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UPDATE is edited by  
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 Commencement Coordinator  
 and Assistant to the  
 Provost



**From the Desk of the Provost**

Dear Students:

I find it hard to believe that July is already over and all of the school supplies are in the stores. I hope you have had a chance to enjoy the summer and to relax with family and friends.

Summer is usually a little less hectic at Charter Oak than during the regular semesters. However, this year has been an exception. Preparation for our ten year accreditation review, launching the new master’s degree, and filling in for a couple of key staff members out on maternity leave (all great things) have kept us all busy.

We will be posting our accreditation self-study on our web site in a few weeks and asking for your feedback. It is not going to be a top ten best seller, but if you are interested in learning more about your college and helping us to continue to improve and innovate, take the time to read it and make comments. We will be inviting some of you to meet with the accreditation team when they come to our campus in November.

Charter Oak continues to receive recognition for its affordable, quality programs. Most recently, our cyber security program was recognized.

Graduation was a wonderful event. We had one of the largest graduating classes and turnout for the ceremony in our history. The day turned out to be a little rainy, but it did not dampen the enthusiasm and happiness of the graduates or their families.

Enjoy your summer,

Shirley M. Adams, Ph.D.  
 Provost

# Master of Science in Organizational Effectiveness and Leadership is here!



We are accepting applications for our new online Master of Science in Organizational Effectiveness and Leadership. Think you might be interested upon graduation? Information about the program can be accessed online at [www.CharterOak.edu/Masters](http://www.CharterOak.edu/Masters).

The Master of Science in Organizational Effectiveness and Leadership is a 33 credit online degree program with student outcomes including expanding leadership skills, managing change, improving decision making skills, and conducting applied research. The program includes the option to choose one of two tracks – business or non-profit.

“Our alums want to pursue higher degrees, and many want to continue their studies at their alma mater, Charter Oak State College. For working adults, our online format fits their lifestyle and our workforce focused degree programs resonate with employers and employees alike,” said Ed Klonoski, President, Charter Oak State College.

Thomas A. Barron, Jr., CAGS, MBA, MSOD, has been named Program Director. Barron comes to Charter Oak from American International College in Springfield, MA, where he was the Assistant Professor of Management of Graduate Business Programs. He was previously the Director of Graduate Business Programs and an Adjunct Faculty member teaching undergraduate and graduate business program courses with focuses in management, finance, and accounting. Barron also brings real world experience with corporate roles including Controller, Treasurer, Cost Accountant and Human Resources..

Currently there are over 30 students enrolled for the program and applications are being received daily. Admissions requirements can be found at [www.CharterOak.edu/Masters](http://www.CharterOak.edu/Masters). The program does not require an entrance exam.

The program is approved by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), the College’s regional accrediting authority. Classes begin this Fall.

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## Graduation Dates and Deadlines



Charter Oak awards degrees three times a year ( May 31, August 31, and December 31). Diplomas are also issued three times a year, 4-6 weeks after the May, August and December conferral dates.

Please note that your degree **will not be awarded** if you have an outstanding balance on your account. To receive your diploma, you must also have completed your financial aid exit interview (if applicable). If you have any questions, please contact Paul Morganti, Associate Registrar, at [pmorganti@charteroak.edu](mailto:pmorganti@charteroak.edu).



## Charter Oak Cyber Security Program receives National Accolade!

Charter Oak ranked among OnlineU's 2016 Most Affordable Online Schools for Science and Math Degrees. Due to exceptional affordability, Charter Oak State College ranked #10 in online Cyber Security Degrees.

## This is YOUR College - Step Up!



Did you know that you are a member of the Student Association? Did you know that Charter Oak State College has an active student government organization? Most of the on-ground and webinar events that occur throughout the year are sponsored by the Student Association. The officers and board members advise on the events and make decisions about how your Student Association fees are used.

This past May, most of the officers and board members graduated. We are looking for individuals to take their place. You do not need to live in CT in order to serve. Most of the work is done by email and the meetings also include a conference call option. Over the past few years, some officers and board members were located within CT, while others resided in states across the country and a few outside the U.S. Geography should have no bearing on your decision.

