

# Math professor named STCC distinguished alum

Springfield Technical Community College named Myrta Colon Groeneveld, of Longmeadow, a professor of mathematics at Manchester Community College in Connecticut, as Distinguished Alumna 2018.

Groeneveld was honored at STCC's 51st commencement ceremony on May 31.

"Myrta offers a wonderful story of persistence for community college students everywhere," said college president John B. Cook. "In turn, with professor Groeneveld now offering her talents as a community college educator, STCC could not be more proud to recognize her as our Distinguished Alumna for 2018."

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Myrta Colon Groeneveld

Groeneveld praised the faculty and staff at STCC for helping her pursue her dreams.

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Groeneveld first came to STCC after she moved from Puerto Rico to

Springfield. She wanted to get medical care for her son, who has Lennox-Gastaut syndrome, a condition causing severe seizures.

To better communicate with doctors, she began taking ESL courses at the college. She continued and earned an associate degree in early childhood education in 1999. She began working as an advocate for families of children with disabilities and began her service on the state Department of Developmental Services citizen advisory board (CAB).

After working as a lead teacher for Head Start, she returned to school and earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics at Westfield State Uni-

versity. She went on to the University of Connecticut to complete a master's degree in mathematics. While at UConn she began teaching math classes at Westfield State, Manchester Community College and STCC. She taught developmental courses at STCC and Manchester in Spanish.

Groeneveld began working full time



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at Manchester Community in fall 2008. She redesigned the college's developmental math program and helped obtain a grant to rewrite the developmental math curriculum and construct and implement a dedicated computer lab for instruction and testing.

Because of the great improvement in student success, Groeneveld was chosen to be a National Academic Transformation Scholar to mentor and train college and university faculty across the country. She developed the curriculum and continues to train instructors for programs such as Summer Training and Retention

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## Alum

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Services, Reaching Education Achievement for College Transition (REACT, now called Smart Start) and ALEKS self-study program for underprepared students.

She has presented at many colleges and conferences, most recently at the American Mathematical Association for Two Year Colleges on the educational system in the United States, as compared with other countries.

She was named coordinator of developmental math at Manchester, a position she still holds, and also served as Math Department chairman. She quickly attained full professorship and was awarded Manchester's College Employee Leadership Award in 2014 and 2016 for her dedication to the students.

On April 5, Manchester awarded Groeneveld the Jonathan M. Daube Award for her commitment to providing access to students with disabilities.