# School of Computing and Engineering hosts event to recognize 10th anniversary

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Quinnipiac University's School of Computing and Engineering held a 10th anniversary event featuring various speakers and student projects Oct. 21.

The event was hosted in the School of Computing and Engineering and included faculty, staff, students, alumni and outside guests.

Obuda University Rector Levente Kovács spoke at the event to recognize the partnership between his school and Quinnipiac's School of Computing and Engineering.

"Step by step now we are on the (move) to create a double degree program with… Quinnipiac University and hopefully we will not only maintain this point, but evolve to go into joint (research) as well, mostly in AI and in (the) energy sector," Kovács said in an interview with The Chronicle.

Another guest speaker was U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal, who gave remarks about Quinnipiac and technological development. Blumenthal also presented the school with a Senate Certificate of Special Recognition.

"This is a place on the move," Blumenthal said. "It is a great success story in American higher education. And nothing exemplifies it better than this newer School of Computing and Engineering."

Dean of the School of Computing and Engineering Taskin Kocak stated how he wanted students to have a role in the event. Participating students displayed and talked about their work with attendees, mirroring another School of Computing and Engineering event.

"We wanted to theme it as what we call as the mini projects day," Kocak said in an interview. "Projects day is my favorite day, of the 365 days on campus. Why? Because it's the showcase of our students."

One of the student projects represented was the Quinnipiac Electric Boat Team. Senior mechanical engineering majors Zachary Chapman, Conner Kass and Neal Kapadia displayed their work to guests of the event.

"We've been working on the boat for a while," Kass said in an interview with The Chronicle. "So it's part of the School of Computing and Engineering. We're one of the three big clubs here, along with Baja and Steel Bridge. So, (I) thought it'd be pretty cool to just come talk about it and show off our boat and what we've accomplished. And what we are going to accomplish this year."

While displaying their boat, the students engaged in conversations with professionals from different engineering companies.




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**Left to Right: Quinnipiac University President Marie Hardin, Obuda University Rector Levente Kovács, Dean of the School of Computing and Engineering Taskin Kocak and Quinnipiac Provost Debra Liebowitz pose with a gift from Obuda.**




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**Students in the School of Computing and Engineering showcase their projects to attendees.**

"We've had plenty of people from companies come over and look at the boat, ask us questions about it," Kapadia said in an interview with The Chronicle. "And in the meantime we were able to talk to them about their companies and possible opportunities with them for the future, which is really cool."

Cybersecurity graduate student Natalie Spiska had her poster on how golf is being affected by technology on display during the event. Spiska emphasized the progress of the school during its first decade.

"It's super great to see everyone come out and support," Spiska said. "And so, I think it's just great that we've been able to make it this far in 10 years."

The school made significant planning efforts to bring together all the different elements of the event.

"We've been planning for weeks now, for this event, and I'm very happy that it worked out very well and also Senator Blumenthal came in and gave us the Senate certificate as well," Kocak said.

This event planning involved collaborations between many faculty members in the School of Computing and Engineering.

"It did take a lot of work, but we got a lot of help from the dean's office; John Bau, Merisa Suljic and also Dean Taskin Kocak was…very helpful with the decision making and our associate dean Brian O'Neill as well," Manager of Administrative Operations & Strategic Initiatives Christopher Losi said in an interview with The Chronicle.

Assistant Dean for Student Experience and Career Development John Bau stated that the school has had a significant effect on education beyond Quinnipiac.

"It's amazing that in 10 years we've been able to change the conversation around high-impact STEM education in the state," Bau said in an interview with The Chronicle.

While this event celebrated the first 10 years of the School of Computing and Engineering, the school will continue to pave its reputation in the coming years.

"One of the wonderful things about anniversaries is that…they don't simply mark time that has ended," Bau said. "They mark a milestone, but they always do look ahead. And I think for the School of Computing and Engineering at Quinnipiac the future is bright."

**TOWER LANE** from cover

or 300," Wescott said.

Founded in 1971, The Towers is a federally subsidized independent living community with 328 apartments and on-site assisted living services. The average resident is 79.5 years old with an annual income of $19,000, and 70% of residents need help with activities of daily living, according to a press kit from The Towers.

"We've got people who are 62. We've got people who are 105," Wescott said.

EQUIP, which Quinnipiac started in 2012 on its North Haven Campus, provides free rehabilitation care to Greater New Haven residents who are uninsured or underinsured.

Kosior said the clinic will start small at The Towers, with events focused on fitting residents for durable medical equipment and screening for balance and safety.

The service targets residents who have used up their Medicare or Medicaid benefit days or whose insurance coverage for therapy ends. For many of them, booking an appointment, arranging a ride, seeing a provider and getting home could take an entire day.

"It means the world to them, and then when you remove the financial barrier of it, that's like icing on the cake," Wescott said.

Fidanza and her students also developed the Opportunity to Thrive, a set of five validated tests that measure a resident's frailty and flag physical barriers preventing them from programs, according to Wescott.

The tool is now part of the Proactive Partner Model, a resident wellness program The Towers built with Quinnipiac and Senior Together.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUTUMN DRISCOLL

**Students and residents partake in an accessible walking audit throughout downtown New Haven.**

Occupational therapy students marked the agreement Oct. 1 by leading Towers residents through stretches, though Wescott said student groups are busiest in the spring.

"Simply put, just having Bobcats on site makes the building's vibe so much higher," Wescott said. "You can literally feel the energy in the spring change when the student groups get here. People are smiling, people are laughing."

Students get plenty of freedom to shape their own projects, which Wescott said mirrors a real job.

"Nine times out of 10, your boss isn't going to come to you with a solution; your boss is going to come to you with the problem," Wescott said.

Wescott hopes to renew the agreement for at least another five years and wants The Towers to have worked with every school at Quinnipiac by then.

"So to me, I'm hoping in five years, we bring leadership from both Quinnipiac and Towers back to the table, and go, 'Wow, can you believe that? Let's do it again,'" Wescott said.