

# theindependentvoice

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

## CICS PROGRAM CUT MINIMIZED THROUGH GRASSROOTS EFFORTS



Judith B. Greiman, President, Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges

The 2003 Connecticut legislative session was difficult for all participants due to a growing budget gap caused by declining revenues and the ever-increasing needs of Connecticut residents. While almost every state funded program received a cut, we were able to turn back most of a proposed \$3.8 million cut to the need-based financial aid program, CICS, with the final appropriation resulting in a cut of \$821,372. This relatively small cut must be viewed within the context of the adopted multi-million dollars of other cuts, state employee layoffs and tax increases adopted by the legislature.

*The cut was minimized due to the efforts of all CCIC constituents. This year, we had to launch an aggressive grassroots campaign to inform our students, faculty, staff, alumni and supporters about the importance of the CICS Program. When we started the year, we knew that people at CCIC institutions were passionate in*

*their beliefs about the need for low- and middle-income students to be able to access the college of their choice. Our goal was to make sure that legislators and Governor Rowland also knew of our passion and beliefs in this area.*

We made a concerted effort to educate our communities about the legislative process. We encouraged people to go to the legislative action center on our web site, [www.theccic.org](http://www.theccic.org), to find the names of their legislators and to send them and Governor Rowland personal notes about the importance of the CICS Program. Over 1300 letters were sent. This letter-writing effort, coupled with our successful Student Lobby Day and campus-based legislative breakfasts, was instrumental in CCIC's success this year.

Although we were not able to avoid any cut in this difficult year, it is clear that our students would be much worse off had the larger cut originally proposed been enacted. We must now keep up the pressure to make sure that access to college for low and moderate-income students is preserved.

A Connecticut Independent College Student Grant significantly increases access to college. For many students, it is the only way they can afford to enroll.

Based on the student's actual financial need, a CICS grant provides a targeted and cost-effective way to fund access to higher education. The grants enable more young people to aspire to college and most of these students tend to graduate on time. Graduates who have received CICS grants and continue to live and work in Connecticut help to bolster our state's supply of highly skilled workers. The program efficiently uses public funds to allow Connecticut students to choose the college that's best for them. It offers opportunities for students, improves the economic stability of our state and helps create a brighter future for all of us.

It is critical that we continue to work together to support the CICS grant program and to help students reach their full potential. Check CCIC's Legislative Action Center ([www.theccic.org](http://www.theccic.org)) for updates on grassroots activities as we prepare for next session.

**CCIC would like to thank the Legislature and Governor Rowland's office for their support of the CICS Program in the State Budget.**

## Happy Labor Day from CCIC!

### Did you know?

- 37% of whites will earn a four-year college degree by age 29, compared to only 21% of African-American and 16% of Latino students.
- While minorities make up 29% of the current U.S. population, only 4% of Fortune 500 CEOs are minorities, 14% of American businesses are minority owned.
- Last year, the pool of 4,461 qualified applicants at the University of Michigan Law School included only 29 Blacks and 114 Latinos.
- American's earning power rises with educational attainment: the average annual income for high school dropouts is \$18,900; for high school graduates, it is \$25,900; and for those with bachelor's degrees, it is \$45,400.
- College graduates ages 25 to 45 are 70% more likely to vote than high school graduates of the same ages, and high school graduates are twice as likely to vote as high school dropouts.
- Children's ability to learn to read in school is related to the support provided by parents before the children enter school and when they are in the first three grades.

# The Harold Leever Regional Cancer Center and Teikyo Post University

Whether a person has been diagnosed himself, has a friend or loved one going through treatment, or is simply worried about its potential threat, cancer touches everyone's life in some significant way. Even our economic and fiscal health is impacted by cancer. In 2001 the National Institutes of Health estimated that the overall costs to our economy due to the impact of cancer was \$156.7 billion.

Teikyo Post University and biological sciences director Dr. Lisa Kaplan, are bringing cancer awareness to the TPU campus, helping students understand the disease as well as the decisions people living with cancer are facing. Dr. Kaplan has established a relationship with the Harold Leever Regional Cancer Center, one of the state's newest facilities, which recently opened in Waterbury, Connecticut.

