

# **GOVERNOR PATRICK APPOINTS ROBERT COHN AS CHAIR OF GREENFIELD COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

BOSTON – Friday, October 19, 2012 – Governor Deval Patrick today appointed Robert Cohn as Chair of the Board of Trustees at Greenfield Community College. Mr. Cohn is the current Board Chair at Greenfield Community College and today’s announcement is an affirmation of his appointment under the Governor’s new authority to appoint the Board Chairs at each of the Commonwealth’s fifteen community colleges.

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 Mr. Cohn for his willingness to serve in this capacity and am confident that he will be a continued partner in our collective efforts to better serve our students and employers, building a stronger Commonwealth for generations to come.”

Mr. Cohn is the President of Cohn & Company Real Estate Agency. Over the past thirty plus years, under his leadership, the agency’s insurance arm went from a \$1 million business to a \$17 million dollar business and the real estate agency continues to thrive. Mr. Cohn serves as a trustee of Baystate Health Foundation and President of the Greenfield Education Foundation, among other volunteer efforts, and has served as a member of the Greenfield Community College Board of Trustees for over three years. Mr. Cohn attended Greenfield Community College and went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Denver.

“I am thrilled to be reappointed by the Governor as Chair of the GCC Board of Trustees,” said Mr. Cohn. “GCC is a truly great institution, an economic force in our community, one that works for the betterment of all of us. GCC has been my favorite community activity since the late 1970s when I served as the first alumni trustee. I am very involved with supporting education in our community, both through the College’s Board of Trustees and previously on the GCC Foundation Board of Directors.”

“Rob Cohn understands our students because he was one. He understands the business of our community because he runs one. He understands the many needs of our community because of his level of civic engagement,” said Greenfield Community College President Bob Pura. “There are not many who possess more passion for GCC and our mission or have a better understanding of our impact than Rob Cohn. He has worked on behalf of GCC for many years. We are pleased that the Governor understands

and appreciates all of that and we look forward to the future with Rob's reappointment as Chair of the GCC Board of Trustees."

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. Greenfield Community College received \$179,310 to expand a hybrid learning model of online learning combined with onsite learning at the college.

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