

**BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION MEETING**  
**June 15, 2010**

A meeting of the Board of Higher Education (BHE) was held in the Cafeteria Atrium of the Commonwealth College Center (G Building) at Bristol Community College at 777 Elsbree Street, Fall River, Massachusetts. The following Board members were present:

Dr. Charles Desmond, Chairman	Dr. Nancy Harrington
Mr. Louis Ricciardi, Vice Chairman	Dr. Nancy Hoffman
Dr. Mary Elizabeth Beach	Mr. Michael Mizzoni
Ms. Jeanne-Marie Boylan	Mr. Paul Reville, Secretary of Education
Mr. James Coyle	

Absent: Dr. Mario Borunda, Messrs. C. Bernard Fulp and Henry Thomas, III

**CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Charles Desmond, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the May 4, 2010, Board of Higher Education meeting. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

**WELCOME**

Dr. John J. Sbrega, President of Bristol Community College, welcomed the Board to Bristol Community College and introduced College trustees, Donald Smyth and Zelma Braga. The College's motto, "change lives learner by learner," strategic planning efforts, and the College's ability to adapt to and create positive change were topics of the President's remarks. He reported a 71 percent increase in enrollment but a drop in faculty and staff. In June the College granted 1,035 associate degrees and 454 GED certificates, and workforce training contracts remain strong.

President Sbrega mentioned briefly the recently established pilot program, offered by Bristol Community College and The Princeton Review, which will expand BCC's allied health care education program to graduate more certified nurse assistants, physical therapy assistants and other health-care workers. This public/private partnership will help fulfill the state's demand for more health care workers, especially in the Fall River/New Bedford area. Dr. Sbrega stated that this program has been vetted fully by many education experts and legislative leaders.

President Sbrega updated the Board on dual enrollment, Accuplacer workshops, Upward Bound, and Kids College activities at BCC. He also mentioned that BCC now has an articulation agreement with Wentworth Institute. The College is continuing its work on sustainability with water and energy conservation. BCC also continues its progress toward improving accountability.

Also reported:

- Currently, a BCC Culinary Arts student and state gold medal winner is attending the Skills USA national competition. Last year a BCC student returned from the nationals with a gold medal.
- Funds of approximately \$8,000 were raised and given to seven Haitian students to travel home to visit family after the recent earthquake.
- Citing human resources as the College's most precious resource, there will be no fee increases or faculty or staff layoffs in FY11.
- Board member, Louis Ricciardi, was thanked for attending the BCC commencement on June 5. Mr. Ricciardi attended as the BHE representative and to accept an award for the Kennedy family in memory of the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy. Mr. Ricciardi told the Board that it was a pleasure to represent the BHE at the BCC commencement, and he thanked President Sbrega for his work on behalf of the students at BCC. He invited all recent BCC graduates to stand to be recognized by the Board and the audience.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Dr. Charles Desmond, Chairman of the Board of Higher Education, spoke about his attendance at recent state and community college commencements and what an uplifting experience it has been for him to meet graduates who have overcome many obstacles to achieve their college education. He said that many students voiced their appreciation for the opportunity to attend college and to receive an excellent education. Graduation, he said, is a great return on our investment.

Michael Mizzoni, Student Board member, was thanked for his contributions to the BHE. Over the past academic year Mr. Mizzoni served on both the Assessment and Accountability and the Fiscal Affairs and Administrative Policy Committees and was an important member of the Board, who served it and the students whom he represented well as an involved and committed leader. Chairman Desmond told Mr. Mizzoni that it has been a tremendous pleasure working with him; his work serves as a model to future Student Board members. Chairman Desmond presented Mr. Mizzoni with a small gift as a token of the Board's appreciation for his fine service. Mr. Mizzoni will be a senior at the University of Massachusetts Lowell in the fall.

Chairman Desmond announced that the next Board meeting will be held in October or November 2010.

## **COMMISSIONER'S REMARKS**

Dr. Richard Freeland, Commissioner of the Department of Higher Education, congratulated Chairman Desmond on being named one of the Top 100 Executives on the North Shore by the North Shore Chamber of Commerce.

Commissioner Freeland thanked President Sbrega for his inspiring work at Bristol Community College and complimented him on the attractive appearance of the BCC campus.

