

WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

State of the  
College  
2002  
WCC

# Improving Westchester

2002

State of the College

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## A Message from the President



By virtue of its mission, a community college provides accessibility to education leading to empowerment, which results in a stronger community and improved business climate. As an institution, Westchester Community College (WCC) has long been at the vanguard of the effort to effect positive change in Westchester. This year's State of the College report outlines many of the ways that WCC has improved the quality of life in the county in 2002.

At my 32nd annual address to the faculty in September, I discussed a host of examples of how the College has altered the local landscape. For example, during the past year, we worked hard to bring WCC even closer to the community in an effort to make education more accessible. One reason for our success in this area is our unprecedented physical growth, both on- and off-campus. The newly renovated Harold L. Drimmer Library and Learning Resource Center is merely the most recent addition to the main campus in Valhalla. There are plans for expanded classroom and technology buildings and proposed construction of "The Gateway Center," a new facility housing services for new immigrants and our ever-expanding volunteer corps.

Off-campus, the Mount Vernon site will be WCC's third new extension to open in approximately two years. This summer, the facility will join recently opened sites in Ossining and Yonkers and our more established Westchester Arts Workshop extensions in White Plains and Peekskill.

Programmatic expansion has also been extensive. New academic programs, additional Continuing Education options, and cutting edge enterprises with area businesses and corporations are all detailed in this publication.

These innovative approaches geared toward increased educational resources for community residents have resulted in the College's largest student body in its history. If we are to continue to grow at this rate, we will need the support of our friends in the community and in government. We are proud to look back on a year when WCC not only received its largest single donation ever (\$2 million), but also enlisted community support to avoid a severe budget cut of the same amount. Financial support for the College's efforts will be key to the future of the institution, affecting the scope of our programs leading to an "improved Westchester." We are thankful for our business, corporate, community, and government partners who recognize that as WCC thrives, so thrives Westchester.

Joseph N. Hankin

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph N. Hankin".

President

Westchester Community College



# Improving Westchester

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*Westchester Community College Professors Mira Sakrajda (left) and Carol Klein co-chaired the annual Beacon Academic Conference. Students from the region presented academic papers at WCC.*



## How Academics makes a difference:

The academic hub of Westchester is also its economic hub; as the county's largest institution of higher education, Westchester Community College is a primary resource in the training and education of both today's and tomorrow's workforce.

Business remains the College's largest academic Division. New programs in Web Design for E-Commerce, Computer Applications Specialist, and Help Desk Support have provided relevant educational options for both traditional age students just out of high school and older students seeking the ability to "recareer" into these growth fields.

Raymond Mignogna, Associate Dean of Mathematics, Physical and Engineering Sciences and Technologies, notes that his own academic Division has undergone significant changes over the past year. "We are updating our curricula in all areas of the Engineering Technologies, where students seek education leading to careers in Automotive, Civil, Electrical, Engineering Science, Mechanical, and Telecommunications Technology," he says.

"In addition, we have instituted a new program in Networking, another area where there are plenty of opportunities in Westchester," Mignogna adds. Networking students learn how to administer advanced computer networking equipment. WCC is also a Cisco Regional Training Academy which allows the institution to offer specialized education in the field of computer networking. Such classes are offered both on the main campus in Valhalla and at the Computer Technology Site in Yonkers. The College also trains high school instructors to teach Cisco courses at the secondary school level, for which these students receive college credit.

Although the College supports the economy of Westchester through academic programs leading directly to careers, it is also a tremendous resource for those who seek associate degrees in Liberal Arts. Many students earn these degrees at WCC, at the County's most affordable tuition rate, then move on to four-year institutions.

Dr. Saul Yanofsky, Assistant Dean, Academic Affairs, is working to broaden the Liberal Arts Programs in order to help provide the county with more quality teachers. "The role of community colleges in teacher education is getting significant attention nationally. Locally, there is a tremendous need for more public, elementary and secondary level teachers," he says. He is working with State University of New York officials and other colleges and universities to formalize the first two years of teacher education preparation, which is primarily based in the Liberal Arts.

## BUSINESS LABS

New Computer Programs

Liberal Arts Courses

## CISCO TRAINING ACADEMY

Engineering Technologies

Networking Program

Health Sciences

## 50+ ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Honors Courses



Psychology Professor Michael Berkowitz, Honors Program Co-Chair, helps students with outstanding grade point averages achieve tremendous intellectual heights.



