

COLLABORATIONS

Spring 2016



Schools Partnership
2015–16 quick facts

Programs coordinated **10**

Five College faculty participants **32**

K–12 educators engaged **311**



Participants at March's Five College Schools Partnership-sponsored education dialogue in Holyoke. Photo by Ben Barnhart

FIVE COLLEGE SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP ENGAGES HUNDREDS OF K–12 EDUCATORS

An exploration of ways to inspire racial and social justice organized by the Five College Schools Partnership drew 130 K–12 teachers, college and high school students and higher education instructors from around western Massachusetts. The education dialogue was one of many examples of the Partnership bringing together the energy and resources of Five College faculty members and classroom teachers.

Founded in 1984 to provide professional development opportunities to K–12 educators, the partnership has been directed for the past three years by Marla Solomon, who works with an advisory committee composed of school administrators and teachers from Hampshire and Hampden counties as well as faculty and staff members from all five campuses. Ongoing partnership projects include the Western Massachusetts Math Partnership, the Doors to the World multicultural literacy effort, Native American history professional development and exploring the creation of a Five College certificate program in arts integration.

March's dialogue featured discussions led by UMass Amherst professor emerita Sonia Nieto and UMass Boston professor Mark Warren. “We spent the evening sharing ideas and seeking solutions to the racial realities and tensions in our schools,” says Beverly Bell, director of the Master of Arts in Teaching Program at Mount Holyoke, who helped organize the event. “It offered an opportunity for educators to seek colleagues to collaborate with and search for progressive and meaningful ways to create safe spaces for all our students and to embrace the rich diversity our communities offer.”

Another current partnership program aimed at promoting social and racial justice by means of increased classroom diversity is the Diverse Teacher Workforce Coalition. Working within the coalition, Bell and Mount Holyoke's Master of Arts in Teaching program in January 2016 launched Urban Teacher Pathways, a collaboration between Mount Holyoke and Holyoke Public Schools, for current paraprofessionals and other unlicensed educators to become certified to teach. Says Bell, “we believe that partnering with local school districts, which is the mission of our Five College Schools Partnership Committee, is of paramount importance to the professional health of teaching in our public schools and connecting the pre-K through 16 system.”

About this publication: *Collaborations* is a twice-yearly newsletter offering information about and ways to engage with the consortium. Visit fivecolleges.edu/collaborations for an online version of this issue, with links and additional content.

STRATEGIC PLAN SETS NEW COURSE FOR MUSEUMS10



Navajo weaver Lynda Teller Pete discusses the Mount Holyoke College Art Museum exhibition "Dancers of the Nightway" in March. Photo by Noah Loving

Museums10 celebrated its 10th anniversary by developing a strategic plan to strengthen its individual members by leveraging the shared resources of their collaboration. Composed of seven campus museums and three independent affiliates, Museums10 is probably best known for the joint exhibitions it has coordinated—Go Dutch!, Bookmarks and Table for 10—but it

has also organized professional development workshops for its own staffs and for area K–12 educators, coordinated museum marketing efforts and successfully applied for hundreds of thousands of dollars in grant funding.

Last summer, Museums10's executive committee led a strategic planning process that included polling museum staff members on what they and their institutions needed most from the collaboration. The results, as well as information about other museum associations, were reviewed by museum directors at a daylong planning session that resulted in a road map for the organization's five committees. They agreed that the best way to serve their diverse audiences and each institution's needs would be to focus on increasing professional development opportunities for staff members and improving the connections among the museums.

Guided by the strategic plan, Museums10 committee meetings now feature members with expertise in specific areas sharing their knowledge with colleagues. The organization's annual summit will offer broader professional development opportunities to committee members as well as to museum

staff members who don't actively participate in Museums10. The May 16 summit at the Yiddish Book Center will feature a keynote address by Patty Bode, a speaker, educator and advocate for art education as a civil right. In her keynote, which is free and open to the public, Bode will explore how museums can implement social engagement with a wide range of audiences.

For more information about Museums10, its upcoming summit and links to information about its member institutions, visit fivecolleges.edu/collaborations.

MUSEUMS10 FAST FACTS

200,000 visitors a year

500 public events annually

1.3 million collections objects

1 million books

More than **200,000** specimens

100,000 works of art, antiquities and antiques



Hack Holyoke

Students from all five campuses spent 24 hours solving problems and developing creative solutions at Mount Holyoke's Hack Holyoke event in November.

