UMass Amherst: In and For the Commonwealth

Presentation for the Board of Trustees
November 7, 2001
Chancellor Marcellette G. Williams
Critical Areas of Concern and Focus

- Education
- Economic Development
- Health
- Environment
- Arts & Culture
- Public Policy
Growing Minds Project
Department of Food and Agriculture funded program to put a garden in every school and link K-12 teachers with horticultural experts to help them teach life sciences.
Counties served: Suffolk, Statewide

Western Massachusetts Writing Project
Provides services to schools, school districts, and individual teachers. Its principal function is the in-service training of teachers.
Counties served: Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire

Sage on the Stage or Guide by the Side? Latest Methodologies in Teaching Latin
A program for in-service Latin teachers, in collaboration with UMass Boston.
Counties served: Bristol, Middlesex, Norfolk, Suffolk, Worcester

Success 2000: Special Needs Students Transition Project
Focuses on the improvement of opportunities for high school students with learning disabilities to attend and graduate from post-secondary institutions.
Counties served: Hampden, Suffolk

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education Institute
Offers in-service teachers seminars on science and mathematics education.
Counties served: Statewide
Regional Technology Alliance
Two-year $596,000 NSF grant to develop industry networks and technology commercialization opportunities in collaboration with regional partners.
Counties served: Franklin, Hampshire, Hampden, Berkshire

Citizen Planner Training Collaborative
Provides local planning and zoning officials with the tools to make effective decisions regarding their community’s current and future land use.
Counties served: Berkshire, Hampshire, Worcester, Middlesex, Plymouth

Baystate - UMass Alliance
Comprehensive agreement for expanded collaborations in biomedical research and technology with Baystate Health Systems, second largest medical center in New England.
Counties served: Hampden, Hampshire

Industries of the Future
National Environmental Technology Institute (NETI) and the Center for Energy Efficient and Renewable Energy (CEERE) have led the program to help state firms have cleaner operations and conserve energy.
Counties served: Statewide

Tax School for Practitioners
Workshops designed to train practitioners in the latest Federal and State Tax Laws and Requirements.
Counties served: Hampshire, Essex, Middlesex, Worcester, Barnstable, Norfolk
Strategic Research Alliance

Several U.S. university Food Science Departments have industrial partners, but none as successful as the 5 year old Strategic Research Alliance (SRA) at UMass Amherst Department of Food Science. Currently, there are 27 major food companies, six of which are in Massachusetts, as paying members of the alliance. Not just a group of philanthropic companies, but a vital organization that provides an interface between the University and industry and optimizes technology transfer.

Efforts have occurred at Ocean Spray in Middleboro, at Opta Food Ingredients in Bedford, at Nourse Farms in Sunderland, at Instron Company in Canton, at Ocean Cliffs in New Bedford, at Very Fine in Littleton, at Lite Life Foods in Greenfield. Several new companies were formed as a result of techniques developed to hydrolyze waste protein on fish after fileting to liquid fertilizer: Neptune's Harvest in Gloucester, Northeast Organics, Inc. in Manchester-by-the-Sea, and Inshore Ventures, Inc. in Boston and Gloucester.

One more point to make about this department, which contributes so much to the economic and workforce development of the state: the World Food and Agricultural Organization (part of the United Nations and based in Rome) has named UMass Amherst Food Science as an FAO Center of Excellence, which means that they wish to interact with us in their efforts to promote and produce safe and nutritious food of the highest quality in the developing nations and worldwide.

