NEIGHBORS & PARTNERS
TUFTS IN THE COMMUNITY

Helping with College Readiness

Tufts University made its second payment to the City of Medford in 2014 under a new partnership agreement signed in 2013. Tufts will pay Medford $1.35 million over five years. The agreement also includes new commitments of support for Medford High School students around college admissions, and will include free SAT preparation.

Let’s Get Ready (LGR) is a non-profit organization that provides high school students with SAT preparation and other support services needed to gain admission to college.

During the summers of 2014 and 2015, approximately 50 Medford high school students participated each summer in a 10 week SAT prep workshop lead by LGR staff and undergraduate students. They met twice a week, completing a full SAT prep program in addition to their college choice curriculum.

Tufts has committed to providing the SAT prep program for the duration of the partnership agreement so that SAT prep can be offered to eligible Medford students at no cost.

Boys and Girls Club

Tufts is pleased to be named Community Partner of the Year by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Middlesex County. The recognition was awarded in part for work described below at the Boys & Girls Clubhouses, especially in Medford.

As part of the Occupation Therapy (OT) program, students must complete fieldwork placements. During the 2014-2015 academic year, 34 OT students assisted staff with programming (homework help, activity groups) at the Medford Clubhouse. In addition, four OT students designed and ran occupation based groups (play/social participation) at the Medford Clubhouse.

The Medford Clubhouse has a process for volunteer training thanks in part to a Tisch College Scholar. Before she graduated in 2014, Elizabeth (Biz) Brauer, volunteered at the Clubhouse and developed an on-boarding program for volunteers, including applications and screening.
University Mace Holder

The university mace is a symbol of the authority invested in the president by the university’s governing body and is used in important ceremonies such as Commencement and the inauguration of a new president. The Trustees Office, seeking a better means of displaying the mace at events, contracted Joe Grinley, teacher at Medford High School. Carpentry students from Medford Vocational Technical High School came to Tufts to see the mace and take measurements and Professor Sol Gittleman described the university history. Students returned to Medford, created a design and built the mahogany holder for the University mace. The high school students presented the stand to an impressed President Anthony P. Monaco in his office.

Sustainable Campus

In the spring of 2014, Tufts installed an array of solar panels on the roof of Dowling Hall as part of Massachusetts Clean Energy Center’s Solarize Massachusetts (Solarize Mass) Medford program. This statewide program aims to broaden the usage of small-scale solar electricity systems in cities across Massachusetts. Tufts decided to participate in the campaign to support the City of Medford’s efforts to encourage renewable energy development and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Medford selected SunBug Solar LLC, as the designated installer for the program in the city. Tufts signed onto a 15 year purchase agreement with Sunbug. The state program boasts that as more homeowners and businesses in a community contract for solar energy, the city is able to save more energy and lower costs. Tufts’ participation in the program helps keep Medford in the highest energy-saving tier.

Tufts Scholars in the Community

ALAYNA FENG, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, A16, TISCH COLLEGE SCHOLAR

Alayna worked with the Medford Family Network, which provides parenting education and childcare services to families with children aged seven or younger. She specifically worked to expand the ESOL program to include more community-building and networking opportunities. One end product of her project is a directory of resources for the ESOL parents. She also helped to enrich the curricula for both the adult class and the childcare program, which is offered to parents during the twice-weekly ESOL class.
Chemistry Outreach

The Department of Chemistry at Tufts has been building an exciting partnership with Medford High School for the past several years. Chemistry Outreach Assistant Karen O’Hagan has been working with Science Coordinator Rocco Cieri and Chemistry Teacher Brian Mernoff (A&S ’13), to enhance science curriculum and experiments at the high school. Medford High School students have access to scientific research instruments by participating in the “Nanoscience in High Schools” program and “Bioinformatics Inquiry through Sequencing” program. Members from the Department of Chemistry are participating in the Community Conservation Educational Partnership (CCEP) to foster the development of field science experiments at the high school. This partnership between Tufts and Medford High School has also included regular support for Medford High School’s Annual Science and Engineering fair, the loaning of materials and supplies upon request, and hosting research internships for motivated high school students within Tufts’ Department of Chemistry.

In addition to these programs, in October 2014, Medford High School and Tufts University held their first Reverse Science Fair between the graduate students of Tufts University and the students at Medford High School. The Reverse Science Fair was designed to show high school students what science really is – a process, not just content presented in a classroom setting. Tufts graduate students from a variety of departments set up their research posters in the new science lecture hall to present to various high school biology and chemistry classes. The high school students were given guiding questions to ask the scientists that prompted a conversation, rather than a presentation. As noted by a Tufts graduate student volunteer, Amanda Aldous, “I hope the students were able to notice aspects of the scientific method in real, everyday research projects; and realize research is a process in which you constantly go back and reevaluate your hypothesis.”

To bring the Reverse Science Fair full circle, Medford High School students created their own science fair projects to be judged in February 2015. Many of the Reverse Science Fair volunteers went back to judge these projects. This continuity encouraged the students to continue the conversations they had started during the first presentation, this time proudly discussing their own research and interests. Students, teachers, administrators, Tufts graduate students, faculty, and staff all learned a lot from the experience.

As a result of these outreach programs supported by the Department of Chemistry, the students at Medford High School have begun to form relationships with graduate students and other members of the Tufts Community. The second Reverse Science Fair will be held in the fall of 2015.
Community Audit Program

50.TUFTS.EDU/CAP

The Community Auditing Program (CAP) offers adults ages 18 and older who reside in Medford or Somerville, or are Medford or Somerville teachers, the opportunity to attend University lecture courses on a noncredit basis for a modest charge. Residents who audit may attend the same lectures and work from the same texts as enrolled students.

Tufts is undergoing major facilities upgrades on the Medford/Somerville campus and the Boston Avenue corridor of the campus is humming with activity.

574 Boston Avenue Redevelopment Project (CLIC)

574 Boston Avenue, a former industrial warehouse, has undergone extensive renovations to re-purpose the building for academic use. The building is also known as Tufts’ Collaborative Learning and Innovation Complex (CLIC) and is home to academic departments including Community Health, Occupational Therapy, Entrepreneurial Leadership Studies, and more.

CLIC is helping to meet the need for updated classrooms, teaching labs, office space, and informal learning spaces. In keeping with Tufts’ commitment to sustainability, the redeveloped 574 Boston Avenue complex will be LEED Gold certified, an environmentally friendly operation with low energy consumption.

Science and Engineering Complex (SEC)

The Science and Engineering Complex, scheduled to open in 2017, will be an integrated teaching and research center featuring state-of-the-art laboratories for student and faculty research. The SEC is being constructed between Bromfield-Pearson, Anderson and Robinson halls near the intersection of College Avenue and Boston Avenue.

The new building will foster emerging interdisciplinary research in biology, chemical biology, civil engineering, biomechanical engineering and the environment. The SEC will be one of the most energy-efficient buildings of its kind in the United States. The facility will be a model for sustainability standards for mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems. The goal is to have the complex achieve LEED Platinum certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

Central Energy Plant (CEP)

The new Central Energy Plant will be located on Boston Avenue and will replace a 60 year old existing plant, which will be demolished when the new one is up and running. The CEP will provide electricity, steam, hot water for heating, and chilled water for cooling to the upper campus and the new Science and Engineering Complex. This project is part of the University’s commitment to sustainability and is scheduled to be completed in 2016.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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A collection of lectures, discussions, concerts, art exhibits, performances, and other Tufts campus events that are open to our neighbors. We hope you will visit often!