



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MEDIA CONTACT:**

David Hughes, Dodge Associates
(401) 273-7310 dave@dodgeadv.com

Kathy Mulhern, Bristol County Savings Bank
(508) 828-5356 kathy.mulhern@bcsbmail.com

Laurie Maker, Massasoit Community College, (508) 588-9100 x 1848 lmaker@massasoit.mass.edu

**BRISTOL COUNTY SAVINGS CHARITABLE FOUNDATION'S ANNUAL GRANT
FOSTERS GROWING PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN MASSASOIT COMMUNITY
COLLEGE AND BRIDGEWATER-RAYNHAM REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**

**\$10,000 grant promotes college readiness by expanding offerings at the high school,
including courses for college credit and Accuplacer testing.**

TAUNTON, MA, January 10, 2012 — For the third straight year, Bristol County Savings Bank (BCSB), through its charitable foundation, awarded a \$10,000 grant recently to Massasoit Community College in Brockton, MA. The grant continues to help support a program the college has with Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School which focuses on students' academic preparation for college-level coursework. Specifically, the grant will continue to support the expansion of the courses offered at Bridgewater-Raynham that provide high school and college credit, as well as further develop academic programming on-site at the high school to help minimize the number of students who will have to take developmental courses at the college level.

"One of Bristol County Savings Charitable Foundation's areas of emphasis is education and literacy so the Bank understands that young people in our community hold the key to the future," said Patrick Murray, President of the BCSCF and Executive Vice President/Treasurer & COO of BCSB. "We're proud to help create a stronger academic bridge between high school and college for these leaders of tomorrow. The strides we see due to the strong partnership between Massasoit Community College and Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School makes our funding decision an easy one year after year."

This fall, Massasoit Community College offered four college credit courses at Bridgewater-Raynham, three at night and one during the school day. The College Board Accuplacer testing in reading, writing and math is also being expanded at the high school and is now being considered earlier in the process as a diagnostic tool to see what a student needs to work on before college. All public colleges in Massachusetts mandate placement testing on the Accuplacer for all matriculating freshmen. The tests serve as prerequisites for most college-level courses and students are either assigned to these courses or developmental courses that do not carry graduation credit based on the test results.

(more)

“Making high-quality, low-cost post-secondary education more accessible to the young people of Southeastern Massachusetts is central to the college’s mission and the grants from Bristol County Savings Bank promote this goal while fostering a strong linkage with the high school,” said Peter Johnston, Dean of Academic Advising & Assessment at Massasoit Community College. “As a result of the partnership, more and more Bridgewater-Raynham students are graduating having already earned college credit and are less likely to begin their college careers in developmental courses for which they will receive no college credit.” Johnston added that one of the best predictors of college success, especially at the community college level, is whether students start off in developmental or credit-bearing courses.

“The partnership with Massasoit has given our students a great opportunity to put themselves in the best possible position to be college and career ready,” said William Barber, Guidance Counselor at Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School. “I really have to give credit to Massasoit Community College as they had the foresight to partner with a high school and made the commitment to bring the workshops, classes and their faculty to our building to make it all work.”

During the inaugural year of the partnership, eighteen students completed a free college credit course at Bridgewater-Raynham, for which they also received high school credit, entitled “The College Experience” to get them thinking earlier about college. In order to provide students with useful information about their academic skills and readiness in math, English and reading, Accuplacer testing was given at the college to approximately 40 high school students with marginal MCAS (Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System) scores who were in danger of not continuing their education. In addition, Massasoit math and English faculty held “Train the Trainer” workshops for Bridgewater-Raynham teachers, orienting them to the college placement process and expectations in freshman courses. Lastly, four, \$500 scholarships were granted to Bridgewater-Raynham graduates currently attending Massasoit Community College.

The second year of the cooperative effort was focused on enabling Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School students to earn both high school and college credit by taking Massasoit courses at the high school at dramatically reduced costs. Two courses in the fall and four courses in the spring were offered at night and were taught by Massasoit adjunct faculty. Costs for the courses were \$150 compared to the \$465 the college normally would charge and enrollment ranged from 7 to 23 students per class. The grant also purchased licenses for the high school students to take the Accuplacer exams at the high school instead of the college, as well as instructional software to assist students who scored poorly. Last June, 25 students who might not have otherwise done so took the Accuplacer and writing test with the vast majority testing out of all developmental courses.

(more)

“We greatly appreciate Bristol County Savings Bank’s generosity which has allowed us to continue this important college readiness work,” said Dr. Charles Wall, President of Massasoit Community College. “The grant gives us the flexibility to design a program that is working for Bridgewater-Raynham students.”

The Bristol County Savings Charitable Foundation (BCSCF) was established in 1996 as part of the Bank’s 150th Anniversary celebration. Since the Foundation began, more than \$8 million in grants have been awarded to hundreds of 501(c)(3) organizations. The Foundation’s purpose is to fund needs that contribute to the economic and the social well-being of the people and institutions located in greater Attleboro/Taunton and greater New Bedford/Dartmouth, Massachusetts, as well as Pawtucket, Rhode Island, with particular emphasis in the areas of education and literacy, economic development and housing for the low- to moderate-income population.

“The Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School Committee and administration enthusiastically support the partnership between Massasoit Community College and the District. We are grateful for the Bristol County Savings Charitable Foundation’s grant endorsing partnerships between high schools and colleges that promote college readiness,” said Dr. Jacqueline B. Forbes, Superintendent for Bridgewater-Raynham schools.

Massasoit Community College Background

Massasoit Community College, founded in 1966, is one of the largest of the 15 community colleges within the Massachusetts Public Higher Education system. With campuses located in Brockton, Canton and Middleborough, Massachusetts, the college offers associate degree programs in 18 majors in the arts, sciences and applied sciences, as well as one-year and short-term certificates for a range of occupations and interests. Corporate and job skills training courses, personal enrichment classes, theater and programs for high school students, younger children and seniors are among the other offerings available to residents of Southeastern Massachusetts.

Bristol County Savings Bank Background

Bristol County Savings Bank, founded in 1846, is a full-service financial institution offering commercial lending, personal and business banking, and mortgage services. The Bank currently operates 11 full-service branch offices throughout southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The Bank has also expanded its loan operations over the years with four dedicated loan centers in addition to its branch locations.

(more)

Bristol County Savings Bank began expanding into other avenues in 1995 with the acquisition of Anawon Trust in Attleboro, MA, the Bank's trust and investment advisory division which has successfully assisted businesses, individuals and non-profits with the management of their assets since 1989. In 2009, the Bank invested in the Farrell Backlund Insurance Agency, LLC, its majority-owned subsidiary, one of Southeastern Massachusetts' largest independent insurance agencies. This alliance allows the Bank to provide quality insurance options from more than 50 experienced insurance professionals.

The steady growth and expansion has resulted in \$1.3 billion in assets and just over 300 employees in Southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The key words at Bristol County Savings Bank are: "Commitment, Stability, and Community," values that are combined with state-of-the-art technology to meet the needs of its customers. A dedicated local community bank for over 165 years, Bristol County Savings Bank is actively involved in giving back to all the communities it serves both through financial support and the volunteerism of its people.

The Main Office and Corporate Headquarters of Bristol County Savings Bank are located on Broadway in Taunton, MA. For additional information please call 508-824-6626, or visit www.bristolcountysavings.com.