

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

NO.: BHE 23-17

BOARD DATE: December 13, 2022

APPROVAL OF BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE REVISED MISSION STATEMENT

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the request of **Berkshire Community College** to revise the College's mission statement to read as follows:

Mission Statement

Berkshire Community College is committed to providing an exceptional education and a wide range of opportunities that meet the diverse needs of our community through college transfer, workforce and career pathways, partnerships, and lifelong learning.

The Board further authorizes the Commissioner to forward the same to the Secretary of Education, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 7.

VOTED: Motion approved and advanced to the full BHE by the Executive Committee on 12/5/2022; and adopted by the BHE on 12/13/2022.

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Sections 7, 9(e), and 22(n)

Contact: Winifred M. Hagan, Ed.D, Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Student Success

**BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
December 2022**

Berkshire Community College Mission Statement

The Board of Higher Education (BHE) is responsible for reviewing and approving institutional mission statements. M.G.L. c. 15A, §9(e) and §22[n].

Berkshire Community College's (BCC) campus strategic planning process included a review of the mission statement using the SOAR¹ framework. A team of seven individuals led the campus review between December 2021 and March 2022. Participation of over one hundred fifty faculty, students, administrators and Trustees reviewed and revised ideas over a three-month timeframe in virtual town halls, breakout room discussion sessions, and deep conversation about BCC's current mission, vision and values statements. These discussions provided guidance on how each statement could be improved to reflect the impact of the global pandemic and the future of BCC on community, individual, and collective learning.

A final version of the mission statement was approved by the BCC Board of Trustees on November 29, 2022 with unanimous approval of the proposed changed Mission Statement.

Current and New Mission Statements

BCC's current Mission Statement reads as follows:

Berkshire Community College (BCC) strives to place higher education within reach of all residents of Berkshire County and beyond. BCC is committed to access, academic excellence, student success and leadership in the community. BCC helps students overcome financial, physical and/or social barriers and welcomes them into a college environment of academic excellence. BCC provides quality programs that prepare students to enter or progress within the workforce and/or for transfer, while fostering a lifelong enthusiasm for learning. BCC provides the resources and services students need to be successful, to meet our academic standards and to achieve their personal and professional goals. BCC provides leadership by furthering the engagement of our students in the community; by working collaboratively with civic leaders, organizations and employers; and by serving as a center for diverse educational and cultural activities.

¹ Strengths Opportunities Aspirations Results. SOAR is a strategic planning framework with an approach that focuses on strengths and seeks to understand the whole system by including the voices of the relevant stakeholders

BCC's new Mission Statement reads as follows:

Berkshire Community College is committed to providing an exceptional education and a wide range of opportunities that meet the diverse needs of our community through college transfer, workforce and career pathways, partnerships, and lifelong learning.

Rationale for Change:

BCC found that the process of campus strategic planning in a context of a global pandemic and changing demographics necessitated a review of the mission statement. Resilience and dedication of the BCC campus community became evident in the course of planning and a feature of how constituents approached the strategic planning process. The new mission statement more succinctly and specifically defines the current mission of the institution.