

Welcomes and Farewells

Recognizing New and Retiring NECC Faculty and Staff - Fall 2022

Welcome to New Faculty and Staff

Academic and Student Affairs

Academic Affairs

Health Professions

Elizabeth Burrows – Assistant Professor, Associate Degree in Nursing Program

Elizabeth is an R.N., M.S.N. and will be joining the Nursing faculty as an assistant professor in the Associate Degree Program. She comes to Northern Essex from UMass Lowell where she served as the nursing simulation specialist teaching in the high-fidelity Simulation Center for six years. She holds a master's degree in nursing and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in nursing degree from UMass Lowell.

Nancy Zheng – Assistant Professor, Associate Degree in Nursing Program

Nancy is an R.N., M.S.N. and will be joining the Nursing faculty as an assistant professor in the Associate Degree Program. She comes to Northern Essex from Merrimack College where she served as a clinical instructor and as a clinical director at Care Dimensions for six years. She holds a master's degree in nursing and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from Aspen University.

Gabrielle Yonika – Clinical Coordinator, Radiologic Technology Program

Gabrielle brings her many years of experience working with students in the clinical setting to the NECC Radiologic Technology Program in the role as clinical coordinator, after working at Lawrence General Hospital for many years. She is a staff radiographer and for 10 years has been the clinical education coordinator for NECC's Rad Tech students at Lawrence. She is passionate about working with students. Gabrielle holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Endicott College and an Associate of Science degree from NECC.

Liberal Arts

Christopher Ottinger – Assistant Professor of Digital Media

Christopher joins the Art & Design faculty as assistant professor of digital media. He specializes in animation, sound design, digital imaging, and film. Christopher has exhibited extensively and most recently held a full-time faculty position in the Visual Arts MFA Program at New England College. He has also taught at Kentucky College of Art & Design and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Christopher holds a B.A. from Columbia College Chicago and an M.F.A. in Studio Arts from Washington University.

Mary Jo Shafer – Assistant Professor of Journalism/Communication

Mary Jo Shafer has been teaching part-time at NECC and advising the Observer since 2010. She joins the full-time faculty as assistant professor and program coordinator of the Journalism/ Communication Associate Degree Program. Mary Jo has 20 years of experience as an award-winning journalist, including Gatehouse Media and The Anniston Star in Anniston, Alabama. A graduate of Lawrence High School, she holds a B.A. from Hampshire College and an M.A. from the University of Alabama, where she

was a Knight Fellow.

Library

Lauren Kees – Collection Development and Research Librarian

Lauren became a member of the professional team at the Bentley Library in Haverhill as the Collection Development and Research Librarian in May. She joins NECC having moved from Richmond, Texas, where she was a reference librarian at Lone Star College for over 4 years. She holds a master's in Library and Information Science from the University of Alabama, and completed an archives internship at the Boston Public Library during her studies.

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)

Dr. Holly Martin – Full-time Faculty, Natural Science

Dr. Martin arrives after completing post-doctoral research at The University of California, San Francisco, where she coordinated research on HIV & SARS CoV-2, while teaching microbiology at San Mateo Community College in San Bruno, CA. Previously she was a full-time faculty member at Northern Wyoming Community College. Holly earned her M.S. & Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from The University of Nevada, Las Vegas with a specialization in microbiology, and has co-authored over a dozen scientific publications.

Devan Walton – Full-time Faculty, Computer Information Science

Devan arrives from UNH, where he was pursuing a Ph.D. in Oceanography while working as a graduate teaching assistant. In addition, Devan has prior teaching and curriculum development experience in Computer Science and Computational Thinking from Penn State and Brandeis University. He has worked as a freelance UI/UX Designer, and also has work experience in fields such as data science, software engineering, and UX. Devan has earned an M.S. in Computer Science from Brandeis University, and an M.A. in Learning Engineering & Design from Boston College.

Student Affairs

Recruitment and Admission

Loreen Tirrell – Interim Director of Student Recruitment

Loreen brings 18 years of experience in higher education and business management. She joined NECC in 2021 as a professor in the Culinary Arts and Business Program. Prior to that, she worked at North Shore Community College as a faculty member and department chair for Culinary Arts. Loreen has managed and expanded several large-scale restaurants in New York and Boston. She holds a B.A. in Communications and Theater from Temple University and a MBA from Salem State University.

