

Enrollment is second-highest in CCRI's history

Enrollment at the Community College of Rhode Island is the second-highest of any semester and the college's full-time equivalency, or FTE, is the highest in the college's 45-year history.

FTE represents the full-time equivalent for a group of students. For example, two half-time students equal one FTE.

According to final enrollment

numbers, 17,760 students are taking classes at CCRI's four campuses in Warwick, Lincoln, Providence and Newport and at two satellite locations in Downton Providence and Westerly this fall. That number is a gain of 148 students over last fall.

In fact, the enrollment was surpassed only by the Fall 1992 semester, when the state instituted

a special tuition waiver with no income qualifications for senior citizens and the unemployed (see chart at right.)

CCRI students also are taking more credit hours, 153,511 this fall as compared with 151,110 last fall. The FTE is 11,134, or 165 more than last fall.

Traditionally, in times of economic downturn, enrollment at

community colleges increases, and President Ray Di Pasquale pointed to Rhode Island's high unemployment rate as a direct correlation.

"I am not surprised that we are experiencing the growth that we have seen this fall semester," he said. "We continue our work to provide Rhode Islanders with

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Top five headcounts in CCRI history

Fall 1992	17,986
Fall 2009	17,760
Spring 1993	17,627
Fall 2008	17,612
Fall 1991	17,331



Viera Levitt, the new director of the Knight Campus Art Gallery, brings to CCRI years of experience as a curator and director in Europe.

New gallery director in Warwick

Able to converse in English, Slovak, Czech, Polish and German, Community College of Rhode Island Knight Campus Art Gallery Director Viera Levitt has found that contemporary art is a universal language.

"Once you're in the art world you can be here or in Prague or in Hong Kong and it's the same language," Levitt said. "Visual art is just this magic thing that can connect to people no matter where they're from."

As the new director of CCRI's Knight Campus Art Gallery, Levitt's job is to help the college share that magic with the CCRI community and the public. Under her direction, the gallery is featuring featured two local artists this semester: photographer Darrell Matsumoto through Oct. 29 and contemporary sculptor Claudia Flynn, whose works will be on display through November with an opening from 4 to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 3. Levitt said the gallery will feature CCRI art students in December, giving them time this semester to complete their pieces.

This is not Levitt's first time as a gallery director. She was a curator and then director of

the Jan Koniarek Gallery in her native Slovakia from 1997 to 2005, making her the youngest director of a public museum in the Slovak Republic.

There, she oversaw a staff of 14 employees and conducted several large-scale shows beyond her gallery. One was a project that connected museums in six European countries to one another through exhibitions and live television.

Levitt's connection to Rhode Island is a strong one. She received an ArtsLink Fellowship in 2002 to study at the Rhode Island School of Design, during which time she met and later married a Rhode Islander.

"It was a tough decision," Levitt said about leaving Slovakia. "I had a great job there and a wonderful art community and I was very happy, but it was worth it."

After her transatlantic move, Levitt continued her career as a curator. She worked as a freelancer, organizing shows or public art projects at AS220 in Providence, Wakefield's Hera Gallery, Myopic Books in Wakefield and at the University of Rhode Island. She became the gallery

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'The gallery at the college is highly important, particularly for those students who don't usually go to other museums or galleries.'

— Viera Levitt, director, Knight Campus Art Gallery

College debuts new emergency notification service

The Community College of Rhode Island soon will have a new emergency notification system. Students, faculty and staff can sign up now to receive e-mail or text message alerts about canceled classes or safety risks, ranging from severe weather school closings to an intruder on campus.

"We're hoping we never have to use it but if we do, there is a lot of value getting in touch with people quickly," said Stephen Vieira, chief information officer.

During an emergency, people who have signed up for the notification system will receive an e-mail, text message or both, depending on what criteria they specified when signing up. The messages will be brief, stating the nature of the situation and what, if anything, the receiver needs to do to stay safe.

Vieira said that contact information will not be shared and the system will not be used for unnecessary communications.

"We want to be careful we're not abusing the fact that people put some confidence in us," Vieira said.

Members of the CCRI community can sign up for the emergency notification system online at the Web site for RAVE Wireless, the company providing the notification technology, www.getrave.com/login/ccri. Click "Register Now."

