



Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

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Richard M. Freeland, *Commissioner*
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Massachusetts Board of Higher Education

October 20, 2011

Honorable Michael Moore, Chairman
Joint Committee on Higher Education
Room 215
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman Moore:

On behalf of the Board of Higher Education and our public colleges and university campus communities, I want to thank you for your support of the Performance Incentive Fund (PIF) to further the goals of the Vision Project during the development of the state's FY12 budget. Your support of this important line item (7066-0025) represents a crucial down payment in support of our effort to focus public higher education on key performance objectives necessary to produce *the best educated citizenry and workforce in the nation*. You played a key role in making all this happen and for that we are very grateful.

All 29 public colleges and university campuses submitted proposals for PIF funding, which were reviewed by an external advisory group of national higher education experts. I have enclosed an overview of the 18 grants that were ultimately awarded. PIF dollars will fund a number of new and innovative projects that offer the promise of being scaled across the public higher education system to advance Vision Project goals. The dollars will also support a significant expansion of successful programs that have been limited in their reach by budget constraints. All recipient campuses have agreed to sustain these programs following the termination of PIF funding.

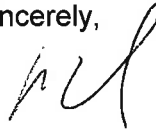
These grants will help us move forward with our Vision Project efforts to achieve national leadership for Massachusetts with respect to college participation, college completion, improved student learning, ability to meet workforce needs, and close achievement gaps. PIF dollars will help our campuses enhance their performance with respect to all five of these goals.

I also want to thank you for supporting language which was included in the FY12 supplemental budget enacted earlier this week that allows our campuses to expend their

PIF grant through August of next year, allowing a full twelve months for spending on these important initiatives.

I look forward to sharing progress reports as our campuses put these funds to good use throughout the academic year. We believe that this modest effort will reap big dividends for Massachusetts at a time when public higher education is being asked to play a substantially greater role in educating the future citizens, workers, and leaders of the Commonwealth. I welcome your continuing engagement and future support of this important initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Freeland', written in a cursive style.

Richard M. Freeland
Commissioner

Enclosed: PIF Grant Award Summary