



QUINCY COLLEGE

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Contact:

Taggart Boyle, Quincy College, 617-984-1771, tboyle@quincycollege.edu

Katy Spencer Johnson, Quincy College, 617-984-1759, kjohnson@quincycollege.edu

Supporting growing demand for skilled labor for Aquaculture industry in Massachusetts, Quincy College offers first of its kind for credit Aquaculture Certificate Program

Social Release (140 Characters): Supporting growing demand, @QuincyCollege creates first of its kind, for credit Aquaculture Certificate; Now Accepting Students for Fall '16

Plymouth, MA (8/24/16) - In a first of its kind, for credit program, Quincy College is supporting the growing, in-demand aquaculture industry on the South Shore and throughout Massachusetts by creating the Quincy College Aquaculture Certificate Program which creates an educational pathway for graduates to enter into the aquaculture industry and fills a necessary skill gap in the Commonwealth. Students will earn college credit through courses designed to meet the needs of the industry workforce in current practices. The program to start in Fall 2016 will focus solely on oyster production.

Aquaculture in MA has grown steadily, from producing \$3.5 million in shellfish in 2001 to about \$10.2 million in 2010. With the industry expanding, Quincy College identified an immediate need for continuing education and professional development in the Aquaculture space. The Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NORC) has classified continued education for aquaculture as a "significant issue." The aquaculture industry is having difficulty meeting the needs of industry workforce and skilled labor. Other local educational programs focus on discrete areas of the aquaculture industry such as marine safety and sustainable energy. Quincy College's Aquaculture program merges the practical, hands-on training, professional certifications, and college credit.

"Quincy College Plymouth is uniquely positioned to address an immediate need in South Shore communities for skilled professionals who are working at private industry farms, in hatcheries, and who are self employed. Through the Quincy College Aquaculture program, students will not only graduate with a Aquaculture Certificate but will be YSI, HACCP and OSHA certified. These industry standard certifications will ensure that Quincy College students are entering the workforce, ready to meet the immediate needs in our coastal communities," Mary Burke, Dean of the Plymouth Campus and Vice President for Academic and Administrative Affairs.

The Quincy College Aquaculture Certificate program is the only such program at the community college or 4-year institution in Massachusetts and is not currently funded by any grants. Exploring the intersection of hands-on practical science and business, the Quincy College Aquaculture Certificate Program is 25 semester hours (8 courses for college credit) of introductory courses in shellfish aquaculture, practicum courses and business management. The focus of the program is on salt-water shellfish species such as oysters.

All equipment and YSI, HACCP and OSHA certification costs will be included in tuition. Students will explore the principles of aquaculture, explore small business principles, and coastal zone management. As part of the program, students will be placed in working hatcheries to explore the practical application of their knowledge. Graduates of the certificate program may find employment on private farms, at hatcheries, or begin their own aquaculture production.

In Aquaculture 101, students will learn hands-on skills such as water quality testing, system construction and maintenance, feeding, and breeding technology. During Practicum I, students will harvest and cull oysters. The first courses start Fall 2016.

Beyond curriculum development, Quincy College is seeking to expand their physical footprint at the campus. Recognizing growing need for cutting edge facilities, 24- hour laboratory space and water front hatchery space necessary for an Aquaculture program, Quincy College is pursuing funding via grants to ensure that the Plymouth community has access to resources to support aquaculture.

"We have partnered with the Town of Plymouth, Plymouth Economic Council, Plymouth Area Chamber of Commerce, and local businesses to apply for a Seaport Economic Council Grant to support this program. Established laboratory space and access to hatcheries is competitive. The Town of Plymouth has a ten-year waitlist for coastal space to setup your own hatchery. We ultimately hope that this grant will help us continue to meet local demand, providing not only the educational resources but the physical space to flourish in the field of aquaculture. We are very excited and grateful to be working close with small businesses and the town to create this program," Dean and Vice President Mary Burke elaborates.

"As aquaculture continues to grow on the South Shore it is important that we provide the tools needed to help this emerging local industry succeed," said Kevin O'Reilly, Executive Director of the Plymouth Area Chamber of Commerce. "I congratulate Quincy College for developing and implementing their aquaculture certificate program. The timing couldn't be better and I am confident that the program will play important role in training our new and existing shellfish farmers."

For more information about Quincy College's Aquaculture program, please visit: <http://quincycollege.edu/program/aquaculture/>. In addition to the new Aquaculture program, Quincy College has launched Quincy College has six new majors starting Fall 2016. Visit for more information about Quincy College's new programs and course offerings: <http://quincycollege.edu/academics/courses/>.

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ABOUT QUINCY COLLEGE

Founded in 1958, Quincy College is a two-year, municipally affiliated community college serving approximately 4,500 students at campuses located in Quincy and Plymouth, Massachusetts. Quincy College is an open access institution that encourages academic achievement and excellence, diversity, economic opportunity, community involvement, and lifelong learning. The College facilitates valuable learning relationships that inspire students to realize their educational and professional futures. The college offers 35 associate degree programs and 21 certificate programs in a variety of disciplines, including those within Professional Programs, Liberal Arts, Natural & Health Sciences and Nursing. The college is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and is licensed by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education to grant the degrees of Associate in Arts and Associate in Science. As the "College of the South Shore", Quincy College draws a diversity of students from the greater metro Boston area, South Shore, Cape and the Islands, as well as 121 countries around the world. For additional information, visit www.quincycollege.edu