*WCC's technological resources are astounding: more than 800 computers are available to students at the main campus in Valhalla.*



*The college secured a Perkins II federal grant to attract more female students to computer programs, including Professor Rowan Lindley's Computer Science Department. She is pictured with student Amrita Dhawan (seated).*



*Mountain gorilla experts Amy Vedder and Bill Weber of Yorktown, New York (second and third from left) presented a WCC Distinguished Chair lecture to an overflow crowd. They are pictured with Biology Chairperson Dr. Iris Cook (left), Associate Professor Michael Priano (right), and WCC Foundation Board member Barbara Abeles (second from right).*



# Improving Westchester

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State of the College

## Professional Development Center

### ENTREPRENEURS

### Business Workshops

### Immigrant Workforce

### Business Planning

### CORPORATE PARTNERS

### ESL Program

### MANAGEMENT TRAINING

### Computer Labs



A grant from Hitachi enabled the College to evaluate the county's evolving immigrant workforce. Students such as Alejandra Zapien moved to Westchester from Mexico. After graduating from WCC, she will transfer to a four-year institution, and then plans to launch her career.



*Marc Goloven with JP Morgan presented his view of Westchester's future regarding "New Immigrants in the Workplace" at a WCC seminar.*



*Eric Hilton of Stevens Institute of Technology (right) greets prospective employees at WCC's Career Fair, attended by dozens of local firms.*



*County Board of Legislators Chair Lois Bronz (far left) and WCC President Hankin (far right) announced a new program to help business owners compete for contracts with government agencies. The African American Chamber of Commerce of Westchester and Rockland Counties and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority sponsored the program with the College.*



## How the College supports Westchester businesses:

Community colleges typically have strong ties to the business community, but in the case of Westchester Community College, these ties are extraordinary. One of the primary ways that WCC directly supports county businesses is through its Professional Development Center (PDC).

PDC offers a wide range of sophisticated and affordable education and training to more than 30 businesses and corporations in Westchester. Seminars and short courses include Computer Assisted Drawing and Design, Microsoft Office Suite, Business Writing, English as a Second Language, and Management and Leadership Training.

Susan Burstein, Director of PDC, says "We specialize in providing cutting edge support for both large and small businesses, ranging from contract training for internationally known corporations such as IBM to specialized workshops for entrepreneurs." The College's ties to small business were further cemented during the past year when WCC collaborated with the County Chamber of Commerce and Fleet Bank to form the Academy for Entrepreneurial Excellence. This program trains small business owners in areas such as marketing, business planning, and financial issues.

WCC' has strong ties to corporate leaders including Verizon, which recently appointed several WCC faculty members to regional chair positions. Verizon's Next Step program provides the labor force with skills needed to function in an increasingly technological age. WCC faculty were named to three of six curriculum coordinator positions at the Verizon Next Step Faculty Institute meeting of community colleges.

As Westchester has evolved on the business front and the demographic front, so has WCC. The county's ever-expanding immigrant workforce is the focus of a nearly \$200,000 grant by The Hitachi Foundation, which funded a study of these workers, their challenges, and how best to integrate them into the workforce. Also, the College is planning for a new "Gateway Center," which will provide services for immigrants, additional English as a Second Language classrooms, and meeting/tutoring space for WCC Foundation volunteers. During the past year, the College educated 4,000 ESL students, from nearly 80 nations.

# Improving Westchester

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State of the College



*Admissions Director Tere Wisell ushered in the College's largest class ever as enrollments skyrocketed.*

## How Community Resources impact the County:

The College reached its highest enrollment (11,898 credit students; 13,690 non-credit students) in its 55-year history in large part due to its ability to provide community resources both on- and off-campus.

One of the most dramatic additions to the campus landscape was the newly reopened Harold L. Drimmer Library and Learning Resource Center. Double the size of the former structure, the 108,000-square-foot building opened in early 2002, and boasts cutting edge resources including hundreds of computers. A new bookstore is expected to open in 2003, and there are plans for an expansion of the Student Center Building, construction of a new Instructional Building, and extensive renovations to the Technology Building.

WCC increased its outreach to several target audiences during the past year. Marketing efforts included specialized advertisements and publications, mailings, and workshops for returning adults. On the high school level, additional articulation agreements were signed, resulting in a surge in the number of WCC courses offered at high schools. The College now works with 17 high schools and more than 300 students. "This is one of the many ways we partner with county school districts to introduce advanced high school students to college-level courses and to help at-risk youngsters prepare for the challenges of college," says Tere Wisell, WCC Director of Admissions. Minority high school juniors interested in Accounting also took advantage of the College's first weeklong educational summer camp.

With the largest Division of Continuing Education in the entire State University of New York system, the College's non-credit courses saw a dramatic increase. In some areas, enrollment rose up to 25%, due in large part to new, cutting edge offerings.

Off-campus, WCC's unprecedented expansion is continuing with its third new extension site in two years. Support from County Executive Andy Spano and the Board of Legislators resulted in the launching of a successful Ossining site related to Healthcare (spring 2001) and a Yonkers Computer Technology site (fall 2001). Members of the community of Mount Vernon requested that the college expand its offerings in that city, and the new site at 175 Gramatan Avenue will open in the summer of 2003. This 16,000-square-foot facility will offer dozens of day, evening, and weekend classes. Academic focus areas will include Business, Culinary Arts, Computers, ESL, and Healthcare.