With the help of Dr. Linda Ferris, director of the Leever Center, Dr. Kaplan is working on different activities and internship opportunities for TPU students at the new cancer center. According to Dr. Kaplan, "The relationship with the Harold Leever Center is an unbelievably rich asset for the university." So far, two major projects have been launched with respect to cancer awareness at Teikyo Post: The Journal Club, and an Introduction to Cancer Biology class being offered in spring 2003.

The Journal Club, founded in April 2002, is an open lunch meeting where students present articles on cancer and engage in lively, informal discussions, increasing their interest in the subject matter. During the

spring semester the club is planning various events and



Dr. Mel Goldstein, meteorologist for WTNH-TV, talks about his battle with cancer during TPU's second annual Waterbury Forum, "The War on Cancer: Winning in

activities for its members. Dr. Kaplan said that sometime in April, they will be given a tour of the cancer center and at least one presentation will be held there.

Introduction to Cancer Biology, BIO299 is a newly designed class. It is divided into two parts: first, providing basic information about life in cells, the human body, cancer formation, chemically-induced and virus-induced cancer; and, second, focusing on skin, lung, blood, breast, ovarian, prostate, central nervous system, liver, and colorectal cancers, how they develop and how they are treated. The class is being held on the TPU campus and will take full advantage of the cancer center.

Dr. Kaplan explained that the course opens the door to new thought and understanding about progressive techniques in the war on cancer. It will help students make educated decisions when voting for different programs in healthcare and insurance.

Both projects have already attracted a lot of attention and raised interest not only among science majors, but also those from other academic programs.

The term "knowledge is power" was never more true than when an individual is faced with the threat of cancer. Teikyo Post University and the Harold Leever Regional Cancer Center are planning

more joint projects to arm the future with knowledge and information that can help understand this devastating disease.

## New Building Planned for Albertus Magnus College

A prominent feature on Albertus Magnus College's main Prospect Street campus in New Haven



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when the new academic year begins will be a large sign marking the site of a new Academic Center for Science, Art and Technology. Construction of the \$6 million Center, scheduled for completion in

December 2004, will add 18,000-square feet for academic purposes.

The Academic Center, along with several other initiatives this fall, evolves from the work of the College's strategic planning committees; it will include science classrooms and labs, an MIS suite, a studio for communications majors with production, editing and post-production rooms for video and audio work, and a state-of-the-art teaching amphitheater. A two-story atrium will link several multi-disciplinary learning areas and accommodate student, alumni and community activities.

New in the classroom this fall will be a major in criminal justice leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree. The program will be available to the College's traditional day students and to its adult students in the Continuing Education Division's Accelerated Degree Program.

Licensed in June by Connecticut's Department of Higher Education, the criminal justice major stems from one of the sociology department's most popular concentrations; it builds on the College's strengths in sociology and psychology.

Michael T. Geary joins the College as assistant professor and coordinator of the criminal justice program. He received a bachelor's degree in criminal

justice from Mercy College and a master's degree from Long Island University, also in criminal justice. He holds a law degree from Pace University and

**Albertus** (cont. on p. 3)

## Trinity College: Advancing Humanity Through The Urban Liberal Arts Experience

Trinity College strives to help students become engaged and productive citizens, equipped to advance humanity with knowledge of their community, their nation and their world. It promotes this philosophy of engagement with the City of Hartford and surrounding community by reaching beyond rhetoric and providing its students with an expanding program of studies and hands-on opportunities in a novel urban academic experience to discover the many meanings of citizenship. Trinity's approach to education (and to international and intercultural education) begins with the premise that a liberal arts education is preparation for citizenship. To help students meet this goal, the College has built partnerships with hundreds of organizations and institutions – from non-profit neighborhood groups to major international corporations – representing every corner of Hartford.

Key programs that partner Trinity students and professors with community members continue to evolve. The Community Learning Initiative (CLI) assists faculty in creating academic engagements in the community that join students with individuals and organizations throughout Greater Hartford. Trinity students are given valuable opportunities and experiences while neighbors and community organizations gain research, knowledge from those partnerships by interacting with and learning from the Hartford community in over 30 CLI courses each year.

The Academic Internships program also places students in Hartford organizations, including the State Legislature, community based organizations, local businesses and hospitals. Students receive hands-on training while in many cases provide valuable assistance to elected officials, corporate executives and community leaders. Students are supervised by both a faculty member and supervisor on site, and carry academic credit. More than half of graduates complete at least one internship.

