

# **Bristol Community College *NEWS***

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Fall River \* New Bedford \* Attleboro \* Taunton \* Online

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## **FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT**

### **BRISTOL COMMUNITY COLLEGE INTRODUCES FIRST ANNUAL PARAGON AWARD RECIPIENTS AND WILL HOST AWARD CEREMONY ON MARCH 24**

To celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Bristol Community College is recognizing alumni who make the college - and community – proud with the launch of two new awards highlighting its best and most inspiring alumni.

**The Paragon Award:** Recipients named to this hall of fame demonstrate excellence in their careers, service, and by their community involvement. Those named to this honor will be installed on a Paragon Wall to inspire generations of future alums. Each year, three alums will be named to this prestigious honor.

**The Outstanding Service Award:** This award will be conferred on those who are making significant achievements and contributions to their profession or community and/or share a commitment to the service of others in their community.

For more Paragon Award information, including criteria, please visit:  
<http://www.bristolcc.edu/aboutbcc/alumniassociation/paragon/>

The 1<sup>st</sup> annual Bristol Paragon Awards Ceremony will be held Thursday, March 24, 2016, with a reception at 5:30 p.m., and dinner and awards beginning at 6 p.m., in the Commonwealth College Center (G-Building), BCC Fall River Campus, 777 Elsbree Street. This event is open to the public.

#### **2016 Bristol Paragon Inductees**

**Joseph A. Marshall '78**, President, J.Marshall Associates Inc.

Joseph Marshall is a lifelong Fall River resident and one of Bristol Community College's biggest advocates. After high school, Joe served his country in the U.S. Air Force Security Service. Upon his return, he, like many other veterans, saw that BCC was the best place to start his education. He successfully transferred to Southern Massachusetts University (now UMass Dartmouth), and found his passion for finance.

Marshall is very proud of his Portuguese heritage, and he has donated his time and talent

to many civic groups. Most notably, he was honored as the Man of the Year by the Prince Henry Society. His service has included the Boards of SER Jobs for Progress, the Fall River Development Corporation, and the Fall River Office of Economic Development, to name just a few.

Currently, Marshall is serving as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Bristol Community College. He works fiercely to get state funding for BCC's facilities and students.

**James H. Mathes '83, President & CEO, Dennison Memorial Community Center**

Jim Mathes is known as a leader, volunteer, collaborator, and compassionate man who truly cares about the people in our community. Mathes graduated from Bristol Community College in 1983, and he has never forgotten the College. Mathes has served on the BCC Board of Trustees as well as on many other community-based boards. In 1984, Jim joined the New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce as its President.

Mathes founded the SMILES Mentoring Program in 2006, rallying more than 500 volunteers to work with at-risk children in the New Bedford and Fall River Schools.

More recently Jim has become the President and CEO of the Dennison Memorial Community Center in New Bedford. He has immersed himself in the youth-oriented community center to improve the educational and personal development of at-risk youth and families.

**Peter N. Silva '73, Retired Sergeant, Massachusetts State Police**

Peter Silva honorably served the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for 32 years as a member of the State Police, retiring in 2007 at the rank of sergeant. Peter earned his master's degree in Criminal Justice from Anna Maria College.

As a member of the BCC Alumni Association, Silva has provided leadership on several committees helping to raise funds for scholarships and our capital projects. Silva served as President of the Alumni Association and was named as Bristol Community College's Alumnus of the Year in 2013.

Silva is a member of the Coalition for Social Justice and contributes many resources to support this worthy cause. Silva also currently serves as the President of the New Bedford Cape Verdean Recognition Committee, as well as Assistant Treasurer of the New Bedford Chapter of the NAACP. Silva believes that everyone needs to be organized around something that points in a positive direction.

**2016 Outstanding Service Inductees**

**Brian N. Blanchette '94, Biochemistry Faculty, UMass Dartmouth**

**Michele Fazio '91, Associate Professor of English, University of North Carolina, Pembroke**

**Joan S. Johnson '02, RN, MSN, New Bedford Internal Medicine & Geriatrics**

**Scott P. Lopes '06, AVP Training and Development Officer, BayCoast Bank**

**Thomas J. Linhares '77**, Executive Director, Southcoast Physicians Group  
**Dr. Jacques Leveille '69**, Executive Vice President, ION Geophysical  
**Diane L. Silvia, RN '86**, Director of Clinical Operations, Best Doctors, Inc.  
**Paula Raposa '77**, Executive Director (Retired), SER-Jobs for Progress, Inc.  
**Susan J. Sylvia '00**, English and ELL Department Head, Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School  
**Patricia Jeffries Zukowski, RDH '73**, Chair, BCC Alumni Association

To reserve a ticket (\$25) for the 2016 Bristol Paragon Awards, please send checks payable to:

Bristol Community College Foundation  
777 Esbree Street, D118  
Fall River, MA 02720

For more information about the 2016 Bristol Paragons Awards, or to make reservations by credit card over the phone, please contact the BCC Foundation at 774.357.2007. Names will be held at the door. Please RSVP by March 17, 2016. ###