



DHE NewsClips

Weekly digest of news clippings on the DHE, Massachusetts public higher education, and higher ed trends

WESTFIELD STATE U | Patrick administration grills Westfield State University trustees about President Dobelle - Boston Globe

09/20/2013 - The state's top higher education official publicly scolded trustees of Westfield State University Friday for failing to rein in controversial president Evan Dobelle despite his "clear and consistent pattern of charging personal expenses in large amounts to a university credit card in clear violation of institutional policy and state ethics laws." Higher Education Commissioner Richard M. Freeland said "one of the worst moments" in his 40-year education career came in August when he read the Globe's account of Dobelle's lavish spending on travel to Asia and other destinations and how he ran up more than \$200,000 in expenses on a single university-related credit card.

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WESTFIELD STATE U | Westfield State president, trustees grilled on spending - Lowell Sun Online

09/21/2013 - Westfield State University President Evan Dobelle said he had no intention of leaving his job even as top state education officials voiced dismay Friday over reports he spent lavishly while traveling in school business and used university credit cards for personal expenses. "I think everything we've spent was strategically planned," Dobelle told reporters before a closed-door meeting with Richard Freeland, the state's commissioner of higher education, and other officials. Dobelle, who has asserted that the spending resulted in a significant "return on investment" for the public university in western Massachusetts, said he is proud of his accomplishments as president.

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WESTFIELD STATE U | Westfield State President, Board Grilled On Spending - WBUR

09/20/2013 - Westfield State University president Evan Dobelle says he has no plans to step down from his job amid reports of lavish spending and his use of school credit cards for personal expenses. Dobelle told reporters prior to a meeting with state officials on Friday that all of his spending was "strategically planned" and that he was proud of his accomplishments as president. Earlier in the day, the state Board of Higher Education questioned university trustees about their knowledge of the questionable expenses detailed in an accountant's report and in a letter from the state inspector general.

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WESTFIELD STATE U | Dubious claims about a fund-raising trip create credibility problem for Westfield State's Dobelle - Boston Globe

09/20/2013 - Westfield State University president Evan Dobelle portrayed his fund-raising trip to San Francisco in May as a rousing success, leaving the impression with trustees that he hobnobbed with movers and shakers as he sought \$500,000 in grants for the university. For a school fund-raising program nearly broke after years of Dobelle's costly initiatives, it was welcome news. But the original draft of Dobelle's report, written by the staffer who accompanied him, painted a less glamorous picture: The staff member — not Dobelle — went from one charitable foundation to the next, dropping off information packets at the front desk without ever meeting top officials, let alone asking them for money.

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WESTFIELD STATE U | Inspector General urges Westfield State to rein in President Dobelle's spending - Boston Globe

09/20/2013 - Inspector General Glenn A. Cunha has found that Westfield State University president Evan Dobelle violated school policy by using credit cards for personal expenses, and spent money earmarked for programs and scholarships "indiscriminately with little or no consideration" for its intended purpose. In a

two-page letter sent Thursday, the day before Dobbelle and the trustees are scheduled to meet with state education officials, Cunha also urged the school's trustees to "move quickly" to scrutinize Dobbelle's spending and his claims that his expenditures have brought the school a "return on investment" worth millions of dollars. The inspector general warned that he "has concerns about broader allegations of misconduct in connection with spending at both" Westfield State University and the foundation that does the university's fund-raising.

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WESTFIELD STATE U | Inspector General: Broader concerns of misconduct at Westfield State - WCVB

09/20/2013 - (Video) Team 5 Investigates' Kathy Curran reported the findings were released the night before Dobbelle and Westfield State University board of trustees chairman Jack Flynn are scheduled to meet with the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education and the secretary of education to discuss the allegations.

