A Holiday Message from President Dorsey Kendrick:

The GCC family has much to be thankful for. There’s visible progress on our long-awaited new campus and our student body continues to grow.

I am particularly grateful that I work with such a dedicated faculty and staff. Their tireless work on behalf of our students is noticed and appreciated.

On behalf of the college community, I thank all who read these words for their generosity and continued support of our mission to provide open and equal access to higher education and wish you a happy and safe holiday season.

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Town Hall Meeting addresses budget shortfalls

GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick held a Town Hall meeting for the campus community on Tuesday, Dec. 7, to discuss issues that included possible budget shortfalls and the need for GCC students, faculty and staff to be familiar with the situation and prepared to discuss it with the community and students.

Kendrick spoke to a standing-room only crowd in room 160 on our Long Wharf campus less than a week after participating in a panel discussion Dec. 2 on the role race still plays in higher education at the 125th annual meeting and conference for the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) in Boston.

The agenda for the Town Hall Meeting included discussions about the current state proposed budget for GCC and the community college system and scenarios for major budget cuts that could take place next year.

“It’s going to be tough for us for the next two years, for students, staff, faculty and administrators,” Kendrick said. Referring to handouts that were distributed to those in attendance, she said: “I’m giving you these so you will be armed with information. Information is power.”

As GCC continues to prepare for its move to the new downtown campus in 2012, Kendrick encouraged all faculty and staff to prepare short “elevator speeches,” a “pitch” that lasts under two minutes that can effectively deliver a strong message in the time it takes to ride with someone in an elevator. These elevator speeches can be used throughout the community to thoughtfully and passionately deliver the message that GCC, and her sister institutions, are important to the revitalization of the state’s economy and should not have their budgets cut any further, she said.
now apply to graduate in January

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President’s Corner

President’s Corner is Gateway Community College’s campus newsletter. It is published by

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New campus topping-out ceremony to be held Jan. 20

A “topping-out” ceremony, which will celebrate the symbolic placement of the final beam for GCC’s new downtown campus, will take place on Thursday, Jan. 20, in the pre-cast concrete parking garage on the project’s north site.

Several dignitaries, including GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick, will speak. Guests will be notified via an e-mailed invitation to be sent by GCC in the coming weeks.

The construction site is made up of two parcels, one located north of the other, on 3.7 acres at 2-20 Church Street. Scott Eaton, project manager at Dimeo Construction, said a crane will lift the beam into place on the north building after the speeches take place. All invited guests will be given the opportunity to sign the beam before it is hoisted into place.

Eaton, who said work continues on schedule, gave the following summary of recent work on the project:

On the south site: The crane left the site this past weekend, having finished erecting structural steel. As noted last month, workers continue to install the temporary weather protection, which will contain heat for temperature critical-construction elements (see photo). Placement of the concrete floor slabs continues, targeted for completion mid-January. Mechanical and electrical work continues, concentrating on underground work. Concrete for the first-floor slab on-grade, which will be placed in sections, is scheduled for December and January.

On the north site: Workers continued erecting steel and detailing on the four-story building in November. Commencement of temporary weather protection and concrete floor slabs is planned for this month. Mechanical and electrical work continues in the mechanical room and parking garage. Work on the bridge that spans George Street, connecting the north and south buildings, is targeted to commence in January.

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.

GCC, SBDC offer veterans business workshops

GCC will host two workshops with the Connecticut Small Business Development Center on Friday, Dec. 10, aimed at helping Connecticut’s 225,000 veterans start, grow and maintain small businesses.
The workshops are free, but seating is limited so registration is strongly encouraged by Wednesday, Dec. 8.

The first workshop is designed for counselors, faculty and others who provide services to veterans. This “Train the Trainer” workshop will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. in room 160 on GCC’s Long Wharf campus at 60 Sargent Drive. This workshop will include information about counseling, education, training and financing available to veterans through the state and federal governments, as well as through the private sector. Presenters include Webster Bank, Connecticut colleges certified veteran officers, the state Department of Labor and Connect Veterans Inc.

The second workshop is designed for veterans who would like to start a small business or want assistance with an existing business. This workshop will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. in room 160 on GCC’s Long Wharf campus. Participants will learn about special veteran-friendly resources that can help veterans start, grow and maintain a small business. Presenters include the Connecticut Small Business Development Center, America’s Counselors to Small Business – SCORE, Webster Bank, Connect Veterans Inc., and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

Special invited guests for both workshops include U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-3rd District), and via telecast, Bill Elmore, associate administrator of veterans’ business development for the U.S. SBA.

