

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MURRAY ANNOUNCES QUINSIGAMOND COMMUNITY COLLEGE EXPANSION

New Downtown Worcester Location on Franklin Street Will Serve 2,000 Students and Administrators; Expands Health Care and Workforce Development and Training Programs

WORCESTER – Wednesday, February 6, 2013 – Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray today joined New Garden Park, the 501(c)3 entity of the Worcester Business Development Corporation (WBDC), Quinsigamond Community College (QCC), and state and local officials to announce QCC's expansion to 20 Franklin Street in downtown Worcester.

"Our Administration is focused on helping Worcester reach its full economic potential, and with the expansion of QCC to Franklin Street, we're paving the way in the city's downtown district," said Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray. "I am proud to partner with the Worcester Business Development Corporation, QCC, and the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance to help revitalize another part of the city's downtown district, opening doors for students from across the region to pursue an education and training in downtown Worcester."

The new downtown location will allow QCC to relocate and expand its Allied Health programs, as well as offer expanded Workforce Development and Training, Adult Basic Education and English as a Second Language programs. The new facility will support over 2,000 students and administrators.

"The Patrick-Murray Administration is committed to helping Gateway Cities revitalize their downtown centers," said Secretary of Administration and Finance Glen Shor. "Quinsigamond Community College's expanded presence will bring the benefit of increased business to many area employers and provide a boost for economic activity and long-term growth in Worcester's downtown district."

Last week, QCC's Board of Trustees voted to approve the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance's (DCAMM) recommendation to execute the lease for the new downtown location. DCAMM will secure 72,409 square feet of instructional space for use by QCC in the former Telegram and Gazette Building.

"The Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) is excited to announce this lease agreement for the former Telegram & Gazette building," said Commissioner Carole Cornelison. "This proposal relocates and expands Quinsigamond Community College's health care and workforce development programs to downtown Worcester - serving more than 2,000 students and employees. The Patrick-Murray Administration is committed to furthering our economic partnership with the city of Worcester and Quinsigamond Community College's new downtown presence will play a vital role in the revitalization of this Gateway City."

“This expansion by QCC is the latest sign of the growing importance of our public colleges and universities in preparing the state’s future workforce,” said Richard M. Freeland, Commissioner of Higher Education. “It will enhance our ability to prepare students for the jobs of the future.”

“Fifty years ago, Quinsigamond began with 278 students in space borrowed from Holy Cross. Today, the college serves over 11,000 students. This facility will help the college support the dreams of even more Worcester residents,” said Ms. Stacey DeBoise Luster, Chair of the QCC Board of Trustees.

“I commend the QCC Board of Trustees for their courage and leadership that has enabled us to take this bold step,” said Dr. Gail E. Carberry, president of Quinsigamond. “They have created a fiscal plan with our administration that has enabled this lease to move forward, despite the challenging fiscal times we’ve seen.”

“We view this new lease with QCC as more than a landlord-tenant relationship – it is a long-term partnership,” said Craig Blais, President & CEO of the WBDC, “The redevelopment of the former Telegram & Gazette building is the cornerstone project for the revitalization of this critical portion of our downtown. QCC’s presence at 20 Franklin Street will bring a renewed sense of activity to our downtown neighborhood, providing new programmatic connections to our various downtown institutions.”

“As Senate Chair of the Committee on Higher Education and a member of the Committee on Labor & Workforce Development, I understand the relationship between our community colleges and a thriving workforce,” said Senator Michael O. Moore. “Everyday community colleges, like Quinsigamond Community College, teach students the skills necessary to be competitive in the 21st Century. Innovations at our community colleges, like the Health Care and Workforce Development Training Center, will continue to ensure that the Commonwealth remains an attractive destination for businesses and provide them with a skilled workforce.”

“This project will provide for much needed additional space and technological improvements, and will greatly compliment the city’s ongoing expansion plans for downtown Worcester,” said Senator Harriette Chandler.

"I am pleased and grateful that the Board of Trustees and President of our Quinsigamond Community Colleges see Downtown as the right location for their strategic growth. Music to my ears," said Worcester City Manager Michael V. O'Brien. "Their commitment allows the City to work side by side with our partners at WBDC and bring 20 Franklin Street back to life with over 2000 new students and faculty. The life and vitality from these new "feet on the street", combined with the positives underfoot within CitySquare, the Theatre District, at MCPHSU, and private investment throughout Downtown, set the right table and mix for our long-term success."

Building on the Patrick-Murray Administration’s ongoing support for investing education, Governor Patrick has proposed bold investments at all levels of the Commonwealth’s education system including higher education, quadrupling the amount of direct financial aid to students through the MASSGrant program and increasing support to our public campuses to enhance student services and help make college more affordable for students and families in Massachusetts. To learn more about the Governor’s budget recommendations, visit www.mass.gov/governor.