

President Carole A. Cowan, Ed.D.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Carole A. Cowan is the president of Middlesex Community College, the largest and most comprehensive community college in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Dr. Cowan joined the college in 1976 as a faculty member in the business division. She has served as Dean of the Business Division, Dean of Administration and Finance, and, in September of 1990, was named president of the college.

Dr. Cowan received a bachelor's and master's degree from Salem State College, a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study from Boston State College, and a doctorate in Higher Education Administration from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She also received an honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, from the Suffolk University College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and School of Management, in recognition of her distinguished career in public higher education.

In 1994, she received the first "Celebration of Today's Woman" award from Girls Incorporated of Greater Lowell. That year she also was named by the North Suburban Chamber of Commerce "Distinguished Business Person of the Year," their first award to a woman or an educator. She received the Salem State College Outstanding Educator's Award in 1996, and a "Key Player" award from the Massachusetts Telecommunications Council in 1999. In October 2000, she was selected as one of the first recipients of a Women's Business Hall of Fame Award for her extraordinary vision and deep commitment to the advancement of the mission of community colleges. She served as Chair of the Massachusetts Community College Presidents Council, and is presently Chair of the New England Board of Higher Education.

Most recently, she was selected by the Women's Educational and Industrial Union to be honored as one of a group of 125 women leaders who have committed to using their position, their time, and their resources to benefit women and families. Her photo was part of a dynamic statewide traveling exhibit entitled *Every Woman's Voice: 125 Years of Women's Leadership*. Cowan was honored as a Business Person of the Year by the Billerica Chamber of Commerce.

Under her leadership, the college weathered the most severe budget cuts in the history of the state, during which time she successfully secured permanent campuses in Bedford and Lowell. President Cowan also led the development of the commonwealth's first privately financed capital pool to construct MCC's Health, Science, and Technology Center. Support from the Middlesex Community College Foundation enabled her to oversee the restoration of the historic Nesmith House in Lowell which now serves as MCC's Center for Economic Development and International Programs.

During the last five years, Dr. Cowan has established international training programs and provided technical assistance and exchange opportunities for students, faculty, and clients in Eastern Europe and Asia. Under her leadership, Middlesex Community College has developed partnerships in 27 countries.

Locally, partnership initiatives with area businesses and public school systems have put Middlesex in the forefront of economic and workforce development as well as education reform. Middlesex established one of the state's first Charter Schools, and sponsors an alternative Middle School in Lowell. It also is the only community college in Massachusetts to operate a One-Stop-Career Center, a Massachusetts Department of Labor initiative consolidating all state employment and training programs.

Dr. Cowan has served on the American Council on Education's (ACE) International Commission and the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) International Commission. She also served as co-chairperson for the Massachusetts Campus Compact, a state-wide consortium of private and public colleges and universities with service learning programs, and she sits on the Presidents' Advisory Council of the Association of Community College Trustees.

Statewide and National Leadership

- Chair, New England Board of Higher Education
- One of 125 women leaders selected by the Women's Educational and Industrial Union to represent 125 Years of Women's Leadership in Massachusetts
- The Business Person 2002 Large Business Award - The Billerica Chamber of Commerce
- Women's Business Hall of Fame Award-winner, 2000
- Key Player Award from the Mass Telecommunications Council (1998)
- North Suburban Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Businessperson of the Year Award (1994)
- Past President, Massachusetts Community College Presidents Council (1995-1996)
- Outstanding Educator's Award - Salem State College (1995)
- Past Member, American Council on Education's (ACE) Commission on Intercultural Education
- Appointed to Massachusetts Task Force on Admissions for State Colleges & University
- Member, National Task Force on Community Colleges and International Education (USAID)
- Past Co-Chairperson, American Council on International & Intercultural Education, an affiliate council of the American Association of Community Colleges
- Co-Chairperson, Massachusetts College Compact for Service Learning (1995-2001)
- First recipient, "Woman of the Year Award" from Girls Incorporated of Lowell
- Board Member, Massachusetts Telecommunications Council
- Chairperson, National Legislative Conference on International & Intercultural Education
- Past Chairperson, Massachusetts Community College Association (three years)
- Chairperson, Northeast Consortium of Colleges & Universities in Massachusetts (NECCUM) (three years)
- Past President, Lowell Telecommunications Corporation (1996)
- Board Member, Lowell General Hospital
- Chairperson, Policy Committee for Lowell Telecommunications Corporation (three years)
- Chairperson, Lowell Middlesex Academy Charter School Board of Trustees
- Chairperson, School & Main Career Beginnings Youth/Career Development Strategies for High School Students Board
- Chairperson, Merrimack Valley United Way Board of Directors (1998-2001)
- Past Member, President Clinton's Review Committee for the Distinguished Executive Award
- Past Member, BankBoston Regional Board
- Member, Enterprise Bank Board of Directors
- Member, Board of Directors, The Lowell Plan
- Past President and Member, Board of Directors, North Suburban Chamber of Commerce
- Executive Board Member, Greater Lowell Workforce Investment Board
- Participant, National Alliance for Business, with the U.S. Secretary of Labor, national telecast on skills standards and workforce development
- Member, Board of Directors, Merrimack Education Center
- Member, GEAR UP Advisory Board
- Member, Hanscom Air Force Base Community Liaison Program
- Member, Presidents' Advisory Council, Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT)
- Official Honorary Trustee, Merrimack Repertory Theatre
- Member, Acre Advisory Committee, Acre Family Day Care Corp.

