

Friday, April 4, 2014
UMass Club, Boston

**Massachusetts
Higher Education**

STUDENT LEADERSHIP RETREAT

2014

Presented by the
Massachusetts Department of Higher Education
in cooperation with the
Student Advisory Council

#MAStudentLead

Share your pics and
comments, please!
 @MassDHE

History of the Student Leadership Conference



Students participate in a role-playing exercise at the 2013 Student Leadership Conference, held at Fitchburg State University.

The annual **Massachusetts Public Higher Education Student Leadership Conference** grew from a Massachusetts Board of Higher Education Task Force on the Quality of Student Life, which met from 2000 to 2002 and was charged to collect information from students on current student life conditions and make suggestions for improvement. To help meet that charge, the Task Force held two Conferences on Student Life, one in 2000 and one in 2001, to garner public higher education students' opinions on the condition of academic and student support services, academic advising, communication with students, facilities, parking and transportation.

After the Task Force concluded its work, the Department of Higher Education decided to transform the Conference on the Quality of Student Life into an annual Student Leadership Conference, planning it in conjunction with the statewide Student Advisory Council. After several years of large conferences focused on leadership skill development, the 2014 conference has been planned in the style of a retreat, offering 2–3 students per campus the opportunity to convene with state leaders, learn about issues affecting higher education, and, returning to its roots, educate state leaders about the quality of student life on Massachusetts' public campuses today.

Conference Agenda

All sessions take place in the **Main Dining Room** unless otherwise noted.

Campus staff are welcome to meet in the Presidential Parlor throughout the day!

9 a.m. **Registration and Coffee/Refreshments**

10 a.m. **Welcome**

Robert Caret, President, University of Massachusetts

Richard M. Freeland, Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

Kathy Matson, SGA President, Mt. Wachusett Community College;
Student Member, Massachusetts Board of Higher Education

10:25 a.m. **Move to Breakout Sessions—Block 1 (See map on page 5)**

10:30 a.m. **Block 1 Breakout Sessions**

You pre-selected your session when you registered for the conference. Check your nametag if you don't remember which session you chose.

Connecting Passion & Purpose to Lead Change—Worcester Room

Fagan R. Forhan, Director, Experiential Learning Opportunities & Civic Engagement,
Mt. Wachusett Community College

Learn a framework to lead community change projects of your own design. We will work together to identify how one can connect passions and skills with needs in the community as a means of leading change. Anyone can swing a hammer at a community build, which is a beginning step toward impacting the community, but to align one's head and heart with a defined need in the community will result in transformational change, not just within the community, but within one's self. The framework discussed at this workshop will enable you to move toward leading community impact and to begin on the path to becoming "social entrepreneurs."

The Story Behind the Numbers—Boston Room

Sean Nelson, Deputy Commissioner for Administration & Finance,
Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

Understand how state funding supports public higher education, including a review of the Commonwealth's position nationally with respect to financial aid, operating expenditures and the funding formula. This session will also provide an overview of new funding initiatives, including the community college funding formula.

Student Loan Debt—Lowell Room

Rep. Paul Mark, Vice Chair, Joint Committee on Higher Education,
Massachusetts State Legislature

With student debt on the rise, the chairs of the Massachusetts Legislature's Joint Committee on Higher Education appointed a subcommittee to investigate, study, and make recommendations on the issue of student loans and debt. Engage in a discussion of the subcommittee's findings and share your concerns about student debt.

You Came Back! Maintaining Member Commitment—Dartmouth Rooms I & II

Elizabeth Green, Learning Outcomes Assessment Project Coordinator,
Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

Is your organization having trouble retaining members? Would you like to increase the number of students that are actively involved in your organization? Do you wonder why some members are not as engaged as you are? Identify strategies for keeping members involved, with an emphasis on idea sharing between campuses.

11:15 a.m. **Move to Breakout Sessions—Block 2 (See map on page 5)**

[Agenda continues >](#)

Conference Agenda (cont'd)

11:20 a.m. **Block 2 Breakout Sessions**

You pre-selected your session when you registered for the conference. Check your nametag if you don't remember which session you chose.

