



Washington County Community College

Calais, Maine

Discover Choices • Create Success

The President's Message:

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The Good Work Continues at Washington County Community College

It has been an exciting and productive year at WCCC. We have added outstanding new instructors to our ranks in the areas of computer technology, drafting and AutoCAD, human services, culinary and baking, and electricity. These new instructors join our talented cadre of experienced instructors and together form a faculty that is second to none in Maine and across the country.

New Academic Dean, Alex Clifford, joined us in December with his immense talent, boundless energy, and an impressive and eclectic set of experiences. His guidance and leadership has already been felt on campus and will continue to grow going forward. One of the ways Dean Clifford envisions improving our service to our community is by

having WCCC serve as a testing and certification center for Washington County residents. Professionals throughout the area will be able to achieve and maintain everything from Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) to Microsoft Office certifications here on our Calais campus.

Together with Maine Quality Centers, an arm of the Maine Community College System, WCCC was able this year to support St. Croix Tissue, Inc. by training 40 potential employees for the new tissue plant they are building in Baileyville. The 40 students have completed their coursework with WCCC and will be competing for newly created jobs at St. Croix Tissue this spring and summer. This type of investment in local people and local industry is at the heart of what WCCC does to lift up individuals and build the economy downeast.

WCCC has ratified impressive compressive transfer agreements with both the University of Maine at Machias and Husson University allowing WCCC graduates to transfer seamlessly to those two institutions taking all of the credits earned here with them.

Beyond academics, WCCC also moved to become a tobacco free campus this year. While this was a challenging switch for some in our community, we supported our students and personnel, and we all made the adjustment quite well. I am proud to say that a number of individuals on campus have been able to kick the habit this year!

As always, thank you for your continued support of our college and our students. We couldn't do what we do without you.

Joseph L. Cassidy, Esq.
President

Congratulations David!



Congratulations to David Sullivan, Facilities Manager, who will be retiring from WCCC after 26 years of service to the College in June 2015. David started as a Maintenance Mechanic and throughout the years took advantage of the professional development opportunities available to him and received his Associate Degree in General Technology from Washington County Community

College and his Associate Degree in Fire Science from Southern Maine Community College. Although he is retiring from WCCC, we congratulate him as he has accepted a position at St. Croix Vocational Technical Center instructing the Fire / Science program in the fall of 2015. From all your friends and colleagues we wish you the very best as you start your new adventure, and thank you for your years of dedicated service.

SkillsUSA Championships



L-R, Jacob Levesque, Gold medal in Automotive Service Technology; Anna Dill, Gold medal in Electrical Construction Wiring; Andrew Guerrette, Gold medal in Diesel Equipment Technology; and Jacob Surprenant, Silver medal in Automotive Service Technology

On March 5 & 6, 2015, four WCCC students travelled to Bangor to compete in the SkillsUSA Maine State Championships. The event was hosted by Eastern Maine Community College and United Technology Center. According to the Center, more than 600 students representing 23 career and technical schools throughout the state participated. The SkillsUSA Championship is sponsored annually by the Maine Chapter of SkillsUSA. The Gold Medal winners will represent Maine in the

National SkillsUSA Championship set for June 22-26 in Louisville, KY.

Congratulations to all of WCCC's participants, and to their instructors: Ron O'Brien, Automotive Instructor; Gil Murphy, Residential & Commercial Electricity Instructor; and Kevin Howland, Heavy Equipment Maintenance Instructor. SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers, and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce.

Alexander Clifford Has Made A Difference



Although he has only been on the job for about five months, Deer Isle native Alexander Clifford has made a difference as the new dean of Academic Affairs at Washington County Community College.

"Dean Clifford's area of expertise in both the academic and military worlds has taken the office in new directions," WCCC President Joe Cassidy said. "He has forged a wonderful relationship with students and has been a steady support for faculty and staff. He is well respected by all."

Clifford, who has a notable background in education, is currently finishing up his Doctor of Philosophy degree in Management Specialization of Leadership and Organizational Change from Walden University in Minnesota. He expects to be awarded his degree this year. He has a Master of Business Administration from

Thomas College in Waterville and a Bachelor of Science degree in Professional Business Studies from the same college.

Most recently he was professor of business/grant administrator and curriculum designer at Kennebec Valley Community College in Fairfield.

