

QCC Announces New Community Resource Team Member, “Siggy”

By Tom Marino | February 5, 2024

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WORCESTER – Quinsigamond Community College (QCC) introduced Siggy, an English Cream Golden Retriever, as the campus’s first community resource dog on Monday. Siggy’s arrival is a pioneering step for Worcester’s colleges, aiming to enhance the well-being of the college community.

The college community is overjoyed to have this type of emotional support service for its students, faculty and staff. Studies have shown that interacting with dogs can improve mood and decrease stress,” said QCC President Dr. Luis G. Pedraja. “In this new post-pandemic world many people are still struggling with added stress and stressors. We are delighted to have Siggy as a member of our QCC community to offer a bit of cheer and positivity.”

Siggy’s role goes beyond the occasional presence of therapy dogs during stressful periods. Supervised by Officer Nicholas Yacuzzi, Siggy will have regular hours for interaction with students and staff, providing a consistent source of comfort. His training, conducted by Golden Opportunities for Independence, is designed to prepare him for the dynamic campus environment.

Supervised by Community Resource Officer Nicholas Yacuzzi, Siggy’s role differs from the occasional presence of therapy dogs on campus during high-stress periods like finals. Siggy will be a consistent figure at QCC, complete with designated office hours for the college community to spend time with him. Upon training completion with Golden Opportunities for Independence, Siggy will be accessible for meetings with the college community.