A New Year’s Message from President Kendrick

2010 was a very productive year for Gateway Community College, and we have much to celebrate. Not only did the college community complete the strategic plan through 2020, we also engaged in a college-wide self-study that culminated in submission of our Fifth Year Report to New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

Budgetary limitations remain challenging as we continue to serve a growing student population through creative programming, including the introduction of Early Bird Classes that start at 6:30 a.m., more online offerings and a growing Weekend College.

Over the past year, we have watched our new campus emerge as the steel frame began to take shape on two city blocks on Church Street in downtown New Haven. And on Jan. 20, we will celebrate the placement of the last beam, known as a “topping out,” with an on-site beam-signing party for the construction workers and the college community. This milestone points us toward the wonderful reality that our grand opening is just a little more than a year away.

The Gateway Community College Foundation continued to add scholarships to its roster in 2010, giving out the most scholarships ever, and the foundation’s campaign on behalf of the new campus resulted in a milestone year that exceeded the goal for 2010.

Enrollments continued to grow, with an annual unduplicated headcount of 10,385 credit-seeking students for the 2009-10 academic year. This past fall more than 7,000 students enrolled in credit courses, indicating continued growth this academic year. I feel honored and privileged to provide leadership to such a diverse and dynamic community that is evolving with each new day.

There is so much to be thankful for as 2011 begins: a wonderful college community made up of faculty, staff and students who enrich our community daily; dedicated partners who invest their time, talent and resources to benefit our students; the ever-approaching reality of a new, state-of-the-art campus; and the knowledge that we are making a difference in the lives of so many who look to education for a better quality of life.

Thank you for believing in Gateway’s mission to provide open access to higher education, and for investing in this region’s most important asset, our human capital. I wish for each of you a prosperous and successful new year.

— Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick

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Record-breaking 760 served at annual Holiday Dinner

Students, faculty and staff brought Christmas early Dec. 10 to 500 adults and 260 children from shelters across greater New Haven by hosting the college’s 10th annual Holiday Dinner.
Attendance was up from 600 last year and 400 in 2008. More than 100 volunteers from the GCC community staffed the celebration, the largest event of its kind in the area. Buses donated by Datco stopped by each shelter and program and brought the participants to our Long Wharf campus in shifts. The event also received front-page coverage in the New Haven Register. To read the article, click here.

Guests were served a full gourmet buffet prepared by students and faculty in the college’s culinary program. The event also included toys for the children, as well as festivities with Santa and Mrs. Claus, magicians, face painting and carolers. Every child left with a gift; every adult left with a bag of personal care items. And all participants left with a winter coat, hat, gloves and scarf, including 36 scarves and nine hats knitted by GCC students, faculty and staff.

“I would like to thank all of you for your support,” said GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick. “I realize that all of you could not be here in person, but I thank you for your time, talents or resources necessary to support such a huge undertaking this year. We provided a sense of family and community for 700 people. You are a remarkable group of individuals. Gateway’s mission is more than open doors for education. You have shown that we open hearts to people by our caring, sharing and loving support of our fellow man.”

The event’s co-organizer Andrew Randi also sent his thanks out to everyone who played a part in the dinner’s success. “With everyone’s kindness and support, we were able to touch the lives of many of our less fortunate neighbors,” he said. “I would particularly like to thank the committee members who gave so much of their time to make this evening a perfect event: Alice Pandolfi, John Scippa, Nancy Robinson, Lavand Bryant, Rick Palinko, Martha Lipowski, Barbara Rudolph, Marge Weiner, Susan Swirsky, Janet Klinck, Robbin Airault, Marcia Doran, Matt Wisniewski, Sue Chenard, Louise Petroka and Kristine Deforge.”

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Graduate on cover of national education magazine

Elizabeth Reyes, who graduated from GCC’s early childhood education program more than three years ago, is featured on the cover of the December/January edition of Teaching Young Children, the magazine of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the world’s largest organization for early childhood educators.

Reyes, now a preschool teacher at Christopher Columbus Family Academy/School Readiness Preschool in New Haven, is also the subject of a Q&A feature inside the magazine. Among other things the article asks, “What advice would you give to new teachers?” Reyes says: “Know you will learn from the best teachers of all—the children. Plan, be prepared, have your materials ready, but then relax and go with the flow.”

Teaching Young Children highlights current thinking on best practices in early childhood education, innovations in the field,
Meditation space planned at GCC campuses

GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick recently announced plans to put aside a small space on all our campuses for quiet meditation for faculty, staff and students.

"It has come to my attention that some of our sister schools have (done this),” she said. "We have decided that our college needs to do the same in spite of our limited space."

A small alcove on the second-floor stairwell landing in the rear of the Long Wharf building will be set aside for meditation. Officials are still looking into where to designate a spot on our North Haven campus and plans call for setting aside space in our new campus for meditation as well.

