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## Fitchburg State University Today

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### University certified as Military Friendly

Fitchburg State University announced today that it has earned the 2021-2022 [Military Friendly®](#) School designation.

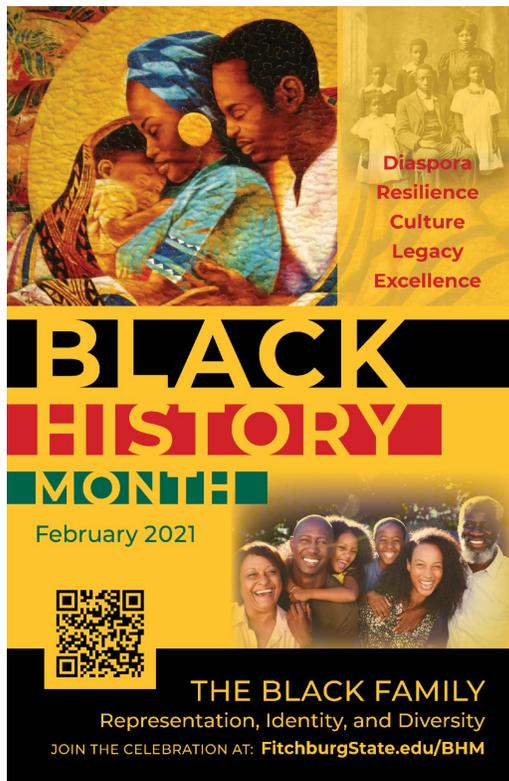
To be designated, institutions are evaluated on factors including student retention, graduation, job placement, loan repayment, persistence (degree advancement or transfer) and loan default rates for all students and, specifically, for student veterans.

[Read more](#)



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### Black History Month programs continue this week

A promotional poster for Black History Month. It features a central image of a Black family (a woman, a man, and a child) in a warm embrace. To the right of this image is a list of themes: "Diaspora", "Resilience", "Culture", "Legacy", and "Excellence". Below the family image, the text "BLACK HISTORY MONTH" is written in large, bold, yellow and red letters. Underneath that, it says "February 2021". At the bottom, there is a QR code and the text "THE BLACK FAMILY Representation, Identity, and Diversity JOIN THE CELEBRATION AT: FitchburgState.edu/BHM".

Fitchburg State's celebration of [Black History Month](#), with a series of [events](#) exploring themes centered on the Black family, continues this week.

Please click the individual titles to get more information:

- [Shift from the Margins: Centering Black Women's Work and Family in Policy and Practice](#), tonight at 6 p.m.
- [A Discussion with Akrobatik](#), at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday
- Learn about Prince Hall: The Father of Black Masonry, at 6 p.m. Tuesday
- [Check the Rhyme, Y'all!](#): The Genesis and Evolution of Hip-Hop, at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday
- [From Artist to Artrepreneur: A Conversation with Red Shaydez](#), at 6 p.m. Wednesday
- [The True Black History Museum Virtual Exhibit](#), at 3 p.m. Thursday
- [Taste of Soul Food](#), at 5 p.m. Thursday in the Falcon Hub
- [Black History Month Bingo](#), at 6 p.m. Thursday

[Black History Month Events](#)

## Undergraduate tuition and fees frozen for 2021-22 academic year

Fitchburg State will freeze undergraduate tuition and fees for the 2021-22 academic year, President Lapidus announced this month.

“Access and affordability are central to Fitchburg State’s mission,” Lapidus said. “Our commitment to keeping costs flat reflects that dedication to keeping higher education within reach for students and families, especially at a time when so many have been hard-hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.”



Fitchburg State has long employed strategies to limit fee increases, and it remains among the most affordable universities in Massachusetts’ public higher education system.

[Learn more](#)

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## Nominations open for 29 Who Shine, celebrating future leaders



Nominations are now [open](#) for Fitchburg State's representative to the [29 Who Shine](#) awards celebration in May.

The awards, sponsored by the Department of Higher Education, highlight a graduating student from each of Massachusetts' 29 public campuses. The program celebrates the role that public college and university students play as engaged citizens and future leaders of the Commonwealth.

Nominees must be seniors and Massachusetts residents who are planning to continue living and working (or studying) in the state upon graduation (December 2020 graduates are also eligible for consideration). Nominees should have demonstrated a clear commitment to helping others through community service and civic engagement (including stepping up in response to the COVID-19 pandemic).

To nominate a student or learn more, please [contact](#) Director of Public Relations **Matt Bruun** by **Friday, March 5**.

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## Speaker Series resumes today with talk on social justice

The university's Speakers Series returns **today at 12:30 p.m.** with a presentation by **Professor Katharine Covino** (English Studies) and Cara Mulcahy (Central Connecticut State University) on "Social Justice in the Classroom: How Critical Literacy Can Help Teachers and Students Move Towards Empowerment, Equity, and Transformative Justice." Join with [Google Meet](#) or by phone at (US) +1 402-284-0222 (PIN: 118772082).

*Note: This program had been scheduled for earlier this month but was postponed because of inclement weather.*

## Expanding Our Stories is theme of talk Wednesday

Professor Ben Railton (English Studies) will present "A Mockingbird & The Learning Tree: The Need to Expand Our Shared Stories" at 5 p.m. Wednesday.

The program, sponsored by the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library at the university, will be virtual.

