CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF GCC!

Come to an event, share your GCC stories, and get back in touch with your fellow alumni. Find out more at gcc.mass.edu/sixty or by contacting us at alumni@gcc.mass.edu

GCC: A FAMILY TRADITION

Since Greenfield Community College started in 1962, family has been a large part of its culture. Whether we’re coming together to celebrate our achievements or being there to help each other when it gets difficult, GCC feels like family. So, it should be no surprise that we’ve seen so many families come through GCC over the last 60 years.

“GCC was the best thing that ever happened to our family,” Eileen Torchio-Heidemann ‘74 said. Eileen, her brother John Torchio ‘79, and her daughters Helen Miller ’07 and Alice Miller ’12 all attended GCC at some point in their educational journeys, providing positive impacts that have lasted lifetimes.

Eileen and John first started at GCC so they could stay close to home while their father went through health issues. It was especially a fit for Eileen, who struggled academically in high school but found at GCC, “an atmosphere of acceptance, real caring, and commitment from the professors for my success. It was the first time, I think, that I had any confidence.”

And for John, it was the faculty that made it special. John chuckled while reminiscing about his psychology professor Ed Dolhenty.

“When he was explaining the difference between the ‘id’ and the ‘ego,’ he’d go out in the hallway and come back and act out as the ‘id,’ jumping on desks and acting completely out of his mind,” John said. “He was the greatest teacher I ever had and a very nice person.”

For Eileen’s daughter Helen, it was the connection she made at a prospective student event that helped her decide to keep the legacy going.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT: 
60 YEARS OF COMMUNITY

When you first enter Greenfield Community College, there is a sense of belonging and welcome. Over the years GCC has educated thousands of students—changing lives for the better, providing knowledge, wisdom, opportunity, hope, and livelihood. Since it opened in 1962, the College has lived by its mission to provide high quality education to all who seek it, with a focus on equity, social justice, and care.

More than 14,000 graduates have now gone on to fill key roles in fields such as medicine, education, manufacturing, law, business, and the arts.

An essential element of GCC’s success has been the generosity of our community. This support has helped fund student scholarships, special programs, decades of infrastructure upgrades, and much more.

One of GCC’s most dedicated champions, Robert “Robbie” Cohn ’71, stepped down as Chair of the GCC Board of Trustees last fall after serving since 2009.

It is with a warm heart that we recognize the many outstanding contributions Robbie has made to GCC. Robbie has given selflessly and consistently to Greenfield Community College. His magical gifts have transformed countless lives and brought beauty to the campus. He’s been immensely generous with his time, serving as a key community ambassador for GCC’s work and mission for over 50 years. We are looking forward to celebrating Robbie’s lifelong commitment to the people of Greenfield and to the College.

We are thrilled to welcome Hector Toledo as the new Chair of the GCC Board of Trustees. Hector’s decades of experience in the financial and nonprofit sectors, as well as his acumen as a long standing Trustee at Springfield Technical Community College and now as Chair of GCC will benefit the college and our students greatly.

We are eager to thank GCC supporters and alumni in person as we celebrate 60 years of moving each other forward to many exciting futures. Thank you all for ensuring that high quality education remains available to all who seek it in our community.

With every good wish,

Rick

Richard R. Hopper, Ph.D.

COHN PASSES THE TORCH ON GCC’S BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Governor Charlie Baker appointed Hector Toledo as chairperson of the GCC Board of Trustees in November. Robert “Robbie” Cohn, who served as chair since 2009, stepped down from his role but is still on the board. Vice President and Commercial Lender for New Valley Bank, Toledo has served on the GCC Board of Trustees since October 2019 and brings over 30 years of financial and banking leadership experience to the role, as well as over 25 years of volunteer experience.
**GCC BY THE NUMBERS:**
**60 YEARS OF BUILDING COMMUNITY**

Since GCC opened in September 1962, **14,116** have graduated from GCC and over **60,000** have taken a class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1962</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students Enrolled</td>
<td>135 → 1,362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courses for Credit Offered</td>
<td>42 → 363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degree &amp; Certificate Programs</td>
<td>6 → 41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In FY 2018-19, GCC alumni generated **$50.8 million in added income for the regional economy**, which is equivalent to supporting **760 jobs**.

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She sat in on Tom Young’s photography class and thought, “GCC is the place I should be.”

