

Congress Chronicles

News from the Congress of Connecticut Community Colleges, SEIU Local 1973 • Fall 2011



The Deal is Done!

State employees celebrate the ratification of the SEBAC Agreement which requires sacrifice, but also provides job security and protects services.

story page 6



Labor Recognition Night and Free 4C's T-shirts at the New Britain Rock Cats!

Plus more Union News: pages 4-5

NVCC Professor Helps Solve a Mystery on History Detectives!

That and more about 4C's Members on pages 8-9



Right in the Heart of Danbury a community college thrives!

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B.M.O.C. - Elected Leaders Show Up on Community College Campuses

See Page 12

Congress Chronicles



Congress of Connecticut
Community Colleges

SEIU LOCAL 1973

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ActionCalendar

Delegate Assembly & Committee Meetings

Saturdays, October 1, November 5, December 3
4C's Office, Hartford

Committee Meetings: 10 AM to 11 AM

Delegate Assembly: 11 AM to 1:00 PM

The 4C's Delegate Assembly will meet on the first Saturday of October, November, and December from 11 AM to 1 PM. Join us for discussions of current issues affecting our members, our profession, and our system. Meetings are open to all 4C's members.

Statewide Committees may choose to meet immediately prior to the Delegate Assembly, from 10 to 11 AM. Please check the 4C's website to see which committees are meeting. Committee meetings are also open to all 4C's members.



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WEB 08

The End is Nigh?

Connecticut state agency consolidations.

A federal government credit rating downgrade.

Contract Concessions.

Earthquakes.

Hurricanes.

The Rapture, postponed from May, now due in October.

Are we approaching the End Times?

I think not.



Despite the recent, nasty, governmental, fiscal, tectonic, and meteorological events, another fall semester begins. As I write this, enrollments are down and class sizes are up. Too many of us are still without power and some have flooded homes, but a kind of normalcy also returns to our campuses in the fall.

Don't count on it remaining. REAL change is coming.

Our Board of Trustees ceases to exist December 31. A new, interim president of the Board of Regents, Robert Kennedy, has been appointed. The previous interim president, Michael Meotti, remains as executive vice president.

These events signal future changes that will impact us. Our Union will be involved in the process of change, and while change can be scary, we must embrace and do our best to help shape and manage the change that is coming. Fighting against the coming change will doom us to irrelevancy.

We have much to gain from successful change, so let's prepare ourselves.

The End Times do not stretch before us. The New Times do.

Let's greet them warmly.

Have a wonderful semester everyone.

UnionUpdates



Legislative Chair Janet Lanci (HCC) with MxCC Chapter Officer Trent Wright.

Labor Recognition Night with the Rock Cats

The 4C's distributed more than 400 tickets to members for the annual Organized Labor Recognition Night sponsored by the New Britain Rock Cats on Saturday, June 25.

Members and their guests cheered as the Rock Cats, the Double A affiliate of the Minnesota Twins, played the Trenton Thunder, affiliate of the NY Yankees. The game was played in beautiful New Britain Stadium, which is maintained by members of AFSCME Local 1186.

The Thunder got off to a lightening quick start with 4 runs in the first inning. They went on to beat the Rock Cats in a high scoring 12 to 5 game.

The Rock Cats celebrated the history and contributions of union members by offering special ticket packages to unions for a night that included a pre-game ceremony recognizing organized labor, a special game program, and a ceremonial first pitch. A household goods drive at the ballpark also benefited the United Labor Agency.

"This was our union's first time participating in this event," commented Liz Pisaretz, Chair of the 4C's Organizing Committee. "Despite the fact that the home team lost, it was a terrific family outing for our members."

The 4C's Organizing Committee seeks to involve members in union activities. If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact the 4C's office.



Right: MxCC's Steve Krevisky, 4C's Secretary, throws out the first pitch.

Below: A member and his family show off their 4C's t-shirts.



photo by Trent Wright

MxCC 4C's first Summer Chapter Meeting, held on August 20, drew 25 members to Pam Frost's house in Middletown.

The photo above shows State Rep. Matt Lesser (Middletown) standing in the rear with (l-r) sitting, Susan Salowitz, Registrar and Joanne Faust, Assistant Registrar.

Retirees to Help Others with the Big Decision!

Think you are too far away from retiring to even consider it? "Think again!" urges the 4C's retirees chapter. "You can never start planning too early," said **Kathy Bavelas**, retired faculty member from Manchester and Secretary of the Retirees Chapter.

