



## Contact

To submit articles to President's Corner, contact Alison Skratt at [askratt@gwcc.commnet.edu](mailto:askratt@gwcc.commnet.edu).

For a printer-friendly version, [click here](#), scroll down to "Announcements" and click on "President's Corner Newsletter."

## News

- 1<sup>st</sup> railroad engineering technology degree in Northeast to be offered this spring at GCC
- Early success leads to more 'Early Bird Classes'
- \$30,000 grant helps expand 'Middle College' initiative
- ESL class participates in Yale curriculum study
- Help ELC win \$10,000 playground grant
- Structural steel on south site to be completed soon
- In the Media: Green jobs, nursing, SOAR certificates, more
- Hall of Fame Induction & Reception a success
- Hundreds attend alternative fuel expo Oct. 15
- More than 300 attend GCC October job fairs
- Center for a Sustainable Future continues its outreach
- Program Spotlight:

## 1<sup>st</sup> railroad engineering technology degree in Northeast to be offered this spring at GCC

GCC will offer a new associate degree in railroad engineering technology (RET) this spring — the first program of its kind at an institution of higher education in the Northeast.

The RET degree was approved Oct. 20 with a two-year license by the state [Board of Governors for Higher Education](#). Work on the RET Program began more than a year ago after officials from Metro-North Commuter Railroad approached GCC in an effort to enhance the education of current Metro-North employees who are eligible for tuition assistance through the employee union.

As discussions continued, Metro-North indicated it also needed a training program to prepare new employees to fill anticipated vacancies within the railroad industry, due in part due to the number of employees who will be eligible for retirement within the next several years, said Paul Silberquit, director of GCC's Engineering and Applied Technologies Division. The result was GCC's new associate degree.

"This new degree program is a wonderful example of how Gateway can be an invaluable partner for workforce development in the region," said GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick. "It not only benefits students and Metro-North, but also the economies of greater New Haven and Connecticut, which rely heavily on reliable rail service."

Students who enroll in the RET degree program would get to choose from two "tracks" or specialties — electromechanical or signaling and communications. Students choosing the electromechanical track would learn the necessary skills to be employed in the repair and maintenance of rail cars. Students opting for the signaling and communications track would learn the necessary skills to be employed in the repair and maintenance of railroad signaling and communications systems.

[Back to top](#)

## Early success leads to more 'Early Bird Classes'

Due to the overwhelming success of GCC's new "Early Bird Classes" at 6:30 a.m., which were launched this fall, the college is expanding the program for the spring semester.

The program, which is aimed at students who work full time, is slated to offer nine courses in the spring, up from four courses this semester. All will be high-demand general education classes: Fundamentals of Human Communication, Introduction to Software Applications, Earth Science, English Composition, English Literature & Composition, Western Civilization I, Intermediate Algebra, Introduction to Philosophy and General Psychology.

Dean of Academic Affairs Mark Kosinski said this fall's 6:30 a.m. classes were either full or almost full. "We are obviously filling a need by serving working

Water Management Certificate

## Friendly Reminders

- Thanksgiving Food Drive through Nov. 18
- GCC Holiday Dinner Committee needs your help

## Calendar Highlights

- Nov. 17: Dr. Kendrick speaks at Chamber Expo
- Nov. 18: Free small business marketing seminar
- Dec. 7: Dr. Kendrick hosts Town Hall meeting on Long Wharf campus
- Dec. 28: Winter intersession begins; registration underway
- 

## Faculty, Staff Highlights

- Assistant professor joins nursing faculty
- Professor participates in conference in Ecuador
- Early Childhood Education honored for accreditation
- GCC team raises \$2,600 to help fight breast cancer

## Alumni Highlights

- Blind GCC alum featured in Sacred Heart publication
- 
- [Click here](#) to see list of

students who would like to come to a campus that is conveniently located, take a class and be back on the road to work before 8 o'clock," Kosinski said. "I've met with students in the classes and they are eager and excited about what they are doing."

