MetroWest Residents Earn Academic Awards at MassBay Community College Commencement

(Wellesley Hills, MA) – Residents of seven MetroWest communities earned academic recognition during Massachusetts Bay Community College’s 52nd Commencement Exercises on Thursday May 22nd. The All-College Award was presented to four students with perfect 4.0 grade point averages, while seven students received Divisional Awards for outstanding academic performance.

The All-College Award is the highest academic award at the College, presented to the student(s) with the highest grade point average in the graduating class. The Award consists of a plaque and an honorarium of $500 provided by the MassBay Foundation Board.

Divisional Awards are presented to the student who achieved the highest grade point average in each of the College’s five academic divisions: Health Sciences; Humanities; Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics; Social Sciences & Professional Studies; and Transportation & Energy. These awards consist of a plaque and an honorarium of $250 provided by the MassBay Foundation.

Framingham resident Lindsay Schulman received the All-College Award and the Divisional Award from the Division of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Ms. Schulman earned a perfect 4.0 cumulative grade point average and graduated with an Associate’s Degree in Biotechnology: Forensic DNA Science.

In addition to earning these academic accolades, in April Ms. Schulman was named a Barry M. Goldwater Scholar. The Goldwater Scholarship is the highest undergraduate academic honor for science, technology and engineering in the United States. Ms. Schulman became the 20th Goldwater Scholar from MassBay – more than every community college in the United States combined.

Arlington resident Brian Anderson received the All-College Award and the Divisional Award from the Division of Social Sciences & Professional Studies. Mr. Anderson earned a perfect 4.0 cumulative grade point average and graduated with an Associate’s Degree in Accounting.

Brookline resident Karina Gruesz received the All-College Award and the Divisional Award from the Division of Social Sciences & Professional Studies. Ms. Gruesz earned a perfect 4.0 cumulative grade point average and graduated with an Associate’s Degree in Psychology/Sociology/Anthropology.

Burlington resident David Roberts received the All-College Award and the Divisional Award from the Division of Social Sciences & Professional Studies. Mr. Roberts earned a perfect 4.0 cumulative grade point average and graduated with an Associate’s Degree in Elementary Education.
Newton resident Donny Portman received the Divisional Award from the Humanities Division. Mr. Portman earned a 3.981 cumulative grade point average and graduated with an Associate’s Degree in Liberal Arts.

Assonet resident Michael Amos received the Divisional Award from the Transportation & Energy Division. Mr. Amos earned a 3.927 cumulative grade point average and graduated with an Associate’s Degree in Automotive Technology: Toyota/Lexus.

Watertown resident Garo Bechirian received the Divisional Award from the Division of Health Sciences. Mr. Bechirian earned a 3.893 cumulative grade point average and graduated with an Associate’s Degree in Radiologic Technology.

Approximately 300 Associate Degrees in Arts and in Science and Certificates were conferred at the 2014 Commencement Exercises. President John O’Donnell welcomed the Commencement Speaker, Dr. Emmett G. Price III, Associate Professor of Music at Northeastern University and one of the nation’s pre-eminent scholars on African American music, culture and religion. The College’s orchestra-in-residence, the Wellesley Symphony Orchestra provided musical accompaniment.

MassBay awards associate degrees and certificates in over 70 academic programs in a wide range of career-driven subjects ranging from accounting and automotive technology to forensic DNA science and early childhood education. The College’s facilities in Wellesley Hills, Framingham and Ashland house day, evening and weekend classes that meet the needs of degree-seeking students and career minded life-long learners. Online options provide convenience and allow faculty to facilitate the learning process. Since its founding in 1961, MassBay has been accredited by several governing bodies and strives to meet the needs of the diverse local communities it serves. Registration is now underway for summer session II, which begins on July 7th, and for fall semester, which gets underway on September 2nd.

Appearing in Photo (From left): Karina Gruesz, David Roberts, Lindsay Schulman, Donny Portman, Garo Bechirian (Brian Anderson, Michael Amos not pictured).