June 3, 2020

Dear Students,

Welcome to Bristol Community College! We know that this is a challenging time to be attending college, but rest assured you are making the right decision with Bristol. For the past several weeks, Bristol faculty and staff have been collaborating and researching the best options available for the Fall 2020 semester. Many options were considered. The responsibility of keeping everyone safe weighed heavily on the decision making.

We continue to receive information from our national, state and local health officials. Massachusetts is still seeing a high rate of COVID-19. In fact, we are one of the highest in the nation for reported cases. While cases are slowing, several models show a possible resurgence of cases this fall.

For the safety of our college community, we are announcing changes for the Fall 2020 semester.

Courses will be offered in the following formats:

- **Online.** Fully online course and materials.
- **Synchronous live.** Courses that will offer live instruction via video technology.
- **Hybrid.** Courses that include a blend of online and on-campus course work. These primarily include those with hands-on requirements. On-campus, face-to-face instruction will most likely require the use of face masks, social distancing and other precautionary measures.
- **We will not be offering any fully face-to-face courses this fall.**

So that you are making informed decisions as you build your fall schedule, we will be updating the course schedule. Throughout the next three to four weeks, you will begin seeing changes to classes in the course search on the website and accessBCC. If you have already registered for fall classes, your schedule will be updated to reflect the change in modality (Online, Synchronous Live or Hybrid). **By July 1, all course information will be updated.**

**COURSE REGISTRATION.** You will have the opportunity to review your options, one-on-one, with an Advisor when it is time to register during our New Student Registration Days. Your Advisor will work with you to determine the best course options that meet your interests and needs, as well as align with your educational goals. Students will be contacted by Advising
to set up this appointment once they are ready for registration. This will occur after completing your placement testing or receiving an exemption. If you have any questions regarding testing, please email the Testing Center. If you have any questions about registration, please email the Advising Center.

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION. Orientation is for all new Bristol students and will take place online in August. Over the summer, students will have access to a Welcome to Bristol series. This series is being tailored to ensure you are ready for your Bristol journey to begin this fall. In the meantime, please be sure you continue to make progress on your enrollment checklist. For questions about orientation, please email the Office of Student and Family Engagement. All updates will be posted on the Orientation website.

FINANCIAL AID. If you have not done so already, please file your Financial Aid applications (FAFSA) online at www.fafsa.ed.gov as soon as possible. If you need any help, please click here to book an appointment with a Bristol Financial Aid counselor.

IMPORTANT DATES. Please keep the following dates in mind as you plan for fall.

- Tuition payments due: August 6
- Registration deadline: September 1
- First day of fall classes: September 8

We are going to work together to have a great fall semester. We understand that some of you prefer face-to-face instruction and thrive on the sense of community for which Bristol is known. Personally, I, too, miss coming to campus every day and seeing you. We need to remember that there will be a time when we can come together as a community on our campuses once again. This will be a slow, deliberate process for your safety and the safety of our entire community.

Best regards,

Laura L. Douglas, Ph.D.
President