In addition to giving working students the option of not having to come to campus during the college's busiest time, which begins at 5:20 p.m. Monday through Thursday, the program also helps the college manage its record enrollments while it awaits the completion of its new downtown campus. "It's a win-win situation," Kosinski said.

[Back to top](#)

## \$30,000 grant expands 'Middle College' initiative



GCC will soon be expanding its successful "Middle College" initiative to two additional New Haven high schools, thanks to a recent \$30,000 grant from the Wachovia Foundation.

A growing national educational trend, Middle College programs are a collaboration between a high school district and a community college that allow high school students who are struggling or need a different learning environment to strengthen their skills, learn to work at a higher level and receive dual high school/college credit.

GCC's Middle College initiative began in 2008 with a pilot program that targeted 25 freshmen at New Haven's Cooperative Arts & Humanities High School (see photo for pilot program's cohort). Earlier this year, the Wachovia Foundation underwrote this effort with a \$20,000 grant.

"Based on the pilot's success, the foundation has now awarded the additional \$30,000 to expand the Middle College experience to two more New Haven secondary schools: James Hillhouse Comprehensive High School and New Haven Academy Interdistrict Magnet," said GCC's Director of Instructional Design and Development Wendy Samberg, who oversees the initiative.

The New Haven Academy model will involve all students. At Hillhouse, the program will introduce the Middle College concept to all freshmen, giving them the option of opting into the school's Liberal Arts program, which will house the Middle College.

[Back to top](#)

## ESL class participates in Yale curriculum study

A GCC English as a Second Language (ESL) class is one of 20 classrooms in Connecticut taking part in a Yale University study testing a new nutrition-focused curriculum for adult ESL students.

The curriculum, called "Healthy Eating For Life," was co-written by GCC ESL Instructor Sigrid "Siggy" Nystrom and Josefa "Sefa" Martinez, a research associate at Yale's Health, Emotion, and Behavior Lab in the Department of Psychology. GCC Instructor Erica Gordon was the project's editor.

The curriculum, which is being taught in 20 classes around Connecticut this fall, is

events on our web site.

## President's Corner

President's Corner is Gateway Community College's campus newsletter. It is published by the college's [Public Relations and Marketing Department](#).

## Gateway's Mission

Gateway Community College offers high-quality instruction and comprehensive services in an environment conducive to learning. We respond to the changing academic, occupational, technological, and cultural needs of a diverse population.

designed to encourage healthy eating among adult ESL students. It teaches health literacy skills with a focus on nutrition in ways that are relevant, accessible and applicable to the adult ESL classroom setting, while developing students' listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.

Nystrom's ESL 141 class at GCC (see photo) is in the midst of the program now. Martinez said the curriculum has two goals: to help students progress with their English skills and change their attitudes and behavior towards healthy eating as a result of what they've learned about nutrition. Students were assessed in these areas before the curriculum began and will be re-assessed at the end of the semester, she said.



The curriculum includes a workbook for students, a teacher's manual, an audio supplement and a family-focused storyline in DVD format. "This project wouldn't have been possible without Siggy," Martinez said. "She is an amazing teacher. It was a project between the two of us, but her creativity really made it happen."

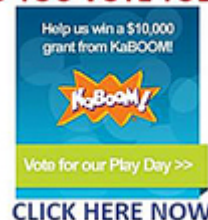
Nystrom credited Martinez with having the vision to see the benefits of such a curriculum and the persistence to shepherd the project from beginning to end. The curriculum incorporates the State Department of Education's adult English Language Learning standards, critical CASAS competencies and cutting-edge health behavior change theory in the form of the Health Action Process Approach model.

[Back to top](#)

## Help ELC win \$10,000 playground improvement grant

GCC's Early Learning Center (ELC) is one of 10 finalists for five playground improvement grants worth up to \$10,000 from KaBOOM!, a national non-profit organization, Mott's, and NFL PLAY 60.

