

**SOAR**

**WE**

**TOGETHER**

**BRISTOL**  

---

**COMMUNITY COLLEGE**



When I first arrived at Bristol Community College, I took the time to learn more about the people in our region and become a part of this vibrant community. As I reflected on what the college needed to achieve under my leadership, I recognized the importance of creating a college-going culture in Bristol County. In an area where college attainment levels were lower than average and many families had not yet sent children to college, I knew there was work to be done.

Today, Bristol is a vibrant and diverse institution that serves the largest number of undergraduates in Southeastern Massachusetts. This fall, we became the third-largest community college in the Commonwealth, up from the fifth-largest spot since I started in 2017. Together, with the support of our dedicated faculty, staff, businesses, organizations, donors, and the community, we provide an accessible, innovative, and inclusive education that prepares students to navigate and succeed in our ever-changing world. I am so proud to report that our enrollment continues to grow, especially among part-time learners, adult learners and high school students taking college classes. Most gratifying to me, we have increased the number of Black, Indigenous, People of Color from 25% to 36% during my tenure.

I'm excited to highlight some of our key milestones that reflect our progress in successfully creating a college-going culture across Bristol County. With free community college in Massachusetts, we are making college more accessible than ever in Attleboro, Fall River, New Bedford, Taunton and online. Our community is increasingly aware that they can not only access college but thrive here.

Everywhere I go, I hear stories of individuals attending Bristol. I am continually impressed by the exceptional support provided by our faculty and staff, who create a welcoming, supportive and inclusive environment for all.

Throughout my tenure, my signature has included has been an African proverb, *"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go with others."* I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Bristol's Board of Trustees, the Bristol Community College Foundation, my leadership team, the faculty and staff, donors, alumni, businesses, community members, and especially our students, who have helped Bristol go far. Together, we are soaring! Guided by our mission and vision, Bristol is well-positioned to continue its ascent and reach new heights.

Serving as your president has been the honor of a lifetime.

*Laura L. Douglas*

Laura L. Douglas, Ph.D.



# Charting the Future: Bristol's Strategic Plan



Bristol's 2020-2024 Strategic Plan has served as a comprehensive roadmap for enhancing the student experience and promoting institutional excellence.

Developed with input from more than 1,800 stakeholders, the plan is grounded in four key pillars: Academic Innovation, Organizational Excellence, Equity and Student Success and Partnerships.

As we conclude this strategic plan, we reflect on our achievements.

## Academic Innovation

has advanced the integration of technology and online learning.

## Organizational Excellence

has worked to make the college "student ready."

## Equity and Student Success

have ensured that our policies align with Bristol's commitment to diversity, providing equitable access and belonging for all students.

## Partnerships

have strengthened connections with local schools and employers, paving pathways for students and enhancing workforce readiness.

"Looking ahead, we are excited to prepare for the launch of our 2025-2030 Strategic Plan, which will continue to prioritize continuous improvement and student success," said April Lynch, Chief Strategy Officer.



"I want to inspire each and every generation to attend Bristol Community College. You will have a lot of academic support and emotional support. I met a lot of excellent faculty members in ESL and staff members. They were willing to help me grow."

Shiv Thakur '18, Engineering Science Transfer



# Free College in Massachusetts: A New Era of Opportunity

Massachusetts community colleges made history when Governor Maura Healey signed the fiscal year 2025 budget, launching the MassEducate program alongside the successful MassReconnect initiative. This groundbreaking legislation provides free community college tuition for all Massachusetts residents, regardless of age, who have not yet earned a bachelor's degree.

Under MassEducate and MassReconnect, eligible individuals can attend any of the state's 15 community colleges without incurring tuition or fees, with additional support for books and supplies for some students. This initiative not only fosters educational attainment but also strengthens local economies by investing in a skilled workforce.

To fully benefit from these programs, residents are encouraged to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible.

This historic moment promises lasting benefits for our communities and future generations. The increase in enrollment highlights the community's eagerness to pursue educational goals. For more details, visit [BristolCC.edu/FreeCollege](https://BristolCC.edu/FreeCollege).

off  
Taking



"I needed a career change, so I decided to take classes at Bristol because I knew how affordable it is and how many opportunities they have here. During my time at Bristol, the professors would be really happy to go out of their way to answer my questions or help me out with any assignment, and they really care about their students."

