

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

### **PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM MISSION STATEMENT**

The public college and university system in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts comprises fifteen community colleges, nine state colleges and the five campuses of the University of Massachusetts. The system exists to provide accessible, affordable, relevant, and rigorous academic programs that adapt to meet changing individual and societal needs for education and employment. All campuses are committed to operating effectively and efficiently in order to maintain tuition and fees at a level as low as possible, while providing a high-quality education to every student who qualifies for admission. The public system is committed to continuous improvement and accountability in all aspects of teaching and learning. The Board of Higher Education and institutional boards of trustees recognize their responsibilities to the taxpayers and residents of Massachusetts in the performance of their roles and responsibilities. Massachusetts public higher education is a system with a distinguished past, increasing pride and unlimited potential.

### **STATE COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT**

There are six comprehensive state colleges - Bridgewater State College, Fitchburg State College, Framingham State College, Salem State College, Westfield State College and Worcester State College - and three specialized colleges - Massachusetts College of Art, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and Massachusetts Maritime Academy. All colleges integrate liberal arts and sciences programs with professional education, and the three specialized colleges also focus on academic areas identified in the college's name.

Each college places a special emphasis on teaching and lifelong learning, and promotes a campus life that fosters intellectual, social and ethical development. Committed to excellence in instruction and to providing responsive, innovative and educational programs of high quality, they seek to develop each student's critical thinking, quantitative, oral and written communications skills, and practical appreciation of the arts, sciences and humanities as they affect good citizenship and an improved quality of life. The state colleges provide a campus environment where the ideas, values, perspectives and contributions of all students are respected.

Massachusetts state colleges are strategically located to facilitate access to baccalaureate and master's degree programs for Commonwealth residents who meet their high standards for admission. In recognition of their responsibilities to Massachusetts taxpayers to manage their resources efficiently and to maintain tuition and fees at a level as low as possible, each college has a distinctive academic focus based upon its established strengths and regional and state needs. Each college is a leader and resource for the community and contributes to the region's cultural, environmental and economic development.