

Class of **2026**

Graduation



Gateway to College

AND

Pathways Early College

Friday, May 22, 2026
Gardner, Massachusetts



Mount Wachusett
Community College

Program History



Gateway to College

As the spring of 2026 comes to a close, Gateway to College is completing 20 years of programming. Gateway serves students wishing to enter post-secondary education while earning a high school diploma and college credits, regardless of previous academic success. To date, 646 students have graduated from Gateway to College. This year we have a graduating class of 29 students, 9 of whom also graduated from MWCC two days ago with their associate degree and/or certificate. Graduates will continue their educations at institutions such as: Fitchburg State, UMass Boston, trade schools and Mount Wachusett Community College. Several students will also enter the military and the workforce.

Gateway to College began serving students in 2006, after being awarded a generous three-year start up grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Gateway to College at Mount Wachusett Community College was the first site of its kind in Massachusetts.

Pathways Early College

Pathways Early College Experience is completing its 15th year. The Pathways program provides high school students the opportunity to earn a high school diploma and an associate degree simultaneously during their junior and senior years. To date, 232 students have graduated from Pathways, including 21 students from the Class of 2026. These students will continue their educations at institutions such as: Colby College, UMass Dartmouth, Bridgewater State, Lasell University, Fitchburg State, Westfield State, Simmons College and many other colleges and universities.

The Pathways Early College Experience began serving students in the fall of 2010. Graduates have had continuing success, with 75% going on to earn bachelor's degrees. This program began with a collaboration between Mount Wachusett Community College and the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District, and has partnered with Gardner Public Schools since 2019.

Graduation Exercises



POMP & CIRCUMSTANCE

WELCOME.....Fagan Forhan
Dean, K-12 Partnerships & Civic Engagement, MWCC

NATIONAL ANTHEM.....Rhaniah Onore
Class of 2026, Gateway to College

OPENING REMARKS.....Fagan Forhan
Dean, K-12 Partnerships & Civic Engagement, MWCC
Dr. James Vander Hooven
President, MWCC
Dr. Mark Pellegrino
Superintendent, Gardner Public Schools
Mayor Michael J. Nicholson
City of Gardner

STUDENT SPEAKER.....Iveliz Rodriguez-Jimenez
Gateway to College

FACULTY ADDRESS.....Daniel Soucy
Professor of Philosophy, MWCC

VALEDICTORIAN INTRODUCTION.....Sara Vettese
Assistant Dean, Early College & Dual Enrollment, MWCC

VALEDICTORIAN ADDRESS.....Gianna Koula
Gateway to College
Sophia Harrold, Joslynn Vautour & Brielle Voorheis
Pathways Early College

PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS.....Fagan Forhan
Dean, K-12 Partnerships & Civic Engagement, MWCC

Student Speakers



Rhaniah Onore

Gateway to College

Rhaniah is graduating from the Gateway to College program with a 3.2 GPA and has also earned her Associate of Science Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies along with a certificate in Allied Health two days ago. Throughout every season of her journey, her faith in Jesus has remained her greatest source of purpose, strength, and direction. She is especially honored to perform the National Anthem at graduation and use her voice to be part of such a meaningful moment. After graduation, Rhaniah will be attending Christ For The Nations Institute in Dallas, Texas, as she continues pursuing the path God has placed before her. She is deeply grateful for the unwavering support, encouragement, and love of her family and mentors throughout this journey.



Iveliz Rodriguez-Jimenez

Gateway to College

Iveliz has balanced attending Early College while working and giving back to her community through volunteer service. She volunteered with the Salvation Army, where she was honored with the Exceptional Youth Volunteer Award for her dedication and commitment to helping others. On campus, she supported the food pantry through deliveries at the Leominster campus and also volunteered in the café alongside Carl. Through hard work, leadership, and service, Iveliz has shown determination both inside and outside the classroom. She plans to continue her college journey and build a future centered around helping others and creating new opportunities for herself and her community.