Ryan Ribeiro '24, Salutatorian, Business Administration Transfer

## BY THE NUMBERS (FALL 2024)

# 30.6%

OF STUDENTS RECEIVED FREE  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE FUNDING



# 871

STUDENTS RECEIVED

# \$1,720,598

IN MASSRECONNECT FUNDING

# 1,270

STUDENTS RECEIVED

# \$3,106,291

IN MASSEDUCATE FUNDING



# Creating Opportunities for Every Learner

Bristol serves a diverse population of students, including high school graduates, adult learners, transfer students and guest students. There are many potential entry points into degree programs at the college, such as adult education, GED/HiSET and English proficiency programs, dual enrollment/Early College, and traditional enrollment pathways.

“Enrolling in a skills training certification or degree program is a vital and natural next step

for our high school equivalency graduates and advanced English language learners,” said Maria Ferreira-Bedard, Executive Director at Southeastern Massachusetts SER-Jobs for Progress. “Bristol’s Transition to College team provides all the needed support and guidance to our staff and their students to make the enrollment process as seamless and comfortable as possible, making our mission of helping those we serve meet their educational and career goals so much easier.”



## Building a College-Going Culture

The College Access and Dual Enrollment programs at Bristol help cultivate a college-going mindset by providing educational opportunities for high school students. The College Access and Dual Enrollment programs at Bristol help cultivate a college-going mindset by providing educational opportunities for high school students. Recently, Taunton was designated as an Early College program. Early College partnerships enable students to earn up to 24 college credits at no cost while completing their high school diplomas. Additionally, Bristol collaborates with B.M.C. Durfee High School, Argosy Collegiate Charter School and New Bedford High School.

Since its launch, Bristol’s College Access program has enabled students to earn 5,690 Early College credits and enroll in 4,336 dual enrollment courses with our K-12 partners. All courses are taught by Bristol’s full-time and adjunct faculty, who receive specialized training to support student success. Students also gain access to essential academic resources, including the Library Learning Commons. The Massachusetts Executive Office of Education projects that around 8,700 students will enroll in Early College programs by the 2024-2025 school year.

“Providing post-secondary opportunities for our traditionally underserved and underrepresented student groups has been a long term goal and strategic objective for Taunton Public Schools. The early college program in partnership with Bristol Community College is a significant step towards achieving our goals,” said John J. Cabral, Superintendent of Taunton Public Schools. “This program will allow students in the class of 2028 to complete a year of college before graduation without the traditional financial burden or barrier. We are thrilled to offer this fantastic opportunity to our students and are excited to continue our partnership with Bristol.”



“I give all the credit to my amazing professors. The program that supports adult education students as they transition to the college from adult education classes ... opened both worlds to me ... I decided to keep going on my own. That’s when I earned the 2023 President Merit Scholarship. It reminds me, my kids and whoever is around me that hard work pays off.”

Selma Delaconcepcion, HSE/Adult education, Transition to College

# Technology Modernizes Student Engagement

The 2020-2024 Strategic Plan has guided the college through an analysis of key touchpoints for students, from application to enrollment to graduation. Over the past few years, this initiative has reduced barriers for students, improving success and increasing retention rates. Recognizing that obstacles can lead to disengagement, the college has streamlined processes, particularly in enrollment, to expedite application approvals and admissions.

In alignment with this technological shift, we are introducing new student support systems designed to enhance our framework. Using technology, these systems create a seamless connection between student resources and support staff. This integrated approach improves advising and career exploration while strengthening ties with on-campus support groups, promoting a stronger sense of belonging and community among students.

Slate, a student-focused admissions platform, and EAB Navigate, a comprehensive student success system, facilitate communication while allowing for proactive support based on data insights. Slate guides students through the admissions process with communication tailored to the student at each step. It also streamlines backend admissions processes. EAB Navigate serves as a centralized student success management system, helping with communication between students and various support services such as advising. Next year, the college will fully implement CourseDog, a platform that analyzes course schedules and suggests optimal class times, ensuring students have access to their

preferred modalities. Given the speed at which classes fill, the college will be able to proactively seek additional offerings aligned with student interests.

The Canvas learning management system, which replaced Blackboard, provides a streamlined and state-of-the-art online student experience. With a universal design that promotes consistency across courses, Canvas enhances navigation and student engagement.

The new student and employee portal, myBristol, offers improved navigation and student-friendly features tailored to individual timelines and interests. Everything the student needs can now be found in one convenient location.

Additionally, the Lash Center's diversified programming, coupled with LinkedIn Learning, addresses the unique needs of Bristol's employees. LinkedIn Learning provides access to more than 18,000 training modules, enabling faculty and staff to update their skills and complete necessary annual training. Students now also have access to LinkedIn Learning trainings for interview and career preparation.

This holistic approach ensures alignment with both academic and professional development, reflecting our commitment to empowering every student to pursue their educational journey with confidence and success.

