



# The Bridge

The ACCESS Program Community Newsletter

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## New Directors at ACCESS: *Toby Maguire and Carol Lidard*

By Terri Huff, Staff Editor



**Toby Maguire and Carol Lidard**

Cape Cod Community College has had some recent leadership change at the Hyannis Center and in the ESL and Adult Education program. Toby Maguire, who served as Assistant Director since 2007 has taken the helm after Phyllis Whitney's retirement in June 2013. Carol Lidard was hired this summer to take the position of Assistant Director.

The following is an interview with the New Directors Carol and Toby.

### **Q. What would you say is the mission of ACCESS and the Hyannis Center?**

**TM:** We provide quality education and services to ACCESS students and also to the credit classes which run here at the Hyannis Center.

**CL:** My mission would be to find the best way to support the hardworking faculty so that they can

continue to do a stellar job at providing quality instruction to our ESL and GED students.

### **Q. Are there any changes planned in the next year?**

**TM:** There are no significant changes planned for the coming year but we will be looking at the new changes in the GED test and how that will impact our classroom instruction. Increasingly, we will be looking at providing instructional and advising services which help students progress with their next steps in achieving their academic and career goals.

**CL:** We are also looking at a multi-level transition plan to incorporate the career and college readiness curriculum standards into our classrooms. This will completely change the way we deliver the education and it will connect what we teach with preparing students to take the next steps toward their educational and life plans.

### **Inside This Issue**

New Directors at ACCESS	1
Student Leadership Council	2
Security Chief in Hyannis	3
Our Premier Issue	4
Next Step- FYI Clinics	4
Community Resources	5

Everything we do will support that statewide program goal.

**Q. Do you anticipate any increase in classes being offered?**

TM: Not at this time. We anticipate that we will receive level funding and therefore do not plan on increasing the numbers of classes offered.

**Q. What is the best part of your job?**

CL: The best part of my job is getting to know our diverse student population which has been very exciting for me. We have students from all over the world and they are very positive, hardworking learners who have strong goals to succeed and learn. I am in awe at how hard they work to meet those goals. The second best part of my job is my great boss. He is a collaborative partner and a joy to work with.

TM: Ha-ha, OK she is definitely not getting fired!

I think the best part of my job is that we have such a strong and skilled staff and everybody does their work which has allowed me to learn the new elements of my job. My new role takes me out of the office and I feel confident that the professionals at ACCESS are doing their jobs, which makes everything work well.

**Q. How did you get into this line of work, helping Adults learn?**

CL: Right out of college I started at a job working with students with dyslexia. I loved that job and I worked hard to help students succeed; and it was really rewarding. And I also worked in a few positions at non-profits, and then managed Lifelong Learning program at Johns Hopkins University. There, I came to appreciate the impact of lifelong learning. We never stop learning.

TM: After having taught high school English, I was finishing off my Master's Degree at UMass Boston and I started teaching part-time at an adult ed program in Dorchester, then I was promoted to Director and was there for 14 years. I got a little tired of commuting to Boston so I decided to try commuting in the other direction to Cape Cod, to work for the ACCESS program.

**Q. Do you have any words to share with the ACCESS students to help them meet their goals?**

TM: It's a joy to work with them and for them. It's often a long journey for our students and the more they can be reminded of their aspirations and dreams, the more they will be motivated to keep going. Everything we do here is to support students as they work towards their goal.

## The Student Leadership Team Helps Students Succeed

*By Alejandra Williams, Student Reporter*

The Student Leadership Team, a group of students from the ACCESS program, works together to find ways to help students in the ACCESS Program achieve their goals in learning. The members of the team come together from all of the different program locations to talk about students' concerns and ideas for improvement.

Some of the issues the team has helped to address with great success include their dislike of

people smoking too close to the school entrance, their hopes to take school books home with them after class, their desires for more visual learning and more dictation in ESOL classes, their concern about the removal of drinking water coolers at the Hyannis Center, and their opposition to students talking on their phones during class. All of these concerns were shared last year during meetings with the ACCESS Program former Director, Phyllis

Whitney, and Assistant Director, Toby Maguire.

The Leadership Team couldn't have succeeded without some extraordinary people's assistance. Carmen Lebron, the president of the leadership team, is currently employed by the college, but she was once a student of the ACCESS Program and understands how to improve the learning experience of the students. One of the long-time goals Carmen fulfilled last year was to take students to the State House in Boston to meet our state representatives face-to-face.



"It was a privilege and priceless moment for me because I was one of the students that attended and count it as a victory for the Leadership Team." said Carmen.

Rebecca Foley, a teacher for the ACCESS Program, and Mardi Mauney, an advisor for the program have invested their time and experience with the desire of seeing students reach their goals in life. Phyllis Whitney, the former Director of the ACCESS Program, was always encouraging and interested in hearing and helping with our concerns. The Student Leadership team looks forward to working with ACCESS staff and students in 2014. (contributions to this article was also made by ESOL student Antonio Brito.)

