

Northern Essex Community College

The mission of Northern Essex Community College (NECC) is to serve the people of the greater Merrimack Valley as a caring and comprehensive center of educational excellence that offers high-quality, affordable adult and post-secondary education through the associate's degree level, as well as a broad range of occupational programs and community services which enhance the social, cultural and economic life of the region.

COLLABORATIONS

- With nearly \$30,000 in grant funds provided by the Massachusetts Department of Education, Northern Essex Community College is providing a Professional Development Institute on Alternative Energy Engineering for school teachers in several communities throughout the northeastern Massachusetts region. Teachers are gaining an in-depth understanding of the subject matter of Alternative Energy Engineering as well as pedagogical strategies to enable them to provide assessment, instruction, and reinforcement appropriate for all students in their classrooms, including English language learners.
- As part of a five-year grant funded to Northeastern University by the National Science Foundation, Northern Essex is participating in STEP-UP (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Talent Expansion Program), an innovative project focusing on the development of a sustainable STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) model that ultimately increases the number of students receiving degrees in STEM disciplines, with a special emphasis on engineering science. Its goal is to provide a seamless transition between two- and four-year institutions, increase and support the STEM student population at all partner institutions, and increase graduation rates in STEM programs. The partnership provides a model for other universities to partner with their local community colleges to improve the quality of teaching, share effective mentoring and support strategies, and improve the rigor and alignment of courses, which lead to an increase in the number of students successfully entering the STEM pipeline.
- This fall Northern Essex Community college was one of four Massachusetts community colleges which launched an associate degree in Criminal Justice fully online, thanks to an innovative partnership facilitated by Massachusetts Colleges Online (MCO), a consortium of the state and community colleges. The four community colleges—Bunker Hill (Boston/Chelsea), Middlesex (Lowell/Bedford), Northern Essex

(Haverhill/Lawrence), and Quinsigamond (Worcester)—are now sharing courses in the criminal justice curriculum, a cost-effective approach that will increase access to education opportunities in a high-growth field.

- This partnership allows these community colleges to launch an online degree much more quickly and cost efficiently. The associate degree in criminal justice prepares students for careers in fields such as security, law enforcement, and corrections or for transfer to a bachelor's degree program. While required

Program of DISTINCTION

*Northern Essex collaborated with local veteran's agents to offer a highly successful **Veterans' Educational Stand Down** in August. The event was designed to help soldiers and veterans, especially those who had recently returned from conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, navigate the educational system and access the resources and services that are available to them. Set up as an information fair with speakers, the event attracted 24 veterans as well as many individuals who provide services for veterans. The college also received extensive coverage in the local press, including feature stories in the Boston Globe and the New England Journal of Higher Education. Building on the success of this event, the college is planning additional initiatives, including regularly scheduled office hours for local veteran's agents on campus, faculty and staff workshops focusing on issues that may be more prevalent with veterans, and expanded outreach to veterans.*

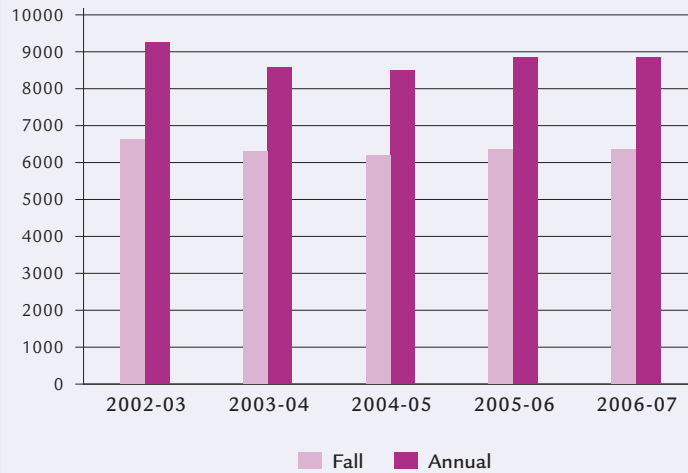
courses vary from college to college, the courses now available online will include criminal law, criminal investigation, corrections, race and ethnicity, critical incident response, and juvenile justice.

- ATLAS (Advancing Technological Literacy And Skills) is a three-year grant funded to the Museum of Science by the National Science Foundation. Its primary goal is to strengthen the education of future elementary teachers in the fields of technology, engineering, and science with the ultimate goal of developing this fluency in their students. In addition to Northern Essex Community College, the project is partnering with a number of schools and colleges, as well as industry groups. Together, we are working to build awareness among educators at all levels about the importance of technological literacy.

