Forty-four freshmen who began classes this fall will pay no tuition for two years at Dutchess Community College, thanks to the Charles E. and Mabel E. Conklin Scholarship for Academic Excellence. This brings to 70 the number of Conklin scholars currently on campus; more than 400 students have attended DCC under the program since it was established 11 years ago.

The Conklin Scholarship provides up to two years of full tuition for any Dutchess County high school student who graduates in the top 10% of his or her class. Among the 2015 freshmen scholars currently on campus; more than 400 students have attended DCC under the program since it was established 11 years ago.

The Conklin Scholarship provides up to two years of full tuition for any Dutchess County high school student who graduates in the top 10% of his or her class. Among the 2015 freshmen scholars, 10 are graduates of FDR High School, nine are from Ketcham, seven from Poughkeepsie, three each from Arlington, John Jay and Beacon, two each from Spackenkill, Dover, Orchard View and Stissing Mountain and one from Red Hook. The freshmen will be honored during a luncheon on campus in October.

DCC attracts more Dutchess County students than any other single college or university. It also attracts more high school graduates in the top 10% of their class.

This past spring, Charles Conklin ensured the continuation of the initiative for years to come by making an additional donation of $800,000 in memory of his late wife, Betty, who passed away in March. This brings the Conklins’ contributions to DCC to $2 million.

Keeping these high-achieving young people in Dutchess County for their first two years of college, and enabling them to study tuition free, is a benefit to them, their families and our community. The College is proud to offer this remarkable opportunity.

More than 40 Dutchess County Freshmen Attending Tuition-Free

DCC student Jalana Fuller of Beacon accepts a Conklin Scholarship from Charles and Mabel Conklin at a luncheon on campus last fall.

DCC receives TRIO Grant

Dutchess Community College has been awarded a Student Support Services grant of $220,000 under the U.S. Department of Education’s TRIO program, with the expectation that funding will be renewed for an additional four years.

The grant is designed to support initiatives that increase the number of disadvantaged, low-income, first-generation and/or disabled students who successfully complete a post-secondary program.

Approximately 140 students will be served each year. Target outcomes include:

- 64% of participants will persist from one academic year to the beginning of the next, or graduate and/or transfer to a four-year institution.
- 74% of participants will stay in good academic standing.
- 32% of new participants served each year will graduate with an associate degree or certificate within four years.
- 19% of new participants served each year will receive an associate degree or certificate and transfer to a four-year institution within four years.
E-TECH Program Launched

Participating City of Poughkeepsie students can graduate in six years with both a high school diploma and an Associate degree in engineering or electrical technology.

The college’s E-TECH (Engineering, Technology, Early College High School) partnership with the City of Poughkeepsie School District, Central Hudson and The Chazen Companies, is well underway. Fifty participating ninth-graders and their families came to campus for an information session in June, and the students returned in July to start the program.

The initiative is designed to prepare academically at-risk high school students for skilled jobs in technology. The students will take both high school and college courses while getting workplace experience with engineering professionals, and will earn both a high school diploma and an associate degree in electrical technology or engineering in six years. The program is funded by a New York state grant and provided to students at no cost.

Faculty have been instrumental in developing the program and working with students as they acclimate to the College environment. Up to 50 students will be accepted into the program for each of the next six years.

Board of Trustees Chair LeGrand to Receive Leadership Award

Dutchess Community College Board of Trustees Chairman Thomas LeGrand has been awarded a 2015 Donald M. Mawhinney Jr. Trustee Leadership Award by the New York Community College Trustees, Inc. LeGrand will be presented with the award at a Sept. 18 ceremony in Cooperstown.

The honor is given to a trustee who has demonstrated a significant commitment to the community college mission through exceptional leadership, inspired vision and outstanding professional contributions in support of the goals and accomplishments of their campus.

LeGrand has served as a member of the Dutchess Community College Board of Trustees for nearly 20 years. For the past decade he has served as chairman of the board; he previously served as vice chair for three years and as secretary for five years. Under LeGrand’s leadership the College has established several initiatives that enhance and expand services to students and the community.

A dedicated community advocate and volunteer, LeGrand also is a 20-year member and current chair of the Dutchess County Water and Wastewater Authority and a member of the Dutchess County Resource Recovery Agency. He is a past board chair of the Dutchess County Economic Development Corporation and past president of the Rhinebeck Chamber of Commerce.
**Start–UP New York Initiatives Underway**

DCC was pleased to work with county officials on a Start-Up New York Campus Plan that was approved by the state in July, and which opens the possibility of bringing new businesses and jobs to Dutchess County in partnership with the College.

Six potential properties in the county have been identified and four businesses currently are working on their formal applications which should be ready for submission to Start-Up New York later this fall.

**Arts Organization to Honor President Edington**

Pamela Edington will be honored at the Mill Street Loft’s “Creating Community” Friendraiser at 5:30 p.m. on Sept. 30 at the Vassar Alumnae House.

The College has collaborated with this and other nonprofits over the past year, and will ramp up efforts through its new Service Learning initiative, described below.

**Service Learning Benefits Students and Community**

Service learning, which combines community service with classroom work, enriches the student experience, teaches civic responsibility and supports the community. DCC began the process of making service learning part of the fabric of the institution when representatives from two dozen local community organizations were invited to join 25 faculty members and students on campus in June for three days of discussion. Lively and engaging conversation ensued about where the needs of our local nonprofits might overlap with various curricula and classwork, and efforts are underway to incorporate these opportunities into DCC’s programs.

**Residence Hall Move–In a Success!**

Dutchess Community College’s residence hall, which opened in fall 2012, welcomed 478 students at the end of August – filling to capacity for the fourth straight fall. About half the students were returners from last year and half were new to the College.

This summer, three lounges were enclosed, separating them from the corridors to enhance tutoring, workshops, study hours and other activities.
Veterans Resource Center Opens, Ribbon Cutting November 10

DCC opened a Veterans Resource Center this semester, where veterans and dependents of those serving in the military can learn about resources, access support services and network with one another. Designated a “military-friendly” college, DCC is proud to help veterans achieve their career and personal goals.

A flag retreat ceremony and ribbon cutting for the new Veterans Center, hosted by the DCC Veterans Club, will be held Nov. 10. Invitations to the event will be sent to all county legislators, but please mark your calendar. Guests will assemble at the flagpole near Dutchess Hall at 4:30 p.m.; the ribbon cutting, remarks and a reception will follow in Hudson Hall room 212.

Walkway Marathon Documentary Produced

A team of DCC Communications Program students, led by faculty, recently produced a documentary for Walkway Over the Hudson. “The Making of a Marathon” features interviews and footage surrounding the inaugural marathon, held in June. The 12-minute video will be screened by Walkway Over the Hudson in October.

College TV Facilities Aid Filming of Local Mental Health PSA

*The PSA will debut Sept. 25 at the MHADC 2015 Spotlight on Mental Health event*

DCC was pleased to provide use of its television studio to Mental Health America Dutchess County (MHADC) for its production of a PSA about mental illness.

The spot featured interviews with county officials, mental health experts and those affected. Coincidentally, the lead videographer had been a DCC communications student. County Executive Marc Molinaro was among those who came to campus last month to participate in the MHADC production.