He recognized the following presidents in the audience: Drs. Paul Raverta of Berkshire Community College, Terrence Gomes of Roxbury Community College, and Charles Wall of Massasoit Community College. The presence of Messrs. Fred Clark, Executive Officer of the State College Council of Presidents; and William Hart, Executive Officer of Massachusetts Community College, was also acknowledged.

Commissioner Freeland commented on the following:

- The FY11 budget is now in a conference committee in the Legislature. There are differences between the House and Senate versions of the budget: If federal funding is lost, our campuses will have lost a total of 36 percent in funding. The campuses have been anticipating some level of budget cuts; as a result many campuses are raising fees. Dual enrollment would also lose 100 percent of its funding if federal funding fails under the current budget language.
- The BHE's Executive Committee met for their annual spring discussion of salary increases for presidents and non-unit professionals. Their determination is that the BHE cannot grant salary increases at the current time when the state budget is so poor, and so many people are unemployed. He said that should the fiscal climate change, he hopes that the Board can revisit this issue.
- Four collective bargaining contracts have been signed, but the Executive Office of Administration and Finance has asked the DHE to revisit union officials to secure reductions. Department staff continue to work with union representatives on these negotiations and we look forward to a positive outcome.
- The US Department of Education awarded Massachusetts \$13 million to support longitudinal database development, which will allow the tracking of students from early childhood development through college. This will help the Department to determine how to strengthen its educational programs through collaborative efforts with the Executive Office of Education and the Departments of Early Education and Care and Elementary and Secondary Education.
- The DHE will be working on the common core standards by informing Elementary and Secondary Education of standards that are required of their students to enter college. Our public college campus leaders will be active in that discussion.
- The Commissioner continues efforts to promote The Vision Project. On June 25 he will speak at the Gompers-Murray-Meany Educational Conference. On September 30 a Vision Project Conference Retreat will be held at the Courtyard Marriott in Marlborough where public campus leaders will convene to detail the

work necessary to reach the goal of making the Massachusetts' public system of higher education the best in the nation.

- The All System Retreat, attendees of which will be public college presidents and chancellors, will be held on June 18 at the University of Massachusetts Boston. Guest speakers include Michael Widmer, President of the Massachusetts Taxpayers Association; Dr. John Gardner, President of the John N. Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education, and author of **The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition**; and Dr. Estella Bensimon, Co-Director of Urban Education at the University of Southern California Rossier School of Education, and an authority on issues of racial equity in higher education.
- There will be an effort to reach out to veterans with the placement of ads on MBTA vehicles. These ads will encourage veterans to receive the free educational benefits to which they are entitled.
- Commissioner Freeland introduced and welcomed Mr. David Cedrone, Associate Commissioner for Economic and Workforce Development. Mr. Cedrone formerly worked for the State of Rhode Island on their STEM effort. He will assume Mr. David McCauley's workforce, STEM, and nursing responsibilities for the Department and will ramp up outreach efforts to the businesses sector.
- Elizabeth Avery, who has served four chancellors and the Commissioner over 13 years, will be leaving the Department of Higher Education, toward summer's end. The Commissioner thanked her for work on behalf of the Board and the Department and wished her well in her future endeavors. Chairman Desmond read a resolution that highlighted her accomplishments, and Board members wished Ms. Avery well. Ms. Avery thanked everyone for their kindness and stated that it was a privilege to serve the Board and the Department of Higher Education over the years.

### **REMARKS FROM THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION**

Mr. Paul Reville, Secretary of Education, thanked Ms. Avery and Mr. Mizzoni for their service to the Commonwealth.

The Secretary urged those present to bring pressure on Senator Brown for his support of the passage of a \$2 billion bill that would release much-needed federal funding to Massachusetts. Secretary Reville also informed the Board as follows:

- He spoke recently at the University of Massachusetts School of Law graduation. One of the many positive results of its becoming a state law school is that applications are up dramatically.
- The Executive Office of Education and the Department of Education have worked collaboratively on an application for the second-round Race-to-the-Top \$3.4 billion grant. Ten to 15 grants will be awarded, and Massachusetts is hopeful of becoming a recipient. Grant money will be used to support comprehensive education reform.
- On July 21, Massachusetts will adopt new assessment standards. Massachusetts is not seeking to replace MCAS testing and is not exploring the next generation of assessments, because the state cannot afford that effort. The state is, however, joining with two groups of states to determine if it can add new standards to our existing assessments.
- Commissioner Richard Freeland was thanked for his leadership in developing and promoting The Vision Project.