The Web site asks for a user's name, CCRI e-mail address and mobile phone number. The use of CCRI ID numbers and e-mail addresses ensures that only members of the CCRI community can sign up for the notifications. Reg-

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Study examines students' first-year experience at CCRI

To a college freshman, the first year can be a daunting experience. Many higher education researchers believe it sets the tone for the years that follow, that a constructive and enjoyable first year is an essential beginning to a college career. With this in mind, the Community College of Rhode Island is engaging in a voluntary nine-month self-study called Foundations of Excellence, a project that will look at the comprehensive first-year experience of CCRI's freshmen in categories ranging from academics to social life.

"Our goal is to provide a good first-year experience for our students," said Ruth Sullivan, dean of Learning Resources who is co-

chairing the CCRI's Foundations of Excellence process with Assistant Dean for Student Success Michael J. Cunningham. "If we reach folks and they have a good experience, it's much more likely they will be a success and achieve their goals."

Learning how to improve the first-year experience will be a well-choreographed process. The college has formed a Foundations of Excellence Task Force, composed of faculty, staff and student volunteers.

An electronic survey of faculty and staff is under way now, and a student survey will begin next month. Subcommittees are being formed to examine every facet of

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News Briefs

Jazz performance at Warwick Public Library

Dennis Pratt, adjunct professor of music who teaches Jazz History and Applied Jazz Bass, will play jazz bass at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 28, at the Warwick Public Library, 600 Sandy Lane.

Joining him will be David Spadazzi on guitar and Ryan Tremblay on drums. The group will play music by Carlos Antonio Jobim. The concert is free, but please call 739-5440 to reserve a seat.

Bernie's private sale

All CCRI students, faculty and staff are invited to a special private sale event hosted by Bernie's from 9 to 11 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 25, at the Warwick location, 920 Bald Hill Road.

You will be able to purchase brand name appliances, TVs, electronics, bedding and furniture at special pricing – 14 percent above store cost – and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to the college.

For more information, please visit www.bernies.com or contact Wahid Zahedi at 822-9050.

Food drive for holiday baskets

The Strategic Knights, Role Players' Guild, Anime Club, Knight Leaders and Newman Club are collecting food and monetary donations for holiday food baskets to feed five families. The first drive is for Thanksgiving.

Any nonperishable food items can be left in the basket outside Dave Alfano's office, Room 3094 in Warwick. Monetary donations will be used to purchase perishables and any nonperishables that are needed.

Italian Club collecting food for animals

The Italian Club is sponsoring Food for Pets, a collection drive for animals.

Food donations can be dropped off in the Foreign Languages and Cultures Department on the third floor at the Knight Campus. Donations will be delivered to West Bay Community Action on Dec. 10.

Navy jazz band to perform next month

The U.S. Navy Band Commodores Jazz Ensemble will perform at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 9, in the Bobby Hackett Theater at the college's Knight Campus in Warwick. Complimentary tickets are available while supplies last by contacting Edna Mattson at Ext. 2015 or stopping by her office, Room 2318 in Warwick. Doors will open at 7 p.m., but ticket-holders are asked to arrive at 6:45 p.m. The Warwick Department of Tourism, Culture and Development, the Warwick Consortium for the Arts and the Warwick Beacon are sponsoring this free event.

Dental Hygiene Club hosts bake sale

The Dental Hygiene Club will hold a bake sale fundraiser from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 28, in the cafeteria at the Flanagan Campus in Lincoln.

Used coat drive under way

The Student Physical Therapist Assistant Club is sponsoring a used coat drive at the Newport County Campus through the end of October.

Gently worn coats will be given to Crossroads Rhode Island for homeless families and individuals. A box for donations is located at the main lobby of the Newport campus.

Fall Transfer Fairs scheduled

Students interested in transferring are encouraged to attend one of the following events to learn more about transfer opportunities.

Fall Evening Fairs

- Tuesday, Nov. 3, 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., Warwick
- Wednesday, Nov. 4, 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., Lincoln
- Thursday, Nov. 5, 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., Providence

Fall Transfer Days

- Wednesday, Nov. 18, 9 a.m. to noon, Lincoln
- Tuesday, Dec. 1, 9 a.m. to noon, Providence
- Thursday, Dec. 10, 9 a.m. to noon, Lincoln

Representatives from local area colleges will be in attendance to discuss programs and the admissions process. No appointment is necessary. Campus visits and information sessions will be held throughout the semester at all campus locations with dates and times to be announced.

