



29 Who Shine

Honoring 29 stellar graduates of our 29 public college and university campuses



Thursday, May 10, 2012
Massachusetts State House
mass.edu/29whoshine

The Ceremony

Welcome **Charles F. Desmond, Chairman**
Massachusetts Board of Higher Education

29 Who Shine Procession

Music *"America the Beautiful"*
Collin McBride, Jr., Student
Salem State University

Opening Remarks **Richard M. Freeland, Commissioner**
Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

Paul Reville, Secretary of Education
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The Honorable Deval L. Patrick, Governor
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

29 Who Shine Awards *University of Massachusetts Awards presented by*
J. Keith Motley, Chancellor
University of Massachusetts Boston

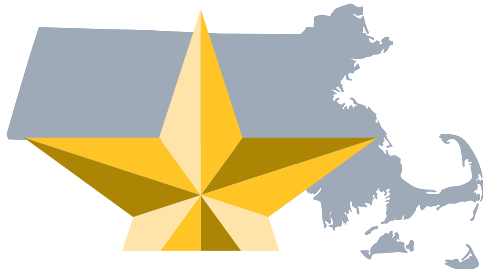
State University Awards presented by
Patricia Maguire Meservey, President
Salem State University

Community College Awards presented by
Wayne Burton, President
North Shore Community College

Closing Remarks **Michael F. Mizzoni**
UMass Lowell '11 and 29 Who Shine 2011 Honoree

Reception to follow

Meet the...



29 Who Shine

From the five campuses of the University of Massachusetts...



Hannah D. Barrett
UMass Amherst

Hannah Barrett is a Commonwealth Honors College student and a psychology major with a particular interest in stigma and stereotyping. Her senior thesis focused on the social and psychological well-being of individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, an area of psychology that has been relatively understudied. Hannah has been awarded a Fulbright Postgraduate Scholarship to conduct research related to hearing loss at the Australian National University in Canberra, Australia. She says, "My thesis and the research I plan to conduct will, I hope, contribute to improve the experience of those with hearing loss here in the Commonwealth and throughout the country."

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Faculty/Staff Mentor: Susan Whitbourne, Professor, Psychology



Taylor Gagnon
UMass Boston

Taylor Gagnon is passionate about community health and specifically the prevention and treatment of obesity. An exercise science major, Taylor graduates with a GPA of 3.9. Taylor has extensive community volunteer and work experience; she coached indoor soccer and ice skating, and also worked as an EMT. On campus, she volunteered at GoKids Boston, UMass

Boston's unique research- and practice-based center working to treat and prevent childhood obesity. This semester, Taylor interned for *Mass in Motion* in New Bedford, which is part of a 14-city initiative to prevent obesity-related chronic diseases. She also recently founded *Get Up & Grow Yoga*, a yoga program for children and teenagers. Upon graduation, Taylor plans to pursue a master's degree in public health.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Dana Comness, Undergraduate Program Director and Lecturer, Exercise and Health Sciences



Peter T. Schock
UMass Dartmouth

Peter T. Schock is a finance major who earned a 4.0 GPA in his major and a 3.91 overall GPA. Active in student government throughout his UMass Dartmouth career, Peter was elected by students as their representative to the UMass Board of Trustees. Peter overcame serious health setbacks at a young age and has been very active in the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America, serving on the National Youth Leadership

Council and participating in the organization's fundraising and political outreach efforts. Peter has been hired by EMC Corporation into its finance training program. He also intends to remain active on behalf of the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation and Children's Hospital in Boston, where he was treated for his illness.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Michael Anderson, Professor, Finance



Marck-Arthur Clerveau
UMass Lowell

Marck-Arthur Clerveau is a resident adviser and first-year student adviser for UMass Lowell Residence Life. He also served as president of the Association of Students of African Origin (ASAO) and was a member of the National Society of Black Engineers, Men Achieving Leadership Excellence and Success (MALES), and the UMass Lowell Chancellor's Student Advisory Council.