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WESTFIELD STATE U | IG finds Dobbelle violated school policy - WWLP.com

09/20/2013 - Problems continue for Westfield State University President Evan Dobbelle who's accused of spending taxpayers money for his own personal expenses. A hearing Friday in Boston and an investigation completed by the Inspector General all came to the same conclusion that Dobbelle broke school policy. From Westfield to Boston both taxpayers and lawmakers are trying to make sense of WSU President Evan Dobbelle's controversial spending habits. "Misuse of funds is misuse of funds. Some people take it for granted that they have that luxury and they abuse it. Whether he did or not, I'm not sure," said Westfield's John Wellspeak.

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WESTFIELD STATE U | Westfield State President Grilled On Lavish Spending - WGBH News

09/20/2013 - (Audio) Westfield State Trustees were grilled on Friday by state education officials on university president Evan Dobbelle's lavish spending. Outside auditors found Dobbelle used school credit cards and donor money for excessive travel costs- including \$500 a night hotel rooms and dinner parties for \$1,500. Dobbelle has acknowledged he made mistakes, but he said his spending was an investment that brought the school millions of dollars in support. At the meeting, state officials asked university trustees if they were satisfied with that explanation.

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WESTFIELD STATE U | College president, board grilled on spending - WCVB Home

09/20/2013 - 6 p.m. News (Video Only)

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WESTFIELD STATE U | Massachusetts Higher Education Commissioner: Westfield State President Evan Dobbelle violated state ethics laws - masslive.com

09/20/2013 - The state commissioner of higher education on Friday lashed out at Westfield State University president Evan Dobbelle, saying the president clearly violated state ethics laws and university policies through his questionable use of school credit cards for personal spending and overseas business travel including \$500 hotel rooms, \$350 lunches and dinners costing more than \$1,500. ...Dobbelle did not attend the meeting with trustees but then met separately and privately for more than two hours with Freeland, Matthew Malone, the state's education secretary, and Charles F. Desmond, chairman of the state Board of Higher Education. "These are very big numbers," Freeland said after the two-hour meeting with trustees. "I find them hard to justify under any circumstances using public money and even harder to justify when you see the lack of return."

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WESTFIELD STATE U | Westfield State University President Evan Dobbelle expresses regret for mistakes in accounting for expenses - masslive.com

09/18/2013 - Westfield State University President Evan S. Dobbelle on Wednesday acknowledged mistakes in accounting for his globe-spanning travel on behalf of the university, but said he doubts the controversy will cost him his job. In a meeting with The Republican's editorial board, Dobbelle said he expects to weather scrutiny from state investigators and the state Board of Higher Education over his travel and credit-card use during the past 5½ years. He repeated earlier statements that record-keeping practices have been corrected and said "not a dollar" is missing.

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NORTH SHORE CC | Development group cites former NSCC chief - Itemlive.com

09/21/2013 - North Shore Community College's Dr. Wayne M. Burton has been awarded Northeastern Economic Developers Association's Educator of the Year. The award recognizes significant contributions by a professional in secondary or higher education to their local and regional economy through strengthening partnerships with the economic development community. Burton was nominated for the award by James Cowdell, executive director of Lynn's Economic Development and Industrial Corporation.

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MT. WACHUSETT CC | MWCC student named to higher ed board - Sentinel & Enterprise

09/21/2013 - Mount Wachusett Community College student leader Kathy Matson of Baldwinville has been appointed to the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education for the 2013-14 academic year. A business administration major and president of MWCC's Student Government Association, Matson previously earned an associate degree in criminal justice from the college in 1985. She returned last year to pursue a business degree to combine her interests in these two fields.

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BRISTOL CC | Prospective students turn out for BCC's free off-shore wind courses - SouthCoastToday.com

09/19/2013 - Two free courses that could lead to immediate jobs or be a stepping stone to college have people in New Bedford excited. "I'm unemployed and I think retraining opportunities are great," said Virginia Alves, 36, at an information session at Bristol Community College's downtown campus Wednesday.