To help 4C's members prepare for retirement, the Retirees Chapter will post short pieces on planning for retirement on the 4C's website. The Chapter also hopes to have several webinars available during 2011-2012.

"Do you know the options for receiving Social Security that married people have? Most people I talk with don't," commented **Esther Alaimo**, retired faculty member from Asnuntuck. "Some leave thousands of dollars on the table."

Bill Tyszka, retired Tunxis faculty member and Treasurer of the Retirees Chapter, added that people need to plan for retirement the same way they plan for other major life events. Watch the 4C's website for more information.



Anson Smith



Susan Montez



Jose Aponte

New Chairs Selected for Statewide Committees

Several of the 4C's Statewide Committees met on August 19 to select their Chairs for the coming year. Committee Chairs also serve on the 4C's Executive Board.

Susan Montez (NCC) will chair the Finance Committee. **Jose Aponte** (QVCC) will chair the Equal Opportunities Committee. And, **Anson Smith** (HCC) will Chair the Political Action Committee. **Janet Lanci** (HCC) will continue to lead the

Legislative Affairs Committee and **Bill Searle** (ACC) was tapped last spring to lead the Part-timer Committee.

As we go to press, the Organizing and Professional Affairs Committees have not yet met.

All members are welcome to attend any committee meeting. Meeting times and contact information are listed on the 4C's website.

Improving Communications with Part-Timers

Part-Timers – your union needs your preferred email address! The Part-Timer Committee has identified communicating with part-timers as a crucial issue.

“Part-time faculty often have multiple email addresses. Our official college email addresses are flooded with huge amounts of email and, frankly, most of it is not relevant to part-timers so it is easier to ignore it all” said **Bill Searle**, chair of the Part-Timers Committee.

He continued that the Committee felt that sending 4C's emails to preferred addresses will mean many more part-timers will receive and read crucial 4C's information (such as voting information sent out this summer).

Robyn Brooks, 4C's Part-timers Vice President, strongly agreed, saying the Committee will be soliciting preferred email addresses from part-timers throughout the fall.



A meeting of the Part-Timer Committee. From left: Greg Hager (NCCC), Chris Lepi (MXCC), Bill Searle, Chair (ACC), Tom Failla (NCC), Robyn Brooks (TXCC), John Allen (HCC), Lorraine Li (GWCC).

Last October, when it was announced that all Tunxis Professional Development Funds for the entire 2010-11 year had been used up, the 4C's Chapter decided that things had to change.

The early depletion of the fund left many members upset and prompted the Professional Development committee to review the existing criteria. During the committee's review, they found many areas that could be improved, revised and clarified to make the overall process fairer and more equitable.

The Professional Development committee and the Tunxis Administration saw this as an opportunity for positive change and embraced the idea of working

Tunxis Chapter Improves Professional Development Fund Process

together to improve the application and distribution process.

The revision process began with the co-chairpersons of the committee, **Carianne Garside** and **David Lardie**, convening a meeting with President Cathryn Addy, a representative from the Tunxis Human Resources Department and Business Office, and 4C's Chapter leader, **Bryan Bonina**. The group compiled a master list of all possible issues that might need to be looked into and revised.

The resulting suggestions came from the different perspectives of those who work closely with our union members, as well as those who carry out the processing of each application.

The list of concerns was then brought to the Professional Development committee where each and every item was discussed at length. The discussions led to a final list of new criteria to successfully guide members as they apply for Professional Development Funds.

The criteria was approved by President Addy, and ultimately was incorporated into a newly clarified application form.

As a work-in-progress, the committee intends to continually review the process and listen to any new comments and concerns in the years to come while always keeping in mind that these funds are best used in ways that will support the professional development of our members, and continually improve the services and educational experiences of our students.

For a copy of the new Tunxis Professional Development form, contact chapter officer Bryan Bonina, bbonina@txcc.comnet.edu.

State Employees Ratify Agreements which Call for Sacrifice, but Protect Jobs and Services

After a summer of turmoil, angst, lay-off notices, and threatened program closings, SEBAC leaders approved a new Agreement which covers health and pension benefits.

Further, 32 out of 34 individual bargaining units, including the 4C's, also approved wage concession and job security agreements.

On August 18, dozens of state work-

ers gathered at the CSEA union hall in Hartford to hear the results and celebrate the vote which will bring some certainty and stability to their lives.

“Today, we can celebrate rescission of the layoff notices received by our colleagues, four years of job security, extension of the SEBAC agreement, cessation of threats to collective bar-

gaining, and more,” commented 4C's President Steve Cohen upon ratification of the Agreement.

