

The Performance Incentive Fund (PIF) is designed to support activity on Massachusetts' public college and university campuses that will advance the Vision Project goals of national leadership in each of these educational outcome areas:

- College Participation
- College Completion
- Student Learning
- Workforce Alignment
- Preparing Citizens
- Closing Achievement Gaps

And to promote collaboration to achieve:
Operational Efficiency

To be considered for PIF funding, campuses were required to:

- ✓ Demonstrate an overall commitment to *all* of the goals of the Vision Project, while requesting funding for activities supporting *one or more* of the goals
- ✓ Include plans to measure and report results
- ✓ Demonstrate readiness to continue successful projects after PIF funding lapses
- ✓ Include plans to share information about successful projects with other campuses

FY2013
appropriation of
\$7.5m
was distributed to:

27 public campuses that won PIF grants for new projects totaling over **\$4.5 million**

18 campuses that received nearly **\$1.4 million** in continuation funding for FY2012 PIF projects

2 new system-wide initiatives that received funding totaling **\$533,000**

\$1.05 million was withdrawn by the Commonwealth due to emergency midyear (9C) funding cut

In addition to the 18 campus projects begun in FY2012 that received continuation funding this year, the following new projects were funded. *All submissions were reviewed by Department of Higher Education staff as well as a panel of national education experts.*

System-wide Project Descriptions

Common Course Numbering \$340,000*

To improve ease of transfer among public colleges and universities by beginning the work of creating a system-wide set of course equivalencies and a common course numbering system.

Information Technology Assessment \$340,000

To engage an outside consultant to conduct an in-depth study of current IT systems and practices at community colleges and state universities to identify ways to achieve savings by streamlining and potentially reconfiguring operations without losing service quality.

** This project is being partially subsidized by the STEM Pipeline Fund.*

Campus Project Descriptions

Berkshire Community College \$88,000

To develop, pilot, and assess a comprehensive set of Vision Project-related activities, including design of separate math pathways for students pursuing STEM and non-STEM majors and integration of civic engagement principles into service learning courses.

Bridgewater State University \$197,769

To support the Bridge Partnership initiative, a two-week, on-campus, academic and service learning program for at-risk middle school students.

Bristol Community College \$299,994

To create or, in some cases, scale up several initiatives aimed at transforming developmental education and increasing student retention and completion.

Bunker Hill Community College \$203,000

To support new and enhanced initiatives aimed at several Vision Project outcomes, including two collaborations with the Massachusetts Competitive Partnership to improve workforce alignment.

Cape Cod Community College \$137,211

To improve retention and success of at-risk students by creating a Student Success Office and implementing a technology platform to assist in holistic communication and early warning.

Fitchburg State University \$231,050

To improve the effectiveness of developmental math through redesign of courses, policies and student advising, and to ease transfer from associate to baccalaureate programs through a continuing collaboration with faculty from other public institutions in the region.

Framingham State University \$63,000

To enhance student interest, readiness and achievement, particularly in the STEM areas, through a partnership with local high schools and MassBay Community College.

Greenfield Community College \$179,310

To improve access and expedite degree completion by building and piloting 30 new online courses, including ones in high-demand health care and STEM fields.

Holyoke Community College \$167,883

To support a comprehensive set of activities aimed at several Vision Project outcome areas, including programming to assist motivated but highly underprepared high school dropouts to get on track to earn diplomas and transition to college, and support for faculty working to incorporate teaching and assessment of quantitative reasoning into general education courses.

Massachusetts College of Art and Design \$95,392

To advance civic engagement through expansion of the Center for Art and Community Partnerships, which matches faculty, students, staff, and alumni with neighborhood organizations, schools, corporations, and institutions to create mutually beneficial, sustainable partnerships in the visual arts, and the Gallery Education program, which offers free arts programming to the public.

Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts \$43,067

To establish a purposeful bridge between academic and student affairs by creating a Center for Social Justice and Community Engagement and to expand capacity to offer civic engagement and service learning opportunities.

Massasoit Community College \$215,000

To create a Center for Experiential Learning to develop and coordinate student internships, service learning and civic engagement activities.

