

Mass Workforce Issuance

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☐ Policy ☒ Information

To: Chief Elected Officials
Workforce Development Chairs
Workforce Development Directors
Title I Administrators
Career Center Directors
Title I Fiscal Officers
DCS Operations Managers

cc: WIOA State Partners

From: Alice Sweeney, Director
Department of Career Services

Date: April 11, 2016

Subject: **Guided Pathways to Success in STEM (GPSTEM) Statewide Meeting #2**

Purpose: To notify Local Workforce Development Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and other local workforce partners of this upcoming State-wide meeting bringing together staff and leaders from the public higher education and public workforce systems to discuss ways to improve our partnerships.

The meeting will be on Friday, May 6, 2016, 9:00am-12:30pm at Worcester State College, 280 May Street, Worcester, MA.

The SECTION 30 Training will take place 9am-10:30am. You do NOT need to attend this meeting if this information is not useful to you, but please disseminate the invitation to anyone on your campus who WOULD find it useful. They can register here:

RSVP Section 30: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gpstem-statewide-workforce-meeting-section-30-training-tickets-24463855049>

Next, 10:30am-12:30am will be the time when we meet to collaborate with our Community College partners to discuss how we can collaborate on WIOA's new emphasis on Career Pathways. Important information on WIOA and the changes it will bring for the workforce system will be provided by Alice Sweeney, Director of the Department of Career Services.

RSVP WIOA and Career Pathways: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gpstem-statewide-workforce-meeting-wioa-updates-tickets-24463551140>

Background: The U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (ETA) announced in the Federal Register (SGA/DFA PY-13-10) the availability of \$450 million authorized for the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) Grant Program.

The TAACCCT program seeks to increase the number of workers who attain certificates, degrees, and other industry-recognized credentials, helping to meet President Obama's college graduation goal of increasing the percentage of adults with a post-secondary credential by 2020. The overarching goals of the program are to:

1. Increase attainment of degrees, certifications, certificates, diplomas, and other industry-recognized credentials that match the skills needed by employers to better prepare workers eligible for training under the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) for Workers Program ("TAA-eligible workers") of chapter 2 of title II of the Trade Act of 1974, 19 U.S.C. 2271-2323, and other adults for high-wage, high-skill employment or re-employment in growth industry sectors;
2. Introduce or replicate innovative and effective methods for designing and delivering instruction that address specific industry needs and lead to improved learning, completion and other outcomes for TAA-eligible workers and other adults; and
3. Demonstrate improved employment outcomes.

Massachusetts' 15 community colleges have been awarded a \$20 million grant with the designated lead being Massasoit Community College; the grant is entitled the "Guided Pathways to Success in STEM (GPSTEM) Project".

General expectations of this grant are to further state-wide initiatives addressing training and educational needs in the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and math, as well as advanced manufacturing, information technology, biotechnology and healthcare.

Led by Massasoit Community College, the Guided Pathways to Success in STEM (GPSTEM) project will use the national Complete College America Guided Pathways to Success model to assist eligible students in obtaining degrees and certificates in STEM fields. The model focuses on reducing the time to complete certificates and degree programs, thus increasing the number of students entering the state's workforce and transferring to four-year schools.

During the three-year grant period, the consortium will create or enhance a total of 24 STEM degree options and 58 certificate programs through partnerships with business and industry, the Commonwealth's workforce system, state universities and UMass. These collaborative pipelines will help students seamlessly transfer into baccalaureate programs and meet industry demand in specific STEM fields.

To support the grant's efforts there is the continued designated staff position called "Community College Navigator". This role is a mix of direct service for those that attend a community college and "systems change" efforts that are not intended to impact the Career Center's honest broker role. The Navigator also:

- Provides academic and career coaching, case management, college transition services, and referral services to one-stop career center customers pursuing post-secondary education in order to support them in attaining post-secondary credentials and employment.
- Helps customers think about post-secondary attainment in general (and the increased demand in the job market for technical skills).
- Advocates for customers who CHOOSE a community college program at ANY community college (not just the one that employs the Navigator).
- Assists community colleges in registering in TrainingPro and using the system.
- Helps community colleges understand the TRADE program (in general) and the typical education/training needs of those as well as other Career Center customers.
- Supports regional, synchronized outreach to TAA eligible and other unemployed and underemployed workers.
- Refers students to on- and off-campus services and resources, as appropriate.
- Attends regular meetings to collaborate with the referring local partners engaged in the Guided Pathways to Success in STEM (GPSTEM) project (community college, one-stop career centers, employers, etc.).
- Coordinates services with the Community College admissions, financial aid and advising offices and academic departments and participate in meetings, as appropriate.
- Builds relationships with staff at the Colleges, Workforce Development Boards, and the One-Stop Career Centers to develop knowledge of each other's mutual resources to meet student needs.

Required: Please disseminate this information and assure that all appropriate staff registers for this State-wide meeting.

Inquiries: Questions regarding this Issuance should be directed to Beth Goguen bgoguen@detma.org or 617-626-6053.