Connecting Passion & Purpose to Lead Change—Lowell Room

Fagan R. Forhan, Director, Experiential Learning Opportunities & Civic Engagement,
Mt. Wachusett Community College

Repeat of Block 1 session.

Education, Occupation & Vocation: Exploring the Journey from Campus to Career—Worcester Room

Christine Williams, Director of Economic & Workforce Development,
Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

In this fun and interactive session, we'll be talking about the link between your academic experience and your career. We'll be sharing some of our statewide policy priorities and efforts to align student experience with opportunities in the workforce, and seeking your perspective based on your own experience and expertise as student leaders. We'll also answer some of your own questions, concerns, and hopes as you connect your own college and university experience with your career and life aspirations.

Graduation Day: What Will YOU Know and Be Able to Do?—Dartmouth I & II

Bonnie Orcutt, Director of Learning Outcomes Assessment,
Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

Graduation is an exciting day. The accomplishment of a two- or four-year degree is a huge milestone for you and your friends. But when you put on your cap and gown, will you be able to answer questions like: Was it worth it? What have you learned? What can you do? Do you have the skills and knowledge employers want? Are you prepared for graduate school? Join a discussion that takes you inside a new, multistate experiment to measure and report what college students have learned and can do—without more standardized tests. It's part of the Vision Project, the strategic plan for Massachusetts' public colleges and universities to become one of the nation's top public higher education systems.

Vision Project 101—Boston Room

Saeyun Lee, Senior Assistant Commissioner for Academic Affairs,
Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

Learn about the Vision Project, a statewide initiative to continually enhance the quality of our public institutions of higher education, increase accountability and transparency, and ensure that Massachusetts achieves its goal of producing the best-educated citizenry and workforce in the nation.

12:05 p.m. **Return to Main Dining Room**

12:10 p.m. **Lunch**

12:40 p.m. **Panel Discussion Affordability of Higher Education**

Panelists

Kirk Carapezza, Higher Education Reporter, WGBH-FM

Rep. Sean Garballey, Massachusetts State Legislature

Pamela McCafferty, Dean of Enrollment Management, Fitchburg State University

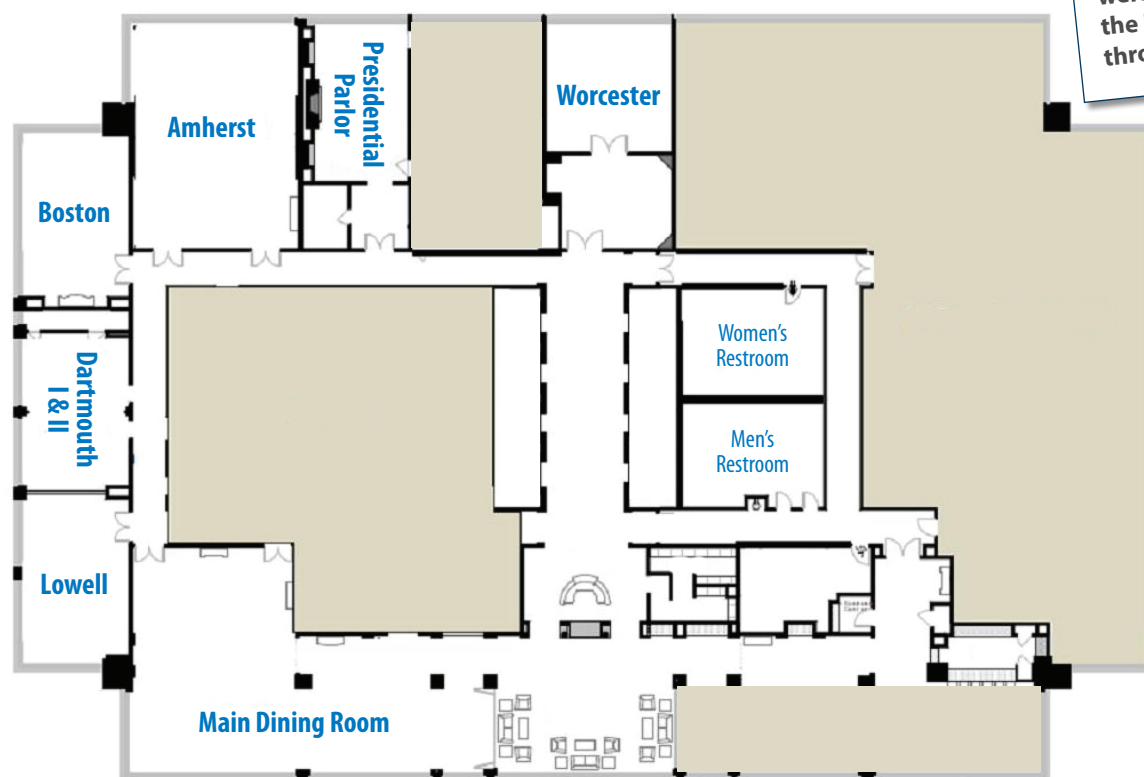
Kimberly Selwitz, President, Board of Directors,
Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts (PHENOM)

