

**Volume 11, Issue 1**

► 209R Essex Street  
Salem, MA 01970  
978-740-6667  
www.salemcyberspace.org

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

- Great Expectations – 2014.....1
- LEAP for Education.....2
- College Success Program.....2
- Student Profile.....2
- Networking Event for Young Professionals.....3
- Academic Learning Center (ALC).....3
- Going on This Summer.....3
- What is a Makerspace.....3
- The Van Otterloo Family Foundation.....4

## GREAT EXPECTATIONS – JUNE 12, 2014

Thank you to all of our sponsors, guests, awardees, raffle/ad donors, raffle buyers, speakers, students and parents for another outstanding celebration of our students and their academic successes. Your gifts which netted us about \$50,000 will all go to support our youth programs, College Success and the Academic Learning Center. Next year we anticipate serving over 300 students in programs in Salem, Peabody and Gloucester with double the number of graduates.



Vanessa Maldonado, Student Speaker

Congratulations to our 25 high school graduates and our



Ms. Ellen Galligan,  
Director of Community Services,  
Catholic Charities

3 college graduates and to our educators, Matt Carr (Boys and Girls Club of Salem), Susan Ferrante (North Shore Community College), and Norma Ramirez (Salem CyberSpace) who all received awards from the college graduates for their inspiration and support. Special congratulations to this year's Distinguished Leaders Awardees, Ellen Galligan and Mary Manning, whom I would like to thank again for everything they have done for education in our community and everything I am sure they will continue to do.

Our event committee put in long hours and sometimes when you are in the throes of last minute preparations we can't

but wonder whether the opportunity cost (there is my MBA talking) is worth the dollars gifted. By the end of the evening, there is no doubt. There is a palpable explosion of happiness in the room. This year our student speakers were outstanding and reflected the triumph of not only their accomplishments but those of their peers, all of whom have similar stories to share. (See related story on our Speaker Eliza Núñez Román)

Thank your again for the gift that just keeps on giving! Enjoy the rest of the summer. ◀



**OUR STAFF:**

- Linda Saris**, Director
- Mira Riggan**, Office Administrator, Grant Writer, and Budget Analyst
- Jesenia Tejada-Pérez**, College Success Program Coordinator
- Greg Bedard**, IT Coordinator
- Mary Kate Adams**, ESL Teacher (Summer)
- Andrea McCue**, Associate College Success Program Coordinator, Salem
- Elizabeth "Betty" Haggerty**, Associate College Success Program Coordinator, Peabody and Gloucester
- Norma Ramirez**, College Success Program Academic Coordinator
- Andria Castillo**, Family Engagement Coordinator, and Graphic Design
- Jaster Rincón**, STEM Coordinator
- Scott Sumrall**, Tutor
- Idekelly "Kelly" Santana**, Tutor, SSU
- Rajira Hernández, Susan Phung, Juan Martínez, Jaylin González, Nathalie Reyes**, Student Interns

**NEW STAFF:**

**Lyle Harrod**, Academic Learning Center Coordinator



## LEAP *for Education*

Salem CyberSpace has entered into an agreement with North Shore Community Action Programs, Inc. to purchase the assets of Salem CyberSpace and transfer them into a newly incorporated non-profit named LEAP For Education, Inc.

On July 10th, LEAP filed its incorporation papers. As soon as this is finalized, LEAP will file its application for IRS Tax-Exempt status which is expected to take between 6 months and 1 year

### COLLEGE SUCCESS PROGRAM

Thanks to the Department of Higher Education College Access grant, Applied Materials Foundation, the Van Otterloo Foundation and your gifts, the College Success Program has been replicated for the first time in Peabody and Gloucester. The high school guidance departments have been really helpful in getting us oriented with their schools, allowing us to use their classroom space, and recommending amazing students to our program.

We finished the year with 15 very committed high school juniors in Peabody, 12 in Gloucester, and 14 in Salem. In addition to support from the Amelia Peabody Foundation, Community Development Block Grant, and the Alfred E. Chase Foundation, your gifts supported two Salem College Associates and funded eight college campus visits and six Parent Workshops.

