

## Centers & Institutes

[McAuliffe/Challenger Learning Center](#) The Christa Corrigan McAuliffe Center for Education and Teaching Excellence was established by Framingham State College, Christa's alma mater, to honor her commitment to teaching. In creating the McAuliffe Center, the College was determined to address the increasingly critical issues of the attraction, retention and education of the best and brightest as future teachers by honoring the vision, values and ideas of Teacher-Astronaut, Christa Corrigan McAuliffe. The mission of the McAuliffe Center is to carry out educational activities that will offer students goals and incentives to enhance their development, strengthen community support for public education, support teachers in their work, and improve educational practice. The programs implemented by the McAuliffe Center, including the Challenger Learning Center, focus on the professional development needs of Massachusetts' teachers, including pre-service teachers, and students in grades 3 to 12.

[MetroWest Economic Research Center \(MERC\)](#) The MetroWest Economic Research Center (MERC) at Framingham State College, established in 1991, collects and analyzes data related to economic conditions in the MetroWest, South Shore and Tri-Center Cohesive Commercial Statistical Areas (CCSA). MERC provides information and commentary on economic issues of vital interest to these regions. Faculty and interns from the Department of Economics and Business Administration produce MERC presentations and publications including award-winning economic profiles and labor force studies. MERC analysis has proven critical for regional and town planning as well as retention and recruitment of businesses.

[John C. Stalker Institute for Food and Nutrition](#) The John C. Stalker Institute of Food and Nutrition (JSI) provides programs on nutrition and health promotion using the comprehensive school health model. JSI offers programs, workshops, and courses for school and child nutrition professionals, teachers, health educators, and other members of the school community. Programs are offered in four general areas: nutrition education, culinary training, financial and personnel management, and computer technology. Online courses are offered to school nutrition directors, teachers, school nurses and other school professionals. The Institute is funded by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Nutrition, Health and Safety.

[Center for Global Education](#) The Framingham State College Center for Global Education provides support to K-12 educators in the Commonwealth who wish to enhance global and multicultural perspectives in their classrooms. The Center provides the following services: professional development workshops and courses; a resource library; a speakers' bureau; and curriculum consultations. The Center works in collaboration with the Department of Education and local school districts to provide content institutes in Massachusetts Curriculum Framework topics related to global and multicultural education.

[MetroWest STEM Pipeline Center](#) As one of the seven regional PreK-16 Networks established in Massachusetts with the initial phase of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Pipeline awards, the MetroWest Center is a

collaboration of Framingham State College, Mass Bay Community College, and many school districts, businesses, and organizations in the region. Massachusetts STEM Pipeline goals are to:

- Increase the number of students participating in programs that support careers in STEM
- Increase the number of qualified STEM Teachers
- Improve STEM education offerings in public and private schools.

Specific MetroWest goals are to: create an organization within the area that fosters STEM education; become a source of and clearinghouse for teachers who seek information and ideas in these disciplines; form a network of educational, professional, business, and other interested organizations within the MetroWest area that add value to the community by strengthening STEM education and providing career opportunities; and identify successful projects and scale them for all to use. Center for Social Research The Center for Social Research at Framingham State College provides educational programs, internship opportunities, and consulting and social research services to members of both the College and the wider communities. The Center develops and presents informational programs on a variety of social issues. Student interns participate in ongoing CSR research activities. Center associates serve as consultants in areas including: community policing policies; issues of individual and social aging; needs assessments for communities and organizations; academic policies and learning in K- higher education; intergenerational and mentoring programs; and community-based learning and service programs.

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