

# Bristol Community College *NEWS*

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June 3, 2016

**FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT**

## **BRISTOL COMMUNITY COLLEGE CELEBRATES ITS 49<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY**

Bristol Community College expects to award 1565 degrees and certificates at its 49<sup>th</sup> Commencement ceremony on Saturday, June 4, 2016.

The ceremony will start at 11 a.m. under the tent on the Elsbree Street, Fall River Campus. ***NOTE TO EDITORS:*** This year, the tent will be raised on **the activity field at the north end of campus by Valentine Street** because of the construction for the John J. Sbrega, Health and Science building.

The College will award associate in science, associate in arts, and associate in applied science degrees. It will recognize academic achievement with *cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, and *summa cum laude* designations. Certificates of achievement will also be awarded. Dr. John J. Sbrega, President of the College, presides.

The College's Distinguished Citizen award is given this year to Paula Raposa, retired founder and executive director for SER-Jobs for Progress, which aides individuals in attaining long-term employment; and Kathleen Schedler-Clark, Director of Steppingstone, an agency focused on the treatment of substance abuse issues.

Each year, the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education grants BCC the right to award an honorary associate degree in humane letters. This year's Honorary Degree is awarded to Dr. Ernest Moniz, the United States Secretary of Energy. Dr. Moniz is an American nuclear physicist and has served under President Barack Obama since May 2013. He is one of the founding members of the Cyprus Institute and has also served as the Cecil and Ida Green Professor of Physics and Engineering Systems for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The College's John J. Sbrega Exemplary Service Award is given to a past or present member of the Board of Trustees, Foundation Board of Directors, Alumni Association, or College volunteer who has contributed time, talent, energy and knowledge to the institution. This year, there are two recipients of this award: James Clarkin, Esq. and John Almeida, CPA. Mr. Clarkin is a prominent local attorney, a veteran of the United States Air Force, and a past

member and Chairman of the BCC Board of Trustees. Mr. Almeida is a senior partner for Meyer, Regan, & Wilner, LLP in Fall River, a veteran of the United States Navy, and a past member and Chairman of the BCC Board of Trustees.

Speakers at the College Commencement ceremony will include John C. Dvorsky of Portsmouth, Rhode Island, the Class of 2016 Valedictorian, and Assistant Professor of Education Engin Atasay, selected by the graduates to deliver The Last Lecture. Dvorsky graduates with an Engineering Science Transfer. Mr. Dvorsky has maintained 3.99 GPA in coursework, while also leading as president of the STEM Club, member of the Student Math League, and mentor for the College's Gateway to College Program. He credits his success with the personal growth and determination to flourish he learned at Bristol.

During the ceremony, the College will acknowledge the appointment of two retired faculty members as Professor Emeritus/Emerita: *Deborah Lawton*, Professor Emerita of English, and *Barry McKee* Professor Emeritus of Criminal Justice.

The College will take heightened measures in security at the annual commencement, and encourages anyone attending to check [bristolcc.edu/commencement](http://bristolcc.edu/commencement) for details, including items that will be prohibited under the tent.

The College is holding its annual "green" graduation in line with President Sbrega's participation in the national College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment. Both the Commencement programs and Student Awards Night programs were printed on paper made from recycled products. The graduates will wear gowns made from recycled soda bottles. The food at the reception will be served on recycled paper products, and the utensils are made of biodegradable cornstarch. The College installed dual-purpose containers for trash and recycling, and to eliminate mailing, the graduates will be able to view their graduation photos online by the photo vendor.

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