Overall, these initiatives meet students' evolving needs while equipping employees with continuous professional development, creating a more dynamic and supportive educational experience.



## New Brand Identity Redefines Community College

In 2018, Bristol launched a new logo, brand identity and website, aiming to elevate the perception of community college education and reinforce its commitment to fostering a college-going culture.

Many in the community do not believe that a college education is possible, yet Bristol offers a debt-free pathway to success, including free community college. The redesigned logo features the college's full name, replacing the "BCC" acronym used by another community college in the state.

Additionally, the revamped website incorporates advanced accessibility features. The user-friendly design enhances navigation and ensures equal access for all students. Together, these efforts have shown measurable improvements in student navigation speed on the website, leading to a better overall experience that supports enrollment and retention while dispelling misconceptions about community colleges.

# The National Offshore Wind Institute Makes a Splash

Bristol's National Offshore Wind Institute (NOWI) has become a leading U.S. training facility for offshore and onshore wind, as well as maritime health and safety. Located on New Bedford's working waterfront, NOWI has a global partnership with one of the world's largest and most trusted providers of offshore wind training, Maersk Training.

Since opening, NOWI has launched courses in Global Wind Organisation (GWO) Basic Safety Training, Basic Technical Training, Advanced Rescue Training, Slinger Signaler, and Enhanced First Aid, establishing itself as the regional leader in workforce training.

NOWI collaborates with industry and strategic partners to ensure its training programs evolve in response to the changing



workforce needs of the offshore, onshore wind and maritime sectors.

Looking ahead, NOWI will soon offer Helicopter Underwater Escape Training (HUET) with the institute's on-site HUET helicopter simulator and 56,000-gallon training tank, preparing passengers for emergency evacuation or egress during an emergency.



## Offshore Wind Students Benefit from a Generous Donor

Bristol offers an Associate in Science in engineering technology with a focus on offshore wind power, supported by a generous annual donation of \$50,000 that subsidizes fees for students in these programs. The anonymous donor, dedicated to promoting renewable energy, aims to encourage careers in this growing field. These initiatives are essential for developing a skilled workforce and supporting Massachusetts' economic growth.



AS THE COLLEGE APPROACHES ITS

# 60th Anniversary

IN 2025, WE REFLECT ON THE MILESTONE CELEBRATIONS HELD IN ATTLEBORO, NEW BEDFORD AND TAUNTON OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS.



## NEW BEDFORD

The New Bedford Campus proudly celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2021, highlighting two decades of commitment to accessibility, affordability and community engagement. Bristol's second-largest campus recently completed an expansion project that maximizes its six stories at 800 Purchase St. The revitalized facility features upgraded classrooms, offices, a community room and a new Library Learning Commons. With programs in high-demand fields such as entrepreneurship, nursing and occupational therapy, students receive comprehensive support services and flexible scheduling to meet their diverse needs. The campus has a thriving art program and continues to innovate and expand its offerings to serve the local community effectively.

## GOING THE Distance

1965

FALL RIVER CAMPUS

2001

NEW BEDFORD CAMPUS

2004

ATTLEBORO CAMPUS

2014

TAUNTON CENTER

## TAUNTON

The Taunton Center celebrated 10 years of fostering an inclusive educational environment in the Greater Taunton region. Like all the college locations, the center offers on-site support services, including a Library Learning Commons, advising, tutoring, adult education, career counseling and mental health counseling. Additionally, it has high-tech biology and chemistry labs, facilitating hands-on learning experiences for students and community members.

The center is home to Bristol's athletics program, promoting responsibility and dedication both on the playing field and in the classroom. Another highlight is the successful phlebotomy program, which equips students with essential skills. Its new location on 2 Hamilton Street includes a 400-seat auditorium.

Having ties to the community for 50 years, the center was honored with a Member Milestone by the Taunton Area Chamber of Commerce (TACC) in recognition of the college's 50 years of chamber membership and received TACC's 2024 Lopes Companies Large Business Award.



## ATTLEBORO

The Attleboro Campus recently celebrated its 20th anniversary, marking two decades of academic access and community impact. Since its opening in 2004, the campus has significantly expanded educational opportunities for students in the region. The campus recently received a \$1 million gift — the largest in its history — enabling the creation of a new Library Learning Commons. Additionally, the dedication of the Earl R. Holden Microbiology Laboratory, made possible by a \$250,000 gift by The Roddy-Holden Foundation, underscores the commitment to providing state-of-the-art resources. The Attleboro Campus, located at 11 Field Road, is also home to Bridgewater State University, offering a seamless connection to a four-year degree.

