

Presidential Search Committee  
Bristol Community College

Re: President, Bristol Community College

My interest in the position of President at Bristol Community College (BCC) stems from a number of factors, not the least of which is the intersection of my heartfelt desire to continue to have an impact on students who thrive in the spaces created in the community college sector and the opportunity to expand that impact as BCC enters a new era of serving students under the MassReconnect and MassEducate programs. These new programs put an emphasis on the respect for and acknowledgment of the power to change lives through the delivery of first-rate learning opportunities in the two-year sector. Couple this opportunity to impact a larger group of students evolving its identity through signature programs like the National Offshore Wind Institute, and I find myself intrigued by the opportunity to help chart a course that could benefit the regional community

The skills that I would bring to the position are manifold, beginning with my experience teaching in and working with numerous early college models that exist across the United States. Having served as an instructor in the K-12 arena for seven years, my vocation in the community college has kept me focused on the needs of students moving from our K-12 pipelines into the realms of higher education. In my career I have used direct outreach to increase the diversity of thought within the student populations of my most recent two institutions, driving initiatives in connecting with our feeder schools ignored, Hispanic and Pacific-Islander populations, augmenting an already diverse mix of Caucasian and African-American students environments. Further, I have had successes in helping to resurrect honors programs, redesigning developmental education programs and crafting articulations with four-year partners, resulting in a higher number of students likely to reach degree completion and a series of relationships that will continue to benefit each institution for years to come. At my current post and the one previous, I work closely with faculty and staff members within both the K-12 world and the collegiate setting to help increase understanding of the educational divide that is faced by

internships and direct-to-career opportunities for our learners. My familiarity with these concerns as an educator has given me the vocabulary and knowledge to ensure that I can converse with faculty, staff and constituents in both the business and public service sectors with the understanding and clarity needed to bring us all together and ensure that we produce students who understand the need for service to their community as well as embarking on their individual successes. The importance of that service in forging strong citizens is reinforced by the reward of strengthening service area and outlying environs with a better educated and more civically focused citizenry.

As a member of the executive council of the Park Hill NEA as a high school educator, and as a member of various committees looking at the academic and revenue issues of MCKC, both as a faculty senator and an administrator, I learned much about the need for community contact, positive public perception, and the marketing of our services and facilities, that has helped to strengthen my approach to the work I do as one of the faces of the institution in my current role. Making sure that we focus in the same way to capitalize on the strengths and skills of the staff and faculty in maintaining and strengthening the public profile of BCC as an institution would be of prime importance to the strategic plan of the institution, however that capitalization can only be built on advertising our successes and making sure that the public has a clearer understanding of the beauty and versatility of the institution that sits in its midst. In the role of directing community relations and public information, I believe that it would be incumbent upon me to avail the college of every opportunity to show that it is a superior and approachable institution, which will also increase its attractiveness to potential faculty and staff and enhance the chances of extending the reach of Bristol Community College to continue to appeal to the finest academics to staff our classrooms and the most innovative and creative staff to fill all other roles on our campuses.

I believe that my ability to learn quickly, manage personalities and skills, and coordinate activities through both direct action and delegation make me a worthy candidate to take on any and all tasks associated with collaborating with varied groups, planning for the future of the institution and handling oversight of the workings of an institution as large and complex as BCC. That being said, I believe that few candidates will bring my depth of care for education and true desire to have a positive longterm impact on the institution that determines me worthy of its stewardship.

Overall, I find this position to be one that is not only intriguing to me, but I believe that my unique set of skills and experiences make this job one that would fit me well. I believe that I am capable of bringing a voice and style to the position that would benefit Bristol Community College and its community as a whole. I hope that my interest in the position is met with an equal enthusiasm and interest from the search committee, and that I can make my case for the position in person. I greatly appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
L. Michael McCloud, PhD