



Green Dot Executive Director Dorothy Edwards, left, and President Katherine Bergeron, right, speak at a Green Dot Week reception honoring Darcie Folsom, director of sexual violence prevention and advocacy.

Darcie Folsom honored for Green Dot work

THE COLLEGE KICKED OFF its annual Green Dot Week—a series of events and activities dedicated to raising awareness about the Green Dot violence prevention program—by honoring Director of Sexual Violence Prevention and Advocacy Darcie Folsom.

Folsom implemented the Green Dot program at Connecticut College in 2010. Through the national program, students, faculty and staff are trained in bystander-intervention techniques to help prevent power-based personal violence, including sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking.

“We know from Green Dot research that there is a 50-percent reduction in sexual violence on campuses that engage in the Green Dot program,” said Green Dot creator and executive director Dorothy Edwards, who was on campus as part of the celebration. “It’s truly been an honor to have Darcie as a partner in this work.”

Nearly 900 students, faculty and staff have completed Green Dot training since the program was implemented at the College, including 90 faculty, staff and students who were trained during Green Dot Week 2016.

At a special reception, President Katherine Bergeron commended Folsom for her leadership and also recognized Senior Associate Dean of Student Life Sarah Cardwell and Director of Student Wellness and Alcohol/Other Drug Education CC Curtiss, who were instrumental in launching the College’s proactive effort to prevent sexual violence.

“It is incredibly inspiring to be in the company of such visionary women,” Bergeron said.

Other highlights of Green Dot Week included a gym takeover; a lecture and conversation about the psychology at play in bystander intervention; and the fifth annual Green Dot Hockey Game, which drew a crowd of more than 500.

Strategic planning continues

THE STRATEGIC PLANNING Committee, comprising staff, faculty, students and members of the senior management team, is currently using data collected during the fall semester to develop draft themes, goals and objectives for a comprehensive strategic plan that will outline the College’s goals and priorities for the next five to 10 years. Once the drafts are completed, they will be shared and faculty, staff and students will have opportunities to provide additional input and feedback.

This fall, more than 2,200 people—faculty, staff, students, alumni, parents and trustees—responded to a confidential online information-gathering survey, and more than 300 faculty, staff and students participated in individual and small-group discussions. In addition, nearly 100 people attended two open forums and more than 1,800 comments were posted on four “idea walls” erected on campus.

Members of the committee are continuing to participate in small-group conversations, and staff from the Office of Advancement held discussions with alumni and parents in San Francisco, New York, Boston and other cities.

To support the College’s information-gathering efforts, the collation and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data, and the examination of internal and external challenges and opportunities, the committee has engaged Keeling and Associates, a firm with considerable expertise in higher education planning.

The committee, co-chaired by Dean of the Faculty Abigail Van Slyck and Associate Professor of Botany Chad Jones with assistance from

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Richard Madonna named new VP for Finance and Administration

RICHARD MADONNA, currently vice president of finance and operations at Union Theological Seminary, has been named vice president for finance and administration. The appointment is effective April 1.

As vice president, Madonna will be responsible for the overall leadership and strategic direction of the division of finance and administration. This includes supervising the offices of financial planning, accounting, human resources, facilities management, auxiliary services, dining services, and events and catering, as well as overseeing the College's 750 acres and 105 buildings.

"His arrival in April will coincide with the last phase of the College's strategic planning process. With his extensive management experience, his collaborative nature, and his creative and entrepreneurial drive, Richard will bring a unique set of skills to the College at this critical moment for our future," said President Katherine Bergeron.

A certified public accountant with a bachelor of science degree from Quinnipiac University, Madonna has 20 years of experience in finance and operations both in higher education and in the private sector. Ten of those years were spent at Yale University, where he enjoyed a series of increasingly responsible positions in audit and finance, serving the Divinity School, the Office of Cooperative Research, the Office of the General Counsel, as well



Richard Madonna

as the Yale Entrepreneurial Institute, a venture he co-founded in 2006.

As vice president at Union Theological Seminary since 2010, Madonna has been responsible for all aspects of finance and operations for this small independent graduate school, from finance and human resources to facilities and information technology. He has developed innovative approaches to the master plan; upgraded classroom technology, study spaces, and food service; implemented collaborative budgeting; enhanced benefits for staff; introduced web-based technologies to improve business processes; and spearheaded new initiatives in the neighboring community. One of these is the Union Food Lab, an incubator he founded in Harlem to help aspiring food professionals launch their own socially responsible and sustainable ventures.

Madonna is a native of Connecticut.

Everybody's reading 'Just Mercy'

THE COLLEGE has joined the southeastern Connecticut community in reading this year's One Book One Region selection, "Just Mercy," by Bryan Stevenson. Throughout March, there are many discussions, performances and exhibits—on campus and in the local community—related to themes highlighted in the book.

Please check the website www.conncoll.edu/community-visitors/one-book-one-region/ frequently for information about upcoming events.

Author Bryan Stevenson will visit campus as the inaugural speaker in the new President's Distinguished Lecture Series, April 4 at 7 p.m. in Palmer Auditorium. The campus and local communities are invited to attend.

Save the Date: Founders Day

MARK YOUR CALENDARS and save the date for Founders Day 2016. The celebration will begin on April 4 with the launch of the President's Distinguished Lecture Series. Bryan Stevenson, author of "Just Mercy," this year's One Book One Region selection for eastern Connecticut, will speak in Palmer Auditorium at 7 p.m.

The celebration continues on April 5 with a Founders Day Tea in Shain Library at 3:45 p.m. Join the College community for cake and beverages as we mark the 105th year since the College's founding in 1911.

Strategic planning

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DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH and Planning John Nugent, will produce an initial draft of the plan by the end of the spring break, and a final phase of implementation planning will take place in April and May. A completed strategic plan will be presented to the Board of Trustees at the May 2016 meeting.

The ambitious one-year timeline for the planning process builds on several years' worth of deep campus conversations about the curriculum that resulted in the new Connections curriculum.

Updates and other information can be found on the strategic planning website, www.conncoll.edu/strategic-planning.