What did the Student Association accomplish last year?

- Established an endowed scholarship
- Helped to administer the President's Student Crisis Fund
- Sponsored several student events and webinars
- Hosted the Graduation Day Brunch
- Testified in front of the State Appropriations Committee concerning tuition

The time commitment is small but the impact is big. We hold just two or three meetings per year and correspond via email once or twice a month.

What are the benefits?

- You interact with your fellow classmates in a non-course setting
- You help to determine which activities are offered
- You feel good about providing service to your College

If you are interested or even curious, please contact Linda Larkin at (860) 515-3841 or email her at [llarkin@charteroak.edu](mailto:llarkin@charteroak.edu).

## Financial Aid FAFSA and Book Voucher Information

Students who complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) may be eligible to receive funding through the William D. Ford Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan program.

Students are encouraged to review the new book voucher process in effect beginning with the 2016-17 award year for both undergraduate and graduate students. Information can be found on ACORN by choosing the Financial Aid Tab, then Book Voucher Information.

## Meet Our New Staff Members

**Ralph J. Brasure, III** is the new Director of Financial Aid.

**Thomas A. Barron, Jr.**, is the Director of our new Master of Science in Organizational Effectiveness and Leadership program. Tom is completing his doctorate at Johnson and Wales. He has a M.S. in Organizational Development from American International College, and an M.B.A. in Finance from American International College.

He came to Charter Oak from American International College where he was an Assistant Professor of Management and Director of the Graduate Business Programs.

# Graduate and Undergraduate Program News



**Enroll in Your Fall 2016 Graduate and Undergraduate Courses Now!**

**Classes Begin on Monday, August 22nd**

Fall registration is currently open. The last day to register for Full Semester, Term 1 and Session 1 courses is **Thursday, August 18, 2016 at 4 p.m.**

Only payment at time of registration will secure a “seat” in your course.

Our first Master’s degree officially launches this fall. Please visit [www.CharterOak.edu/Masters](http://www.CharterOak.edu/Masters) for enrollment information.

To view a listing of fall courses, click on <https://acorn.charteroak.edu/ics/>

**Please check the academic calendar for other important dates!**

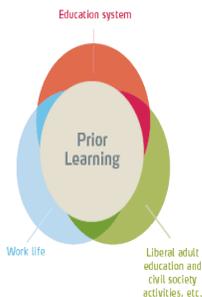
[https://acorn.charteroak.edu/ICS/Home\\_Page.jnz?portlet=Calendar](https://acorn.charteroak.edu/ICS/Home_Page.jnz?portlet=Calendar)



## Meet Our New Faculty Members

**Cindi Brassington, M.S.**, is a new consulting faculty member. She is a Professor of Allied Health at Quinebaug Valley Community College. She will serve a three-year term on the **Social and Behavioral Sciences Committee**.

**James Gentile, Ph.D.**, is also a new consulting faculty member. He is Professor of English and Co-Chair of the English Department at Manchester Community College, Manchester, CT. He will serve a three-year term on the **History and Humanities Committee**.



## Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) is available for both Graduate and Undergraduate students

Adults who have acquired knowledge that can be applied toward college credits may not need to take a course(s) containing the same information. This can shorten your time to graduation! Go to [www.CharterOak.edu/prior-learning-assessment/cap](http://www.CharterOak.edu/prior-learning-assessment/cap) to learn more about PLA and the programs evaluated for credit.

## Commencement 2016

Over two hundred and forty graduates participated in the commencement ceremony this year. Welte Auditorium was filled to the brim with their proud families and friends. Charter Oak alum and bagpipe player, Tara Keating, led the procession into the auditorium. She has graciously continued this tradition for the past four years. Her joyful and soulful music lent even more pomp and circumstance to the ceremony.

Many of our faculty and staff were on hand to meet our graduates and their families at the brunch preceding the ceremony and at the reception following it. (If you will be graduating between August 31, 2016 and May 31, 2017, we hope to meet you and your families at the June 4, 2017 ceremony!)

