

QUINCY COLLEGE



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From the Classroom to Open Water

Two Quincy College Plymouth Aquaculture Graduates launch new business



Suggested Caption (Aquaculture Students Feat.png): Will and Katie Schultz, Graduates of the first Quincy College Aquaculture cohort graduate and start aquaculture farm ([Download Accompanying Photos](#))

SOCIAL MEDIA RELEASE (140 Characters): First graduates of new .@QuincyCollege aquaculture program to launch aquaculture farm, revitalizing workforce dev for coastal communities

Press Release Synopsis:

The Quincy College Aquaculture program on the Plymouth Campus celebrated its first graduates at Quincy College's May 26th Commencement. Two of those Aquaculture program graduates, Will and Katie Schultz are immediately putting their aquaculture certification to good use, launching an Aquaculture farm in Rhode Island. Student accomplishments highlights the successful program outcomes as Quincy College graduates immediately enter the workforce, ready to meet the growing need in coastal communities for workforce development.

Plymouth, MA (6/2/2017) -

Self-identified foodies, Will and Katie Schultz of East Bridgewater stumbled upon the Quincy College at Plymouth Aquaculture program when it first launched the Summer of 2016. Looking for the best outlet for their entrepreneurial spirit that kept them close to the water, Katie, a graduate from Plymouth State College (now Plymouth State University) in New Hampshire with a baccalaureate in Psychology works as a cardiac sonographer and Will, a world-traveler.

Will always enjoyed oysters. Via the Quincy College Aquaculture program, Will was able to discover how one of his favorite foods made it to the table. The year-long Quincy College aquaculture program was appealing to the couple as it quickly built their knowledge base of the growing aquaculture industry in coastal New England.

Exploring the intersection of hands-on practical science and business, the Quincy College Aquaculture Certificate Program is 25 semester hours (8 courses for college credit) of introductory courses in shellfish aquaculture, practicum courses and business management. The focus of the program is on salt-water shellfish species such as oysters.

Reflecting on his education experience in the new Quincy College Aquaculture program: "Quincy College has been phenomenal. I was in my mid-30s returning to college with my high school diploma in hand. I had taken classes before at different colleges and felt that the fit just wasn't right. At Quincy College, the students are focused, invested, and are here to learn. I have yet to find one professor who wasn't helpful or informative at Quincy College. It's been a great experience. I hope to continue my education as I build my business and explore Aquaculture further, possibly continuing my education in Rhode Island," stated Will Schultz.

Will and Katie as part of the Quincy College Aquaculture program worked in and outside the classroom, completing two practicums with local South Shore business including Chatham Shellfish Company where the students received hands-on field work experience. They also worked at the Aquaculture Research Corporation which provided critical experience working in a shellfish hatchery.

"Quincy College created the first of its kind for-credit Aquaculture certificate program to address an immediate need in South Shore communities for skilled professionals who are working at private industry farms, in hatcheries, and who are self-employed. Through the Quincy College

Aquaculture program, students will not only graduate with an Aquaculture Certificate but will be YSI, HACCP and OSHA certified. These industry standard certifications ensure that Quincy College Aquaculture graduates are entering the workforce, ready to meet the immediate needs in our coastal communities. It's very exciting to see the immediate outcome of our program actualized. We wish only the best for Katie and Will as they graduate and enter the workforce ready to give back to coastal communities as they start their new business venture," Mary Burke, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at Quincy College.

All equipment and YSI, HACCP and OSHA certification costs are included in tuition. Students will explore the principles of aquaculture, explore small business principles, and coastal zone management. As part of the program, students will be placed in working hatcheries to explore the practical application of their knowledge. Graduates of the certificate program may find employment on private farms, at hatcheries, or begin their own aquaculture production.

Currently, Katie and Will are looking to establish a grant site for their aquaculture farm in Rhode Island. The site location can vary as only five percent of any pond in Rhode Island can be used for aquaculture. The couple are looking to establish a 3-acre farm, costing roughly \$60,000 per acre.

The yet to be named Aquaculture farm owned by the Schultz's will look to market oysters harvested to local area restaurants and other outlets looking to purchase sustainable oysters. Will and Katie are focused on not only their burgeoning business but their growing family as Katie is expecting the couple's first child.

The future outlook is quite bright for the young couple. Will Schultz now jokingly ribs his father who works in the Financial District of Boston: "I have the most gorgeous office (speaking of the open water). For the first time in my life, I can say to my father that I have the better office view."

For more information on the Quincy College Aquaculture program located at the Plymouth campus, visit quincycollege.edu/aquaculture. Classes begin Fall 2017 on the Quincy College at Plymouth Campus.

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ABOUT QUINCY COLLEGE

Founded in 1958, Quincy College is a two-year, municipally affiliated community college serving approximately 4,500 students at campuses located in Quincy and Plymouth, Massachusetts. Quincy College is an open access institution that encourages academic achievement and excellence, diversity, economic opportunity, community involvement, and lifelong learning. The College facilitates valuable learning relationships that inspire students to realize their educational and professional futures. The college offers 35 associate degree programs and 25 certificate programs in a variety of disciplines, including those within Professional Programs, Liberal Arts, Natural & Health Sciences and Nursing. The college is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and is licensed by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education to grant the degrees of Associate in Arts and Associate in Science. The college draws a diversity of students from the greater Boston area, South Shore, Cape and the Islands, as well as 121 countries around the world.

For additional information, visit www.quincycollege.edu