State employee union leaders transmitted a letter to Gov. Dannel P. Malloy, urging him to move immediately to reverse all the layoffs, rescind layoff notices and restore critical services.

Union leaders also urged an immediate start of the joint processes to streamline wasteful layers of management and implement front-line workers' recommendations on cost savings.

“I want to thank all the members who voted to make the sacrifice for the good of their fellow workers and their state,” said 4C's Vice President Maureen Chalmers, who received a layoff notice from NCCC. “I love the work that I do, and am grateful that I can keep doing it.”

MCC Chapter Officer Kevin Skee said his college President was so grateful that the Agreement passed that she gave him a hug. There were 15 4C's members at MCC slated to be laid off.

For the full text of both the 4C's and SEBAC Agreements, go to the 4C's website, www.the4cs.org.

SEBAC Leaders meet to vote on Ratification of the 2011 SEBAC Health and Pension Agreement.



Union Votes on the SEBAC Health and Pension Agreement

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Administrative and Residual Employees Union/AFT	1604	687
AFT Connecticut (5 bargaining units)	3595	1258
AAUP, Connecticut State University	1054	114
AAUP, UCONN	774	129
AAUP, UCONN Health Center	283	33
AFSCME – Council 4 (8 bargaining units)	7495	3756
CT Federation of School Administrators	42	3
Congress of CT Community Colleges	1531	200
Connecticut Association of Prosecutors	161	62
Connecticut Employees Union Independent	2383	811
Connecticut Police and Fire Union	427	153
Connecticut State Police Union	448	329
CT State Employees Assoc. (7 bargaining units)	2349	1083
International Brotherhood of Police Officers	455	152
New England Healthcare Employees Union, District 1199 (2 bargaining units)	3560	850
TOTAL	26,161	9,620



Media reporters packed a Hartford union hall to cover passage of the SEBAC Agreement.

Agreement's Key Issues

Wages: In September, wages will revert to their 2010-11 level, and remain at that level until 2013. They increase by 3% plus a step in 2013, 2014, 2015.

Promotions: No change. If you were promoted in the spring, you keep your pay increase. The promotion process continues for the term of our Contract.

Professional Development: No increase in the annual amount of funds available until 2013, but otherwise the process continues.

Longevity: If you received a longevity payment in April 2011, you will receive a longevity payment in October 2011 that is 75% of your April amount. The next three longevity payments (4/12, 10/12, 4/13) will be at your April 2011 level.

Effective July 1, 2013, any service accrued during that period will be added to your service for the purpose of determining eligibility and level of longevity payments.

Health Enhancement Program: Enroll in the HEP by September 15 or you will see your premiums increase and face a \$350 per individual deductible (\$1400 max per family). Go to: www.osc.ct.gov for information.

New Hybrid Retirement Plan: ARP participants will be able to switch to this new plan which gives the option to accept the defined benefit amount or a return of contributions plus interest. More information, plus a start date, will be available soon.

Complete information on the above and other issues is available on the web. Please contact the 4C's if you have questions, info@the4cs.org or (860) 296-5172.



Hilary Phelps, MXCC Child Care Director, talks about the Center's high quality programs with TV News. AFT leader Leo Canty holds the microphone.

Members and Parents Fight to Save College Child Development & Early Education Programs

During the heat of summer while talks continued between SEBAC leaders and the Malloy Administration, the Governor ordered layoff notices sent out. Among those whose jobs were headed for elimination were

several child care workers at MCC, MXCC, and TXCC.

Happily all the community college layoff notices have since been rescinded.

On Aug. 5, child care workers gathered at the Middlesex child care center to talk with the press about the effects layoffs would have on their programs and their communities.

Speaking to a reporter, MCC Child Development Teacher **Brittany Zavaski** said: "I love teaching young children. To be able to share that joy, passion and enthusiasm with those who want to be teachers means I have a really big impact."

Had the layoffs proceeded, both the colleges' lab schools and Early Childhood Education programs would have suffered.



From left: Beverly Dickinson, MXCC Teacher, Gregg Brohinsky, MCC Center Director, and Brittany Zavaski, MCC Teacher, talked with reporters about the impact of layoffs.

We Made the Front Page!

Those who read the *Hartford Courant* woke up to find the 4C's on the front page of the August 19th edition. The paper's article about the SEBAC ratification featured a large photo of 4C's staff member **David Bosco** and delegate **John McNamara** from Capital.



