

## COMMUNITY WELCOME



Staff photo by MIEKE ZUIDERWEG

**Newly appointed Westfield State College President Evan S. Dobelle, right, greets Barbara H. Braem, of Southwick, and Albert J. Ferst, of Westfield, during a reception held for Dobelle by the Westfield State College Foundation yesterday at the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Westfield.**

# Westfield State College holds reception for chief

**Evan S. Dobelle became the 19th president of Westfield State College last month.**

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WESTFIELD - The Westfield State College Foundation welcomed president Evan S. Dobelle and his wife, Kit J. Dobelle, to the community yesterday with a reception at Boys and Girls Club of Greater Westfield.

More than 100 people were invited to meet Dobelle, 19th president of Westfield State, who took the reins on Jan. 14.

On Monday night, Dobelle served pancakes to students who joined him at his invitation to a midnight breakfast in the Dining Commons.

"It was fun. We had some 800 kids over. I really enjoyed it. The kids of Westfield don't have any sense of entitlement. They are happy to be in Westfield," said Dobelle, a Pittsfield resident, who is staying in the college's new residence hall, while he and his wife search for a home here.

He called Westfield "America's friendliest town."

"We feel like we live in the neighborhood," Dobelle said.

Kit Dobelle said their search for a home will take probably a couple more months.

"(Dobelle) is doing great. He meets a lot of people. He is very community focused. He really wants the school and the city to be partners," said Barry M. Maloney, vice president for advancement and college relations, who served as interim president.

"Our new president is awesome. We love him. He is very student-oriented," said Dan-

ielle S. White, student ambassador.

Mary E. Larrivee, the foundation's chairwoman, hailed Dobelle as an outstanding leader who will take the school to new heights.

"We are very excited about the expertise he brings. The foundation has a lot of projects, interesting both for the college and the city. We thought it was a nice way to let the community know that our new president is interested in what we have in mind," she said.

Dobelle was inducted into the Boys and Girls Clubs of America National Hall of Fame at ceremonies in San Diego in 1999. He is on the Board of Directors of the Boys and Girls Club of Pittsfield.

The foundation serves as a fund-raising agent for the college and provides financial aid to prospective and current students.