



**For Immediate Release
June 18, 2020**

Contact for Media: Vincent Pedone
508-277-9797
vpedone@massart.edu

Massachusetts State Universities Announce They Will Welcome Students Back to Campus For Fall 2020 Classes

June 18, 2020 – The Massachusetts State Universities today announced their intention to welcome students back to their nine campuses, beginning in September, and for on-campus classes and residence life offerings for the fall semester. With Phase III of the Governor’s plan for re-opening the Commonwealth expected by mid-August, the universities are working hard to develop plans to offer a blended model of instruction with face-to-face and remote coursework for the fall semester. All nine state universities intend to repopulate their residence halls and offer an on-campus experience for their students, while following state and federal COVID-19 related health and safety protocols and procedures.

While all nine state university campuses moved from a largely in-person classroom experiences to almost exclusively remote classes last March, they all intend to return to face-to-face coursework beginning in September. “Because the state universities have very few large lecture-style classes, and maintain low student-to-faculty ratios, we are confident our campuses will be able to provide students some level of in-classroom instruction” said Vincent Pedone, Executive Director of the State Universities Council of Presidents. “Our campuses are well-positioned to adapt to gathering size limitations and social distancing requirements, while providing the high-quality and affordable programing that is our hallmark.” Pedone noted that the all-in cost for tuition, fees, room and board is well below the cost of peer institutions in the northeast.

Each of the nine campuses are finalizing plans for welcoming students back to campus in a way that promotes health and safety, while affording students the opportunity to pursue their educational goals. The safety of our campus communities is paramount. The universities will be following COVID-19 health and safety protocols as determined by the Centers for Disease Control, the state Department of Public Health, the Governor’s Reopening the Commonwealth Plan, and the Department of Higher Education.

“We are hearing from our students a demand for the return to in-classroom instruction and a return to their on-campus housing,” said Pedone. “Our students value the personal attention afforded them by our small class sizes and enjoy the residence life experience offered at all our state universities.”

The nine state universities are still accepting admissions and residence hall applications through the summer, and will be releasing more detailed safe return plans in the coming days and weeks.

The Massachusetts State University System are 4-year, baccalaureate and master's degree-granting institutions. They include six comprehensive universities, Bridgewater State University, Fitchburg State University, Framingham State University, Salem State University, Westfield State University, Worcester State University, that combine liberal arts education with professional development degree programs, and three specialty schools, the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts in North Adams, Massachusetts College of Art and Design in Boston, and the Massachusetts Maritime Academy in Buzzards Bay. The state universities educate more than 52,000 students each year, award 12,000 bachelor and masters level degrees annually, and have more than 225,000 alumni living in the Commonwealth.