

Annual Report
July 1, 2005 -- June 30, 2006



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Vol. 06, No. 3

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Summary	2
Staff	2
A. Internal Support	3
B. Local Government Technical Assistance Program	4
C. Web Development	6
D. Ongoing Initiatives	6
E. Research Projects	9
F. Training Services	10
G. Published Research Reports	13
H. Organizations That Have Received Training Through IRD	16
I. Press Clippings	18 - end

***Annual Report
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Summary:

As the Institute for Regional Development (IRD) approaches our 10 year anniversary it is important to note that this year has been significant as the organizational structure of the IRD has changed with the departure of founding director Dr. Victor DeSantis. The IRD has been reorganized and moved from Academic Affairs to the new Division of External Affairs, under the direction of Vice-President, Dr. Edward Minnock. This reorganization reflects the college's first change in the administrative structure of BSC in over 100 years. The mission of the Institute for Regional Development at Bridgewater State College remains the same however, to serve as a resource center for the public, private, and non-profit sectors of Southeastern Massachusetts through applied research, training, and technical assistance programs. Over this past year, the Institute has completed numerous projects, training events and research while serving as a vital resource in Southeastern Massachusetts. This status report outlines the major activities of the Institute for Regional Development from July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006.

Staff:

***Jennifer Reid – Project Manager, Institute for Regional Development
(B.A., Salem State College, M.P.A., Bridgewater State College)***

Ms. Reid has been involved in the public and nonprofit sector for over 10 years. As the project manager for the Institute for Regional Development since 2003, she develops research designs for Institute projects and has managed the implementation of all phases of data collection for over ten research projects. She also coordinates the development and implementation of Institute training events and regional policy conferences. Ms. Reid researches and prepares grant and contract proposals and seeks alternate external funding for Institute contracts. Over the past three years under her direction the Institute for Regional Development has continued to serve as vital resource to both nonprofit and municipal government organizations in Southeastern Massachusetts and Cape Cod.

Moira O'Brien – Office Assistant, Institute for Regional Development

Ms. O'Brien joined the Institute in November 2004. She brings over eleven years experience working as a Team Leader for the Information Technology Division of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Ms. O'Brien assists with the development, planning and coordination of Institute training events and manages the Institute for Regional Development and NECBC websites. She is responsible for the maintenance of several Institute databases such as the Southeastern Massachusetts Nonprofit Organizations and the Bristol/Plymouth County Municipal Government database.

In addition, the IRD contracted with a number of Bridgewater State College faculty and staff for various research projects and initiatives, and remunerated **\$8,750** in additional compensation.

Ms. Kris Monahan	Assistant Director	Grants & Sponsored Programs	Old Rochester Regional School District Retreat
Dr. Deniz Leuenberger	Assistant Professor	Political Science	Old Rochester Regional School District Retreat
Dr. Eric Johnson	Assistant Professor	Department of Elementary & Early Childhood Education	Old Rochester Regional School District Retreat
Dr. Michael Jones	Assistant Professor	Economic	YMCA Target Area Analysis Project
Dr. Robert Amey	Assistant Professor	Geography	YMCA Target Area Analysis Project
Ms. Kris Monahan	Assistant Director	Grants & Sponsored Programs	Charity Guild Retreat
Dr. Brendan Burke	Assistant Professor	Political Science	Civic Leadership Program

A. Internal Support to BSC

Master of Public Administration Program

The Institute continues to work closely with the MPA coordinator to provide and maintain linkages with local government and nonprofit organizations in Southeastern Massachusetts. This was accomplished by: assisting in program recruitment efforts, assisting in developing internships and maintaining networking connections to municipal government and nonprofit organizations. In addition, the Institute for Regional Development provided an MPA graduate student with an internship in our office assisting with a research project.

Student Employment

The Institute employed 29 BSC undergraduate students and 2 graduate students in non-work study positions for various research positions. In a fiscal year where work-study funds were lessened and non-work study positions were near impossible to find, the Institute was able to provide jobs to almost 31 BSC students and paid out **\$10,242** to student workers for this fiscal year. In addition, the IRD afforded this significant number of Bridgewater State College students with valuable employment and value added experiential learning in data collection and analysis.

B. Local-State Government and Nonprofit Technical Assistance Program

The Institute also provides outreach, training and technical assistance to municipal government and nonprofit organizations in order to improve the quality of life in Southeastern Massachusetts. This is accomplished through custom training sessions, consultation, grant preparation and assistance, and research projects. The projects are detailed in the following sections of this report.

Grant Preparation

Old Rochester Regional School District Extended Learning Day Planning Grant Fall 2005

The Institute for Regional Development researched and worked collaboratively with the Old Rochester Regional School District to prepare and submit a planning grant for \$25,000 to begin planning strategies to add at least 30 percent to the learning time in their district. The Board of Education approved the grants at their October Board meeting and the Institute for Regional Development facilitated the planning efforts as well. (See next section). This is the first year the state has offered the School Redesign: Expanded Learning Time grants, to allow districts to increase learning time and enrichment activities for students, and more planning time and professional development for faculty. In total, 21 districts applied for the \$425,000 available, 16 districts were awarded grants.

