

MANS&C QUARTERLY

Massachusetts Association of Nonprofit Schools and Colleges

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SPRING 2009

PRESIDENTS' LETTER



Even in the midst of these discouraging economic times, those of us who took part in MANS&C Day at the State House came away with some very positive feelings.

Like many of our members and guests, the two of us spent part of the morning visiting

the offices of our state legislators. We were warmly received and departed with the feeling that our senators and representatives, and their staff members, genuinely cared about what we had to say.

MANS&C Day was created to give nonprofit schools and colleges the opportunity to begin an important personal dialog with our state legislators.

Each of us is grappling with declining endowments, increasing health costs and the growing demand for financial aid. Now, more than ever, we need to ensure that state and local officials are fully aware of the economy's harmful impact on our institutions.

Legislators also need to appreciate the social and economic benefits that our institutions quietly contribute to the state and our communities. They must understand that, if we become sources of revenue, those contributions cannot be sustained.

Now that the door has been opened, the conversations that began on MANS&C Day must continue in the weeks and months to come. MANS&C will stand by you in representing your interests on Beacon Hill through our very capable legislative counsel, John J. Spillane, and alerting you when troublesome bills are pending.

Our thanks go to everyone who helped make MANS&C Day a success, especially our guest speaker, Senate Ways and Means Committee Chairman Steven C. Panagiotakos, and the legislators who welcomed us. We also thank the talented students from Walnut Hill School for the Arts who performed at our luncheon.

Some very serious challenges to our institutions' independence and financial well-being lie ahead in this legislative session. But by working together, we can meet those challenges and maintain our independence.

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MANS&C Day Brings Together Members and Legislators

MANS&C members from throughout Massachusetts gathered at the State House on April 30 to meet with their legislators and hear the latest news about the state's financial crisis.

Members and their guests, including many students, spent the morning meeting with their state senators and representatives in their State House offices.

The luncheon that followed in the Great Hall featured State Sen. Steven C. Panagiotakos, one of the state's most influential political leaders, as the guest speaker. He is chairman of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, which is charged with the development and oversight of the state budget.

"These are not good times," Panagiotakos said, speaking just days after the House approved a controversial sales tax increase.

He noted that the budgets of a number of state programs have been cut and that more cuts are coming, adding, "We're not the federal government. At the end of the day we can only spend what we have. The bottom line is that we've lost \$3 billion in revenues in this fiscal year out of a \$21 billion budget – and that's not an easy thing to make up."

Because of the state's diverse economy, Massachusetts was somewhat immune from the recession when it began, the Lowell Democrat explained.

"Last year we were dramatically outpacing the nation, but we knew that there were problems on the horizon, so we needed to be prudent," he said. "And we were."

The state's \$2 billion Rainy Day Fund and federal stimulus money have been helpful as state revenues shrank, Panagiotakos said.

Just as the state's diverse economy delayed the onset of the recession, it also will help Massachusetts recover when the recession ends, he believes.

Sen. Panagiotakos cont. on page 3



Julaine McInnis, Sen. Panagiotakos and Bruce T. Amsbary

Walnut Hill Musicians Entertain at MANS&C Day

Two student ensembles from Walnut Hill School for the Arts in Natick drew loud applause for their luncheon performances at MANS&C Day at the State House.

The Walnut Hill String Quartet performed Debussy's String Quartet, and the Walnut Hill Contemporary Trio presented Matthew Nicholl's *Diaspora Dances*. They were introduced by Dr. Laura Thielke, head of chamber music at the school.



The Walnut Hill Chamber Orchestra



Judi Seldin of Concord Academy and Steve Ginsberg of Noble and Greenough School

Sen. Anthony D. Galluccio greets Cambridge Friends students



Jim Pugh of Brooks School, left, and Hale Smith of Groton School



Sen. Richard Tisei, fourth from right, gives Austin Prep a tour of the Senate chamber

The Williston Northampton School is a Good Neighbor – In Good Times and Bad

Even in the midst of one of the worst recessions in recent memory, the Williston Northampton School remains committed to providing financial assistance to local Easthampton groups, sharing its facilities and inviting the larger community to many on-campus events.