All CCRI students, faculty and staff are welcome to attend all transfer events. For more information, visit www.ccri.edu/advising/transfer_information/fairs.shtml.

No. 4-ranked Lady Knights are rewriting the record book

The No. 4-ranked (NJCAA Division I women's soccer poll) CCRI Lady Knights soccer team is having its best season since 2003, when the team was runner-up at the national championship. With an impressive 15-1 record with and a perfect 6-0 record in Region XXI play through Oct. 23, their lone loss was to the then-No. 1 Monroe Community College Lady Tribunes, 2-0.

Every Lady Knights game this season has resulted in a shutout, due in great part to the excellent Lady Knights defense featuring defenders Carla Cano (Pawtucket), Courtney Shea (North Smithfield) and Stephanie Estacio (Cranston) and anchored by goalkeeper Melody Lawrence (Foster). Lawrence leads NJCAA Division I women's soccer with .125 goals against average allowing just two goals in 63 attempts in 1,440 minutes in net.

In addition, Lawrence has set two CCRI records this season. One is the consecutive shutouts record with eight in a row; she tied the record twice with seven in a row and finally broke it vs. Holyoke Community College on Oct. 15 with a 4-0 victory. Courtney Mercier set the previous record in 2001. Lawrence also set the new CCRI single-season shutout record with 15, a record previously set by Lady Knights' Associate Head Coach Kathy Bannan in 1996 and Alex Rothemich in 2002.



Lady Knights goalkeeper Melody Lawrence has set school records both for consecutive shutouts and single-season shutouts this season.

The team has received tremendous efforts from its offensive leaders, resulting in three Lady Knights being ranked in the top 51 by the NJCAA in scoring. Alexis Smith (Wakefield) is ranked No. 20 with 19 goals and 11 assists for 49 total points; Katy MacAndrew (Coventry) is ranked No. 21 in scoring with 19 goals and 10 assists for 48 total points; and Ashley Choiniere (Hope) is ranked No. 51 with 12 goals and nine assists for 33 total points.

The Lady Knights' season has had many highlights including defeating No. 12-ranked Schoolcraft College in Livonia, Mich., 1-0 on Oct. 3 and defeat-

ing top 20 power Illinois Central College 5-0 on Sept. 12. The team also has defeated other top teams including Mercer County College 6-0, Jackson Community College 6-0 and Bryant & Stratton College 8-0. Not only have the Lady Knights won these games, they have outscored their opponents by a 79-2 margin.

The Lady Knights still have their work cut out for them if they are going to accomplish their goal of returning to the NJCAA Division I women's soccer national championship. They will travel to Rochester, N.Y., to compete in the District XXI Tournament Nov. 6 to 8.

New system will provide alerts

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notification system would have been highly convenient last semester when a broken water line at the Knight Campus caused the closing of the building.

"As we started moving into this process we realized some of the ways we could have used it and the ways we will use it moving forward," Vieira said. In the future, this could mean that students can receive their grades via text message or identify themselves as members of a particular group to receive updates relevant to them. For example, if a club meeting is relocated, members of the club who have signed up for the notification service could receive a message in-

formation is completely free; the only charge for users would be any cost they incur from their carrier for receiving a text message.

The RAVE system is designed so that a message can be received within three minutes of being sent to the entire network of registered users. This short amount of time is critical, Vieira said, for ensuring safety during an emergency and is a convenience during a less serious situation. For example, a person preparing to leave for class may receive a text message saying that classes are canceled for the day.

He added that the emergency notification system would have been highly convenient last semester when a broken water line at the Knight Campus caused the closing of the building.

"As we started moving into this process we realized some of the ways we could have used it and the ways we will use it moving forward," Vieira said.

In the future, this could mean that students can receive their grades via text message or identify themselves as members of a particular group to receive updates relevant to them. For example, if a club meeting is relocated, members of the club who have signed up for the notification service could receive a message in-

forming them of the change. For now though, the system is strictly for emergencies. Vieira said it could prove useful going into the winter season, with impending inclement weather and the risk of an outbreak of H1N1 flu.

Vieira encouraged all members of the CCRI community to sign up for the alerts. He predicted that enrollment in the alert system will spike after the first class cancellation causes people to realize how convenient the system can be. But he urges participation before then.

"This is a first for CCRI," he said. "We hope that a lot of people grasp how useful it can be."

Survey to gauge first-year experience

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itself, and a picture of just how first year students fare overall within the school.