Moderator

Charles F. Desmond, Chair, Massachusetts Board of Higher Education

Map of Facilities

Campus staff are welcome to meet in the Presidential Parlor throughout the day!



1:35 p.m. **Roundtable Discussion Student Life Issues**

Introduction

Heather Hilton, Student Trustee, Massasoit Community College

Facilitators

Greg Clement, Associate Dean of Students, Mt. Wachusett Community College

Hank Parkinson, Associate Dean of Student Development and Housing, Fitchburg State University

2:25 p.m. **Move to Networking Session**—Lowell + Dartmouth Rooms I & II

2:30 p.m. **Networking with Student Leader Alumni**

David Chapin Quinsigamond Community College '12

Alison Connolly Westfield State '99

Angel Donahue-Rodriguez Salem State '12

W.E. David Halbert Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts '03

Michael Mizzoni UMass Lowell '11

Kimberly Selwitz Framingham State '10

James Tarr UMass Lowell '12

3:10 p.m. **Return to Main Dining Room**

3:15 p.m. **Wrap-Up**

Kathy Matson, SGA President, Mt. Wachusett Community College;
Student Member, Massachusetts Board of Higher Education

3:30 p.m. **Conclusion**

Meet Our Guests!

Presenters & Panelists

Kirk Carapezza

Kirk is a reporter for the NPR member station in Boston, WGBH, where he covers higher education, taking the time to capture the distinct voices of students and faculty, administrators and thought leaders. Kirk has reported for Wisconsin Public Radio in Madison, Wis., and Vermont Public Radio in Montpelier, Vt. He's been a writer and producer at WBUR in Boston; a teacher and coach at Nativity Preparatory School in New Bedford, Mass.; a Fenway Park tour guide; and a tourist abroad. Kirk received his B.A. from the College of the Holy Cross and earned his M.S. from Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism.

Fagan R. Forhan

In her current roles as Director of Experiential Learning Opportunities and Civic Engagement and Director of the Center for Civic Learning and Community Engagement, Fagan provides strategic direction and oversight of civic education initiatives for Mount Wachusett Community College, including all Center programs, such as United Way Youth Venture of North Central Massachusetts and The Democracy Commitment, as well as providing oversight and program development/structure for internships, service learning and career placement. Fagan assists community partners in developing meaningful and reciprocal student placements, and works with faculty to integrate civic education into curricula. Fagan also serves as a member of the Board of Higher Education's Study Group on Citizenship and a National Steering Committee Member on The Democracy Commitment. Before coming to MWCC in 2006, Fagan worked for six years with the Massachusetts State Legislature as Chief of Staff for former State Rep. Brian Knuuttila, serving as a liaison for local nonprofits and constituents.

Rep. Sean Garballey

Sean Garballey is the Massachusetts State Representative from the 23rd Middlesex District, currently serving his third term in the legislature. Representative Garballey sits on three committees: the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, the Joint Committee on Healthcare Financing, and the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government. Rep. Garballey formed and is co-chair of the Public Higher Education Legislative Caucus, through which he has advocated for investing more resources in public higher education and secured budgetary victories in financial aid support and scholarships. He has been influential in passing bills involving solutions to global warming, encouraging life science growth in the Commonwealth, ethics reform, health insurance coverage for hearing aids for children, protections for social workers in the workplace, and legislation that has advanced Massachusetts' commitment to job creation and workforce development. Rep. Garballey first entered public office in 2003 at the age of 18 when he was elected to Arlington Town Meeting and to the Arlington Democratic Town Committee.

