

03/01/2008

## Daube receives merit award from New England education board

By Christine McCluskey , Journal Inquirer

**MANCHESTER - Manchester Community College President Jonathan Daube, who will retire this June after leading the college for 20 years, is the 2008 Connecticut recipient of the New England Board of Higher Education's Merit Award.**

Fellow college administrators from around the state, MCC faculty and staff, state lawmakers, and others gathered at MCC on Friday to talk about Daube's contributions to higher education during his long career.

"It was really easy for all of us to say you were the deserving one," said state Rep. Roberta B. Willis, D-Salisbury, a member of Connecticut's delegation to the New England Board of Higher Education. She praised Daube's wit and charm and said he was an effective advocate for MCC at the Capitol. State Rep. Henry Genga, D-East Hartford, who studied at MCC and also has children who went there, said when he joined the legislature three years ago Daube was one of the first to write to congratulate him and meet with him. He said he learned a lot from Daube.

MCC is clearly "the number one community college in the state," Genga said.

Robert E. Miller, former president of Quinebaug Community College and now the interim Connecticut chairman at the New England Board of Higher Education, said Daube's accomplishments at MCC included working with local school systems to establish Great Path Academy, a magnet high school on campus where students can take college courses; overseeing the vast improvements to MCC's physical plant over the past several years; and fostering a culture of diversity and inclusiveness at the college. Daube grew up in England and came to the U.S. in 1963. He arrived at MCC in 1987 after nine years as president of Berkshire Community College in Massachusetts. Last year he was elected president of the foundation for the University of Aberdeen in Scotland, where he earned his master's degree.

He said Friday he's grateful for the award and has enjoyed the support of many in Connecticut during the past two decades.

Daube also said that while he's pleased with MCC's new buildings, he is prouder of the people he has helped through the years.

"If I get hit by a bus tonight, that's what I'd like you to be talking about as you celebrate in a local bar," he joked.

The New England Board of Higher Education was established by the six New England states more than 50 years ago to promote cooperation among the region's colleges and universities, cutting program costs and making it easier for students to cross state lines for study, Miller said.

Daube will receive the Merit Award at a ceremony March 14 in Boston.