"It's about really taking a pulse," Sullivan said. "It's about finding out where we are as an institution when it comes to dealing with students in their first year."

The committee will submit a plan citing any improvements that need to be made, as well as highlighting what the college does well, to the president.

The Foundations of Excellence process is not unique to CCRI. It is an external program run by the Policy Center on the First Year of College, founded in 1999 by John Gardner, a higher education

expert. Colleges and universities petition the policy center to be a part of the Foundations program, and the policy center gives them access to its research materials and guides the process.

However, research is tailored specifically to each college, with researchers chosen from within the school and a survey that includes questions specific to that institution.

The process usually takes about nine to 12 months, and CCRI is scheduled to be finished with its research by June 30.

"I think that we will end up with a solid plan to move forward," Sullivan said.



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Assistant Professor Sandra Sneesby (left) and students Cara Blaine, Manny Rebello and Brendalee Peckham-Bell stand before the Student Tools for Emergency Planning Web site the team created this summer for the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency.

Students design Web site for FEMA preparedness program

Last spring, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency asked CCRI Computer Studies professors if any students were interested in working on an emergency preparedness education project. On Sept. 30, the hard work that three students put in this summer came to fruition.

Cara Blaine of Providence, Brendalee Peckham-Bell of West Warwick and Manny Rebello of Johnston answered the call and, after three months of programming, writing and designing, the Student Tools for Emergency Planning (STEP) Web site – www.riema.ri.gov/step – went live at the launch event held at CCRI.

“I knew how highly capable these students were and sought them to build this Web site,” said Sandra Sneesby, assistant professor of Computer Studies. “They gave up a part of their summer vacations for this good cause and the finished product is testimony to their commitment and talent.”

The idea for this Web site emerged from casual conversations between FEMA and teachers in the North Providence school district in early 2008. The Web site was designed as a teacher resource so teachers can implement the STEP program within their existing fifth-grade curriculum. The program itself is designed to prepare families for multiple emergency situations by educating and energizing young students in school to go home and act as leaders in implementing key preparedness strategies with their families.

“FEMA can’t think of a more vocal, direct and enthusiastic way to educate others – adults and children alike – about being prepared in an emergency,” said Michelle Collins, FEMA’s director of the STEP program. “At that age, children have a lot of capability. They are great agents

within the family and can read, respond and recover in an emergency better than many others.”

Sneesby said the new Web site complements FEMA’s efforts. “I was drawn to the project professionally because I know how digital tools really leverage the effectiveness of any program,” she said. “The STEP Web site gives FEMA another tool to organize and disseminate information and to engage people they might not normally reach. It is not only a chance to educate children but also to be educated by them.”

‘I was grateful to be a part of a project that has helped and will help so many children and their families.’

— Brendalee Peckham-Bell, student

Emergencies such as Hurricane Katrina in 2005 directly influenced the development of various emergency programs around the country. However, STEP is the only such program within FEMA and the agency worked hard to create a program that integrates STEP into the existing math, science, geography and liberal arts curricula, making this particular program unique and attractive to educators.

“The difference between STEP and some of the other programs out there is that its lesson fits into state and national educational learning standards,” said Russ Webster, federal preparedness coordinator for FEMA. “Teachers like this program because it doesn’t cost the schools anything and there is a low time commitment in regard to prep time and classroom time.”

Materials, most of which can now be found online, include instructor guides, student handouts and information about student starter kits. During an academic year, teachers are required to dedicate one hour to teach the base lesson and have up to five hours of optional lessons to reinforce the information. During its pilot year in 2008-09, STEP was integrated into 40 schools and reached 4,400 students across New England. And although only one hour was required to meet the criteria, more than 75 percent of teachers involved with STEP taught five to eight hours of STEP lessons last year.

Now, hundreds of schools in the region are participating willingly this school year. Approximately 19,000 New England students will be involved, 6,000 of them in Rhode Island. Because of the program, 80,000 more New Englanders will be prepared for the next emergency.

“Once I realized what STEP was about, I was grateful to be a part of a project that has helped and will help so many children and their families,” said Peckham-Bell. “I am glad that our efforts will help bring this program to a national level, as I know I have been inspired enough to print out and follow some of the program’s instructions with my own daughter and hope to bring it to her school.”

Collins said FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate has made a real effort to prioritize children in disasters.

