

OUR CAMPUSES AND STUDENTS HAVE WAITED FOR TOO LONG

Reinvestment in public higher education must begin now



The campaign to Cherish Public Higher Education seeks the necessary funding in the FY 2021 budget to move Massachusetts toward having a debt-free future for students; to boost wages and build access to benefits for adjunct faculty and part-time staff while adding more full-time educators; and to properly fund campus budgets so capital expenses will stop eating into staff and programs. Ultimately, we need the Legislature to pass the *Cherish Act*, which will restore \$600 million to public higher education over the next five years.

Our goals this year are:



- \$20 million for MassGrant Plus to ensure that the state's lowest-income students can pursue higher education.
- \$6 million for debt relief for graduates of Massachusetts public colleges and universities who go to work in the state's public schools. This program will increase the diversity of the teaching population at a time when districts will be hiring many new educators, thanks to the funding provided by the Student Opportunity Act.



- \$15 million to hire more full-time faculty and staff and to support programs that improve student success by relieving campuses of some of their capital debt burden.
- \$64 million for basic operating expenses, allowing all state colleges and universities to freeze tuition and fees.



- \$13 million to provide adjunct faculty with access to health insurance.
- \$7 million to create pay equity between full-time faculty and adjunct faculty, who now teach the majority of courses on some campuses.



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