After graduating from GCC, Helen went to the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and earned her Master’s in Teaching from Tufts University before coming back to teach at Mahar Regional School in Orange.

Eileen’s other daughter, Alice, knew she was going to GCC as early as her junior year of high school. Her time at GCC eventually led to a Master’s in Health Communications from Emerson College and a job as a content manager at Syneos Health Clinical Solutions in North Carolina.

“GCC was the most positive and impactful educational experience I’ve had. It helped me get to where I am and to excel,” Alice said.

For Boston-based criminal defense and immigration law attorney Elda James ’75, GCC didn’t just represent a family legacy. For Elda, who’s originally from Haiti, the school helped her improve her English language skills and helped her flourish as a college student. Now, in addition to practicing law, she serves as faculty for GCC’s criminal Justice Program.

Elda’s GCC experience inspired her granddaughter, Catharine Livingstone, to attend starting last fall. GCC offered Catharine a close-knit community and a place to explore her options.

“I want to be like those great high school teachers who kids feel like they can talk to if they fall behind for some reason,” Catharine said. “I relate that back to my grandmother because she works with the people who often don’t get as loud a voice in this country as many white people do.”

GCC also provides the support students need to continue their education, no matter the challenge. President and CEO of Greenfield Cooperative Bank Tony Worden ’94 had to leave Northeastern University after his father was diagnosed with cancer. After taking a semester off, Tony enrolled at GCC, and eventually transferred to UMass where he earned a bachelor’s degree and MBA.

“I honestly wonder if I would have ended up finishing college if it wasn’t for GCC,” Tony said.

Tony met his wife Jennifer Worden ’94 when they were both students at GCC. Jennifer, who is an administrator for UMass University Health, enjoyed her time at GCC because it helped her explore different career paths.

“I’m a full believer and advocate for GCC,” Jennifer said.

Jennifer and Tony have also encouraged both their children, Henry ‘21 and Amelia ‘22, to attend GCC, continuing the Worden legacy at Greenfield Community College.
After 18 months of fully remote learning, students returned to in-person learning this fall with an eagerness to rebuild community. Students revived several dormant clubs including student-run newspaper Prometheus Press, bringing new creativity and connection to Greenfield Community College.

GCC student Zac Poulin led the grassroots effort to bring the Prometheus Press back and assembled a team of six student editors to help inform the GCC campus. The newspaper team successfully relaunched Prometheus Press in December 2021, publishing the first edition since 1987.

The newspaper made waves with a “Wifi Out of Whack” article that caught the administration’s attention and led to an I.T. Department study to improve wifi on campus. Besides campus news, the December issue included student poetry, artwork, and comics. Student editorial team member Robert “Cowboy” Calafell says they plan to publish two more issues this spring. He is excited “to see the amazing work he knows GCC students can provide.”

“I think there’s a hunger on campus for connection and the newspaper filled that need. I’m thrilled that this has been entirely student driven and has taken the form of journalism.”

- Steve Poulin, GCC English Department Co-Chair

Another club that gives students interested in writing a place to come together is Writescape, a weekly opportunity for students to share their ideas and writing in any form, a space for listening and critique in a fair and non-judgmental environment. GCC English Department Co-Chair Steve Poulin observed, “I think there’s a hunger on campus for connection and the newspaper filled that need. I’m thrilled that this has been entirely student driven and has taken the form of journalism.”

Riding the wave of renewed student interest in writing and publishing are plans to revive GCC’s online literary journal Plum. Last published in 2018, the magazine featured GCC student work alongside new, emerging, and local established writers. Poulin says,

“The revival of the Prometheus last fall proves that restarting Plum is an entirely viable endeavor.”
DONOR VOICES – 60 YEARS OF IMPACT: WHY WE GIVE

Without the support of the hundreds of individual donors who give faithfully every year, GCC would not be able to fulfill its mission to provide high-quality education to all who seek it. Even small gifts, when pooled together, make a huge impact. Every gift truly makes a difference, sustaining our vital student scholarships and helping GCC invest in the continuing improvement of our program delivery and student success initiatives.

In honor of 60 years of giving, we asked some of our donors why they give year after year.