Class Valedictorians



Gianna Koula

Gateway to College

Gianna is a resident of Hubbardston and is graduating today as the Gateway to College valedictorian. She has been on both the President's and Dean's list. She transitioned into the Gateway program during the spring 2025 semester. She enjoys drawing, music, playing with her cats, and all things Harry Potter. Gianna plans on continuing her education with the goal of earning her degree in History and Political Science at MWCC.



Brielle Voorheis

Pathways Early College

Brie is a member of Phi Theta Kappa as well as the Commonwealth Honors Program. She is also proud to have held the role of scribe for the Honors Program during her last year at Mount Wachusett Community College. She has a passion for art and was proud to get some of her pieces into this year's publication of *A Certain Slant*. Her 4.0 has earned her a President's Key award as well as the Interdisciplinary Studies Excellence award. While maintaining a 4.0 GPA throughout her time at MWCC she also balanced a part-time job at Monty's Cubs Child Watch, where she supports many student parents on their educational journeys. Her love for kids has shown through her devotion to caring for and teaching the children that she works with everyday. Brie plans to attend Fitchburg State University in the fall of 2026 to study Early Childhood Education. Her goal is to combine her love for art and children by becoming an elementary school art teacher.

Class Valedictorians



Joslynn Vautour
Pathways Early College

Joslynn is a resident of Winchendon and is graduating as a Pathway's valedictorian with a 4.0 GPA. She also graduated from MWCC with her Associates Degree in Interdisciplinary

Studies. She served as Phi Theta Kappa President and Greater Gardner for Good Scribe over her time at MWCC. She was also named to the 2026 Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) All-State Academic Team. Joslynn will be pursuing her Bachelor's in Psychology at Colby College in Waterville, Maine on an full ride academic scholarship. Her ultimate goal is to have a career in Adolescent Forensic Victomology.



Sophie Harrold
Pathways Early College

Sophie began her schooling in the Italian public school system and transitioned to homeschool before beginning the Pathways program. She has been on the

President's List all four semesters and has earned an overall GPA of 4.0. She is a member of both Phi Theta Kappa and the Commonwealth Honors Program. In her free time, she enjoys reading, watching movies, and going to the gym. Sophie will be attending Bridgewater State University in the fall to study English and education.



Faculty Speaker




Daniel Soucy
Professor of Philosophy
MWCC

Dan Soucy is a professor of philosophy here at the Mount and he teaches ethics, logic, and metaphysics while serving in faculty leadership as President of the Faculty Senate. His scholarly interests center on American pragmatism, especially the thought of Charles Sanders Peirce, with a focus on moral realism and the nature of inquiry and truth.

Dan has not only served as a faculty member for many early college students, he is also a parent of a few early college graduates himself. He understands at a personal level the significant transformation these programs can make and takes great care to help students cultivate a love of learning and deep thinking.

Gateway to College

Class of 2026



Gabrielle J. Abare	Fitchburg
Lesly Elizabeth Aguilar-Palma	Gardner
Benjamin Bunton	Hubbardston
Shaeli Davis	Clinton
Ethan Denio	Clinton
Meghan Dorsey ❖Δ	Ashburnham
Jasmine Belle Edwards	Ashburnham
Shelby Forhan	Lancaster
Jennessa Gagnon ❖ <	Ashburnham
Logan Matthew Gemme	Winchendon
Carly Rose Gendreau z	Gardner
Victoria Gil	Gardner
Marley Josephine Griffith <	Gardner
Gianna Morgan Koula	Hubbardston
Lyndzee Leash	Athol

❖ MWCC Associate Degree

< MWCC Certificate

* MWCC President's List (12+ Semester Hours, 4.0 GPA)

† MWCC Dean's List (12+ Semester Hours, 3.30 - 3.99 GPA)

z MWCC Distinction List (6-11.5 Semester Hours, 4.0 GPA)

MWCC Excellence List (6-11.5 Semester Hours, 3.30-3.99 GPA)

^ Commonwealth Honors Program

~ National Society of Leadership & Success (Sigma Alpha Pi)