Bristol could not provide access to students throughout Bristol County at our four locations without the support of the community, local leaders, legislators and our dedicated faculty and staff. The college's success is due to this unwavering support.



## Library Learning Commons: A Hub for Student Success

On September 30, 2022, Bristol's Attleboro Campus opened the Robert F. Stoico/FIRSTFED Library Learning Commons, made possible by the generous \$1 million gift from the Stoico/FIRSTFED Charitable Foundation.

All of Bristol's college locations have opened newly renovated Library Learning Commons, which have proven effective in reaching students and enhancing retention and graduation rates. These centralized spaces combine the library, writing center, tutoring center, and academic support services, making it easier for students to access the resources and assistance they need to succeed.

# Making Education More Affordable: Our Commitment to Accessible Resources

Open Educational Resources (OER) are transforming the educational landscape at Bristol by significantly reducing costs for students. Eliminating the burden of expensive textbooks, the increase in the use of OER not only enhances accessibility but also empowers students to engage more fully with their coursework. Bristol stands as the second most affordable community college in Massachusetts. Initiatives like OER, combined with financial aid programs, help ensure that a significant percentage of students can pursue their education with reduced financial stress, creating a more equitable learning environment.

\$1M

IN TEXTBOOK SAVINGS SINCE 2021

219%

INCREASE IN COURSE SECTIONS WITH NO-COST MATERIALS, 2022-2023

23%

DECREASE IN USE OF TEXTBOOKS, 2022-2023

## Cultural Exchange at Bristol: APEX Program Highlights

For the second year in a row, Bristol has hosted students and faculty from Pakistan as part of the America Pakistan Educational Exchange (APEX) cultural immersion program. This initiative involves collaboration among three institutions: Kinnaird College for Women in Lahore, Pakistan, Sauk Valley Community College in Illinois and Bristol Community College. Professor Farah Habib, co-director of APEX and professor of English at the college, emphasizes the program's significance: "When you can demystify a country such as Pakistan — which is sometimes ostracized because of its history — you can promote understanding and foster a realization that as humans, we have more similarities than differences."

This year's program included a photo exhibit, titled "Kahror Pakka and Phool Nagar: Voices of the Land," featuring photographs taken by young residents of two rural villages in Punjab, showcasing their vibrant lives.

The program concluded with Bristol and Pakistani students presenting their collaborative projects. Supported by the Citizens Diplomacy Action Fund grant from the U.S. Department of State, the exchange highlights the power of cultural storytelling and community connections.



## Preparing Students for the Future of Cybersecurity

Bristol's Cybersecurity program is making significant strides in preparing students for high-demand careers in a rapidly evolving field. Bristol is in the final stages of becoming a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity and Defense (CAE-CD). Associate Professor Steve Frechette emphasizes the program's commitment to equity, particularly for underrepresented students. One shining example is Mahnoor Abbas, a talented student who, with help from the TRAIN grant program, enrolled in Bristol's free cybersecurity certificate program while still in high school. Her journey has culminated in her acceptance to Cornell University on a full scholarship.

The program offers a competitive edge by equipping students with in-demand skills in areas like networking technologies, cybersecurity principles and cyber defense. With identity theft on the rise, the curriculum is designed to meet the needs of the job market and enable students to transition directly into high-paying positions.

Looking ahead, Bristol is excited to announce the upcoming launch of a degree in artificial intelligence, further expanding its offerings in the tech field. This new degree will complement the existing cybersecurity program and provide students with even more pathways to success in the tech industry.



## From Bristol to Edinburgh

Bristol's Theatre program took their artistry to the global stage this past summer, performing an original piece at the renowned Edinburgh Festival Fringe, the world's largest performing arts festival held annually in Scotland.

Theatre program students and David Ledoux, the program's Artistic Director, collaboratively wrote and developed the production titled "Only the Ghosts Can Know" before traveling to Edinburgh to perform their work for international audiences.

# Bristol Earns Gold as a Military Friendly® School



The Joseph A. Marshall Veterans Center is dedicated to supporting United States military veterans, active-duty service members, reservists, national guardsmen, and their families with academic counseling and educational benefits certification. Bristol is proud to hold the gold designation on the 2024-2025 Military Friendly® Schools list.



“This prestigious recognition signifies that our programs rank within 10% of the top schools nationwide for effectively supporting military students and their families,” said Denny Cosmo, director of the center.