With three staff advisors, all of our high school juniors finished their first year in the program with resumes completed, their college application essays written, and with job shadowing opportunities lined up for this summer. We also had our biggest class of seniors (22 students) graduate this year; seven of whom received Salem Rotary Club Scholarships. They will be attending the following colleges: NSCC, SSU, UMass Boston, UMass Lowell, Fitchburg State and Assumption College.

Our staff continued their one-on-one advising with the 34 college students. All of our college graduates will be continuing on to 4 year schools, so the total college students next year will rise to 56 students. Thanks to your generous gifts, we will be hiring one additional advisor to handle the increase. ◀

to get through the approval process. In the meantime, NSCAP has agreed to continue to act as a fiscal sponsor for LEAP and all donations and fiscal services will be handled through NSCAP as before.

LEAP stands for Learn, Explore, Aspire and Pursue. In our Academic Learning Center, middle and high school students learn and explore their interests through enrichment, career exploration, field trips and community service. In our College Success Program, students take what they learned in the ALC, in order to develop their aspirations and get the support needed to pursue them in college and career. ◀



### STUDENT PROFILE

**Eliza Núñez Román** started coming to our organization as a high school student. Eliza came from the Dominican Republic 8 years ago. Throughout the 6 years that she has been involved with Salem CyberSpace, we have seen her grow and make good decisions for her and her family. After high school, Eliza enrolled at North Shore Community College with the intention to transfer to a four year school, and graduated this year with an Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts. Despite being a mother, a full-time student and having two jobs, Eliza never gave up on her dreams. This upcoming fall Eliza will be attending Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences to complete her bachelor's degree in Dental Hygiene. Due to her academic achievements, Eliza was awarded the Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship to help fund tuition at this private college. Eliza currently works as a Dental Assistant in two different dental offices. We are very proud of Eliza's accomplishments and look forward to being there for her through the next phase in her education. ◀



Congratulations to **Jeneba Koroma** (left) recipient of the Christian A. Herter Memorial Scholarship, **Idekelly "Kelly" Santana** (center) recipient of the Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship, and **Yibelis Peña** (right) recipient of the Northeastern LaCLA Scholarship for full tuition!

## NETWORKING EVENT FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

On September 02, we will be hosting our first Young Professionals Networking Event at Opus (87 Washington St.). We will be looking for twenty Young Professionals who will agree to mentor some of our Salem and Peabody students through the college application process in both junior and senior years. Mentors will keep students on task, help them think about careers, build resumes, complete applications and help them make informed course selections. Sign up for this event on our Facebook page. ◀

## THE ACADEMIC LEARNING CENTER

Students settled into their new space this fall. Forty middle and high school students came to Salem CyberSpace to get homework help and engage in many art and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) activities. Key highlights from the year included:

1. Field trips to ThinkFest at Merrimack College, DigiGirlz at Microsoft, and College Campus visits.
2. Collaborative arts program with the Peabody Essex Museum, two days per month.
3. Financial Literacy Series with TD Bank (and a VIP trip to a Celtics game at the Garden).
4. Future City Competition with Boston Society of Civil Engineers.
5. STEM Explorer Program with Salem State University led by science professors, Drs. Ron and Christine MacTaylor.
6. Design It program – a series of design challenges which were created to develop problem-solving skills and initiative.

With a Youtworks grant from the North Shore Workforce Investment Board, we were able to hire four students (3 college and 1 high school) to work with youth and help with administration and marketing. For all of these students, this was their first job. ◀



## WHAT'S GOING ON THIS SUMMER?

Thanks to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Norman Read Trust, there is a lot of summer learning going on.