**DID YOU VOTE TODAY?**



Winners will be selected based on the number of online votes each of the 10 finalists receives through Nov. 30.

To cast your vote for Gateway's ELC, you must first register with KaBOOM! by visiting

<http://kaboom.org/playday>, scrolling down to "Gateway Community College Play Day," clicking on its "Vote" box, then clicking on "Register for KaBOOM!" A registration confirmation will be sent to your e-mail with a link to click on. Once you click on that link, you will be taken to the "Gateway Community College Play Day" box again, where you should click on "vote" one more time for your vote to be official.

Individuals may cast one vote every 24 hours through Nov. 30. The more often you vote, the more likely the ELC is to win, so please vote as often as you can through Nov. 30.

The ELC was chosen as a finalist based on its Sept. 24 "Calling All Dads" Male Involvement Breakfast, which included children and their fathers participating in a beautification project by planting mums and mulching trees and shrubs around the ELC's outdoor playground (photo). The event was selected from more than 1,500 other Play Days held throughout the United States to be in the running for one of five playground improvement grants. The grants are \$10,000 for first place, \$7,500 for second place, and three \$2,500 third-place awards.

[Back to top](#)

## Structural steel on south site to be completed soon

Work continued on schedule in October at the site of the new GCC campus in downtown New Haven, with the south site building superstructure starting to take shape as additional structural steel was erected and preparations for winter weather activities commenced.

The construction site is made up of two parcels, one located north of the other, on 3.7 acres at 2-20 Church Street. A “topping off” ceremony for the project has been tentatively scheduled for Dec. 15 at 10 a.m. Doug Peckham, project executive at [Dimeo Construction](#), the construction manager for the project, gave the following summary of construction in October and November:



**On the south site:** Structural steel for the south building, at the end of October, was approximately 70 percent complete and the crane portion of the work should be completed by the end of November. Preparations for elevated concrete slabs from the second floor through to the roof levels began with half of the second floor concrete slab being placed in October (photo). The concrete slab placements will continue on all levels through the building during the months of November and December.

Temporary weather protection measures have also commenced around the building perimeter as tarpaulins will wrap the building to contain temporary heat and maintain a temperature environment to allow concrete slab placements and application of spray fireproofing through the cold winter months.

**On the north site:** In October at the pre-cast concrete parking garage, underground utilities and below slab on grade waterproofing commenced. The building superstructure, by the end of October, was approximately 10 percent complete with structural steel erection, work that will continue through to the end of December until the crane portion of the steel is complete. Similar to the south building, as the steel progresses, temporary perimeter tarpaulins and winter heating equipment will be installed to prepare the north building for installation of concrete slabs and spray fireproofing through the winter months.

**The walkway bridge:** A portion of George Street, between Church and Temple Streets, will be closed on several successive weekends in November, December and January while the crane is used to erect the bridge structural steel, which connects the north and south buildings at each level, over George Street. This work will be coordinated and scheduled with the city of New Haven.

The state [Department of Public Works](#) is administering the project, which will include two four-story buildings totaling 360,000 square feet. The \$198 million campus is one of the largest construction projects the state has ever undertaken and its first public building designed to be gold-certified in [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design](#), also known as LEED.

[Back to top](#)

## In the Media: Green jobs, nursing, SOAR certificates

GCC was featured in a variety of media last month, including a “Stimulus Tracker”

series that was published in several states, a segment on WTNH-TV's CT Style, Patch, the new hyper-local online news site, and a railroading trade publication.

The "Stimulus Tracker" article, written by New Haven Register reporter Angela Carter, launched a new series by the Journal Register newspaper chain that explores how funds from the federal American Reinvestment and Recovery Act are being spent. It quoted a graduate of GCC's Sustainable Building Adviser Certificate Program, as well as David Cooper, director of GCC's Center for a Sustainable Future and Ann Cohen, coordinator of GCC's Workforce Development Institute. [Click here](#) to read the article, which also was published in newspapers throughout the Journal Register six-state chain.