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BUNKER HILL CC | Bunker Hill Community College Students Honored by Boston Private Industry Council - PRNewswire

09/19/2013 - One student and two graduates of Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC) were among those recognized by the Boston Private Industry Council (PIC) at its annual meeting at the Federal Reserve Bank in Boston on September 11. Recipients of the PIC Achievers Award included Sharaad Chase, a student in BHCC's Emergency Medical Technology program; Felix Tejada, a graduate of BHCC now in his senior year at Suffolk University; and Daniel Velasquez, a graduate of BHCC now working as Admissions Recruitment Counselor at the College.

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MT. WACHUSETT CC | Mount Wachusett Receives \$6.45M Training Grant - WBJournal.com

09/19/2013 - Mount Wachusett Community College will receive \$6.45 million from a federal grant to provide accelerated training and credentials to students pursuing careers in advanced manufacturing. The grant, announced Wednesday, will go toward implementing an entry level program with three partner community colleges around the country that includes curriculum alignment and a common assessment process.

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WESTFIELD STATE U | Westfield State University dedicates new dormitory - masslive.com

09/19/2013 - A \$59 million, suite-style residence hall at Westfield State University was officially dedicated Thursday in a ceremony that heralded the facility as an achievement in determination, foresight and leadership. The 135,000-square-foot University Hall, the first residence facility to open on the WSU campus since the institution became a university, opened this year to 409 sophomores, juniors and seniors in four- to six-student suites comprised of living rooms, study areas, one-and-a-half to two bathrooms per unit, and a mix of single and double occupancy bedrooms.

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UMASS BOSTON | Sanofi Gives UMass Boston \$1 Million in Support of Student Success Program for STEM Education - HispanicBusiness.com

09/19/2013 - The University of Massachusetts Boston issued the following news release: Sanofi and its Cambridge-based biotechnology company, Genzyme, today announced a new partnership and \$1 million gift to support student success programs in the University of Massachusetts Boston's College of Science and Mathematics (CSM). The announcement of the gift was made at the opening of Sanofi's new R&D facility at

640 Memorial Drive in Cambridge, which will be focused on cancer research.

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UMASS LOWELL | UMass-Lowell celebrates opening of new dorm - News Local Massachusetts - Boston.com

09/19/2013 - UMass-Lowell is celebrating the opening of its newest dormitory. A special ceremony is planned for Thursday to mark the opening of University Suites, a multi-purpose building that already houses nearly 500 students and includes a cafe, frozen yogurt shop and a Starbucks. The \$54 million dorm includes 88 four- and six-bed suites that feature living rooms and kitchenettes; eight common lounge areas with full kitchens; and Wi-Fi and other technology throughout the building.

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UMASS SYSTEM | UMass Enrollment Projected To Reach A Record High - WBUR

09/19/2013 - Enrollment at the five-campus University of Massachusetts system is projected to reach a record high this fall. President Robert Caret said Wednesday at the trustees meeting that projected enrollment is almost 72,000, representing a nearly 2 percent increase over the previous academic year.

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GREENFIELD CC | Op-Ed: By Bob Pura: Defining GCC - The Recorder

09/18/2013 - There is something transformational that begins to happen as you drive into Greenfield Community College. It is on that half mile, winding road, that one begins to feel the transition from a world of increasing individualism and isolation to one of inclusion and collaboration. The word "community" defines GCC as a college. More than a definition of whom to serve, community identifies an environment created by faculty, staff and students that encourages engagement, nurtures learning and cultivates sustainable change. Community defines the GCC environment created for teaching and learning.

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WESTFIELD STATE U | Westfield State University named Military Friendly School for second year in a row - masslive.com

09/18/2013 - For the second year in a row, Westfield State University has been named to the fifth-annual Top Military Friendly School list. The 2014 Military Friendly School list honors the top 20 percent of colleges, universities, and trade schools in the country that are doing the most to embrace America's military services members, veterans, and spouses as students to ensure their success.

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UMASS SYSTEM | UMass President Robert Caret to tour state looking for budget support - masslive.com

09/18/2013 - University of Massachusetts President Robert L. Caret will be embarking on another bus tour next month looking to boost support for the 50-50 plan as well as increase philanthropy. This will be his third such tour since becoming president.

