

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

**COMMITTEE:** Academic Affairs

**NO.:** AAC 12-46

**COMMITTEE DATE:** June 12, 2012

**BOARD DATE:** June 19, 2012

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**ESTABLISHMENT OF MASSASOIT 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 establishment of **Massasoit Community College** membership in the **Commonwealth Honors Program** for six years, effective June 19, 2012.

**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 P16 Policy

## **BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

### **Massasoit Community College Establishment of Membership in Commonwealth Honors Program**

This motion concerns the establishment of Massasoit Community College's membership in the Commonwealth Honors Program (CHP). Massasoit Community College prepared a self-study document presenting its Honors Program structure and operations in terms of the Commonwealth Honors Program requirements. The report provided evidence documenting fulfillment of the following criteria:

1. Alignment of the mission and goals
2. Organization and administration
3. Admissions criteria
4. Transfer criteria
5. Program curriculum
6. Graduation criteria
7. Program resources
8. Approval procedures for new courses
9. Student enrollment for past three years
10. Approval procedures for new courses

#### ***Review Team Findings and Recommendations***

On November 9, 2011, a review team (Professor David M. Kalivas, Middlesex Community College, Honors Program Director; Professor Sara Levine, Fitchburg State University; Melissa Woglom, Associate Director, Student Programs, University of Massachusetts Amherst.), appointed by the Commonwealth Honors Council, conducted the review. Prior to the on-campus visit, the team reviewed the self-evaluation prepared by the College. The site visit was hosted by Honors Program Coordinator Susan Martelli, and included meetings with Professor Martelli, the Canton Co-Coordinator; Professor David LaFontaine, the administrative supervisor for the Honors Program; Deanna Yameen, Dean of Humanities; Dr. Barbara Finklestein, Senior Vice President and Vice President, Faculty and Instruction; faculty from both the Brockton and Canton campuses who have taught honors courses, Honors Program students, and Honors Council members. The visit concluded with an exit interview on the Brockton campus with Massasoit Community College President Charles Wall.

The visiting committee found that the Massasoit program satisfied the CHP criteria, and, therefore, the visiting committee recommends Massasoit Community College be granted Commonwealth Honors Program status with a one year review.

The visiting committee made fourteen recommendations with the most critical being: (1) Provide budget and program resources to accommodate growth of the Honors Program on both campuses; and (2) Create Appropriate Honors Centers for student and faculty use on both campuses, thereby providing a vehicle to develop an honors learning community.

#### ***Institutional Response***

Massasoit Community College responded that the Honors Program will have its own budget beginning fall 2012. The Brockton Honors Center is undergoing construction and refurbishing.

Discussion is underway regarding space at the Canton location. The institution responded satisfactorily to all other recommendations.

Massasoit Community College will provide a status report on its response at the spring 2013 Commonwealth Honors Council meeting.

**Recommendation**

Board of Higher Education staff thoroughly reviewed all documentation received from the CHP Executive Committee and recommends that the Board approve the initial establishment of membership of Massasoit Community College in the Commonwealth Honors Program.