Town of Bridgewater Peer to Peer Technical Assistance Grant Spring 2006

The Institute for Regional Development researched and prepared a grant proposal on behalf of the Town of Bridgewater for the Peer to Peer Technical Assistance grant program from the Department of Housing and Community Development. The Peer-to-Peer Technical Assistance Program provides small grants to municipalities for short-term problem solving or technical assistance projects. The grant was awarded for \$1,000 to employ Mr. Kevin Shea, Executive Director of Taunton's Community and Economic Development office to provide technical assistance related to economic development for the Town of Bridgewater.

Strategic Planning

The Institute for Regional Development provided comprehensive strategic planning facilitation to the following agencies and municipalities:

City of Brockton

Ongoing

The Institute for Regional Development has provided ongoing planning and meeting facilitation services for the Ad-Hoc Homeless Study Group since September 2004. The Ad-Hoc Homeless Study Group is made up of a diverse group representing the private sector, human service providers, state and city leaders, business professionals and formerly homeless people. They were charged by the Mayor of Brockton the Honorable John T. Yunits, Jr., (and later Mayor James Harrington) to draft a Ten Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness in the City of Brockton, Massachusetts. Under the direction of Robert Martin, Human Services Administrator for the city of Brockton, Mayor Yunits asked the group “to create a realistic blueprint for Brockton’s future on behalf of Brockton’s neediest residents”. This project is nearing completion, the final plan will be submitted to Mayor Harrington.

South Shore Habitat for Humanity

Spring 2005

Facilitated a comprehensive strategic planning session for Senior Staff and Board of Directors and produced a final report including goals, objectives and action plans.

Duxbury Council on Aging

Spring 2005

Facilitated a comprehensive strategic planning session for Senior Center staff and the Council on Aging and produced a final report including goals, objectives and action plans.

Old Rochester Regional School District

December 2005

Facilitated a day long comprehensive planning retreat for the Extended Learning Time Planning Grant, attendees included school administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals and parents. The day long event was held here on campus and was co-facilitated by Jennifer Reid, Kris Monahan and Dr. Deniz Leuenberger. Dr. Eric Johnson also participated as a faculty expert.

Charity Guild, Inc.

March 2006

Facilitated a comprehensive strategic planning session for the Board of Directors and produced a final report including goals, objectives and action plans.

C. Web Development

Institute for Regional Development <http://www.bridgew.edu/IRD/>

Description: The Institute continues to maintain the Institute website, located on the Bridgewater State College homepage. Information found on the website includes:

- ? IRD Mission
- ? Overview of Services
- ? Calendar of Upcoming Events
- ? Telephone Research Center
- ? Online Resources
- ? Regional Map

New England-Canada Business Council <http://www.necbc.org/>

Description: The IRD continues to provide ongoing website and design services for the New England-Canada Business Council. Information on this website includes:

- ? NECBC Overview
- ? Calendar of Events
- ? Membership Information
- ? Online Links
- ? NECBC *Connections* Newsletter
- ? Conference PowerPoint Presentations

In addition, the Institute for Regional Development has recently signed two Memorandum of Understanding agreements with the **Massachusetts Economic Development Council** and the **Plymouth County Commissioners** to design and host websites for both organizations.

D. Ongoing Initiatives

Massachusetts Economic Development Council

The IRD signed a Memorandum of Understanding this year to serve as the communications manager for the MEDC under an agreement for one year. The IRD designs, publishes and distributes four quarterly MEDC member newsletters.

Community Outreach

Turning Point Program

June 2006

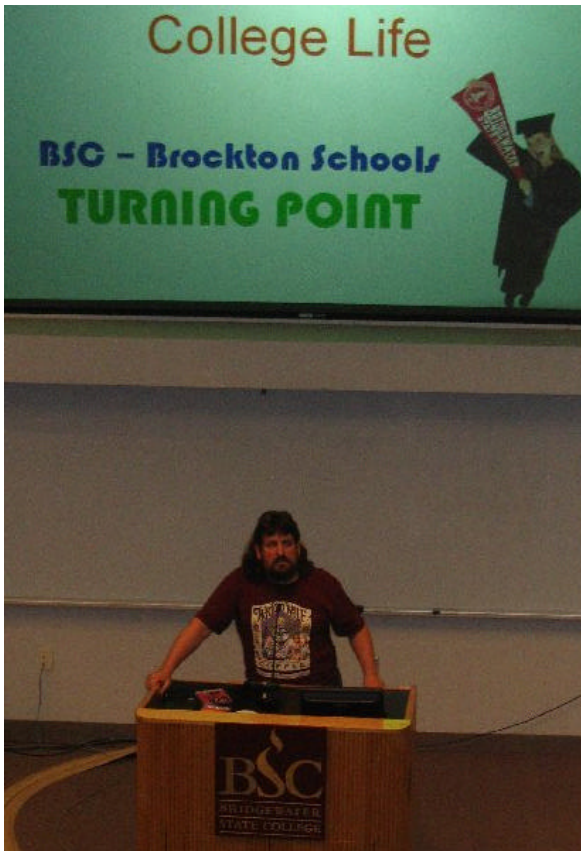


The purpose of the Turning Point Program is to provide an early intervention program for fifth-grade students at “low-achieving,” Brockton schools and to “re-authorize” their parents to participate fully in their child’s education and future plans, including higher education.

