

Massasoit Community College Welcomes Massachusetts Secretary of Education Matthew Malone to Middleborough Center

August 7, 2014

Massasoit Community College was pleased to welcome **Secretary of Education Matthew Malone** to its Middleborough Center on Tuesday, August 5. He was joined by Massasoit President Dr. Charles Wall, Trustee Board Chair Pamerson Ifill, and Middleborough Selectwoman Leilani Dalpe. Also attending were Middleborough Public Schools representatives Kathleen Piatelli, director of business and finance, and Melanie Gates, director of secondary education for STEM, as well as by Massasoit faculty, staff, and students. Secretary Malone toured the recently completed state-of-the-art Emergency Medical Services Educational Suite, which includes labs for the College's new Paramedic Program. The Secretary also made a surprise visit to an anatomy and physiology class in the life sciences lab, interacting with students and faculty as they completed their lab work.

"We were delighted to host Secretary Malone, our former partner as Superintendent of Schools in Brockton, to our thriving and growing Middleborough Center," said Dr. Wall.

Following the tour, Secretary Malone joined members of the college community for an informal discussion about education in Massachusetts. Speaking to the group, Secretary Malone stressed the ways in which Massasoit can continue to serve as a leader in public higher education by focusing on delivering innovative, flexible programs.

"You are nimble and flexible; you offer programs for those students who didn't succeed in high school, but you also offer rigorous curriculum for the highest achieving students. You are creative in developing new programs that respond to workforce needs in the state. The two are not mutually exclusive: education and workforce development must go together and the presidents, staff, and faculty at community colleges know that."

Secretary Malone emphasized the importance of pathways for students, stressing that dual enrollment and early college opportunities for high school students are becoming more attractive, as is the opportunity for students to attend community college and then transfer to a four-year institution to continue their educations. Before leaving, he fielded questions about a variety of topics, including funding, and strengthening high school and community college partnerships.

Olivia Hughes, a Presidential Student Ambassador and student at the Middleborough Center, was on-hand to welcome the Secretary. "Having the opportunity to take classes at Middleborough has been a real building block of my educational success and it was great to have Secretary Malone at our school."

The Middleborough Instructional Site, which opened in 2010, is located at the former Lincoln D. Lynch School and offers courses in liberal arts, business, criminal justice, and childhood education, in addition to the new paramedic certificate program.

