

# theindependentvoice

Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges... Educators, Employers, Community Partners

## Ten facts that may surprise you about independent colleges & universities:

**Fact 1:** Nationally, the proportion of students from racial and ethnic minorities at independent colleges and universities is almost the same as at four-year state institutions. In Connecticut, independent colleges and universities award 59% of the four-year and above degrees given to minority students.

**Fact 2:** The proportion of low and middle-income students at independent colleges and universities is almost the same as at four-year state institutions.

**Fact 3:** Many older, working and part-time students attend independent colleges and universities, along with "traditional" full-time students just out of high school.

**Fact 4:** Students who have dependents or support themselves attend independent

colleges and universities at about the same rate as at four-year state institutions.

**Fact 5:** Students who work full-time, have a high school equivalency diploma, or face other challenges are far more likely to graduate from an



Teikyo Post University students listen to the CCIC presentation to the higher education funding subcommittee on the impact of the proposed cut to CICS funding during the CCIC Student Rally Day.

independent college or university than from a state institution.

**Fact 6:** All types of students are as likely to earn their degree in four years at an independent college or university as they are

in six years at a state institution. With only a small amount of state support, all in financial aid, Connecticut's independent sector awards degrees at a state cost of only \$1278 as compared to the \$38,549 cost of a degree from the public institutions.

**Fact 7:** Regardless of initial academic preparation for college, students are as likely to earn their degrees in four years at an independent college or university as they are in six years at a state institution.

**Fact 8:** Students who earn bachelor's degrees are able to do so sooner at independent colleges and universities than at state institutions, avoiding additional tuition and financial aid expenditures and beginning their careers earlier.

**Fact 9:** Most of the financial aid undergraduates receive at independent colleges and universities is based on financial need.

**Fact 10:** 53% of all degrees granted in Connecticut and most of the degrees granted in the identified key cluster academic disciplines come from the Connecticut's independent colleges and universities.

See [www.naicu.edu](http://www.naicu.edu) for supporting data.

## Hanyang University design students open first exchange with University of Bridgeport

If you see your Schick Xtreme3 razor in some dazzling packaging soon, it may owe to a unique exchange program at the University of Bridgeport.

UB's art and design program is offering a mid-winter course on American Industrial Design that has attracted seven students from South Korea's leading academic programs in design to the Bridgeport campus. The students gave up their winter vacation to be part of this building block in a new international collaboration between the university and Hanyang University in Seoul.

The course lets students get involved with leading American designers and make visits to their studios and workshops at places such as Pitney Bowes in Stamford and Product Ventures in Fairfield and Schick in Milford.

Part of the international attraction is the UB design program, one of the leading ones in the field, with a reputation that is decades old. Designers for many of America's leading companies and firms are UB alumni who went through this program.

That's how alumnus David Dombrowski, Schick's



Students from Hanyang University in Seoul, South Korea, during intersession exchange course at the University of Bridgeport in February.

manager of industrial design, became involved, and his Schick associate, industrial designer Sean Lukan.

"We work with ideas, and students frequently provide a fresh view," said Sean Lukan, of the packaging project the class had taken on in its work with Schick. It's part of the hands-on experience young designers need to learn their craft.

Each of the students presented their concepts in February. A week later they presented their finished projects to an expert panel. The two finalists then presented their projects.

Jim Lesko, director of the art and design program,

who drew on faculty members Edward Eslami, Bob Brainard and Gary Munch to run the course, said the international mix and exchange of ideas had benefits for both the Korean and UB students. "Put all these views together and ideas pop up that you wouldn't have thought of without the mix," he said.

"We'll build on the success of this course," he said. "The students are really enthused."

Professor Jae-Hwan Lee of Hanyang's College of Design accompanied the students to UB. He said he looked forward to more such courses at UB and at Hanyang.

UB's President Neil Albert Salonen said there will be

much more. He and Hanyang president Chong Yang Kim just signed their agreement in late January. They hope to develop joint academic courses, exchanges for graduate and undergraduate students, exchanges of faculty and joint seminars and conferences.

Hanyang students participating in the course are: Jee Sun Leem, Won Hee Jung, Jae-eun Jung, Soo Hyun Eun, Eunsun Lee, Yeon Hee Jo and Young-suk Kwon. Dong Joo Choi, a UB graduate assistant, assisted as translator.



Students and staff from Quinnipiac University meeting with Representative Nancy Kerensky, Co-Chair of the Higher Education & Employment Advancement Committee, to discuss their concerns about the proposed cut to CICS funding.

### DATTCO supports CCIC Rally Day at the Capitol

CCIC wishes to thank DATTCO Motorcoach for donating bus service to support CCIC's student rally day at the Capitol. DATTCO's kind contribution helped to make our day at the Capitol a success.