Rep. Paul Mark

Paul W. Mark is in his second term as the State Representative for the 2nd Berkshire District. Rep. Mark serves as the vice chair of the Joint Committee on Higher Education and the chair of the Joint Subcommittee on Student Loans and Debt. He also serves on the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture and the Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts, and Cultural Development. Prior to serving in the legislature, Rep. Mark worked as a lineman at Bell Atlantic and Verizon Communications. He is a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and served as a union steward, executive board member, press secretary, and political director for his local union. While working full time at Verizon, Rep. Mark also returned to college and earned an associate's degree in telecommunications, a bachelor's degree in economics, a master's degree in labor relations, a law degree, and a doctoral degree in law and policy. Rep. Mark is licensed to practice as an attorney in Massachusetts.

Pamela McCafferty

Pam McCafferty is the Dean of Enrollment Management at Fitchburg State University and has management oversight for the University's Office of Student Financial Aid. A veteran in higher education administration, Pam is often the spokesperson for Fitchburg State, representing the campus at various meetings and events. She is a member of the DHE Statewide Financial Aid Advisory Committee and has served on other policy groups focused on financial aid policy. Pam is a graduate of Colgate University and earned a master's degree from Tufts University.

Kimberly Selwitz

Kimberly Selwitz is a 2010 graduate of Framingham State University, where she studied psychology with a minor in sociology. She was active on campus and involved in several clubs, including serving as Senator-at-Large for three years at the University's Student Government Association (SGA). Today, she is employed at a non-profit in Cambridge working to end homelessness called HomeStart, Inc. where she works as a Housing Advocate/Case Manager. Additionally, she currently serves as the President of the Board of Directors for PHENOM (Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts), which is a statewide non-profit working to achieve accessible and affordable public higher education for the residents of Massachusetts.

Student Leader Alumni

David Chapin [Quinsigamond Community College '12](#)

David Chapin is a graduate of Quinsigamond Community College and Nichols College, and an employee of Bank of America Corp. While completing his finance degree David worked in consumer banking and has six years of experience. In his current role David provides individuals with financial guidance that helps them attain goals. Leadership and service is very important to David, and while enrolled at Quinsigamond he served as student trustee, chair to the Student Advisory Council, and community college segmental advisor to the Board of Higher Education.

Alison Connolly [Westfield State '99](#)

As an undergraduate student at Westfield State University, Alison was Vice President of Student Life for two years where she worked closely with university administration on several campus initiatives including rewriting the alcohol policy. In her senior year she was voted President of Student Government. During a trying contract year, Alison worked tirelessly to maintain effective relationships between the faculty, administration and students. As President, she was an active member of the Student Advisory Council. Since graduating, Alison has worked for the Department of Higher Education recruiting high school students to become teachers and for the last ten years as the Assistant Director for Student Loan Programs. She is a member of the Christian Herter Scholarship selection committee and the Christian Herter Alumni program. She is Vice President of North Reading Dollars for Scholars and coach to the New England Champion Burbank Bluefins.

Angel Donahue-Rodriguez [Salem State '12](#)

Angel currently works for State Representative Jerald Parisella (D-Beverly). Before working at the state house, Angel served for two years on Salem State's Board of Trustees, and one year on the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education. He is planning on attending law school in the fall of 2015, with the hopes of becoming a federal prosecutor. Angel is also heavily involved in Salem's Democratic city committee, having been recently elected Ward 3 chair.

W.E. David Halbert [Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts '03](#)

W. E. David Halbert is the Director for Scheduling and Events for Middlesex Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian. In this role David is responsible for managing day-to-day logistics on behalf of the Sheriff, ensuring that the Sheriff is appropriately staffed and briefed for all meetings and public appearances, and coordinating & facilitating major public-facing departmental events. He has previously served on the legislative staffs of former Boston City Councilors John Tobin and Sam Yoon—for whom he also served as a senior member of the Councilor's 2009 mayoral campaign. He has worked on numerous campaigns at the local, state, and federal level and is active in a number of local and national civic institutions in Boston. At Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, he became deeply involved in student government, leading to a term as the student member of the Board of Higher Education. While on the BHE, David was able to change

the structure of the Board to allow student representatives from all three segments of Massachusetts' public higher education community to have a simultaneous voice on matters before the Board.

