

theindependentvoice

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

QUICK NOTES:

Thank you Governor Rell for maintaining funding for Connecticut's need-based financial aid programs in your proposed budget. The weakened economy has already resulted in increased requests for financial aid. This is expected to grow even more now that families are experiencing lay-offs and investment losses. This financial aid support will help to ensure the future of our students and Connecticut's economic recovery through its educated workforce.

Sign up for the CCIC Graph of the Week, a new data tool filled with interesting information about higher education and the workforce. Send your email address to farnhamf@theccic.org or go to the sign-up at www.theccic.org.

Did you know? CCIC member colleges and universities are responsible for a total of 81,070 jobs in Connecticut including 22,179 FTE positions in direct and out-sourced operations and 58,891 FTE positions in the rest of Connecticut's economy.

Encouraging Young Scientists

A scientifically informed nation is vital to our country's future. In recognition of this pressing need, Yale University offers an extraordinarily wide range of top-quality, free, science programs for public school students in the Greater New Haven area. Through these in-school, after-school, and summer programs, the University makes its world-class resources available to young scientists and future engineers.



The programs have thrived so well that Yale University's Office of New Haven and State Affairs has hired a full-time science educator to run them.

"Our goal is to provide a seamless continuum of educational opportunities to enrich students' lives, prepare them for the next level of education and encourage them to pursue science, technology, engineering and math careers," says Joanna Price, Ph.D., the first coordinator of community programs in science.

Yale's science outreach programs are many and varied. The University hosts the annual City-wide Science Fair. The single largest of all the programs, the fair involves thousands of schoolchildren and teens in hands-on science learning, with dozens of volunteer mentors and judges, many from Yale University.

Yale University's outreach includes weekend family activities, public lectures and professional development for teachers. There are robotics competitions and Physics Olympics as well as health education units that go into the classrooms ("Have Bones, Will Travel"). "Science Saturdays" explore cutting-edge topics and reinforce the excitement of research. The Peabody Museum of Natural History's EVOLUTIONS program focuses on college preparation, science literacy and skills development, and students receive academic credit at their schools for participating. "Open Spaces as Learning Places" uses a city park and other public sites to teach environmental stewardship. DEMOS puts Yale undergraduates into elementary schools every week to present lively demonstrations of basic science. Graduate and professional students and faculty lead HPREP (Health Professionals Recruitment and Exposure Program) and SEOP (Science Education Outreach Program) and EVOLUTIONS—each with a difference emphasis and targeted audience, but all designed to inspire young people to pursue scientific careers and demystify stereotypes they may have about scientists.

Yale (cont. on p. 2)

Sacred Heart University Offers Tuition-Free Education to Low-Income Fairfield County Students



Full-time undergraduate students with family income below \$50,000 who are admitted to Sacred Heart University from Fairfield County high schools will receive a tuition-free education. The program, inaugurated in the fall 2008 semester, addresses the concern of area families for affordable college opportunities in a difficult economic climate.

According to the University's president, Dr. Anthony J. Cernera, "Sacred Heart was founded 45 years ago to offer men and women, primarily in Fairfield County, access to a first-rate education in the Catholic tradition that was both accessible and affordable. We strengthen that historic commitment with a strong conviction that all students deserve access to higher education."

The formal announcement was made in April at the University's 19th annual Discovery Awards and Scholarship Dinner. Over nearly two decades, the dinner has realized millions of dollars for student financial assistance. Proceeds from this event complement the overall \$23 million that the University currently provides students in the form of scholarships, grants and work-study programs. This year's dinner raised over \$675,000 for the University's scholarship fund.

James Barquinero, SHU vice president for Enrollment Planning and Student Affairs, noted that tuition for full-time undergraduates is currently \$26,950. "That the University is willing to meet those expenses in full says something important about the values we stand by—to provide access, opportunity and an exceptional liberal arts education to prepare our students to live in and make their contributions to the human community."

Yale (cont. from p. 1)

One of the most successful outreach initiatives of all is Yale University's 10-year-old summer SCHOLAR program. This three-week residential program provides in-depth, comprehensive educational services to a highly focused group of about 50 students from Hill Regional Career High School.

"Virtually 100 percent of SCHOLAR program graduates attend college," said Claudia Merson, director of Public School Partnerships in Yale University's Office of New Haven and State Affairs. "That speaks volumes, especially since 50 percent of these students are the first in their families to do that," she said. "One of the most important elements of this program is the residential component. New Haven high school students experience what it's like to live and learn on a college campus," said Merson. "We want them to envision themselves as college students."



SCHOLAR participants live together in one of Yale University's residential colleges, attend classes in biology, physics, chemistry and biotechnology, and experience lab work in state-of-the-art facilities. The goal is to expose them to an enriched curriculum that reinforces their enthusiasm for science. The academic approach is exploratory and interactive, emphasizing discovery, critical thinking and problem solving. Yale University faculty members design the curriculum with the support of teachers and advisors from Career High School, Yale graduate and professional schools and SCHOLAR faculty. Yale College students serve as residential advisors, mentors and role models.

Quinnipiac University develops "green" York Hill Campus -wind, cogeneration, and solar power initiatives included in plans

Quinnipiac University is committed to building one of the most environmentally friendly campuses in America, announced President John L. Lahey, who recently unveiled the University's \$4 million sustainability plan for its new York Hill Campus.

