



MANS&C

The Massachusetts Association of Nonprofit Schools and Colleges



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The Importance of Community Impact Statements

Nonprofit institutions have a long history of providing vital economic and social benefits to our communities. In this strained economy, however, misperceptions abound. We find ourselves having to continually explain our worth and defend our tax-exempt status.

In these difficult economic times, every nonprofit school, college and university in Massachusetts should have a Community Impact Statement in hand that presents the dollar value of our services and expenditures in the community. They are essential tools in educating local officials, state legislators, neighbors, alumni and others about our community contributions.

We must help our local officials understand that payments in lieu of taxes are not a panacea. Every dollar our institutions must spend on voluntary payments or fees is one less dollar available to fund our services, many of which are directed to at-risk populations in underserved neighborhoods.

If our institutions do not provide these services, taxpayers would have to assume their cost.

MANS&C is a valued resource when our members face pressure to make or increase their financial contributions to their community. Our website, www.mansac.org, offers guidance in making Community Impact Statements, as well as helpful examples.

We also have been a highly respected and an effective voice on Beacon Hill for more than 60 years, representing our members' interests and opposing bills that would jeopardize our financial well being.

During our current membership drive, we invite you to join us or renew your MANS&C membership. Let MANS&C become your valued ally as we meet the challenges of the coming months.

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Handling PILOT Pressure from Your Community

Despite tax-exempt status, nonprofit schools, colleges and universities throughout Massachusetts are under increased pressure these days to make financial payments to their communities.

To help prepare our members for that eventuality, MANS&C has assembled some helpful tips:

- **Create a Community Impact Statement** that quantifies the economic and social benefits you provide to your community. Include the dollar amount of each service to indicate the saving to the community.
- **Get to know your state legislators and local officials.** Invite them to your campus and visit them in their offices on a regular basis. Share your Community Impact Statement with them.
- **Develop a strategy** to regularly highlight specific areas, such as the jobs you provide, the funds you spend with local businesses and your community partnerships. Communicate with neighbors, the community as a whole, and state and local officials.

- **Form a coalition** with other nonprofit educational institutions in your community. This prevents the divide-and-conquer approach taken by some local officials.
- **Maintain membership in MANS&C**, which represents your interests at the Statehouse. Our experienced legislative counsel has an admirable record of helping to turn back bills that would clear the way for communities to tax or impose fees on nonprofit institutions.

The MANS&C website, www.mansac.org, can provide you with guidance in creating a Community Impact Statement. The newsletter also periodically highlights the community benefits provided by “Good Neighbor” schools, colleges and universities. Anna Maria College is the good neighbor featured in this edition.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call MANS&C President Julaine McInnis at jmcinnis@inlyschool.org or 781-545-5544, x-115.

Legislative Report



The state budget has been in the spotlight on Beacon Hill recently, but action on specific bills is expected to pick up again in the coming weeks.

MANS&C Legislative Counsel John J. Spillane is closely monitoring the activity surrounding the budget to prevent unwanted bills being tacked onto the budget when it comes to the floor for debate. He also continues to watch troubling bills that could have negative consequences for our members.

Among them are House Bills 1866 and 2642 and Senate Bill 1308, which would require nonprofit organizations to make payments equal to 25 percent of what the institutions would pay if their real and

personal property were not tax-exempt. Each bill would allow exemptions in consideration of the institutions’ community benefits.

The bills are supported by the Massachusetts Municipal Association and reflect the demands currently being made by Andover selectmen on Phillips Academy, the Pike School, Merrimack College, the Massachusetts School of Law and Melmark New England, which serves children with autism spectrum disorders.

Another measure, House Bill 2732, would require nonprofit colleges and universities to pay property taxes on all property dedicated to non-academic use.

House Bill 2757 develops a funding mechanism for PILOT payments to municipalities.

MANS&C and AICUM are working together in vigorous opposition to these bills.

Two companion bills that MANS&C supports, House Bill 1076 and Senate Bill 575, authorize nonprofit colleges and universities to add programs or degrees if the institutions are accredited and have been operating continuously in Massachusetts for 10 years.

The bills would relieve well-established institutions from the time-consuming and costly process of obtaining approval for new degrees or programs from the Board of Higher Education.

Another noteworthy bill was passed and signed into law by Gov. Patrick in recent weeks. Senate Bill 1993 exempts from civil liability individuals who make a good-faith attempt to provide emergency cardio-pulmonary resuscitation.

