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GOVERNOR PATRICK APPOINTS PAM RICHARDSON AS CHAIR OF MASSACHUSETTS BAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BOSTON – Friday, October 19, 2012 – Governor Deval Patrick today appointed Pam Richardson as Chair of the Board of Trustees at Massachusetts Bay Community College (MassBay).

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. Richardson for her willingness to serve in this capacity and am confident that she will continue to be a critical partner in our collective efforts to better serve our students and employers, building a stronger Commonwealth for generations to come."

Ms. Richardson currently serves as the Clinical Placement Coordinator at Laboure College where she is responsible for researching clinical agencies for educational requirements, matching course objectives with learning experiences outside of the college and building relationships with clinical agencies on behalf of her institution. Ms. Richardson previously served as a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 2007-2011 representing 11 precincts in the Town of Framingham. As a legislator she was known as a strong supporter of public higher education and was an active member of the Higher Education Legislative Caucus. Ms. Richardson attended Mt. Ida College where she earned an Associate's degree in Equine Management, and has also completed coursework at Framingham State University. Ms. Richardson has served as a member of the Board of Trustees at MassBay since July 2011 and is filling the chair position previously held by Glenn Rowe.

"I am grateful to Governor Patrick, Lieutenant Governor Murray, and the entire Administration for the faith they have shown in me with this appointment. I am eager to continue the work of President O'Donnell and of the dedicated faculty and staff at MassBay Community College, as we strive to grow our institution, further our mission, and to remain an important driver of the MetroWest economy," said Ms. Richardson. "We will continue to offer an affordable, high quality education to our students, providing transferable college credits and career skills the modern economy demands. We are poised to become one of the finest community colleges in the nation, and I am delighted to work with my colleagues on the Board as their Chair to help oversee MassBay's bright future."

"On behalf of all at the College, I congratulate Pamela Richardson on her appointment as board chair," said MassBay Community College President John O'Donnell. "Pamela brings a commitment to the college, its faculty, staff and students. She offers a wealth of experience that will help us advance our mission, our strategic plan and our commitment to The Vision Project as a means of advancing MetroWest and the Commonwealth, both economically and socially."

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. MassBay Community College received \$300,000 to enhance the first year experience for MassBay students, positively impacting student retention at the college. Earlier this month, MassBay Community College was also awarded \$22 million in capital funding to construct a new Allied Health academic building and to explore opportunities for a permanent Framingham campus.

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

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