
Fitchburg State University Today



Presidential Search updates

The Board of Trustees last week hired the executive search firm [WittKieffer](#) and appointed a Presidential Search Committee to recruit candidates to become Fitchburg State's 12th president.

In the coming weeks, open listening sessions will be scheduled for campus constituencies to share their input on the qualities and qualifications that should be sought with the coming search.

The Presidential Search Committee includes:

- Jennifer L. Flanagan '04, Director of Regulatory Policy at Vicente LLP, Member, Board of Trustees
- Eric Gregoire '11, Assistant Director of Budget & Planning, University of Massachusetts, Member, Board of Trustees
- Deborah Phillips, Founding Partner/Attorney, Nickless, Phillips & O'Connor, Chairman, Board of Trustees
- David Tiernan '83, Senior Vice President, National Practice Leader, Clerk, Board of Trustees
- Dr. Margaret Hoey, Professor, Biology/Chemistry, MSCA Representative
- Dr. Elisabet Takehana, Professor, English Studies, MSCA Representative
- Lindsay Carpenter-Connors, Director of Career Services and Advising Center, APA Representative
- Carolyn Hughes, Administrative Assistant, Education, AFSCME Representative
- Richard Toomey, Associate Vice President, Enrollment Management, Non-Unit Administrator Representative
- Adriana Padilla Salgado, Class of 2026, Student Representative
- Allison Turner, Class of 2024, Student Representative
- Jonathan Thompson, Interim Superintendent, Fitchburg Public Schools, Community Representative
- Dr. Mario Delci, Associate Commissioner for Research & Planning, Department of Higher Education Representative
- Jessica Murdoch '08, '14, Vice President, Human Resources and Payroll Services, AA/EEO, Liaison to the Board of Trustees, *ex officio*

Support the community this holiday season

As we approach the season of holidays - including the Lighting of

the Campus at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 30 on the Highland Plaza - the [Fitchburg Community Outreach Center](#) is offering reminders of how to support the university and wider communities.

- The Annual Care and Share Program began last week, with nearly 100 children nominated. Use [this form](#) to sign up to support a child (or family).
- The [Falcon Bazaar](#) Food and Necessities Pantry maintains a [wish list](#) for in-demand items including meals and personal care items.
- The Professional Clothing Closet is in need of items including women's sizes 10-24; jackets/blazers; pants; skirts; blouses; hose (new); and dress shoes. Clean and pressed items may be dropped off at the Hammond Information Desk or the Student Development Office in Hammond Hall.
- The [Falcons Care](#) page offers additional ways to offer support, such as [donating](#) to the student emergency fund.



Student filmmaker takes top prize at statewide media competition

Student filmmaker **Isaiah Manuel** took first place in the recent Student Media Summit, where he competed against students from 14 institutions of higher education.

In addition to networking opportunities, the summit included a “pitch contest” where student filmmakers had two minutes to

articulate their vision for a narrative or documentary film project.

Manuel, a junior from Leominster, submitted a proposal for his documentary “Thrown Away,” about where Massachusetts’ trash goes once it is shipped out of state. It was one of 77 submissions to the contest, from which 14 were selected for oral pitches at the summit. From that pool, he won the \$1,000 cash prize, with additional funds for equipment rental to produce the film.

[Read more](#)

Open forums scheduled for Nov. 28

President Lapidus invites faculty, librarians, staff and administrators to gather for open forums at 10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 28 in Kent Recital Hall. There will be ASL interpreters for the 3:30 p.m. session.

The sessions will include updates about university operations, with opportunities for members to ask questions.

Read about 2023 Alumni Association Award winners

The Alumni Association recognized several standout Fitchburg State



graduates at their awards ceremony during Homecoming weekend. Read about them in the latest [Fitchburg State Magazine](#). [Honorees](#) included:

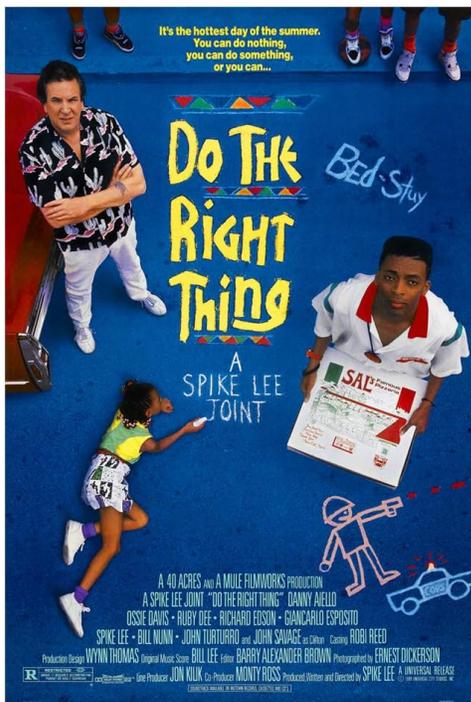
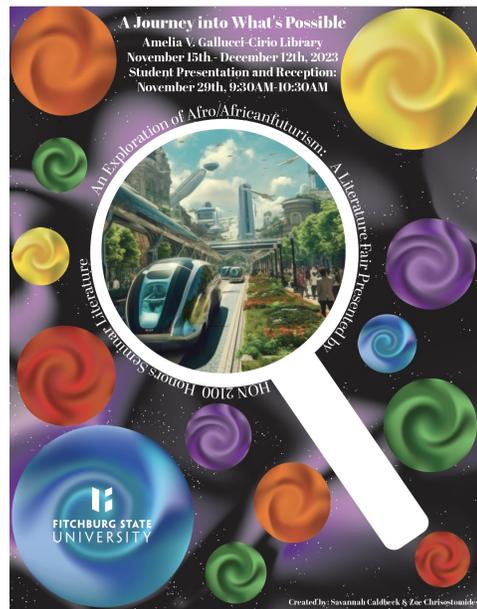
- [Frank Worthley '60, '75](#), posthumous recipient of the Alumni Service Award
- [Michael P. Kushmerek '08, '13](#), recipient of the Alumni Leadership Award
- [Steven A. Martinez '17](#), recipient of the Young Alumni Recognition Award
- [Jon D. Hogue '87](#), recipient of the Alumni Achievement Award
- [The Fenwick Society](#), recipient of the Booster award

Honors students present "A Journey Into What's Possible" on Nov. 29

Students in the university's Honors Seminar will present the literature fair "A Journey into What's Possible: An Exploration of Afro/Africanfuturism" through Dec. 12 at the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library.

