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## **GOVERNOR PATRICK MAKES NEW APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF MASSBAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**Wellesley Hills, MA, July 20, 2009:** The Massachusetts Bay Community College is pleased to welcome two new members to its Board of Trustees, both of whom bring professional and educational experience and valuable perspective.

Appointed by Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick, Trustee Lisa Mills and Fran Smith join the existing board to further strengthen the college's mission of delivering a cost-effective curriculum and high quality support services to its students.

As a member of the Board of Trustees, Fran Smith will bring considerable empathy for MassBay students and some of the social and economic barriers they may face, having conquered similar challenges in her own academic career.

Smith was the first in her working class Italian-American family to earn a college degree when she graduated from Hampshire College in 1982 with a BA in Social Science, "I want to see more members in my community have access to educational opportunities," she says. After decades in the workforce (much of that as a working mother), Smith returned to the world of higher education, earning an MA in Public Policy at Tufts University in 2006. Smith, however avoids describing herself as a "non-traditional" student during those graduate school years, emphasizing that more and more women are pursuing degrees in their forties and fifties – including one of Smith's cousins who is a student at MassBay.

One of the most formative experiences in Smith's professional life was her 1980s stint as executive director of Rock against Racism – an organization of rock musicians, DJs and other figures in the music industry who joined forces to confront the scourge of racism sweeping the Boston area at the time.

From that experience, Smith gained an understanding that "Implementing government regulations doesn't necessarily break down stereotypes." Smith has devoted herself to battling that myth ever since in such local positions as Project Coordinator for the Anti-Defamation League, Affirmative Action officer with the City of Weymouth, Project Coordinator for the Parents Institute for Quality Education, Project Director at the Massachusetts Advocates for Children, Senior Associate of Development and Public Relations for the Boston Women's Fund, Director of Resource Development at the

**Hispanic Office of Planning and Evaluation, and most recently as Development Director for the Friends of the Rafael Hernandez School.**

**Smith's other passions include music and her daughter, who Smith says "is a social justice advocate. Just like her mother."**

**For Lisa Mills, becoming a MassBay trustee is something of a homecoming. A decade ago, she was part of the MassBay community as both an administrator (working as Assistant to the Dean of Students from 1997 to 2003) *and* a student, receiving an Associate of Arts degree in Liberal Arts in 2001). Reflecting back on those years, Mills comments: "My employment exposed me to all facets of the college -- I was able to work closely with the students and other departments."**

**Her career since then is an inspiring example of the doors that can open to MassBay graduates. In 2005, Mills graduated cum laude with a B.A. in psychology from Framingham State College. Her senior thesis was entitled "Transformation to a New Woman: The Impact of Televised Plastic Surgery on Young and Older Women," a look at the effect of "makeover" TV programs on women's self-image – a topic which foreshadowed Mills' ongoing commitment to issues of diversity and discrimination.**

**Mills is currently pursuing an M.A. in Dispute Resolution at the University of Massachusetts – Boston while she works as the University Studies Program Administrator at Brandeis University. Of her post-MassBay experiences, Mills says "They enlightened me about how open to the community MassBay really is." Working to continue that tradition will be one of her goals as a trustee. "My interest in serving in this position stems from my conviction that it is important for me to give back to those who have contributed to my educational advancement. MassBay provided me with opportunities for a future that I could not have obtained otherwise."**

**A member of the American Psychological Association, Mills spends her non-professional time watching movies, enjoying her family, and tending to the needs of Emma, a Jack Russell terrier who is showing definite potential for dog show stardom.**

### **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 locations in Wellesley Hills, Framingham and Ashland (Automotive Technology Center).*