### **REPORTS FROM PRESIDENTS**

Admiral Richard Gurnon, Chairman of the Executive Committee of State College Presidents, thanked Elizabeth Avery for her service to the Board and to the state college community. He offered the following comments:

- The public state colleges are awaiting the budget with true anxiety. Because of wise planning, however, the state colleges are prepared if federal funding to the states is not approved. He thanked the Board for their concerted efforts and focus on the budget.
- Enrollment at the state colleges continues to increase, and dormitories are full, indicating that families understand the tremendous value of public higher education. It is unfortunate, however, that students must be turned away because the public campuses have reached their capacity.
- University status now has the support of more than 100 state legislators; it is hoped that Massachusetts will become the nation's 46<sup>th</sup> state to establish university status for its state colleges.
- The state colleges support the Readiness Centers and look forward to the progress of The Vision Project.

- It was announced that Dr. Timothy Flanagan, President of Framingham State College, will succeed Admiral Gurnon, as the Chairman of the Executive Committee of State College Presidents.

President John Sbrega, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Community College Presidents, thanked Elizabeth Avery for her contributions to the BHE and the community colleges. Other comments followed:

- He praised Ms. Aundrea Kelley's efforts in the Race to the Top program.
- President Sbrega is pleased to serve on the Task Force on Collaboration and Efficiency and is proud of its recent report.
- Dr. Wayne Burton, President of North Shore Community College, has been appointed by Arne Duncan, Secretary of Education, to the Committee on Measures of Student Success. This Committee will recommend to the Secretary measures of student success at community colleges.
- The community college presidents are focusing their attention on the FY11 budget, and Chairman Sbrega applauded the efforts of the BHE toward securing federal funding for the public college campuses.
- President Sbrega recently attended a meeting at which Speaker of the House Robert DeLeo spoke about his expanded gambling bill that would make gambling proceeds available to community colleges to provide workforce training to students to meet the needs of businesses in their community.
- Dr. David Hartleb, President of Northern Essex Community College, will retire in June 2011.
- President Sbrega expressed thanks for the opportunity to serve as Chairman of the Executive Committee of Community College Presidents over the past year. He announced that Dr. Paul Raverta, President of Berkshire Community College, will succeed him.

Mr. Louis Ricciardi reported on his recent visits to Salem State College and the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. He complimented Presidents Meservey and Grant on their work of planning for the future and reported that these campuses are "alive and vibrant."

#### **REPORT FROM STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Mr. Michael Mizzone, student Board member, reported that the Student Advisory Council recently held interviews with community college student candidates who are interested in serving as student Board member for the upcoming academic year. The names of three candidates were sent to the Governor with the recommendation that Richard Jones from Quinsigamond Community College serve as the student Board member in the upcoming academic year.

#### **MOTIONS**

Chairman Desmond brought forth the following consent agenda motion. AAC Chair Nancy Harrington thanked Chairman Desmond for chairing the AAC meeting on June 8, 2010, and the DHE staff, especially Dr. Francesca Purcell, for the vast amount of work completed for the AAC and Board meetings. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

#### **AAC 10-25 CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education approves the following motions on a consent agenda:

- AAC 10-22 Bunker Hill Community College  
Associate in Science in Paralegal Studies
- AAC 10-23 Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts  
Professional Master of Business Administration
- AAC 10-24 Lasell College  
Master of Education in Elementary Education and Master of Education in  
Moderate Disabilities.

**Authority:** Article III, Section 6, By-Laws

**Contact:** Francesca B. Purcell, Ph.D., Associate Commissioner for Academic and P-16 Policy

#### **AAC 10-22 BUNKER HILL COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**APPLICATION OF BUNKER HILL COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO AWARD THE ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE IN PARALEGAL STUDIES**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the application of Bunker Hill Community College to award the Associate in Science in Paralegal Studies.