Marck has also been a UMass Lowell Student Alumni Ambassador, a UMass Lowell Conduct Board volunteer, and the local ad manager for the student newspaper, the *UMass Lowell Connector*. Marck's studies in engineering have focused on green energy and power electronics. Accepted into the UMass Lowell Manning School of Business, he will pursue a master of science degree in innovation and technological entrepreneurship.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Brenda Evans, Associate Dean of Students, Student and Community Engagement



Abraham Edan Jaffe
UMass Medical School

Abraham Jaffe is a recipient of the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship, awarded to individuals dedicated to addressing the health needs of underserved communities. Abraham helped design and open a free health clinic for the African immigrant community in Worcester. Abraham has volunteered at the African Children's Education Program as a tutor, served on the UMMS Student Body

Committee, and helped raise over \$10,500 for local charities. He was president of the International Student Interest Group and led a group of 11 medical and nurse practitioner students on a medical mission to Guatemala. Abraham has also worked in Mali, where he helped to organize and run the country's first pilot program for the One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) initiative, and he completed a clinical rotation in general surgery at a hospital in Lima, Peru. An Arlington native, Abraham will continue his residency at the UMass Memorial Medical Center in Worcester.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Michael Hirsh, MD, Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics, Division of Pediatric Surgery and Trauma

From Massachusetts' nine state universities and specialty colleges...



Diana Rose Ramos
Bridgewater State University

Diana Ramos is a political science major with a 3.896 cumulative GPA. During her junior year, Diana interned at Senator John Kerry's Office and conducted a research study on citizen conservation efforts. Diana also interned, through the Washington Center, at the U.S. Office of Surface Mining where she researched development issues relating to rural watersheds. She has studied sustainable development in Costa Rica and researched issues related to food security. As a high-achieving student, Diana has received multiple awards and scholarships. She hopes to join AmeriCorps and then pursue graduate studies in environmental science and public policy.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Lee Forest, Director for the GLBTA Pride Center, Student Affairs



Courtney B. Gustafson
Fitchburg State University

Courtney Gustafson is a standout scholar graduating with a cumulative GPA of 3.99. A commuting student raised in Fitchburg, Courtney has balanced a demanding class schedule with two jobs. She has been a member of the English honor society, written for the student newspaper, and this spring interned at Worcester's *Telegram & Gazette*. With fully half of Fitchburg State's undergraduate population commuting to the university, Courtney decided the group needed a voice and founded the Commuter Club. Courtney also volunteers at Shirley State Prison, where she helped to design a syllabus and writing curriculum for 17 incarcerated men. Courtney has been accepted into an MA/Ph.D. program in English rhetoric and composition at UMass Amherst. She has been offered a teaching assistantship and a fellowship.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Ian Williams, Associate Professor, English



Sarah Ann Ferguson
Framingham State University

Sarah Ferguson is a Dean's List biology major with a concentration in pre-med. A member of the FSU Honors Program and Alpha Lambda Delta Honors Society, she has excelled in the science lab, mastering complex techniques in DNA extraction and purification, cloning, enzyme isolation, and molecular modeling. She completed an independent study on "Treatment for Resistant Cancers." Sarah served as a Supplemental Instruction Leader at FSU's Center for Academic Support and Advising (CASA), where she created chemistry study sessions for a class of 70 students. Sarah is listed in the spring 2012 edition of *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities & Colleges*.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Aline Davis, Associate Professor of Biology



Ariel DiOrio
Massachusetts College of Art and Design

A "citizen artist" and major in the Studio for Interrelated Media (SIM), Ariel DiOrio has merged her artistic talents with her desire to be an engaged community activist. Ariel currently works through the MassArt Center for Art and Community Partnerships (CACP) as an arts instructor and afterschool program coordinator at the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center. She participates in CACP's Community-Based Leadership Training Program and serves on MassArt's Civic Engagement Committee. Ariel uses her access and skills in SIM to help organize arts events that promote human rights and social justice. She recently organized the first-ever *TEDxMassArt*, an "evening of speaking, performance, and collaboration based on the idea that art can change the world."