Fifth grade is a critical juncture in student’s progress toward higher education, the preparation for which formally begins in ninth grade. However, because the seventh and eighth grade curricula are often review and reinforcement, the students’ achievement level is somewhat “set” by the end of sixth grade. If any changes in a student’s performance are to be made, they must be initiated by fifth grade. Personal development patterns also are set at this age level.

Thus, the specific goal of Turning Point is to provide “at risk” fifth-grade students with an opportunity to learn about higher education to ensure that their “mind sets” include this possibility at an early stage of their development. The students toured the campus in small groups with two Bridgewater State College students as the guide and had the opportunity to meet several Bridgewater State College faculty and staff members.

The expected outcomes are that the program will improve attendance, increase awareness of college requirements and improve the perception that college is available and accessible to all students. 85 students came to campus and over 50 people were in attendance at the Family Celebration Dinner held at the Huntington School in Brockton.



Civic Leadership Program
April – June 2006



The Civic Leadership Program (CLP) is designed to educate citizens of Southeastern Massachusetts to serve the region as the next generation of leaders and community activists.

The program offers both a structured classroom environment blended with real-world projects on crucial public issues. Citizen participants from Bridgewater, Brockton, Duxbury, East Bridgewater, Hull, and Norwell are exposed to municipal processes, services, capacity-building skills and techniques, including planning, visioning, communication and organizational skills.

The curriculum offered seven seminars on specific topics, including the following:

- ? Overview of municipal government in Massachusetts and its place in the intergovernmental system
- ? Basics of municipal finance and personnel systems
- ? Building for the future: land use and planning functions
- ? Providing for public safety
- ? Enhancing economic and community development

Guest speakers include: Mr. Phil Warren, Town Manager, Abington, Ms. Anna Nalevanko, Community Development Director, Middleboro, Stephen Smith, Executive Director, Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District, Dr. Deniz Leuenberger, Assistant Professor, Mr. Kevin Shea, Executive Director, Community and Economic Development for the city of Taunton, Mr. James Gallagher, Captain Hanover Fire Department and Chief Lou Pacheco, Raynham Police Department.

Bridgewater Raynham Regional School District Technical Assistance

January 2006

Provided technical assistance to the Arts Survey Study Committee for the design, implementation and analysis of the Arts and Culture Needs Assessment Web Survey.

E. Survey Research Projects

NEDA Membership Characteristics and Wage Benefit Survey 2005

Description: The IRD conducted a survey as a membership service for members of the Northeastern Economic Developers Association. The purpose of this was to provide NEDA members with timely and reliable wage and benefit information so that they can better understand what benefits and wages their colleagues are receiving.

Key Dates: Mail survey was completed in September 2005. 238 surveys were returned for a response rate of 30 percent.

Old Colony YMCA Target Area Analysis 2005-2006

Description: The Institute for Regional Development conducted a comprehensive Target Area Analysis for the proposed new Old Colony YMCA branch location at the Camp Clark site in Plymouth Massachusetts. The analysis was conducted by means of a citizen telephone survey of the residents of Plymouth and select areas of Bourne, a supplier analysis and a socio-demographic analysis. The analysis revealed the Y's position in the "marketplace", it provides management with the tools for determining the types of services and facilities that may be offered and will aid management in making key decisions about the impact of a new site agency wide.

Key Dates: Telephone survey was conducted in September 2005; data was compiled and analyzed; Jennifer Reid made the final presentation to key YMCA staff and volunteers in Plymouth on February 17, 2006.

Town of Barnstable 6th Annual Citizen Survey 2006

Description: During the month of April 2006 a citizen survey of Barnstable residents was designed and administered by the IRD. The Institute was contracted by the Town of Barnstable to conduct this project. The purpose of this survey was to obtain information and citizen perceptions about Barnstable to evaluate town services, use as a performance benchmark, and assist in planning for the future. Bridgewater State College faculty members Dr. Robert Amey and Dr. Mick Jones partnered with the Institute for Regional Development on this research project.

Key Dates: Telephone survey was conducted in April 2006 and 400 interviews were completed. Data was compiled and analyzed; Citizen Survey Report was presented to the Town of Barnstable in May 2006.

F. Training Services

Specialized Workshops/Conferences

Conferences:

Massachusetts Environmental Health Association Meeting

March 31, 2005

The Institute for Regional Development hosted a day long conference on March 31, 2005 for the MEHA here at the Moakley Center.

