

MARTHA'S VINEYARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE CONSORTIUM

Meeting an Island Need for Community Based Higher Education Access



Martha's Vineyard is a unique island community with many advantages, but lack of post-secondary education impedes economic growth and deprives Island residents from reaching their full potential. For young adults who grow up and live full time on the Island, accessing a post-secondary education and starting a career has been challenging. As a solution, the Martha's Vineyard Center for Training and Education (MVCET - formerly ACE MV) has launched the Martha's Vineyard Community College Consortium (MVCCC). Now in its pilot phase, the MVCCC utilizes partnerships with regional community colleges to offer Vineyard residents access to:

An Associate's Degree pathway with college credits:

General Education courses (such as English 101, Intro to Sociology) that are the foundation for a career major and credits that can transfer to any Massachusetts public college or university and to other colleges as well.

Credit-bearing Career Certificates:

Leading to careers in areas such as early childhood education, off-shore wind, health care, business, green jobs, sustainable agriculture, information technology, and social services that build toward an associate's or bachelor's degree.

Cohort Learning Model:

Bringing students together in person on island to learn with support (tutors, mentors, internships), increasing student success and building confidence, connection, and community.

Meeting a Critical Need

Islanders need more affordable public options for post-secondary education and more access to career pathways. Of those who go off Island to college, many drop out. Others choose not to enroll at all. A year after 156 MVRHS students graduated in 2020, 55% of the class had either dropped out or never enrolled in college.

Of the MVRHS graduation cohort of 2018 (156 students), only 37% obtained a 2- or 4-year college degree within 6 years after HS graduation—5 points below the MA average.

For more information, contact MVCCC Program Director Kate Lefer at kate@mvcet.org or visit our website MVCET.org/mvccc

Donate to MVCCC: mvcet.org/donate-to-mvccc/



Pilot Year 2022-2023

The MVCCC pilot is addressing this need by bringing higher public education to the island, leveraging the Commonwealth's existing resources. State and Federal financial aid helps to cover tuition and fees for low-income students. A cohort model is at the center of the pilot, drawing on research that online courses work best when students gather together in a supportive peer learning community with academic tutors, mentors, professional development, scholarships, and other wrap-around services. This model was successfully launched this fall with ten students participating in the MVCCC/Cape Cod Community College Early Childhood Education cohort, meeting weekly at MV Community Services with ECE experts for discussion groups, classwork support, and introductions to both center and home based future work options. Recruitment is designed to reach the diverse island community, including the Wampanoag Tribe, Brazilians, African Americans, Jamaicans, veterans, high school graduates, youth ages 18+, and mid-career and older adults seeking to up-skill or change careers. The pilot is guided by an advisory council of dynamic community members, including educators, guidance and college counselors, business leaders, and recent MVRHS graduates.

Looking Ahead

The innovative MVCCC pilot is bringing together an exciting community of invested stakeholders to shape a full-scale Community College Consortium offering a wide range of community college and career programs. Building this for our Island will be informed by the pilot's evaluation designed to answer key questions about: the demand for college coursework; which courses are most and least popular and successful; whether outcomes improve when a class is taught by onsite adjunct faculty; which wraparound service and supports make the most difference for students living on the island to succeed; how to best reach disconnected out-of-school youth/young adults.

Achieving this broader vision for the Island's future will require years of program development and fundraising. As one of many small rural communities in America, the MVCCC could become a replicable model for other rural communities, especially now when a postsecondary credential is a requirement for most good jobs.

MVCCC Pilot Goals, June 2022 - June 2023

- Identify, reach, and recruit students
- Recruit tutors, mentors, and adjunct faculty
- Establish cohort supports to enhance learning
- Develop partnerships with Community Colleges
- Engage community members and businesses
- Identify public funding sources and secure donors
- Launch campaign to fund long-term success

College-Credit Pilot Classes

Semester 1

	Credits
ENG 091 Developmental Writing I	3
ENG 092 Development Writing II	3
ENG 101 English Composition	3
CSS 101 College Success Seminar	1
ECE 110 Child Growth & Development	3
EGR 152 Fluid Systems	4
EGR 281 Offshore Safety	4

Semester 2

	Credits
MTH 152 College Algebra	3
COM 104 Public Speaking	3
BIO 111 General Biology	4
SOC 101 Principles of Sociology	3
PSY 101 General Psychology	3
BIO 115 Human Anatomy & Physiology	4
EGR 151 Electrical Machinery	4
EGR 283 Wind Power Technology	4
EGR 284 Wind Power Ops & Maintenance	4

Total Credits Offered: 53

How You Can Support the MVCCC

The Pilot is budgeted to cost \$258,000 to cover programming, student support services, promotion, evaluation, and personnel.

- Become a Founding Donor
- Inform others about this new opportunity
- Recruit volunteer mentors and tutors
- Help identify additional funding sources
- Volunteer expertise such as business planning, or become adjunct faculty

Donate today! <http://mvcet.org/donate-to-mvccc/>