To register for either event, please contact Professor Rose Bednarz-Luglio at (203) 285-2198 or rluglio@gwcc.commnet.edu or Rick Palinko at (203) 285-2146 or rpalinko@gwcc.commnet.edu.

Holiday Dinner expects record-breaking attendance

This Friday, Dec. 10, GCC expects to welcome as many as 700 individuals from shelters across the New Haven area for our annual Holiday Dinner for the Less Fortunate, a record-breaking number and an increase of almost 100 people over last year (photo).

“We’re finding there are more overflow shelters with people, particularly churches that have opened their basements to people in need, so we’re expecting close to 700 guests this year,” said Culinary Arts Professor Andrew Randi, who founded the event 10 years ago and is co-organizer of this year’s event with Kristine DeForge.

This event would not be possible without the countless hours volunteered by those on the Holiday Dinner Committee who work tirelessly in the weeks leading up to the dinner. Our special thanks go out to those on the committee: Andrew Randi, Kristine DeForge, Nancy Robinson, Rick Palinko, Martha Lipowski, Barbara Rudolph, Marge Weiner, Alice Pandolfi, Susan Swirsky, Janet Klinck, Robbin Airault, Norm Abell, Marcia Doran, Matt Wisniewski, Susan Chenard and Louise Petroka.

Our thanks also go out to all those who gave monetary donations in the lobbies of our two campuses. This year, more than $900 was raised, the most ever.
New Warm Up America group knits for Holiday Dinner

GCC’s new Warm Up America knitting and crocheting program, which was launched this fall, will contribute 36 hand-made scarves and nine hand-made hats to the winter-ware giveaway that is part of GCC’s Holiday Dinner for the Less Fortunate on Dec. 10.

The program was started in October on our Long Wharf campus after the Office of College Life launched a new Student Community Outreach program that aims to coordinate ways to offer students volunteer activities, said GCC student Jennifer Rivera, who organized the program for the Office of Student Life. Director of Admissions Kim Shea suggested Rivera consider tapping into Warm Up America, a non-profit that helps knitting and crocheting groups around the country organize to donate their finished products to those in need.

At first, the plan was to meet every other week, but the program turned out to be so popular that participants began meeting every Monday from 1-2 p.m. and members suggested knitting scarves and hats for the Holiday Dinner in addition to sending items to Warm Up America.

As many as 15 students, faculty and staff now participate, Rivera said. Anyone can join. If do not know how to knit or crochet, other members will teach you. If you don’t have the required needles, you may sign out ones that belong to the club. And members have donated more than enough yarn to keep the program moving along.

Originally, the pilot program was going to stop after the fall semester, but Rivera said it will now continue into the spring semester and she hopes to launch a group at our North Haven campus soon. All future items will be distributed either through Warm Up America or directly to local organizations for those in need, she said. To join the program, contact the Office of College Life at 203-285-2208.

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GCC to host Alumni Banquet on Dec. 16

All GCC alumni are invited to participate in a GCC Alumni Celebration on Thursday, Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at our Long Wharf campus.

State Senate Majority Leader Martin Looney, D-New Haven/Hamden, (photo) will be the keynote speaker for the event, which will honor all GCC graduates, according to faculty member Dr. Kerin Lee-Kelsey, who is organizing the free event. There also will be refreshments and entertainment.

To RSVP, please contact Lee-Kelsey at 203-285-2151 or klee-kelsey@gwcc.commnet.edu.

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1\textsuperscript{st} December pinning ceremony for nursing Dec. 17

The nursing program at GCC will hold its first-ever fall semester pinning ceremony on Friday, Dec. 17, at 5:30 p.m. in the auditorium of our North Haven campus to mark the transition from student to professional for an expected 37 graduates.

Previously, GCC held nursing pinning ceremonies only at the end of each spring semester (see photo for spring 2010 pinning), but will begin holding them in both December and May to accommodate the two classes that were created starting in 2008 when the program added a second start date.

A time-honored tradition, pinning ceremonies trace their origins to nursing pioneer Florence Nightingale, who received the Cross of St. George from Britain’s Queen Victoria in 1855 for her service in caring for injured British soldiers. When special nursing schools were later founded using Nightingale’s principles and practices, the awarding of pins and medals to outstanding graduates became increasingly common until it was eventually established as a right of passage from student to practitioner.

