



August 9, 2023

Dear Bristol Faculty & Staff,

Today signifies a momentous day within the Commonwealth's history. A day that will have an impact on generations to come. Massachusetts Governor Maura T. Healey signed the fiscal year 2024 state budget which includes funding for [MassReconnect](#), an unprecedented new program that will cover the cost of community college for Massachusetts residents, ages 25 or older, without a previous college degree.

The Healey-Driscoll administration acknowledges the crucial role that higher education access plays in the lives of our residents. MassReconnect bolsters the college-going culture within our region and empowers adult learners to attain a degree without the barrier of cost. Most importantly, it is a direct line of support to the college's mission and strategic plan to make college debt-free for as many students as possible and put our students' dreams within reach. We understand that this only marks the initial phase for community college students in our state and the commitment to this initiative serves as an affirmation of the excellent education we provide across all 15 community colleges in the Commonwealth. Now, more than ever, we need to spread the word throughout our communities about the benefits of going to college and all that Bristol Community College can do to support our adult students once they get here.

My heartfelt appreciation goes out to the numerous dedicated employees who have expended endless effort to ready the college for this significant initiative, as well as to those who provide ongoing support to our students throughout their journey. Additionally, I kindly request that you take the time to thank our local legislators for their invaluable contributions to this remarkable endeavor.

I am proud and grateful for all that you do to make a difference in our students' lives and elevate our community to its fullest potential.

Thank you,

Laura

Laura Douglas, Ph.D.
President