Spillane also is watching the following House and Senate bills:

▼ **HB 464** – Allows the designation of “focus schools” in each public school district and the creation of betterment plans

to maximize the students' rapid academic achievement.

HB 1471 – Authorizes law enforcement to obtain criminal offender record information, including sealed records, for youth program volunteers.

HB 1953 – Establishes a Biological Agents Registry program within the state Department of Health. This bill is related to long-running community opposition to the Boston University Biolab.

HB 1983 – Includes physician assistants in the interscholastic athletic head injury safety training program.

HB 2066 – Places requirements on public schools that have a 20 percent or higher prevalence of pediatric asthma.

HB 2127 – Gives campus police access to criminal offender record information.

HB 2154, 2172 and 3027 – Call for seat belts on school buses.

HB 2582 and SB 1333 – Give a city or town the right of first refusal when a nonprofit institution wants to sell or convert its tax-exempt property to residential, commercial or industrial use.

HB 2586 – Subjects nonprofit colleges and universities with endowment funds of more than \$1 billion to an annual excise tax of 2 1/2 percent of all funds over that figure.

HB 2678 – Establishes transparency and strengthens the reporting requirements of nonprofit schools and colleges, their board members and trustees.

HB 2820 – Classifies reports, records, materials and data used by campus police as public records.

HB 3909 – Requires public and private schools to report bullying to the state Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education and to survey students to assess the prevalence, nature and severity of bullying.

SB 74 – Attacks the Dover Amendment.

SB 231, 282 and 1918 – Require all public school coaches to have a current certification in CPR.

SB 206 – Allows public and private schools to establish separate discrimination or harassment policies that cover students who are more vulnerable to bullying due to race, color, religion, disabilities and so on.

SB 266 – Requires that students must demonstrate a general knowledge of CPR and automatic external defibrillators in order to graduate from high school.

SB 635 – Makes parents of children ages 7 to 18 civilly liable for their children's cyber bullying or bullying.

SB 1002 – Establishes a Sports Injury Commission to study the incidence of sports injuries in elementary, middle and high school students.

SB 1023 – Expands interscholastic athletic head injury safety training to include private schools.

SB 1049 – Requires automated external defibrillators in public schools and one or more staff members trained in their use to attend all school-related extracurricular or curricular events.

SB 1183 – Extends the jurisdiction of the Architectural Access Board to cover the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Good Neighbor Anna Maria College Has a Long History of Community Service



The founders of Anna Maria College, the Sisters of Saint Anne, were determined to set down deep roots when the college moved to its new Paxton campus in 1951. That commitment continues to this day.

For the past three years, the federal Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) has honored Anna Maria College as a nationwide leader among institutions of higher education for its support of volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement. The college also is on the CNCS President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

Today, the 1,500-student institution's ties with its community remain strong, innovative and mutually beneficial:

- Free classes are available to Paxton residents, who also have opportunities to access the college library and use the campus for meetings and events – free of charge.
- The campus serves as the town's Emergency Shelter.
- The college pays fees for services, such as water and electricity.
- Under a model program, the Paxton Police Department oversees security for the college. The arrangement is efficient for both the town and college, and generates financial support that pays for additional police officers.
- Anna Maria's IT Department provides support services to the town, another cost-effective and efficient arrangement.

Good Neighbor continued

- The college's Fire Science students work in the Paxton Fire Department and Criminal Justice students work in the dispatch center of the police department. The arrangement benefits the town, and the students gain valuable work experience.
- Student interns work in the Town Hall.
- Several libraries in the Wachusett School District are maintained by students.
- The college and the town collaborate on the use of the college and town athletic fields.

Anna Maria College provides annual scholarship support to the Worcester Catholic Diocese's Adopt-A-Student Program. In the 2011-12 academic year, Worcester students received grants and scholarships from the college totaling more than \$1 million. Worcester County students received \$4.2 million in financial support.



In addition, Anna Maria students volunteer their time and talents at homeless shelters, food kitchens and other social service organizations in the Central Massachusetts area. Between semesters, students work with area agencies to serve those in need.

Every year, the college's community of students, staff, faculty and administrators participate in the United Way of Central Massachusetts' Day of Caring. For the past three years, Anna Maria College has sent

more than 300 volunteers – more than any other organization – to provide needed services to low-income housing residents, social service agencies and other deserving organizations.

Other annual service activities include a backpack and school supplies drive for area elementary students and the Giving Tree, which collects gifts, including warm clothing, for distribution to people in need.

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