
Fitchburg State University Today

University planning return to on-campus learning this fall



Fitchburg State is planning to return to in-person classes and a vibrant campus life in fall 2021, President Lapidus announced last week.

"With an increase in the number of vaccinations becoming available, and coronavirus cases expected to trend downward, we are optimistic that we will be able to welcome back our students, faculty, and staff to a high-quality, on-campus experience in September," he said. "Understanding that COVID-19 will have longer-term impacts, the university is prepared to act in accordance with guidelines issued by federal, state, and local health officials. The university will continually review its plans, activities, and operations and is prepared to adjust course as necessary. As has always been the case, all decisions will prioritize the health and safety of our campus community and the city in which we reside."

[Learn more](#)

Bias Incident Response Team website launches

In Fall 2020, we launched our [Bias Incident Response Team](#) (BIRT). BIRT was founded to ensure that students, faculty, and staff affected by bias or a bias-related incident have access to appropriate resources and to assist the university in its response in situations that may impact the overall campus climate around diversity and inclusion.

Last week we announced the launch of the [BIRT website](#) to the campus community. The team is designed to ensure students, faculty, and staff affected by bias or a bias-related incident have access to appropriate resources and assists the university in its response in situations that may impact the overall campus climate around diversity and inclusion. The team reviews and responds to reported bias-related incidents in an educational and non-confrontational and non-punitive manner.



The site contains information about what constitutes a bias incident, as well as resources and links to an online reporting form. See the page [here](#).

Courageous Conversations continue Tuesday with focus on disabilities

Date: March 23rd, 2021 Time: 12:00 pm

**CENTER FOR DIVERSITY AND
INCLUSIVENESS PRESENTS**

Courageous Conversations: Invisible Disabilities

W/ Dr. Rachel Graddy

meet.google.com/esm-wxcw-pfx



Please join Dr. Graddy from Disability Services for a conversation about invisible disabilities.

Learn about people with disabilities & invisible disabilities. As well as, best practices regarding how to interact with individuals with invisible disabilities.

The [Center for Diversity and Inclusiveness](#) continues its series of Courageous Conversations with a presentation by Director of [Disability Services](#) Rachel Graddy on invisible disabilities at 12 p.m. Tuesday.

Learn about people with disabilities & invisible disabilities. As well as, best practices regarding how to interact with individuals with invisible disabilities.

To join the discussion, go to meet.google.com/esm-wxcw-pfx.

SGOCE hosting virtual open house at 6 p.m. Tuesday

The [School of Graduate, Online and Continuing Education](#) will be hosting a Virtual Open House tomorrow at 6 p.m. Visitors will learn about all of the graduate programs Fitchburg State offers and get questions answered by the program chairs. There will also be time to engage with representatives from admissions, financial aid, and student accounts.

[Click here](#) to register for this free session.

Women's Herstory Month events continue this week

Our Women's Herstory Month events continue this week with the Nancy Kelly Memorial Lecture at 2 p.m. Thursday, featuring M. V. Lee Badgett with a talk entitled "The Economic Case for LGBTQ+ Equality: Changing the World with a New Idea."

Badgett is an author and professor of economics at UMass Amherst and Williams Distinguished Scholar at UCLA's Williams Institute. Her research focuses on economic inequality for LGBTQ+ people, including wage gaps, employment

discrimination, poverty, and the global cost of homophobia and transphobia.

To see Badgett's presentation, go to meet.google.com/owh-cnnp-mhv. Badgett's talk is sponsored by the university's Economics, History and Political Science Department; the Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program; and the Center for Faculty Scholarship.

The Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Library at Fitchburg State University will host a [virtual panel talk](#) exploring the groundbreaking film *Daughters of the Dust* at 3:30 p.m. Monday, March 29. Admission is free and open to the public.

Daughters of the Dust, directed by Julie Dash and released in 1991, was the first feature film directed by an African-American woman to be distributed theatrically in the United States. [Click here](#) to learn more, including how to view the film with your Fitchburg State credentials. This event was made possible by the generous funding from the Fitchburg State University Office of Student Development. Access to the film was funded by the Fitchburg State University Deans' Anti-Racism Grant.

The month's events conclude with "Calling in the Calling Out Culture" at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 7, an address by Loretta Ross, visiting associate professor at Smith College in the study of women and gender. Ross teaches courses on white supremacy, human rights, and the callout culture. She is author of the forthcoming book *Calling In the Calling Out Culture*. To hear Ross's presentation, go to meet.google.com/mni-wdwt-vps.



Celebrating Black Women in Politics!

TUESDAY, MARCH 2 | 3:30 PM

Black women have been breaking barriers (and ceilings) for a long time, and now the landscape of politics will never be the same! Presented by Faustina Cuevas.

Sponsored by Center for Diversity and Inclusiveness

► [JOIN ONLINE HERE: https://meet.google.com/awt-ixys-qxd?authuser=0](https://meet.google.com/awt-ixys-qxd?authuser=0)



International Women's Day Lecture

THURSDAY, MARCH 11 | 3:30 PM

Radwa Elsamani is a professor at Cairo University in Egypt and a visiting scholar at Boston University School of Law. She will discuss the current situation of gender equality in the Arab world, challenges and recommendations for promoting women's rights in the region.

