



# TOWN OF DOUGLAS

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February 14, 2012

The Hon. Scott Brown  
Washington, D.C. Office  
359 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

***Re: Jobs and Education in the Blackstone Valley***

Dear Senator Brown:

I am writing to you today to respectfully ask that you consider the need and value of bringing a community college to Douglas.

Some background is very much in order.

At the 2011 Fall Town Meeting, the people of Douglas overwhelmingly supported a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) plan to help ensure that Classic Envelope – a manufacturer of envelopes and printed supplies – remained an important business along the Rte. 146 corridor.

Under the TIF, Classic Envelope will be bringing 115 jobs to Douglas with 40 of those being new full-time jobs. The company is also investing over \$3 million dollars into the modernization and improvement of the facility.

As you may know, Classic Envelope chose Douglas as its new location in order to expand its business and create more jobs. Classic Envelope purchased a large vacant textile mill located directly off of Rte. 146 last year. Currently the plans are to use the first floor of the facility for their business operations, leaving other assets of the location, including the entire 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, to other development.

The space has been identified by many elected officials and area leaders as a viable location for another viable and flourishing QCC satellite campus.

Quinsigamond Community College's (QCC) main campus in Worcester is severely overcrowded.

The college has reached its threshold for expansion and the only way to provide the residents of the Blackstone Valley with affordable higher education opportunities is to endorse and support a satellite campus in the region.

The Town of Douglas is an equal opportunity provider, and employer.

Doing so will create jobs and provide valuable training to people of all ages in this region. The idea of a community college in the Blackstone Valley is not a new one and has been discussed for nearly 25 years. But, as you may know, a major hindrance to the creation of a satellite campus in this region was the inability to find a suitable, sensible location for QCC.

We believe we now have the perfect location, at this critical time, to meet the needs of our only community college and, as important, the residents of the Blackstone Valley.

One only has to look at QCC's recent expansion into Southbridge as an example of the importance and need for affordable higher education. We have every reason to believe that a campus in the Valley would be just as successful, if not more successful than that satellite facility.

Consider the fact that there are no higher education institutions in this rapidly growing part of the Commonwealth.

Our biggest challenge towards bringing a satellite campus to the region is funding. I am, however, cognizant of President Barack Obama's recent proposal to pump \$5 billion into our nation's community colleges. We agree with him that such educational opportunities are paramount for displaced workers and high school graduates looking to further their skills and qualifications.

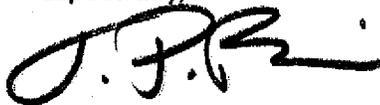
We believe in the opportunities that higher education provides the individual. The establishment of a college campus would provide the opportunity for much needed classes to retrain those who have been forced to change their careers due to job elimination. We'd like to work closely with you in getting the residents of the Blackstone Valley back to work and thereby increase the economic vitality of the region.

QCC's leadership and other local business leaders in this region believe that this location would be a perfect fit for the college and the region as well.

Please consider the opportunity to create jobs and provide education to those who want/need to learn. The time is right and the need has never been greater.

I want to work with you and other state leaders to make this idea a reality, and appreciate your strong and supportive consideration of this exciting advancement in the region.

Respectfully,



Timothy P. Bonin  
Chairman