**New Haven Register**



GCC's nursing program was featured Oct. 18 on CT Style. Sheila Solernou, MSN, RN, director of GCC's nursing division, and GCC nursing alum Sam Osei were interviewed. [Click here](#) to see the segment.

GCC's new SOAR certificates were featured on North Haven Patch, the North Haven news site that is part of Patch, the new AOL-funded news site. Funded by the [Sustainable Operations: Alternative and Renewable \(SOAR\) Energy Initiative](#), GCC's SOAR Alternative Energy Transportation Technology Certificate was launched this fall. A SOAR Solar Technology Certificate and a SOAR Clean Water Management Certificates will launch this spring. To read the article, [click here](#).

And GCC's new associate degree in railroad engineering technology was featured on ProgressiveRailroading.com. To read the article, [click here](#).

[Back to top](#)

## Hall of Fame Induction & Reception a success



About 200 people attended the Gateway Community College Foundation's 13<sup>th</sup> annual Hall of Fame Induction & Reception on Oct. 27 at the Shubert Theatre.

Since 1997, the Hall of Fame event has served as GCC's main source of scholarship revenue. Final totals for the fundraising event are still being calculated, but organizers say the event was very successful and will aid a variety of foundation scholarship funds.

Three individuals and one corporation were honored at the event for their exceptional contributions to the college community:

- **Community Honoree** - Kim A. Healey of the NewAlliance Foundation;

- **Gateway Alumni Honorees** - Thomas S. Griggs Jr. of Coldwell Banker and Seila Mosquera-Bruno of Neighborworks/New Horizons; and,
- **Corporate Honoree** - Metro-North Railroad.

New this year was an online silent auction that featured 13 select items of designer clothing worn by Barbra Streisand that were donated by GCC Professor Franz Douskey, who acquired them from [The Streisand Foundation](#). Other items available in the auction include entertainment and sports tickets, as well as packages for travel, spas and dining, including many restaurants gift certificates orchestrated by GCC Professor Stephen Fries, coordinator of GCC's hospitality management program and a food columnist with the *New Haven Register*.

In photo from left to right: Ray Bearney of Metro-North; master of ceremonies Keith Kountz, anchor at WTNH-TV; GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick; Kim A. Healey; Seila Mosquera-Bruno; and Thomas S. Griggs Jr.

[Back to top](#)

## Hundreds attend alternative fuel expo on Oct. 15

Hundreds of people participated in GCC's Alternative Fuel Vehicle (AFV) Day Odyssey event on Oct. 15 on our North Haven campus, an expo that spotlighted not only alternative energy for transportation but also for residential uses.

Speakers included Carolyn Humphries from Sunlight Solar Energy, Megan Pomeroy from United Illuminating, Jeff Gann from Toyota, and Frank Kuchinski from Poulsen Hybrid. There were also a variety of vendors who participated, including Harvest Homes, BluPrint, Southern Connecticut Gas, Digital Quest, Inc., and VETSLink. The state DMV had a emissions exhibit and the Greater New Haven Transit District brought a hydrogen bus (photo).



[Back to top](#)

## More than 300 attend GCC's October job fairs

Twenty-six employers and more than 300 students and alumni participated in four "Jobs Café" job fairs hosted by GCC at its Long Wharf cafeteria in October.

The events were held Oct. 18, 20, 28 and 28. Director of Career Services Michael V Buccilli said informal interviews were conducted and many students arranged times for formal interviews at later dates with various employers. Participating employers included Wal-Mart, Verizon Wireless, Mutual of Omaha, and FedEx, as well as several local/regional companies such as People's Bank, Marrakech, Hall Neighborhood House and LEAP New Haven.

