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**BRISTOL COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND BRIDGEWATER STATE
UNIVERSITY CREATE NEW PATHWAY TO BACHELOR'S DEGREE**

A new initiative starting this fall, BCC2BSU, guarantees dual admission into targeted undergraduate programs at Bridgewater State University to Bristol Community College students.

BCC2BSU expands upon the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education's Commonwealth Commitment program, but goes further by admitting students to both institutions simultaneously and providing an affordable, near-automatic pathway between them.

"The collaboration between BCC and BSU is a wonderful extension of our mission to further expand access to critical education in our community," said BCC President John J. Sbrega, Ph.D. "The BCC2BSU initiative combines the comprehensive resources of both institutions, which not only simplifies the transition to a bachelor degree but also promotes student success."

Bridgewater President Frederick Clark Jr. Esq., sees BCC2BSU as "a new model, which encourages and supports students to clearly see their path from community college to university and bachelor's degree completion in a number of majors. In education, the new initiative will serve as a "grow your own teacher" program, according to President Clark, helping to address teacher shortages and lack of diversity in Gateway cities.

"This model further enhances the excellent relationship we have between students and faculty at both institutions," said Dr. Karim Ismaili, interim provost and vice president for academic affairs at Bridgewater.

In addition to guaranteed admission to Bridgewater, BCC students will benefit from a number of Bridgewater benefits including:

- collaborative and intensive academic advising with a BSU advisor on BCC's main campus;

- participation in a summer residential program for qualifying students;
- no need to reapply to Bridgewater after completing the associates degree;
- deep engagement of peer mentors, faculty members, and administrators to ensure their success;
- Bridgewater’s Connect card, an ID that offers a number of discounts at local businesses as well as campus access to events and select specialized programs such as financial literacy.

BCC students who meet guidelines of the Commonwealth Commitment program will attend Bridgewater at frozen tuition and fees throughout their remaining two years of study. Students would realize an approximate 40 percent savings if they attended BSU through the Commonwealth Commitment. The Massachusetts Department of Higher Education’s Commonwealth Commitment is an agreement between the state’s 15 community colleges and four-year institutions that freezes tuition and fees upon program entry while offering other rebates.

“The initiative also provides a framework through which both institutions will identify and focus resources on meeting the workforce needs of the region and the Commonwealth,” said President Clark. “By tying all pieces of the admission and transfer process together and offering high levels of support, we are offering the first program of its kind between two-year and four-year public institutions in the Commonwealth.”

For more information about the BCC2BSU initiative, please contact the BCC Office of Transfer Affairs, at 508.678.2811, ext. 2234.

***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/>*