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PRESS RELEASE
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**MA DEPT. OF HIGHER EDUCATION CHOOSES MASSBAY
TO HOST FEBRUARY 20 WORKSHOP
ADDRESSING NEW *MASSTRANSFER* POLICY**

*MassBay to host workshop to align
courses, curricula & credits between two- & four-year colleges*

Wellesley Hills, Mass. – Massachusetts Bay Community College (MassBay) has been asked by the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education to host a first-of-its-kind *MassTransfer* Workshop to help bring credits from education courses in our public two-year colleges into alignment with those of the state’s four-year colleges. Equitable and coordinated alignment of credits will ease the transfer of community college graduates to four-year colleges as they prepare to be Massachusetts public school teachers. Participating in the workshop will be statewide faculty from all public colleges and universities that offer education programs.

“MassBay was asked to host this collaborative workshop since the college has been actively involved in creating equitable statewide transfer options for community college graduates who want to earn their Bachelor’s degree. We’re excited to host the workshop, which will focus on aligning transfer credits specifically for our state’s future early childhood teachers – those critical pre-K through Grade 3 years,” said MassBay’s Education Liaison, Dr. Phyllis Walt.

The Department of Higher Education’s new *MassTransfer* policy, to be implemented in Fall, 2009, will create incentives for all public two-year college students in terms of tuition relief; access and equity in transfer; and speed of entrance into the Massachusetts workforce. Key to the smooth implementation of the new policy will be the successful alignment and standardization of credit transfer from community colleges to four-year colleges. Currently, such credit transfer is decentralized and uneven; the workshop is an unprecedented first step to bringing needed alignment.

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Workshop speakers will include MassBay Community College President, Carole Berotte Joseph; Salem State College Associate Commissioner for Academic Policy, Francesca Purcell; Salem State Dean of Admissions, Mary Dunn; MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Associate Commissioner, Bob Bickerton; the Chair of the non-profit group *Early Education for All*, Amy O’Leary; the Executive Director of Project Connect, Dr. Jane Souza; and MassBay’s Dr. Phyllis Walt. Facilitating the workshop’s Working Groups – which will be organized by geography and which will continue to meet regularly following the workshop – will be Carol Donnelly of the Early Childhood Education Department at Worcester State College.

MassBay’s leadership in the early childhood education arena is part of the college’s overall commitment to mainstreaming high quality workers into Massachusetts’s skilled workforce. Walt commented, “MassBay’s stake in improving community college students’ access to, and success in, the state’s early childhood education workforce is very great. Facilitating students’ transfer from two- to four-year public colleges will improve equity of access for community college students, and will ultimately add greatly-needed diversity in our state’s early education workforce.”

About MassBay Community College

Massachusetts Bay Community College (MassBay) is an open-access, accredited two-year public educational institution. The College grants associate degrees and certificates in a range of disciplines through its five academic divisions: the Division of Health Sciences; the Division of Humanities; the Division of Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (S.T.E.M.); the Division of Social Sciences & Professional Studies; and the Division of Transportation & Energy. Offering over 60 academic programs, MassBay serves Boston and the MetroWest communities with campuses in Wellesley Hills, Framingham and Ashland (Automotive Technology Center).

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