"For the first time, Mount Vernon residents will have their own free-standing facility with classes tailored to members of the area community," says Joseph Hankin, President of Westchester Community College.



A new marketing plan to recruit adult students was initiated by the College. Patricia Thompson, who returned to school after years out of education, is completing her Nursing studies at WCC.

Highest Enrollment

**NEW LIBRARY**

Continuing Education

Mount Vernon Site

College Bookstore

**YONKERS SITE**

Valhalla Expansion

High School Partnerships

School to Work



*WCC students use cutting edge computer equipment boasting frequent software upgrades.*



*The Computer Technology Site in the Cross County Shopping Center in Yonkers offers classes leading toward 9-month certificates in state-of-the-art classrooms and labs.*



*The new Library and Learning Resource Center attracted a record number of students to its cutting edge facility featuring a large Media Theatre and more than 300 computers.*



# Improving Westchester

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State of the College

## Smart Arts

### FILM SERIES

### Medallion Dinner

### Athletics

### CLASSICAL MUSIC

### Native Plant Center

### National Performers

### Multicultural Offerings

### WCC Foundation Events

### POETS AND WRITERS SERIES

The college's Smart Arts Series annually attracts hundreds to one of the most diverse arts programs in the county, including dance and music performances, readings, films, and discussion groups.



*The College's wide range of male and female sports teams include a championship men's basketball squad.*



*Novelist and columnist Calvin Trillin headlined the annual Literary Symposium, a cornucopia of food writers musing on their favorite subject.*



*The Native Plant Center's sale again ushered in the spring season.*

## How Cultural Offerings enrich the community:

Not only does Westchester Community College play a leading role in terms of formal, academic education in the county, Westchester's cultural life is also invigorated by the institution. A tremendous range of cultural offerings stems from WCC, primarily through its Smart Arts Series and Westchester Community College Foundation events.

Smart Arts brings more than fifty cultural events to the campus, many free or with minimal fees. Featured artists have included internationally-known performers such as the Alvin Ailey dancers and folk musician Christine Lavin, along with "homegrown" offerings. During the past year, classical music concerts by the local Philharmonia Virtuosi, performances by the College's own dance and theatre troupes, diverse offerings by WCC's "Il Club Italiano" (Italian Club), and the annual "Great Books" forum by English Department faculty have thrilled Westchester audiences.

In addition to raising \$3.36 million during the 2001-2002 academic year through fundraisers including the annual Medallion Dinner and generous contributions from members of the public, the WCC Foundation was responsible for a host of cultural offerings. Several thousand people attended events including the annual literary symposium, "A Literary Feast," featuring some of the nation's finest writers pontificating on the subject of food. Calvin Trillin (novelist, and columnist for *The New Yorker*) and Ruth Reichl (author and *Gourmet* magazine Editor-in-Chief) were among those providing delectable quotes.

The Foundation's annual spring Celebrity Salons Series included Oscar Hammerstein III holding court on the history of Broadway theatre while Will Shortz, The New York Times Crossword Editor, unraveled the mysteries of Enigmatology, the study of puzzles. WCC is one of the few community colleges in the nation to have a Distinguished Chair Program, sponsored by the Foundation. This year, lectures stemming from this opportunity for professional development included a presentation by Bill Weber and Amy Vedder, notable conservationists who study mountain gorillas in Africa.

The Foundation's Native Plant Center, the first national affiliate of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas, did its part to improve the region. It joined forces with the County Government of Westchester to restore native plants to highway roadsides.

For those who look to sports to spice up the cultural landscape, many WCC teams succeeded on a number of levels, but none more so than the College basketball team. Playing most of its games in a Physical Education Building which features a newly refurbished fitness center, the team thrived and ultimately won the Region XV Championship.



*The Kanata Native Indian Dance Theatre was one of dozens of performance troupes to thrill audiences at WCC.*

# Improving Westchester

## Westchester Community College News:

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### CULTURAL EVENTS, A MAJOR GIFT, AWARDS, AND PROGRAM EXPANSIONS.



*Jo-Ann Brody –  
"Dialog in the Garden"*

The newly reopened Fine Arts Gallery featured art shows including works by nationally-known and regional artists, along with faculty and students.



Foundation Board members Frank S. McCullough Jr., Senior Partner, McCullough, Goldberger & Staudt, LLP and Nina Jones Fink frequently attended the College's many events, including the festive Medallion Dinner fundraiser.

