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Manchester Community College Graduates Largest Class Ever

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MANCHESTER —

Manchester Community College graduated its largest class ever on Thursday.

At the 48th annual commencement, the college conferred degrees on 809 graduates, 61 of whom received multiple degrees and certificates, according to a news release. The youngest graduate was 16; the oldest was 70, the release said.

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Graduates, who live in 70 communities across Connecticut and five other states, received 753 associate in science degrees, 56 associate in art degrees and 140 certificates. The largest field of study was general studies, in which 291 degrees were awarded, the release said.

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Daniel H. Bates of Newington was the 2012 valedictorian, earning an associate's degree in engineering science. The salutatorian was Kevin M. MacVane, of Manchester, who received an associate's degree in general studies.

The Regional Advisory Council Award was presented to Shae Ming Sau of Windsor. The award is given to a student in recognition of service to the college. Jackie Dannahaer, of West Hartford, received the President's Student Award, which recognizes a student who has demonstrated unusual perseverance in spite of difficulties, obstacles or challenges, according to the college.

The honorary degree recipient was Timothy J. Devanney, president of Highland Park Market and a member of the college's advisory council. Devanney, according to the news release, "has demonstrated a commitment and dedication to Manchester Community College."

Thomas P. Sheridan, Class of 1973, of Glastonbury, received posthumous recognition. Sheridan "embodied the vision of a community college graduate," according to the release. He was a decorated Vietnam veteran, attorney and clerk of the state senate. He served as a long-time member of the college's regional advisory committee and was a valuable adviser to MCC presidents, the release said.

—Jesse Leavenworth

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