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Ceci Mendez, Director, Center for Art and Community Partnerships



Amanda Ok
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

Amanda Ok is both a full-time student at MCLA and a pharmacy technician. A commuter student on her own since age 17, Amanda has lived off campus and paid her own bills while also maintaining excellent grades. Amanda is also a popular DJ on the MCLA radio station. A first-generation college student, Amanda overcame many obstacles to complete her undergraduate degree, transferring between four different colleges before settling at MCLA to complete her studies. She plans to pursue studies in acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Jerry Smosky, Professor, Biology



Jack Gomes
Massachusetts Maritime Academy

Cadet Jack Gomes is MMA's Cadet Regimental Commander, the highest cadet leadership position at the Academy. He was responsible for the leadership and character development of all 1200 members of the regiment. Previously, Jack's leadership capabilities propelled him to the position of Orientation Squad Leader where he was responsible for 55 freshman. Jack was also chosen from a very competitive field to represent MMA and study in Shanghai, China. An International Maritime Business major, he would like to use his talents and skills to help strengthen the maritime industry in Massachusetts.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Captain Edward Rozak, Commandant of Cadets and Vice President of Student Services



Jacquelynn Palazola

Salem State University

Jacquelynn Palazola earned her degree while serving as an active member of the Air Force Reserves. A tireless advocate for student veterans, she was keynote speaker at the 2011 "Women are Veterans, Too" conference, and also interned with the Department of Veterans' Services (DVS) to establish a student veterans council. Jacquelynn has served in both Iraq and the United

Arab Emirates and was the only woman in her graduating class from the Air Force Fire Academy. She has juggled motherhood along with her civic, academic, and military duties, giving birth to her second child just a week after spring classes ended at SSU and starting an internship shortly thereafter. A communications major, Jacquelynn graduates with a 3.86 GPA. She is slated for redeployment in September.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Judi Cook, Chairperson, Communications



Ryan F. Meersman

Westfield State University

Ryan F. Meersman is a campus leader with a dual major in history and secondary education. A Dean's List student, he graduates with an overall GPA of 3.9. Ryan was elected by his peers to serve as the student representative to Westfield State's Board of Trustees. He also served as the student representative to the Westfield State Strategic Planning Committee and was a member of

both the Student Government Association and the statewide Student Advisory Council. Ryan has been the recipient of a 2012 Academic Achievement Award in History, the 2011 President's Award for Excellence in Leadership, and a 2009 First Year Senator Award. He plans a career as a high school history teacher and would one day like to work in higher education.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Susan LaMontagne, Dean of Students



Abigail Chmielecki

Worcester State University

Abigail Chmielecki, member of the WSU Commonwealth Honors Program, plans a career in public service. She has been a member of the campus Board of Trustees and the Student Senate. She also served on the recent presidential search committee. Her community service has included volunteering in a soup kitchen, organizing care package drives for troops overseas, and

collecting shoes for "Soles 4 Souls." Abby has also shown courage and determination on a personal level. Midway during her studies at WSU, she lost her father after a long, debilitating illness. Despite personal and financial setbacks that followed, Abby retained a positive attitude, never letting her commitment to academics waiver. She will attend Suffolk University Law School.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Lisa Krissoff Boehm, Interim Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences

Event Photos

Professional photographs and videos from today's event will be available on Monday, May 14, at:

www.mass.edu/29whoshine



And from Massachusetts' 15 community colleges...



Karla Pauta
Berkshire Community College

Karla Pauta emigrated to the U.S. from Ecuador as a young teenager. This first-generation college student graduates with honors with a degree in liberal arts and a concentration in biological sciences. An admiring Berkshire CC staff member writes, "Karla's personal experiences of loss, migration, adaptation, struggle and achievement have strengthened her character." Karla

has been an active member of the Student Government Association, a leader in the Multicultural Student Services Organization, and the student representative on the BCC presidential search committee. She plans a career in biotechnology and would ultimately like to become a pediatrician.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Eleanore Velez, Community Outreach Counselor