[www.dattco.com](http://www.dattco.com)

# Rensselaer at Hartford Redoubles Commitment to Computer Camp

Rensselaer at Hartford's

Summer Computer Camp will enter into its 23<sup>rd</sup> season this July with a com-

mitment to significantly increase the number of participants. This popular camp is a highly sought after program by both students and parents because of its reputation for successfully providing valuable educational opportunities that are fun. Last year, the camp served over forty students from three Hartford area elementary schools: Barnard-Brown, Burr, and SAND. The program is designed to increase computer literacy and the use of computer programs for the technologically driven world. The children interact creatively through hands-on computer training during a four-week session. The computer programs used during camp focus on the integration of language arts, reading, writing, and mathematics skills. Campers learn to use the



Internet to conduct re-

search, create their own Web pages in HTML, and link their home pages to

other Web sites. Digital photography is used to add pictures to student home pages and to further enhance their use of technology and computers to complete their classroom projects. Field trips are integrated with classroom learning. Typically, students have the opportunity to enjoy trips to Mystic Marinelife Aquarium and the Talcott Mountain Science Center, as well as visit the Mystic Aquarium Education Center located on Main Street in downtown Hartford.

The Rensselaer at Hartford Summer Computer Camp staff is comprised of instructors who have

extensive teaching, Internet, and computer technology skills. The curriculum is developed by the staff and is designed to best help the campers learn about computers. In addition, a guest speaker is invited to the Camp every summer to talk to students about careers in the computer science and information technology fields. Campers learn about various jobs in computer programming, graphic design, and even computer gaming, a favorite activity among many of the



students.

At the completion of Summer Computer Camp, family and friends of the students attend a graduation and awards ceremony recognizing the participants in the Camp. Students have the opportunity to demonstrate their computer skills and present the projects they worked on in the

Rensselaer computer laboratories. Members of the community are continually impressed by the quality of the student work and the educational experience that Rensselaer at Hartford's Summer Computer Camp provides to neighborhood youths.

Alan C. Eckbreth, Vice President and Dean, Rensselaer at Hartford, supports the spirit of "communiversity" and is intent on expanding the Institute's reach in the community by increasing the number of students attending Summer Computer Camp in 2003. Rensselaer at Hartford is grateful to numerous individuals and organizations for their support and commitment to the Camp. Everyone involved is anticipating another exciting and successful Computer Camp this summer.

## Did you know that...

*...Even the full tuition at private colleges and universities doesn't cover the instructional and other costs to the institution?*

That's just one of the facts documented in NAICU's newest publication, *Twelve Facts That May Surprise You about America's Private Colleges and Universities*.

To request a copy, email NAICU at [12facts@naicu.edu](mailto:12facts@naicu.edu),

## Connecticut College Committed to Diversity

Applications from students of color are up 18 percent for the Class of 2007 at Connecticut College, thanks to ambitious recruiting efforts and the work of one particular staff member. As assistant director of admission at Connecticut College, Angela Price concentrates on prospective students of color in Hartford, New



Haven and Bronx, N.Y. She counsels not only gifted high schools students who never dreamed of attending a non-state school but also their guidance counselors and their parents. The rising percentage of minority students at Connecticut College attests to her hard work—and a college-wide commitment to increasing diversity. Fourteen percent of the Class of 2006 are domestic students of color, compared to 10 percent for the student body overall. Price works hard to build trust. “I tell the counselors, ‘Send them to me. Give me a weekend. That’s all.’ Her

pitch attracts scores of students to campus for Spring Preview Weekend, a program designed to help students of

color understand how a liberal arts college can prepare them for life and work. Price’s approach to recruiting draws on her own experience. As a high school student in a small town outside Atlanta, Price was one of just eight African-American students in a class of 400. With little assistance from counselors, she got herself accepted to Boston College, where she earned a degree in English in 1982. “I know what it’s like to sit in a classroom and not be acknowledged, to apply to colleges and have no one think you’re capable,” she said.

Today, Price seeks out students counselors may have overlooked. “I have to

educate the counselors, let them know I’m interested in the invisible ones. I tell them we are interested in students who can benefit from an interdisciplinary education, we want independent thinkers, students who can take

academic risks, who want to travel, who want to go on to get a second degree, who want to collaborate with faculty.”

### LEGISLATIVE ACTION

The Appropriations Committee approved a recommended budget that restores \$3 million of the \$3.7 million need-based financial aid cut proposed by Governor Rowland and removes his \$3000 cap on these grants. Our job now is to make sure this money stays in the budget during the next phase of budget development. **Please send a letter. Go to the following link to send a letter to legislative leaders.** <http://capwiz.com/theccic/issues/alert/?alertid=2010546&type=CU>



The Independent Voice is a publication of the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges, a public policy association representing Connecticut’s nonprofit independent higher education institutions.

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The Independent Voice follows a regular rotation schedule featuring four of the sixteen member institutions in each quarterly issue.

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