

Community College Innovation Summits Focus on Supporting Students along Efficient Career Pathways

April 17, 2013

BROCKTON – Over 130 community college administrators and workforce development professionals came together last Friday to share best practices with each other and to hear from national leaders focused on improving community college completion rates, particularly for un- and under-employed adults seeking industry recognized credentials to succeed in the labor market. The meeting focused on effective student service models designed to improve the success of community college students and was the first of three Innovation Summits presented as part of the Massachusetts Community Colleges & Workforce Development Transformation Agenda, an innovative venture that is supporting students along efficient career pathways into high-demand careers, and funded through a U.S. Department of Labor grant.

The Massasoit Community College Transformation Agenda Program Manager, **Maria** Fernandes, and the College and Career Navigator, **Paula Fontes**, attended the summit. Future Summits will focus on Accelerated Learning Strategies (April 19th, Boston) and Strategic Partnerships (April 26th, Holyoke).

“It is the mission of all the community colleges, including Massasoit Community College, to provide students with an entry to the skilled workforce,” said Fernandes. “We also know that many of the people we work to serve face substantial barriers to access and completion. Through the Community College Transformation Agenda, we are developing additional strategies to remove those barriers.”

Massasoit Community College is improving career pathways in Healthcare, Life Sciences, and IT. Programs offered through Massasoit Community College’s Transformation Agenda include:

Home Health Aide

This 100-hour Home Health Aide (HHA) Certification program provides students with the skills and knowledge necessary to enter the health field as a Home Health Aide. At the successful completion of this training, students will receive certification in the area of Home Health Aide Level Three, which includes the three different career areas Homemaker, Personal Care Homemaker or full Home Health Aide.

Medical Interpreting

This 60-hour Medical Interpreting course meets the certification criteria as established by the National Board of Certification and prepares interpreters to take the National Certification Test. Offered in collaboration with TransFluenci, this course is designed for the new or experienced interpreter and will train you to work in the medical setting according to the standards and ethics of the profession.

Microsoft Office Specialist

The Microsoft Office Certificate Program prepares students for the workforce with skills in Microsoft Office applications; i.e., word processing (Word); spreadsheet (Excel); database (Access); presentations (PowerPoint); and personal information management (Outlook). Students completing this 15-credit program will have covered the content on the Microsoft Office Specialist Exams in Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.

Biotechnology

The Biotechnology Certificate is designed for individuals looking to acquire additional skills and knowledge in laboratory methodologies necessary for employment in commercial, industrial, and academic institutions. Students will have hands-on, competency-based instructions geared towards entry-level employment in the biotechnology laboratory.

Respiratory Care

Respiratory Care is a two-year Associate Degree program, which is accredited by the CoARC (Commission of Accreditation for Respiratory Care). Upon successful completion, the graduate is eligible to take the National Board for Respiratory Care Examinations. Graduates wishing to continue their education can earn a Bachelor’s Degree.

For more information on these upcoming summits, visit <http://www.masscc.org/mccwdta>.

About The Transformation Agenda

Massasoit Community College is part of the Massachusetts Community Colleges and Workforce Development Transformation Agenda, which brings together Massachusetts’ 15 community colleges, the Commonwealth’s adult basic education and workforce development systems, career centers and

industry stakeholders to change the way education and skills training are delivered and to prepare dislocated and under-skilled workers for the emerging, knowledge-based economy. As part of the initiative, Massasoit supports students along efficient career pathways by helping them attain degrees, certificates and industry recognized credentials through accelerated programs linked closely to industry need. The state-wide initiative is supported by a \$20 million, three-year grant from the United States Department of Labor.

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Founded in 1966, in the heart of southeastern Massachusetts, Massasoit Community College is a public two-year college in the Massachusetts Public Higher Education System. It is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), one of the six regional accrediting bodies in the United States. Many departments carry additional accreditations. The College offers a full spectrum of associate's degree programs in arts, sciences, and applied sciences as well as one year and short term certificates across a variety of occupations and interests. In addition the College offers corporate and job skills training courses.

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