Sponsored by the Office of International Education, and the Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program

► [JOIN ONLINE HERE: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8866174253?pwd=UjkuNGZscEJTYXJlVjVWZzVW9yc2ZlQ0T09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8866174253?pwd=UjkuNGZscEJTYXJlVjVWZzVW9yc2ZlQ0T09)



Need/Want A Community For All? Here's How We Get There

TUESDAY, MARCH 16 | 3:30 PM

A talk with Melissa Harris-Perry, the Maya Angelou Presidential Chair at Wake Forest University where she teaches courses on American politics and elections; at the intersections of race, place, and gender. For nearly two decades, Harris-Perry has contributed to American public life through her distinct combination of scholarly analysis and grounded wisdom applied to analysis of race, gender, politics, and power.

Sponsored by Leading for Change Committee, and the Newman Center

► [JOIN ONLINE HERE: \(to participate\) https://meet.google.com/czjm-lpze-kwb](https://meet.google.com/czjm-lpze-kwb)
or (to stream only) <https://stream.meet.google.com/stream/64686602-bad7-4c89-b0ea-c687c1f94eb>



The Economic Case for LGBTQ+ Equality: Changing the World with a New Idea

THURSDAY, MARCH 25 | 2 PM

The Nancy Kelly Memorial Lecture by M. V. Lee Badgett, author and professor of economics at UMass Amherst, and Williams Distinguished Scholar at UCLA's Williams Institute. Her research focuses on economic inequality for LGBTQ+ people, including wage gaps, employment discrimination, and poverty, and on the global cost of homophobia and transphobia.

Sponsored by the Economics, History and Political Science Department; Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program; and The Center for Faculty Scholarship

► [JOIN ONLINE HERE: meet.google.com/owh-cnnp-mhv](https://meet.google.com/owh-cnnp-mhv)



Women in the Arts

THURSDAY, MARCH 18 | 4 PM

Musicians, dancers, poets, actors, visual artists, and more. A virtual celebration of women-identified artists and performers.

Sponsored by the Humanities Department, and Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program

► [JOIN ONLINE HERE: \(to participate\) meet.google.com/xyu-czco-bdx](https://meet.google.com/xyu-czco-bdx)
or (to stream only) <https://stream.meet.google.com/stream/68e34010-4017-493c-88c7-9c8b93363e6f>



Calling In the Calling Out Culture

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7 | 6 PM

Loretta Ross is a visiting associate professor at Smith College in the study of women and gender. She teaches courses on white supremacy, human rights, and callout culture. Author of the forthcoming book *Calling In the Calling Out Culture*.

Sponsored by the Office of Academic Affairs

► [JOIN ONLINE HERE: \(to participate\) https://meet.google.com/mni-wdwt-vps](https://meet.google.com/mni-wdwt-vps)
or (to stream only) <https://stream.meet.google.com/stream/21e26ba3-7934-430d-b7e9-1d7451641d6a>

ALFA lecture on March 30 looks at region's role in abolition of slavery

The Adult Learning in the Fitchburg Area (ALFA) program will present a free lecture on the role Central Massachusetts played in the abolition of slavery at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 30. The Food for Thought lecture by Darren Barry is free and open to the public.

As a hotbed of antislavery activity in the mid-eighteenth century, Central Massachusetts played a vital role in the crusade to emancipate four million slaves from bondage and the ensuing Civil War that finally brought their objective to fruition.

In this provocative presentation, Darren Barry examines the individuals and families that made up the abolitionist communities of Fitchburg and Worcester. He will also discuss the complex ways in which the people of these localities chose to remember the Civil War's fundamental issues of slavery and racial equality in the decades following the conflict.

[Pre-registration](#) is required to attend this event, which can be done by [clicking here](#).

[Learn more](#)

Care packages prepared for students navigating a challenging year

With students facing uniquely stressful times, it's a good opportunity to send care packages. That's the thinking behind a [new project](#) in which students were invited to sign up for themed packages that remind them of the importance of wellness and finding balance.

The care package project arose from the university's Student Affairs Division, spanning several campus offices including Counseling Services, University Police, TRIO SSS, Disability Services, Athletics, Fitchburg Anti-Violence Education (FAVE), Student Development, Alumni and Development, Student Government Association, Dean of Students' office, Career Services and Advising, and the Tutor Center.