The Smart Neighborhood Initiatives (SNI) uses information technology to help South Hartford's businesses, not-for-profits and residents communicate and conduct business with themselves and the outside world. Through projects such as Trinfo Café, SNI provides access to technology and guidance and training for residents and local organizations. Trinfo has begun to bridge the digital divide in the community while also providing job training classes in computer technology to open doors to many residents seeking employment options. Among other things, Trinity students help operate Trinfo Café, teach classes, and hold job training and professional development workshops, and create web sites for community organizations and businesses.

The Trinity College Cities Data Center works with students and faculty using data as a focus of collaboration between campus and the community. By providing data for grants, reports and policy decisions as

well as for classroom discussion relevant to Hartford, the Center provides a valuable resource to the City of Hartford and neighborhood organizations. The Center is invaluable to neighbors who seek information on various trends, but do not have the time or expertise to collect and disseminate the data.



Trinity Center for Neighborhoods (TCN) is a bridge between Hartford's neighborhoods and the faculty, students and staff of Trinity College. TCN's staff works closely with community groups to identify and create strategic grassroots lobbying efforts to seek positive policy changes. TCN also provides a director leadership training programs for those individuals that are in need of additional skills to move ahead in their organization.

In and out of the classroom, Trinity's education offers limitless opportunities to explore the urban environment, acquire important personal and professional skills, and grow as citizens of the world. Collaborating with College's neighbors, students bring their field learning into the reflective atmosphere of the classroom while community partners, simultaneously, harness student energy, creativity and intellect. It's hard to say who benefits the most.

## Albertus (Cont. from p. 2)

is a retired New York City police officer, having served in various patrol, supervisory and administrative assignments.

The College also is moving to re-enter the academic field of teacher preparation, seeking State of Connecticut approval to offer formal teacher training programs.

Dr. Joan Venditto, an alumna of Albertus and experienced educator, administrator and consultant, has been appointed to direct the College's implementation of education programs and serve as an associate professor of education. The development of programs to prepare students for teaching careers is another initiative stemming from the work of the College's strategic planning committees.

This fall the College's Accelerated Degree Program in the Continuing Education Division will offer two new "blended" courses every eight weeks through AMC NetOption. These courses combine four weeks in the classroom with four weeks of online classes, providing great flexibility for the Program's working adult students.

MBA courses are now available in Hartford, as well as New Haven, through the College's New Dimensions Program. New Dimensions provides undergraduate and graduate programs in business to working adults in 14 locations around the state.

# Mitchell College Business Students Launch New Loan Program for Small Business Start-ups in NL

There is a new source for small loans for business start-ups in New London. The Mitchell College Business Administration Program in Small Business Studies introduced their new Lending Entrepreneurs Assistance Program (LEAP) in the spring and students in the program oversee the loan operation from start to finish.

LEAP can provide a small start up or fairly new small business in New London with the opportunity to borrow money at moderate/low interest rates and manageable repayment schedules. These companies would likely not qualify for bank financing or most loan programs. Qualified businesses can get a minimum of \$500 and a maximum of \$2,500.

"Not only do the businesses benefit from the loan opportunity, but our students gain a tremendous amount of real business experience," said Don Benoit, assistant professor of business administration. "The students will have

internship/practicum opportunities, gain valuable insight into the needs of a small business



and learn the importance of community service."

According to Benoit, the job for the business students doesn't end when the money gets handed over. Students will assist in building marketing and business plans. Benoit, who also serves on the board of directors for New London Main Street, sees this new student venture as an opportunity to promote the New London Downtown Business District.

Since LEAP was launched late in the spring semester, two loans have been made. The first loan went to Better Skills, a home remodeling business. A second loan went to *The Scope*, a local arts and entertainment magazine. Benoit has his sights on building a business plan for Mugz, a local café, which happens to be a regular stomping ground for Mitchell students. The students are also reviewing plans for a potential food co-op and working on a merger of two local beverage companies to create a Connecticut sales and marketing organization.

Mitchell College offers both associate and bachelor programs in Business Administration. The Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, one of Mitchell's seven bachelor programs, focuses on the practical applications of current business activity with an emphasis on management philosophy and small business and entrepreneurial studies.



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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