

Public Forum on the CHERISH Act

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

6 - 8pm

**Ryckebush Faculty/Staff Lounge, G Building
Fall River Campus**

Funding for public higher education in MA has been cut by 31% since 2001, shifting the cost of education onto students and families.

The CHERISH Act would increase state per student funding for public higher education back to 2001 levels over five years. It would also freeze tuition in fees every year that state funding targets are met. The CHERISH Act calls for:

- Implementing the recommendations of the 2014 Higher Education Finance Commission, resulting in **more than \$500 million** in additional funding for public higher education. These new funds must supplement — not supplant — existing funding.

- Establishing in statute a fair and adequate minimum funding level for public higher education at no less than the FY01 per-student funding level, adjusted for inflation.

- Freezing tuition and fees for five years, as long as the Legislature appropriates the funds required to reach FY01 per-student funding levels in five years

This event is cosponsored by the Massachusetts Teachers Association and Bristol Community College Chapter of the Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts (PHENOM). The forum will include local legislators, educators, union leaders, students and alumni, and is open to the general public. The goal is to educate participants about the CHERISH Act, and to mobilize support to bring the Act to a vote this Spring in the Massachusetts legislature. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, contact Colleen Avedikian at colleen.avedikian@bristolcc.edu, (774) 357-3116.