4C'sMembers

Mentors in the Minority Fellowship Program: Getting as Much as they Give

Tim St. James, Admissions Director at Asnuntuck, says his experience as a mentor in the Minority Fellowship Program, was one of the highlights of his career. While Minority Fellow Kevin Booker, Jr. called his year as a fellow “a wonderful opportunity that opened doors to future employment.”

The two worked together during the 2010-2011 academic year in the program which pairs an experienced college professional with a “fellow” for a year-long mentoring experience.

Tim said Kevin immediately established a wonderful rapport with both students and staff alike. He worked with the admissions staff on recruitment, representing Asnuntuck at college fairs, open houses, and so forth. He also worked with at-risk students in an effort to improve student retention, and was an active member of the college Diversity Committee.

After the fellowship, Kevin started a part-time job at Three Rivers Community College as a Retention Specialist/ Recruiter. He is already having success working on a 6-week summer program designed to move students from developmental courses into credit courses. 94% of the students finished the program successfully. This fall, he will be teaching a First Year Experience course.

“Tim was a fantastic mentor. He was there for me whenever

I needed him,” Kevin said. “I definitely think my fellowship experience at Asnuntuck helped me with this job at Three Rivers.”

Tim said that at the beginning he didn’t know what to expect from the Minority Fellowship Program. “Sometimes when you take on a role like this, it seems like it could just be more work. But that was not true. The benefits far outweighed what I put in.

“All of us that were mentors learned as much or more from the fellows. They taught us quite a bit,” he concluded.

The Minority Fellowship



ACC Admissions Director and Mentor Tim St. James (left) with Minority Fellow Kevin Booker, now employed at Three Rivers.

Program is jointly sponsored by the Board of Trustees and the professional staff unions, the 4C’s, AFSCME, and AFT.

The program is on hold due to budget issues, but hopefully will be resurrected when the economy improves.

“It is such a fabulous project and one that has involved many members over the past 4 years,” said **Carianne Mack Garside** explaining the 100 Days Project. The project challenges participants to complete a creative activity every day for 100 days.

The idea was born in 2008 when Carianne, a Fine Arts faculty member at Tunxis, was hoping for a productive summer. Realizing she had almost exactly 100 days off contract, she gave herself a personal challenge to create a work of art every day for 100 consecutive days.

“To keep myself motivated, I shared my daily work on a public blog so friends and family would hold me accountable if I missed any days. Shortly after I started,

Artists Take the 100 Days Challenge



Book Cover for the 2010 publication.

a colleague, **Steve Ersinghaus** (Tunxis English faculty), decided to join in by following each of my daily paintings with a poem, which he also shared on a public blog,” she explained.

The next year a handful of other artists joined in. Then lots more in 2010. And for the 2011 project, 59 artists from around the globe have embraced the challenge.

Participants now explore a variety of creative endeavors, including painting, drawing, photography, writing, cooking, composing and more.

Two books have been published on the annual projects. Following its first year, Carianne and Steve published a book on their collective works. A new book entitled “100 Days 2010” was published this summer and includes a selection of several

Comic Books are a Serious Interest for NVCC Professor

Remember Clark Kent, the mild mannered reporter who turns into Superman? Well, we may have our own version of an alter ego within the 4C's.

Peace-loving English Professor William (Bill) Foster is also an internationally recognized expert on comic books, and in particular, on the history of how blacks are portrayed in them.

Bill, who was recently elected 4C's Diversity Officer, says he has traveled all over the world speaking as an expert on comic books. He chuckles as he recalls a childhood

artists' work. (Both can be found at <http://www.blurb.com/bookstore>)

Others from Tunxis whose work is featured in the 2010 book are **Maggie Carlin (Ducharme), Kelli Newton Costa, Carol Mack, Colleen Richard, Jessica Sommers, and John Timmons.**

The project is open to all. "All that is needed is an idea of a daily project and a blog address," Carianne said. "If everyone "finishes" this summer, we will have collectively created almost 6,000 creative works!"

The project will continue May 2012. Visit <http://www.one-hundreddays.net/> for details. Carianne added "It would be wonderful to have contributions from members at our sister schools!"



NVCC Professor William Foster at the Museum of Comic and Cartoon Art with PBS History Detective Gwen Wright.

friend who cautioned against his obsession with comic books, saying it would never take him anywhere.

This summer it took him to New York City for an appearance on the PBS series "History Detectives."

"There is a rare comic book from the Golden Age of Comics titled, 'Negro Romances.' It is from the 1950s. Program producer Gwen Wright and I discussed the origins of the book at the Museum of Comic and Cartoon Art (MoCCA) in New York," Bill said.

