January 7, 2015

Dear friends and colleagues,

I am tremendously proud that the University of Massachusetts Boston has been selected to receive the Carnegie Foundation's 2015 Community Engagement Classification—the second time we’ve received this prestigious honor.

As Boston’s public research university, we have made a special commitment to stand with the city and the commonwealth through public service and community engagement. The Carnegie classification is further proof that we are fulfilling the mission set forth by our founders when the university was created 50 years ago.

Our philosophy of community engagement stands out because it is consistent and all-encompassing. Engaging our neighbors, locally and globally, is not something we do only when it’s convenient, or when we need something in return.

Rather, community engagement is a guiding principle which exists at the core of our identity. It is woven into the fabric of our teaching, research, and service in ways that ensure all voices are heard, and all people have access to the best our communities have to offer.

As we reflect on this honor, we have so much to celebrate together – yet our hard work does not stop here. The Carnegie classification recognizes all we’ve accomplished, and also offers key recommendations on how we can improve. We must embrace the findings in this report with creativity, boldness, and sincerity, devising ways to further integrate community engagement into our work.

Embarking on our next 50 years, our commitment to the city of Boston, the commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the world has never been stronger. The University of Massachusetts Boston will continue to exemplify the crucial role of public higher education in community engagement, as we collaborate to create knowledge that addresses the needs of our neighborhoods while preparing the leaders of the future.

Sincerely,

J. Keith Motley, PhD
Chancellor