Massachusetts Government Finance Officers Association - Satellite Teleconference and Conference

November 11, 2005

The Institute for Regional Development hosted 75 members of the Massachusetts Government Finance Officers Association to gather at the Moakley Center on November 11, 2005 to participate in a satellite teleconference and their annual conference.

Massachusetts Economic Development Council Annual Meeting and Conference

December 2, 2005

The Institute for Regional Development hosted, coordinated and co-sponsored the Annual Meeting and Conference for the Massachusetts Economic Development Council. Over forty members and guests were in attendance at this state-wide, important economic development event. BSC's Master of Public Administration Program Coordinator, Dr. Wendy Haynes, greeted and spoke to the membership. Dr. John Mullin, Dean of Graduate Students, UMASS – Amherst, also spoke regarding the current geo-economic profile of Massachusetts and how demographics impact the Commonwealth's economic future. Secretary of Workforce Development for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Ms. Jane Edmonds presented a dynamic luncheon address on the Massachusetts workforce training programs and their importance related to economic and workforce development. Following her remarks, Mr. Terry Fancher, Executive Director of the Tri-Town Development Corporation discussed the comprehensive planning process and vision for the South Weymouth Naval Air Station.



Outgoing MEDC President Mr. Jeff Hayden (left) hands over the reins to Mr. Robert Hubbard, incoming MEDC President.

Technology Training

*Technology Training
Instructor Ms. Virginia
Timmerman is seen here
facilitating Microsoft Excel
training to Southeastern
Massachusetts municipal
government and nonprofit
professionals.*



The Institute provided a series of technology trainings to nonprofit and local government communities in southeastern Massachusetts. The affordable trainings held at the Moakley Center were designed to foster a positive relationship with external constituencies of the College. The events held this year are as follows:

Combining Nonprofit and Local Government Technology Series (Moakley Center)

September 20, 2005	Excel as a Database	19 Attendees
October 18, 2005	Word & Excel “Significant Others”	14 Attendees
November 15, 2005	Introduction to Access	12 Attendees
January 17, 2006	Excel V, What if...	12 Attendees
February 21, 2006	Introduction to PowerPoint	18 Attendees
March 14, 2006	Next Steps with PowerPoint	15 Attendees

Old Colony Y Technology Training (Old Colony Y)

The Institute provided a series of technology trainings to the Old Colony Y staff. In classes of **eight**, workshops were held onsite at the Old Colony Y:

September 23, 2005	Introduction to Excel
October 21, 2005	Introduction to PowerPoint
November 17, 2005	Introduction to PowerPoint
February 10, 2006	Introduction to Access
March 24, 2006	Next Steps with PowerPoint
May 2, 2006	Intermediate to Publisher

CareerWorks Brockton (CareerWorks)

The Institute provided a series of technology trainings to the CareerWorks staff. The workshops were held onsite at CareerWorks:

December 16, 2005	Intermediate to Advanced Word	13 Attendees
January 20, 2006	Intermediate to Advanced Excel	13 Attendees
February 17, 2006	Intermediate to Advanced Publisher	17 Attendees

City of Taunton (Moakley Center)

The Institute provided a series of technology trainings to the City of Taunton staff. The workshops were held at the Moakley Center:

September 16, 2005	Introduction to Excel	22 Attendees
October 7, 2005	Introduction to Excel	20 Attendees
October 14, 2005	Intermediate Excel	22 Attendees
May 19, 2006	Advanced Tips & Tricks with Excel	13 Attendees
June 2, 2006	Advanced Tips & Tricks with Excel	22 Attendees

Town of Milton (Moakley Center)

The Institute provided a series of technology trainings to the town of Milton staff. The workshops were held at the Moakley Center:

April 4, 2006	Intermediate Excel	17 Attendees
May 10, 2006	Advanced Tips & Tricks with Excel	17 Attendees

Events and workshops attended by Jennifer Reid:

MEDC Meeting and Conference

North Adams, MA September 30, 2005

Vision 2020 Meeting

Taunton, MA October 4, 2005

NEDA Annual Meeting and Conference

Baltimore, MD October 8 – 11, 2005- Presented results of NEDA Wage and Benefit Survey to NEDA Board of Directors.

Plymouth County Development Association, Annual Meeting

Plymouth, MA October 17, 2005

Business to Business Expo and Annual Meeting

Metro South Chamber, Brockton, MA November 16, 2005

Community Development Block Grant Program Meeting

Department of Housing and Community Development, Boston, MA December 17, 2005

South Shore Chamber of Commerce Breakfast Meeting

Quincy, MA February 13, 2006

G. IRD's Published Research Reports

Old Colony YMCA Target Area Analysis
February 2006 (Vol. 06, No.1)

Town of Barnstable Citizen Survey 2006
May 2006 (Vol. 06, No. 2)

Old Colony YMCA Membership Survey
June 2005 (Vol. 05, No. 4)

Town of Barnstable Citizen Survey
June 2005 (Vol. 05, No. 9)