Cecelia Lunde – Recruitment Counselor

Cecelia joins the student recruitment team as a recruitment counselor. She graduated from NECC in 2010 with a Certificate in Dance and completed her B.S. in Multidisciplinary Studies with a concentration in Education at Cambridge College. Cecelia is currently enrolled in an M.S. program at Merrimack College. She was a lead preschool teacher at The Children's Place in North Andover and at the Merrimack Christian Day School in Lowell. Cecelia was also an elementary school teacher's aide in the Lowell Public Schools.

SOAR (Seize Opportunities, Aspire to Rise)

Maxie Holman (She/Her/Hers) – Academic Coach

Maxie is an academic coach for the SOAR program. She graduated from Salem State University with a B.S. in Sports Movement Science with a concentration in dance and earned a M.Ed. degree in Student Affairs Counseling at Bridgewater State University. She worked in Residence Life since 2011 at several institutions including Merrimack College, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Clark University, and the State University of New York in Cobleskill. She brings passion for supporting students, meeting them where they are at, and assisting them along their journey.

Jacques Morrow (He/Him/His) – Student Support Coordinator

Jacques joins as a student support coach for the Health Professions. He holds a B.A. in theater and a master's in Theater Education. He is originally from the Rocky Mountains of Colorado and Idaho. He has been an educator in a variety of positions for the last 15 years. He believes very strongly that teaching, and education, in general, is a position of service. Therefore, he is deeply committed to helping students in whichever way they need.

Victoria Cushman – Data and Systems Operations Specialist

Victoria joins us from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services. Originally from Bridgton Maine, she graduated from East Stroudsburg University in Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management and is currently pursuing a second Bachelor of Science in Information Technology from UMASS Lowell.

Student Accounts

Celenia Aitcheson – Student Account Representative

Celenia has joined NECC in the role of student account representative. She is eager to utilize the knowledge gained from experience as a business mentor at the Business and Accounting Center at NECC. Her experience consists of customer service, fulltime guardian of a child with Leukemia, and being a recent graduate. Celenia holds a Certificate in Basic Computer Forensics, Associate Degree in Business Management and Accounting from NECC, as well as a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Southern New Hampshire University.

Eileen Hayes-Johnson – Student Account Representative

Eileen has joined the student accounts team after 24 years of service as a clerk and administrative assistant in various areas at NECC. We are happy to have her knowledge and experience. Eileen has an Associate in Arts in General Studies from NECC.

Student Life

Suzanne Reyes – Assistant Coordinator of Student Activities

Suzanne joins NECC as the assistant coordinator of Student Activities in Student Life. She has previously held positions as program assistant of Student Leadership at the University of Massachusetts Boston, an adolescent mental health counselor, and an elementary educator. Her previous experience allowed her to maintain a focus on student support and provided opportunities to engage with a diverse range of students. Suzanne holds her B.A. in Early Education, as well as in Women's & Gender Studies from UMass Boston.

Veterans and Special Populations

Latashia White – Veterans & Special Populations Coordinator

Latashia brings with her an extensive amount of both personal and professional experience working with veterans. She recently interned with the Department of Veteran Affairs Boston learning about the VA process and the operations of VA hospitals. She currently serves on the Veterans counsel in the City of Lowell and serves as a platoon leader for "The Mission Continues for Greater Boston". She herself is an Air Force veteran and has an Informational Technology degree from UMass Lowell and an MSW from Simmons University.

Welcome Express

Luis Fernandez – EDP IV/Welcome Express

Luis joined the Welcome Express team as an EDP IV in May 2022. Luis graduated from Central Catholic High School in Lawrence in May 2020 and will begin pursuing his Associate in Science in CIS: Information Technology this fall. With a big smile and exuberant personality, NECC students are bound to connect with him!

Samantha Leung – EDP IV/Welcome Express

Samantha joined the Welcome Express team as an EDP IV in March 2022. Samantha graduated from NECC in 2019 and holds an Associate in Arts degree in GS: Individualized Option and will begin pursuing her Associate in Science in Business Transfer this fall. Samantha's focus is in our processing area and with her organization, computer literacy, and focus she has taken to her role, there is no stopping her!