"There was a good blend of industries represented with something there for everyone," Buccilli said. "Nearly all the companies were hiring, though their needs were quite diverse, ranging from part-time holiday positions to full-time management trainee programs. Additionally, several companies expressed interest in partnering with Gateway's academic departments to develop internships, provide employment opportunities and support classroom instruction. Overall, Jobs Café was a success and we look forward to future events like them."

[Back to top](#)

## Center for Sustainable Future continues its outreach



GCC's Center for a Sustainable Future (CSF) continued its ongoing community outreach by participating in two events in October.

On Oct. 16, the CSF was an exhibitor at the Greater New Haven NAACP's Economic Summit at the University of New Haven (photo). And on Oct. 25, CSF Director David Cooper attended a Black Pastors Council meeting, where he explained the CSF and its programs. The meeting was arranged by Florestine Taylor of the Jobs and Literacy Resource Center at Science Park and included a tour of the Science Center.

[Back to top](#)

## Program Spotlight: Water Management Certificate

Within the next 10 years, more than half of the 1,000-plus water treatment and distribution system operators in Connecticut who are certified by the state Department of Public Health will be eligible to retire.

These are positions that often start with a \$50,000 annual salary — and individuals who complete GCC's one-year Water Management Certificate Program and pass the state exam will be eligible to fill those positions, even if they have no previous experience in the industry.

"Gateway's Water Management Certificate Program is a fast-track to a great career," said Professor Wesley L. Winterbottom, program manager.

"If you complete this program and pass the state exam, you can become certified as an operator-in-training without any other water management experience," he said. "These are good, secure jobs that pay very well with good benefits and a lot of job security. These are not jobs that can be outsourced overseas to countries with lower labor costs."

GCC is the only community college in Connecticut to offer a [Water Management Certificate Program](#). The program prepares students for careers in water management, which includes water treatment and water distribution, by preparing them for state certification exams. Graduates could go on to work at water companies in the private and public sector, like the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (photo), the Metropolitan District Commission, Aquarion Water Co. and The Connecticut Water Co.



The program currently has about 50 students, its highest enrollment in its almost 20-year history. As a result, GCC is considering offering additional sections of courses in the near future to accommodate demand. Winterbottom said its students run the gamut from those with a GED to current industry employees to individuals with degrees, but without any water management experience. "People who choose this career path need to enjoy science and math and be reasonably comfortable with technology because water treatment plants are fairly high-tech operations," he said. In addition to all the necessary science, math and technology, students also learn about security, an important post-9/11 issue for all utilities.

The program is part of the college's division of Engineering and Applied Technologies and its courses are offered on GCC's North Haven campus and the Training Center of the Metropolitan District Commission in Hartford, a non-profit municipal corporation that provides potable water and sewer services in the capital region.

The pending retirement of so many of its certified employees has led water companies, authorities and trade organizations across the state to work closely with GCC to try to ensure a steady stream of qualified applicants for open positions. "This is a huge issue facing the water treatment industry nationally and in Connecticut," Winterbottom said. "There are not a lot of people in the pipeline and there are a lot of people who are retiring."

GCC graduate Trevor Roberts, has seen the phenomenon first hand. "I'm 48 and I'm the youngest guy who works on the 8-4 shift where I work," he said. "We need some 20- and 30-year-old people."

Roberts already worked at a water and sewer company when he decided to enroll in GCC's program. He had just been promoted and saw an opportunity for further advancement if he could get certified. "I think the program is tops. On a scale of 1 to 10, I'd give it a 9.8," he said. "I learned so much. Before I got into this industry, I didn't realize how much work it took to get the water from the source to the tap. I had no idea what was involved in that process. All I knew was when I turned on the tap, I had water."

*GCC program coordinators who are interested in future Program Spotlights should contact Alison Skratt at [askratt@gwcc.commnet.edu](mailto:askratt@gwcc.commnet.edu). Articles will be assigned on a first-come-first-served basis.*

[Back to top](#)

## Friendly Reminders

### Thanksgiving Food Drive through Nov. 18

The GCC Core Committee's Thanksgiving Food Drive will collect non-perishable food and monetary donations until Nov. 18 to benefit the [Christian Community Action Food Bank](#) in New Haven.