Scott M. Pitas
Bristol Community College

Scott Pitas is a Dean's List engineering student. He maintained a rigorous course load while balancing a family and working part time as a peer tutor and substitute teacher in Attleboro High School's Career Vocational Technical Education program. Scott also served on the Engineering Industrial Advisory Board at Attleboro High and as an active member of the Bristol CC Engineering Club, where he helped spearhead the

Alternative Energy Go Cart Project to spur interest in green technologies and engineering careers. Scott has been accepted to Northeastern University and plans a career in mechanical engineering.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Meghan Abella-Bowen, Director of the SAGE Program



Leticia Rodrigues do Prado
Bunker Hill Community College

At age 15, Leticia do Prado served as head of her household in Brazil when her mother traveled to the U.S. to find work. Leticia herself worked two jobs while going to school and caring for her younger brother. Two years later, the family was reunited in Malden, Massachusetts. As a dual enrollment student at Malden High, Leticia at-

tended Bunker Hill Community College, where she thrived. Leticia was president of the Brazilian Club, a member of the Women's Soccer Team, a student government representative to the BHCC College Forum, and vice president of service for Phi Theta Kappa. Based on her 3.84 GPA and leadership skills, she was named a 2012 Coca Cola Silver Scholar. Leticia plans to earn a Ph.D. in clinical psychology.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Paul Moda, Coordinator of Student Activities



Sviatlana Rose
Cape Cod Community College

In nine years, Sviatlana Rose went from knowing one phrase in English to becoming a high honors graduate of Cape Cod Community College. A mother of six, including young twins, she graduates with a 3.96 GPA. Sviatlana has been a highly respected peer tutor in the Tutoring Center and Math Learning Center and an active participant in the Honors Colloquium and the Phi Theta

Kappa honor society. She plans to continue her studies and plans a career as a pediatric radiologist, a choice inspired by the lingering effects of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in her native Russia.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Kate Martin, Professor, Social Sciences and Human Services



Evelyn Patricia Stankowski
Greenfield Community College

Nineteen-year-old Evelyn Stankowski arrived at GCC at 17 as a dual-enrolled student from the Franklin County Technical School. This honors student will graduate with a 3.96 GPA. Evelyn has been a member of the GCC Business Club and a peer tutor, helping other students with mathematics, business, and science coursework. She completed a

business internship at a local school for autism and brought her organizational, marketing and IT skills to GCC's administrative office. She works a second job at a local barbecue restaurant, where she has been employed since the age of 15. Evelyn will transfer to UMass Amherst to complete her bachelor's degree in finance/accounting.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Kathleen Vranos, Associate Professor and Co-Chair, Business and Information Technology Department



Camille L. Theriaque
Holyoke Community College

Camille was the first female African-American firefighter in the history of the Holyoke Fire Department. She rose to the rank of lieutenant and retired in 2008 after being diagnosed with chronic myelogenous leukemia. This mother of three enrolled at HCC with the goal of becoming a counselor and helping emergency responders deal with post-traumatic stress. She graduates with a

3.89 GPA and an associate's degree in liberal arts. Camille is a member of the HCC Student Senate, vice president of the Psychology Club and co-secretary of the Anthropology-Sociology Club. Off campus, she conducts community CPR and defibrillator training for the American Red Cross. Camille has been accepted to Mount Holyoke College.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Jack Mino, Professor of Psychology and Learning Communities Coordinator



Keith Ledin

Massasoit Community College

Keith Ledin has successfully balanced full-time work, three combat deployments, and college studies over the past several years. He is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and currently serves as an Air Force Tech Sergeant E6 Supervisor Military Police in the Air National Guard. He is also a trooper with the Massachusetts State Police, assigned to a drug and gang violence prevention unit in

the Brockton and Taunton areas. Keith has twice received the Air Force Commendation Award, Lifesaver Award, and Achievement Medal. He will pursue a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Kerry Snyder, Coordinator of Academic Resource Center Math Services



