

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ben Franklin Institute Contact:

Jaime Crespo, Office of Marketing Communications
617-588-1353, jcrespo@bfit.edu

QCC Contact:

Josh Martin, Office of Institutional Communications
508.854.7513, jmartin@qcc.mass.edu

Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology Reaffirms Articulation Agreement with Quinsigamond Community College

Agreement assures seamless transfer for Automotive Technology students

WORCESTER, MA – June 24, 2015 –Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology (BFIT) President Anthony Benoit and Quinsigamond Community College (QCC) President Gail Carberry signed an articulation agreement today on the QCC campus in Worcester. The agreement extends an existing agreement signed in 2011 that will continue to ensure graduates of QCC’s Associate Degree in Automotive Technology with satisfactory academic performance will be accepted and have their QCC credits count toward their pursuit of a Bachelor’s Degree in Automotive Management at BFIT. Visit www.bfit.edu/qcc to learn more.

“This partnership advances our common mission to provide affordable education and degrees in emerging and growing fields,” said BFIT President Benoit. “Cars are becoming computers with wheels. And as the business models of the automotive service industry become more complex there is a shortage of people with the right skills and knowledge. This public-private partnership makes this rewarding career path available to more students than ever before.”

“We are pleased to continue our commitment to offer this program for our automotive technicians who want to advance their careers,” said QCC President Carberry. “Demand for qualified automotive technicians is increasing in this region as the vehicles become more technologically advanced. This Bachelor of Science in Automotive Management program helps drive down the cost of education for our students while also aligning with QCC’s core mission of offering high quality, affordable programming.”

The demand for automotive technology degrees has been on the rise as Americans continue to demand safety and sophisticated features never before seen in the field of automotive technology. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects employment in the industry will increase by 8.6 percent nationally over the next ten years. While students can gain entry level positions with just an associate degree, this program will empower students to increase their earning potential and broaden their employment opportunities with a bachelor’s degree.

“We are pleased to continue our successful partnership with QCC,” said BFIT Transfer Outreach Coordinator Amanda Marstaller. “This agreement is a tremendous example of how we at BFIT are always on the lookout for effective ways to provide the skills and training BFIT students need to stay competitive in today’s economy.”

Don Morin, Coordinator of Automotive Technology at QCC, said, “For a program like Automotive Technology, which is not considered a traditional transfer program, this agreement creates an opportunity that might not otherwise exist for students, and facilitates their further educational and professional development.”

The agreement requires students to complete an Associate Degree in Automotive Technology and graduate with a minimum of a 2.0 GPA along with other English and math requirements. Today’s agreement extends the original agreement by three years.

“We are proud to partner with BFIT to offer this unique opportunity for QCC automotive technology students to seamlessly advance their careers in their chosen field,” said Patricia Toney, Vice President of Academic Affairs at QCC. “One of our core missions at QCC is to offer high quality, affordable programs that lead to good careers in Central Massachusetts. This agreement is closely aligned with what we’ve been doing here for 50 years.”

“It is a pleasure to continue the partnership with QCC and welcome their graduates to our campus,” said Brian Bicknell, Dean of Academic Affairs at BFIT. “We know these incoming students will be well-prepared to meet the rigor of our automotive management program. It is an excellent option for students who know they want to earn a bachelors degree as part of their career goals in the field of automotive technology.”

“We recently visited BFIT with a group of our first year Automotive Technology students so they could see the college and meet faculty and administrators,” said Kathy Rentsch, Dean of Business, Engineering and Technology at QCC. “The BFIT educational philosophy, its focus on applied learning with small class sizes is especially appealing. The culture is warm and welcoming. BFIT is a great transfer option for graduates of our AAS in Automotive Technology. We are already exploring additional transfer agreements in Health Information technology and Mechanical Engineering Technology.”

The signing ceremony took place at the Automotive Technology Center on the campus of Quinsigamond Community College, 570 Boylston Street, Worcester.

-30-

Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology (BFIT) offers an affordable college education to students pursuing career-based paths. The college strives to develop technical and professional skills as well as individual values that help to create a foundation for success, civic responsibility, and life-long learning. The college adheres to the principles put forth by our benefactor Benjamin Franklin in his writings about education and citizenship.

Quinsigamond Community College celebrates 50 years of serving the community with high quality, affordable higher education in Worcester County. As a regional leader in education and workforce development, QCC serves the diverse educational needs of Central Massachusetts by providing affordable, accessible, and high quality programming leading to transfer, career, and lifelong learning.