Upon graduating the first class for this program, Bunker Hill Community College shall submit to the Board a status report addressing its success in reaching program goals as stated in the application and in the areas of enrollment, curriculum, faculty resources and program effectiveness.

**Authority:** Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 9(b)  
**Contact:** Francesca B. Purcell, Ph.D., Associate Commissioner for Academic and P-16 Policy

**AAC 10-23 MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS PROFESSIONAL MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the application of Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts to award the Professional Master of Business Administration (PMBA).

Upon graduating the first class for this program, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts shall submit to the Board a status report addressing the success in reaching program goals as stated in the application and in the areas of enrollment, curriculum, faculty resources and program effectiveness.

**Authority:** Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 9(b)  
**Contact:** Francesca B. Purcell, Ph.D., Associate Commissioner for Academic and P-16 Policy

**AAC 10-24 LASELL COLLEGE MASTER OF EDUCATION IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION MASTER OF EDUCATION IN MODERATE DISABILITIES**

**MOVED:** The Board hereby approves the application of Lasell College to award the Master of Education in Elementary Education and Master of Education in Moderate Disabilities.

**Authority:** Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 69, Section 30 et seq.  
**Contact:** Francesca B. Purcell, Ph.D., Associate Commissioner for Academic and P-16 Policy

Chairman Desmond brought forth the following motion, which was seconded and approved unanimously:

**AAC 10-29 APPROVAL OF ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE MOTIONS 10-26 THROUGH 10-28 ON A CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education approves the following motions on a consent agenda:

- AAC 10-26 Membership of Middlesex Community College in the Commonwealth Honors Program
- AAC 10-27 Renewal of Quinsigamond Community College Membership in the Commonwealth Honors Program
- AAC 10-28 Renewal of Salem State College Membership in the Commonwealth Honors Program

Program

**Authority:** Article III, Section 6, By-Laws

**Contact:** Francesca B. Purcell, Ph.D., Associate Commissioner for Academic and P-16 Policy

**AAC 10-26 ESTABLISHMENT OF MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMONWEALTH HONORS PROGRAM**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education accepts the report of the Commonwealth Honors Program Executive Committee and approves the membership of Middlesex Community College in the Commonwealth Honors Program for six years.

**Authority:** Commonwealth Honors Program Approval Process Guidelines as Revised by the Board of Higher Education in November 2006

**Contact:** Francesca B. Purcell, Ph.D., Associate Commissioner for Academic and P-16 Policy

**AAC 10-27 RENEWAL OF QUINSIGAMOND COMMUNITY COLLEGE MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMONWEALTH HONORS PROGRAM**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education accepts the report of the Commonwealth Honors Program Executive Committee and renews the membership of Quinsigamond Community College in the Commonwealth Honors Program for six years.

**Authority:** Commonwealth Honors Program Approval Process Guidelines as Revised by the Board of Higher Education in November 2006

**Contact:** Francesca B. Purcell, Ph.D., Associate Commissioner for Academic and P-16 Policy

**AAC 10-28 RENEWAL OF SALEM STATE COLLEGE MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMONWEALTH HONORS PROGRAM**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education accepts the report of the Commonwealth Honors Program Executive Committee and renews the membership of Salem State College in the Commonwealth Honors Program for six years.

**Authority:** Commonwealth Honors Program Approval Process Guidelines as Revised by the Board of Higher Education in November 2006

**Contact:** Francesca B. Purcell, Ph.D., Associate Commissioner for Academic and P-16 Policy

Chairman Charles Desmond introduced the following motion, which was seconded and approved unanimously.

**AAC 10-32 CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education approves the following motions on a consent agenda:

AAC 10-30 Massasoit Community College Branch Campus

AAC 10-31 Quinsigamond Community College Branch Campus

**Authority:** Article III, Section 6, By-Laws

**Contact:** Francesca B. Purcell, Ph.D., Associate Commissioner for Academic and P-16 Policy

**AAC 10-30 MASSASOIT COMMUNITY COLLEGE BRANCH CAMPUS**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the Massasoit Community College proposal to establish a branch campus at 49 Union Street in Middleborough, Massachusetts.