Matthew Edward Richards

MassBay Community College

Matthew Richards served in the U.S. Army from 2003–2006 and was deployed to Iraq with the 2nd Armored Cavalierly Regiment from August 2003 until April 2004. Suffering injuries during his time in combat, Matthew initially struggled to become a full-time student. He honed his academic skills through effort and energy, becoming a member of

two honor societies, the Sicilian Club and the Student Government Association. He was instrumental in winning support for a scholarship for needy students. Off campus, Matthew provides care for his elderly grandfather and also volunteers at a local VA hospital. He plans to become a psychiatric social worker to help Massachusetts veterans who suffer from post-traumatic stress and other emotional problems.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Patricia Allen, Professor of Critical Thinking and Philosophy



Joseph Assenza

Middlesex Community College

Former U.S. Marine and Iraq War veteran Joseph Assenza served as this year's student trustee on the Middlesex Community College Board of Trustees. He was also a leader among student veterans, advising both the Dean's Office and MCC Veterans Resource Center. While carrying a full course load, Joe also worked part time in the Lowell Campus Student Lounge and had a paid internship

in the City of Lowell's Engineering Division. He played a leadership role in the MCC STEM Club and participated in the highly selective Paul H. Sullivan Leadership Institute. A recipient of two MCC International Education Fellowships, Joe traveled to China and Belize. He also served as the first campus president of the Phi Theta Kappa honors society. Joe aspires to a career in civil engineering.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Pamela Flaherty, Senior Student Affairs Officer/Dean of Students



Caroline Horvitz

Mount Wachusett Community College

Caroline Horvitz is widely recognized on campus for her wit, intellect, and desire to help others. She served as the student trustee on MWCC's Board of Trustees and is a member of both the MWCC's Honors Program and the Phi Theta Kappa honor society. Born with cerebral palsy and deafness, Caroline is fluent in five sign languages

and keenly interested in medieval history, Latin and archival studies. Caroline feels she has no barriers that interfere with her life. A few years ago, while visiting Italy, someone questioned her ability to climb the ruins of Pompeii. She not only did so, she then translated Latin inscriptions for other tourists. Caroline has been accepted to Mount Holyoke College.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Robert E. Ganley, Adjunct Instructor, History/Political Science



Theon Kenri O'Neill

North Shore Community College

First-generation college student Theon Kenri O'Neill has excelled academically, particularly in calculus and chemistry, while contributing to his community and working long hours to fund his college education. In 2011, he co-founded the non-profit Gloucester Ocean Service and Education Association (GOSEA) to promote ocean conservation. Theon also volunteers regularly at

the Open Door Food Pantry in Gloucester. In 2009–10, Theon attended a year-long program in Colorado for youth of the Unification Church. While there, he mentored younger teens, worked as a math tutor, and helped assist with Habitat for Humanity projects. Theon is a member of the Philosophy and Math clubs at NSCC. He plans to continue his studies in neuroscience.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Joseph R. Modugno, Jr., Professor, English Department



Herinell Linares

Northern Essex Community College

Herinell Linares was born in the Dominican Republic and came to the U.S. in 2006. He spoke no English and, as soon as he was eligible, signed up for ESL classes at NECC. He developed a passion for engineering and persevered despite the challenges of higher-level math classes. Herinell has attended college while working full time as

a security guard at a Lawrence apartment building and also as a banquet server for the Windham Hotel. Two nights a week, he works the night shift, comes home and sleeps four hours, and then reports to class. Herinell will study electrical engineering at UMass Lowell.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Liliana Brand, Professor, Math Department



Elizabeth M. Forehand

Quinsigamond Community College

Engineering student Elizabeth M. Forehand is a member of the Massachusetts National Guard and a veteran of the Iraq war. She was deployed to the Al Anbar Province of Iraq in 2009–2010, where she was responsible for the health and wellbeing of 43 soldiers. Liz brought her leadership skills to QCC, where she has been very involved

with the campus chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society. She served as vice president of leadership, chaired the society's pancake breakfast for tornado victims in the Southbridge/Charlton area and its annual charity cookout. Liz plans to continue her engineering studies at Worcester Polytechnical Institute.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Maureen Ann Woolhouse, Coordinator/Professor of Mathematics



