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**Northwestern
Connecticut Community College**

Spring Into Summer...



President's Message:

Welcome to Summer 2020!

I am happy to report that summer class sessions have been successfully running in an online format and the fall schedule is complete and accessible to our students on our [website](#) as we continue to watch the coronavirus impact our college, community, state, and region in an ever-changing world.

One thing that never changes though: Our students' dedication to continuing their education and creating a better future for themselves, their families, and their communities.

The Corona Virus has not stopped either returning or new students despite new financial challenges brought on by the pandemic. Online registration has been ongoing and in July we will be providing designated times for on-ground one-stop registration sessions as we continue to provide a safe environment for all students.

We finished out the spring semester 2020 with a virtual graduation and now we are prepared to provide the same high quality education this summer and fall that our



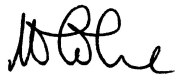
students and our communities have come to expect from Northwestern.

Things may look different overall - social distancing areas are being created for classes that necessitate on-ground learning exercises and our faculty are continuing to gain expertise in new ways to teach and interact with students. Our fall schedule has a mixture of asynchronous online, live-online, hybrid (online and face-to-face), and traditional sections according to the best practices to handle these courses.

But despite the changes brought on by the pandemic, Northwestern is still the leader in higher education opportunities in the northwest corner and we will continue to provide the high quality education students and the community have come to expect.

I hope you take a moment to look at our latest news as we move forward together toward a promising future for students and our communities.

Stay safe and stay healthy.



Michael A. Rooke, Ph.D.
President



Northwestern was proud to celebrate its 54th Commencement on May 28, 2020 through a virtual video graduation presentation complete with the following featured speakers:

- Michael A. Rooke, Ph.D., President, NCCC
- Gov. Ned Lamont, Governor, State of Connecticut
- Matt Fleury, Chair, Connecticut Board of Regents for Higher Education
- Mark Ojakian, President, Connecticut State Colleges & Universities
- Brian Mattiello, Vice-President Hartford Healthcare
- JoAnn Ryan, Member, Board of Regents for Higher Education & NW CT Chamber of Commerce
- Sen. Richard Blumenthal, United States Senator, Connecticut
- James Lombella, Regional President, North-West Region
- David Ferreira, Ed.D., Dean of Academic & Student Affairs, NCCC
- Melissa Mallem, Class Speaker

Students, along with faculty and staff, had the opportunity to submit short video clips that were compiled with the speakers' comments for a celebration unique to 2020.

You can find the commencement video on our [website](#) and on [YouTube](#). For a complete listing of May 2020 graduates, visit our [website](#).



NCCC Registrar, Dr. Deb Zavatkay and Assistant Registrar, Kris Kennedy congratulate NCCC's May 2020 graduates in a virtual video commencement. To see the full video, go to the [NCCC website](#), or you can find the video on [YouTube](#).

NCCC Awarded \$15,000 Covid Relief Grant for Student Emergency Needs

NCCC recently received a \$15,000 grant from the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation, the Covid-19 Rapid Response Fund and the Neighbor to Neighbor Fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. The grant funds will be used to support and aid students who have been, and continue to be, affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. The funds will be distributed through the NCCC Student Emergency Fund, which was created in 2016 through NCCC Foundation funding, grant funding, and private donations to assist student with immediate financial needs.

"Our students struggle in the best of times," said President Michael Rooke. "This pandemic has intensified financial need for our students, most of whom work one or more jobs primarily in the retail or restaurant sector. Many have been out of work the last several months and are struggling to survive on limited resources."

The grant is expected to assist approximately 30 students with a variety of needs, which may include groceries, technology needs, and monthly living expenses.

For more information please [click here](#).

Northwest Community Bank Donates \$30,000 to NCCC for Team Success Scholars Program

Northwest Community Bank recently extended their support of NCCC students with a commitment of \$30,000; awarding \$10,000 each year for three years to Team Success Scholars (TSS), NCCC's student success program. TSS is primarily funded through The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, whose funds are administered through the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board. Northwest Community Bank will help cover the cost of those students who may fall slightly outside the criteria for admission to the TSS program but who are still at a higher risk due to financial and personal reasons. This funding will allow additional at-risk students to participate in the program and be provided the support they need to be successful and overcome challenging barriers.

Northwest Community Bank has also donated an additional \$2,000 to the NCCC Student Emergency Fund, which helps students with immediate and unexpected financial needs.

NCCC would like to thank Northwest Community Bank for their support of our students and programs!

To read more [click here](#).

NCCC's Essential Workers: Working Through the Pandemic

Many thanks to the NCCC maintenance department staff who have been working on site since the beginning of the pandemic to ensure the campus remains in compliance with state protocols. All of us at NCCC thank them for their service.



Pictured above in front of NCCC's Arts and Science Center are from left to right: Maintainers, Joe Bonyai, Scott Mueller, Leif Di'Valentino, Bruce Morley, John Church, Carmen Brochu, and Andy Haas. Not pictured: Jim Brochu, Building Superintendent.

Free Community College: CT Board of Regents Funds PACT for Fall 2020

The Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) has allocated \$3 million in one-time funding to launch the Pledge to Advance Connecticut (PACT), Connecticut's tuition free community college program.

PACT was passed in the 2019 legislative session without a designated source of funding. The BOR funding is expected to cover eligible students for the fall 2020 semester. For more information on this announcement [click here](#).



PACT:

Is open to all Connecticut residents, who meet the following criteria:

- Have graduated or will graduate from a Connecticut High School
- Are attending college for the first time
- Complete the federal financial aid (FAFSA) form and accept all financial aid awards
- Attend community college full-time
- Once enrolled, remain in good academic standing

- Register for classes by July 15th (for priority access to funding)

For more information on PACT, visit [NCCC's website](#)

Museum Treasures Class: *Strong Women in Renaissance Italy*



Self-Portrait, c. 1556 by Sofonisba Anguissola from the collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Strong Women in Renaissance Italy will be the focus of the fall 2020 Special Topics Art 187 Course scheduled to start online October 18 and run through November 21, 2020.

The five-week class will be taught asynchronously using a web-based program by art instructor Sheri Schwartz. Weekly lectures along with a slideshow and videos will be posted so students can watch and listen to the material.

Strong Women in Renaissance Italy will investigate the art and biographies of Italian female artists and patrons who had a significant impact on the Renaissance but were not as widely recognized as their male counterparts. The class will discuss the societal roles of women and the environments in which they produced artworks, whether domestic, civic, or monastic. The course also examines how women were portrayed as biblical and mythological characters in Renaissance art.

The Special Topics music and art courses presented each spring and fall are generously supported and funded by the Northwestern Community College Foundation. For more information contact [Susan Stiller](#).

The [Northwestern Community College Foundation](#) (NCCF) supports financial needs that are not currently funded by the state for the benefit of students, staff and the community in general. NCCF also sponsors multiple scholarships annually. Thank you to all the generous donors who make these programs and scholarships possible.

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