

# **Bristol Community College *NEWS***

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## **BCC STUDENT MILAGROS SANCHEZ-GATON TO BE NAMED TO PRESTIGIOUS “29 WHO SHINE” RECIPIENTS ON MAY 9**

Milagros Sanchez-Gaton, a Mass Transfer General Studies student from New Bedford, is Bristol Community College’s “29 Who Shine” recipient for 2016. Each year, the Department of Higher Education honors a representative from each of the 29 public colleges and universities to demonstrate the talent and future contributions of those graduating from the public system.

A student, mother, and role model, Milagros has served her community through volunteer work with the YWCA, The Women’s Center, and Lifework Project of New Bedford. She has learned from her own experiences to be a leader for empowering young women and advocating for serious social issues.

Milagros first obtained her GED from BCC in 2013, before immediately enrolling in classes full-time at the College. Her nominators cited her outstanding perseverance, love of learning, empathy, and dedicated work ethic. Milagros has her heart set on continuing her education studying social work, focusing on trauma and domestic violence.

"I congratulate Milagros Sanchez-Gaton and all 29 of the 2016 award recipients and thank them for their substantial contributions to their campuses and local communities," said Governor Charlie Baker. "Each of the 29 *Who Shine* honorees represent our future citizenry and workforce and have already made a positive impact on the Commonwealth."

Milagros Sanchez-Gaton is a shining example of a student who has made good on the taxpayer’s investment in her education,” said Carlos E. Santiago, Commissioner of Higher Education. “The outstanding students on this year’s list of 29 *Who Shine* honorees have come from many countries, overcome many obstacles. I am so proud of what they have achieved and look forward to seeing how they continue to put their talents to work on behalf of us all.”

In May 2011, the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education launched “29 Who Shine.” The honorees, chosen because of their academic achievements and record of student leadership and community service, stand poised to contribute greatly to the civic life and economic well-being of the state. Whether furthering their education or entering careers here in Massachusetts in fields as diverse as education, public policy, medicine, creative arts, and engineering, they embody the vibrant future that we all envision for the Commonwealth.

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