Dear Friends,

Springtime is always full of activity at WCC, and this year included some momentous occasions. In late March, the campus welcomed a visiting team from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. This visit was an important part of the College’s reaccreditation process, and it only takes place once every ten years! I’m pleased to report the college passed requirements for all 14 reaccreditation standards, and the Commission’s full report will help the College and Foundation plan for the future.

The Foundation has also experienced wonderful growth and success. We continue to break our own records for scholarship distributions (see p. 3); we had a highly successful Celebrity Salons event series this spring; and strong support from individuals as well as corporate and government partners is driving new student success initiatives on campus. We anticipate the 2015-16 academic year with much excitement as we celebrate the inauguration of our new president (see p. 6), and continue to implement new programs and activities to support our students in the pursuit of their educational goals. Our Board is strong and growing (see p. 2), our staff is humming with activity, and the support of our broad community is truly inspiring. There will be much to report on in the coming year, and we encourage you to stay in touch!

Have a wonderful summer, and thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

Executive Director
Helping More Community College Students Succeed

This spring WCC was thrilled to accept an invitation to join Achieving the Dream, the prestigious national educational reform network that is transforming outcomes at community colleges nationwide. ATD provides a network, framework, and substantial technical assistance to help community colleges improve student success outcomes related to readiness, learning, persistence, and completion. College leaders travelled to Cincinnati, Ohio in June to kick off our ATD partnership and meet ATD coaches that will be working with our institution. We extend sincere thanks to Ruth and Andrew Suzman for supporting our participation in this transformative movement.

WCC Foundation Welcomes New Board Members

Shirley A. Phillips is a Vice President Emeritus of Westchester Community College. She was appointed to the title by the Board of Trustees after her retirement from the college in 2010. Prior to that she served as Vice President of External Affairs and Director of the Westchester Community College Foundation for twenty-two years.

Jason Riley is a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research and a columnist for the Wall Street Journal, where he worked for more than 20 years. He’s also a commentator for Fox News.

Katherine Stipicevic is Senior Manager of Global Citizenship at PepsiCo in Somers, N.Y. She has been with PepsiCo for 15 years, where she is a WCC workplace culture coaching mentor along with other community activities.

Evelyn Stock is a longtime supporter of Westchester Community College, and serves on the Foundation’s Celebrity Salon’s Committee. She is President of the Scarsdale Foundation Board along with numerous other community activities.

SUNY Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching

Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher has announced that three of our adjunct professors have been recognized for consistently superior teaching. Professors Brian Centrone, a WCC Alumnus (English), Toby Grossfield (Mathematics) and Joan Lederman (Health and Physical Education) received Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching. Congratulations to these wonderful faculty members!
SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENT SUCCESS

The WCC Foundation will distribute $1.5 million in scholarship funds this year, thanks to your generous support. We are pleased to feature three student success stories that highlight how scholarships helped to change the direction of their lives.

Wellington Mackey, WCC Class of 2015 has an extraordinary success story to tell. Arriving from the Bahamas in 2002, his time at WCC propelled him into a life he could only previously imagine. This past May, he graduated with a degree in Liberal Arts Social Sciences as the Curriculum Award winner. Wellington’s other honors and activities at WCC include acceptance into the coveted Kathryn Davis Global Scholarship program, and selection of his research paper by the 2014 Beacon Conference. Not only has he excelled at WCC, but he was named recipient of the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer scholarship, which provides up to $40,000 per year to community college transfer students. He is one of only 85 community college scholars to receive this award in 2015, and has just been accepted to Yale University where he will continue his studies in September. He travels to Cambridge University this summer as one of eight WCC Honors students to study at this renowned institution for two weeks. Wellington’s story has been in the media! Please see the recent article in The Journal News: WCC grad goes from homelessness to Yale.

Wellington recently spoke at a Foundation sponsored event about the importance of scholarships and how they transformed his life. He said, “I’m here to speak briefly about my time at Westchester Community College, a time which is sadly coming to an end, but for which I am eternally grateful. I would like to speak specifically about Westchester Community College’s robust scholarship program, and how having received a generous scholarship has impacted my academic career.” Read more here....

Watch this special video in which Westchester Community College President Belinda S. Miles surprises Wellington with the news that he has won the nation’s largest scholarship for community college students: Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship.