Town of Barnstable-Downtown Hyannis Survey
December 2004 (Vol. 04, No. 6)

Northeastern Economic Developers Association Professional Development Survey
September 2004 (Vol. 04, No. 5)

East Bridgewater Open Space Citizen Survey
August 2004 (Vol. 04, No. 4)

Downtown Barre Customer Survey 2004
June-July 2004 (Vol. 04, No. 3)

Town of Barnstable Citizen Survey 2004
March 2004 (Vol. 04, No. 2)

2004 Presidential Primary and Issues Poll
March 2004 (Vol. 04, No. 1)

Old Colony United Way Needs Assessment
June 2003 (Vol. 03, No. 3)

Town of Barnstable Citizen Survey 2003
April 2003 (Vol. 03, No. 2)

Old Colony Y Workplace Climate Survey
January 2003 (Vol. 03, No.1)

Old Colony Y Staff Satisfaction Survey
December 2002 (Vol. 02, No.7)

Cranberry Country Business Survey
June 2002 (Vol. 02, No. 4)

Canton Web Survey Report
June 2002 (Vol. 02, No. 3)

Town of Barnstable Citizen Survey 2002
May 2002 (Vol. 02, No. 2)

Canton Master Plan Project – Resident Survey
March 2002 (Vol. 02, No. 1)

2001 Public Affairs Readership Survey
May 2001 (Vol. 01, No. 1)

2000 Presidential Election Poll
October 2000 (Vol. 00, No. 4)

*Municipal Form of Government in Massachusetts: Analysis and Modification
Second Edition*
September 2000 (Vol. 00, No. 3)

Dever Reuse Study - Socioeconomic Base Analysis
June 2000 (Vol. 00, No. 2)

Presidential Primary Poll
February 2000 (Vol. 00, No. 1)

Southeastern Massachusetts Policy and Pre-Election Poll
November 1999 (Vol. 99, No. 3)

Southeastern Massachusetts Transportation Survey
November 1999 (Vol. 99, No. 2)

Municipal Form of Government in Massachusetts: Analysis and Modification
March 1999 (Vol. 99, No. 1)

Program Evaluation of Taunton's Problem-Solving Policing Grant
August 1998 (Vol. 98, No. 3)

1998 Pre-Election Poll for Southeastern Massachusetts
October 1998 (Vol. 98, No. 2)

The Impact of the Old Colony Railroad on Plymouth County
January 1998 (Vol. 98, No. 1)

Citizen Participation in Massachusetts Town Meetings
December 1997 (Vol. 97, No. 3)

Open Town Meetings in Massachusetts: Issues and Evaluation
December 1997 (Vol. 97, No. 2)

Town of Milford Industrial Business Survey
October 1997 (Vol. 97, No. 1)

Southeastern Massachusetts Quality of Life Survey
May 1996 (Vol. 96, No. 1)

A copy of any of the above reports may be obtained by contacting Jennifer Reid at the IRD office (508) 531-2419.

H. Organizations that have attended training/workshops through the IRD

American Cancer Society
Ames Free Library
Attleboro YMCA
BAMSI
BAMSI WIC
Beta Community Services
Bourne Council on Aging
Bourne Friends Food Pantry
Brockton 21st Century Corp
Brockton Area Assn For Retarded Citizens, Inc
Brockton Day Nursery
Brockton Early Intervention Program
Brockton Family Community Resources
Brockton Housing Authority
Burnell School
CareerWorks
Caritas Good Samaritan Medical Center
Catholic Charities of Brockton
CDA Support
Center for Nonprofit Management
Center for Rehab Engineering
Chief Executive Officer
Child and Family Services, Inc
Church of the Ascension
City of Taunton
City of Taunton
Community Care Services, Inc
Community Health Systems
Community Nurse & Hospice Care
Community Partnerships, Inc
Community Visting Nurse Assc
Council on Aging
County Delegate
Duxbury Fire Department
First Congressional Church
Foxborough Board of Health
Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority
Growthways
Halifax Historical Commission
Health Care of Southeastern Mass, Inc.
Holy Cross Family Ministries
Invent Media
Kennedy-Donovan Center, Family Resource Services
King Philip Community House
Life Resources Inc- Promising Futures
Louison Family Center
LRI's Phaneuf Center

