

# Quincy College ‘An Institution On The Move’

*President Peter Tsaffaras: 4-Year Degrees Will ‘Enhance Opportunities For Students’*

By SCOTT JACKSON  
Quincy College could begin offering its students the chance to pursue baccalaureate degrees in a little more than a year and a half, but the official who has helmed the institution for the past half-decade said the school’s mission would remain unchanged.

Peter Tsaffaras has served as Quincy College’s president since 2011. During that time the school’s enrollment has grown each year – from 4,495 in the fall of 2012 to 5,017 at the start of the current school year last fall. The number of full-time teaching faculty has also increased from 40 to 70 during that time frame.

“We’re really a college that’s on the move,” Tsaffaras, 66, said during a recent interview inside his office on the seventh floor of Presidents Place, overlooking City Hall and the future Hancock Adams Green. “We’re radically transforming this institution together.

“That includes the faculty and the staff, but to some extent it also includes the students who are really part and parcel of this whole movement to transform the institution so we can really take our rightful place among institutions of higher education in Massachusetts



“FOCUSED ON TEACHING & Learning, One Student at a Time” is not merely Quincy College’s motto. It is, as well, the embodiment of the way in which the Quincy College community conducts itself each and every day, including the manner in which all students, faculty, and staff are regarded and engaged. Pictured here in the Student Services Center are (left to right) Quincy College Financial Aid Associate Leanne DiLeo, Quincy College President Peter H. Tsaffaras, and Natural Science major, Nyla Williams.

*Quincy Sun Photo/Robert Bosworth*

and New England but also that we can really be a significant factor in helping

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## Firefighters Bowling Night Benefits Alzheimer’s Research

Quincy Firefighters Local 792 will host its second annual Night of Bowling to raise funds for Alzheimer’s Research Saturday, Feb. 18 from 7 to 11 p.m. at Olindy’s Bowling Lanes, Quincy Avenue, Quincy.

Admission is \$20 which covers the cost of bowling and rental of shoes, snacks, music and lots of great door prizes.

Tickets are available at the door.

## Digital Deputy Initiative At Sheriff’s Office

Norfolk County Sheriff Michael G. Bellotti announces his Digital Deputy Initiative at the Norfolk Sheriff’s Civil Process Division. The Norfolk Sheriff’s Office is the first sheriff’s office in Massachusetts to implement this new program.

Deputy sheriffs have begun utilizing tablet comput-

ers on the road, allowing them to transmit updates on the status of service electronically to NSO’s civil office. This program enables attorneys to receive electronic notification of services in real time and also allows attorneys to view the status of any services they have with our office online 24/7.

In the past, the transfer of

information between civil deputies and the legal community relied on telephone calls and first-class mailings. This new program dramatically increases the speed of communication between our office and attorneys.

“The strength of this initiative is that it brings cutting edge technology to civil process, electronically trans-

fering information from our deputies in the field to our civil process office, providing ‘real time’ communication on court documents to the legal community,” Bellotti said.

“As elected officials, we have a responsibility to explore innovation and new technology and improve the services we offer to the public.”

This initiative continues Sheriff Bellotti’s commitment to improving and modernizing the civil process division to meet the needs of the legal community.

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Peter H. Tsaffaras, J.D.  
*President of Quincy College*

QUINCY COLLEGE recently created a consolidated Student Services Center on the second floor of Presidents Place on the Quincy Campus. Students can now seamlessly navigate between the offices of Financial Aid, Registrar, Academic Advising, and Student Accounts. Here Quincy College President Peter Tsaffaras poses with General Studies major, Samantha LaPierre, and his quote which greets students as they enter the Student Services Center.

*Quincy Sun Photo/Robert Bosworth*

# Quincy College ‘An Institution On The Move’

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people who live and work in the communities we serve to become more socially and economically productive.”

Gov. Charlie Baker in January signed into law a home rule petition giving Quincy College the ability to grant four-year degrees.

“We couldn’t be happier having the Legislature pass and the governor sign into law the bill which allows us to offer baccalaureate degrees,” Tsaffaras said. “It really enhances the opportunities for students, so that’s great.”

“We couldn’t get to where we are without strong support from the City Council, unwavering strong support from the mayor and

strong support from our legislative delegation, particularly House Majority Leader [Ron] Mariano and [Sen.] John Keenan. They’ve both been great supporters of the institution and we have similar support in the Plymouth area from the delegation down there, too.”

