

Bristol Community College *NEWS*

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FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT

BRISTOL COMMUNITY COLLEGE HOSTS RIBBON-CUTTING OF NEW JOHN J. SBREGA HEALTH AND SCIENCE BUILDING ON JULY 14

With a blast of confetti and the cutting of sustainable ribbon, Bristol Community College officially opened the new John J. Sbrega Health and Sciences Building on Thursday, July 14, 2016, at 3 p.m., on the BCC Fall River Campus. The 46,000 square foot LEED Platinum rated building is the largest Zero Net Energy classroom and science lab building in the Northeast, winning regional and national awards for its innovative design and approach to sustainable construction at no additional cost.

The event included the ceremonial cutting of a ribbon made from biodegradable paper infused with wildflower seed. Distinguished guests were then invited to plant the seeded paper in a planter commemorating the milestone. Video presentations demonstrating the building's technology, design, and academic programs were screened for guests throughout the event.

"The new health and science building will enable the College to give our students the very best in health and life science education, while reinforcing the College's commitment to innovative sustainable operations and student success," said BCC President, John J. Sbrega, Ph.D.

The ceremony took place inside the lobby of the John J. Sbrega Health and Science Building with an introduction by Chair of the BCC Board of Trustees Joseph A. Marshall, followed by addresses by Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker, Commissioner at DCAMM (Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance) Carol Gladstone, Commissioner of Department of Energy Resources Judith Judson, and President of the BCC Foundation Don Smyth. President of Bristol Community College John J. Sbrega provided the event's final remarks and acknowledgements.

The 46,000+ square foot John J. Sbrega, Health and Science Building is the College's first new building since 2001. The new building boasts the latest and most advanced technological resources available to educate BCC's students in the high-demand fields of nursing, dental hygiene, and life sciences.

"The space has greatly opened up the opportunities that we now have for our students. It

means they are being taught with the latest technology, with the best type of equipment on the market today, and they will be competitive in the market.” said Lynne Byers, Director of the Dental Hygiene Program.

The high-tech building features a campus-scale photovoltaic system which allows the building to use less than 20 percent of photovoltaic (conversion of light to electricity) production, along with an air source-ground source heating and cooling system, which allows the building to move away from fossil fuel usage.

“The sustainable design of this building allows the College to run the building with 100 percent of on-site generated energy” said Vice President of Administration & Finance Steve Kenyon. “The monetary savings on top of having green energy that is renewable is the exact example that every organization should be looking to do.” added Kenyon.

Other sustainable building elements include solar hot water production, efficient LED lighting, and filtered ductless fume hoods which allow the building to utilize recirculated and reheated air.

The building’s architects wanted to pay homage to Fall River’s history in the building’s design elements which were influenced by commercial mills and textiles fundamental to the city’s past.

“As you walk around, you’ll notice the paving pattern on the floor which was inspired by textiles produced in local mills. On the ceiling of the atrium, you’ll see a lot of exposed steel and wood. We wanted to evoke that sense of Fall River’s mill history,” said Jim Moses, Architect, Sasaki Associates Inc.

The facility also addressed the campuses’ need for student lounge and study space which was identified in the building’s initial program study.

“The first floor of the building is oriented in a way to encourage students to hang out. On the second floor, there are a number of small study areas in the open space, but then we have a quiet study space as well,” added Moses.

For more information, contact Kevin Spirlet at 508.678.2811, ext. 3361. ###

*LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. The LEED, green-building certification program rates building projects on their building strategies and practices using a point system to earn a rating. Platinum is the highest possible rating that can be achieved through LEED certification.

**A zero-net energy building produces enough renewable energy in the course of a year to meet the total amount of energy consumed by the building.