*We want to give thanks to Toby Maguire and Carol Lidard for helping to make everything work more smoothly.*

*Happy New Year to all.*

## Chief of Public Safety Reaches Out to Hyannis Center

Staff Reporter, Terri Huff

Yvonne Meyers the new Chief of Security at CCCC, answered questions and presented safety tips to students who are attending classes at the various sites that ACCESS serves. Most of the classes are held at night and therefore present a particular set of concerns for students leaving classes into dark parking lots. Lighting is an issue to be addressed with the owners of the Hyannis Center building. Also discussed were the locations of the of emergency exists and safety protocol in the event of an

unwanted intruder or other potentially dangerous situations. Chief Meyers offered practical safety



measures such as leaving the building at night with a buddy and watching out for each other to be sure people enter cars without incident.

Chief Meyers shared that she is currently reviewing the entire campus to develop a campus security plan in the months to come, adding that she had only been on the job 30 days and had a great deal of work ahead of her.

Student and staff questions were met with attention and thoughtfulness from the new Chief and an ESOL student expressed (in nearly flawless English) sincere appreciation from the ACCESS students at the conclusion of the Chief's presentation. For students and staff with safety concerns or who would like further information, please contact Chief Meyer at: [ymeyers@capecod.edu](mailto:ymeyers@capecod.edu).

## Next Steps – FYI Sessions

In October, ACCESS began offering, Information Sessions providing helpful resources connected to student educational and career goals. The following is a description of sessions by topic in the fall and spring. Watch for times, dates announced at your site.

- How to Become a CNA in Massachusetts
- Fastest Growing Careers without a Degree
- Programs and Degrees at CCCC
- Exploring Education and Financial Aid Resources for Adult Education Students
- Helpful Community Resources on Cape Cod
- Tips for Starting a Small Business
- Careers in Early Childhood for Bilingual Childcare Providers

### ***An Invitation!!!!!!!!!!***

Please send any thoughts and ideas to include in our Spring Newsletter. 😊

## Our Premier Issue!

*By Terri Huff, Staff Editor*

*The inhabitants of the Cape are often at once farmers and sea-rovers; they are more than Vikings or kings of the bays, for their sway extend over the open sea also.*

Henry David Thoreau, "Cape Cod"

Welcome to our very first ACCESS Program newsletter. We hope this will be a place for you to get to know each other, share information, and stories, or helpful tips and tools to learn English, improve your academic skills or plan a career. We want you to know your community of adult education learners and instructors, professional staff and advisors are here to support your path, wherever it takes you.

We are a community of new Americans, established Americans, and Americans in transition who share a heritage of pilgrims and pioneers pursuing their dreams.

You are all on your way to somewhere and the ACCESS program is your bridge. There are many of you, with interesting news and goals to share. We hope this newsletter will reach across the sites, classes and campuses into your lives to support you and connect you to each other. We look forward to sharing your thoughts, dreams and achievements in future issues.

***"Shout out" of thanks for technical support and advice with this newsletter to the following wonderful CCCC Employees.***

- Lynne Johnson Marchant
- Chris Pauk
- Chris Brissee
- Gretchen Widegren

# Community Resources

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cape Cod & the Islands seeks adult bi-lingual and English speaking volunteers to serve as Big Brothers and Big Sisters in a new school-based program at Hyannis West Elementary School.
- Volunteers travel to Hyannis West one day a week to meet with their Little Brother or Sister. They enjoy lunch together and engage in fun activities on school grounds.
- If you are interested in becoming a Big Brother or Big Sister to a deserving child, please call 508-771-5150 or e-mail BBBSCCI's Ambassador of Mentoring Mikaela Toni @ [mtonibbbscci.org](mailto:mtonibbbscci.org).

## **Barnstable County Human Services** (<http://www.bchumanservices.net/>)

The Barnstable County Department of Human Services provides this list of services and support agencies.

## **Youth Service Guide** (<http://www.ciwib.org/Youth%20Service%20Guide%202009.pdf>)

This resource guide for youth, provides a detailed profile of services available across the Cape & Islands, organized by both name of the organization as well as the category of services they provide. It could be useful if someone needs to make a referral.

## **Massachusetts 2-1-1** (<http://www.mass211help.org/>)

Mass 2-1-1 online directory is an information resource for emergency food, rent, help paying heating and utility bills, mental health counseling, health programs, public health and safety services, child care referrals, job resources, and other help for individuals, parents and families.

## **Cape Cod Resources for Students in Distress**

Click [here](#) (or go to [www.capecod.edu/web/advising/students-in-distress](http://www.capecod.edu/web/advising/students-in-distress) and click on "Cape Cod Resources for Students in Distress" on the right side of the page).

### **A Selection of Best Practice Websites for ESL**

- [www.shambles.net](http://www.shambles.net)
- [www.learnenglishfeelgood.com](http://www.learnenglishfeelgood.com)
- [www.eslflow.com](http://www.eslflow.com)
- [www.englishclub.com](http://www.englishclub.com)
- [www.eslgold.com](http://www.eslgold.com)
- <http://eslcafe.com/>

### **Best Websites for Education and Career Planning**

- [www.upwardlyglobal.org](http://www.upwardlyglobal.org)
- [www.collegetransition.org](http://www.collegetransition.org)
- [www.miracoalition.org](http://www.miracoalition.org)
- [www.simforum.com](http://www.simforum.com)
- [www.us-immigration.com](http://www.us-immigration.com)
- [www.onetcenter.org](http://www.onetcenter.org)

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