Renee Michelle Keyes

Roxbury Community College

As a biotechnology/biological science major, Renee Michelle Keyes' conducted extensive undergraduate research at RCC. Last summer this honors student participated in the Research Experiences for Undergrads (REU) Program at Northeastern University's Center for High-Rate Nano-Manufacturing. She was a member of RCC's Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP)

Program and also received the college's STEM Homeland Security Scholarship. A mother with two young daughters, Renee serves as a mentor to teen mothers in her community. At one point after the birth of her first daughter, then-18-year-old Renee found herself homeless. She lived for a year in a Catholic Charities shelter and has since served as a public advocate for the organization. Renee hopes to further her education and plans a career in biotechnology.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Kimberley Stieglitz, Professor, Chemistry and Biotechnology



Alex Samuel Chaez

Springfield Technical Community College

Alex Samuel Chaez will proudly be the first in his family to graduate from college, earning a degree in computer & IT security. As president of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society, Alex served as an elementary school volunteer and coordinated a clothing drive for the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization. He also worked in the Dean of Students'

office. He chose to go to college locally in order to remain close to his parents, assisting them both financially and physically. He serves as a personal care assistant to his father, who suffers from ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). Alex plans to continue his IT studies at Western New England University. His eventual goal is to earn a doctorate.

Faculty/Staff Mentor: Rose A. Hill, Academic Counselor

About Public Higher Education in Massachusetts

Massachusetts' public colleges and universities enroll over

290,000 students

in degree and certificate programs annually, including

**one half of the
Massachusetts
public high school
graduates**

who enroll directly in college.

They awarded more than

**37,000 degrees
and certificates**

in the 2010–11 academic year.

They provide employment to nearly

35,000 professionals

in administrative, faculty and staff positions.

One year after graduation,

9 out of 10 graduates

of Massachusetts' public colleges and universities remain in the state, working and/or furthering their education.



Thank You

Thank you to the following newspapers and publishers who have shown their support for Massachusetts Public Higher Education by donating advertising space this week to salute the "29 Who Shine."



The Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield
Andrew Mick, Publisher

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The Taunton Gazette

The Lowell Sun
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Thank you also to **The Boston Globe** for saluting our students on Boston.com! Visit the 29 Who Shine portrait gallery at www.boston.com.



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Local	National	World	Politics	Education	Opinion	Health	Obituaries	Special reports	Classifieds	Lottery	Weather	Traffic

29 Massachusetts students who shine

◀ Prev 1 of 30 Next ▶



Thousands of students will graduate from Massachusetts colleges and universities this month. The students in this gallery have been singled out for the state's 29 Who Shine awards.

The awards honor students from Massachusetts community colleges, state universities and UMass for academic achievement and community service. Among this year's honorees are five veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the first female firefighter in Holyoke's history, and multiple students who are the first in their families to graduate from college.

Governor Deval Patrick will honor the 29 Who Shine winners during a State House ceremony on May 10.

◀ Prev 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 ... 30 Next ▶

And thank you to the **Massachusetts Department of Transportation's** Office of Outdoor Advertising for providing the opportunity for a 29 Who Shine public service announcement to be displayed on eight digital billboards throughout the Commonwealth.





A Massachusetts Public Higher Education partnership



MASSACHUSETTS
Department of
Higher Education



Massachusetts Department of
Higher Education
Richard M. Freeland, Commissioner

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

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Ellen Kennedy, Interim President

Bristol Community College
John J. Sbrega, President

Bunker Hill Community College
Mary Fifield, President

Cape Cod Community College
Kathleen Schatzberg, President

Greenfield Community College
Robert L. Pura, President

Holyoke Community College
William F. Messner, President

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Quinsigamond Community College
Gail Carberry, President

Roxbury Community College
Terrence Gomes, President

Springfield Technical Community College
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STATE UNIVERSITIES

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Fitchburg State University
Robert Antonucci, President

Framingham State University
Timothy J. Flanagan, President

Massachusetts College of Art and Design
Dawn Barrett, President

Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
Mary Grant, President

Massachusetts Maritime Academy
Richard Gurnon, President

Salem State University
Patricia Maguire Meserve, President

Westfield State University
Evan Dobbelle, President

Worcester State University
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