The CONNECT CEOs appointed Dr. Kathleen Kirby the new executive director of the CON-NECT Partnership in November 2009. Dr. Kirby previously held positions as Director of the Bridgewater State College Office of Grants and Sponsored Projects and Manager of Foundation Relations at New Hampshire Public Television. She holds a Ph.D. in English from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and brings over 15 years of experience in organizational development and strategic planning, fund raising and public relations, and educational program management.

Dr. Kirby joins Kim Williams, CONNECT Staff Assistant since 2006. Former Executive Director Dr. Jane Souza left CONNECT to become the Chief Academic Officer at the New England Institute of Art in July 2009. The CONNECT CEOs thank Dr. Souza for her nearly four years of service and wish her the best in her new role.

CONNECT conducted a strategic planning session for the Southeast Regional Pre-K-16 STEM Network at University of Massachusetts Dartmouth on February 25, 2010. Representatives agreed that CONNECT would continue to serve as convener of the Network, with the former Cape and Islands STEM Network merging into the Southeast Network.

In June, CONNECT was awarded a $40,000 grant from the Department of Higher Education to continue its role as administrator of the Southeast Regional Pre-K-16 STEM Network. The grant supports CONNECT in organizing quarterly meetings and building a directory of STEM resources while continuing to provide connection and communications to the region’s STEM providers. A second Network meeting was held May 3, 2010 at Wheaton College. Currently, CONNECT is in the process of wrapping up the reporting for several previously funded DHE-supported projects:

**SUMMER 2009 DHE PIPELINE FUNDED SUMMER CAMPS**
The Southeast Regional Pre-K-16 STEM Network coordinated two science summer programs for middle school students thanks to Year Two grant funding from the Department of Higher Education’s STEM Pipeline Fund. Forty-one middle school students learned about Building a Sustainable City at UMass Dartmouth and 39 Fall River students studied CSI-Forensics at the Durfee High School program, both in July, 2009.

**PRE-AP TEACHER TRAINING**
A $20,000 grant from the Department of Higher Education enabled the Southcoast Pre-K-16 STEM Network to work with Mass Insight to deliver pre-AP training to three area school districts: Wareham, Attleboro, and Bridgewater-Raynham. The training occurred at Bridgewater-Raynham High School in August, 2009.

**2009 - 2010 MTEL PREPARATION IN STEM FIELDS**
More than 30 Education students have attended MTEL preparation seminars in the STEM fields at Bridgewater State College and UMass Dartmouth through funding from the 2007 Department of Higher Education STEM Pipeline Grant. June 30th marks the end of the three-year grant.
CONNEC T A Southeastern Massachusetts Public Higher Education Partnership

CONNECT EVENTS

CONNECT CHAIRS CONFERENCE

With the CONNECT campuses joined by New England Institute of Art, Northern Essex Community College, Salem State College, and Springfield Technical Community College, 75 individuals attended the second CONNECT Chairs Conference, “Shaping the Academy of the Future.” Mark David Milliron was the keynote speaker at the November 20, 2009 event held at the Conference Center at Massachusetts. In addition to the keynote, sessions focused on communicating effectively, legal issues, practical management and transitions.

CONNECT MATHEMATICS CONFERENCE

Dr. Becky Wai-Ling Packard gave the keynote address at the third annual CONNECT Mathematics Conference, Friday, February 28, 2010 at Bridgewater State College. “College Math Initiatives from your Backyard” was the theme that attracted 65 attendees. Five CONNECT campuses were represented, along with the Brandeis Public Schools, Cengage Learning, Greenfield Community College, Middlesex Community College, Mount Wachusett Community College, Northern Essex Community College, and Westfield State College.

CONNECT WRITING CONFERENCE

“Supporting College Writers in the Classroom” was the theme of the six annual CONNECT Composition Conference, May 31, 2010 at Cape Cod Community College. Over eighty participants registered to learn about teaching English Language Learners, incorporating the CONNECT Common Outcomes for Writing into their teaching, and other pedagogical issues. Dr. Carol Severino, Director of the Writing Center at the University of Iowa, gave the keynote presentation.

SUMMER OF SCIENCE

This collaboration among the six CONNECT institutions of higher education is designed to promote STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education and achievement to K-12 students. The CONNECT campuses are publicizing the importance of STEM by joining together to promote the science- and invention-focused summer camp and programs they offer.

A Summer of Science poster highlighting the programs has been distributed to nearly 850 schools, libraries, museums, college campuses, and educational agencies.

A launch event will take place July 9, 2010 at Massachusetts Maritime Academy, with Governor Deval Patrick and leaders from education and industry invited to speak. Hands-on exhibits and demonstrations will introduce kids to the fun and rewards of STEM. CONNECT is currently engaged in a media campaign promoting the event. Around 200 attendees are expected.

COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (CLDP)

A cohort of 38 individuals from the six CONNECT institutions, along with Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Bunker Hill Community College, and Framingham State College, participated in eight months of professional development sessions ranging from Effective Communication to Conflict Resolution to Legal Issues and Collective Bargaining. 2009-2010 marked the sixth year that the Human Resources Directors of the CONNECT institutions have offered the CLDP training to mid-level higher education professionals in the region.

CONNECT IN THE SCIENCES

Initiatives in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics/Engineering have been funded through mini-grants from CONNECT. Faculty from all CONNECT campuses met in June for one-day conversations around curriculum content, articulations, and transferability in the sciences at CONNECT campuses.

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THE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The Leadership Program in general has been more than satisfactory in providing me with valuable knowledge and skills required for optimum job performance. The interaction with participants in the various areas of college business life was extremely rewarding and gave me a better understanding of the issues we all face and where I can look for support.

REGIONS OF DEVELOPMENT

REGIONAL WORKFORCE/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT AND SUMMIT

An Economic Development Summit is being planned for Fall 2010. This event, and the accompanying release of a CONNECT Economic Impact Report, will showcase how public higher education acts as a driver for economic and workforce development in Southeastern Massachusetts.

CLDP ALUMNI PROGRAM

The CONNECT SR Directors are in the process of planning the first CLDP Alumni Program tentatively scheduled for October 29, 2010. The program will be open to all former attendees of the CLDP and offer advanced training on legal and contractual issues and conflict of interest guidelines.

COLLEGE READINESS CONFERENCE

A College Readiness Conference, in collaboration with the Southeastern Massachusetts Readiness Center, is being planned by CONNECT Academic Support Specialists, Chief Academic Officers, Writing and Math faculty for Spring 2011.

SUSTAINABILITY SHOWCASE

The CONNECT Sustainability working group, CONNECT CEOs and the Executive Director are engaged in ongoing conversations about building an inventory of their environmentally-friendly curriculum and green facilities, with a goal of sponsoring a regional showcase of best practices in campus sustainability in 2011.