

Quinsigamond Community College and Mount Wachusett Community College to offer free college through MassReconnect

New England Council members, [Quinsigamond Community College](#) and [Mount Wachusett Community College](#) are part of the \$20 million MassReconnect program that will offer free higher education for certain students.

The program, which includes all 15 Massachusetts state community colleges, was passed in the state's 2024 fiscal budget. It will provide students over the age of 25 the opportunity to attain an associate degree at no cost. Intended as a measure to aid working adults, who had passed the perceived age of education, the effort will make the college structure more equitable, and make higher-level degree and certification achievement increasingly realistic for all. It is expected that the plan will significantly improve the academic outlook for young parents, who may have understandably lost chances to attend college under the time constraints of various other responsibilities. In this way, QCC, MWCC, and other state community colleges give back those lost opportunities, allowing residents to advance their careers and lives, all for free.

"The MassReconnect program is a giant step forward in our quest for equity in higher education. By offering equitable opportunities and resources for our students, many of whom are juggling one or more jobs and caring for their families, we are bettering our entire community," said QCC President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D. "Obtaining a higher education is a way for people to advance a career, change careers, and make a better life for themselves and their families."

The New England Council commends Quinsigamond Community College and Mount Wachusett Community College for their commitment to equitable and accessible education.

Read more from the [Worcester Business Journal](#).