"The college is committed to creating an environment that recognizes and supports the diversity of all our community,” Kendrick said. "This small step is one way that we acknowledge the mission and purpose of the community college."

Structural steel continued last month at new campus

Work on the new campus continued on schedule in December with structural steel continuing to be erected on the north site and rough mechanical work beginning on the second floor on the south site, work that will continue throughout the winter.

The construction site is made up of two parcels, one located north of the other, on 3.7 acres at 2-20 Church Street. The new campus is on schedule to open in the fall of 2012. "The activities that are happening how are very important, but they are tasks you won't see once the buildings are done,” said Scott Eaton, project manager at Dimeo Construction. Eaton gave the following summary of work in December on the two sites:

**On the south site:** With the structural steel completed in early December, workers continued installation of the temporary weather protection to contain heat for temperature-critical construction elements (first photo). They are also working to complete the final placement of concrete floor slabs and work is expected to begin soon on placing concrete slabs on grade, or directly onto soil, at this site. Workers also began spraying fireproofing the structural steel. Back-up support for the brick and metal panels on the exterior walls is expected to begin this month.

**On the north site:** Steel work continued in December and should be completed by mid-January. Once it is done, the crane will leave this site. Masonry in the mechanical rooms in the lower level of the north building began last month and will continue through at least February. Crews also began installing the weather protection on the north building last month (second
photo), work that should be completed in mid-February.

Work is expected to begin this month on the George Street bridge that will connect the north and south buildings, taking place on three successive weekends beginning Jan. 15.

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.

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Applications available Feb. 1 for 127 scholarships

Applications will be available throughout both our campuses beginning Feb. 1 for 127 scholarships offered by the Gateway Community College Foundation, scholarships with a total value of $87,227.

The applications will be part of a brochure explaining all of the scholarships and their requirements. In addition to being available in the Foundation Office, room 130 on the Long Wharf campus, the brochure will also be available in both cafeterias, libraries, the Office of College, Financial Aid Office, Counseling Office, Admissions Office, Student Lounge and the Records Office at the North Haven campus.

Deadline to apply for the scholarships is March 18. For more information, contact Susan Swirsky at sswirsky@gwcc.commnet.edu.

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Step Forward Program’s fall newsletter available

GCC’s Step Forward Program recently distributed its fall 2010 Stepping Forward newsletter.

The edition includes autobiographical articles by 10 students who make up the program’s class of 2011. Step Forward began nearly five years ago at GCC. It is a non-credit transition program for young adults with learning challenges and barriers to employment and education. The program is designed to prepare students for the work force and life after high school, which may include community college and other vocational training. The curriculum includes character education and current events.

For more information about Step Forward, contact French at (203) 285-2505 or jfrench@gwcc.commnet.edu. To read the new Stepping Forward newsletter, click here.

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Program Spotlight: SOAR Solar Technology Program
With this month’s spring semester, GCC will become the only community college in the state to offer a new SOAR Solar Technology Certificate Program that prepares students for entry-level employment in the growing “green” field of solar technology.

More than half of solar employers nationally plan to increase their workforce in 2011, according to a report issued last fall by The Solar Foundation, a non-profit, non-lobbying organization that aims to increase solar energy use through educational outreach, policy research, and market transformation. Overall, a 26 percent increase in solar jobs is expected, the report says, based in part on investments made through the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

GCC’s new solar certificate is one of three new certificate programs that are part of the Connecticut Community College System’s Sustainable Operations: Alternative and Renewable (SOAR) Energy Initiative, which was funded by a three-year, $2 million U.S. Department of Labor Community-Based Job Training Grant in 2009, said Carla Roehrich, SOAR regional coordinator at GCC.

The first program, the SOAR Alternative Energy Transportation Technology Certificate Program, was launched in the fall of 2010. And a new SOAR Clean Water Management Certificate Program will also begin this spring semester.

Like the other two SOAR programs, the SOAR Solar Technology Certificate Program is part of the college’s division of Engineering and Applied Technologies and its courses are offered on GCC’s North Haven campus.

With full-time attendance, students can complete this 30-credit certificate in one year and be ready to apply for entry-level positions in companies that install and/or maintains solar technology systems or manufacturing solar technology for both residential and commercial uses. Positions could include system design, solar sales or customer service/relations/support, Roehrich said. It will also provide them a solid foundation for licensing exams.

“Students will learn to estimate costs, evaluate performance, and understand the overall effectiveness of various types of solar installation,” Roehrich said. “In addition to solar courses, students also take courses such as ‘Electric Circuits 1’ and ‘Electronics 1’ to understand how the various components of this technology work.”

For more information about GCC’s new SOAR Solar Technology Certificate Program, contact Carla Roehrich at (203) 285-2324 or croehrich@gwcc.commnet.edu.