I. ACCESS TO PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION IN MASSACHUSETTS

Access Indicators*	
FALL ENROLLMENT	
Fall 2006 Headcount:	6,361
Fall 2006 FTE:	3,760
<i>Results: Over the last three years, fall headcount enrollment has increased 2.7%, and fall FTE enrollment has increased 4.3%.</i>	
ANNUAL ENROLLMENT	
FY2007 Headcount:	8,848
FY2007 FTE:	3,922
<i>Results: Over the last three years, annual headcount enrollment has increased 4.1%, and annual FTE enrollment has increased 6.0%.</i>	
MINORITY ENROLLMENT	
Minority Enrollment Percentage in Fall 2006:	28.1%
<i>Results: Greater than institution's primary draw region's minority representation of 21.7%.</i>	

Fall and Annual Headcount Enrollment



II: AFFORDABILITY OF MASSACHUSETTS COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Affordability Indicators*	
% OF MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME	
Tuition and fees as a percent of median family income in FY2007:	4.2%
<i>Results: Comparable to the Northeast regional average of 4.9%.</i>	

Tuition and Fees as a Percent of Median Income

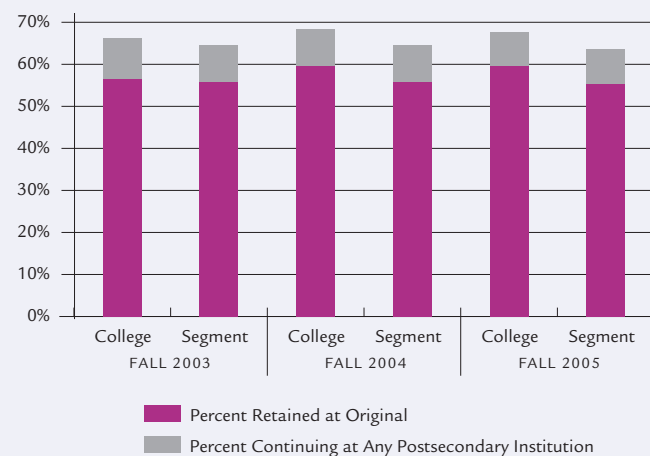
	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007
Tuition and fees	\$2,670	\$2,970	\$2,970	\$3,150	\$3,150
State median family income (SMFI)	\$66,922	\$67,527	\$68,701	\$71,655	\$74,463
Tuition and fees as % of SMFI	4.0%	4.4%	4.3%	4.4%	4.2%
Segment avg. tuition and fees as % of SMFI	4.2%	4.8%	4.9%	4.9%	4.7%
Northeast avg. tuition and fees as % of SMFI			4.8%	4.8%	4.9%

* See Technical Guide (pages 109–110) for indicator methodology and details.

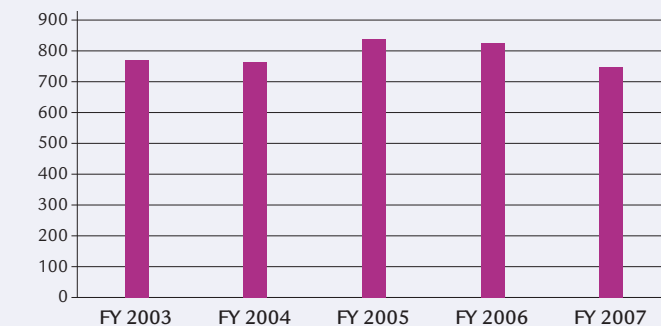
III: STUDENT SUCCESS AND ACADEMIC QUALITY

Success and Quality Indicators*	
FALL COHORT FIRST-YEAR PERSISTENCE	
Retained at original institution:	59.5%
Continuing at any institution:	67.6%
<i>Results: Persistence at original institution has increased 2.9% over the last three years and is above the segmental average of 55.3%.</i>	
FALL-TO-SPRING RETENTION	
2006–2007 Fall-to-Spring Retention Rate:	91.7%
<i>Results: Fall-to-spring retention has declined 2.4% over the last three years.</i>	
COURSE COMPLETION	
FY2007 Credit Course Completion Rate:	71.4%
<i>Results: Below the Board of Higher Education’s target rate of 75%.</i>	
DEGREES CONFERRED	
Total Degrees Conferred in FY2007:	748
<i>Results: Average degrees conferred per year over the last three years: 804.</i>	
NURSING EXAM PASS RATE	
2006 Pass Rate for First-Time Test-Takers on the National Nursing Licensure Examination:	92.6%
<i>Results: Above the Board of Higher Education’s target pass rate of 85%.</i>	
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT	
FY2007 Annual Enrollment in Workforce Development Courses:	15,241
<i>Results: Average annual enrollment in workforce development courses per year over the last three years: 14,222.</i>	

First-Year Persistence Rate (Fall-to-Fall)



Degrees Conferred



Nursing Exam Pass Rate (Associate’s Level)

