



Massachusetts Board of Higher Education Community College President's Report

Delivered by David Podell, President, MassBay Community College
Chair, Community College Council of Presidents

December 14, 2021

Chair Gabrieli, Secretary Peyser, Commissioner Santiago, and members of the Board:

Before I begin, I want to acknowledge Valerie Roberson, president at Roxbury Community College, who recently announced her departure. President Roberson has served in that role since 2013 and was an extraordinary leader of her institution. She will be deeply missed by her colleagues and peers.

I look forward to hearing the report from my colleague, President Lane Glenn, today on the important work the community colleges are doing to promote student achievement by means of the SUCCESS funding.

Since we last met, our colleges have been working tirelessly to ensure that our vaccine mandate, which goes into effect in January, is implemented smoothly on our campuses. Many of our colleges continue to offer vaccination clinics on their campuses and have stepped up to host booster events as well. As we have since the beginning of the pandemic, our colleges remain committed to offering a learning environment that meets the health and safety of needs of our communities and the educational needs of our students.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Governor and the Legislature for the recently signed ARPA legislation that makes significant investments in our community colleges, including \$15 million in funding for pandemic recovery and maintenance; \$2.7 million to help address food insecurity on our campuses; \$5 million for the Endowment Match Fund, which allows our schools to leverage private fundraising dollars; and finally, \$15 million for our schools to offer no cost workforce training and upskilling in high-demand fields like childcare, IT and cybersecurity, and healthcare.

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Today, on behalf of our 15 community colleges, I would like to offer our collective support for the FY23 budget recommendation before you today which represent an encouraging investment in our colleges and our students.

We are pleased to see level funding for a number of important initiatives, including the STEM Starter Academy which helps to build a diverse, talent pipeline in the STEM fields, and the Community College Workforce Development Grants which help to address the workforce shortage. Both of these areas are of the utmost importance as the Commonwealth seeks to rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additionally, we are pleased to see increases in several other critical areas, including \$14 million dedicated to the SUCCESS program. As noted in the budget recommendations, the community colleges, through SUCCESS, “predict serving between 8,000 to 11,000 students by the end of FY22, having already served almost 4,000 students to date.” You’ll hear more about SUCCESS shortly from President Glenn, but the wraparound supports and services being offered through this funding are set to improve outcomes for our students with the greatest need,

We’re also pleased to see additional funding for Early College programming which offers demonstrated results among students but which can’t be successful without additional funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our support for the FY23 budget recommendations; we look forward to continued conversations in this area.

David Podell, Ph.D.

President, MassBay Community College

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