Michael Mizzoni [UMass Lowell '11](#)

Mike Mizzoni is the Legislative Liaison for the Department of Higher Education and a third-year law student. As Legislative Liaison, Mike manages the Department's legislative strategy, communications with the Legislature, and constituent cases. Prior to joining the Department, he worked as a Legislative Aide to State Representative Thomas A. Golden Jr. of Lowell. While at UMass Lowell, Mike served two terms as the Student Government President and was the student member on the Board of Higher Education. He was a recipient of the Commonwealth's 29 Who Shine Award and the Chancellor's Award for Student Service.

Kimberly Selwitz [Framingham State '10](#)

See bio on page 6.

James Tarr [UMass Lowell '12](#)

James Tarr is an independent nonprofit and campaign consultant in the Greater Boston area. His résumé includes work for the North Shore Labor Council, New Lynn Coalition, Working America Lynn, and the Highlands Coalition, and numerous local, state and national elections. James also served as a congressional intern in the office of Representative Niki Tsongas (D-Lowell). He was recently hired to work as a campaign manager for Charlie Gallo for State Representative and will soon be working as an educator in the Lynn Public Schools. During his time at UMass Lowell, James was a passionate advocate for issues in public higher education. His advocacy on these issues led him to serve on the University of Massachusetts Board of Trustees representing the Lowell campus, the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education as a UMass segmental adviser, and on the Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts (PHENOM) Board of Directors.

Other Mass. Public Higher Ed Alumni on the Agenda

Greg Clement [Salem State '85 \(M.Ed.\)](#)

Charles F. Desmond [UMass Amherst '92 \(Ed.D.\)](#)

Fagan R. Forhan [UMass Amherst '98](#)

Rep. Sean Garballey [UMass Lowell '07](#)

Rep. Paul Mark [Springfield Tech. CC, UMass Amherst '07 \(M.S.\)](#)

Kathy Matson [Mt. Wachusett CC '85, '14](#)

Sean Nelson [UMass Amherst '91](#)

Stay Engaged!

Please evaluate this conference

Help us improve future Student Leadership events by visiting this link and letting us know what you thought of today's sessions and presenters.

www.surveymonkey.com/s/slr2014evaluation

Apply to be a student member of the BHE

State university students—check out the application to be the 2014–2015 *voting student member* of the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education.

Community college and UMass students—check back in the fall to apply to be the 2014–2015 *non-voting segmental advisor* to the Board.

www.mass.edu/studentbhe

Attend Student Advisory Council meetings

Next meeting: Thursday, April 17

6 p.m. Dinner | 6:30 p.m. Meeting


Worcester State University, Campus Center, 3rd Floor

SAC will be interviewing candidates for student member of the BHE!

Student Advisory Council (SAC) holds monthly meetings during the academic year to discuss issues that impact students at all campuses. Join your fellow trustees, SGA presidents, and others at the next meeting to keep abreast of state and campus initiatives that affect you.

www.mass.edu/sac

Special Thanks

 **Please join @MassDHE** in thanking **@UMass** (UMass President's Office) for generously providing the facilities for the **#MAStudentLead** retreat!



One student who responds to the survey will win an iPad mini! Winner will be drawn at the April 17 SAC meeting!



Campus Handles/Hashtags

@BerkshireCC
@BridgeStateU
@bristolcc
@BHCCBoston (Bunker Hill CC)
#CapeCodCC
@Fitchburg_State
@FraminghamU
#GreenfieldCC
@HolyokeCC
@MassBayCommCol
@MassArt
@MCLA_Edu
@MMAAdmissions (Mass. Maritime)
@MassasoitTweets
@middlesex_cc
@MountWachusett
@northshore_cc
@NorthernEssex
#QuinsigamondCC
@SeeRCC (Roxbury CC)
@SalemState
@S_T_C_C (Springfield Tech. CC)
@UMassAmherst
@UMassBoston
@UMassDartmouth
@UMassLowell
@UMassMedical
@WestfieldState
@WorcesterState