Tsaffaras said the ability to grant four-year degrees would enhance the college’s ability to deliver on its mission, but not change the identity of the school.

“The ability to offer four-year degrees is really a logical extension of what we’ve been trying to do for some period of time, and that is to enhance the educational opportunities available to people in these communities,” he said.

“Having the ability to offer baccalaureate degrees does not mean that we’re going to become a baccalaureate institution. We are not, nor can we be, another Curry College, another Bridgewater State College, another UMass Boston, another Stonehill. That’s not who we are.”

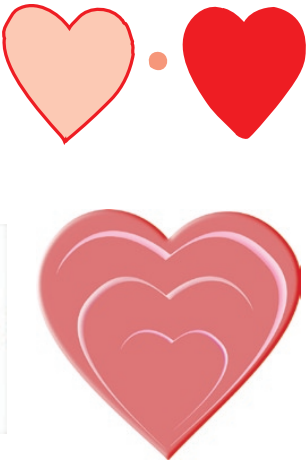
“We’re going to use the ability to offer bachelor’s degrees to enhance the access and opportunities of people who come to us as students,” Tsaffaras added. “We are who we are, but now we’re going to have the ability to offer enhanced opportunities to our students, as opposed to changing our mission, changing our focus and trying to be a copy of some sort of some other institution.”

Quincy College could begin offering bachelor’s degrees in the fall of 2018, Tsaffaras said. Before it can do so, the school must get approval from state education officials, its accreditors and federal officials.

“There is a fairly lengthy approval process with the Board of Higher Education, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and the federal government

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QUINCY COLLEGE provides resources students need to have a successful college experience. State-of-the art technology and hands-on instructional tools provide real world context for the concepts covered in the classroom. Criminal Justice major, Emmanuel Omer, displays the College’s drone in the atrium of Presidents Place on the Quincy Campus.

*Photos Courtesy Quincy College*



QUINCY COLLEGE is a unique learning environment where cultures meet, join forces, and weave a global context around college academics. Some 347 International students from 64 countries attended Quincy College this past fall. Pictured left to right in the Quincy College International Student Services Office on the third floor of Presidents Place are Natural Science major, Irvin Feliz, Psychology major, Christina Kantena, and General Studies major, Abdul Alenazi.

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for financial aid purposes. We think that the earliest we could offer a bachelor’s degree would be in September of 2018 – that’s if everything goes right,” Tsaffaras said. The college plans to phase in the four-year programs over the course of 10 years. Some programs may offer a certificate, an associate’s degree and a bachelor’s degrees, while other programs would offer just one of those.

“We have all our options open to us, which is really very helpful,” Tsaffaras said.

Biology and nursing are two programs where four-year degrees would likely be offered, but no decisions have been made yet.

“Different groups of the faculty have been meeting to talk about the possibility of offering a four-year degree within their discipline but we haven’t yet made any firm decisions,” Tsaffaras said. “I’d prefer decisions regarding that come from

the faculty up, as opposed to me implementing it from the top down.”

The plan to add four-year degrees was well received by the college’s students, with 85 percent of them expressing support in surveys. “I have people calling me now – literally every other day someone is calling and asking if they can stay for the four-year degree or whether we’re going to have a four-year program if they decide to come in September,” Tsaffaras said.

Quincy College has two campuses – one in Quincy, which includes Saville Hall and space in Presidents Place, as well as Cordage Park in Plymouth, where the school opened new nursing labs, the newest in Massachusetts, over the summer.

The school has been mentioned as a potential candidate to move into the new Quincy Center. Tsaffaras said the college is looking for space and has had discussions about that possibility.

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INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGES adorn the walls of the Student Services Center on the second floor of Presidents Place on the Quincy Campus. Quincy College President Peter H. Tsaffaras points out the T-inspired mural in the Registrar’s Office.

*Quincy Sun Photo/Robert Bosworth*

BACCALAUREATE

**BUILDING TOWARDS A BACCALAUREATE**

**QUINCY COLLEGE**

GOVERNOR CHARLIE BAKER recently signed into law a bill that grants Quincy College the ability to confer 4-year baccalaureate degrees. Quincy College retains its core mission and foundation of open-access certificates and associate degrees and can now begin building towards baccalaureate programs.

