

## **Massasoit Community College awarded a grant of \$300,000 from the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education for STEM Starter Academy Summer Program**

**May 7, 2014**

*Brockton, MA* –The Massachusetts Department of Higher Education awarded each of the MA community colleges \$300,000 specifically to set up programs to increase the number of recent high school graduates pursuing STEM workforce career paths. Each college was given the opportunity to custom design a program using the money, but it had to be used in the summer and fall of 2014.

Massasoit Community College will offer a FREE five-week program to recent high school graduates interested in a STEM career or area of study at Massasoit. The STEM Starter Academy is a new initiative that allows Massasoit Community College to promote college readiness for the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) disciplines and promote awareness and interest in the many career opportunities that a STEM education can provide.

The STEM Starter Academy is designed to give students the necessary skills to successfully embark on a course of study in a STEM discipline at Massasoit, and, upon completion of the Associate's degree, pursue either a career in a STEM field or successfully transfer to a four-year institution.

Students accepted into the Academy will begin the developmental math sequence at Massasoit over the summer so that they are better-prepared for college math by the start of the fall semester. Students who come to the Academy already proficient in math will enroll in a college-level math course so that they can begin accumulating college credit and advanced math fluency prior to their first year of college. No matter what level of math skills is achieved over the summer, our STEM Starter Academy students will have a better understanding of what to expect in September and have a real view of what it takes to succeed.

The Academy will provide hands-on activities, seminars, and field trips to help students develop key STEM skills such as problem solving, critical thinking, and collaboration. Students will have the opportunity to conduct scientific research. The Academy will also introduce students to and help them explore the wide array of STEM careers, both those accessible with the Associate's degree and those requiring advanced degrees.

*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.*