Administration and Finance

Internal Controls and Compliance

Matthew McKenna – Senior Associate

Prior to joining NECC, Matthew served as the director of business operations at Saint Christopher

Academy, Nashua, NH. He has also worked at the Pelham school district, Pelham, NH supporting the Superintendent's Office activities. Matthew's education includes: Southern New Hampshire University, University of Massachusetts Lowell and Northern Essex Community College. Reporting to the college's comptroller, Matthew will be responsible for supporting efforts related to the full cycle of the internal control structure for policies and processes for the college. He will be creating and performing formal compliance reviews and related reporting mechanisms. Matthew resides in Lowell, MA.

Buildings and Grounds

Eduardo Santiago – Maintainer II

Eddie was hired as a full-time maintainer II approximately six weeks ago in the Facilities Division. Eddie will be assisting with the routine maintenance of the buildings and grounds on both campuses but his home-base will be the Lawrence Campus. We welcome Eddie to our facilities team.

Nicholas Panzini – Maintainer II

The facilities team is looking forward to Nick joining our maintenance team as a full-time maintainer II assisting with the maintenance of the buildings and grounds at the Haverhill Campus. We welcome Nick to the facilities team.

Information Technology

Ricardo Rivera – Chief Technical Officer

Danny is not new to NECC, but please join us in congratulating him in his new role as our new chief technical officer! Having most recently served as assistant director of Network Operations, Danny understands the role itself and the need for versatility and ingenuity within the department. Danny's connection with Northern Essex Community College traces all the way back to when he was a student here himself, achieving high academic success and then moving on to a position as an intern. Danny is the definition of a team player and a natural leader, responding calmly and decisively to urgent situations. He is passionate, supportive, and dedicated to his teams and to the institution.

Human Resources

Jared Cazmay – Administrative Assistant I

Jared comes to NECC following experiences as a tax examiner as well as a program assistant with the Internal Revenue Service. He is a graduate of Westfield State with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management. Jared started with the HR department a few short weeks ago in July. His outgoing demeanor, positive attitude, and customer experience focus made him the ideal choice for our HR department. We look forward to amazing things from Jared!

Maria Ferreira – HR/Payroll Assistant

Maria comes to NECC following 9 years as a senior client representative with Paychex, Inc. Maria started with us in April of this year and her experience processing payroll, knowledge of wage and labor laws, coupled by her expertise working with and assisting end users, has been a wonderful and welcome addition to our office. Her pleasant approach and willingness to go the extra mile has already given our department a boost!

Samuel Moy – Assistant Director of Payroll

Sam comes to NECC following over 20 years as the central payroll supervisor with the Office of the Comptroller of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Sam began with NECC in May. His experience with the state systems allowed him to hit the ground running. Yet it is his gentle approach and enthusiasm for process improvement and training, which his background with developing time and attendance, payroll security, and understanding the end-user, that has already proven incredibly beneficial. We are lucky to have Sam on our team and look forward to his leadership with us.

Janet Rene – Benefits Coordinator

Jan comes to NECC following a very successful career as the HR specialist with UNH, specializing in retirement, workers compensation, as well as overall benefits administration. Jan began with our office in May and has been learning the intricate details and differences in Massachusetts. Her positivity and ability to jump into the work has been impressive. She has already become quite a resource for us all in the department and her experience in HR and in higher education has been a very welcome addition to the team.

Public Safety

Elizabeth Raymond – Institutional Security Officer

Elizabeth Raymond grew up in Oxford, MA and holds a master's degree in Justice Studies from Southern New Hampshire University. She started working in security in 2015 and most recently served as the Allied

Universal account manager at NECC in the Public Safety Department.

Peter Sheldon – Campus Police Officer

Raised in Georgetown, Massachusetts, Peter joins the NECC's Police Department following 21 years as a law enforcement officer for the Portsmouth New Hampshire Police department where he served as a patrolman (eight years), training officer (six years), and detective for the last seven years before retiring. While with the Portsmouth Police Department, Peter was a member of the accident reconstruction team, honor guard, held certifications as pistol/rifle instructor, taser instructor, driving instructor and a member of the department's drone team. Prior to his tenure with the Portsmouth Police department, Peter served in the Maine State Police from 1996 to 2001. Prior to that, Peter also served in the United States Marine Corps for eight years, honorably discharged in 1998. He graduated from NECC in 1993 with an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice and then transferred to the University of Massachusetts-Lowell, graduating (Magna Cum Laude) in 1995 with a bachelor's degree.

