



**FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT** March 20, 2017

**BRISTOL COMMUNITY COLLEGE RECEIVES \$4.4 MILLION FROM MASSACHUSETTS LIFE SCIENCES CENTER TO ACCELERATE INNOVATIVE LIFE SCIENCES EDUCATION**

Bristol Community College received \$4.4 million in capital grants from The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center to transform, expand, and accelerate the life sciences workforce pipeline in Southeastern Massachusetts with training impacts on educational and workforce development.

An event was held today, Monday, March 20, 2017, in the John J. Sbrega Health and Science Building, on the BCC Fall River Campus, to announce the capital grants given to 10 institutions in the region , including Bristol Community College.

The event featured a speaking portion that included a presentation of capital awards by MLSC President & CEO Travis McCready, remarks from Bristol Community College President John J. Sbrega, remarks from Chair of the BCC Board of Trustees Joseph Marshall, remarks from Massachusetts Senator Michael J. Rodrigues, remarks from Massachusetts State Representative Carole A. Fiola, remarks from Mayor of Fall River Jasiel F. Correia II, background about the College's Life Science Program from BCC Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs Anthony Ucci, and remarks from BCC Biotechnology/Honors Student Kimberly DosSantos who shared her experience in BCC's Life Science program. Vice-President of Workforce Development Paul Vigeant served as the emcee for the event.

“Investments in the vitality of the Massachusetts workforce are critical to ensuring long-term growth in our economy,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “Our ongoing efforts to deliver a high-quality STEM education to middle- and high-school students, and our focus on delivering impactful workforce training opportunities at community colleges and other institutions of higher education, will allow Massachusetts residents to access quality careers in growing fields, including robotics, advanced manufacturing, healthcare, and biotechnology.”

“The MLSC continues to make major capital investments to support education and training at academic institutions across the entire Commonwealth in order to meet the workforce needs of our state’s fastest-growing industry,” said Travis McCreedy, President and CEO of the MLSC. “Our capital grant to Bristol Community College will significantly enhance their capacity for workforce training, so that our students will be better prepared for career opportunities in the life sciences. Through our STEM equipment and supply grants, area high schools and middle schools will be better positioned to connect students with jobs in the fast-growing Massachusetts life sciences ecosystem. In both cases, we are excited to play a role in supporting economic growth and workforce preparedness in Southeastern Massachusetts.”

“Bristol Community College is extremely grateful for the \$4.4 million capital grant awarded to our College’s thriving Life Sciences program. The efforts of the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center coincide with the College’s demonstrated commitment of bringing need-based career education and state-of-the-art learning resources to the communities we serve,” said John J. Sbrega, Ph.D., President of Bristol Community College.

The awarded projects will maintain Massachusetts’ leadership in life sciences research and development, and will deepen career pathways for students from the Pioneer Valley to the South Coast.

Bristol Community College’s MLSC grants will help the College to overhaul its science and engineering buildings, upgrading its STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) laboratories, including the addition of a cleanroom training simulator to provide educational opportunities in the bio-manufacturing process. Due to its uniqueness in Southeastern Massachusetts, this facility will provide students with skills in an educational atmosphere, as well as upgrade training for incumbent workers.

“For new students entering the college, having access to the latest and most advanced Biotech training facilities will be a major advantage in beginning a career in the Life Sciences fields,” said BCC Biotechnology/Honors Student Kimberly DosSantos.

These efforts aim to modernize the College’s academic and workforce offerings and allow BCC to equip students with the innovative skills to obtain employment in bio-molecular, biochemical, and biotechnology laboratories, and in biomedical manufacturing facilities.

“This funding will expand the life sciences offerings in Southeastern Massachusetts through the renovation of six laboratories and the construction of a showcase cleanroom training simulator,” said BCC Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs Anthony Ucci. “These facilities, through the MLSC investment, will provide our Biotechnology, Biomedical Manufacturing and other medical technology students with a unique, state-of-the-practice experience that will prepare them for real-world work in life sciences companies. Incumbent workers across the region and The Commonwealth will also benefit from the new educational and training opportunities they will provide.”

Based upon the College's past experience with programs such as Engineering and Biotech, this program will attract students from inside and outside of Bristol County. BCC's Life Sciences program, that is less than one year old, has 146 students enrolled in classes with an expectation of larger growth in future semesters.

For more information, please contact Kevin Spirlet, Associate Director of Media Relations, by calling 508.678.2811, ext. 3361, or email [kevin.spirlet@bristolcc.edu](mailto:kevin.spirlet@bristolcc.edu).

For more information about The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center, please contact Angus G. McQuilken, MLSC Vice President for Communications and Marketing, by calling 617.921.7749, or email [amcquilken@masslifesciences.com](mailto:amcquilken@masslifesciences.com).

***About Massachusetts Life Sciences Center*** *The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC) is an investment agency that supports life sciences innovation, education, research & development, and commercialization. The MLSC is charged with implementing a \$1-billion, state-funded investment initiative. These investments create jobs and support advances that improve health and well-being.*

*The MLSC offers the nation's most comprehensive set of incentives and collaborative programs targeted to the life sciences ecosystem. These programs propel the growth that has made Massachusetts the global leader in life sciences. The MLSC creates new models for collaboration and partners with organizations, both public and private, around the world to promote innovation in the life sciences. For more information, visit [www.masslifesciences.com](http://www.masslifesciences.com).*

***About Bristol Community College*** *Bristol Community College is a leading resource for education and workforce development in Southeastern Massachusetts. BCC has locations in Fall River, Attleboro, New Bedford, and Taunton, along with flexible online offerings that lead to an associate degree, a career-ready certificate, or the ability to seamlessly transfer to baccalaureate colleges throughout the state and country. The College's Center for Workforce and Community Education provides customized training for businesses and the community including healthcare, workforce and sustainable initiatives, corporate services, and Kids College. The BCC Foundation, a non-profit organization utilizing community donations and partnerships, supports the College's mission to meet the lifelong educational needs of the community. For more information, visit <http://www.bristolcc.edu/aboutbcc/>*