Annual Report
July 1, 2005 -- June 30, 2006

Main Spring Coalition For Homeless
MainSpring Coalition Conway House
MainSpring Coalition Evelyn House
Marquis Consulting
McLean Southeast
MH Residential Division - BAMSI
Mt Moriah Emergency Food Program
Museum Shop Manager
New Bedford Child and Family Services Inc
Northstar Learning Center
Old Colony United Way
Old Colony Y
PACE, Inc Child Care Works
Planning Board Town of Duxbury
Plymouth Area Coalition
Plymouth Fire Department
Quincy Comm Action Prog, Inc
Raymond Piling Products, Inc
Rehoboth Board of Selectman
Rotch-Jones Duff House & Garden Museum
Senior Transportation Planner
South Shore Women's Center
Southeast Alternative School
Southeast Alternative School, Berkley Campus
Southeast Alternative School, Middleboro Campus
St Vincent's Home
Stanley Street Treatment and Resources, Inc
Taunton Area School to Career, Inc
Taunton Nursing Home
The ARC of Greater Plymouth
The Arc of Northern Bristol County
The Enterprise
The Opportunity Center
The Salvation Army
Town Assessors Office, Town of Duxbury
Town of Brewster
Town of Bridgewater
Town of Carver
Town of Dartmouth
Town of Duxbury
Town of Easton
Town of Easton School Department
Town of Easton Water Department
Town of Hanover
Town of Marion
Town of Milton
Town of Milton, DPW
Town of Raynham
Town of Southbridge
Town of West Bridgewater
Triumph Headstart
Triumph, Inc

UMASS - Dartmouth
Union for Reform Judaism
Wareham Early Childhood Education & Dev Corp
West Bridgewater
West Bridgewater Public Schools
West Roxbury Day Habilitation
Westport River Watershed Alliance
WORD Inc Child Care Center
YMCA Southcoast
YWCA of Southeastern Massachusetts

I. Press Clippings

Press Clippings and Articles

06/01/06 Barnstable Register: "Barnstable gets high grades" Story references survey conducted by the Institute for Regional Development.

05/28/06 The Sun Chronicle (Attleboro): "Immigrants change face of city" Story quotes **Dr. Victor DeSantis**, former director of the Institute for Regional Development at BSC.

From Bridgewater State College website

Southeastern Massachusetts leaders discuss role of higher education at Connect Summit



A group of Pre-K-12 educators gather in a breakout session during the Regional Leaders Summit 2005 sponsored by Connect, a partnership of public higher institutions in the region including Bridgewater State College, Bristol Community College, Cape Cod Community College, Massasoit Community College and the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

June 6, 2005

Dozens of leaders from business and industry, arts and culture, health and human services, Pre-K-12 education and government convened at the request of public higher education leaders in the region to begin to articulate a vision of partnership for the educational and economic well-being of Southeastern Massachusetts and Cape Cod.

Connect, a partnership of public higher institutions in the region including Bridgewater State College, Bristol Community College, Cape Cod Community College, Massasoit

Community College and the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, held a Regional Leaders Summit 2005 on Monday, June 6 at Bridgewater State College.

"Shaping the Future of Southeastern Massachusetts" was the theme of the conference and attendees from five of the region's industry sectors were greeted by Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria, president of Bridgewater State College and Connect chairman, at what he called "a historic occasion as all of us will begin articulating a vision of public higher education in Southeastern Massachusetts."

President Mohler-Faria told the audience that the five Connect institutions enroll more than 36,000 students, with fully 83 percent of them residing in the region. Combined, the five institutions award 4,400 degrees annually and spend \$180 million in goods and services.

"For every \$1 invested in public education, \$3.60 in economic activity results," President Mohler-Faria told the audience. The Connect institutions together are one of the largest employers in Southeastern Massachusetts.

The Connect partnership was established in January 2003 with the goals of improving the equality, accessibility and affordability of higher education and to advance the economic, educational and cultural life of the region.

Since its creation, Connect institutions have embarked on joint banking, facilities planning and development and management training; streamlined transfer articulation between its community colleges and baccalaureate degree granting institutions; and is revamping undergraduate writing courses across all curricula.

Monday's Summit was the next step for Connect as it seeks ways to engage the region more effectively.

"Southeastern Massachusetts is a region that faces considerable challenges but has enormous opportunities ... and extraordinary potential," said President Mohler-Faria. "Forming a strategic, competitive advantage for the region is what the summit is all about. Never before have we asked external constituencies to help chart that course."

The audience heard from two keynote speakers, Dr. Una S. Ryan, CEO of Avant Immunotherapeutics, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company with space at the Advanced Technology and Manufacturing Center operated by UMD in Fall River, that uses novel applications of immunology to prevent and treat diseases; and Mr. William Zammer Jr., owner/operator of Cape Cod Restaurants, Inc., which includes restaurants, lodging and food service facilities employing approximately 450 with an annual volume of \$20 million.

Dr. Ryan, who also serves as chair of the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council, made the case for Massachusetts as the premiere state in the nation for biotech advances and for Southeastern Massachusetts to become a biotech corridor of the future.

The biotechnology industry employed 406,700 in Massachusetts in 2003, with each job in the industry creating another 5.7 jobs, Dr. Ryan said. The commonwealth is number one in the nation in the biopharmacy innovation pipeline and has top-rated venture capital muscle, she said.

The industry stands to become the top growth performer, but only if workforce development keeps pace. Dr. Ryan discussed what she called a "chronic shortage" of qualified employees for the biotech and biomedical fields and urged investment in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) training starting in the K-12 system to provide higher education with better prepared students in the pipeline.