**Tuition remains the most affordable  
in Westchester.**



Westchester County Executive Andy Spano (left) and WCC President Joseph Hankin collaborated with county legislators on a number of projects including new extension sites.



The family of Sophia Abeles celebrated the late benefactor's bequest of \$2 million - the largest single contribution in the history of the College. Pictured (left to right) are Greg, Nikki, and Lucille Werlinich, along with Joseph and Barbara Abeles.



John Flynn, WCC VP and Dean of Academic Affairs (right), joins attendees at the College's annual Alumni Day event.

Julius Ford, WCC Vice President of Student Services (left) joins Stacy-Ann Valentine and State University of New York Chancellor Robert L. King. Ms. Valentine was one of several WCC students to receive Chancellor Awards for high academic achievement.



WCC students, alumni, faculty, administrators and staff rallied to work with county government to restore \$2 million to the college's budget. More than 100 supporters, sporting WCC buttons, attended a public hearing in favor of the funding.

Visit [www.sunywcc.edu](http://www.sunywcc.edu) to view our new look!

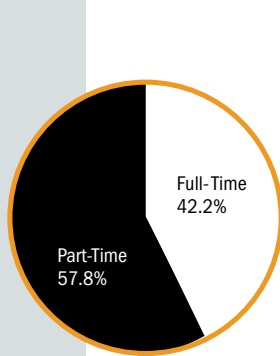


## Facts, Stats and Financial Information:

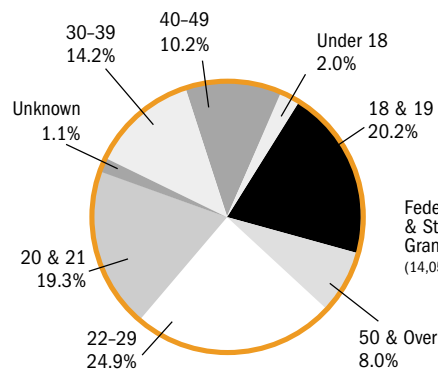
In an effort to provide accessible education at an affordable cost, the College had kept tuition steady since 1996. A mid-year decision to raise the annual tuition by \$100 was made in 2002; the change took place in the spring of 2003. Despite this increase, Westchester Community College still has the lowest tuition in the county.

### TUITION PER SEMESTER AT WCC FOR FULL-TIME STUDENTS 1996-2003

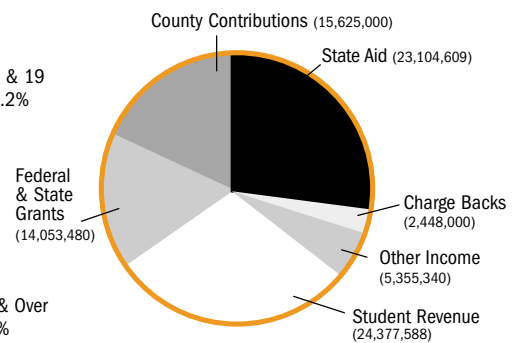
YEAR	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
TUITION	\$1,175.00	\$1,175.00	\$1,175.00	\$1,175.00	\$1,175.00	\$1,175.00	\$1,175.00	\$1,225.00



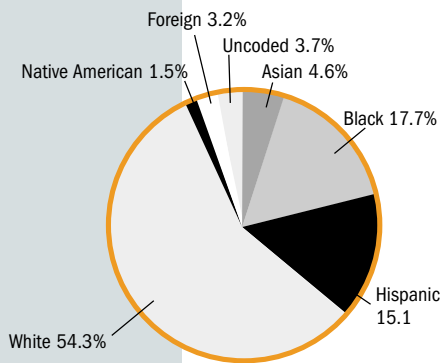
ALL STUDENTS BY FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME STATUS



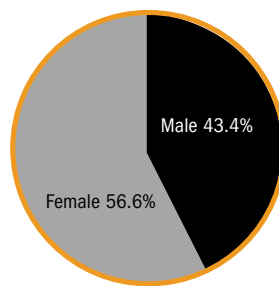
ALL STUDENTS BY AGE



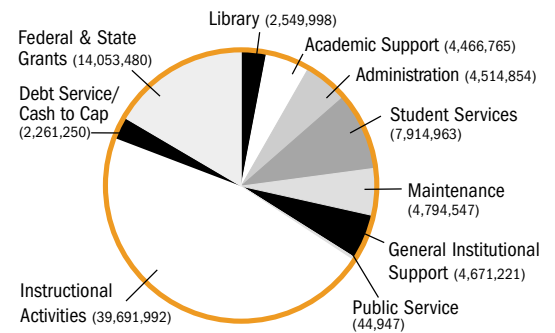
REVENUES (2001-2002)



ALL STUDENTS BY ETHNICITY



ALL STUDENTS BY GENDER



EXPENDITURES (2001-2002)