Bill said that during the 1950s, representations of African Americans in comic books was rare and they were typically portrayed in unflattering and derogatory ways.

"Negro Romances" was different in that the black people were attractive, well dressed, and talking about going to college.

To uncover the mystery behind the comic book, watch the episode. The show aired on July 12, but is available on the PBS website: <http://www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/investigations/>. (Look for Season 9, Episode 4.)

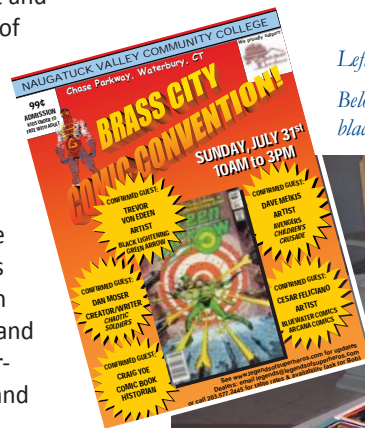
Bill also worked to share his love of comic books with others by organizing the Brass City Comic Convention, which

took place on July 31 at NVCC.

The event attracted comic book lovers, creators, and collectors. It was co-hosted by a local comic book store, Legends of Superheroes, and all proceeds were donated to Safe Haven of Greater Waterbury.

According to Bill, comic books generally have a moral message as to how we should behave. "Like Superman; an iconic figure with godlike powers, but still human. He helps people. This is talking about the basis of who we are as human beings -- the care and welfare of others," he explained.

Next up for Bill? He has had an inquiry from C-Span about filming his classroom. We are not sure whether they are interested in Professor Foster or his alter ego.



Left: The flyer advertising the Comic Convention.

Below: Professor Bill Foster's convention display of blacks in comic books.



Chapter Officers: *The Union's Front Line*

Chapter Officers call chapter meetings, maintain communications, and assist members with problems or grievances.

For this article, we spoke with two Chapter Officers: Maureen Chalmers, who has led her chapter for 20 years, and Cindy Casper, who is taking on a local leadership position for the first time.

Maureen Chalmers

With nearly two decades of experience leading her chapter at Northwestern Connecticut, Maureen says the two most important qualities of a Chapter Officer are being a good listener and an avid communicator.

“Different campuses have different cultures. We don’t have a lot of chapter meetings here, so when we do, people know it is important and they come.” In between meetings everyone knows how to contact Maureen if they have a question or need help with a problem.

Being on a small campus, Maureen says she knows nearly everybody, what they teach and where they live. When issues arise, more often than not, they get solved in a non-adver-



Maureen Chalmers

sarial manner that rarely leads to a formal grievance.

“Everyone wants what is best for the students. Usually the root of a problem is a lack of understanding. Nobody is a villain,” Maureen said.

Maureen credits former faculty member Greg Hager for serving as her union mentor for many years. She has also expanded her leadership skills by taking advantage of various training opportunities, such as the Harvard Trade Union Program, SEIU ethics and political organizing training.

One of Maureen’s passions is politics. “It is particularly helpful to be on good terms with local State Representatives. It’s great when the college president sees the Chair of the Higher Education Committee come up to greet me.”

Maureen says she enjoys working with the 4C’s staff and getting to know members from other campuses. “It helps me to see the bigger picture and to be a better Chapter Officer,” she concluded.

Cindy Casper

While just elected Chapter President last spring, Cindy is no stranger to leadership positions. In addition to currently Chairing the large English Department at Norwalk, in past years, she has served as a union delegate, committee chair, and Executive Board member.

“I like helping people,” Cindy said. She looks forward to working with members to solve problems, to finding answers to their questions, and to



Cindy Casper

being there when they need support.

At Norwalk monthly 4C’s chapter meetings are scheduled in advance and earn a spot on their Academic Calendar. “Nothing else is scheduled at the time of our union meetings. This time is sacred. If we ever changed this, there would be a lot of noise about it,” Cindy said.

Chapter members appreciate having the time to get together; and the opportunity for a good lunch doesn’t hurt either.

Now that the state budget and SE-BAC negotiations have settled down, Cindy wants to start thinking about chapter activities for the coming year. She would like to see the Norwalk chapter have more of a presence on campus, and perhaps, to get involved in a charity project as other chapters have done.

Cindy feels confidence in the whole leadership team at Norwalk with vice presidents to help share duties as needed. “We also have the advantage of being the 4C’s President’s home campus,” she said. “We’re far away, but well-informed about what’s going on at union headquarters.”

