

## **Massasoit Community College Student Heather Hilton One Of Fifty-One Students Across the Nation to Win 2014 New Century Scholars Award**

### ***Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society Grants \$100,000 in Scholarships to Community College Students***

**March 7, 2014**

*Brockton, MA* - Fifty-one community college students from the United States, Canada, and American Samoa have been named 2014 New Century Scholars – receiving a total of \$100,000 in scholarships. Massasoit Student Heather Hilton is one of these students. Ms. Hilton, a resident of Holbrook, MA, is President of Massasoit's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, involved in Student Senate, and a two-term Student Trustee. Upon completion of her Associate's degree this spring, Ms. Hilton intends to continue her education by pursuing the Bachelor's degree, planning a major in political science. "Heather has overcome incredible obstacles on her path to success, and she is a true testament to the transformative power of the community college and higher education," says Dr. Charles Wall, president of Massasoit Community College. "I am incredibly proud of Heather's achievements, and am certain that she has a bright and exciting future."

The New Century Scholars Program is sponsored by The Coca-Cola Foundation, Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, Phi Theta Kappa, and the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). This program and All-USA Community College Academic Team, which is sponsored by Follett Higher Education Group and presented by USA TODAY and Phi Theta Kappa, share a common application and together recognize outstanding community college students. More than 1,700 students were nominated from more than 900 community colleges for recognition. Judges consider grades, leadership, activities, and most importantly, the ways in which students extend their intellectual talents beyond the classroom.

New Century Scholars are the highest-scoring students in each state; two additional students are chosen as New Century Scholars, one student from Canada and one student from among the remaining seven sovereign nations where Phi Theta Kappa is represented internationally. Each Scholar will receive a \$2,000 scholarship and be recognized at the AACC Convention in Washington, D.C in April.

"We appreciate the support of the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation and The Coca-Cola Foundation to recognize the outstanding academic achievement and leadership accomplishments of these outstanding community college students," said Phi Theta Kappa's Executive Director, Dr. Rod Risley. "These scholarships provided by organizations like Coca-Cola make the goal of college completion possible – especially during these challenging economic times."

*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.*