Donations may be at the Admissions Office, Room 122, on our Long Wharf campus, or in the Records Office, Room 101, on our North Haven campus. For more information, contact Kim Shea or Teresa Russo DeMars.

[Back to top](#)



### Committee needs your help

On Dec. 10, GCC will be hosting its annual Holiday Dinner, a tradition sponsored and run by faculty, staff and students that serves 16 shelters and programs across New Haven.

Last year, more than 600 guests



attended (photo). This event would not be possible without the generous donations of items, time and funds from individuals across the GCC community. The Holiday Dinner Committee needs your help. Please participate, if you can, in any of the following:

- On Dec. 1, the committee will be holding a fundraiser for the dinner in the lobbies of our Long Wharf and North Haven campuses. It would like to give out candy to those who donate. If you can donate candy – perhaps leftover from Halloween – please drop it off on the Long Wharf campus in Room 116 with Kristine DeForge or on the North Haven campus in Room 222A. Also, if you are willing to help staff the tables in the lobbies, please stop by anytime. If you have questions, please contact Norman Abell;
- The committee is collecting new *unwrapped* toys to give to the children who attend. Toys can be delivered to Room 107 on our Long Wharf campus or Room 101 on our North Haven campus through Dec. 9. If you have questions about the toy drive, please contact Rick Palinko. The committee also needs wrapping paper for when they wrap the gifts. Please drop off any donations by Dec. 8 to the Financial Aid Office on the Long Wharf campus or to Lee Barden in the Records Office on the North Haven campus. If you have questions about the wrapping paper drive, please contact Nancy Robinson;
- Each guest at the dinner will get to select a gently used winter coat, hat, gloves and scarf to leave with. The annual coat drive to collect for this portion of the dinner has already begun. Collection boxes are in the libraries on both campuses. Please only donate items that are clean and gently used. Donations of winter coats, hats, gloves, scarves and sweaters are being accepted. Please note, last year, they needed more “large” size coats. If you have questions, please contact Martha Lipowski.
- This year, the committee wants to try to give each child who attends the event a new book. If you would like to help, please drop off new books for children aged 6 months to 16 years, to Room 123 on the Long Wharf campus. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Robinson.

[Back to top](#)

## Calendar Highlights

### Dr. Kendrick to speak at Chamber Expo on Nov. 17

GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick will participate in the Women’s Business Council panel discussion as part of the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce’s Business Expo 2010 on Nov. 17 at the Oakdale Theater in Wallingford. The event, “Inspirations: A Conversation with Connecticut’s Top Female Executives,” will begin at 2 p.m. In addition to Kendrick, the panel will include Meredith Reuben, CEO of Eastern Bag & Paper, and Susan Bryson, partner at Wiggin & Dana. It will be moderated by Jocelyn Maminta of WTNH-TV.

[Back to top](#)

## Free small business marketing seminar Nov. 18

The GCC Small Business Center and the New Haven chapter of SCORE are offering a free seminar Nov. 17 for businesses looking to learn about marketing.

“Smart Marketing to Generate Results” will be held from 6:50 to 9 p.m. at the Small Business Center in Room 207B on our Long Wharf campus. It is free and pre-registration is not required, but seating is limited.

One-on-one counseling sessions with SCORE are also available each Wednesday at GCC from 1 to 4 p.m. by appointment only.

For more information about the seminar or one-on-one SCORE counseling, please call (203) 865-7645 or visit [www.NewHavenSCORE.com](http://www.NewHavenSCORE.com).

[Back to top](#)

## Dr. Kendrick to host Town Hall Meeting on Dec. 7

Staff, faculty and students are invited to attend a Town Hall Meeting hosted by GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick on Tuesday, Dec. 7, at 2:30 p.m. in Room 160 on our Long Wharf campus.