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"Since we are in a growth mode, we are looking for more space and all options are on the table, including the possibility of building a building somewhere in downtown Quincy," he said. "We've been in discussions with architects, legal and financial advisors and the mayor and the mayor's office about the economics of building a building."

After a decision is made about moving into a new facility, Tsaffaras said the college might look into providing housing for students. The college has had some discussions with nearby schools about the idea, but it has not been a major priority.

"Other than isolated discussions our main focus now would be on whether or not we're going to build a building for the campus," Tsaffaras said. "Once that decision is made then the dorm decision would be addressed in more detail. We just don't have the capacity to do all things for everyone at the same time."

Dorms have not been a major concern for the college's students, Tsaffaras said, though he would expect students – especially the school's 350 international students – would take advantage of one if offered.

"There are students who would take advantage of it – particularly some international students – but it hasn't been an issue," he said.

Quincy College, which was founded in 1958, is the only municipally owned college or university in the Bay State. The college, however, does not receive funding from the city or the state and uses tuition and other revenue sources to pay for its operations. The college has gained greater autonomy in recent years, and Tsaffaras said the school is happy with its current arrangement and does not intend to break away from the city.

"We're happy with our relationship with the city and our accreditors are happy with our relationship with the city," he said. "We removed our funds from the city; we have our own banking situation. We now do our own payroll. We do our own purchasing."

"I think the city is happy with that situation as well. We think – I hope the city thinks it as well – that it's really the best of both worlds for us right now. There are no conversations underway to further disengage with the

city. We are happy with that arrangement."

Going forward, Tsaffaras said the school is taking steps to enhance teaching and learning, is investing in its infrastructure – including classrooms and equipment – and investing in student activities.

"We're trying to do things which are going to have a direct impact on teaching and learning and the primacy of the teaching and learning relationship," he said. "We're investing in the infrastructure so it will be sustainable on a long-term basis. We're investing in activities to increase the level of student achievement and satisfaction."

"We're thinking a generation and a half ahead – thirty years ahead," he added. "We want to make decisions which are going to sustain the institution."

Quincy College has articulation agreements with more than 20 schools in Boston and beyond – including Boston University and Northeastern. The school has a dean of inter-institutional affairs and online programs whose responsibilities include articulation agreements.

"At any given point in time we're always in discussions with several other schools regarding articulation programs for certain academic programs," Tsaffaras said.

The college, he added, is also discussing the possibility of offering online-only programs with NEASC and could receive permission to do so this spring.

"Right now we have a fairly large online presence but they're Quincy College students who are taking courses online," Tsaffaras said.

"We've asked for authority to offer entire programs online, so we could have someone in South Dakota who could actually – if we receive approval, which we expect we will receive in

## QCAP Hosting Post Office Info Session Feb. 28

Quincy Community Action Programs, Inc. (QCAP), 1509 Hancock St., Quincy, will host a post office informational session Tuesday, Feb. 28 from 2 to 4 p.m.

To RSVP, call: Theresa Whittaker at 617-479-8181 ext. 355



QUINCY COLLEGE recently renovated and expanded the student lounge in Presidents Place on the Quincy Campus to serve their growing student body. The new lounge includes study areas, computer kiosks, flat screen TVs, video games, a ping pong table and ample seating configurations that are responsive to student's needs. Quincy College President Peter H. Tsaffaras (left) connects with Natural Science major, Ben Howe (center), and General Studies major Antonio Belizaire.

Quincy Sun Photos/Robert Bosworth



QUINCY COLLEGE PRESIDENT Peter H. Tsaffaras makes himself available to students visiting the Student Lounge and through his monthly President Unplugged events, which are informal group meetings held monthly where students can discuss their college experience with President Tsaffaras. Pictured left to right in the student lounge are, Visual Arts major, Andrea Diaz, Natural Science major, Nicole Burrell, Quincy College President Peter H. Tsaffaras, and Biotechnology & Compliance major, Vivian Saliaj.

May – take a whole program here."

Quincy College is also expanding its athletics program. The college has offered intramural sports in the past, but it is now a member of the National Junior College Athletic Association for basketball and soccer.

"It's all part of enhancing the student experience," Tsaffaras said.

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