The maturing biotech industry in Massachusetts will experience 13 to 35 percent growth within the next year with 44 percent of those jobs requiring bachelor's degrees as production management and governmental compliance issues have exploded the need for managers with STEM training, manufacturing expertise, quality control and good management practices.

"We absolutely love our facility at the Advanced Technology and Manufacturing Center and we love Fall River. We would like to see Southeastern Massachusetts become a biotech corridor," Dr. Ryan said. Avant, at its Fall River site, makes single-dose, oral vaccines that are used for bio defense, global health, travelers and food safety.

"A very small nucleus in Southeastern Massachusetts can have an impact across the world," Dr. Ryan said. "The state needs to provide technology resources and financial incentives for high schools and public higher education" to educate and develop a highly skilled workforce for the industry's jobs which are available now.

Dr. Victor S. DeSantis, director of the Institute for Regional Development at Bridgewater State College, presented demographic data during a briefing on the state of the region, which showed the Bristol, Plymouth, Norfolk and three counties on Cape Cod grappling with monumental growth. At the same time, southern Bristol County and lower Plymouth County continue to acutely fall short on educational attainment.

The audience then split into five breakout groups by industry sector to discuss the state of the region and the role public higher education could play in its educational, economic and cultural well-being.

After lunch, Dr. Judith I. Gill, chancellor of the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education, said of the effort, "No matter what happens, more has to be done in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). I believe this is the model for public higher education in the commonwealth and in the country. It will make Southeastern Massachusetts an area of great prosperity and an area of high educational attainment."

State Sen. Marc R. Pacheco (First Plymouth and Bristol District), during opening remarks for the day, congratulated the Connect executives for "coming together to give all of us an opportunity to play a role in shaping our region and developing partnerships in Southeastern Massachusetts."

He placed into historic context the Connect effort in the new millennium on behalf of the region by citing Southeastern Massachusetts mayoral partnerships of the 1980s and regional legislative lobbying begun in the 1990s with the founding of the Southeastern Massachusetts Legislative Caucus.

"The piece that was really missing in all of these efforts was a cohesive relationship with our institutions of public higher education in the region," Sen. Pacheco said, commending the executives for "overcoming their parochial nature and looking beyond their institutions" for the benefit of the region.

State Sen. Robert O'Leary (Cape Cod and the Islands), discussed declining state revenues for public higher education. "In the last four years that I've been in the Senate, no area of the budget has taken more cuts than public higher education and that's for a system that's never been well supported to begin with," Sen. O'Leary said.

"Support of public higher education is as important, as critical, as central as K-12 support," he said. "If we're going to compete in a new environment, we have to strengthen support. Clearly, there are competing agendas out there - all worthy agendas - but you've got to prioritize."

Connect executives - Dr. John Sbrega, president, Bristol Community College; Dr. Kathleen Schatzberg, president, Cape Cod Community College; Dr. Charles Wall, president, Massasoit Community College; and Dr. Jean MacCormack, chancellor, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth - debriefed the audience about the break-out sessions and pledged to continue working together as partners.

Over the summer, Connect executives will create a comprehensive monograph that will outline a vision for the region. "It will be a shared vision, which will serve us well into the future," said President Mohler-Faria. Connect also plans to hire its first executive director and establish a regional advisory board. - *Eva T. Gaffney, G'01, Office of Public Affairs*

Campus community and beyond wish Victor DeSantis all the best in his new position



Dr. Victor DeSantis (center) with (from left) MPA students Marco Izquierdo and Kara Neymeyr, Dr. Michael Kryzanek, Department of Political Science, and MPA students Colleen Gallagher and Tamarah Barao at a farewell reception to recognize his work at Bridgewater State College.



State Rep. David L. Flynn, '58, and Professor Emeritus Wayne Phillips, '62, flank Dr. Victor DeSantis at program honoring him as he prepares to leave BSC for a new position.

May 13, 2005

Bridgewater State College colleagues on faculty and staff, political and civic leaders, students past and present - all of them friends - came to wish Dr. Victor S. DeSantis all the best in his new position as dean of graduate studies at Millersville University in Pennsylvania.

The professor of political science, who has served two Bridgewater State College presidents as their executive assistant, will leave in June to assume his new position at Millersville. Dr. DeSantis founded and directs the Institute for Regional Development at the college.

Approximately 200 individuals from across the campus and Southeastern Massachusetts gathered May 10 in Council Chambers to give Dr. DeSantis and his wife, Melanie, a warm and genuine sendoff and to extend thanks for their service to the college and Southeastern Massachusetts.

"I've worked with many professionals throughout my career, but I can honestly say that Dr. DeSantis is among the very best I've had the pleasure to associate with," said college President Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria during the reception. "He's made major

contributions to Bridgewater State College over the last decade. Personally and professionally, he's a wonderful individual with tremendous skills, and he is clearly heading toward a college presidency. I fully expect someday to be at his inauguration."

A number of external constituents also attended the reception, having worked with Dr. DeSantis in a variety of capacities over the nearly 10 years he has been at Bridgewater State College.

