

Gateway to College at Massasoit Community College will hold its 5th Commencement Exercises for 33 local students on June 24nd at 5 pm., at the Conference Center at Massasoit

June 23, 2014

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 43 colleges across the country (23 states) currently offering the Gateway to College program. Graduates this year are from Brockton, Hanover & Norton. Massasoit Community College has **offered the Gateway to College program in partnership with Brockton Public Schools since 2007**. Since 2007, we have graduated 135 students from Brockton, Boston, Randolph, Hanover, Whitman-Hanson, Southeastern Regional, Stoughton, Norton, and Holbrook. Our average fall cohort is 54 and spring is 29. The majority of students stay here to complete their associates before transferring or going to work.

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.

"It's important to note our graduation requirement, as they differ from traditional schools. Requirements to graduate from the Gateway to College program include passing all classes with a C- or better, satisfactory scores on all required state examinations, performing at least 10 hours of volunteer work every semester (students often do more!), as well as complete and present a portfolio that encompasses their academic journey and career goals. Many Gateway to College students work part-time jobs, some have children, and all of them balance multiple obligations," said Christina Alves, Director of Gateway to College.

For more information please visit:
<http://gateway.massasoit.mass.edu/index.cfm>

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.

