

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE AND BOARD ACTION

NO.: BHE 22-58

BOARD DATE: June 21, 2022

**RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMONWEALTH HONORS PROGRAM FOR
CAPE COD COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education accepts the report of the Commonwealth Honors Council Executive Committee and renews the membership of **Cape Cod Community College** in the **Commonwealth Honors Program** for seven years, effective June 21, 2022.

VOTED: Motion approved and advanced to the full BHE by the Executive Committee on 6/13/2022; and adopted by the BHE on 6/21/2022.

Authority: Commonwealth Honors Program Approval Process Guidelines as Revised by the Board of Higher Education in March 2022; G.L. c. 15A, § 9.

Contact: Winifred Hagan, Senior Associate Commissioner for Strategic Planning & Public Program Approval

Keith M. Connors, Program Director for Academic Affairs and Student Success

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

June 2022

Cape Cod Community College Renewal of Membership in Commonwealth Honors Program

BACKGROUND

This motion concerns the continuation of Cape Cod Community College's membership in the Commonwealth Honors Program in accordance with the Commonwealth Honors Program Guidelines. Once the Commonwealth Honors Program approval has been obtained by an institution, the Commonwealth Honors Council Executive Committee will review the Program every seven years. The report of the Committee shall be forwarded to the Board of Higher Education for approval.

REVIEW PROCESS

Cape Cod Community College prepared a self-study document presenting its Honors Program structure and operation in terms of the Commonwealth Honors Program requirements. The report provided evidence documenting the 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. Curriculum Review Process

VISITING COMMITTEE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

On September 24th, 2021, the Commonwealth Honors Program Visiting Committee (Visiting Committee) conducted a day-long review of the Cape Cod Community College (hereafter CCCC) Honors Program via Zoom, having previously received and studied CCCC's application for reapproval of CHP status. The Visiting Committee consisted of Daniel Soucy, Chair of Liberal Arts and Sciences and a Professor of Philosophy at Mount Wachusett Community College, and Chair of the Visiting Committee; and Paul Bruno, Faculty Director of the Honors Program at Framingham State University. Prior to the visit, the Visiting Committee received and studied CCCC's application for reaccreditation of CHP status.

The virtual site visit was hosted and organized by Honors Program Director Kate Martin. CCCC's Honors Program is housed in the Academic Affairs Division. The day included meetings with Dr. Susan Miller the Interim Vice President of Academic & Student Affairs, with faculty who have facilitated honors courses and team-taught honors seminars, with honors committee members, and with Honors Program students. The visit concluded with an exit interview with College President Dr. John Cox.

The Visiting Committee was impressed with the support the college administration has for the Honors Program, the enthusiasm from both faculty and students involved in the program, and the willingness on the part of the President to maintain and support the program. For these reasons, the Visiting Committee had no need to include recommendations for program improvement in its site visit report because CCCC met all program criteria. In his response to the report, the President of CCCC expressed his pride in the program and reinforced his full commitment to the program with a pledge to enhance funding as the program grows.

On May 5, 2022, the Commonwealth Honors Council Executive Committee voted to reapprove Holyoke Community College's Commonwealth Honors Program.

RECOMMENDATION

Department of Higher Education staff thoroughly reviewed all documentation received from the Commonwealth Honors Program Executive Committee and recommends that the Board approve the renewal of the membership of **Cape Cod Community College** in the **Commonwealth Honors Program**.