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Kyrie Philbrook, WCC Class of 2015 surmounted incredible odds that could have prevented her from accomplishing her goals, but with determination and support, she has excelled. She received the WCC curriculum award in Human Services at commencement this past May and will go on to attend NYU this fall on a full scholarship which covers all of her academic expenses for the next two years. Kyrie found a wonderful mentor in Professor Kathleen Pressler, who was the driving force behind Kyrie winning this scholarship. During her time at WCC Kyrie was the recipient of several high achieving scholarship awards at WCC, including a Wallach Mentoring Scholarship and a Kathryn W. Davis Global Community Scholarship. She too spoke at a Foundation event this spring, and said, “I have come such a long way in just three short years. My first day on WCC's campus, I was underweight, malnourished, homeless, and depressed. I had dropped out of high school at 14 due to anxiety and depression, and was involved with a man who was dangerous to my physical and mental wellbeing. All of this started to change at Westchester Community College. Despite expecting utter failure, it was through the help of professors and staff that I landed on the President’s list my very first semester. For the full story.
Brooks Goss, WCC class of 2015 has not taken the support he received at WCC for granted. He was the recipient of the Wallach Mentoring Scholarship for the past several years, and the combination of the financial and mentoring support this provided really made a difference for him. Brooks graduated this past May, and will be attending Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology. Before he graduated, he came to the Foundation with a modest check, which he has asked us to use for scholarships for other students in honor of his mentor, Dr. Jim Werner. He intends to make a contribution every year. In his cover letter, he wrote “I want to make this donation every year to help the other students at Westchester Community College, just the way the scholarship donors helped me, especially Mrs. Wallach and the Mancher Family. When I finish college and start working full time, I will be able to give more.” We salute Brooks for his success, his kindness, and his selfless generosity. He represents the best of WCC, and he continues to inspire us. More on Brooks

Class of 1965 Celebrate 50th Anniversary Reunion

On May 21st, twenty-three members of the Class of 1965 returned to Valhalla for their 50th Reunion at Hartford Hall. The “Golden Anniversary” graduates greeted one another during a cocktail hour, looked through their yearbooks, and told nostalgic stories and shared happy memories.

One of the couples, Patricia and Fred Bourdette, had met at WCC and married a few months after graduation. In honor of their upcoming 50th wedding anniversary the Alumni Council surprised them with a huge anniversary cake. They were thrilled and touched as they cut the cake and shared it with all those present.

Later that afternoon, the 50-year grads donned caps and gowns and had the privilege of leading the commencement procession of more than a thousand graduates. Dr. Miles welcomed the class of 1965 and presented them with special “diplomas”. It was both exciting and touching, not only for them but for all the graduates present.

Sarah Lawrence College Partners with Westchester Community College

Westchester Community College (WCC) and Sarah Lawrence College (SLC) are pleased to announce the first ever full-need transfer scholarship to SLC. This scholarship has been specifically earmarked for a WCC graduate who plans on transferring to SLC, beginning in the Fall of 2015. Each year, SLC will meet the full financial need of a WCC transfer student which could exceed SLC’s full tuition of $40,000 annually.

WCC currently has transfer scholarship relationships with 14 colleges in the area, including Lehman and Pace. For more information on transfer scholarships please go to http://www.sunywcc.edu/student-services/scholarships/transfer-scholarships-to-four-year-colleges/
The Native Plant Center

The Native Plant Center toured Martha Stewart’s delightful farm, Cantitoe Corners, on May 18, 2015, for a spring fundraiser. Foundation Board Members were among the more than 100 attendees who also visited Phillis Warden’s garden and lunched at Caramoor.

Dates to Remember

Virginia Marx Children’s Center Art Show “A World of Collaboration”

10th Annual Children’s Center Art Exhibition
June 16 through July 15
Fine Arts Gallery, Hankin Academic Arts Building

Gallery Hours
Mon-Wed  10:00 am – 3:00 pm
Tues & Thurs  2:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Sat, June 27  10:00 am – 3:00 pm

This is a show not to be missed. This year’s theme, A World of Collaboration, features works by our youngest artists.

The Virginia Marx Children’s Center is now accepting summer and fall enrollments! For more information, call (914) 606-6644 or go to Virginia Marx Children’s Center
Save the dates! Westchester Community College is planning a full week of inaugural celebratory events in honor of Dr. Belinda Miles, our third president. Special displays will also be around the main campus and extension centers for the entire month of September. Check our inauguration website regularly for updates! Inauguration activities Watch your mail for special invitations. We hope that you will join us for this momentous occasion.

**Inauguration Week at WCC**

**Monday – Wednesday,** September 28-30, 2015
Campus and extension center events.

**Thursday,** October 1, 2015
11:00 am Lecture by Dr. Martha Kanter, Distinguished Visiting Professor of Higher Education at New York University & Former U.S. Under Secretary of Education

**Inauguration Day**

**Friday,** October 2, 2015
1:00 PM Robing for procession at Student Center (Platform/Delegates) and Classroom Building (Faculty)

2:00 PM Processional & Inauguration Ceremony, Theater, Hankin Academic Arts Building

3:30- 5:00 PM Inaugural Reception, Fine Arts Gallery, Hankin Academic Arts Building

Thank you for always making a difference . . . .

“With you we know that we have nothing to hinder us. Without you, we would hardly be where we are today. Thank you.”

*David Sparks,*

*WCC class of 2015*