### A few facts about this year's class. . .

Over 600 graduates comprised the class of 2016. Of those, 65% were female and 69% of the graduates were from Connecticut. Graduates represented thirty-eight states and two countries (Canada and Great Britain,) as well as graduates serving overseas in the armed services. The average age was 38 and their ages ranged from 17 to 70+.



The Women in Transition Program and CT Wage Program, two special programs supported by Charter Oak to help adults advance in the workforce, graduated 12 students.

### The speakers...

The Board of Regents and the College awarded the honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, to **Dr. Regina Barreca**, (left) an American academic and humorist. She is professor of English literature and feminist theory at the University of Connecticut and winner of UConn's highest award of excellence in teaching. Her B.A. is from Dartmouth College, where she was the first woman to be named alumni scholar; her M.S. is from Cambridge University, where she was a Reynold's Fellow, and her weekly columns for the Hartford Courant are distributed internationally by the Tribune Co. She is the author of more than eight books, several of which have been translated into Chinese, German, Spanish and Japanese. A noted public speaker, Barreca lectures nationally and internationally about a variety of topics.



**Mark E. Ojakian**, (left) President of the Connecticut Board of Regents, delivered a message from the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities.



**JoAnn H. Price**, (right) from the Connecticut Board of Regents, gave the "Message to the Graduates".



**Sara M. Jones**, (left) who graduated with honors, was the student speaker. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in General Studies with a concentration in Child Studies.



**Ethan York** (left) began the ceremony by singing "The National Anthem" and **Anna Rita Tornello** (right) sang "God Bless America" at the close of the ceremony. Ethan York graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree and received the Doris G. Cassidy Award. Anna Rita Tornello received a Bachelor of Science degree with honors and was inducted into the Alpha Sigma Lambda honor society.

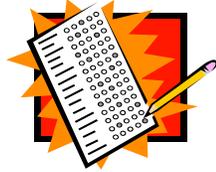




## Filling in for Ashley Zennis...

We are pleased and grateful to have Dr. Ruth MacDonald in the Academic Counseling office this summer. She is filling in for Ashley Zennis while Ashley is out on maternity leave. Ashley's students can call the usual Telephone number (860.515.3852) and Ruth will be the helpful person on the other end.

## News from the Office of Institutional Effectiveness



Charter Oak State College has a long history of listening to our students and revising processes and services to meet current needs. In order to help us continue this tradition, we ask current students and alumni to take a few moments to reply to confidential surveys. While the summary results are shared with the Administration and Staff, individual responses are not shared. Any personally identifiable information provided is removed prior to reporting and is only visible to the research team.

If you have any questions about survey administration at Charter Oak State College, please contact Cris Dittrich, Research Associate for the office of Institutional Effectiveness at [cdittrich@charteroak.edu](mailto:cdittrich@charteroak.edu).

### Updated information from the Course Evaluation Survey

All students registered in a credit course were sent an evaluation survey two weeks prior to the close of that course. There were 3,985 survey notifications sent out in the Spring 2016 semester to individuals registered in credit bearing, non-contract courses. One thousand four hundred and two students rated their overall course experiences at Charter Oak State College, resulting in a 35% response rate. Students' overall ratings of their courses and instructors were positive this past Spring term – 84% of students rated the overall effectiveness of their instructor as “High” or “Very High,” and 87% of students rated the overall effectiveness of their course as “High” or “Very High.”

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness would like to thank students for continuing to make the online course evaluation system a success. The purpose of

course evaluation at our institution is to provide 1) information for the individual faculty member to use in assessing his/her instruction, 2) data that may assist in making curricular and course content decisions, 3) data that will assist in improving the online delivery system, and 4) the student body with a voice in developing and maintaining an effective faculty and curriculum.

The insights that students provided played a significant role this past year in helping Charter Oak continue to enhance its courses while preserving the things that the school does best. We would like to remind students that the Office of Institutional Effectiveness will email links to the online course evaluation survey during the final week of instruction in each sub-term.

### Updated information from the New Student Survey

Charter Oak State College is interested in a student's experience going through the admissions process and becoming a student. In the survey, students were asked to respond to questions regarding multiple office and online resources. Twenty one questions are asked regarding experiences with the offices of admissions, financial aid, business, registrar, and academic counseling. Eight questions are asked regarding online resources and Blackboard.