**Authority:** Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 9  
**Contact:** Francesca B. Purcell, Ph.D., Associate Commissioner for Academic and P-16 Policy

**AAC 10-31 QUINSIGAMOND COMMUNITY COLLEGE BRANCH CAMPUS**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the Quinsigamond Community College Proposal to establish a branch campus at 5 Optical Drive in Southbridge, Massachusetts.

**Authority:** Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 9  
**Contact:** Francesca B. Purcell, Ph.D., Associate Commissioner for Academic and P-16 Policy

Chairman Charles Desmond introduced the following motion, which was seconded and approved unanimously.

**AAC 10-33 CONTINUOUS QUALITY ASSURANCE OF STATE COLLEGE BUSINESS PROGRAMS**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education receives the report on the strategic plans for the improvement of state college business programs and calls upon the state colleges to provide a status report concerning their success in achieving the goals stated in their plans. The report, which shall include an update on progress toward professional accreditation of campus business programs or toward an alternative benchmark of quality, shall be submitted to the Commissioner by June 2013.

**Authority:** Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 9(b), (c), (f), and (s)  
**Contact:** Francesca B. Purcell, Ph.D., Associate Commissioner for academic and P-16 Policy

Ms. Jeanne-Marie Boylan, Chair of the Fiscal Affairs and Administrative Policy Committee, told the Board that the FAAP Committee met on June 8, 2010. At the meeting Bridgewater State College President Dana Mohler-Faria, Chair of the Committee on Collaboration and Efficiency, delivered an update on the progress of the Committee, about which the Committee is eager to learn more. The Committee also received updates on capital expenditures and the FY11 budget.

Chair Boylan next introduced Mr. Peter Tsaffaras, DHE Deputy Commissioner for Employee Relations, who, in turn, introduced Lynn Goldberg, Richard Nunes, and Ted Bolton of his staff. He provided background on the Optional Retirement Program (ORP), a defined contribution retirement plan that serves as an alternative to the state's traditional pension system. Today the Program serves approximately 7,000 participants, 3,100 of whom actively contribute to the Program.

For the past eleven months the Employee Relations group has worked on a nationwide, competitive process for the selection of ORP Program Providers that would offer the best offering of products and services. As a result of their work, the following Providers are recommended: Fidelity Investments, Lincoln Financial Group, Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America/College Retirement Equities Fund, and Variable Annuity Life Insurance Company.

Chair Boylan then brought forth the following motion, which was seconded.

**FAAP 10-27 SELECTION OF PROGRAM PROVIDERS FOR MASSACHUSETTS OPTIONAL RETIREMENT PROGRAM**

**MOVED:** In accordance with the applicable provisions of Chapter 15A, Section 40, of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, the Board of Higher Education herein confirms and/or selects the following Program Providers for the Massachusetts Optional Retirement Program:

- Fidelity Investments
- Lincoln Financial Group
- Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America/College Retirement Equities Fund (TIAA-CREF)
- Variable Annuity Life Insurance Company (VALIC)

Such procurements will be effective as of September 1, 2010.

**Authority:** Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 40

**Contact:** Peter H. Tsaffaras, Deputy Commissioner for Employee Relations

The motion was passed with eight members voting in the affirmative. Dr. Beach indicated that she wished to be recorded as abstaining from this vote.

Chair Desmond brought forth the following motion, which was seconded and approved unanimously:

#### **BHE 10-08 DELEGATION OF SUMMER AUTHORITY TO THE COMMISSIONER**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education delegates to the Commissioner until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board, in consultation with and upon the advice of the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Board, its authority to take such action as is deemed necessary or desirable.

**Authority:** Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 6

**Contact:** Peter H. Tsaffaras, Acting General Counsel

#### **COMMISSIONER'S YEAR-END REPORT**

Commissioner Freeland reviewed the accomplishments of the Board of Higher Education over the past year:

- A total of 26 academic programs were reviewed and approved, including the Juris Doctor degree at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.
- One public college was granted new membership in the Commonwealth Honors Program; two Honors Programs were renewed for another six years at two public colleges.
- Two branch campuses—at Massasoit and Quinsigamond Community Colleges—were approved.
- DHE staff reviewed all of the state college business programs; Board approval of the review is anticipated today.
- Transfer policy was transformed in the nine-month period, September 2009 through May 2010: There are now over 1,700 approved associate-to-baccalaureate MassTransfer programs at 28 campuses. The MassTransfer website was also redesigned, and visits to the web page have increased.
- All students now complete FAFSA forms at the time of college application.
- In achieving their graduation rate, the Massachusetts state college system is now recognized as one of the top ten in the country.
- The Achieving the Dream community colleges continue their progress in promoting the best student success practices and policies.
- The Commissioner's Advisory Group on Undergraduate Education produced a report that is key to The Vision Project's Working Group on Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment. Dr. Nancy Hoffman was thanked for her work as Chair of the Advisory Group.
- The Vision Project has been receiving strong support from the press, including The Boston Globe, the Bay State Banner, and the Lowell Sun.

- The Working Group on Student Learning Outcomes and Assessments has produced a Phase One Report on learning outcomes assessments and recommendations for improving student success. Phase Two—which will determine how student learning assessment can be more usefully linked to statewide planning and policy, performance measurement, public accountability and cross-state comparisons—will begin in August 2010.
- Joining forces with the Commonwealth Connector Authority, the Executive Office of Administration and Finance, and the Division of Health Care Finance and Policy, the Department of Higher Education—represented by Nate Mackinnon—student health care has been improved dramatically. A new health insurance provider has been selected that will expand benefits and coverage for students, keeping costs at or near existing levels.
- Commissioner Freeland thanked the members and Chair, President Dana Mohler-Faria, of the Task Force on Collaboration and Efficiency for their work on the soon-to-be-released final report. Seventeen Phase III recommendations center on energy cost reduction, IT consolidation, academic collaboration, enhanced procurement activity and administrative consolidations.
- The Public Information Task Force, chaired by President Carole Cowan of Middlesex Community College, has developed recommendations for raising public appreciation of the education provided by Massachusetts' public higher education. These recommendations will be presented at the System-wide Retreat of Presidents and Chancellors tomorrow.

Commissioner Freeland concluded that a great deal has been accomplished for the Commonwealth's students over the past academic year, and he expressed appreciation and personal pride in the work that the Board has accomplished.

Chairman Desmond replied that the Commissioner has performed wonderfully in representing the Board. He continued that the Commissioner has been supportive to the Board and to him and has accomplished excellent work.

## **DEGREES CONFERRED**

Dr. Jonathan Keller, Associate Commissioner for Research, Planning and Information Systems, gave a Power Point presentation on degrees conferred in 2009.

One of the goals of The Vision Project is to produce graduates that will fulfill the needs of the workforce. Presently, the Commonwealth's critical need is for healthcare and business positions, and public college and University healthcare and business degrees are in alignment with the business community need. It was noted that in Massachusetts degree and certificate production in computers and information science has declined by 38 percent in 2005-2009, which appears to be following a national trend.

For more information Dr. Keller encouraged the review of the following websites:

- DHE's FY2009 Degrees Conferred Report: <http://www.mass.edu/library/reports.asp>
- Commonwealth Corporation's analysis of critical vacancies: <http://www.commcorp.org/researchandevaluation/vacancymap.html>.
- Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development Vacancy Reports: <http://lmi2.detma.org/Lmi/LMIjobvacancy.asp>

Ms. Boylan informed the Board that 1,000 students graduated from Bunker Hill Community College in June 2010 versus 817 in June 2009, a 22 percent increase. She then listed the many ways in which the College increased its retention rate by helping its students to degree completion.

## **STUDENT PRESENTATION: 2010 Graduates of Massachusetts Public Higher Education Institutions**

Four students spoke of their positive experiences while attending public colleges and the University.

- Jeff Robinson received his master's degree in public history at the University of Massachusetts Boston and will continue his education as a doctoral student at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.
- Erwin Apaza, a Peruvian student at Bristol Community College, told of his life-changing transformation at the College where he became a motivated learner who very much valued his education. He recently

graduated as valedictorian and will continue his education as a transfer student in the fall at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He thanked the BHE for helping him make his dream come true.

- Mother and daughter, Jane and Brienne McDonough, who simultaneously attended and graduated from Bridgewater State College, spoke of their unique experience of completing college together.

Chairman Desmond thanked those who testified on their outstanding experiences.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no further business.

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public comment.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 12:43 p.m.