In 1989 he joined the Maine Army National Guard and is currently a Sergeant Major (E-9).

When he arrived on campus in December, Clifford said that he wanted to be a member of the staff at WCCC because he had been impressed with the College's interest in its students. "It is that interest in our student body that has made him such a strong and compassionate leader," Cassidy added. "We are so lucky to have him."

In addition to an impressive portfolio of academic and professional awards, Clifford was awarded the bronze star for leadership and management in a combat zone; the meritorious service medal for leadership, management, mentoring and accreditation performance in the academy environment and awarded several army commendation medals for leadership and management.

The New Mental Health Rehabilitation Technician/Community Program

In its efforts to meet the needs of a changing workforce, Washington County Community College has unveiled a new program this year that will lead to jobs in the mental health community.

The new Mental Health Rehabilitation Technician/Community program will allow students who successfully complete the course to do MaineCare billing for some

mental health services.

The two-year program will lead to an Associate of Arts Degree and is being taught by a full-time instructor with the help of adjunct staff.

Once completed, the students will be able to provide Community Integration (Adult Mental Health Case Management), Intensive Case Management, Assertive Community Treatment, Skills

Development and Family Psycho-Education for mental health consumers. These positions are outlined in the MaineCare Benefits Manual.

"These are the kinds of exciting new programs being offered here at Washington County Community College," WCCC President Joe Cassidy said. "Our instructors and staff continue to look to the needs of the state and our region and build

programs around those needs. When our students graduate from WCCC, there is an excellent chance that a job will be waiting for them."

Although new to WCCC, the program is also being taught at Kennebec Valley Community College (KVCC), Central Maine Community College (CMCC), Southern Maine Community College (SMCC) and York County Community College (YCCC).

All-Maine Academic Team



Picture L-R Charlotte Southard, Joe Cassidy, WCCC President and Victoria Webber

Two Washington County Community College students were named to the All-Maine Academic Team at a ceremony on Tuesday, March 24, 2015, at the Senator Inn in Augusta. The event was hosted by the Maine Community College System. The students receiving the award, which includes a \$500 scholarship, are:

Charlotte Southard, Washington County Community College, Calais
Residence: Baileyville, ME **GPA:** 3.7 **Major:** Business Management
Career goal: Financial Counselor
Achievements: Phi Theta Kappa member, Overall Achievement in Business Management award recipient, Dean's List.

Victoria Webber, Washington County Community College, Calais
Residence: Brooks, ME **GPA:** 3.5 **Major:** Business Management
Career goal: Maine Guide/Outfitter/Entrepreneur
Achievements: Phi Theta Kappa member, Instructors Choice Award recipient, Most Improved Award recipient, Student Senate member, turkey drive volunteer, Solidarity Harvest volunteer, kids climbing class volunteer.

The All-Maine Academic Team is a program of Phi Theta Kappa, an international honor society for two year colleges. Students are nominated and selected for the team by their college based on outstanding academic achievement, leadership, and service.

The Bridge Program Offers Opportunities

Education has to be dynamic to meet the needs of a changing world and Washington County Community College is in the vanguard when it comes to meeting the challenges of change.

Students enrolled at WCCC have the opportunity to participate in what is known as the Bridge Program, which offers them an opportunity to immerse themselves in summer English and Mathematics programs to upgrade or refresh their skills prior to starting their traditional degree program.

"Students who are enrolled in their first year of classes this coming fall are eligible to take our summer Bridge Program if

they need help with math or English and meet other eligibility criteria," WCCC Academic Dean Alex Clifford said.

The coursework is part of the college's Liberal Studies program and is designed to help students in every discipline meet their general education requirements. "Most of our degree concentration programs require a lot of math and English within the courses, so it is beneficial all the way around," Clifford added.

What makes this program important is the wide range of students who benefit from it. "This is a program to augment the student experience and our initial data from our first year of

the program, which started last year, indicates that students who participated in the summer Bridge Program are performing better than those with similar testing scores who did not participate," Clifford said.

Anyone who may be interested in becoming a part of the summer Bridge Program should contact WCCC's Student Services Center at 207-454-1000.

What makes this program important is the wide range of students who benefit from it.

With the support of the Maine Community Foundation, WCCC will be awarding up to five scholarships to students who participate in the Bridge Program this summer. Each scholarship will be awarded for up to three years of study and up to a total of \$11,500.00.



