

GOVERNOR PATRICK APPOINTS TINA SBREGA AS CHAIR OF MOUNT WACHUSETT COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BOSTON – Friday, October 19, 2012 – Governor Deval Patrick today appointed experienced business professional Tina Sbrega as Chair of the Board of Trustees at Mount Wachusett Community College.

The Governor’s community college plan, supported by the Legislature and included in the FY13 budget, calls for the Governor to appoint the Chair of the Board of Trustees at each community college. This plan will create a more integrated, effective community college *system* that is responsive to both local and statewide employer needs by giving community colleges additional capacity to expand their efforts to provide students with high-quality, relevant educational and training programs. This plan will also help strengthen the connections between our campuses, our employers, and our workforce so that students of all ages have the opportunity to succeed.

“Our community colleges are at the center of our efforts to close the skills gap and help people get back to work in Massachusetts,” said Governor Patrick. “I want to thank Ms. Sbrega for her willingness to serve in this capacity and am confident that she will be a critical partner in our collective efforts to better serve our students and employers, building a stronger Commonwealth for generations to come.”

Tina Sbrega is the President and COO of GFA Federal Credit Union in Gardner. Ms. Sbrega began her work for the GFA Federal Credit Union in 1980 and has served in numerous capacities at the company over the past thirty years. She serves as Chair of the Board of Trustees at Heywood Hospital and as Director of the House of Peace & Education. Ms. Sbrega is a former Director of the Greater Gardner Chamber of Commerce, where she served for 11 years. Ms. Sbrega earned an Associate’s degree from Quinsigamond Community College and a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Roger Williams University. Ms. Sbrega has served as a member of the Board of Trustees at Mount Wachusett Community College for over seven years and is filling the chair position previously held by James Garrison.

“I’m honored to have been chosen to serve in this role as chair of the Mount Wachusett Community College Board of Trustees,” said Ms. Sbrega. “The leadership, the faculty, and the entire college community do a phenomenal job in serving the needs of North Central Massachusetts students and local businesses, and I’m proud to be affiliated with such an outstanding organization.”

“As a trustee and most recently as vice chair, Tina Sbrega has been a diligent, community-minded member of the board. We are pleased that Governor Patrick has appointed her to continue the leadership of our outgoing board chair, Jim Garrison, who has admirably served our college community and will continue to serve on the board,” said Mount Wachusett Community College President Daniel M. Asquino. “Ms. Sbrega is a highly regarded leader and we welcome the continuity her appointment will provide.”

Delivering on the goals of his community college plan, Governor Patrick recently awarded community colleges a total of \$4 million in grants to support increased skill training and workforce alignment,

improved student learning outcomes and efficiency measures at campuses across the Commonwealth. These grants will give campuses the additional capacity they need to promote higher completion rates of degrees and certificates, be more responsive to the needs of local economies as well as of the state's fastest growing sectors and adopt a system-wide standard core of course offerings. Mount Wachusett Community College received \$272,000 to increase college readiness and ultimately, attendance rates, improve student success at the college and further the college's commitment to increasing civic engagement activities on campus. Earlier this month, Mount Wachusett Community College was also awarded \$37.9 million in capital funding to modernize the Haley building and build a wet lab addition.

To learn more about the Governor's community college plan visit <http://www.mass.gov/governor/agenda/education/>.