



Members of the Anna Maria College faculty: (from left to right) Judith Kenary, MBA RN, Assistant Professor Business; Michael Donnelly, Esq., MPA Program Director; Patricia W. Gavin, MS, Associate Professor Criminal Justice; and Marcel Beausoleil, Ph.D., MSM Program Director.

Anna Maria College expanding programs to meet community needs

Since 1946, Anna Maria College in Paxton has provided residents of Worcester County and beyond with strong academic programs that have helped form the lives and futures of thousands of productive citizens. This year, the college continues to evolve its tradition of academic excellence by introducing two new masters-level programs — the Masters in Public Administration and the Masters in Security Management — and expanding its campus with a new instructional site in the city of Worcester.

“We want to grow our non-traditional and graduate programs,” says Jack P. Calareso, Ph.D., President of Anna Maria College. “We believe in the quality of our education and of the programs we have. Being bigger allows us to be more flexible and to provide more programs and services to our students.”

These efforts support Anna Maria’s five-year strategic growth plan, “Vision 2012,” which is designed to strengthen and promote the college’s commitment to its mission and values as well as to the community. The masters programs were chosen based on the results of a needs analysis conducted by the college — currently, neither program as designed by AMC is offered in the Central Massachusetts area. Adding the new location in Worcester will make these and other graduate programs such as AMC’s accelerated MBA, as well as its continuing education programs including its new accelerated bachelors in business degree, more accessible to students.

“Anna Maria is an institution that responds to services professions,” Dr. Calareso says. “These new programs fit the mission and philosophy of the institution and respond to an interest and need in the community.”

The Masters in Public Administration program is designed to train recent college graduates, as well as professionals with seven or more years of work experience, in the management of nonprofit and government organizations. The program is designed to be flexible and will allow students to fit their studies into their work and family schedules.

All MPA students are required to complete courses in the management of nonprofit organizations as well as quantitative analysis and leadership. Recent college graduates must design a field application, and all students select four additional courses in an area of specialization of their choice. Areas of specialization include Arts and Cultural Affairs Management, Educational Policy Management, Fire Service Management and others. Students will come away from the program with excellent skills in public administration and a specialization in an area of public service that will set them apart from others.

According to Dr. Marcel Beausoleil, Director of the Masters in Security Management program, security is one of the fastest growing professions in the country, with private security firms employing more than twice as many officers as police departments nationwide. This program is designed to help current security professionals enhance their knowledge of the profession and provide individuals interested in changing careers with a solid education in this growing, complex field.

“The days of ‘security management’ meaning an older person punching a clock are gone,” Dr. Beausoleil says. “The legal aspects of the workplace are more complex, [and companies] need better security-trained people up top.”

The program will train professionals in a variety of areas including loss prevention, security management, legal aspects and liability, information and physical security, and others. Students in the program will also study issues related to Homeland Security including terrorism, crisis management, and emergency planning.

Specializations such as industrial security, high technology, retail security and many others will also be available.

Perhaps the most important aspect of Anna Maria’s expansion plan is the opening of its new, dedicated instructional site at 88 Prescott Street in Worcester. The site will offer a full cycle of masters-level and continuing education classes, allowing students to take courses in Paxton or Worcester.

The site was chosen for its proximity to Routes 9, 190, and 290, its accommodations for adult students and its ample parking. According to Dr. Calareso, the college needed to have a permanent site in Worcester to meet both the needs of current students and the college’s expanding enrollment.

“The majority of our adult and graduate students are from the Greater Worcester area,” he says. “Convenience is a big issue with masters and non-traditional students, so going to Worcester gives our students better access and opportunity to complete the MBA, MPA, MSM or any other program.”



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Number of Students: 930 undergraduate, 300 graduate

Number of faculty: 51 fulltime 150 part-time

Top executive: Jack P. Calareso Ph.D.

Product or service: Higher education

Year founded: 1946