**Zero Robotics** – in partnership with Salem Academy Charter School – for the 4th year, 14 Salem middle school students will be competing in this MIT/NASA sponsored competition. Thanks to the great work of the Massachusetts AfterSchool Partnership, the competition turned national last year increasing the competition. This year, teams are tasked to program a satellite to stop a meteor from crashing into the Earth! Learning basic computer programming and problem solving skills, the students compete against teams from six other states for the right to see their satellite program uploaded to the International Space Station (ISS). The competition is hosted by ISS astronauts in a live feed directly from the International Space Station! In addition, students learn about aeronautics, space, math and physics.

**Expanding Horizons** – in partnership with Salem Public Schools – Fifty Salem middle school students get ahead in this summer program. On top of tackling a book from their summer reading list, kids will take on team building and strategy games as well as a service learning project. The service learning project will include learning about sustaining communities and will culminate in a tangible community service project that the participants design and implement.

**Salem at SEA** – as a partner to Salem State University – This program focuses on high school students with English as a second language. The curriculum will include English immersion learning via relevant guest speakers, local and regional history and field trips, and creating their own local photography exhibit. The program also offers college and career exploration and planning workshops hosted by Salem Cyberspace and the North Shore Youth Career Center.

**X-Team** – in partnership with Salem Public Schools – Twenty high school students call the shots in this summer service learning program. Students, with the help of qualified experts, learn about the health issues affecting their communities and decide how to take action. This comprehensive program is science-based and is concentrating on the impact of healthy living on our cardio-respiratory system. Students will identify a health issue in the community and design a project that will make a difference. ◀

## WHAT IS A MAKERSPACE?

Stop imagining and start creating! Makerspace is a place where design, engineering, technology, music and art all come together. Taking an interdisciplinary approach, the Makerspace will be a one stop shop for the creator in all of us. Have an idea? Thanks to funding from the Norman Read Trust, Cell Signaling, Verizon and Eastern Bank, planning is underway this summer. Stay tuned for our opening. ◀

**CONTACT:**

978-740-6667 (Office)

978-740-6668 (Fax)

lsaris@salemcyberspace.org

www.salemcyberspace.org

**Salem CyberSpace**

209R Essex Street

Salem, MA 01970

**Salem CyberSpace is supported in part through the Massachusetts College Access Challenge Grant and the City of Salem Department of Planning and Community Development, US Department of Housing and Urban Development. Thank you!**

\*In the provision of our services, we do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, marital status, age, familial status, sexual orientation, ancestry, public assistance, veteran history/military status, genetic information or disability.

## THE VAN OTTERLOO FAMILY FOUNDATION

Van Otterloo is a familiar name to those who use the Swampscott-Marblehead YMCA or frequent the Peabody Essex Museum. It is a familiar name in philanthropy, art and finance. However, I suspect few know of the Marblehead-based Van Otterloo Family Foundation that gifts about \$1 million per year to support educational opportunities for those not served adequately by traditional programs.

The Van Otterloo Family Foundation supports educational organizations that demonstrate innovation and excellence while placing emphasis on the potential of all individuals. It is particularly preferential to underfunded educational programs, such as arts education and prioritizes organizations with the potential to make significant contributions to students' lives. The Van Otterloo Family Foundation has been in existence since the mid 1990's and, preferring to give to organizations in their backyard, gifts about 90% of its annual giving on the North Shore particularly to organizations with whom its friends and family are affiliated.

For the second year, Salem CyberSpace has been the proud recipient of a grant to support its College Success Program, a program that helps low-income, "first generation to college" youth achieve at higher levels in high school and then go on to graduate from college. Ms. Erin Van Otterloo, the Director of the Foundation said,

*We recognize the impact quality education has on breaking the cycle of poverty. We feel honored to support organizations like CyberSpace who are bringing best practices to the students in our backyard. These children are our future and we believe in providing support to help their journey to achieve success. Salem CyberSpace reaches deeply to assist individuals in hurtling obstacles. They teach, mentor, provide resources, guide and celebrate along with each student in their care, and then when goals are met they create new ones and start moving forward all over again.*

The entire North Shore is a better place because of the Van Otterloo family and we are blessed to be a part of it. The Van Otterloo gift will go to support our 50 students due to graduate in 2016. ◀



*The Van Otterloo Family Foundation*