Photos in this article are courtesy of Sunlight Solar Energy in Milford and were taken by Ronald Glassman. Program Spotlight appears in each issue of the President’s Corner campus newsletter. GCC program coordinators who are interested in having their program featured in a future Program Spotlight should contact Alison Skratt at askratt@gwcc.commnet.edu. Articles will be assigned on a first-come-first-served basis.
Calendar Highlights

Jan. 19: SCORE offers free business plan workshop

GCC’s Small Business Center and the New Haven chapter of SCORE will be offering a free workshop Jan. 19 for entrepreneurs who want to learn how to write a business plan.

The evening seminar titled, “The Painless Approach to Writing a Business Plan," will be held from 6:50 to 9 p.m. at the Small Business Center in room 207B on GCC’s Long Wharf campus. It is free and pre-registration is not required, but it is encouraged as seating is limited.

For more information, please call (203) 865-7645 or visit www.NewHavenSCORE.com.

GCC’s Small Business Center includes the academic office for GCC’s Entrepreneurial Studies degree and certificate programs, the administrative and counseling office for the New Haven chapter of SCORE, an organization of retired executives that offers advice to local entrepreneurs, as well as other federal and state small business assistance resources and Students in Free Enterprise.

Jan. 20: New campus topping-out ceremony

Everyone from the college community is invited to participate in the “topping out" ceremony and beam-signing Jan. 20 at our new downtown campus.

A long-standing tradition in European and Native American cultures, the topping-out ceremony includes a symbolic evergreen bough being placed on the structure to symbolize growth and attract good luck.

Shuttles will be running from both Long Wharf and North Haven campuses to the Church Street project site from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The event will take place in the pre-cast concrete parking garage on the project’s north site (on right in photo from December).

Beam signing begins at 9:30 a.m. A ceremony with speakers that include GCC President Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick and officials from Dimeo Construction, the construction manager for the project, will take place at 11:15 a.m. The beam raising will take place at 12 p.m. and there will be cake available in the cafeterias at both Long Wharf and North Haven at 12:30 p.m.

When it’s completed in 2012, our new campus will include 90 classrooms, 10 meeting spaces, 22 computer labs, a two-story library, a culinary center, a bookstore, a health center, an early learning facility and a small business center.
Jan. 30: College Goal Sunday offers planning help

On Sunday, Jan. 30, GCC’s Long Wharf campus will be a host site for College Goal Sunday, a statewide college planning event for would-be students and their parents.

Participants can visit with financial aid counselors and college staff from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and receive one-on-one, expert advice about financial aid and planning for college.

GCC is one of 13 campuses across Connecticut hosting the event. In a single afternoon, participants can become familiar with college entrance requirements, learn about planning for college, and obtain on-site assistance in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA.

"College Goal Sunday aims to give students and their families the opportunity to complete the FAFSA with assistance from industry professionals and ask whatever questions they may have in an informal setting," said GCC’s Director of Financial Aid Raymond Zeek.

Participants are asked to register for the event at www.collegegoalsundayct.org. For more information about GCC’s event, contact Zeek at rzeek@gwcc.commnet.edu or (203) 285-2032 or call toll-free at 1-888-277-2270. Those interested in volunteering for the event are also encouraged to register on the web site.

College Goal Sunday is funded and sponsored by the Lumina Foundation for Education, the Connecticut Association of Professional Financial Aid Administrators and the Connecticut Association of Educational Opportunity Programs.

Faculty & Staff Highlights

Program coordinator presents to Board of Governors

GCC Psychology Professor Dr. Lauren Doninger, who is also coordinator of the Liberal Arts & Sciences (LAS) and General Studies programs at GCC, traveled to Hartford Dec. 15 with two GCC students to make a presentation to the state Board of Governors for Higher Education about GCC’s LAS Seamless Transfer Pathway and the Dual Admission Program with Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU).

The meeting, which was held at the Department of Higher Education, was called to give the Board of Governors a report on the status of transfer programs throughout the state between colleges. GCC’s LAS Seamless Transfer Pathway and Dual Admission Program with SCSU were part of the presentation because they represent best-practice transfer models.

In addition to Doninger, Frank LaDore, interim director of academic advising at SCSU, also spoke, as did GCC students Rachel Viens and Doreen Danso, who are both part of GCC’s Dual Admission Program with SCSU and plan to graduate from GCC in May. Viens plans to enter SCSU’s School of Education and Danso plans to study pre-med there.