## Mayor of Ponta Delgada Visits Bristol

Pedro Nascimento Cabral, Mayor of Ponta Delgada, São Miguel Island, Portugal, visited Bristol on June 10, the Day of Portugal. During his visit, Mayor Cabral toured the college including LusoCentro and the Dabney Collection of Portuguese artifacts. These interactions not only celebrate our shared heritage but also strengthen the ties between our communities, encouraging a deeper appreciation for the rich contributions of Portuguese culture in our region.

“I love to be here because this institution is one of the most important institutions of the Portuguese heritage and culture,” said Mayor Cabral. “It’s very good to see that the relationship between Bristol Community College and the Portuguese culture is very alive.”



## Call for Artists: The Button Project

Bristol’s Holocaust & Genocide Center is inviting artists and artist teams to submit proposals for a public artwork using a collection of 1.5 million buttons, each representing a child who lost their life in the Holocaust. The selected artist or team will receive these buttons, with a preference for proposals that incorporate the entire collection. This project honors the memory of these children and raises awareness about the Holocaust, fostering community reflection and education.

Ronald Weisberger, Ed.D., director of Bristol’s Holocaust and Genocide Center, launched the Button Project in 2017 with a call for community members to donate garment buttons. Each button symbolizes a Jewish child who perished during the Holocaust, serving as a reminder of the consequences of intolerance and violence.

Dr. Weisberger notes, “In a world still shadowed by historical atrocities, this installation serves as a reminder to choose compassion over division, inspiring us to ensure that the voices of the innocent are never silenced again.”

Now in its 11th year, the Holocaust and Genocide Center provides historical information, educational experiences, and multimedia resources to communicate the suffering, pain, and death of innocent millions who were impacted by the Holocaust and other genocides.



# Helping Students Thrive Beyond the Classroom



12,905

**PARTICIPANTS** – INCLUDING MANY STUDENTS – RECEIVED MORE THAN **134,238 LBS. OF FREE GROCERIES** FROM BRISTOL'S MOBILE FOOD MARKET IN FY24

Bristol's Basic Needs Center provides support and resources to students who are experiencing challenges related to food security, housing security, transportation, wellness, and other unexpected personal needs. Bristol's Student and Family Engagement Office, in partnership with the Greater Boston Food Bank and the Basic Needs Center, offers a monthly Mobile Food Market that served 12,905 participants in fiscal year 2024. Participants, including many students, received more than 134,238 pounds of free groceries.

Bristol's Basic Needs Center also assists students applying for SNAP benefits and makes referrals to local food resources, shelters, fuel assistance programs, credit repair programs, free tax preparation, Head Start, Early Intervention programs and legal services. These efforts help students find the stability and support they need to focus on their studies and achieve their goals.

## Transforming Lives Through Generosity

Gifts to the college are a symbol of our donors' commitment to our mission. Indeed, the financial support we receive changes the lives of students today, tomorrow and for years to come. Donors have allowed the college to expand access to education, foster innovative programs, and deepen our commitment to sustainability.

Some examples of the impact that our donors have had on our students' financial future include:

- With the help of more than \$350,000 in funding from donors who are committed to sustainable energy, we can not only support students pursuing degrees in offshore wind but also provide EV infrastructure on our campuses.
- Tremendous growth in giving to the Bristol CARE fund – nearly \$300,000 in FY24 – has provided students with emergency funding for extenuating circumstances that might otherwise derail their academic progress at Bristol.
- With \$650,000 of funding support, Bristol is now able to develop and launch an evening and weekend nursing program which will provide more equitable access to new students – especially those from underrepresented population – to pursue a nursing degree. The pilot program will launch in 2025.
- Thanks to \$175,000 in funding to our STEM programs from a private funder, we can maintain programming that may have otherwise been cut due to state funding reductions.



# Students Experience a TRANSFERmation

Bristol has strengthened its partnerships with state and private colleges and universities around the country, creating new opportunities for students to transfer seamlessly and complete their bachelor's degrees. With more than 80 transfer agreements – including guaranteed admission programs with UMass Dartmouth, Bridgewater State University, Stonehill College and Southern New Hampshire University – Bristol has made the transfer process smoother and more accessible than ever.

These partnerships allow students to start their education at Bristol, where they benefit from affordable tuition and supportive services, before transitioning to a four-year

institution. Many of these universities offer scholarships to students who complete their associate degrees at Bristol, further reducing student costs. Programs like MassTransfer and Commonwealth Commitment guarantee that credits earned at Bristol transfer to state universities, and initiatives like BCC2BSU make admission even easier.

With personalized transfer counseling, workshops and major-specific events, Bristol's Transfer Services team is dedicated to helping students every step of the way. By choosing Bristol, students gain a strong academic foundation and a clear path to success at their chosen 4-year university.