"I've been working with Victor for a number of years on the Raynham Business and Economic Development Commission and he's definitely been an asset to us," said Ms. Diana Shearstone, president of the Taunton Area Chamber of Commerce. "We're going to miss his knowledge, expertise and willingness to work tirelessly to promote the quality of life in Raynham and throughout the region."

Dr. DeSantis was presented with proclamations from the Massachusetts State Senate and the House of Representatives by Sen. Marc R. Pacheco and Rep. David L. Flynn, respectively. Both discussed the crucial role Dr. DeSantis has played in regional economic development through his work at the institute as well as his willingness to generously share his expertise. Dennis C. Gallagher, chairman of the Bridgewater Board of Selectmen, proclaimed May 10, 2005 "Dr. Victor DeSantis Day" in the Town of Bridgewater.

"Victor DeSantis has had a major influence at the State House on the college's behalf," said Rep. Flynn, '58, Dean of the House of Representatives. "He has worked for years with me, with Sen. Pacheco and a host of other legislators to protect and advance this college, my alma mater, and I have the greatest respect for his knowledge and commitment to Bridgewater specifically and to public higher education as a whole. He's had an important role on Beacon Hill and he will be missed."

"I couldn't have been happier when the Institute for Regional Development was started at the college," Sen. Pacheco recalled. "Victor has not only been an expert in the region in economic development, he has been the consummate professional. He has been a tremendous individual for this school and this region."

On-campus colleagues of Dr. Desantis shared their perspectives on his impact while at the college. "He has had a major role in most of the significant developments at the college over the last 10 years and a person of his quality and character will be difficult to replace," said Mr. Miguel Gomes, associate vice president for administration and finance, facilities management and planning.

"Victor has been a great colleague to me as well as a key part of the team in the president's office," said Ms. Susan McCombe, special assistant to the president. "We wish him good luck in his new position, but we're going to miss him tremendously. I'm happy though for him and his family because this new position will offer new challenges and opportunities, and I know how much he is looking forward to this."

Dr. DeSantis came to the college to direct the newly created Master of Public Administration program, and Dr. Michael Kryzanek, professor of the Department of Political Science, chaired the department during the years prior to Dr. DeSantis' appointment to the Office of the President.

"I'm happy that so many people are here this afternoon to offer Victor their best wishes," Dr. Kryzanek said. "I know personally of his outstanding work in the development of the college's MPA program. Certainly the students whom he mentored for so many years will miss him as will the faculty, like me, who've had the pleasure to work with him. His excellent teaching strengths and his leadership in so many academic initiatives have been invaluable to the college."

MPA students attending the event concurred. "As you can see, a large number of Dr. DeSantis' students are here today to show our gratitude to him and express our regret that he's leaving," said Ms. Kara Neymeyr. "But at the same time, we understand he's making an important career move, and we applaud him for that. I'm personally very grateful to him for giving me such strong guidance and support. He was a wonderful teacher, mentor and friend. He was always available to his students and anxious to help in any way he could. He's an outstanding professor as well as an outstanding administrator."

Mr. Marco Izquierdo, an MPA student from Colombia, South America who has been working with Dr. DeSantis for two years, said "He's been my mentor and my friend as well as my professor, and I'm going to miss him. I'm finishing my MPA degree this year, and he's been a constant source of support to me. I feel very much in his debt for all he has done for me."

Both presidents for whom Dr. DeSantis has worked at Bridgewater State College - President Emerita Dr. Adrian Tinsley and President Mohler-Faria - addressed the gathering, as did Mr. Louis Ricciardi, '81, representing the college's Board of Trustees, and Mr. Fred Clark Jr., '83, on behalf of the Massachusetts State College Council of Presidents.

"Millersville is going to be a wonderful job for Victor, but it will not be your last job, Victor" Dr. Tinsley said. "What higher education needs is the brightest and the best, and you are that."

"The qualities Victor represented at Bridgewater State College are the kinds of qualities he will one day take to the presidency," said President Mohler-Faria. "He is committed to public higher education, to students, faculty and staff, and to what's best for this campus. I just can't imagine what life is going to be without Victor."

In addressing the audience, Dr. DeSantis thanked Melanie for her support and understanding the schedule he has maintained on behalf of the college and public service in the region. He called his "decade at Bridgewater State College the most meaningful professional time I could have ever dreamed of."

Dr. DeSantis then quoted America's first great advocate for public education, Horace Mann. "Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity." The quote - one of five from Mann - has been posted on a wall in his office for years. - *Office of Public Affairs*



One of the missions of Bridgewater State College is to serve the Southeastern Massachusetts region by working to enhance its intellectual, economic, cultural and civic well being. To this end, the College established the Institute for Regional Development on September 1, 1996. The Institute serves as the viable focal point for College initiatives related to enhancing the quality of life in Southeastern Massachusetts. The mission of the Institute is to serve as a resource center for the public, private, and non-profit sectors of Southeastern Massachusetts through applied research, training, and technical assistance programs.

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