

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE AND BOARD ACTION

COMMITTEE: Academic Affairs

NO.: AAC 15-23

COMMITTEE DATE: December 2, 2014

BOARD DATE: December 9, 2014

**APPROVAL OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAMS UNDER THE GUIDELINES FOR
CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education approves the **Springfield Technical Community College Associate in Science in Criminal Justice program** under the *Guidelines for Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Academic Programs*. The program has been found to meet or exceed all quality standards established by the *Guidelines*.

As required in the Guidelines, each institution shall submit two copies, including one electronic copy, of a report to the Board annually, certifying that each program is being maintained and operated within the provisions and spirit of the criteria and guidelines set forth by the *Guidelines*.

Authority: Chapter 41, Section 108L (as amended)

Contact: Winifred M. Hagan, Ed.D., Director for Educator Policy

Massachusetts Board of Higher Education
Review of Criminal Justice Programs
 October 2014

SUMMARY ASSESSMENT REPORT

<i>Institution</i>	Springfield Community College
<i>Program</i>	PCIPP
<i>Degrees Awarded (AY 2012-13)</i>	92

RECOMMENDATION DETAILS

<i>Recommendation of Review Team in 2012</i>	Non-Approval
<i>Response Received from Institution?</i>	Yes
<i>BHE Staff Analysis</i>	Yes
<i>Recommendation of BHE Staff in 2012</i>	The program was not in substantive compliance with the majority of the standards and there was no credible evidence that it would be by June 2012. The program reported that changes to faculty credentials, size and assessments were not likely to occur in the near future.
<i>Reason for Absence of Board Action in 2012</i>	Insufficient Evidence
<i>Recommendation of BHE Staff in 2014</i>	Approval
<i>Board Action in 2014</i>	The program is in compliance with all Quality Standards for Criminal Justice Programs, i.e., all standards are substantively met.

Continuation of Approval of Criminal Justice Program

The Police Career Incentive Pay Program (PCIPP), also known as the “Quinn Bill,” was enacted by the Legislature in 1970 for the purpose of encouraging police officers in participating municipalities to earn degrees in law enforcement and criminal justice and to provide educational incentives through salary increases. The Quinn Bill was amended in June 2002 to give the Board of Higher Education (BHE) authority to, among other things, develop and implement quality guidelines (e.g., program standards and a review process) for programs seeking to participate in the PCIPP, and periodically review programs for compliance with the standards. M.G.L. c. 41, §108L. The Board approved the *Guidelines for Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Programs* in February 2003 for implementation on January 1, 2004 (<http://www.mass.edu/forinstitutions/academic/documents/cjguidelines.pdf>). The *Guidelines* include quality standards and the process to be followed for program review. Institutions must submit annual reports and the programs must undergo a complete review once every five years.

Department staff thoroughly reviewed materials submitted by Springfield Technical Community College for its Associate in Science in Criminal Justice program and found that the materials demonstrate compliance with all standards found within the *Guidelines for Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Programs*.

The program will continue on the approved program list for the Police Career Incentive Pay Program through 2017, subject to submission of annual reports certifying that the program is being maintained and operated within the provisions and spirit of the *Guidelines*.