



January 25, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**BRISTOL COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND NEW BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
LAUNCHED GIRLS WHO CODE PROGRAM AT BCC NEW BEDFORD
CAMPUS ON JANUARY 20**

Bristol Community College and New Bedford Public Schools launched the Girls Who Code program at BCC's New Bedford campus on Saturday, January 20. The engaging program meets Saturdays from 9-11 a.m., and will run until May 5, 2018.

The national organization, Girls Who Code, seeks to close the gender gap in computer information technology fields. In this program, girls work with club members on a computer science impact project, utilizing computer science to solve a problem relevant to the club and the community.

The first session included 20 participants who are learning the fundamental computer science concepts of loops, variables, conditionals, and functions that form the basis for all computer programming languages, while developing teamwork and leadership skills. Participants in the program received special "swag bags" and a custom-made Girls Who Code t-shirt.

This collaboration is made possible by community partners including Bristol Community College, New Bedford Public Schools, Woods Arts & Literacy Foundation, and The Landing Gift Shop and Chandlery.

For more information, please contact Zita Simas by emailing <mailto:zsimas@newbedfordschools.org>, or contact Nathan Vaughn by emailing Nathan.Vaughan@bristolcc.edu or by calling 774.357.4008.

About Bristol Community College

Bristol Community College is a leading resource for education and workforce development in Southeastern Massachusetts. BCC has locations in Fall River, Attleboro, New Bedford, and Taunton, along with flexible online offerings that lead to an associate degree, a career-ready certificate, or the ability to seamlessly transfer to baccalaureate colleges throughout the state and country.

The College's Center for Workforce and Community Education provides customized training for businesses and the community including healthcare, workforce and sustainable initiatives, corporate services, and Kids College.

The BCC Foundation, a non-profit organization utilizing community donations and partnerships, supports the College's mission to meet the lifelong educational needs of the community. For more information, visit <http://www.bristolcc.edu/aboutbcc/>.