

Massasoit Community College to Host Gateway to College Graduation Ceremony

Twenty-five students will graduate from the program at this year's "Never Give Up" themed ceremony

June 7, 2013

Brockton, MA – Massasoit Community College will host a graduation ceremony for Gateway to College students on Tuesday, June 18 at 5pm at the Conference Center at Massasoit, 770 Crescent Street (Route 27) in Brockton. Gateway to College gives youth ages 16-21 who have dropped out or are on the verge of dropping out of high school an opportunity to complete their high school diploma requirements while simultaneously earning credits toward a college degree or certificate. Massasoit Community College is one of 35 colleges across the country (20 states) currently offering the Gateway to College program. Graduates this year are from Brockton, Randolph, and Whitman/Hanson Regional High School.

Massasoit Community College has offered the Gateway to College program in partnership with Brockton Public Schools since 2007. Academic acceleration - not remediation - coupled with carefully designed course sequences and student supports have powered college-level learning and a college-going culture for students who are at risk of not graduating from high school. The program promotes student success and readiness for an adult learning environment by grouping students into learning communities and offering intensive literacy development, maintaining rigorous academic standards, and providing individualized support. Because the program is offered on a college campus, students feel that they are treated as adults, and respond well to the academic and behavior expectations of the college environment.

In order to promote the Gateway to College model, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and its funding partners, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, The Ford Foundation, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation granted Portland Community College in Portland, OR \$13 million over seven years to replicate the program. Massasoit Community College, among other community colleges nationwide, was selected to replicate the Gateway to College program. The program uses K-12 education funds to pay for college tuition, fees and books, since students are completing high school at the same time they are earning college credits.

Brockton student, Matt Janes, began the Gateway to College program in spring 2012. Matt completed the program in three semesters, and will graduate with 45 college credits.

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.