583

BRISTOL STUDENTS  
TRANSFERRED IN 2023

\$1M+

AWARDED IN MERIT-BASED  
TRANSFER SCHOLARSHIPS



## SUCCESS Fund: Supporting Every Student's Journey

Funded by the Massachusetts Legislature, the SUCCESS Fund (Supporting Urgent Community College Equity through Student Services) was created to invest in wraparound supports and services for historically underrepresented populations, including BIPOC students, students with disabilities, first-generation students, low-income students, and LGBTQIA+ students. The Student Success Center at Bristol was established in 2021 and merged with Academic Advising in 2023 to become the department of Advising & Success. The current program leverages teams of academic advisors and coaches to provide proactive outreach, high-touch student support, and intentional communication to create strong relationships with students from onboarding through degree completion or transfer. Since 2021, the program has served more than 1,800 students, playing a crucial role in helping students navigate their educational journeys and achieving their goals.



“My professors helped me realize that I could pursue writing and could pursue something a bit more fulfilling for myself. After my first semester, I was invited to join the [Commonwealth] Honors program, and that allowed me to be a bit more involved. Being able to come into the classroom opened new possibilities for me; I felt more involved in my classwork.”

Victoria Robidoux '23 Salutatorian, Liberal Arts (History Transfer)

# Transforming Futures with the BayCoast Bank Scholars Program



Bristol, in partnership with BayCoast Bank, launched the BayCoast Scholars program, offering high school students from underserved backgrounds the chance to earn free college credits and gain career experience. This collaboration allows students to pursue an associate degree in business at Bristol, followed by a bachelor's degree in business management at UMass Dartmouth, all while working at BayCoast Bank. The program covers tuition, fees and other expenses, providing dedicated academic support and tutoring. This initiative not only kickstarts careers but also promotes a diverse banking workforce and a college-going culture in the region.

“Getting an education is essential in today’s society. At BayCoast Bank, we have a strong history of supporting education because we believe it is the primary economic driver that transforms lives and communities for the better. In proud collaboration with Bristol Community College and the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, our innovative BayCoast Scholars program not only grants students from underserved and underrepresented backgrounds an education at no-cost, but also provides them with invaluable career experience at our financial institution, reinforcing BayCoast’s commitment to a diverse banking workforce that represents the community we serve. Our scholars are impressive individuals, and we are confident they will excel in their futures.”

*Nicholas M. Christ, President & CEO, BayCoast Bank*

“The BayCoast Scholars program was beneficial because it opened the door and gave me career development and opportunities to work towards my degree,” Sharonne said. “I learned time management and accountability, which were crucial in transitioning from high school to college. The program not only alleviated the financial burden of college but also offered a network of support ... having people rooting for me made a big difference.”

*Sharonne Morales, Business Management Bristol Community College '22, UMass Dartmouth '24*



## Showcasing Portuguese Culture with Maria Lawton

This fall, Bristol partnered with the Zeiterion Performing Arts Center and LusoCentro, the college’s center dedicated to our Portuguese community, to present An Evening with Maria Lawton – cook, author and Emmy-nominated host of Maria’s Portuguese Table, a culinary travel show distributed nationally via PBS and featured on CreateTV. Now in its second season, the show highlights Azorean dishes and culture not only in the Azores but around the world. She is also the college’s 2024 Honorary Degree recipient. With a deep connection to her Azorean roots, Lawton brings the essence of Portuguese cuisine to television audiences,

making history as the first PBS series to showcase Portuguese culture.

Lawton began her day at Bristol by sharing her expertise with students in our Culinary Arts program led by Chef Esteban Martinez. In the evening, she gave an engaging presentation on traditional Azorean preparation techniques and inspirations she has encountered within Portuguese culture.

Following the event, Lawton mingled with guests at a post-show reception that featured a performance by Portuguese guitarist João Silva and pastries made by the college’s baking and pastry students.

## great HORIZONS



## Inspiration in Action: The Wolfson Speaker Series

The Wolfson Speaker Series, honoring Richard Wolfson — a dedicated member of the Bristol Community College Foundation Board and the college’s 2024 Distinguished Citizen — is made possible through his generous support. Wolfson envisioned a speaker series that would provide the community with access to high-profile speakers, offering enriching opportunities at no cost. The inaugural presenter was Pete Souza, a best-selling author, speaker and freelance photographer. Souza, who has roots in the South Coast, served as Chief Official White House Photographer for former President Barack Obama for all eight years and an Official White House Photographer for former President Ronald Reagan.