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MIDDLESEX CC | MCC entrepreneur program gets new grant, partnership - Lowell Sun Online

09/17/2013 - Downtown business owner Franky Descoteaux's status as entrepreneur-in-residence at Middlesex Community College is being continued under a new \$41,000 state grant. Her position at the college, which began last year with funding from the nonprofit Merrimack Valley Sandbox, is part of a new partnership, announced Monday, between Community Teamwork and the community college. The program is modeled after a similar arrangement at the University of North Carolina, where a successful entrepreneur spends designated time on campus to disseminate best practices in entrepreneurship, and provide information from a hands-on perspective.

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SPRINGFIELD TECH CC | Gov. Deval Patrick hails job growth in clean energy industry in Western Massachusetts - masslive.com

09/17/2013 - The number of jobs in the state's clean energy industry grew by 11.8 percent over the past year, the second year of double-digit job growth, Gov. Deval L. Patrick said on Tuesday. ...In Western Massachusetts, Patrick recognized the Scibelli Enterprise Center in the Springfield Technical Community College's Technology Park, which has three clean energy startups, employing six workers.

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UMASS SYSTEM | UMass online education program generates more than \$78 million in revenue - masslive.com

09/17/2013 - The University of Massachusetts' online education program now offers more than 120 online degrees and certificate programs and generates more than \$78 million in revenue annually, according to UMass President Robert L. Caret. Caret made his remarks ahead of a presentation on the online program at a Board of Trustees Committee of the Whole meeting at UMass Tuesday afternoon.

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SALEM STATE U | DC Dialogue: The importance of affordable higher education - NECN

09/15/2013 - (Video) Salem State President Patricia Maguire Meservey discussed the challenges and importance of providing an affordable college education that prepares graduates to enter the workforce. Meservey mentioned that in the past few years, people have begun to value both vocational schools and community colleges as more legitimate institutions to prepare students for the workforce. She also discussed the importance of internships while students are still in school. She also weighed in on President Obama's new ranking proposal for financial aid. For over 30-years, the cost of college has been accelerating.

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FRAMINGHAM STATE U | Framingham State University debuts new Multicultural Center - MetroWest Daily News

09/16/2013 - Framingham State University's new Multicultural Center was packed for its first big event last Wednesday night, a remembrance event marking the Sept. 11 attacks. "The room was full," said the program's recently hired director, Kathy Martinez. "Which is awesome after just two weeks."

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UMASS AMHERST | Construction continues at UMass Amherst; \$1.4 billion in projects on way - masslive.com

09/16/2013 - At any given time over the past few years, thousands of hardhatted construction workers have been on the job at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and Thomas D. Shaw, director of design and construction management for the campus, doesn't expect work to slack any time soon. "We have opened three major projects this semester," he said. "There has been a building boom on this campus for the last 10 years."

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UMASS DARTMOUTH | New UMass Dartmouth studio designed to link arts, sciences - The Herald News

09/16/2013 - Leonardo da Vinci, if he knew what was going on with arts and science, he'd be disappointed," said Brett Sylvia, a sculpting student at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. Sylvia was referring to the fact that usually, on college campuses, the arts and sciences exist as separate disciplines. And, of course, da Vinci was famously both a scientist and an artist. But in today's business world, engineers and artists collaborate on projects. So why should it be that on college campuses, that engineering and art students don't collaborate? The new IDEASstudio — Innovation, Design, Engineering and Art — at UMass Dartmouth hopes to address that, fostering collaboration among engineering and art students. It's located in the textiles building near the Charlton College of Business and the Carney Library.

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UMASS MEDICAL | Easy: Missing Medicaid \$\$ went undetected at UMass Medical until worker's death - Boston Business Journal

09/16/2013 - Leo Villani, a \$46,000-a-year financial analyst at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, allegedly bought himself a Porsche, Salvador Dali paintings and a mansion with \$3.4 million in payments meant for the state Medicaid insurance program. Calling it the largest state employee theft since more than \$9 million went missing from the office of state treasurer Joe Malone in the 1990s, The Boston Globe reports how Villani's alleged theft went undetected until his recent death in a one-car accident last December.

