Support Center can assist you with essay review. Click [HERE](#) to visit their website and make an appointment.

These scholarships are a great opportunity to help reduce the amount of money you borrow in loans or to decrease the out of pocket costs you may incur in a semester. Either way, applying for scholarships through Award Spring is a financially smart idea! Reach out to your Visions or Rx advisor for more information.

Where are our students going?

By Sarah Pingeton

Visions Transfer Counselor

The following is a list of colleges and universities Visions and Rx students have applied to this year:

Amherst College
 Anna Maria College
 Assumption University
 Barnard College
 Bay Path University
 Bridgewater State University
 Central Washington University
 Colby-Sawyer College
 Endicott College
 Fitchburg State University
 Framingham State University
 Granite State College
 Hampshire College
 Keene State College
 Lesley University

MassArt
 Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
 Mount Holyoke College
 Northeastern University
 Oregon State University
 Rhode Island College
 Salem State University
 Smith College
 SNHU
 UMass Amherst
 UMass Boston
 UMass Dartmouth
 UMass Lowell
 University of Alabama

University of Connecticut
 University of New Hampshire –
 Manchester
 University of Wisconsin – Superior
 Westfield State University
 Williams College
 Worcester Polytechnic Institute
 Worcester State University

If you don't see a college you applied to on this list be sure to connect with Alaina or Sarah P. for help navigating your transition to your next school!

Leaders Recap

By Amy Moury

Rx Retention Specialist

For the first half of the spring semester, seven students from Visions and Rx have been working together with facilitators Lauren Clifford, Angela Snyder, and Amy Moury to explore leadership! The group met weekly since the first day of classes to discuss topics like team building and group dynamics, conflict resolution, and communication.

The seven participants brainstormed qualities of a good leader and set goals for themselves on how to embody those qualities. We also did exercises on dreaming big as if money were no object and if the answer were never "no." This helped us to see what we were striving for and what the possibilities might be.

[Here are quotes from some of the students regarding their experiences in the Leaders Seminar Series.](#)

"I think that it was an amazing way to meet other students in similar situations. Getting to know this amazing group was a huge part of this semester for me, not only learning life lessons and skills as well as getting to share some awesome stories and time. Leaders helped me realize that you can be a leader no matter what circumstance you're in." Amy Picard, Rx student

"During my time in the Visions Leadership program, I feel that my confidence in my leadership skills has grown exponentially. The instructors of this program are absolutely fantastic and work with you every step of the way to make sure you are getting the most out of the program as possible. There was also the fact that our fellow leaders in training have been just as big of a help in my growth as the instructors, as everyone who gets accepted into the program is just as driven to be there as you may be, meaning they are always

willing to lend a helping hand.

This camaraderie that quickly grew with my peers and the helpful nature of our instructors came together to make our meetings a very comfortable and happy place!" Max Zbikowski, Visions student

"My experience in the Leaders definitely helped me in school and the work environment. This program has helped me gain skills. I have grown from the experiences and discussions we had and applied to my daily life. I'm a very shy person so for me it's hard to talk in public, but I can see it getting better with our sessions every week." Gabriela De Santana Garcia, Visions student

"I am thankful for all the courage the Leaders Program has instilled in myself for speaking in front of groups of strangers. I enjoy meeting every week and look forward to our sessions." Rachel Lucia, Rx student

Career Conference Recap

By Stephanie Chancey

Visions Learning Specialist

Attending a conference is certainly not the most conventional spring break choice, however, the Spring Break Career Conference (SBCC) has quickly become a fixture at MWCC. Now in its third year, the SBCC has expanded beyond TRIO and combined forces with the office of Advising, Career & Transfer (ACT). Additionally, representatives from other campus offices took part in the event throughout the day.

The day commenced with a keynote address by Ken Reagan, VP of Marketing, Sales, and Retail at State Garden and Olivia's Organics. Students listened as Ken shared the wisdom he

has gained throughout his 54 years in the business. He easily related to the experiences of many MWCC students, as he balanced work, the National Guard, and being a first-generation college student as a young man. Ken encouraged students to embrace their Mount educations and to persist with tenacity and grit. A regional resources panel comprised of individuals from the North Central Workforce Board, MassHire, and the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission provided students with insight on how to receive career support locally, the types of support available, and the current trends in the job market.

Many students took the opportunity to converse with peers and professionals and made connections during the networking lunch. Throughout the day, students engaged in breakout sessions focused on various career topics: Career Coach: MWCC's phenomenal career tool; appropriate attire for interviews; how to match major to career; resumes; cover letters; and the job search and interview process for students who are neurodivergent and/or have disabilities. If you were not able to attend the Spring Break Career Conference, please visit the Rx & Visions Programs' Blackboard page to view the recordings!

Let's Celebrate Our Graduates

The following students are December 2021, May 2022 and August 2022 graduates

In total, these students have earned **25 certificates** and **84 associate degrees**

Visions Program

Elizabeth Afonso
 Alban Baboci
 Stephanie Barry
 Stefani Barton
 Allison Beane
 Courtney Blanchette
 Alisha Briand
 Meredith Brown
 Olivia Budzik
 Olivia Bush
 Tianna Caisse
 David Cate
 Robert Chilcoat
 Megan Clark
 Hannah Cormier
 Logan Corrado
 Sebastian Coscia
 Theresa Davis
 Benjamin Dearden
 Mollie Decosta
 Ingrid Del Orbe
 Sarah Demboske
 Chloe Despres
 Daniel Dow
 Jacob Dunton
 Joshua Duval
 Amy Fasulo
 Andrew Forest
 Jennifer Gariepy
 Mark Gee
 Brandan Grossi
 Drew Hallisey
 Salsabil Hartley
 Jacqueline Hobbs
 Bridget Houle
 Jessica Jarvis
 Toni Johns