He recently established a Children’s Working Group on Disasters to incorporate children’s needs in the planning and response of FEMA’s emergency management cycle. Although it is just in its early stages, there is a plan to nationalize the STEP program through the support of this working group and other senior leaders at FEMA head-

Beltran is president at Flanagan Campus

Editor’s note: After the last edition of Currents went to press, one candidate for Student Government president at the Flanagan Campus in Lincoln dropped out of the race, so the remaining candidate, Raymond Beltran, has become president. Also after press time, Liston Campus Student Government President Jonathan Gonzales resigned. A leadership team has been established at that campus.



Raymond Beltran

Second-year student Raymond Beltran is the new president of Student Government at CCRI’s Flanagan Campus in Lincoln, ending a temporary period in which the campus did not have a student government leader.

As president, Beltran said his first priority is to bring the Lincoln campus more into the limelight within the CCRI community.

“My No. 1 goal for my term at CCRI is making it so the Flanagan Campus regains some sparkle,” he said. “I think that we’ve unfortunately become the forgotten campus, and I really want to change that.”

Beltran said this can be accomplished by providing more academic and social programs in Lincoln to build a stronger sense of community. He said he would like to begin a guest lecture series and encourage greater student participation in extracurricular groups.

An experience during his campaign for president showed Beltran how disconnected the student body can be from the college’s student events, but also how easy that problem would be to fix.

While addressing a nursing lecture of about 120 students, Beltran asked, “How many of you have no idea there’s an election going on? How many of you have no idea we have a student government?”

Almost the entire class, Beltran said, was unaware. “That, to me is the first thing we’re going to have to change,” he said.

Beltran believes that the student government should do more to reach out to the student body and that more after-school activities should be provided.

“There needs to be something on a social level that compels people to stay after classes are over,” he said.

Aside from the social lives of CCRI students, Beltran also is concerned about their social responsibility – namely the college’s recycling program. Beltran said he would like to see it expanded beyond the few receptacles in the cafeteria to having receptacles campuswide.

“I think we could be doing a lot more and a better job of being environmentally responsible at CCRI,” he said.

This is one way Beltran said that the Lincoln campus can be a good citizen in northern Rhode Island. Another is to continue and expand hosting events open

to the community.

“We need people to come to think of [the campus] as a place they can go to use the library, the swimming pool, to go for a walk – a place that really attracts people,” Beltran said.

He said he has put together a strong cabinet to help him with these issues. Some of its members are from the special committee formed to fill the role of president over the summer after a problem with the election process this spring.

“I just want that committee to get a lot of credit because they really sacrificed a lot of themselves,” Beltran said. “They took what could have been a really negative situation and made it positive.”

Beltran said he was attracted to CCRI because of the opportunities it offered him while being convenient and affordable.

The idea to continue his education came one morning while he was preparing for his work day, a two-job affair beginning at 9 a.m. and ending at 11 p.m.

“I had done this so many times before, and I said, ‘I don’t want to do this anymore. I really want get an education and start living a life that I am worthy of living,’” Beltran said. “I decided to give my brain the time it deserves.”

Beltran earned his GED at the Liston Campus in Providence, completing the program in five weeks. He decided to enroll in the college as a natural next step.

“CCRI seemed like a logical place to go. It was affordable, it was local and it had everything I wanted,” he said.

Now 25 years old, Beltran is in his second year as a full-time student and hopes to attend a four-year institution to study sociology after he graduates.

This will be in preparation for a career in the field, studying the topic of race in America.

His inspiration came during an 8 a.m. sociology lecture, his first-ever college course.

“I had the understanding that sociology was able to put into words some of the big ideas I’d always been looking to define,” Beltran said. “The path that I really want to take in my life academically and professionally, it all started at CCRI.”

'Circles, Cycles and Squares' on display in Lincoln

Saunderstown artist Michele C. Leavitt and Newport sculptor Jeff Soderbergh will exhibit "Circles, Cycles and Squares" – found materials recycled into new works of art – in the gallery at the Community College of Rhode Island's Flanagan Campus in Lincoln through Nov. 5.

The exhibition features Leavitt's fiber, collage and works on paper. Soderbergh, who creates fine home furnishings using reclaimed antique architectural structures, will exhibit square bowls and sculpture.

Leavitt will host a gallery talk at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 27, focusing on the development of an idea and its relationship to artistic problem-solving.