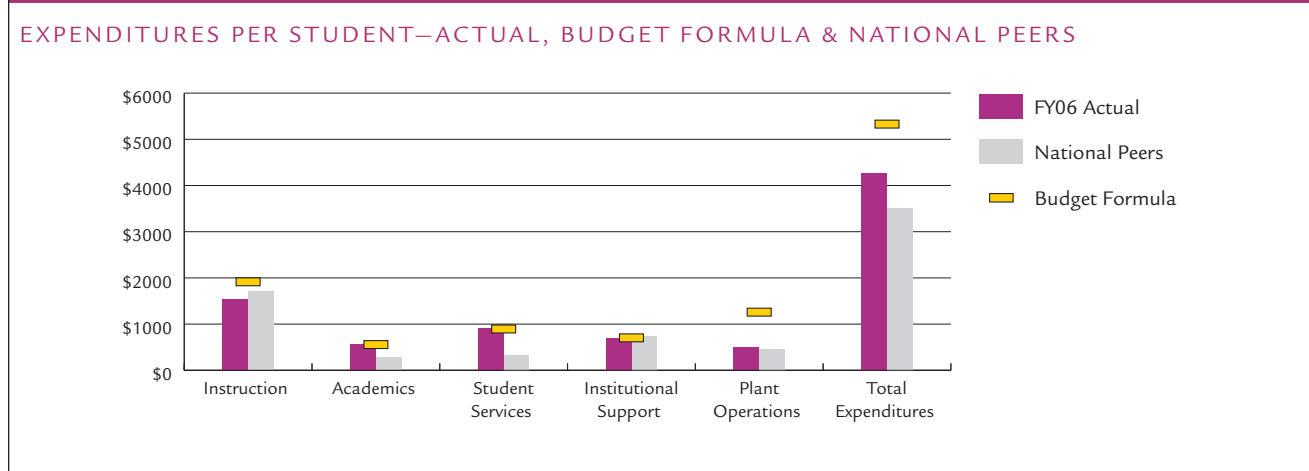


* See Technical Guide (pages 109–110) for indicator methodology and details.

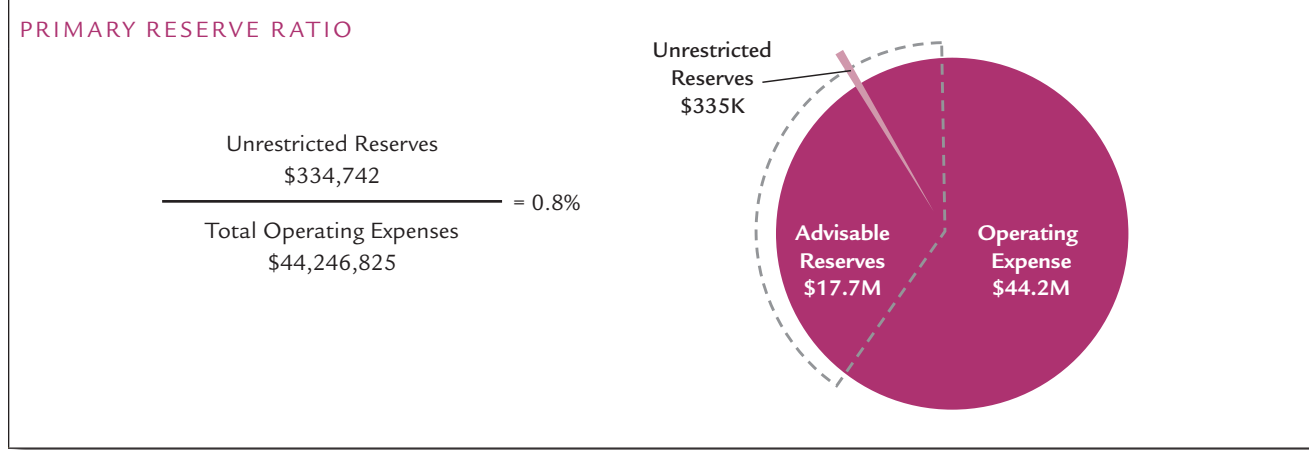
IV: EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT USE OF RESOURCES

Efficiency and Innovation *	Compliance *
<p>EFFECTIVE PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES</p> <p>Implemented electronic accounts payable system for vendor payments, resulting in savings in postage and paper.</p> <p>Changed light timer at Haverhill campus by one hour, saving 268,000 KWH.</p> <p>Collaborated with other Massachusetts Banner financial system Community Colleges to share cost savings best practices.</p> <p>Replaced heat pumps at Lawrence campus, resulting in efficiencies in cooling and heating.</p> <p>Transferred Bursar staff from Administrative Services to Enrollment Services Division and cross-trained employees to operate a “One-Stop Enrollment Center,” resulting in personnel cost-savings.</p> <p>Raised \$1,859,870 through private fundraising, an increase of \$1,008,020 from FY06.</p>	<p>ANNUAL INDEPENDENT AUDIT</p> <p><i>No material weaknesses based on annual external independent audit:</i></p> <p>2007</p> <p>2006</p> <p>2005</p> <p>2004</p> <p>2003</p>

Resource Allocation *



Financial Health Indicator *



* See Technical Guide (pages 109–110) for indicator methodology and details.