Counties served: Bristol, Essex, Suffolk, Middlesex, Plymouth, Hampshire, Norfolk
Office of Public Health Practice and Outreach
Provides education, research and service relevant to community concerns and needs; includes such initiatives as Holyoke Immunization Project, Springfield Youth STD Project, Holyoke School-based Teen Pregnancy and Infant Mortality Prevention Program, Asthma Study, and Interface Project (epidemiological data analysis for the DPH Bureau of Health Statistics, Research, and Evaluation). The Office has formal agreements with Baystate Health Systems, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Springfield Southwest Community Health Center, Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture, Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance, UMass Dartmouth, Barnstable County, and Tufts University.
Counties served: Suffolk, Norfolk, Barnstable, Hampshire, Hampden

Family Nutrition Program
A collaborative program between the University and the Department of Transitional Assistance, working with School Youth Projects in Boston, New Bedford, Brockton, Lawrence, Lynn, and Holyoke Public Schools, for example. Also includes Community-based Adult Projects throughout the state including Boston Medical Center, Center for Immigrant and Refugee Community Leadership and Empowerment, for example.
Counties served: Suffolk, Barnstable, Plymouth, Norfolk, Middlesex.

Communications Disorders
Provides speech and hearing screening activities to public school children.
Counties served: Franklin, Hampden, Worcester

UMass Extension Education Program of Greater Boston
The NEP is an outreach program targeting limited income youth and families.
Counties served: Suffolk

Food Handling is a Risky Business
This 1-2 hour workshop introduces basic food safety principles.
Counties served: Statewide
North Quabbin Region Community Land Conservation Mapping
Assists the New England Forest Foundation with its land conservation efforts in the North Quabbin region of central Massachusetts by developing maps and a GIS database to show the location of all existing conservation lands.
Counties served: Franklin, Hampshire, Worcester

Asian Crops Project
This project works with vegetable farmers in the state to grow and market Asian crops for farmers' markets where there are large Asian populations.
Counties served: Suffolk, Middlesex, Norfolk

The Earth Connection
Annual statewide conference on community service and the environment; aims to promote youth engagement in community service, research, and citizen action; professional development for educators; networking opportunities; campus exploration.
Counties served: Statewide

Ionizing Radiation
Provides a resource for K-12 teachers for the addition of radiation topics to the curriculum; in collaboration with the New England Chapter of the Health Physics Society.
Counties served: Statewide

The Natural Resources Model
The Department of Natural Resources Conservation promotes the stewardship of healthy and sustainable ecosystems that provide diverse human and community benefits. The department uniquely qualifies to provide an integrated environmental education, research results to professionals, and vital service to society in response to environmental problems and issues. The department works statewide in collaborative relationships with State and Federal agencies and works closely with an advisory board which provides advice, advocates for the department as new initiatives are developed within the System and regionally, and assists in fund-raising to provide the margin of excellence.
Western Massachusetts Arts Alliance
Developed by the Fine Arts Center to provide a network of collaboration between cultural organizations, artists, and educators in Western Massachusetts.
Counties served: Berkshire, Hampshire, Hampden, Franklin

Center Series, Artists in Residence
Visiting artists provide performances at local schools.
Counties served: Hampshire, Hampden, Franklin

Project 2050
Looking into the future, enables low income and at risk youth from minority backgrounds to explore the use of theater as a means of self-discovery and empowerment.
Counties served: Hampshire, Hampden

National Parks Cooperative Ecosystem Study Unit
A collaboration between the College of Humanities and Fine Arts and National Parks to promote the parks as educational and cultural resources.
Counties served: Essex, Hampden

Community Arts Health and Healing Project
An innovative project in which the School of Nursing and the Fine Arts Center collaborate to present performing and visual arts programs in hospitals and care facilities.
Counties served: Hampshire, Franklin

University Dancers
University Dancers tour through schools for two weeks in January, giving performances, lecture-demonstrations, master classes, workshops, teacher training, and informal discussions with school students and teachers.
Counties served: Statewide
The Massachusetts Policy Fellowship Program
The program offers legislators the research expertise of selected graduate students.
Counties served: Statewide

Review of the State Sustainability Program
Investigated recycling programs in order to identify key components of successful programs and provide recommendations for EOEAs State Sustainability Program.
Counties served: Statewide

CPP Policy Advice, Linking with Legislators
Conducts many activities to apply the research and expertise of the public colleges and universities to the analysis, development, and implementation of public policy.
Counties served: Statewide
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