

**BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION**  
**REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE AND BOARD ACTION**

**COMMITTEE:** Fiscal Affairs and Administrative Policy    **NO.:** FAAP 15-12  
**COMMITTEE DATE:** October 14, 2014  
**BOARD DATE:** October 21, 2014

---

**NAMING OF MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S MAIN CAMPUS  
BUILDING IN THE CITY OF LOWELL IN HONOR OF OUTGOING PRESIDENT  
CAROLE A. COWAN**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the September 18, 2014 request of the Middlesex Community College Board of Trustees to name the college's main city of Lowell campus building the "Dr. Carol A. Cowan Center" in honor of outgoing President Carole Cowan.

**Authority:** Section 9(m) of Chapter 15A of the Massachusetts General Laws

**Contact:** Sean P. Nelson, Deputy Commissioner for Administration & Finance

## Background

Please see the attached letter from the Middlesex Community College Board of Trustees.



## *Middlesex Community College*

ROYALL M. MACK, SR.  
CHAIR  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

(978) 656-3101  
Fax: (978) 452-5545  
[www.middlesex.mass.edu](http://www.middlesex.mass.edu)

September 18, 2014

Commissioner Richard Freeland  
Massachusetts Department of Higher Education  
1 Ashburton Place, Room 1401  
Boston, MA 02108-1518

Dear Commissioner Freeland,

Please be advised that this morning, at the Middlesex Community College Board of Trustees meeting, as chairman of the board, I brought forth a motion to recognize and laud the achievements of our outgoing president, Carole Cowan, who has served as a member of this college since 1976, and as its third president since 1990. As chairman, I made a motion to name our main city of Lowell campus building in honor of Dr. Carole A. Cowan, a motion that passed with the unanimous support of the board. This honor, I add, directly conforms to the Board of Higher Education's naming guidelines as well as the college's own internal policies and guidelines in terms of naming opportunities for any of its properties.

I come to you as Commissioner of the BHE to ask for your approval on this honor, as I know the Board has helped craft specific guidelines regarding the naming of state properties in recent years. I have no doubt whatsoever that the accomplishments President Cowan has made in helping to elevate Middlesex Community College to the status it has achieved under her watch not just within Massachusetts, but in our nation, certainly qualifies under those guidelines. Under her leadership our college has tripled in size, formally establishing permanent campuses both in Bedford and Lowell. She launched and has help grow our international fellowship opportunities for our students. She has helped develop the college's Foundation to previously unseen levels, working closely with so many of our community partners to help support the college mission. She created our successful Celebrity Forum speakers series which raises money every year to help support student scholarships. But above all, throughout her tenure, she has made sure that student success and positive growth has been the cornerstone of her administration, a fact you personally can attest to through the work she has done with your successful Vision Project.

I would ask you to bring this matter before your board at your earliest possible convenience, as this is an honor I would like to bestow on President Cowan as she leaves our college after 38 years of meritorious service. I would hope that in early 2015, we can name our unnamed city building the Dr. Carole A. Cowan Center, and would truly appreciate the support of you and your board on this endeavor.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this well-deserved honor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Royall M. Mack Sr.", with a small flourish at the end.

Royall M. Mack Sr.,  
Chairman