



Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

One Ashburton Place, Room 1401
Boston, MA 02108-1696

TEL (617) 994-6950
FAX (617) 727-0955
WEB www.mass.edu

Richard M. Freeland, *Commissioner*
Charles F. Desmond, *Chairman*
Massachusetts Board of Higher Education

Local Campuses Urge High School Students to “GO PUBLIC!”

*November 8 Event at Mahar Regional High School Promotes
Massachusetts’ Public Colleges and Universities*

Contact: Katy Abel, External Affairs
Mass. Department of Higher Education
617-994-6932/
kabel@bhe.mass.edu

Boston, MA – November 1, 2012 -- Five campuses in Western and Central Massachusetts are teaming up with the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education in a unified effort to promote the academic excellence and value of the Commonwealth’s public colleges and universities.

The University of Massachusetts Amherst, Greenfield Community College, Mount Wachusett Community College, Westfield State University and Fitchburg State University will participate in “Go Public!” – a free event for prospective students and families **Thursday, Nov. 8 at 7 p.m. at Mahar Regional High School** in Orange, Mass. The Mahar program is part of a series of “Go Public!” events taking place at high schools across the state this fall.



Each event is hosted by a leading member of the legislature and will feature student speakers who tell of their experiences at a community college, UMass or state university campus. Governor Deval Patrick has videotaped a personal message to high school students, urging them to complete four years of high school math and three years of lab sciences in preparation for college-level work.

The Mahar Regional High School event will be hosted by State Senator **Stephen Brewer**.

"We're launching 'Go Public' at a time when many of our campuses are seeing record enrollment gains," said Higher Education Commissioner **Richard M. Freeland**. "Our goal with this effort is to make sure that students who look to public higher education are ready for the academic rigor of our programs and are excited about the many opportunities that await them at our campuses across the Commonwealth."

"Massachusetts' institutions of public higher education are second to none, and we welcome this chance to educate prospective students and their families about the scope and quality of our academic programs and campus amenities," Fitchburg State University President **Robert V. Antonucci** said.

"As the Commonwealth's flagship public university, UMass Amherst has a long and distinguished history of providing educational opportunities that transform the lives of our citizens," said UMass Amherst Chancellor **Kumble Subbaswamy**. "Working with our partners in state government, we are committed to maintaining that tradition of excellence and affordability."

"At a time when many students and families are becoming increasingly concerned about the cost of higher education, it is essential that they explore the outstanding academic programs that are available nearby and throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts," said Mount Wachusett Community College President **Daniel M. Asquino**.

"During this period of economic uncertainty, the American Dream feels increasingly unachievable for far too many hard working people in our community," said Greenfield Community College President **Robert L. Pura**. "Affordable access to excellence in Massachusetts' public higher education system provides that opportunity."

Campuses plan to run financial aid seminars for students and their families. Admissions officers from many of the state's public colleges and universities will be on site at each event to answer questions.

All local middle and high school students and their families are invited to attend the "Go Public" event at Mahar Regional.

For more information, please visit www.mass.edu/gopublic.

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