There will be a student presentation and reception at **9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 29** in the library, where visitors may ask the students questions about their work. Refreshments will be served.

[Learn more](#)



Nuovo Mondo series continues with "Do the Right Thing" on Nov. 30

The [Center for Italian Culture](#) will present a free screening of Academy Award winner Spike Lee's classic film "Do the Right Thing" in November as part of its year-long exploration of the Italian immigrant experience.

The series, "[Nuovo Mondo](#): A Century of Migrations from and to Italy," will present "Do the Right Thing" (1989) at **5:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 30**, in Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall. Admission to the screening is free and open to the public.

Lee's acclaimed comedy-drama explores the simmering racial tensions in a Brooklyn neighborhood between African-American residents and the Italian-American owners of a local pizzeria, culminating in violence and tragedy on a hot summer day.

[Learn more](#)

Keep up with campus happenings on the Burg Blog

Follow the [Burg Blog](#) for timely updates of campus life.

Among the recent articles and slideshows, see scenes from the faculty panel discussion on the [Israel/Gaza conflict](#), the "[Watch My Six](#)" veterans storytelling event, the opening of the regional [moot court tournament](#), the [Gateway Cities Summit](#) the university hosted where Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll was among the speakers, and the commuter-focused [pancakes and parking](#) event in Hammond Hall.



CenterStage and Cultural Events

This December, Fitchburg State's instrumental and vocal groups will join the North Worcester County Symphony Orchestra and other regional ensembles for A Symphonic Christmas Carol. The concert, featuring 350 musicians, will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8 and Saturday, Dec. 9 at Weston Auditorium.

The orchestra will perform with Fitchburg State's Concert Choir, Chamber Choir and Concert Band, and the concert will also include the Nashoba Valley Chorus, the Westford Chorus, the Greater Gardner Community Choir, and Perfect Alibi.

Tickets are free for Fitchburg State staff and students, and may be requested online by contacting info@nwcsorchestra.org. If you're looking to buy tickets for non-university guests, tickets are \$15 to \$30 and may be ordered online. To reserve your complimentary university ticket alongside paying guests, please contact

A vertical poster for a concert. The top text reads 'The North Worcester County Symphony Orchestra in partnership with Fitchburg State University present'. The main title is 'A Symphonic Christmas Carol' in a large, elegant script. Below that is the subtitle 'The music of Christmas Past, Present, and Future'. At the bottom, it lists the dates 'DECEMBER 8 & 9 7:30 P.M.', the location 'WESTON AUDITORIUM 353 NORTH STREET', and the website 'WWW.NWCSORCHESTRA.ORG'. A 'FEATURING:' section lists: 'Fitchburg State University Concert Choir, Chamber Choir, and Concert Band', 'The Nashoba Valley Chorale', 'The Westford Chorus', 'Greater Gardner Community Choir', and 'Perfect Alibi'. The background is dark with a subtle pattern.

info@nwcsorchestra.org and indicate the number and pricing tier you wish to purchase:

- VIP Seating: \$30
- Senior Seating: \$20
- Student (non-Fitchburg State) Seating: \$15
- Adult Seating: \$25

Learn more about Fitchburg State's offerings at fitchburgstate.edu/music.

Choral Kaleidoscope on Dec. 5 features university, high school singers

The university choirs will be joined by voices from local high school groups when the campus presents its "Choral Kaleidoscope" concert at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5 in Weston Auditorium. Admission is free and open to the public.

"The Choral Kaleidoscope is a beautiful annual event where we invite area high school choirs to collaborate here on the Fitchburg State campus," said **Associate Professor Jonathan Harvey** (Humanities), who conducts the Fitchburg State choral program.

For this concert, the university choirs will be joined by the choirs of Fitchburg High School, Leominster High School, and Murdock High School, performing a variety of music from different global traditions.

Opening Dec. 5: "It's a Wonderful Life"

The Communications Media Department presents a live radio play adaptation of the holiday classic "It's a Wonderful Life," performed at the Wallace Theatre for the Performing Arts in the McKay Complex at 67 Rindge Road (Entrance B) and directed by **Professor Kelly Morgan**. Admission is free. The classic show is presented as a live radio broadcast in front of a studio audience, with actors performing as dozens of characters and creating sound effects.

Performances will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5 through Saturday, Dec. 9, with matinee performances at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9 and Sunday, Dec. 10.

In the Hammond Hall Art Gallery: Faculty Show

The annual [Faculty Show](#) is on display in the Hammond Hall Art Gallery through Dec. 15, featuring work by faculty members **Sarah Bromberg, Petri Flint, Jason Flynn, Robert Harris, Jon Krasner, Hanna Melnyczuk, Sally Moore, Andrea Olmstead, Jessica Robey, Britt Snyder, Donald Tarallo, and Jeff Warmouth**. The film screening will include work by faculty members **Rachelle Dermer, Robert Harris and Kevin McCarthy**.

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