

Massasoit Community College And Bristol County Savings Bank Team Up To Help College-Bound Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School Students

July 10, 2014

Brockton, MA. The Bristol County Savings Bank Charitable Foundation has donated \$20,000 to Massasoit Community College to continue to offer students at Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School a program that will prepare them for college-level coursework and provide scholarships to pursue post-secondary education at Massasoit.

In a ceremony held recently at Massasoit Community College's Brockton campus, Dennis Kelly, Chairman of the Bristol County Savings Charitable Foundation (BCSCF), along with Michelle Roberts, Executive Vice President and Community Relations Officer, presented a \$20,000 check to Dr. Charles Wall, President of Massasoit Community College and Dr. Jaqueline Forbes, Superintendent of Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School District. The donation will help the college to provide ongoing academic programming on-site at the high school to promote college readiness and create dual enrollment opportunities for students at Bridgewater Raynham Regional High School.

"This program is a great example of how public-private partnerships can have a great impact on the lives of people in our community. The long-standing collaboration between Massasoit Community College, Bristol County Savings Bank, and the Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School District now serves as a model for other communities. We are grateful for the support of the Bristol County Savings Bank Charitable Foundation," said President Wall.

"Due to the positive impact this program continues to have on local students, the Foundation decided to double its support to \$20,000 this year," added Roberts. Two current Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School students, Hayley Axsom and Jacob Kirk of Bridgewater were on hand for the ceremony to talk about the effectiveness of the program. Two Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School graduates, Samantha Clementino of Bridgewater and Kyle Cumiskey of Taunton, both of whom participated in the program while at Bridgewater Raynham and now attend Massasoit, also attended to talk about how they had benefitted from the opportunity to take college courses while still in high school.

Through this investment, an estimated 160 students will participate in Early Accuplacer testing, which will help students and teachers assess college readiness and allow for time to begin remediation if necessary. Based on this testing and college plans, some students will enroll in either a developmental math course in the fall semester or College Experience, a "how to make it in college course" in the spring. Both of these courses, which are designed to promote college readiness, are funded entirely by the Bristol County Savings Bank Charitable Foundation and will be free to students. Other students will be able to take Massasoit courses, such as Speech Communications, Principles of Sociology, and Biological Principles right at the high school for which they will earn both high school and college credit. These courses, which will be taught by Massasoit faculty, are available to Bridgewater Raynham Regional High School students at reduced cost because of the grant. Though elements of this grant are targeted for low to moderate-income students and at-risk students, the grant supports the delivery of a variety of readiness activities and are open to all students.

Bristol County Savings Bank is an active supporter in the communities in which it serves. The Bristol County Savings Charitable Foundation was established in 1996 as part of the Bank's 150th Anniversary celebration. Its purpose is to fund needs that contribute to the economy and the social well-being of the people and institutions located in greater Attleboro/Taunton Region, the greater New Bedford/Dartmouth Region, the Fall River Region and the Pawtucket, Rhode Island Region. Since the Foundation began, more than \$13 million has been committed to hundreds of different non-profit organizations. In 2013, the Foundation awarded \$1.3 million to various 501(c)(3) organizations.

Bristol County Savings Bank, founded in 1846, is a full-service financial institution offering commercial lending, personal and business banking, and mortgage services. The Bank's Financial Advisory Services division has successfully assisted businesses, individuals and non-profits with the management of their assets since 1989. In addition, the Bank also offers quality property and casualty insurance options for its customers through its majority-owned insurance partner, FBinsure.

The Bank's steady growth and expansion has resulted in \$1.5 billion in assets and over 400 employees in southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The key words at Bristol County Savings Bank are: "Commitment, Stability, and Community," values that are combined with state-of-the-art technology to



meet the needs of its customers. A dedicated local community bank for over 167 years, Bristol County Savings Bank is actively involved in giving back to all the communities it serves both through financial support and the volunteerism of its people.

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.