

MASSACHUSETTS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

# Mass Workforce Issuance

---

**100 DCS 13.100.1**

☐ Policy

☒ Information

---

**To:** Chief Elected Officials  
Workforce Board Chairs  
Workforce Board 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 5, 2016

**Subject:** **UPDATE: TAA Community College/Career Training (TAACCCT) Grant - Guided Pathways to Success in STEM (GPSTEM) Project**

---

**Purpose:** To assure that Local Workforce Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and other local workforce partners are aware of the general expectations of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College/Career Training Grant and the partnering opportunities that this grant will create and/or strengthen between One-Stop Career Centers and Community Colleges, statewide. Also, to ensure all partners are aware of the continued position of the "Community College Navigators" and their role and scope of responsibilities within this grant and, to inform the workforce development system of the plan for secondary training institutions to expand and improve their ability to deliver education and career training.

**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 were 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.

Again, 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 person's 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 would also:

- Provide 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.

- Help customers think about post-secondary attainment in general (and the increased demand in the job market for technical skills).
- Advocate for customers who CHOOSE a community college program at ANY community college (not just the one that employs the Navigator).
- Assist community colleges in registering in TrainingPro and using the system.
- Help community colleges understand the TRADE program (in general) and the typical education/training needs of those as well as other Career Center customers.
- Support regional, synchronized outreach to TAA eligible and other unemployed and underemployed workers.
- Refer students to on- and off-campus services and resources, as appropriate.
- Attend 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.).
- Coordinate services with the Community College admissions, financial aid and advising offices and academic departments and participate in meetings, as appropriate.
- Develop relationships with staff at the Colleges, Workforce Boards, and the one-stop career centers to develop knowledge of each other's mutual resources to meet student needs.

Please refer to Attachment A, the *CCA-GPS & Core Elements Glossary*. This glossary defines some of the key elements and strategies used by Community Colleges to achieve the goals of the grant outlined above.

**Effective:** Immediately

**Attachment:** A. - CCA-GPS & Core Elements Glossary

**Action**

**Required:** Please ensure that all OSCC staff and other individuals who work with Career Center customers are aware of the TAA Community College grant and the information provided herein.