2014, 2013 & 2011 top 10% of community colleges in the USA (Aspen Institute)
2014 46th best community college in the USA (The Best Schools.org)
2014 & 2010 named in the top 25 best community colleges in the USA (Washington Monthly)
2011 11th best community college in the USA (College Atlas)

WCCC Partners with St. Croix Tissue

The coursework is intense, but the potential rewards are limitless as 38 Washington County Community College students finish their coursework and prepare to interview for the 80 new positions that soon will be available at St. Croix Tissue later this year.

The Baileyville company soon will have a new state-of-the-art tissue machine installed at its facilities and once installed it is looking to expand its workforce.

Last year, WCCC partnered with the county's major employer through a grant from the MCCS Maine Quality Center program to provide seven courses over seven months in everything from pulp and papermaking, provided in partnership with Kennebec Valley Community

College, to mathematics, communications, chemistry, computer skills and safety. The MCCS Maine Quality Center is providing the training at no cost to the students.

At the start of the program, 40 students enrolled in the training; today 38 continue to meet the challenge.

"This has been an extremely successful program," WCCC Dean Alexander Clifford said. "The students are highly talented, extremely engaged, and the faculty has nothing but praise for their efforts. This is a highly motivated group of students who are looking at this training as an opportunity to positively change the trajectory of their lives through a career at St. Croix Tissue."

Although completion of the training program only guarantees an interview with the mill, Clifford said that he was confident that given the performance of the students thus far he anticipated that a significant number of them would be hired.

Clifford said that this may be just the beginning for the college-mill cooperative. He said WCCC's administrative staff was presently in talks with the company about future employee training needs. "We may run another program similar to this," the Dean of Academic Affairs said, "But there is a larger need for Washington County in general."

As a result, the college is in the initial phase of designing a

Production Technician Degree pathway that would provide students with an educational opportunity that prepares them for supervisory and management level responsibilities in facilities like St. Croix Tissue.

"The best part of this degree is that it will also lead to a manufacturing industry certification. This industry credential also has a green production component to help us understand the sustainable use of resources and disposal of industrial wastes that are generated in many processes. This degree will be the only one in Maine, possibly the Northeast," he said.

14th Annual Golf Tournament

An exciting day is planned for the 14th annual Washington Community College Golf Tournament on Saturday, July 11, 2015, at the St. Croix Country Club.

There will be two shotgun starts at 7:30a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Whether you play like PGA golfer Rory McIlroy or aging golfer Jack Nicklaus your participation will make a difference.

The tournament showcases the College's goal to raise money for its annual Direct-to-Student scholarship fund. Last year, individuals and businesses raised more than \$16,500 and 58 WCCC students were awarded scholarships.

And again this year, for the lucky golfer who hits a hole-in-one on the first hole, there will be a prize of a brand new car. Tournament co-sponsor Ian Pratt of Pratt Chevrolet- Olds-Buick-Pontiac-Geo on the River Road in Calais is the sponsor of that prize. Pratt also plans to donate other prizes for the tournament.

What makes this scholarship program so unique is the role that the individual or business that donates plays in the life of the student, as each scholarship created

goes directly to the student. As in the past, donors are able to create a scholarship in their name or their businesses' name, or in memory of a loved one. Or, the scholarship can be anonymous. Donors choose the program of study they wish to support and create the scholarship criteria. A \$250 or more donation is presented to the deserving student at the end of the year. It is all tax deductible to the donor.

"Although the tournament is an exciting event each year, this is really about helping Washington County students," WCCC President Joe Cassidy said. "We have seen year after year that a single donation can mean the difference for helping a student stay in school."

It is no surprise that businesses step forward each year to help because the College is a vital part of the community. In recent years, WCCC was named one of the Top 10 percent community colleges in the USA by the Aspen Institute and the 46th Best Community College in the USA by the Best Schools.org. In addition the College was named in the Top 25 Best Community Colleges in the USA by the Washington Monthly.

Anyone who would like to participate in

the scholarship program can send their donation to Tina Erskine at Washington Community College, One College Drive, Calais, ME 04619. Make checks payable to the WCCC 2015 Scholarship Fund. For more information about the golf tournament or the scholarship program call Tina Erskine at 454-1002.