RESUME SUPPLEMENT

MCC International Activities and Initiatives

- College serves as Regional Asian Studies Center for the East/West Center at the University of Hawaii
- Developed workforce development and training programs with 40 countries
- Student Fellowships, China Institute in the Shandong Province of China (ongoing)
- Faculty/Staff team selected to participate in annual Summer Institute on Asian Studies at East-West Center at University of Hawaii (10 consecutive years)
- Partnership program with Moscow Pedagogical University in Russia
- Faculty Exchanges
- Partnership with Wider Horizons Program for Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland (ongoing) - was topic of presentation at the International Housing Federation Worldwide Conference in Belfast
- Partnership with Governor's Partners-for-Trade Program (on-going international training for local companies)
- Partnership IIE for South African Fellowship Program (ongoing)
- Participant, U.S. Task Force on Higher Education and International Education, Airlie Conference, Stanley Foundation (one of 5 college presidents)
- Selected to host Regional Conference on International Education funded by Stanley Foundation for invited Presidents and Board Chairs from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire, and New York
- Host site for Fulbright Scholar from Japan
- Faculty member selected for Fulbright Fellowship in Malaysia
- ESL training for Colombian teachers - summer sessions
- Recipient, federal USAID grant which brought nine Georgian students to the U.S. to study community service and ESL (Partnership with Lowell High School)
- Participant, International Trade Development Program for minority owned businesses in collaboration with the Mass. Office of International Trade
- Recipient, Eurasia Foundation Grant to train bankers from the Kyrgyz Republic
- Faculty and student exchanges with universities in the Netherlands
- Recipient, grant to host Japanese municipal managers for study
- Summer institute on New England authors for German teachers
- Host site for faculty from Poland and Hungary
- Participant, American Association of Community College teleconference on Internationalizing the Community Colleges
- Community College representative at Policy Roundtable in Washington D.C. sponsored by USAID on the role of Community College in international development
- Received U.S. Department of State Grants with Armenia, Bosnia, Cambodia, Croatia, Ethiopia and Ukraine; programs provided technical assistance to clients
- Trade mission participant for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to South America (Brazil, Argentina, and Chile)
- Fulbright scholars sent to Cambodia

BOARD SERVICE

NATIONAL

- Member of the Workforce Advisory Board for ACT
- Member of the Community College Presidents' Group for Workforce Development at ACT
- Member of the U.S. Air Force Community Liaison Program
- Member of the Presidents' Advisory Committee for the American Association of Community College Trustees

NEW ENGLAND

- Member of the New England Board of Higher Education and Past Chair

MASSACHUSETTS

- Executive Committee Member of the Massachusetts Community College Presidents' Council
- Treasurer of the Massachusetts Community College Association
- Chairperson of the Presidents' Council Formula Funding Committee
- Chairperson of the Massachusetts Community College Leadership Academy
- Member of Governor Romney's Northeast Regional Competitiveness Council
- Member of the Board of Higher Education's Performance Measurement Task Force
- Executive Committee Member of the Greater Lowell Workforce Investment Board
- Executive Committee Member of the Merrimack Valley Economic Development Council
- Member of the Board of Directors of Lowell General Hospital
- Member of the Patient Care Committee of Lowell General Hospital
- Member of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Hospital Association
- Member of the Board of Directors of Early Education for All
- Member of the Board of Directors of the Asian Center of Lawrence
- Member of the Board of Directors of the North Suburban Chamber of Commerce
- Member of the Enterprise Bank Board of Directors
- Member of the Advisory Board for the Whistler Museum
- Member of the Lowell Plan
- Chair of the Criminal Justice Massachusetts Chiefs' of Police Program Committee
- Member of the Goldberg Seminar Group of Boston