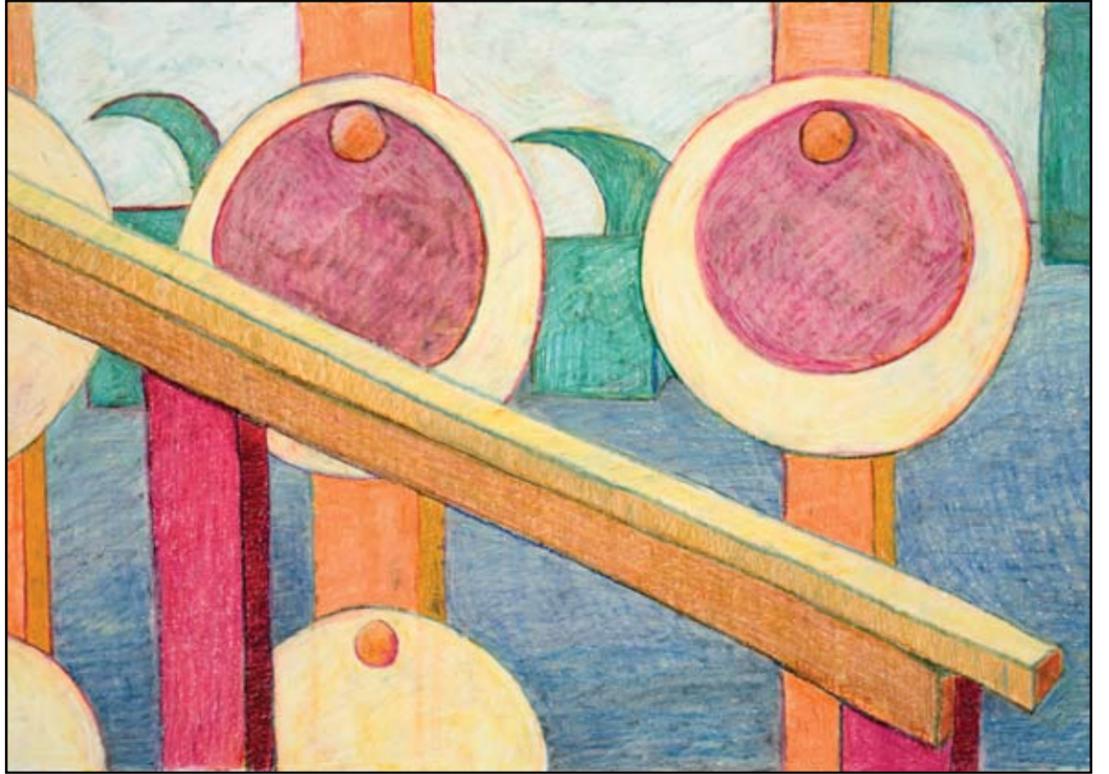
"Because there is so much to learn through the arts, I began to question the possibilities for my exhibition in respect to education," said Leavitt, a foundation and figure drawing instructor for CCRI and the Rhode Island School of Design's Pre-College

Program. While pondering the upcoming exhibition, Leavitt realized she could trace her current body of work back to its initial inspirations.

"I have gained an exciting and energizing insight from this discovery," she said. "The unique and powerful recognition of how educational and nonverbal experiences which we absorb become mirrored back to us in works of art, often takes place without our conscious awareness of it. Yet, the imprinting becomes established and grows as a result of an educational process."

The gallery is located in Room 2420 on the first floor at CCRI's Flanagan Campus, 1762 Louisquisset Pike, Lincoln. Gallery hours are from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday.

For more information, e-mail flanagangallery@ccri.edu. Gallery talks also can be arranged by appointment by calling Leavitt at (401) 419-9076.



"Shop Shapes" by Saunderstown artist Michele C. Leavitt is one of the works on display in "Circles, Cycles and Squares" – found materials recycled into new works of art – in the Flanagan Art Gallery in Lincoln. The show also features the work of Newport sculptor Jeff Soderbergh.

Levitt brings international perspective to Warwick gallery

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director in Warwick in September. After years of not having a permanent home for her curatorial work, Levitt said she is excited to be at CCRI, where she can work in an educational environment.

For Levitt, the space itself can become part of the challenge.

"The architecture of the Knight Campus is unique and I hope to incorporate it into some projects," she said. "There is a potential for working with this building instead of fighting it."

For example, Levitt said she can refrain from covering the building's pipes when it suits the mood of the exhibition, or try to use the unique and somewhat difficult shape and out-of-the-way location of the gallery to her advantage.

