

Governor Patrick, Campus Presidents Honor 29 Outstanding Public College & University Graduates In State House Ceremony on May 12. Thomas Nguyen Harting From Massasoit Community College Was Among The '29 Who Shine'

May 12, 2011

29 outstanding 2011 graduates of Massachusetts community colleges, state universities and the University of Massachusetts were honored for both academic achievement and their contributions to the Commonwealth in a State House ceremony on Thursday May 12. Thomas Nguyen Harting won the award for Massasoit Community College and was joined by Massasoit President, Dr. Charles Wall and Public Relations Director, Laurie Maker for the ceremony.

Tom Harting is the president of the Massasoit chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and is treasurer of the Student Senate, which demonstrates his commitment to civic leadership. He is a fully engaged citizen, not only in the Massasoit community, but in community as a whole. He participates in, promotes and coordinates a variety of civic and volunteer activities supporting local charities and organizations, such as the Walk for Hunger and Heat, and the Brockton Holiday Parade. "I enjoy the energy within Massasoit; it has a large diversity of people and age groups. The faculty seems passionate in the success of their students and the staff is equally eager to set a positive atmosphere. I've enjoyed my time at Massasoit and encourage anyone to further their education here." Tom has been accepted to UMass Boston and plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in computer science or business.

As a group, the student honorees range in age from 17 to 52. They hail from each of the state's 29 public higher education campuses, which are located in 25 cities and towns across Massachusetts. Each student was nominated for the "29 Who Shine" award by faculty and staff at the individual campuses.

"Each one of these student is a success story in her or his own right and as a group they remind us of the power of public higher education to change lives," said Massachusetts Education Secretary **Paul Reville**. "Their achievements affirm the Patrick-Murray Administration's commitment to supporting and investing in our public colleges and universities."

Noting that Massachusetts public college and university graduates will form the bulk of the state's future workforce, Commissioner Freeland said the students have already contributed to the state's civic well-being by serving their communities and preparing to work in high-need areas of the Massachusetts economy, such as the STEM fields.

"Individually and collectively, these students have proven themselves and shown that they will make significant contributions to our state's future," said Freeland. "They've studied hard to prepare for productive careers, but they've also made time to engage in the civic life of their communities, and Massachusetts is better off because of these efforts."



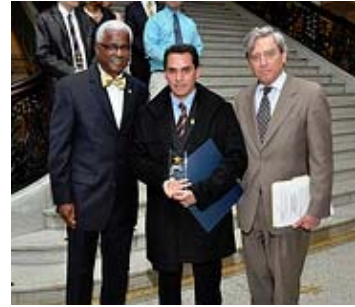
Board of Higher Education Chairman Charles F. Desmond poses with "29 Who Shine" award winner Thomas Nguyen Harting of Massasoit Community College; Laurie Maker, Director of Public Relations for Massasoit Community College; Massasoit Community College President Charles Wall; and Bill Hart, Executive Officer for the Massachusetts Community Colleges' Council of Presidents.



Governor Deval L. Patrick poses with the "29 Who Shine" and presidents of the community colleges, state universities, and University of Massachusetts.



Higher Education Commissioner Richard M. Freeland congratulates "29 Who Shine" award winner Thomas Nguyen Harting of Massasoit Community College.



Board of Higher Education Chairman Charles F. Desmond and Higher Education Commissioner Richard M. Freeland pose with "29 Who Shine" award winner Thomas Nguyen Harting of Massasoit Community College.

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