Δ Phi Theta Kappa

{President's, Dean's, Distinction & Excellence lists are based on Spring 2026 semester}

Gateway to College

Class of 2026



Cristallyan Mangual-Marcano	Winchendon
Alyssa Marcelin †	Fitchburg
Cole Ryan Martins	Fitchburg
Ella Sue Nichols †	Hubbardston
Rhaniah Oclerne Onore ❖ <	Fitchburg
Dynestie Marie Panet < ~	Gardner
Juan Manuel Pinto ❖ < #	Leominster
Iveliz Jamilet Rodriguez Jimenez ❖ < †	Fitchburg
Braiden E. Roetzer	Lunenburg
Gustavo Santana <	Petersham
Jeffrey James Shaulis <	Barre
Suliana Elise Torres ❖ ~	Fitchburg
Isabella Vega	Gardner
Destiny Young	Hubbardston

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Pathways Early College

Class of 2026



Khiannah Boatmaa Addo ❖❖	Fitchburg
Jack Andrew Buchan ❖†^Δ	Phillipston
Tristan Cibeira ❖❖Δ	Templeton
Daniel A. Cifuentes ❖*Δ	Dudley
Crisangeliz Nevaeh Colon ❖❖†	Fitchburg
Mason K. Decker ❖❖Δ	Winchendon
Nicole Angelica Delgado ❖❖†	Fitchburg
Kenzie J. Gallagher ❖❖ Δ	Oakham
Cadyn Glynn ❖❖*^	Devens
Isabelle R. Gonzalez ❖†^Δ	Shirley
Florian M. Gordon-Halpern ❖❖*	New Salem
Sophia Audrey Harrold ❖❖*^Δ	Leominster
Morgan Rose Lakota ❖❖†	West Brookfield
Ely Michel ❖❖	Fitchburg
Ixchel Anaïs Thibault-Muñoz ❖❖†	Gardner
Connor Hill Tribou ❖❖*^	Winchendon
Uriah Truax ❖❖*^Δ	Leominster
Joslynn E. Vautour ❖❖*^Δ	Winchendon
Arianna May Voorheis ❖❖z^Δ	Winchendon
Brielle Anne Voorheis ❖❖z^Δ	Winchendon
Evangeline Yang ❖❖	Fitchburg

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^ Commonwealth Honors Program

Δ Phi Theta Kappa

{President's, Dean's, Distinction & Excellence lists are based on Spring 2026 semester}

Early College & Dual Enrollment Staff



Fagan Forhan	<i>Dean, K-12 Partnerships & Civic Engagement</i>
Sara Vettese	<i>Assistant Dean, Early College & Dual Enrollment</i>
Sharmese Gunn	<i>Academic Coordinator, Gateway to College</i>
Cara Newton	<i>Academic Coordinator, Pathways Early College</i>
Erika Puccio	<i>Academic Counselor, Early College Academy</i>
Jessica Shea	<i>Academic Counselor, Early College Academy</i>
Sandy Tavares	<i>Academic Counselor, Early College Academy</i>
Jessica Connors	<i>Director of Operations</i>
Tami Morin	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>
Natalie Nelson	<i>Staff Assistant</i>
Jennifer Welch	<i>Senior Special Programs Data Coordinator</i>

To our many faculty members who teach our full early college classes, and also those that welcome our early college students into their existing classes, thank you for your time and dedication to our programs and students.

We are grateful for our partnerships with the Department of Higher Education, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Massachusetts Alliance For Early College (MA4EC).

A special thank you to the staff and administration at Gardner, Fitchburg and Athol Public Schools for working with us to make these programs possible.

Thank You!



Thank you to our staff volunteers today!

To the MWCC departments of Campus Police, Facilities, Green St. Cafe, Marketing, Media Services, Student Services, Print Shop, and MWCC Theatre at the Mount, thank you for your hard work and assistance in helping us to make this ceremony a success.



View and purchase photos from today's ceremony at:
samsmith.smugmug.com or scan the QR code below.