Gateway Community College participates in the Connecticut State University (CSU) Transfer Compact. Students in the LAS program at GCC are eligible for dual-
admission to GCC and the CSU of choice and may transfer seamlessly with junior-level standing. Participation in The Compact provides students with dual advising from GCC and the designated CSU advisors as well as library privileges at the designated CSU. Compact students have access to CSU faculty and staff, and follow the catalog of record at the time of the Compact application. After completing the Associate in Arts at GCC, Compact students receive registration and housing preferences equal to university juniors. Students must apply to The Compact Dual-Admission program before completing 15 college-level credits.

Doninger, who is also the liaison for GCC’s Guaranteed Admissions Program with the University of Connecticut, is part of the Board of Governors for the Department of Higher Education standing Advisory Committee on Transfer and Articulation.

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**Doran represents GCCF at St. Raphael’s Crystal Ball**

Marcia Doran, M.S., R.D., chair of our Allied Health Department, attended The Saint Raphael Foundation’s annual Crystal Ball with her husband Brett on Dec. 4 as the representative for the Gateway Community College Foundation (see photo at home before leaving for the ball).

The event was held at the Woodwinds in Branford. The Saint Raphael Foundation supports the Saint Raphael Healthcare System in New Haven by sustaining and strengthening the hospital’s mission of providing high quality, compassionate care to all patients regardless of ability to pay, in keeping with the mission of the hospital’s sponsors, the Sister of Charity of Saint Elizabeth.

As a result of those she met at the Dec. 4 event, Doran said she will be pursuing a collaboration with Cardiology Associates of New Haven that could include internships at the practice for GCC’s dietetic technology students. The Allied Health Department includes four specialties in radiologic technology — diagnostic medical sonography, nuclear medicine technology, radiation therapy and radiography — two specialties in nutrition and fitness — exercise science and wellness and dietetic technology — as well as programs for pre-dental hygiene and pre-allied health.

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**Student Highlights**

**GCC group participates in New Haven Habitat project**

A group from GCC participated Oct. 29 in a day of work at a Habitat for Humanity home site in New Haven as part of the Office of College Life’s new Student Community Outreach Program.

Eight students and one staff member took part in the project, which included laying down tile floors in the
kitchen and bathroom, grout work, landscaping and work on the home’s stone patio and sidewalk.

Participants included: students Jasmine Carson, Nancy Touba, Rehema Daniels, Robert Shue, Jennifer Rivera, Xuva Perea, Joel Joyner and Luz Rosario, and Janet Klinck, secretary at the Office of College Life. In the photo, from left to right, are Xuva Perea, Jennifer Rivera, Nancy Touba and Jasmine Carson.

The Office of College Life launched its Student Community Outreach Program last semester with the goal of offering students a coordinated way to participate in volunteer activities in the community. For more information on the program, contact the Office of College Life at (203) 285-2208 or gw-cloutreach@gwcc.commnet.edu.

Student meets famed archaeologist with Yale group

GCC art student Theresa Columbo recently met famed archaeologist Dr. Zahi Hawass while accompanying a group from Yale University to one of his lectures.

“Our group was among a select few who were admitted to the venue early in order to meet Dr. Hawass,” she told GCC Professor Vincent Baldassano. “We received a complimentary book, which he signed. ...Of course, that book will become a family treasure for years to follow.”

A world-renowned Egyptologist, Hawass (photo) currently serves as Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, and directs ongoing excavations at Giza, Saqqara, and in the Valley of the Kings. He is known for his charisma and his ability to reach out to the public, raising awareness of archaeology and the preservation of Egypt’s precious heritage.

“I took five pages of notes and learned more than I ever could have imagined in an hour and a half,” Columbo told Baldassano in an e-mail. “Being allowed to accompany (the Yale) group to this lecture was the stuff dreams are made of.”

34 nursing students pinned at 1st December pinning

Thirty-four GCC nursing students who will graduate this month participated in GCC’s first-ever December pinning ceremony at our North Haven campus last month.

Previously, GCC held nursing pinning ceremonies only in May at the end of each spring semester, but the college will now hold them in both December and May to accommodate the two classes that were created starting in 2008 when the program added a second annual start date.

The students who participated in the Dec. 17 pinning were: Bridgeport resident Donna Cioffi; Bristol resident Kimberly LeClair; Clinton resident Jennifer Carden; Durham resident Caroline Wood; East Hampton resident Amy Ruotolo; East Haven resident Pamela Fox; Glastonbury resident Susannah Bryne; Guilford resident Alison Burtraw; Meriden resident Michaela Love; Meriden resident Sandra Reyes; Meriden resident Grethchen Thomas; Milford
Since its inception in 2002, Gateway Community College's nursing program has tripled in size, producing almost 300 graduates. The program features award-winning faculty and has been accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, an organization nationally recognized as a specialized accrediting agency for both post-secondary and higher degree programs in nursing education. It also is the first and only program of its kind in the state community college system to offer courses and clinical rotations in the evening, making nursing a career option for working students who wouldn't otherwise be able to pursue it.