

Bristol Community College *NEWS*

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PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE BRISTOL COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S NEW LOCATION AT THE SILVER CITY GALLERIA IN TAUNTON

TAUNTON, MA - Bristol Community College announced today its plans to open a permanent BCC Taunton Center location at the Silver City Galleria, Center Court, 2 Galleria Mall Dr., Taunton, MA 02780.

The reimagined 26,000 gross-square-foot space, most recently home to Old Navy, will include 12 classrooms, 3 computer labs, a high-tech biology and chemistry lab, and a certified nursing assistant lab. Support services available at the new Taunton location include advising, tutoring, and a library. The College has signed a 10-year lease for the innovative site, and classes are expected to begin late spring or early summer this year.

“It’s not every day that you see a college move into a mall, but this is actually somewhat of a national trend for businesses and some higher education facilities. Repurposing this space as one that will now provide education to hundreds, and we hope thousands, of students is a tremendous boon to the city of Taunton,” said BCC President John J. Sbrega, Ph.D.

The new site will also house the Casino lab, which will provide learning space for the College’s newly approved Associate in Applied Sciences in Hospitality Management.

Representatives from the College and the Silver City Galleria were joined by local and BCC community members, and politicians, to formally introduce the new location.

“We are thrilled to welcome Bristol Community College to Silver City Galleria,” said Gar Herring, President of The MG Herring Group. “We know that there is great synergy between BCC and the mall, especially for the faculty and students that will work and learn here.”

“Bristol Community College coming to Silver City Galleria is a terrific example of public/private partnership and we are thrilled that we could work with BCC to make this center a reality,” added Barney McAuley, Managing Partner for the Tricom Real Estate Group.

BCC President John J. Sbrega, Ph.D; Joseph Marshall, Chair of the BCC Board of Trustees; and Gloria Saddler, Director of the Taunton Center, spoke at the event, as did Mr. McAuley from Tricom.

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“Instead of having to drive to another campus, students will have a location of their own here in Taunton. Between classes, they’ll have places to eat, study, and relax,” said Joseph Marshall.

All around the country, shopping malls are being reimagined and converted to suit a variety of more sustainable community needs. Malls are being restructured to house college classrooms, medical facilities, libraries, public and private office space, residential housing and more. Many sources cite existing modern infrastructure and amenities, as well as locations on major transportation routes as benefits to repurposing mall space.

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