Levitt said she would like to host a panel discussion with local architects, artists and the public about the style and use of the Knight Campus megastucture, built in a style called "brutalism."

The Knight gallery has been playing host to events already. Its official opening was on Oct. 1 with a well-attended artist talk by Darrell Matsumoto.

During his presentation, Matsumoto said the role of the artist is to be a thinker, which can in turn help others interpret the world around them.

"An artist has this license to observe the world and then make a response," Matsumoto

said. "So, if you stop and think about how to observe the world, the artist has an answer."

Levitt helped Matsumoto choose which of his works to display during his exhibit, a common role for a gallery curator that she described as being a sort of meta-artist, choosing what art is seen by the public from a large collection of an artist's work.

"You don't produce new things but you can tell a new story placing existing artworks in a certain way," she said.

Levitt encouraged members of the CCRI community and the public to visit the gallery and notes that admission is free.

"The gallery at the college is highly important, particularly for those students who don't

usually go to other museums or galleries," she said. "You should come over and enjoy the art experience, especially if you're right here in the building."

The Knight Campus Art Gallery is in Room 3500, on the third floor in the round building, and is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday. For additional information, e-mail knightgallery@ccri.edu.

The Flanagan Campus also has a gallery, located in Room 2420 on the first floor. It is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday. (See related story above.) Information on both galleries can be found online at <http://www.ccri.edu/art/galleries.shtml>.



Artist Darrell Matsumoto speaks about his work during an open house Oct. 1 for his recent exhibition in the Knight Campus Art Gallery. The show, "Constructed Photographs (1989-2009)" runs through Oct. 29.

Mobile art project comes to Warwick Oct. 27

Viera Levitt, director of the Knight Campus Art Gallery, and Hera Gallery in Wakefield will bring their Mobile Art Project to the Warwick campus from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 27. All are invited.

The Mobile Art Project presents contemporary artwork within the space of a 16-foot box truck. It had its inaugural trip in August, driving to various destinations in South County and Providence to bring art to the people. The response from the community was positive and enthusiastic, so Levitt and Hera Gallery are

taking the Mobile Art Project to different neighborhoods in Rhode Island, with the focus on schools and other educational venues, starting on Oct. 22 and culminating with the CCRI visit on Oct. 27. Admission is free.

Visitors to this mobile gallery, which will be parked outside of the Knight Campus megastucture, can experience a sound installation by internationally exhibiting artist China Blue entitled "Aqua Alta," which addresses environmental issues associated with water. Additionally, the Mobile Art Project

is collaborating with Save The Bay, which has provided text for a free leaflet available to all visitors.

"The Mobile Art Project can be useful both as a contemporary art gallery and as a teaching tool to help students look at various issues associated with water," Levitt said. "We look forward to working with teachers, scientists and educators to help us expand upon the project."

At the end of the day, visitors can attend "Follow the Water!" – a presentation on streamflow and water availability in Rhode

Island – at 4 p.m. in Room 4080 at the Warwick campus. Register and learn more at www.coalitionforwatersecurity.org.

The Mobile Art Project is presented with partial support from The Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, The Puffin Foundation, Hera Educational Foundation and The Friends of Hera.

For more information, images, audio and video, visit www.vierailevitt.com/mobileartproject.htm. Anyone interested in working with the Mobile Art Project should contact Hera Gallery, www.heragallery.org.

College also sees increase in distance learning enrollment

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the degree, certificate or skills they need to gain or retain employment, and we are actively listening to the needs of employers in our state to offer the kinds of programs that will produce the workers they are seeking."

In these difficult economic

times, he said, the college is trying to assist students who are coping with the increased cost of living by offering more options to take classes closer to home or online.

Over the past year, the college has increased the number of online courses available to stu-

dents by 24 percent to support greater participation in higher education by those who may not be able to make it to campus at a specified time each week. Distance learning enrollment increased by 39 percent this fall; more than 1,200 students will take one or more of their courses

online this semester.

Di Pasquale also applauded the work of staff members in the Office of Enrollment Services, Advising and Counseling, Student Services and the Bursar's Office who, with many frozen, unfilled positions due to budget cuts, served thousands of students in

the weeks before the start of the semester.

"We are still facing difficult budgetary challenges in the year ahead, but we continue to see opportunities and we're going to keep moving ahead to serve the residents of Rhode Island," he said.