Institutional Advancement

Center for Corporate and Community Education

Katie Connor – Department Coordinator, Center for Corporate and Community Education

Katie joins NECC with experience in a variety of administrative roles as well as in education. She is excited to be bringing both those types of experience to her work in helping provide NECC non-credit courses to the community. Katie holds a Bachelor of Arts from Colgate University and a Masters in Education from Lesley University.

Ethan Dean – Assistant Program Manager, Community Education

Ethan joins NECC with multiple years of experience working at Salem State University. Most recently, Ethan was at the Northern Berkshire YMCA working as the youth program manager where he created and ran programs for local youth. Ethan holds a Bachelor of Science in Political Science with a Concentration in International Relations from Salem State University.

Marketing Communications

Keith Paul – Executive Director, Marketing Communications

Keith joins NECC with more than 25 years of experience in marketing communications, both in higher education and in the Fortune 100 world. He comes to us from Springfield Technical Community College where he led the marketing team and was recognized by his community college peers as the 2021 NCMPR (National Council for Marketing and Public Relations) District 1 Rising Star. Keith earned his bachelor's degree in sociology at UMass Amherst, has done postgraduate work at RISD and Northwestern, and is currently working on a master's in public administration

MassHire Career Center

Steven Faulkner – MassHire Employment Counselor

Steven began in the role of employment counselor at NECC at MassHire Merrimack Valley Career Center on April 25, 2022. Steven worked in higher education in career services for over thirty years, serving as director of career services at the National Aviation Academy, Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts, and Boston University Center for Digital Imaging Arts. Stephen has a Bachelor of Arts in History from the State University of New York.

Heidy Saint-Hilaire – MassHire Employment Counselor

Heidy joined the staff of NECC at MassHire Merrimack Valley Career Center on June 27, 2022 in the role of employment counselor. Prior to her appointment, Heidy was an account manager for CoWorx Staffing Services for over five years. She is a Certified Staffing Professional and holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from Cambridge College.

Thomas Mauzy – MassHire Employment Counselor

Tom joined the staff of NECC at MassHire Merrimack Valley Career Center on June 6, 2022 in the role of employment counselor. Tom comes to NECC after working as a high school guidance counselor for over fifteen years and as a career counselor at the Shriver Job Corps Center for over four years. Tom earned a Bachelor of Science in Community Development from the University of New Hampshire and a Master of Education in School Counseling from Rivier College.

Lawrence Campus and Community Relations

Center for Adult Education

Cheryl Meninno – Director of DESE Programs, Center for Adult Education

Cheryl joined the Center for Adult Education (CAE) to oversee DESE funded Adult Education programs. We welcome her experience and dedication to growing ESOL and HiSET programs and opportunities for adult learners in the NECC community. She has over 38 years of experience in both public and private school districts, holding various positions, including Special Education instructor, vice principal, director of student services, director of special education, and evaluation team leader. Cheryl holds a doctoral degree from University of Massachusetts Lowell, C.A.G.S. from Bridgewater State University, master's degree from University of South Florida, and a bachelor's degree from Fitchburg State University.

Center for Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Francellis Quinones – Chief Officer Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Francellis has served as a teacher and mentor to students and young adults for almost twenty years. She has spent the past few years advocating for access and opportunities for systems-involved young adults, helping them gain a sense of urgency to change their community. Francellis was most recently a program manager from UTEC, where she led community service projects initiated by a crew of 18 young adults. She is the President of her own consulting company focused on shifting culture to make different spaces more inclusive for all. She holds a bachelor's degree from UMass Amherst in Political Science, and a master's in International Relations from the University of Essex in Colchester England. She is a LEADS fellow, a local organization that brings cross-sectoral leaders together to make systems change. This fellowship has equipped her and positioned her to be very deeply connected to the people in Haverhill, Lawrence, and Lowell who are doing transformative work to change systems our society is grappling with.

Center for Professional Development

Lorena Constant – Assistant Director of Professional Development

Lorena Constant has been with NECC since 2015. She has worked as an academic success and career coach, focusing on student retention and success. Lorena has participated in the Community Inroads Cultural Inclusion Program for Nonprofit Boards, NELDI Chair Academy, and NECC's Leadership Academy. Her leadership project led her to create an informal employee resource group called Pa'lante – an affinity group for Latinx faculty and staff. Lorena holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from UMASS Amherst and a Master of Education in Higher Education and Student Affairs from Merrimack College. Lorena also took classes at NECC for two semesters. A proud "Lawrence kid", immigrant from the Dominican Republic and first-generation college student, Lorena is passionate about education, access, and serving her community.

