

P.C.C. Inc.

Advanced Studies Program

Dear Friends of P.C.C.,

It is with deep sadness and sincere regret that we formally announce that the Board of Directors of the Project Contemporary Competitiveness, Advanced Studies Program have voted unanimously to dissolve this beloved institution. This was a tremendously difficult decision, but it is one which is reflective of the consistent patterns of declining enrollment as well as the significantly increased costs of the program's operation which have resulted in imperiling the program's future success.

P.C.C.- A.S.P. was founded in 1968 by a group of area school superintendents who applied for a federal grant which outlined and described a "contemporary" and innovative residential summer program for "competitive" or gifted and talented high school students. Once the grant was approved and received, the planning, development and implementation of the program began in earnest. P.C.C. as it became universally known, was originally housed on the campus of Bridgewater State College (now University) from 1968 until 2010. The program then made a significant change for the summer of 2011 when it transitioned up the road to Stonehill College where it was housed until 2023.

This extremely popular program offered upwards of four hundred ninth and tenth grade students the annual opportunity to spend six weeks of their summer on a college campus, taking engaging and challenging courses in the morning with social and recreational activities in the afternoon and a core course in the Humanities in the evening, all while students experienced campus life including living in college dorms, eating in college dining halls and forging new relationships with fellow students from across southeastern Massachusetts and beyond. Through the years, the program also invited students from all over the United States as well as international students from France, the Netherlands, and China. Since its inception, PCC has provided thousands of students with a wonderfully enlightening educational experience.

For the summers of 2022 and 2023, the post-pandemic program was altered to a four week experience and was also significantly assisted through a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. This financial incentive allowed us to successfully operate the program with less than two hundred fifty students. As you may know, the 2024 program was cancelled due to the fact that we had less than two hundred students apply for enrollment and the increased operating costs required at least two hundred and fifty committed students. Looking forward to the summer of 2025 and beyond, it became clear that continuing the program was no longer a financially viable option for P.C.C. district member towns.

PCC has a long and storied history as a beloved institution for generations of attendees, and it holds a unique position in the hearts of its alumni. The program was truly transformative in many ways and proved to be an exciting life-changing experience for so many. We understand that there will be disappointment on the part of many, but our hope is that the spirit of PCC and its commitment to acceptance and inclusivity can live on and find a home in our communities.

In closing, we would like to offer our gratitude and appreciation to the considerable list of Executive Directors, Program Directors, Resident Administrators, Proctor-Interns, and Master Teachers who have all given so much of themselves in order to provide the thousands and thousands of students who attended this wonderful summer program and that made it the wonderful institution it was for so many years.

Sincerely,



Alexandre Magalhaes, Ed.D

President, P.C.C. Inc. Board of Directors



Brian E. Lynch

Executive Director, P.C.C. Inc.