

18 Public Campuses Win Competitive Grants To Spur Innovation, Improve Graduation Rates Massasoit Will Receive \$174,843 Through The Performance Incentive Fund

September, 2011

BOSTON – Tuesday, September 6, 2011 – Governor Deval Patrick today announced the recipients of \$2.5 million in funding through the Performance Incentive Fund (PIF), a competitive grant program designed to spur innovation in higher education settings. Through this program, eighteen Massachusetts public colleges and universities across the Commonwealth will receive state funding to supplement their base budgets to spur innovative programs and reward campus efforts to improve educational outcomes.

[Vision Project / Performance Incentive Grant Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#)

Funding for this program, proposed by Governor Patrick in his fiscal year 2012 budget, will be used to support a variety of new and existing programs to improve college readiness and attendance of high school graduates, as well as college graduation and student success rates. The funds will also be used to expand programs linked to the state's future workforce needs by preparing students for jobs in high-demand fields. An independent, external review panel evaluated proposals submitted by each of Massachusetts' 29 public campuses and made recommendations for funding.

"The innovative strategies that will be advanced through these grants demonstrate our commitment to provide all students with access to a world-class education," said Governor Patrick. "Today we are making an investment in our campuses that will increase opportunities for students and strengthen our workforce, leaving a better Commonwealth for generations to come."

The Performance Incentive Fund is a cornerstone of the Vision Project, the state's master plan to establish the Commonwealth's system of public higher education as a national leader in educating students to be productive workers and engaged citizens. The "vision" at the heart of the Vision Project is that Massachusetts needs the best educated citizenry and workforce in the nation and that it is the job of public higher education to achieve the result.

"This fund provides momentum to a new and important chapter in the Commonwealth's successful history as the national leader in education reform," said Secretary of Education Paul Reville. "Our campuses are rising to meet the challenge of preparing our students, especially those who have been caught in achievement gaps, to participate successfully in the increasingly-competitive modern economy."

"In a budget with very little new spending, the goals of the Vision Project received the strongest possible endorsement from the Patrick-Murray Administration and the legislature," said Commissioner of Higher Education, Richard M. Freeland. "At a time when higher education budgets are being challenged in many states, this funding represents a strong vote of confidence in our ability to deliver a high-quality education to the citizens of Massachusetts."

Since taking office, Governor Patrick has invested in education at record levels, understanding that the long-term economic stability of Massachusetts is directly linked to the education of its workforce. Investments in public higher education, like the PIF, are critical, given the growing importance of public higher education in preparing the state's future workforce and driving technological innovation through applied research. Approximately two-thirds of the state's high school graduates who attend college in state now choose public higher education. (*Text of news release issued by Governor Patrick's Office 9/6/11.*)

Massasoit Community College will expand its academic advising in the form of *Appreciative Advising* which is advising that is positive and action-oriented. This form has proven success at other institutions and involves a cycle method of layering elements of Appreciative Advising over technology that supports effective implementation. Thoughtfully designed individualized education plans will be developed. The College will also implement a software solution to develop and track IEP's. This web-based tool incorporates academic advising, degree audit, and transfer articulation tools to map a plan to degree completion. The system supports collaborative activities with CONNECT partners and other colleges. It also simplifies alignment of programs with transfer institutions, and the processing of reverse transfers with CONNECT and other universities. "We at Massasoit always place student retention and success as priorities. This Performance Incentive Fund Grant will greatly assist us in helping students graduate or achieve their educational goals," said Massasoit President, Charles Wall.

A complete list of the PIF campus awards and capsule program descriptions is attached. For more information on the Vision Project, please visit: <http://www.mass.edu/currentinit/visionproject.asp>