“I’ve supported GCC for so long because I believe it is the single most important resource in our area for residents who seek to continue their education. If Greenfield Community College were to disappear tomorrow, many would have no other place to go to college. During my 29 years at GCC, I heard so many stories from students who said they received better teaching at GCC than they did at their current institutions.”

– Larry Dean, retired GCC Director of Financial Aid

“GCC was the first stop in my college teaching career. The years that I spent teaching in GCC’s welcoming, family-like environment early in my career have made me loyal to this very special college.”

– David Ellenbogen, author and former GCC Math faculty

“There is no better place to make a difference in our community with our giving than Greenfield Community College. What remains constant through all of the change is the essential role GCC plays in the lives of our students and in the health of this community. We feel privileged to be able to continue to support that mission as best we can.”

– Peter Rosnick, former GCC Dean of Science, Engineering, Nursing and Math

“For 60 years GCC has opened doors to opportunities by providing affordable access to students while maintaining a student-centered faculty and staff, and at the same time benefiting the local economy with employment, financial aid, and the purchasing of local goods and services, all of which contribute to a vibrant and caring community.”

– GCC Alumnus Phil Lemere ’79, retired Greenfield Savings Bank EVP

“Every year when I see students finishing classes or graduating, I feel the strong spirit of GCC giving opportunity to people and guiding them to success so they can pass along opportunities to others - especially to their families and children.”

– Martha Field, GCC Business Department Co-Chair

“I donate monthly to honor my husband Jerry’s memory because he had such a good experience as a student. He died suddenly in 1999. Jerry loved the college and I loved the college so I feel it’s important to give every month.”

– Nancy Winter, founder of GCC Early Childhood Education Program

26% OF GCC DONORS HAVE BEEN GIVING FOR THE PAST 5 YEARS OR MORE
GCC FOUNDATION’S SPRING CAMPAIGN:
ONE COMMUNITY, MANY FUTURES

Each spring our community comes together to support GCC’s mission to provide a high-quality education to all who seek the knowledge and skills necessary to thrive and to create positive change in their lives and the world. We are excited to introduce this year’s Spring Campaign co-chairs.

WAYS TO GIVE:
Donate online at gcc.mass.edu/give
Questions?: 413-775-1600

Send a check in the enclosed envelope to:
GCC Foundation
One College Drive
Greenfield, MA 01301

“When so many of us are taking a breath, going back to school, and switching careers it’s places like GCC that will hold space for this migration. We are blessed that such an institution is here with us in the heart of Franklin County. Join us as we begin another campaign to make an even better and stronger GCC for all of us.”

-Tara Brewster, 2022 GCC Spring Campaign Co-Chair and Greenfield Savings Bank Vice President of Business Development

“GCC is an invaluable resource because it is opportunity. It is open and available to all who have a dream of a better future, a better job, a better life for themselves and their families. GCC is opportunity for those with ideas that need nurturing and those with talents that need cultivating.

The whole community benefits when we support GCC with our resources. Everyone can play a part and contribute. I was struck while reading the author Mariame Kaba by a lesson she credits her father with teaching her: ‘everything worthwhile is done with others.’ Join us! Together we can achieve so much and everyone benefits.”

-Mary Siano, 2022 GCC Spring Campaign Co-Chair, community activist and retired social worker

Join the Alumni Association in honor of GCC’s 60th Anniversary!

Whether you got a degree or just took a class, you’re invited to be a member of the Alumni Association—and it’s free! Celebrate your time as a GCC student and stay connected as an alumni. Enjoy the many benefits: networking opportunities, invitations to live and virtual alumni engagement and College events, access to GCC career services, and use of the GCC fitness center and library. We welcome your involvement at any level!

Join now at: gcc.mass.edu/alumni

alumni@gcc.mass.edu (413)775-1600 gcc.mass.edu/foundation
SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR ALUMNI REUNION
AND 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION:

September 23, 2022 Happy Hour for Alumni
September 24, 2022 Alumni Reunion and 60th Celebration

Are you an alumni interested in joining the reunion committee?
Reach out to: alumni@gcc.mass.edu

For more information about 60th activities or to update your contact information go to:
gcc.mass.edu/sixty/

Greenfield Community College first opened its doors to students on September 17, 1962 and held classes in this building on Federal Street in Greenfield.

Completed in 2011, the new “Core” building features the beautiful Cohn Family Dining Commons, a place for students and the wider GCC community to gather.