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## Fitchburg State University Today

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### Winter Commencement a celebration of student achievement

The winter ceremony of our 126th commencement exercises on Dec. 16 included the conferring of undergraduate and graduate degrees to more than 600 students from 30 states and four countries.

See [photos from the ceremony](#) on the Burg Blog.

In his address, President Lapidus highlighted stories of perseverance from the graduating class and encouraged the graduates to continue to show resilience and courage as they chart their future paths.

Graduate Student Leadership Award recipient Spencer Fuller, a member of the Northborough Police Department, completed his Master of Science degree in criminal justice. He also completed his Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice at Fitchburg State as part of the

university's five-year police program.

Undergraduate valedictorian Helen "Hallie" Dyer of Westwood, who completed her Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice, also completed the university's police program. She graduated with a perfect 4.0 grade point average and reflected on the challenges of pursuing a degree amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Learn more](#)

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### Staff members receive training in "mental health first aid"

To further the university's efforts to provide real-time mental health support to students, 16 administrators and staff members from across campus participated in an intensive three-day training last week to become certified Mental Health First Aid instructors.



Assistant Dean Robert Hynes, director of the university's Counseling Services, said

Mental Health First Aid is an international, evidence-based program that aims to raise awareness regarding mental health challenges, and provide individuals with basic tools to identify signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders and provide appropriate support.

“With this new capacity that has been established, we hope to roll out the curriculum to a wide cross-section of Fitchburg State faculty, staff, and student body,” Hynes said.

“The hope in bringing Mental Health First Aid to our campus is to bolster our community’s shared efforts to address and effectively support the various mental health needs of our students,” said **Amanda Sapienza**, assistant director of Counseling Services.

The training was made possible through a mental health grant that Fitchburg State recently received from the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education.

[Learn more](#)

## Institutional finances subject of presentation Wednesday

Vice President for Finance and Administration **Jay Bry** invites the campus community to attend an institutional finances listening session and discussion **tomorrow at 10 a.m.** in Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall. At the conclusion of the presentation, there will be an opportunity for members to ask questions.

This will be a repeat of the financial update that was given to the faculty on Development Day.



## NECHE accreditation renewed through 2032

In December, the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) sent formal [notification](#) that the university's accreditation was being renewed, with its next comprehensive evaluation scheduled for 2032.

“With its devoted and talented faculty and staff, committed Board of Trustees, engaged student body, and visionary leadership, Fitchburg State University is well positioned to prepare ‘students to lead, serve, and succeed’ well into the future,” the commission’s renewal letter stated.

[Learn more](#)

## Theater project gets federal support

The university’s downtown theater restoration project has [received](#) \$2 million in federal support thanks to the efforts of the regional congressional delegation.

The funds will go toward the development of a “black box” theater to be



constructed adjacent to the main theater building in the downtown performing arts center. The new construction will be used for university productions and the public, with the restoration of the historic theater to follow in a future phase of construction.

U.S. Rep. Lori Trahan announced the funding as part of a larger \$20.7 million spending package for the Third Congressional District.

[Learn more](#)

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## Innovation Fund proposals sought for 2023-24

Requests for proposals for the 2023-24 Innovation Fund are still being collected. Proposals will be reviewed for two separate funds, each totaling \$250,000, to support new or continuing projects.

- The [Academic Innovation Fund](#) supports faculty and librarians in developing or expanding innovative curricula and/or pedagogy that stimulates enrollment growth and supports student academic success within a framework of equity and inclusion. All full-time faculty and librarians are eligible to apply, as are full- or part-time faculty teaching in the School of Graduate, Online and Continuing Education.
- The [University Innovation Fund](#) supports our staff in developing or expanding innovative practices, programs, or services that stimulate enrollment growth, support student retention, and/or promote financial sustainability within a framework of equity and inclusion.

Proposals, due **Friday, Feb. 10**, should be submitted through the dynamic forms that will soon be shared with the campus community.

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### Keep up with campus happenings on the Burg Blog

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

Recent articles and slideshows feature the university's holiday season [Care and Share](#) gift distribution, the

ALFA program's [tai chi](#) class, scenes from [winter orientation](#) for new students, the [Student Affairs retreat](#), and the [Development Day](#) for faculty and librarians on Jan. 12.



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## FalconSearch



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### New library search tool launches

The [Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library](#) has launched

its new integrated library system (ILS), which includes its new cloud-based FalconSearch discovery interface.

[FalconSearch](#) will provide a more seamless user experience through a single access point to many of the Library's print and electronic resources including journal articles, books,



Some key new features of FalconSearch include:

- Ability to easily save search results and search histories
- Organize search results into lists
- Virtually browse books on the shelf around records in your search result
- Easily request search and request items beyond the Library's collection via Interlibrary loan (ILL)

[Learn more](#)



## Reminder: Branded digital assets available for downloading

The office of [Marketing and Integrated Communications](#), working with [Print Services](#), has developed an array of [branded assets](#) for use by university faculty, librarians and staff.

Assets include virtual meeting [backgrounds](#), [letterhead](#) templates, [PowerPoint](#) templates, and university [logos](#).

[View and download](#) them on the university website.

## Sustainability Snapshot

The Sustainability Advisory Committee shares the following information for the campus community: In 2019 Fitchburg State consumed 82,483 pounds of paper, costing \$66,482. Your efforts to reduce printing can save significant amounts of energy, paper, and expensive printer cartridges. Before printing handouts for meetings or classes, ask yourself if an electronic copy would work just as well.



- Always avoid single-sided printing. While most printers are set to print two-sided by default, that might not be the case with StaffPrint (used to be called "Follow-you" printing). You can set StaffPrint to print two-sided under your printing options.
- Faculty printing PowerPoint slides for students: check that you are printing them with at least six slides per page rather than the default of one slide per page.
- Faculty and staff sending print jobs to Print Services may request that their copies come without the shrink wrap, thus reducing their plastic waste.

## Staff Notes

Hockey Coach Dean Fuller coached his [1,000th game](#) for the Falcons last week. He was recognized at the start of his 1,001st game on

Saturday afternoon at the Wallace Civic Center before the Falcons faced the UMass Dartmouth Corsairs (a game that ended with a Falcons win in overtime).

The coaching milestone was noted in the [Telegram & Gazette](#) and the [Sentinel & Enterprise](#).

[Read more](#)



## Faculty Notes

Professor Michael Greenwood (Business Administration) [led a cohort](#) of students from Seaman Paper in Gardner through his "One Voice High-Performance Leader" program. The company is a leading supplier of value-added specialty lightweight papers, including instantly recognizable products like the paper "plumes" that adorn millions of Hershey Kisses every year, along with custom confetti for buyers including the National Football League and Taylor Swift.

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