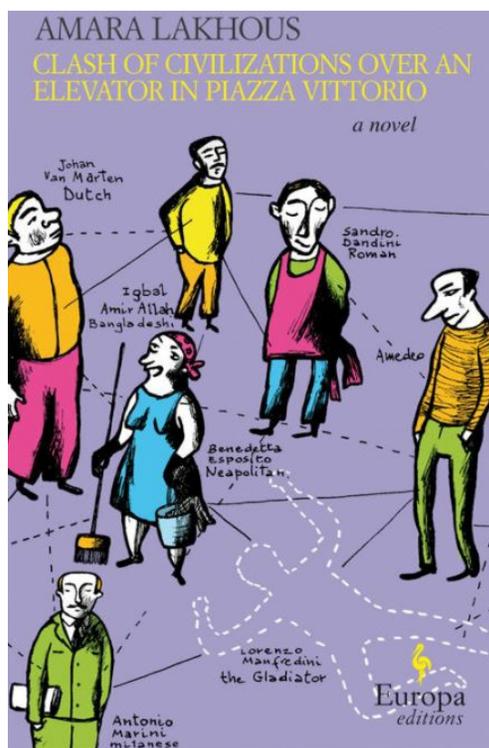


Director of Counseling Services Rob Hynes said items were collected from different campus offices, or purchased, to be collated into a variety of themes: Be a Kid Again, Craft and Create, Get Some Fresh Air, Nourish Yourself, and The Surprise Bag. The packages contents vary, but include items like snacks, water bottles, phone chargers, coloring pages, Frisbees and hacky sacks.

University representatives are arranging socially distant “delivery” of more than 100 care packages on **Wednesday**, when classes are canceled for one of five Wellness Days this semester.

Keep up to date with the university's wellness efforts by following [@fitchburgstatewellness](#) on Instagram.

Reminder: CIC Virtual Book Club continues this Thursday



The [Center for Italian Culture](#)'s virtual book club continues at 3 p.m. Thursday with Professor Rala Diakite (Humanities) leading a discussion of *Clash of Civilizations over an Elevator in Piazza Vittorio* by Amara Lakhous.

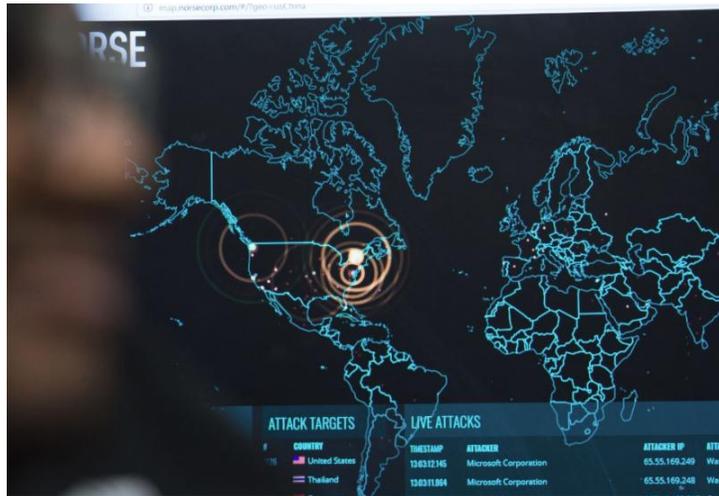
To join the discussion, go to meet.google.com/ahy-bkiq-rgk or join by phone at (US) +1 413-298-2638 PIN: 803 215 450#.

[Learn more](#)

Partnership will expand university's cybersecurity offerings

Fitchburg State is partnering with Cyber Range Solutions, Inc. to offer cutting-edge cybersecurity training and workforce development programs.

The alliance complements Fitchburg State's existing cybersecurity training programs with additional technology and expertise, including the ability to simulate various network environments.



Cyber Range Solutions, Inc. (CRS) is providing its proprietary cybersecurity training solutions including a hyper realistic range platform for Fitchburg State's Center for Professional Studies.

The programs will be offered entirely online.

A cyber range is a hands-on training facility that provides virtualized hyper-immersive, experiential training where individuals and teams receive instruction on how to respond to and defend real-world cybersecurity attacks in a simulated, virtual environment.

[Learn more](#)

Webinar on April 6 focuses on Master of Education in Arts Education

Learn about Fitchburg State's [Master of Education in Arts Education](#) at a free [webinar](#) at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 6.

The program is offered through Fitchburg State's [School of Graduate, Online and Continuing Education](#).

The curriculum for the Master of Education in Arts Education seeks to further develop excellence in teaching through a core of arts pedagogy courses, while also allowing for deep engagement with creative practice through content courses.

Webinar attendees can learn more about the program as well as answers to any questions about graduate, online and continuing education at Fitchburg State.

[Click here](#) to register for the free webinar.

Staff Notes

Associate Dean for Student Development and Strategic Initiatives Hank Parkinson (Student Affairs), was recently presented the Spectacular Service to New England College Personnel Association Award. The organization recognizes excellence in the field of student development.

Parkinson, who has been at Fitchburg State since 2007, said working with students and developing future leaders is one of his professional passions.

"In higher education, no day is the same," he said. Parkinson said he was inspired to get involved in higher education when he was in graduate school, and a supervisor encouraged him to pursue student development as a career path.

His advice to new professionals is to take the time to learn the culture of the institution they wish to serve. "When called upon, volunteer and sign up for tasks," he said. "If the institution is looking for commencement volunteers, sign up. Get involved with a professional association. Pick one that speaks to your interest and ideals, and get involved. Finally, balance your personal life. Work will always be there. Be sure to take care of yourself and do the things that make you happy."

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