



September 13, 2016

FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT

BRISTOL COMMUNITY COLLEGE AWARDED \$30,000 COMMONWEALTH COMMITMENT DUAL ENROLLMENT PARTNERSHIP GRANT

Bristol Community College has received a Commonwealth Commitment Dual Enrollment Partnership (CDEP) Grant of \$30,000 from the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education's awarding of \$910,000 in individual grants to 22 public colleges and universities to expand opportunities for high school students to get a jump start on college.

CDEP grants will allow students to take free or low-cost college courses at local campuses and, in some cases, attend classes taught on location at their high schools or online.

BCC, who serves the largest number of dual enrollment students (approximately 500) in the state of Massachusetts will include early college awareness activities, campus visits, and financial aid workshops to raise the college aspirations of students in Fall River and New Bedford communities, which have some of the lowest educational attainment levels in the U.S. for cities of their sizes.

"The award will supplement the College's long-standing commitment to increasing college participation through dual enrollment activities, particularly for low-income, underrepresented, and first-generation college students," said BCC Dean of Access and Transition Sarah Morrell.

CDEP students earn college credit toward an associate or bachelor's degree, often saving thousands of dollars in the process. Along with cost savings, research shows that dual enrollment courses help prepare students for the rigor and expectations of college-level work, making the experience especially valuable for first-generation students and economically disadvantaged students who may not have access to college preparatory experiences and opportunities.

For more information, contact Sarah Morrell at 508.678.2811 ext. 2324.

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/>