In the Media: Downtown campus in the news

GCC’s new downtown campus has been in the news recently with articles in the Yale Daily News and the New Haven Independent.

The Yale Daily News article gave an update on construction and included interviews with several neighboring businesses. To read the article, click here.

The New Haven Independent article on Nov. 19 detailed the city’s plans to install “smart” traffic lights at nine downtown intersections as part of a $3 million state project to improve local roads before our new campus opens. These new traffic lights will be outfitted with cameras that will detect bicycles awaiting to cross the street and change the lights accordingly. To read the article, click here.

Program Spotlight: Environmental Science and Toxicology Degree and Certificate Programs

GCC was one of the first two-year colleges in Connecticut to offer both an associate degree and certificate in Environmental Science and Toxicology when the programs began in the early 1990s.

Graduates of the programs can go on to be employed as environmental scientists and
technicians who apply a multi-disciplinary scientific understanding of the natural and
man-made worlds to protect nature and human health.

Recent studies indicate that “green” jobs like these are growing nearly 2½ times
to public health, as well as increasing
demands placed on natural areas, water
resources, land use, waste disposal, air
quality, energy, and food supply caused
by population growth.

Wesley L. Winterbottom, professor of
science for GCC’s Environmental Science
and Toxicology programs, said
environmental scientists and technicians can have a variety of career options,
including working as:

- Educators, teaching the public about environmental issues;
- Researchers conducting studies designed to provide insights into the natural
  environment, developing and enforcing policies and programs to protect the
  natural environment and human health, or developing new sources of energy
  and more efficient methods of energy use;
- Laboratory technicians, analyzing air, water, soil and tissue samples for
  contaminants;
- Consultants, providing advice to federal, state and local governments, industry,
  commercial, and environmental organizations; or,
- Regulators working for environmental agencies of all levels of government.

The program, which currently has more than 40 students, is part of the college’s
Math/Science Department and its courses are offered on both of GCC’s campuses in
New Haven and North Haven.

Winterbottom said the degree program gives students without an existing degree an
opportunity to start a career upon graduating, or continue on for a higher degree,
generally with funding from an employer. The certificate program works very well for
students who already have at least a four-year degree and want to switch careers, he
said.

West Haven resident Stephen Palmer, 24, falls into the first category. He hopes to
complete the degree program in the spring of 2011 and go on to employment in waste
water management and later pursue a bachelor’s degree. “This program is great,” he
said. “What really makes it so special is the teachers. They go the extra mile and are
always available with help when you need it.”

Meriden resident Paula Caretti falls into the second category. She is enrolled in the
certificate program, which she hopes to complete in the spring of 2011. She has a
bachelor’s degree in business administration and is an entrepreneur, having started a
light manufacturing business in 1997. But the recession has taken its toll on the
company and she decided to try a new career, but wanted something that she could
train for quickly, would fit in her budget, piqued her interest and offered promise in
terms of employment. “Gateway is a fantastic value,” she said. “It’s a great program.
The more you put into it, the more you get out of it.”

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

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Friendly Reminders

GCC students may now apply to graduate in January

Beginning in January, students who have completed their requirements for their degrees or certificates by the end of the fall semester may apply to graduate in January.

Although there will be no ceremony in January, those graduates will be invited to walk in the commencement ceremony in May.

Spring semester registration is underway

Registration is underway through Jan. 20 for GCC’s spring semester, which begins Jan. 21. Early registration figures show continued increases in registration levels.

Inclement weather delays and cancellations

With winter weather on the horizon, GCC reminds the college community that, in the event of inclement weather, students, faculty and staff will be notified about the delay or cancellation of classes in a variety of ways.

Announcements will be made on the following radio and TV stations: WELI, WKCI, WKSS, WPLR, STAR, WICC, WEBE, WTIC/AM and FM, WRCH, WZMX, Channel 3, Channel 8, Channel 30 and Channel 61. An announcement also will be placed on the faculty/staff weather hotline at (203) 285-2222.

Should a delayed opening be announced, all college faculty and staff will be expected to report to work at the designated time to resume scheduled classes or office assignments.

Winter intersession courses begin Dec. 28

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. For more information, an application or to schedule a campus tour, call the Office of Admissions at (203) 285-2010.
Calendar Highlights

Free entrepreneurial workshop offered on Dec. 8

GCC’s Small Business Center and the New Haven chapter of SCORE will be offering a free workshop Wednesday, Dec. 8, for entrepreneurs who want to start a business.