[Back to top](#)

## Registration underway for winter intersession

Registration is underway for GCC's popular winter intersession schedule, where students home for winter break can complete many transferable three-credit general education courses in just three weeks.

Courses begin Dec. 28 and ends Jan. 14. There are more than 30 courses offered this year, including many evening and online courses for working students. Early registration is encouraged for the best chance at getting a preferred class.

Registration for continuing students opened Nov. 1. New student registration begins Dec. 1, but new students must apply to GCC first. For more information, an application or to schedule a campus tour, call the Office of Admissions at (203) 285-2010.

## Faculty & Staff Highlights

### Assistant professor joins nursing faculty

Please join us in congratulating Philip Martinez in being named a full-time assistant professor in our Nursing Division, effective Jan. 18.

Martinez, who began as a part-time clinical faculty member in January 2009, will be teaching classroom and clinical in NUR 101.

He is a graduate of University of New Haven, where he earned a BS in Forensic Science and of the Yale University School of Nursing, where he received his MSN

degree as an acute care nurse practitioner. Martinez is currently employed as an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) at Middlesex Hospital's Critical Care Unit. He was previously employed at Yale-New Haven Hospital as an APRN in the Emergency Department and a staff nurse in the Cardiovascular Unit at St. Mary's Hospital in Waterbury.

[Back to top](#)

## Professor participates in conference in Ecuador

On Oct. 15-16, Carol Brutza, professor in the Humanities department in Peace and Conflict Studies, was a member of a team of volunteers who participated in a two-day conference on capacity building, leadership and strategies of conflict resolution for students at Casa Grande University and staff from nonprofit organizations in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

The "Seminario Taller Desarrollo & Cambio en Organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil" was organized by Gateway alum Seila Mosquera-Bruno, of Neighborworks/New Horizons who was inducted into the Gateway Community College Foundation's Hall of Fame last month.

The Gateway Community College Foundation supported part of the expenses of sending Brutza, who is also coordinator of the English as a Second Language Program, to present at the conference.

[Back to top](#)

## Early Childhood Education honored for accreditation

GCC's Early Childhood Education (ECE) Program was honored at an Early Childhood Professional Development Reception that was part of the October conference of the [Connecticut Association for the Education of Young Children](#) (CAEYC) for becoming the first associate degree program in the state to earn accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

The awards included citations from U.S Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-3<sup>rd</sup> District), the Community College system office and the state General Assembly. They were accepted by Program Coordinator Susan Logston (photo) and faculty members Carmelita Valencia-Daye and Cathy Mebane.



The seven-year accreditation by the NAEYC's Commission on Early Childhood Associate Degree Accreditation means that the program's curriculum and faculty meet the highest national standards. GCC's ECE Program prepares students to teach in preschool settings and includes student teaching at facilities like GCC's Early Learning Center, a fully licensed and nationally accredited lab school for children aged 3-5 located on our Long Wharf campus.

[Back to top](#)

## GCC team raises \$2,600 to help fight breast cancer

Our congratulations go out to GCC's team in the Oct. 24 Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk at Lighthouse Point in New Haven, which raised \$2,600 to fight breast cancer, more than twice its goal of \$1,000.

Team Captain Barbara Rudolph sends out her special thanks to the team, "Gateway's Dream," which included GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick, staff, faculty and students.

[Back to top](#)

## Alumni Highlights

### Blind GCC alum featured in Sacred Heart publication

GCC alum Vishal Patel, who is blind and recently transferred to Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, was featured in an October article in *The Spectrum*, a campus publication.

Patel, who also participated in GCC's Step Forward Program, transferred to Sacred Heart as a sophomore. He is taking a challenging course load as a political science major, criminal justice minor, and is a member of the pre-law club (see photo, by Jamie Miller, courtesy of *The Spectrum*, of Patel in his dorm room).



To read the article, "Seeing how to live a happy life from another perspective," [click here](#).

[Back to top](#)