On May 1, 2025, the college will host Jeff Corwin, a renowned wildlife biologist, conservationist and television personality best known for his captivating documentaries on animal behavior and environmental issues.

# Bristol's Commitment to Social Justice

Since 2020, Bristol has hosted Social Justice Forums on topics like race, women's rights, LGBTQ+ issues, mental health and disability advocacy. Inspired by the death of George Floyd, these forums aim to raise awareness, inspire change and break down barriers.

Bristol also offers a Social Justice Toolbox with videos, books and more, promoting partnerships in the spirit of diversity, equity and inclusion.



## Building Equity in Education

Bristol, in collaboration with the CONNECT Consortium, has developed a groundbreaking framework of core equity competencies as part of the Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF). This initiative aligns with the Massachusetts' Department of Higher Education's (DHE) 10-year equity plan, aiming to standardize professional development across institutions. The self-paced model allows participants to create personalized development plans and utilizes pre- and post-assessment tools to measure its impact on faculty and staff behaviors regarding equity practices.

CONNECT, recently awarded \$150,000 from the Massachusetts DHE, will enhance racial equity and social justice knowledge across five higher education institutions: Bridgewater State University, Bristol Community College, Cape Cod Community College, Massachusetts Maritime Academy and Massasoit Community College. The consortium aims to improve experiences for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) by refining policies and practices.

Key to this initiative are designated Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) leaders from each institution, who will facilitate systemic change. Trained staff will implement equity-minded practices, ultimately enriching the support services for BIPOC students and improving institutional effectiveness.

## Land Acknowledgment

Bristol Community College acknowledges that the locations on which we teach, learn, and connect are situated on the ancestral territory of the Wampanoag Tribal Nation who has lived here for millennia — protecting and stewarding the land and waterways — well before the arrival of colonial settlers just over 400 years ago. We support your efforts to learn more about the Wampanoag people and all of our Indigenous neighbors. As an engaged institution of higher education, we commit to hiring practices, programs and culturally accurate curricula that uplift Indigenous cultures and voices in our communities.

# A Grateful Tribute to Our Community

Bristol is extremely fortunate to have such a dedicated and generous community of supporters. Since 2017, nearly 2,500 donors have contributed gifts totaling more than \$12 million to the Bristol Community College Foundation. These gifts have helped the college continue its work putting life-changing opportunities within reach. On behalf of the faculty, staff and students of Bristol: Thank you!

## 90%

OF EVERY DOLLAR RAISED GOES DIRECTLY TO BRISTOL COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND ITS STUDENTS.

## Ways to Give

Your gift to the Bristol Community College Foundation makes a tremendous difference. It only takes a moment to help build a brighter future. Funding can be directed to general support, scholarships, projects or academic areas of the college.

### GIFTS TO THE ANNUAL FUND

(also known as the Bristol Fund) are the cornerstone of the Foundation's fundraising efforts and provide resources that can be immediately applied to meet the college's greatest needs.

### GIFTS TO THE ENDOWMENT

demonstrate a special commitment to a particular program or project. With a minimum gift of \$15,000, one can create a specially named endowment fund, earnings that can be used to provide annual funding for a student scholarship, a special program or an academic area of the college for years to come.

### HONORARY/MEMORIAL GIFTS

pay tribute to a valued family member, friend, classmate or faculty member. Please indicate who the gift honors or memorializes at the time of donation.

### OTHER WAYS TO GIVE:

- Stock donations
- Payroll deduction for employees
- Online, anytime, at [BristolCC.edu/Donate](https://BristolCC.edu/Donate)

## Scholarships

Foundation scholarships help students achieve their educational goals through financial need and merit-based scholarships made possible by our generous donors. Your investment has a tremendous impact.

For a full listing of Bristol Community College's 180 scholarships and their descriptions, visit: [BristolCC.edu/Scholarships](https://BristolCC.edu/Scholarships)

## Fast Facts

### 2023-2024

**6,950** STUDENTS ENROLLED IN FALL 2024

**15:1** STUDENT TO FACULTY RATIO

**97%** 2024 GRADUATES ARE LIKELY TO RECOMMEND BRISTOL TO OTHERS

**\$133 M** TOTAL FUNDING RECEIVED FROM 343 GRANTS THROUGH THE OFFICE OF GRANT DEVELOPMENT FROM 2017 TO 2024

**20** AREA HIGH SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN COLLEGE ACCESS PROGRAMS, FALL 2024

### FISCAL YEAR 2024

**\$31.2 M** IN FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL FINANCIAL AID DISBURSED TO DEGREE-SEEKING STUDENTS

