

Why Join this Program?



"Every American will need to get more than a high school diploma. And dropping out of high school is no longer an option. It's not just quitting on yourself, it's quitting on your country."

President Barack Obama, speech to Congress and the nation, February 24, 2009

Benefits for you:

- ◆ Bridge to College is an intensive one-year program designed to thoroughly prepare you for the college experience—you will know what to expect
- ◆ You embark on your educational journey in a supportive, friendly environment that is close to home
- ◆ You save on gas costs and travel time
- ◆ You will receive extra one-to-one tutoring support as needed and help with goal-setting and career-planning
- ◆ Costs are very low—Bridge to College is funded by grants and other donors
- ◆ You can gain credits early on in your college career
- ◆ Make new friends

Eligibility

To be eligible for this program, you will need to:

- ◆ Be a resident of the Quaboag Hills region
- ◆ Have a GED or High School Diploma
- ◆ Complete the intake interview
- ◆ Sign an agreement to attend all classes
- ◆ Demonstrate commitment
- ◆ Take the ACCUPLACER assessment
and most importantly- You want to enroll in college!

More education = bigger paycheck

Average Annual Income*

High-school graduates: \$18,900

Associate's degree: \$33,000

Bachelor's degree: \$45,000

* figures from the 2000 US Census

Costs to you:

ACCUPLACER Test: **FREE**

Semester 1: Academic-Preparedness Course: **FREE**

One-to-one extra tutoring math and English: **FREE**

Visit to HCC campus: **FREE**

Non-refundable deposit: **\$50 per semester**

Semester 2: Credit courses: **\$175 per course**

(HCC = \$409; STCC = \$456; GCC = \$472; WNEC = \$1,443)

We are here to help you

If you have been out of school for a while, we can help you learn the study skills you will need to succeed at college. College-level work is demanding and you need to know what to expect. Come prepared to be excited, challenged, and find out new things about yourself. You will be learning in the company of others just like you, and will build friendships that will support you in your journey of self-discovery.

Timeline

2009-2010

May/June/July/August 2009: Intake, interviews and registration for the ACCUPLACER assessment

August : ACCUPLACER assessment (TFL computer lab) **FREE**

Sept : Orientation (1/2 day) at TFL

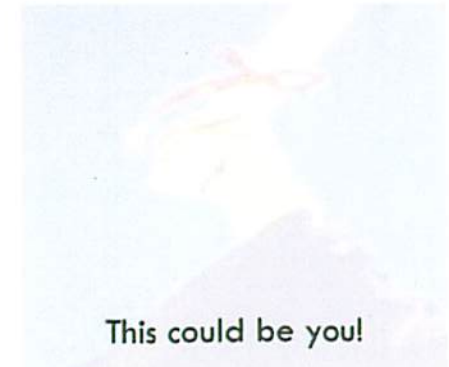
Sept—Dec: Semester 1: Academic preparedness class (3 hrs each week in class + homework) taught at TFL **FREE**

Ongoing: one to one tutoring **FREE**

Oct: Visit to HCC campus to meet Admissions, Financial Aid and Student Services personnel. **FREE**

Jan-May 2010: Semester 2: 3-credit course in English (4 hrs. each week) *and/or* math (3 hrs. each week) taught at TFL by HCC faculty. **\$175 per course**

May: Graduate from Bridge to College



This could be you!

Class of 2008-09



Here's what they have to say.....

"I've always wanted to go to college, but I was scared and unsure how to go about doing it. This has prepared me for college and given me a chance to see it."

Shari Vincent

"This program has built my confidence enough to start taking classes as a full time student. If it wasn't for this program I would not be a college student."

Ben Lukas

"I've learned that achieving a higher education is possible no matter what."

Patty Ehlers

"It got me into ENG 101.9. I'm a college student!"

Heather Allen

"I've learned many things about myself: how to manage my time, my inner feelings, and it's helped me in writing. I've learned to aim high towards my goals."

Tammy LaValley

If you are thinking of joining the program

"The best things are: small class, good teachers, and a great environment."

Ryan Sinclair

"Do it! Don't wait any longer!"

Heather Allen

"It's a great program that can help anyone who is thinking of going to college but has doubts."

Ben L

"Just do it! You won't regret it."

Ryan Sinclair

About Top Floor Learning

Top Floor Learning's mission is to provide a dynamic, comprehensive program of adult literacy services and lifelong learning opportunities for adult residents of the Quaboag Hills region. We achieve this mission by recruiting and training volunteer tutors; listening and responding to the needs of the community; creating a friendly, professional environment; partnering with other agencies and organizations.

Top Floor Learning has been providing literacy services and lifelong learning programs since 2004. Prior to 2004, we were known as Literacy Volunteers of Quaboag Valley..... in fact, literacy services have been provided continuously in Palmer Public Library since 1978!

Two years ago we partnered with Holyoke Community College to bring the GED Full Battery Test to Palmer so that Quaboag Hills residents could take this important test closer to home. The Bridge to College program represents the next step in our collaboration—making it easier for people who want to go to college but don't have the resources to achieve this on their own. Top Floor Learning represents a vital community asset and resource and we are pleased to offer this exciting new program.

Top Floor Learning
3rd level, Palmer Public Library
1455 North Main Street
Palmer, MA 01069

Phone: (413) 283-2329
www.topfloorlearning.org

BRIDGE TO COLLEGE



BRIDGE TO COLLEGE

Call 413 283 2329 for details

Classes begin September 2009

TOP FLOOR LEARNING and HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



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