Williston is an independent boarding and day school for 540 students in grades 7 through 12 and attracts students from all over the country. Since its founding in 1841, the school has played a major role in the economic health of the Easthampton area.

According to its community impact statement, in the 2007-08 fiscal year the school's payroll totaled \$8.9 million, with \$5.6 million going to Easthampton residents.

In the same period, Williston purchased nearly \$600,000 in goods and services from area businesses. That figure does not include purchases made by students, their families and other campus visitors or the additional activity and business brought in by groups that come to campus, such as summer athletic camps.

Last year Williston families who live on campus sent 18 children to Easthampton public schools and gave a total of \$631,500 in financial aid to the 33 students from Easthampton who attended Williston.

The school spoke in favor of improvements to the local water and sewer systems through an additional assessment based on usage volume, even though Williston is one of the systems' largest users.

The school and its contractors also contributed to the city in the form of fees and building permits for construction, and campus residents paid excise taxes on a number of vehicles.

In addition, Williston Northampton:

- Made \$20,000 contributions annually to the Emily Williston Library over the past several years
- Helped establish, and contributed more than \$15,000 to the Easthampton Learning Foundation
- Gave the Easthampton Parks and Recreation Department a \$4,200 discount for ice time for public skating on the Williston rink

Sen. Panagiotakos cont. from page 1

"We're going to deal with it and we'll get through it, and when we do, our economy is uniquely positioned to bounce back," the senator said. "The Massachusetts economy is a model of what the 21st century is looking for."

Massachusetts does not have the natural resources of other states, he said. Our strength is in our educational and intellectual resources, as represented by MANS&C member schools and colleges.

Advocate for Education

On Beacon Hill, Panagiotakos's advocacy and work over the last four years have resulted in unprecedented state investments in public higher education through increased appropriations and a landmark higher education bond bill, which was recently passed and signed into law by the governor.

The foundation of the senator's work on public higher education has been affordability, quality and economic development.

The school also:

- Assists with plowing and policing all the town roads running through the campus
- Helps provide upkeep for a section of the Manhan Rail Trail
- Participates in the Hampshire County Big Brothers Big Sisters program
- Contributes to a long list of local organizations

Use of Facilities

Williston's facilities, including meeting rooms, its swimming pool, and sports facilities, are used by many local groups. In each case, usage fees are either waived or significantly reduced. In one example, when the city was looking for alternatives after the Whitebrook Middle School swimming pool was closed for repairs, Williston provided its pool for use by the high school and the Parks and Recreation Department so their swimming programs could continue.

In addition, the Kiwanis Club has used the school's Galbraith Field for its annual fireworks display for more than 35 years. The event raises revenues for local scholarships and to help purchase new equipment for the Easthampton Fire Department, among other things.

The school also invites members of the Easthampton community to campus during the year for free art gallery exhibits, writers' workshops and photography presentations by nationally renowned artists.

Students and Employees

Williston employees also volunteer their time for a variety of civic and charitable groups, such as the Easthampton School Committee, Chamber of Commerce, Center Pepin PTO and Easthampton Learning Foundation.

The students give back to the community by doing yard work for local seniors, hosting the school's semi-annual blood drive and volunteering at regional Special Olympics events, among other things.

He spearheaded the creation of the TEAMS Academy at UMass Lowell to encourage local high school students to pursue careers in math and science. An advocate for investment in the innovative economy, he also secured funds for the construction of the Emerging Technologies Innovation Center at UMass Lowell, an \$80 million nanotechnology and bio-manufacturing research center of excellence.

Panagiotakos was co-chair of a Senate Task Force on Public Higher Education in 2005, which proposed a seven-year comprehensive plan to improve the quality, accessibility and affordability of public higher education throughout the commonwealth.

Before being elected to the Senate in 1997, Panagiotakos served two terms in the House of Representatives and two terms on the Lowell School Committee.

The senator attended Phillips Academy in Andover, received his bachelor's degree from Harvard University and has a juris doctorate from Suffolk University Law School. He maintains a law practice not far from his home in Lowell.

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Musician Erika Robinson of Walnut Hill School

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