

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

NO.: BHE 21-29

BOARD DATE: October 20, 2020

APPROVAL OF BRISTOL COMMUNITY COLLEGE STRATEGIC PLAN

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the **Bristol Community College** Strategic Plan and authorizes the Commissioner to forward the same to the Secretary of Education for final approval pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Sections 9(l) and 22(l).

VOTED: Motion adopted by BHE 10/20/2020.

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Sections 7, 9(f), 9(l) and 22(l); BHE By-Laws, Article I, Section 3(d) and Article III.

Contact: Winifred M. Hagan, Ed.D., Senior Associate Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Public Program Approval

Background

A fundamental responsibility of the BHE is to provide overall direction to the state's system of public higher education. The Board enacts this responsibility by establishing statewide goals and by regularly measuring and reporting progress toward these goals building upon the foundation of the Vision Project and Closing Gaps. Articulating statewide goals has no impact on creating greater equity in public higher education unless these goals and performance metrics are embraced by the individual colleges and universities and incorporated into their strategic plans. Massachusetts state statute therefore charges the BHE and the Secretary of Education with reviewing and approving campus strategic plans. M.G.L. c. 15A, §§9(f), 9(l) and 22(l); BHE By-Laws, Article I, Section 3(d) and Article III.

Bristol College Planning Process

Touch Point I took place at a site visit at the Fall River campus of Bristol Community College on February 21, 2020 with President Douglas, Bristol's strategic planning leadership team, Commissioner Santiago and department staff. Bristol's consultant presented an outline of the structure for the Bristol plan and the institution's planning process. Commissioner Santiago provided feedback on what the Strategic Planning Committee will look for at TP II and TP III of the plan, noting that while many institutions work with a consultant to support the planning process, it is significant to the board and commissioner that direct communication between the institution and BHE staff at the Department of Higher Education remain central to all dialog and Touch Points.

Touch Point II began on August 31, 2020 when a draft plan was submitted to Commissioner Santiago and staff. It was sent out to members of the Strategic Planning Committee on September 9, 2020 and the comment period took place from September 9 -22, 2020. Commissioner Santiago and strategic planning staff shared member feedback with the institution. Members commented that generally, the draft plan is thorough and includes all the required components in the Campus Strategic Planning Guidelines. Members commented that it was difficult to locate the pandemic impact adjustments to the plan and it was suggested that this be referenced somewhere in the introductory pages such that the COVID 19 data that Bristol has provided in the rubrics can be more readily located. As well, it was recommended that because we may be facing a major crisis in higher education as a result of the pandemic, members thought it would be helpful for them to see within the TP III plan, how Bristol will generally position itself to adapt.

Touch Point III: On October 5, 2020, the Bristol Community College Board of Trustees approved the strategic plan. On October 7, 2020 President Douglas submitted the plan to Commissioner Santiago and on October 13, 2020 the plan was distributed to the members of the Board of Higher Education.

STAFF ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION

Staff thoroughly reviewed all documentation submitted by Bristol Community College at Touch Point II and Touch Point III. Staff recommendation is for approval of the proposed **Bristol Community College Strategic Plan, 2020-2024**.