The New Student Survey was sent out at the end of May 2016 and was open for one month. A total of 376 students were contacted for the survey and 35 students responded for a response rate of 9%. When asked if taking ‘Charter Oak 101: the free online Student Orientation Course in Blackboard’ was helpful, 90% of respondents said ‘yes’. When asked what their overall level of satisfaction with the process of becoming a Charter Oak student was, 83% of students responded in the affirmative, 9% were neutral.

When asked if it was easy to contact COSC offices by phone or email, 87% of students who attempted to contact the COSC offices agreed (10% of responses were neutral). When asked if useful information was provided by COSC offices, 79% of students who contacted COSC offices agreed (17% of responses were neutral). These two inquiries related to the Financial Aid Office, Business Office, Registrar's Office, and Admissions and Academic Counselors separately. Email is the most frequently used form of contact between COSC students and staff.

## Test Administration Schedule August 2016 – December 2016

**All CLEP & DSST Exams are held at 85 Alumni Road in Newington, CT**

**Pathways/Early Childhood Exams are held at the main office at 55 Paul Manafort Drive**

MONTH	CLEP	DSST/DANTES	COSC Pathways
MONTH	CLEP (Held in Newington)	DSST/DANTES (Held in Newington)	COSC-Pathways (Held in New Britain)
<b>August</b>	(F) 5 (11:30 a.m.) (S) 6 (9 a.m., 11:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.) (R) 18 (10:30 a.m. & 1 p.m.) (F) 19 (11:30) (S) 20 (9 a.m.) (S) 27 (9 a.m., 11:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.)	(F) 5 (11:00 a.m.) (R) 18 (10:00 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.) (F) 19 (11:00 a.m.)* (S) 20 (11 a.m.)	(S) 20 (2:00)  (S) 27 (2:00)
September	(F) 9 (11:30 a.m.) (S) 10 (9 a.m., 11:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.) (R) 15 (10:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.) (F) 16 (11:30 a.m.) (S) 17 (9 a.m.) (S) 24 (9 a.m., 11:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.)	(F) 9 (11:00 a.m.) (R) 15 (10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.) (F) 16 (11:00 a.m.) (S) 17 (11 a.m.) (F) 23 (Public Speaking Only)	S) 3 (2:00 p.m.)  (S) 17 (2:00 p.m.)
October	(S) 1 (9 a.m., 11:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.) (F) 7 (11:30 a.m.) (R) 13 (10:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.) (F) 14 (11:30 a.m.) (S) 15 (9 a.m.) (S) 29 (9 a.m., 11:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.)	(F) 7 (11:00 a.m.) (R) 13 (10:00 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.) (F) 14 (11:00 a.m.) (S) 15 (11 a.m.) (F) 28 (Public Speaking Only)	(S) 1 (2:00 p.m.)  (S) 15 (2:00 p.m.)
November	(F) 4 (11:30 a.m.) (S) 5 (9 a.m.) (S) 12 (9 a.m., 11:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.) (F) 18 (11:30 a.m.) (S) 19 (9 a.m., 11:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.)	(F) 4 (11:00 a.m.) (S) 5 (11 a.m.) (F) 18 (11:00 a.m.)*	(S) 5 (2:00 p.m.)  (S) 19 (2:00 p.m.)
December	(R) 1 (10:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.) (F) 2 (11:30 a.m.) (S) 3 (9 a.m., 11:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.) (F) 16 (11:30 a.m.) (S) 17 (9 a.m.)	(R) 1 (10 a.m. & 12:30) p.m. (F) 2 (11:00 a.m.) (F) 16 (11:00 a.m.) (S) 17 (11 a.m.)	(S) 3 (2:00 p.m.)  (S) 17 (2:00 p.m.)
		*Public Speaking at 2:15 p.m.	

**All CLEP & DSST exams are offered at the 85 Alumni Rd, Newington test center location.**

**Pathways exams are offered at the main office in New Britain (55 Paul Manafort Dr.)**