**100%** INCREASE IN ENROLLMENT NURSE ASSISTANT TRAINING PROGRAM SINCE FY23

**\$415 K** TOTAL SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS AWARDED FROM THE BRISTOL FOUNDATION

**\$2.8 M** MASSRECONNECT FUNDING AWARDED TO BRISTOL STUDENTS

**\$14.6 M** FUNDING BRISTOL RECEIVED FROM 48 GRANTS

*These grants were awarded from private, state and federal sources and were submitted by departments across the college.*



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TOGETHER



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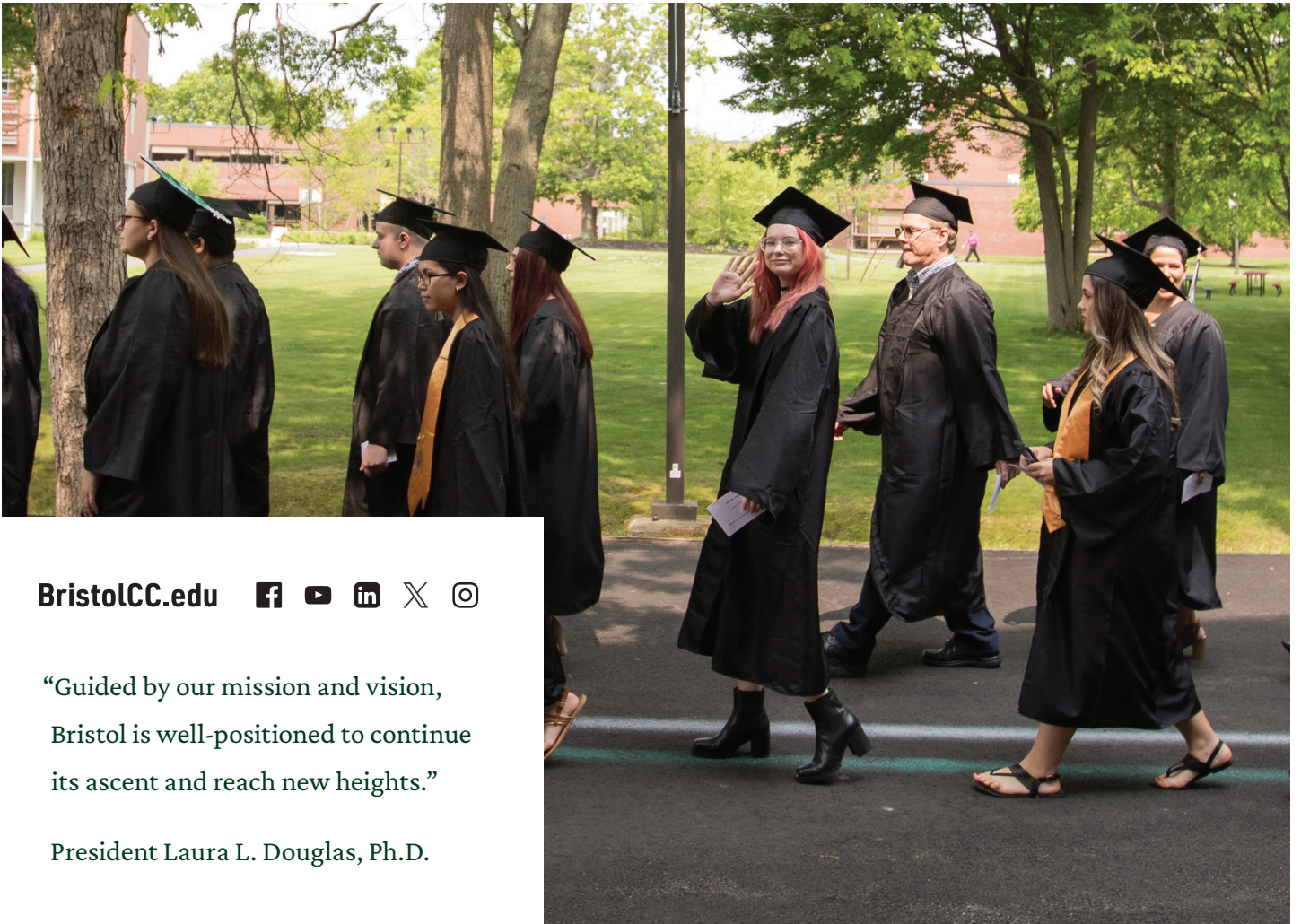
# BRISTOL

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“Guided by our mission and vision,  
Bristol is well-positioned to continue  
its ascent and reach new heights.”

President Laura L. Douglas, Ph.D.