

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, January 31, 2008

Contact: Alan K. Blake, Director of Communications
(603) 271-8904 or ablake@ccsnh.edu

NHTI Embraces Role as ‘Concord’s Community College’

Community College Rolling Towards Expanded Mission

CONCORD, N.H. – The community colleges of New Hampshire are running full steam ahead in their drive to meet the growing demand for a two-year education in the state.

Six months after the Legislature approved, and Gov. Lynch signed, a measure to allow the system to govern itself through a board of trustees, college and system leaders have continued to work vigorously to implement the plan and to promote the broadened scope of the state’s two-year colleges.

Part of that process includes a name change for most of the colleges – a course that included months of public input before being approved by Gov. Lynch and the Executive Council on Jan. 30. The colleges will unveil their new look during a joint event later this spring.

“Our community colleges play a critical role in ensuring New Hampshire has the educated workforce it needs to compete in this changing global economy. I look forward to continuing to work with the community college system and its board of trustees to help keep higher education affordable and accessible for more of our citizens,” Gov. Lynch said.

New Hampshire Technical Institute will become known through its publications and advertising as “NHTI – Concord’s Community College.” Rather than abandon its 30 year-old name, college leaders instead chose to focus on the acronym NHTI and promote the college’s expanding role as a comprehensive community college, according to NHTI President Lynn Kilchenstein.

“We have a strong tradition as a technical college, yet our mission has broadened significantly since we opened in 1965,” says President Kilchenstein. “As NHTI—Concord’s Community College we will honor our heritage as a technical college while creating greater awareness that we offer a full spectrum of academic programs.”

In addition to promoting itself with a new moniker, NHTI is planning a number of enhancements to meet the educational needs in the region:

- Construction will soon begin on a new health education building with a state-of-the-art clinical resources center to house the college’s enhanced and expanded nursing program. The state approved \$4 million dollars for the facility, which will be combined with \$3 million the college raised through a capital campaign.
- NHTI has recently added degree programs in animation and graphic game programming, visual arts, and a teacher certification program, and will begin a landscape and environmental design program this fall.
- As the only program in the state training radiologic technicians and radiation therapists, NHTI plans to expand and modernize its x-ray programs in space made available as the nursing program relocates to the new building.

These improvements come as the community colleges report that student demographics and demands have changed over the years in tandem with the state’s economy. Once geared primarily toward vocational programs, the colleges have grown to include serving students pursuing professional programs in fields that include allied health, business, and education, as

well as general studies programs as part of a path to a four-year degree. The vocational fields themselves have evolved into higher-tech programs requiring broader competencies in math, technology, business and communications.

“The community colleges have a much broader mission than just a generation ago,” said Dr. Richard Gustafson, chancellor. “For many students, we’ve become an ideal solution for those looking to embark on their educational path at a college that offers affordable tuition, small class size, world-class teaching, and the ability to enter a profession or transfer to a four-year institution.”

NHTI—Concord’s Community College, is a public community college serving students, businesses and the community by providing excellent academic, technical and professional education. Founded in 1965, NHTI offers 59 academic programs to more than 4,000 students.

The new names for the community colleges approved today by the Governor & Council:

From	To
NHCTC-Berlin	White Mountains Community College
NHCTC-Claremont	River Valley Community College
NHCTC-Laconia	Lakes Region Community College
NHCTC-Manchester	Manchester Community College
NHCTC-Nashua	Nashua Community College
NHCTC-Stratham/Portsmouth	Great Bay Community College
NH Technical Institute	NHTI – Concord’s Community College

Community College System of New Hampshire

26 College Drive
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-2722
(603) 271-2725 Fax
www.ccsnh.edu

NHTI—Concord’s Community College

31 College Drive
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-6484
www.nhti.edu