

# Bristol Community College *NEWS*

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## **FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT**

### **BRISTOL COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES PLANS TO RETIRE**

*Note to editors/reporters: President Sbrega will be available to speak to reporters starting tomorrow, Tuesday, March 8, 2016. If you wish to speak with him please call Sally Cameron. He will not add anything to this statement before tomorrow. Thank you.*

Dr. John J. Sbrega, President of Bristol Community College, today announced his plans to retire as the College's third president in August 2017.

Dr. Sbrega made his announcement at the regularly scheduled meeting of the College's Board of Trustees today. The second-longest serving community college president in Massachusetts, he was named the College's president in July 2000. During his time as president, he led the College through a period of enormous growth in enrollment, facilities, and achievement.

When Dr. Sbrega took over the leadership of Bristol, it was the seventh largest community college in the Commonwealth, with one campus in Fall River and small satellites in New Bedford, Taunton, and Attleboro. College enrollment has grown 83 percent since 2000 and is now the second-largest community college in Massachusetts, with an annual headcount of 12,500 credit students and another more than 10,000-plus noncredit students enrolled. Under his leadership, the College leveraged partnerships with public and private entities to establish new campuses in New Bedford and Attleboro, with a third permanent site under construction in Taunton. Tapping into a well-known concern for community college students, Dr. Sbrega created these full-service sites in each of the major cities to enable students to better access community college services, as well as substantially expanding online courses and support..

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“It has been an exhilarating flight since joining this great institution,” said Dr. Sbrega. “It is an honor and privilege for me to work alongside the outstanding educators at Bristol Community College who put students first and seek to make opportunity available to the people of this region.”

“Bristol Community College has been enormously fortunate to reap the benefits of Dr. Sbrega’s leadership,” said Joseph A. Marshall, RFC, ’78, Chair of the Bristol Community College Board of Trustees. “He has transformed the College into a strong and vibrant partner in economic development and opportunity that changes the countless lives in our region.”

Dr. Sbrega forged the innovative public/private partnership with The Princeton Review, now called Higher Education Partners, which enabled the College to substantially expand its health career education programs in New Bedford. Bristol was the first to enter the partnership, which garnered national attention for the opportunity for private investing to expand high-demand programming. Through the partnership the College gained much-needed space in the 800 Purchase Street building, which was renovated and expanded to include high-tech nursing simulation labs, a pharmacy technician lab, and science labs to the downtown area. The presence of BCC in New Bedford is widely regarded as a chief catalyst for the revival of the downtown.

Under his leadership, the College is now on the forefront of energy and sustainability issues. The John J. Sbrega Health and Science Building, currently under construction, is the largest Zero Net Energy science learning facility on the East Coast. In addition, through a private partnership with SunEdison, the College hosts the largest solar parking canopy in Massachusetts generating well over 50 percent of the electricity used on the Fall River Campus.

Since coming to Bristol Community College, President Sbrega has emphasized the chief institutional priority of "Student Success" and the One-College Concept, where students, no matter when and where they enrolled, are served equally. He forged a new administrative structure to strengthen services to students by unifying all enrollment functions and services. Dr. Sbrega created new intra-campus councils to focus on marshalling college resources to better serve students. His innovative system of open office hours, direct telephone access to the President, visits with all campus constituencies, and regular columns written in campus publications have served to strengthen college communications and to broaden his accessibility. Some of his other innovations include the creation of living memorials for employee service to the college, a recognition breakfast for the annual Distinguished Citizen award, fund-raising activities, and a new system of performance

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measurement and accountability. The annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Community Breakfast was begun in his first year at Bristol, and the free breakfast every year is now a greatly anticipated event celebrating the life and ideals of Dr. King.

In his role as President, Dr. Sbrega is a member of the New Bedford Workforce Investment Board and the Bristol Workforce Investment Board. He is past Chairman of the New Bedford Youth Council and now serves as a member of that council. He is a member of the Fall River Office of Economic Development Council, and is a member of the Board of Directors for the Fall River Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Sbrega also serves on the Executive Committee for the USS Massachusetts Memorial Committee and is a member of the United Way Board of Directors. He serves on the Global Education Commission for the American Association of Community Colleges.

President Sbrega holds an A.B. from Union College (Schenectady, NY) and a Ph.D. and M.A. in history from Georgetown University (both earned "With Distinction"). He has also been a Fulbright Scholar at the London School of Economics and Political Science, and he was invited as a consultant to Russia as an advocate for starting a community college system.

Before assuming the presidency at Bristol, Dr. Sbrega was the vice president for academic and student affairs at Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) for three years.

Dr. Sbrega began his long career in community colleges in 1974 as a professor of history at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College Downtown Campus (Richmond, VA), where he taught full-time for five years. He also served for seven years as founding chair of the newly created Division of Social Sciences at Tidewater Community College—Virginia Beach Campus. In 1986, he accepted the position of Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs at the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI). In 1990, Dr. Sbrega became the founding chief academic officer for the Providence Campus at CCRI and subsequently earned promotion to full dean. Dr. Sbrega is a renowned authority on U.S. foreign policy and the author of five books.

At CCRI, Dr. Sbrega launched and directed the Honors Program and the Cooperative Education Program; he helped create and supervise the Service-Learning Program as well as the Center for Business and Industrial Training. Under his leadership, the new Providence Campus, which is set in the heart of the inner city, grew in enrollment literally from zero to approximately 2,000 students. MORE----

His professional experiences include an American Council on Education Fellowship, The League for Innovation in the Community College's Executive Leadership Institute, Harvard's Management Development Program, Cornell's Academic Leadership Program, and internships with President David Pierce at the American Association of Community Colleges, and Executive Director Terry O'Banion at The League for Innovation in the Community College. Throughout his career, Dr. Sbrega has maintained a continuous presence in the classroom, and he has earned awards for teaching excellence. He has published five books and several articles (including prize-winning work and international recognition) in history.

For five years, Dr. Sbrega was a pilot in the U.S. Air Force and highly decorated for his service in Southeast Asia. ###