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FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT

BRISTOL COMMUNITY COLLEGE AWARDED \$198,000 FROM BAKER-POLITO ADMINISTRATION TO LEAD OFFSHORE WIND RESEARCH PROJECT

Bristol Community College will lead an effort to identify the workforce requirements associated with the development, construction and maintenance of offshore wind projects, examining the number of jobs by trade, the health and safety training requirements for offshore wind jobs and the economic benefits to the Commonwealth these jobs would provide.

“Bristol Community College is proud to take a lead role in the offshore wind research project which further strengthens the College’s demonstrated commitment to sustainability by examining new doors to both community growth and need-based workforce education,” said John J. Sbrega, Ph.D., President of Bristol Community College.

Bristol Community College was awarded \$198,000 from The Baker-Polito Administration’s recent announcement of \$700,000 in funding for nine academic and research institutions across Massachusetts to advance studies relating to offshore wind development, building on the Commonwealth’s existing nation-leading offshore wind innovation activities. This effort will help to establish training and health and safety programs to maximize local employment and ensure worker safety.

“The research project presents an excellent opportunity for Bristol Community College, and the South Coast community to align with one of the fastest growing professions in the United States,” said Paul Vigeant, Vice President for Workforce Development, Lifelong Learning, Grant Development, and External Affairs.

The \$700,000 funding will support three offshore wind research projects to identify industry workforce training and safety requirements, establish a multi-university partnership focused on innovation and driving down costs, and develop a new technique

to monitor the structural health of wind blades. Bristol Community College, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, and the Massachusetts Maritime Academy will collectively receive \$248,000.

Funded through the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center's (MassCEC) Renewable Energy Trust, the research is part of a broader initiative to make the Commonwealth a national leader in offshore wind research and development. By leveraging the expertise of Massachusetts colleges, universities, and research centers, these projects are designed to expand local offshore wind expertise while making projects more affordable for developers and ratepayers.

The Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) is dedicated to accelerating the success of clean energy technologies, companies, and projects in the Commonwealth—while creating high-quality jobs and long-term economic growth for the people of Massachusetts. Since its inception in 2009, MassCEC has helped clean energy companies grow, supported municipal clean energy projects, and invested in residential and commercial renewable energy installations creating a robust marketplace for innovative clean technology companies and service providers. Massachusetts Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Matthew Beaton chairs MassCEC's board of directors.

For more information, please contact Paul Vigeant, Vice President for Workforce Development, Lifelong Learning, Grant Development, and External Affairs, at 508.678.2811, ext. 3657, or email Paul.Vigeant@bristolcc.edu.

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/>

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