MassBay Community College	\$300,000	Springfield Technical Community College	\$291,058
To increase student access and achievement by developing a comprehensive First-Year Experience that capitalizes on and fully integrates many recently established initiatives.		To enhance and expand the College's student learning assessment and data collection at the course, program and institution levels.	
Middlesex Community College	\$251,000	UMass Amherst	\$112,501
To implement a comprehensive redesign of current college tutoring services, which will be piloted in the Health and STEM division to increase retention and degree completion.		To design new service-learning courses, including assessment processes, using national best practices through the Service-Learning Faculty Fellows Program.	
Mt. Wachusett Community College	\$272,000	UMass Boston	\$118,000
To establish a Center for Alternative Studies and Educational Certification to help facilitate student entry/re-entry to post-secondary education and accelerate program completion.		To implement a new Civic Engagement Scholars Initiative, through which civic learning outcomes will be identified and integrated into departmental curricula, and to expand community-based instruction that fosters effective civic skills and engagement habits among undergraduates.	
North Shore Community College	\$174,356	UMass Dartmouth	\$75,433
To foster workforce alignment through multiple activities, including uniting the various career advising services at the College so that students receive career advising—or, when indicated, the intrusive and ongoing support of an Achievement Coach—beginning at the earliest possible point of student intake.		To support a host of activities aimed at advancing civic engagement, including expansion of the Service-Learning Faculty Fellows program, which is designed to increase the number of faculty trained in using service learning and to provide broad exposure to service learning for every student through their major course of study.	
Northern Essex Community College	\$146,744	UMass Lowell	\$249,930
To rapidly accelerate the Core Academic Skills initiative and to build capacity for institutional assessment of student learning, which would directly support the Vision Project objective to develop common assessment tools across Massachusetts' public colleges and universities.		To expand experiential learning offered through the Professional Co-op program, service learning courses, and academic and extra-curricular programs that engage students in innovative and entrepreneurial problem-solving, and to assess the effectiveness of these programs using common assessment tools.	
Quinsigamond Community College	\$136,481	Westfield State University	\$148,125
For an initiative called "Shorten the Distance," which will unify, align, strengthen and refine both existing and pilot projects that have shown substantial promise for moving students from high school to community college and from community college to baccalaureate institutions.		To establish the Horace Mann Institute for Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement to facilitate the development of a campus culture of civic learning and engagement, and to expand service learning and civic engagement opportunities throughout the University.	
Roxbury Community College	\$38,792	Worcester State University	\$66,766
For an array of activities focused on several Vision Project outcome areas, including providing intensive support services for students who need additional academic preparation to advance from a non-credit Certified Nursing Assistant program to a college-level Licensed Practical Nurse program.		To support new and existing activities to improve student retention, increase student interest in education careers, and expand civic engagement opportunities on campus.	
Salem State University	\$243,693		
To implement an early warning system—including technology, staff, training and marketing—that uses data gathered from multiple sources to help institutions identify and reach out to at-risk students.			

For more information, visit the Vision Project website
at www.mass.edu/visionproject

Growing Investment, Growing Impact

FY2012	FY2013
<p>\$2.5 million state appropriation to the Vision Project Performance Incentive Fund</p>	<p>\$7.5 million* state appropriation to the Vision Project Performance Incentive Fund <i>*Appropriation was later reduced to \$6.45m after 9C cut of \$1.05m</i></p>
<p>18 campuses received grants</p>	<p>27 campuses received new grants</p>
<p>\$138,889 average campus grant</p>	<p>\$168,354 average new campus grant</p>
	<p>plus \$76,189 average continuation funding for FY2012 grants</p>
<p>0 system-wide projects</p>	<p>2 system-wide projects</p>
<p>Outcome areas supported: College Participation College Completion Student Learning Workforce Alignment Closing Achievement Gaps</p>	<p>Outcome areas supported: College Participation College Completion Student Learning Workforce Alignment Preparing Citizens Closing Achievement Gaps Operational Efficiency</p>

About the Vision Project

If the Commonwealth is to compete effectively for jobs, investment and talent—and sustain our rich civic landscape—**Massachusetts needs the best-educated citizenry and workforce in the nation and needs to be a national leader in research that drives economic development.** Excellence at the Commonwealth's 29 public colleges and universities is essential to meeting these needs. Through the Vision Project, the Commonwealth's community colleges, state universities and University of Massachusetts have united with the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education in an ambitious strategic plan to strengthen our performance in both educational achievement and research— while holding ourselves accountable to the public for results.

More information about this initiative, including *Time to Lead: The Need for Excellence in Public Higher Education*, the first Vision Project report released in September 2012, is available at www.mass.edu/visionproject.



MASSACHUSETTS
Department of
Higher Education



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