"The new York Hill Campus will reflect our renewed commitment to preserving the environment and educating our students about these issues," Lahey said.

The 250-acre York Hill Campus will feature two major initiatives that use renewable energy sources to produce electricity and make the campus more sustainable. A wind garden composed of 44 vertical-axis wind turbines will generate about 84,000 kilowatt hours per year. These wind turbines, each approximately 40 feet high, will be built into a garden area complete with stone benches that will provide an area for student gathering and reflection.



The second initiative includes placing 1,232 photovoltaic solar panels on the roof of the 475,000-square-foot Crescent residence hall that will convert energy from the sun to electricity and generate about 250,000 kilowatt hours per year.

President Lahey also announced that a new student affairs position, an environmental coordinator, will be appointed and whose responsibility will be to educate students, faculty and staff about environmental issues and encourage projects that help protect and preserve the environment.

Joseph Rubertone, associate vice president for facilities administration, is spearheading the project which is designed by Centerbrook Architects and Planners of Centerbrook, Conn. Rubertone said, "York Hill is being designed as a leading example of environmentally sensitive development that will strive to mitigate the impact on the environment."

Among the other notable sustainability initiatives on York Hill are:

A gas-fired microturbine to generate a portion of the electricity required for the site. The waste steam from this microturbine also will be harnessed and re-used to heat the buildings.

Use of eco-friendly materials and resources in construction.

A bio-detention pond that collects and cleanses storm water runoff to reduce soil erosion and improve water quality.

Full cut-off luminaries and low-reflectance surfaces to reduce night sky pollution.

Low flow plumbing fixtures.

A recycling center to promote campus-wide recycling efforts.

Native landscaping to reduce water consumption

Green roof terrace to reduce heat island effect

The University is building residence halls for 2,000 students, a student center and a 2,000-car parking garage on York Hill, which is already home to the TD Banknorth Sports Center.

"The parking garage is being built into the natural landscape of York Hill so disturbance to the site will be minimal," Rubertone said. "In addition, we are working to maximize open space by building high-density residence halls. Throughout the construction of York Hill, we plan to protect the existing wetlands, wooded forest, wet and upland meadows and wooded swamp."

Concentrating on eco-friendly initiatives is not new for Quinnipiac. In recent years, the University has joined other private colleges in Connecticut in a consortium that buys natural gas for heating and cooling. For the last two years, Quinnipiac has been purchasing electricity in bulk from Trans-Canada. In addition, Quinnipiac has converted lighting in campus classrooms, offices and some residence halls to fluorescent lighting.

Charting a Bright Future on Asylum Hill

More than two years ago, Saint Joseph College formalized its collaboration with Asylum Hill Congregational Church and the Capitol Region Education Council and opened The School for Young Children on Asylum Hill (SYCAH) – a socially and economically integrated school that serves urban and suburban children. Based on the curriculum and structure of the College's renowned School for Young Children, the inclusive setting reflects best practices in early childhood education, including a strong language/literacy curriculum.

Since SYCAH welcomed its first class in September 2006, the three partners have worked toward their goal of establishing a Charter School. The process was completed in July when the State Board of Education approved the charter. This past fall, SYCAH became The Charter School for Young Children on Asylum Hill. It increased enrollment to 137 students, added a kindergarten class, and will continue to add one grade per year up through third grade.

SJC Education Chair Kathleen Butler, Ph.D., stressed the critical role The Charter School will play in community education: "At a time when the Sheff ruling requires us to correct inequalities, it is important to realize that places like The Charter School prevent inequality from ever entering into the learning lives of children."

"This is great for the children and families in Asylum Hill and for suburban families who benefit from this high quality, economically integrated school," said Gary Miller, senior minister at Asylum Hill Congregational Church. The Church raised the funds to renovate space in the Church and was instrumental in bringing the partnership together. All three partners recognize that their collaboration provides a greater opportunity to effect positive change.

Capitol Region Education Council will manage the school, which in turn, is overseen by the school's Board of Governors – comprised of members from Saint Joseph College, Asylum Hill Congregational Church, the Hartford Board of Education, and a parent and teacher from The School.

The school will continue to function as a College lab site for Saint Joseph College students, offering internships, student teaching placements and service learning opportunities in early childhood education. The College opened the original School for Young Children (now located on Steele Road, West Hartford) as a lab school in 1936.

"The Asylum Hill site gives our students the opportunity to work in an integrated urban setting near campus," said Saint Joseph College President Pamela Trotman Reid. "It also expands the College's outreach into the community by providing a high quality education to more children and families in the area. Educating children is critical to the health and vitality of this region. The Charter School for Young Children on Asylum Hill is a win for everyone involved."

Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges
342 North Main Street, Suite 202
West Hartford, CT 06117
Student Success Statewide



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.

Chair

Dr. Steven Kaplan
President, University of New Haven

Vice Chair

Neil Salonen
President, University of Bridgeport

President

Judith B. Greiman
Connecticut Conference of
Independent Colleges
ph: 860.236.0900
fax: 860.236.0910
e: greimanj@theccic.org
www.theccic.org

Membership

Albertus Magnus College
Connecticut College
Fairfield University
Goodwin College
Mitchell College
Quinnipiac University
Rensselaer at Hartford
Sacred Heart University
Saint Joseph College
Saint Vincent's College
Trinity College
University of Bridgeport
University of Hartford
University of New Haven
Wesleyan University
Yale University

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

Non-
Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit
#1733
Hartford, CT