Justina Johnson
 Shaina Lakanen
 Andrew Lanciani
 Paige Landry
 Sabrina Lapchesko
 Samantha Leon
 Ariana Lyons
 Sydney Mario
 Melanie Mason
 Jose Mateo
 Geanine Mazerolle
 Julianna Melko
 Robert Milkman
 Ebenezer Mireku
 Rachael Neuhaus
 Eileen Nina
 Aimee Ouellet
 Christopher Ouellet
 Manny Patel
 Clayton Perior
 Carolyn Poch
 Jake Robbins
 Marissa Roberts
 Victoria Safner
 Anissa Sargent
 Mariah Sellars
 Lindsey Smith
 Kailie Spofford
 Charlie Stellato
 Campbelle Stephens
 Alana Strumberger
 Heather Tibbals
 Daniel Tompkins
 Jacob Uba
 Lizza Vega
 Grace Walsh
 Sarina Weideman
 Emily Woodard

Rx Program

Jasmine Alvarez
 Annastasia Anderson
 Yvone Brown
 Ellie Burton
 Jacqueline Bussiere
 Gina Carrico
 Isabel Cochran
 Rachel Dansky
 Andrew Ferreira
 Veronica Figueroa
 Melissa Gaudet
 Jacqueline Hobbs
 Damary Laboy
 Zachary Leblanc
 Nicole Leeper
 Stephanie Lopez Torres
 Molly McNamara
 Marangelys Melendez
 Mary Miller
 Makenzi Mitchell
 Enid Morales
 Christina Raisdanaee
 Kailyn Richardson
 Meredith Stewart
 Amanda Vongphachanh
 Barbara Whitney

**This list is based on information available at the time of distribution.

Student Spotlight: Cami Stephens

By Lauren Clifford

Visions Retention Specialist

This month we'd like to introduce you to Cami Stephens, a fantastic and involved member of the Visions program. Cami joined us in 2020 and, like many of you, has been completely remote for her entire college journey. She didn't let that hold her back from making the most of her time at MWCC though! I have loved getting to know her in her time as a student here. In Cami's free time, she likes to hang out with her sassy pet pig named Stella, sing, write poetry (check



her work out in the March addition of The Mount Observer), workout, and bake.

Cami is a Liberal Arts major and is focusing on taking psychology classes. She hasn't decided on her final path, but she's a helper through and through. She is considering becoming an English teacher or specializing in supporting those with eating disorders. She knows that she will transfer to complete a bachelor's and intends on earning a master's someday as well but is flexible with her plans. She is open to seeing where life takes her—which I think is a great piece of advice!

I asked Cami what she felt has been the most difficult/surprising part of college.

She was surprised that the transition to college wasn't as difficult as she had expected BUT does credit that to being connected. Her advice is to utilize the professors, staff, peers, tutors, and any other resources. Because of that help, she felt that even when she was confronted with a challenge, she was able to overcome it quickly.

She also encourages students to get involved in clubs and student activities! Even in a remote setting, Cami says she was able to meet new people and build meaningful relationships. I hope that you'll take her advice to heart and find a way to get involved here at MWCC if you haven't already!



TRiO
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Annual Awards Ceremony
Monday, May 16, 2022
12:00 p.m.

Every year, we celebrate the end of the academic year and recognize students who have demonstrated both initiative and progress throughout the fall and spring semesters. We also recognize our graduates and transfer students.

Watch your email for more information, and join us for this great event as we celebrate student success.

April & May List of Important Dates

Check your email daily for the most up-to-date information on program events and campus news.

<i>Monday, April 4</i>	Open Lab Registration 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Zoom	<i>Monday, May 2- Tuesday, May 3</i>	Fuel for Finals 12:30 p.m. Zoom
<i>Tuesday, April 5</i>	TEAS Workshop 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Zoom	<i>Monday, May 9</i>	Full Semester: Last day of classes
<i>Monday, April 5- Friday April 16</i>	Current Student Registration Begins for Summer and Fall	<i>Monday, May 16</i>	Annual TRIO Awards Ceremony 12:00 p.m.
<i>Tuesday, April 5</i>	Open Lab Registration 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Zoom	<i>Tuesday, May 17</i>	Transfer Out Seminar 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Zoom
<i>Wednesday, April 13</i>	FinLit: The Psychology of Money 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Zoom	<i>Wednesday, May 18</i>	MWCC Graduation
<i>Monday, April 18</i>	Patriots' Day: No classes all campuses, day & evening	<p>Did you miss a seminar or workshop? Log into the Rx & Visions Programs' Blackboard for the recording and materials. Complete the survey to earn attendance credit!</p>	
<i>Tuesday, April 19</i>	Finals Countdown 12:30 p.m. Zoom		
<i>Wednesday, April 20</i>	Transfer Seminar Workshop 12:30 p.m. Transfer Seminar for Healthcare Majors 12:30 p.m.		
<i>Wednesday, April 27</i>	Finals Countdown 10 a.m. Zoom		
<i>Wednesday, April 27 – Thursday, April 28</i>	Fuel for Finals 12:30 p.m. Zoom		

If you have a disability and require accommodations in order to participate fully in program activities, please contact the program director to discuss your specific needs.
Affirmative Action/ Equal Opportunity Institution

The Visions & Rx Programs at Mount Wachusett Community College are funded by TRIO Student Support Services grants through the U.S. Department of Education. For more information, please visit mwcc.edu/trioss.