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MASSART | Wearable Art 2013, MassArt Fashion Exhibit at Copley Place - Boston Magazine

09/13/2013 - Starting today and continuing through October 1, as you window-shop in Copley Place Mall, some unexpected items may catch your eye. Between the storefronts lined with fall sweaters and the newest Coach totes, film strips dangle about the legs of a mannequin and faux hair is braided intricately into a

fitted bodice. These unconventional dresses are more than fashion; they are a part of MassArt's Wearable Art exhibit. Featuring eight student works made of everything from angelic feathers to less-than-ordinary twist ties, these garments blur the line between art and fashion.

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UMASS DARTMOUTH | Chancellor envisions UMass Dartmouth as destination - SouthCoastToday.com

09/13/2013 - Chancellor Divina Grossman envisions a UMass Dartmouth where students and visitors alike would be drawn by art and architecture, the latest technology and well-kept buildings and grounds. What it would take is about \$426 million, Grossman said Thursday as she shared her vision with the University of Massachusetts Building Authority, the financing agency for the five-campus UMass system.

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HIGHER ED TRENDS | Column: By Rep. Tom Sannicandro: Making college more affordable - MetroWest Daily News

09/15/2013 - This month President Obama announced a plan to tackle the rising cost of higher education. The plan calls for implementing a grading system for colleges to determine which offer the best value to students. One metric being used in the grading system is graduation rates. Graduation rates are essential to value because attaining a degree in the 21st century creates a pathway to economic prosperity. Like most students I went to college to climb the economic ladder. I was the first generation in my family to attend college. When I attended college, I saw new doors open up to me that were not available to my parents. Thirty years later, college is still one of the best investments a family can make in their child's economic success. But too many families make financial sacrifices only to have their child attend some college without achieving graduation and falling short of making it into the middle class.

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K-12 TRENDS | New PARCC exams to focus on student readiness, may replace MCAS - Berkshire Eagle Online

09/21/2013 - Standardized test scores and progress reports for Massachusetts public schools and districts were released on Friday, perhaps for the last time in the way that school systems have come to know it. In spring 2014, a new testing system will be piloted in Massachusetts in addition to Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System exams. While these numbers from the spring MCAS exams will be crunched over the next several months to see what areas students succeeded and struggled, the scores also tell another story about how the state's overall assessment system has to change. According to The Associated Press, students' scores on exams from the latest MCAS continue to improve, yet many graduates are still not fully prepared for the academic rigors of college. ...In recent years, officials have been rethinking ways to put students on track for careers and college preparedness.

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K-12 TRENDS | MCAS results improve, but many grads unprepared - CapeCodOnline.com

09/19/2013 - Gov. Deval Patrick's administration touted a record- high performance on the exams taken by 10th-graders last spring. The percentages of students scoring proficient or higher on the tests were 91 percent for the English portion, 80 percent for math and 71 percent for science. A passing score on MCAS, short for Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System, is required for students to receive their high school diplomas. The state said 88 percent of students met the minimum requirements on their first try this year, up from 86 percent a year ago. Despite that trend, the state's education commissioner, Mitchell Chester, noted that 40 percent of Massachusetts public high school graduates who enroll in the state's public colleges and universities are placed in non-credit, developmental programs to help them handle the tougher coursework.

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K-12 TRENDS | MCAS results: 14 schools shed 'underperforming' tag, but others still struggling - Boston.com

09/18/2013 - Governor Deval Patrick announced today that 14 schools across the state have improved their MCAS performance to the point where they are no longer designated as underperforming, but the latest test results also show 20 schools remain troubled -- with some are on the verge of being taken over by the state. Patrick today is overseeing the release of a summary of MCAS test results from the 2012-2013 academic year.

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