Maurisa Charest – Adjunct Faculty Fellow

Originally from Brooklyn, NY, Maurisa (Reese) has been living in Massachusetts since 2012, continuing a fulfilling career of almost 20 years in Higher Ed. She has an A.A., B.A. and M.A. in Theater. Maurisa has completed: Teaching and Learning Academy 2018, Certified in Mental Health First Aid USA, Study Abroad Program teaching public speaking in Greece 2019, iTeach Training 2020, Leadership Academy 2021 and is currently excited to continue her journey as an adjunct faculty fellow.

Kristen Sparrow – Faculty Fellow

Kristen Sparrow has taught as an adjunct at the college for 18 years before being hired as full-time faculty member in 2018. She worked with the accessible media team at the college to provide professional development opportunities for faculty on the use of Blackboard, Microsoft Teams, and Kaltura Video software. Kristen was a 2020 NISOD recipient and has received a COD (Course of Distinction) Award from Massachusetts Colleges Online for her hybrid/online course, Introduction to Computer Science.

Essex County Sheriff's Department Education Program

Ryan Beckett – Academic Counselor

Ryan joined NECC's education program at the Essex County Sheriff's Department in February. He works at Essex County's newest program, Supporting Transitions and Re-entry (STAR) in Lynn where he advises justice-involved students as they transition back to the community. Ryan has developed a network of community partners to connect his students with, giving them the support they need to procure housing, employment, and other critical support. Ryan brings with him an extensive and diverse history of service including tutoring at DC Reads, interning at Two Rivers Reserve in Freiburg and the US Department of State in Washington DC, and working at Trustees of Reservations and Haven for Hunger

here in Massachusetts. Ryan holds a master's degree through studies at the University of Freiburg, Germany, FLACSO in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Jawaharlal Nehru University, in Delhi, India. He also participated in a direct enrollment program in Spanish in Madrid, Spain. His ability to converse with both Spanish and English-speaking clients make him a huge asset to the program.

Russell Bent – Learning Specialist

Russell joined NECC in May as a learning specialist at the Essex County Sheriff's Department. Prior to coming to NECC, Russell retired from a career at Verizon but continued to work, teaching ELL classes to employees at the Monogram Company in Wilmington, and instructing a group of international students at the Staples' Company in Framingham. Russell now splits his time between the Essex County Pre-release and Reentry Center and the Women in Transition Program. He supports his clients in gaining the academic skills necessary for successful reentry into society. Russell has taught classes at both Middlesex Community College and Bunker Hill Community College and hopes to teach NECC classes to incarcerated individuals in the fall.

Sara Pedrosa – Law Librarian

Sara joined NECC in April as a Law Librarian at the Middleton House of Corrections. Her undergraduate studies focused on information sciences. As a graduate student at the University of Texas School of Information, Sara acquired research, project management, and presentation skills. Sara brings a variety of experiences to NECC including management of digital operations, general library services, curriculum development, and grant writing. Her ability to converse in Spanish makes her an asset in the facility where 50% of our clients are Hispanic. In addition, Sara's expertise in technology has made her a go-to resource for her teammates in Middleton. Sara's attentive listening skills, effective communication skills, and her ability to work calmly under pressure made her an ideal candidate for the Law Library position.

Wendy Taylor – Director of Education

Wendy joined the NECC team at the Essex County Sheriff's Department as the Director of Education in July. With sixteen years working in roles across the Department of Youth Services' (DYS) continuum of care, Wendy was an ideal candidate for the director role. Wendy is passionate about providing education, transition planning, equitable access, college and career readiness programming, and dedicated wrap-around services as avenues toward creating positive change for incarcerated individuals. Just two months into her new role, Wendy has already won the respect and admiration of NECC staff and students, and Essex County partners for her passion, energy, and dedication to the program.

Farewell to Our Retirees

Sherri Acevedo, Accountant III, Student Financial Accounts
Ernestine Greenslade, Director of Public Relations, Marketing Communications
David McAskill, Chief Technology Officer, Information Technology
Ethel Schuster, Professor, Computer and Information Sciences
Laura Sorota, Technical Assistant III, Academic Coaching
Paul Tomasz, Institutional Maintenance Foreman, Buildings and Grounds
Patricia Willett, Professor, Radiologic Technology

