

## **Public Statement on Becker College**

March 2, 2021

Owing in large part to the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19), Becker College's financial situation has become sufficiently uncertain such that the Department of Higher Education (Department) believes that the institution is unlikely to sustain full operations through the next academic year. The Becker Board of Trustees and the President have been meeting regularly to explore all reasonable options and determine how best they can leverage all available resources to help support a plan that prioritizes the best interests of students, faculty, and staff.

As the Becker Board of Trustees considers options for the future of the institution, the Department is working closely with the college to engage in contingency closure planning, in the event the institution decides not to sustain operations at or near current levels for the next academic year, and to ensure students will have opportunities to transfer to other institutions of higher education with minimal disruption to their education. We look forward to working with the college in partnership to pursue opportunities where the Department can provide resources and expertise, aimed at both organizations' strong and mutual commitment to ensure students receive the benefits of completing their education in a timely manner. The New England Commission of Higher Education has been in regular contact and conversation with Becker, and is offering its assistance where appropriate.

### **Statement from Becker College**

"As stewards of Becker College, the Board of Trustees has been working alongside the leadership team to examine a number of challenges facing higher education, including the decline of college-age students, the increased cost of providing a high-quality education and, most recently, the Covid-19 pandemic. We have been undergoing a thoughtful process of evaluating the impact of these forces on our College and considering every option. We are aligned with the Department of Higher Education in our shared commitment to address the needs of students and families first, while always mindful of our duty to our campus community and our neighbors," said Becker College Board Chair Christine M. Cassidy.