Photo by Noah Loving



50th-anniversary moment

During the intermission of the fall faculty dance concert at Mount Holyoke, State Representatives John Scibak and Ellen Story and State Senate President Stan Rosenberg read a resolution passed by the Massachusetts legislature commemorating Five Colleges' 50th anniversary.

Photo by Ben Barnhart



Faculty and staff of color reception

In March Five Colleges hosted what has become a regular semester event: a reception for faculty and staff members of color.

Photo by Ben Barnhart



Students take advantage of many venues for presenting work

Each year students have many opportunities to share their work with peers and the consortium community through symposia and performances. Below is a sampling of what has been taking place this year.

- ✧ New Music Festival, UMass
- ✧ Applied Humanities Learning Lab: The 1937 Project Exposition, UMass
- ✧ Word Play: Five College Studio Art Exhibition Opening, Mount Holyoke
- ✧ African Studies Community Dinner and Student Performances, Hampshire
- ✧ New Student Orientation Social, UMass
- ✧ Datafest, UMass
- ✧ Student Film and Video Festival, UMass
- ✧ Coastal and Marine Sciences Student Poster Session, Amherst
- ✧ Queer Gender and Sexuality Conference, Hampshire
- ✧ Ethnomusicology Student Symposium, Amherst
- ✧ Undergraduate Film Studies Conference, Mount Holyoke
- ✧ WORD! Five College Festival of Staged Readings, Mount Holyoke
- ✧ Poetryfest, Hampshire
- ✧ Anthropology Undergraduate Student Conference, UMass
- ✧ Innovative Language Learning Symposium, Mount Holyoke

Pictured, from top to bottom, are celebrants at the African Studies Program community dinner and student performances at Hampshire, students in character at the Applied Humanities Learning Lab's 1937 Project Exposition at UMass and students enjoying the photo booth at the new student orientation at UMass. *For more information about Five College symposia and performances, visit fivecolleges.edu/collaborations.*



Word Play: Five College Advanced Studio exhibition opening

Each year, Five Colleges supports an advanced studio course for top student artists from the five campuses. They work with an instructor throughout the semester to develop their art, and then display it in an exhibition at the end of the year. The 2015 show was held in December at Mount Holyoke.

Photo by Noah Loving



Schools Partnership hosts poetry celebration

In coordination with Mass Poetry, the Five College Schools Partnership sponsored a daylong celebration of poetry in December at UMass, attracting hundreds of western Massachusetts middle and high school students to take workshops and hear from acclaimed poets, including Martin Espada, award-winning poet and UMass professor.

Photo by Ben Barnhart



Tabletop exercise underscores value of emergency planning collaboration

A workshop in late November walked campus and community representatives through the process of collecting, distributing and administering vaccines in the event of a virus outbreak on the campuses. Organized by the Five College Emergency Preparedness Committee and hosted by UMass, the “tabletop exercise” was the latest in a series of efforts in recent years to coordinate campus responses to a spectrum of emergencies, from blizzards to shooters.

Following the October 2011 snowstorm that left students stranded away from their home campuses, the committee received a grant to purchase 1,200 cots and trailers in which to store and transport them. The portable beds are now available to the campuses and surrounding towns if a similar need should arise.

In 2014 the committee organized a tabletop exercise focused on emergency communications, and Amherst and UMass have each carried out active shooter drills recently, with representatives from all five campuses invited to participate. Throughout the years the campuses have renewed and strengthened their mutual assistance agreements for responding to emergencies.

“Working through these shows us not only what exercises we have and what we understand, but also what we don’t have, what we still need to figure out,” says Jeff Hescock, committee co-chair and director of Emergency Management and Business Continuity at UMass. “And while all this is going on, we’re developing relationships with each other, so that we’re comfortable working with each other if an emergency does come up. That’s the best part.”

In addition to campus emergency planning staff members, the Emergency Preparedness Committee is composed of representatives from health services, disability services, the campus police, campus communications and mental health services. The committee functions as the Regional Emergency Planning Committee for the consortium’s member institutions as well as for law enforcement and public health agencies in the communities of Amherst, Hadley, Northampton and South Hadley. *To find out more about the committee, visit fivecolleges.edu/collaborations.*



Photos by Noah Loving

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