*To Kill a Mockingbird* – both Harper Lee's novel and the acclaimed film adaptation – remains one of the stories through which Americans most frequently engage with issues of race, community, and history, in our classrooms and our collective conversations alike.

In this talk, Railton will use Gordon Parks' 1963 autobiographical novel and 1969 film adaptation *The Learning Tree* to make the case for expanding the stories and voices we read, view, and remember.



FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY  
AMELIA V. GALLUCCI-CIRIO LIBRARY

A Mockingbird &  
the Learning Tree:  
The Need to Expand  
Our Shared Stories

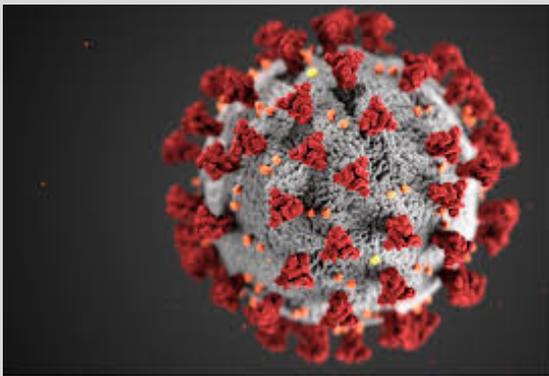
Dr. Ben Railton  
English Studies

Wednesday, February 24  
5:00-6:00PM

More information and online access links go to  
[tiny.cc/MockingbirdTalk](https://tiny.cc/MockingbirdTalk)

[Click here](#) to join by Google Meet, or [click here](#) to view a livestream.

## COVID-19 information page links to vaccination sites



The university's COVID-19 information [page](#), which is updated weekly, now contains links to information on [vaccination sites](#).

Be sure to visit the page often for campus updates as well as links to resources including the weekly testing [results](#).

[COVID-19 Information and Updates](#)

## Center for Faculty Scholarship panel talk explores collaborations

The Center for Faculty Scholarship will host a [virtual panel talk](#) at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday on "Making Connections to Facilitate Your Research." Panelists and topic will include:

- **Danette Day** (Education) and **Connie Strittmatter** (Library) on working with a colleague at Fitchburg State
- **Katharine Covino** (English Studies) and **Rala Diakite** (Humanities) on working with a colleague outside of the university
- **David Weiss** (Behavioral Sciences) on working with members of the local community
- **Adem Elveren** (Economics, History and Political Science) and **Ben Levy** (Mathematics) on affiliating with a research institute or project
- **Eric Budd** (Economics, History and Political Science) on Google research groups

The panelists will briefly discuss their experiences with time for Q&A and discussion to follow. To participate in the discussion, go to <https://meet.google.com/atq-jvae-xox>.

## Alumni visiting Intro to Health Professions seminars this spring

Professor Mel Govindan (Biology/Chemistry) will welcome several alumni to his Introduction to Health Professions Seminar series this spring. These virtual presentations are open to all students.

See the full list of alumni presentations [here](#), including a Career Services and Advising Center [panel talk](#) at 3:30 p.m. Thursday for students interested in careers in life sciences.

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## Falcon Talks: Richard Kerris '83 discusses the future of collaboration

The Alumni Association's series of Falcon Talks featuring experts from diverse fields will feature Richard Kerris '83 at 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 3 with a talk entitled "The Future of Collaboration Through Real-Time Photorealistic Simulation: Welcome to the Metaverse."

Kerris is the general manager for media and entertainment, the Omniverse platform, and head of developer relations at NVIDIA.

With a career spanning Alias|Wavefront, Apple and Lucasfilm, his experience combines driving marketing and product development with a focus on bringing new ideas to life.

Google Meet link:  
[meet.google.com/dkn-tkvx-xod](https://meet.google.com/dkn-tkvx-xod)  
Phone Numbers(US)+1 385-325-1165  
PIN: 988 592 821#

At Alias|Wavefront, he was director of Maya technologies and led the teams that brought the groundbreaking 3D software to OEMs and new platforms. At Apple, he directed developer relations and managed the ProApps teams for Final Cut Pro, Logic and Aperture. At Lucasfilm, he served as CTO, managing research and development, IT and information services.

Join the conversation via [Google Meet](#) or by phone at (US) +1 385-325-1165 and enter PIN 988 592 821#.

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## Coming Soon: Open Education Week, March 1-5

The university's Open and Affordable Education Committee, in partnership with the Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library, will be sharing news with the campus during the first week of March in observance of Open Education Week. Watch your inboxes for information on the work that has gone into open education resource adoption and creation across campus over the past year.

## CenterStage and cultural events

A searing collection of testimonials on the experiences of racial minorities and a thought-provoking analysis of an artist's own journey are the topics of [Fitchburg State CenterStage's](#) spring art exhibits.



“VOICE” was created by Amanda Loebelenz '20. This educational, interactive art piece is composed entirely of the voices of racial minorities.

Also featured in the gallery is “Raging Youth: Installations” by artist Jean Luc Alexandre. The artist describes his work as a process-based series of installations amassed from 2D drawings, cutouts, and 3D sculptures placed amongst repurposed found objects.

Jean Luc will present a virtual gallery talk

at 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 3. [Click here](#) to participate via Google Meet, or [click here](#) to view a livestream.

The pieces are on display in Hammond Hall for members of the campus community and can be viewed [virtually](#) by the public at large.

[Learn more](#)

[Join Our Mailing List](#)