

## Massachusetts Awards \$2M in Scholarships to Public College Students

**Massasoit students majoring in health care, business and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) receive up to \$2,000 to help with college costs**

**June 19, 2013**

*Brockton, MA (June 19, 2013)* – Twenty-eight Massasoit students are recipients of scholarships funded by the Massachusetts High Demand Scholarship Program. The program - created in 2012 by the Massachusetts Legislature as an attempt to foster particular educational and career choices for students at community colleges, state universities and UMass – is expected to result in more skilled employees for high-demand fields.

The purpose of these scholarships is to help meet a critical need for mid and high-level skilled workers in key industries where employers have been actively seeking qualified candidates for positions that remain unfilled. To be eligible for the program, students must not have a prior bachelor's degree and be currently enrolled in a designated high-need field at a public college or university in Massachusetts. Of the 5,000 applicants this year, approximately 800 students were awarded scholarships.

One of the twenty-eight Massasoit students to receive a High-Demand Scholarship is James Leary of Duxbury. James - a married father of four - worked in construction for many years when, in the summer of 2005, he was injured in a non-work related accident. While recovering from his injury, he realized he was no longer happy working in the construction industry. He took time to earnestly consider a new direction for his life and aspired to train for a career that would be enjoyable and rewarding. While undergoing myriad medical procedures to remedy his injury, he decided that once healed, he would pursue a career in radiologic technology. He knew that he possessed the empathetic nature necessary to interact with patients and after talking to and observing the medical staff at the facilities he visited for his medical procedures, he understood the time, dedication, and patience it would take to realize his goal of becoming a radiologic technologist.

James applied to the Radiologic Technology Program at Massasoit in 2010. Realizing how selective and highly competitive admission to the program is, he decided to complete his prerequisites and then take a foreign language class and some computer courses; he hoped this would make his application look more attractive to the selection committee. After some time on the waitlist, he was accepted to the program in 2011. He has now completed two semesters at Massasoit and is maintaining good academic standing while tending to his responsibilities as a husband, father and grandfather.

"I am so grateful for the financial support made possible by this program," said James. "This scholarship will certainly help me realize my aspiration of a stable and gratifying career in radiologic technology."

*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.*