NVCC Expands College to the Heart of Danbury

Across from the library, in the part of Danbury called CityCenter, NVCC's Danbury Center serves over seven hundred full-time and part-time students.

"We are growing by leaps and bounds," proclaims Director Matthew Longcore, who has been at the helm for less than a year. "The Danbury Center is filling a big need in this part of the state."

The brightly refurbished space on Main Street is on 3 floors and includes 4 classrooms, a computer lab, a health lab, tutoring center, administrative and advising space, and a small student lounge. The Center also uses classroom space at nearby Western Connecticut State University.

Matthew comes to Danbury from Norwalk Community College, where he was the assistant director of Admissions. Three talented 4C's members from the main NVCC campus,



The Danbury Center team, from left: Martha Charris (continuing ed), Sharon Nihill (administration), Matthew Longcore (director), and Lucretia Sveda (workforce transition).

Sharon Nihill, Lucretia Sveda, and Martha Charris, also commute to Danbury to help run the Center.

The Center offers general education classes, developmental and ESL courses, and non-credit workforce training programs. Their CNA training program is particularly popular.

"Students cannot earn a degree here, but they can complete nearly all the general education requirements for

a 4-year degree," Matthew said. "Area high school guidance counsellors are beginning to recommend us and word is getting out that we are a convenient, affordable place to get a start on a degree."

The Center handles many of its own student services, from taking applications and payments to registration, scheduling, and placement testing.

According to Matthew, the Danbury Center plans to be part of the revitalization of Danbury and has already established relationships with CityCenter Danbury, which promotes economic development in the city, and the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board.

So hats off to the new Danbury Center and congratulations to the staff and faculty who are making it a success!

4C's Establishes Relationship with New Board of Regents

Connecticut is moving forward with the merger of the governing bodies of the community colleges, state universities, and Charter Oak college into one Board of Regents.

"Studies across the nation and in Connecticut have shown that administrative costs in higher education have been increasing faster than the investment in instruction. For our public colleges to make students the top priority, we need to provide more resources for classroom teaching and instruction," said Gov. Dannel Malloy in explaining the rationale of the merger.

During the past few months, the 4C's

has had two meetings with Michael Meotti, now Executive Vice President of the Board of Regents. "We share the same goal of focusing more resources on classroom instruction and student services," explained 4C's Political Director Bob Fernandez from QVCC. "It's good for all parties that we have open lines of communication."

As we go to press, the Governor has tapped Dr. Robert Kennedy, former President of the University of Maine, to assume the post of interim President of the Board of Regents. After January 1, 2012, the Board of Regents will send a list of three recommenda-

tions to the Governor, from which he will select the permanent President.

During his introduction of Dr. Kennedy to the Connecticut press corp, the Governor again mentioned his disappointment with the Community College Board, in particular with their decisions concerning the retirement and re-hiring of Chancellor Herzog.

"We welcome the change and want to work with the new Board of Regents," commented 4C's President Steve Cohen. "We hope to manage that change the best we can. We'll keep on doing what we always do... standing up for the best interests of our members and our students."



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Big Men on Campus

Several high-ranking elected officials have been on campus during the summer, including both Sen. Richard Blumenthal and Gov. Dannel Malloy who toured ACC's Manufacturing

Technology Center, directed by Frank Gulluni, in the same week.

"We need to be doing this across the state on multiple campuses to have any shot at meeting employ-

ment demand," Malloy declared. While Blumenthal promised to find funding for an additive manufacturing curriculum, a growing field which has applications in auto, aerospace, and medical equipment.



Above: Gov. Malloy tours ACC's Manufacturing Technology Center.



Above right: Sen. Blumenthal speaks to MCC students.

Right: Sen. Blumenthal with ACC staff and students.



ACC photos by Julie Cotnoir

Sen. Blumenthal also visited NVCC and MCC to meet with faculty and staff about the role that community colleges play in workforce development. Michael Meotti, Executive Vice President of the CT Board of Regents for Higher Education, joined the senator.

Blumenthal said he has opposed those "stupid cuts" in tuition assistance and believes that a key to our economic recovery is an educated workforce.

Several congressmen held meetings or seminars on community college campuses during their recess, including Chris Murphy at TXCC, seeking ideas on the No Child Left Behind law, John Larson at MCC, on increasing manufacturing jobs, Joe Courtney on the federal grants process at TRCC, and Jim Himes at a 9/11 remembrance ceremony at HCC.