There is no pre-registration required for this monthly “pre-business” workshop, which will be held on our Long Wharf campus in room 160 from 8:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. It will include a review of topics for individuals thinking about going into business for themselves, including business plans, state taxes, insurance, financing, marketing, bookkeeping, business laws and web sites.

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 Dec. 8 event or one-on-one counseling, please call (203) 865-7645 or visit www.NewHavenSCORE.com.

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‘How to Study for Final Exams’ workshop Dec. 9

GCC Business Professor John Henry Scott III will host a “How to Study for Final Exams” free workshop for students on Thursday, Dec. 9.

The event will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in the cafeteria on our Long Wharf campus.

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President’s Holiday Gathering will be on Dec. 16

GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick invites all GCC faculty and staff to join her for a Holiday Gathering on Thursday, Dec. 16, in room 213 on the Long Wharf campus.

The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

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Art student exhibition on display Dec. 9 to Jan. 28

The Gallery at Gateway Community College, located in Room 161 on our Long Wharf campus, will host The Gateway Art Students End of Semester Exhibition Dec. 9 through Jan. 28.

The gallery’s hours are Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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Faculty & Staff Highlights

New associate director of financial aid joins GCC

Please join us in welcoming Omar Livingston, GCC’s new associate director of financial aid, to the GCC community.

Livingston was previously director of financial aid services at Sanford-Brown College and offers Gateway Community College a wealth of financial aid knowledge and experience, according to Matthew J. Long, director of student services and student development. He holds a bachelor’s degree in business management and is a graduate of the Connecticut community college system.

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New course, event on building religious tolerance

The Humanities Department will be offering a new pilot course in the spring semester called “Building Religious Tolerance in Our Community.”

The course, ENG 298, will meet on Tuesdays from 3:45 p.m. to 6:35 p.m. It will be taught by three instructors: Rabbi Benjamin Scolnic of Temple Beth Sholom in Hamden, John A. Wilkinson of the Saint Thomas More Center at Yale, and Yale Muslim Chaplain Omer Bajwa.

Two of the three instructors — Scolnic and Bajwa — participated in an interfaith panel discussion at GCC on Nov. 3 (photo). The free event, which was open to the public and organized by faculty member Susan Chenard, explored how to build religious tolerance and included discussions about what provisions exist in different faiths to allow followers to tolerate people of other faiths. The panel also included Rev. John Scott III from the Dixwell Avenue Congregationalist Church.

The new course will include a comprehensive exploration of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam that will present students with insight into the origins, traditions, and sacred scriptures of each religion. The course’s objective is to bridge the religious and cultural gap in students’ understanding of their own faith, as well as the belief system of individuals from other Abrahamic faiths. The course will also aim to use education as the means of allowing students to build respect for, and understanding of other faiths in hopes of leading to enhanced levels of religious tolerance in our community.

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GCC’s Thanksgiving Food Drive a success

GCC’s annual Thanksgiving Food Drive to benefit the Christian Community Action Food Bank in New Haven collected more non-perishable food items this year than last.

The college collected donations at both campuses in the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving. The Thanksgiving Food Drive is sponsored by the CORE Committee,
GCC’s student assistance program.

GCC’s Director of Admissions Kim Shea, who coordinated the event with Assistant Professor of Psychology Teresa DeMars, said the event collected more food items than was expected and $186 was also donated toward the drive. “The generosity and kindness of those who participated were very much appreciated and helped to make sure many people, who would otherwise go hungry on Thanksgiving, had a holiday meal,” Shea said.

GCC has participated for years in the Christian Community Action Food Bank’s Thanksgiving and spring food drives. Details about the 2011 spring food drive will be announced shortly before it begins.

Student Highlights

67 students inducted into Phi Theta Kappa chapter

Sixty-seven academically outstanding students were inducted into GCC’s Alpha Xi Theta chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society in a ceremony and reception held Nov. 19 at GCC’s North Haven campus.

The mission of the Phi Theta Kappa is to recognize and encourage the academic success of students attending two-year colleges. Members have the opportunity to participate in honors and leadership programs, community service and fellowship programming. Students who are inducted have completed 12 hours of course work while achieving a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

Special thanks go out to Subway of Stratford, BFP Group, which donated Subway subs for the Nov. 19 reception.