



MASSACHUSETTS AGREES:

# Defend Public Higher Ed Now



**Take ACTION! August 19 is a day of action** to stop and reverse the cuts and layoffs in higher ed, and to demand that Marty Meehan and Carlos Santiago do their job to defend public higher ed. We will be joining prek-12 members who are organizing #OnlyWhenItsSafe. See [MTA's Facebook page](#) for details.

## Rallies on Wednesday August 19

[Springfield Tech Community College, 2 pm- meet at front gates](#)

[Salem State University, 2 pm- meet at 1 Loring Avenue/Lafayette at Sullivan Bldg.](#)

[UMass Lowell, 2 pm stand out](#) at University Crossing

**Quinsigamond Community College 2 pm** - show support for the reopening of the Children's School (when it is safe to do so). Meet up at the bottom of the campus driveway (West Boylston Street) to participate in a socially distant stand out.

[Bristol Community College 3PM](#)- 777 Elsbree St, Fall River. Meet at Parking Lot 5

**Boston area and UMass Boston, 2:30 pm-** meet at BTU parking lot 180 Mt. Vernon Street to decorate cars and join the [protest at the Statehouse at 3 pm](#)

## Sign the [MassachusettsAgrees Petition!](#)

### IN THE PAST WEEK:

Our campaign [www.MassachusettsAgrees.org](http://www.MassachusettsAgrees.org) ad is playing on **CNN, MSNBC, ESPN**, and channels. The campaign amplifies the voices of the thousands of workers across public higher education campuses, with **715,000 video views**. WGBH's [Under The Radar](#) discussed the campaign on 8/9.



**Springfield Tech** continues to make news with local legislators calling on President Cook to reverse the closure of 7 student programs. [Watch this great video](#) from STCC Automotive Program Chair Ramiro Soares.

**UMass Amherst unions** fought for health and safety standards for re-opening, and [won a reversal](#) of the re-opening decision. The union coalition continues to fight 600- 800 layoffs anticipated. The Unions have set up a [Mutual Aid Fund](#). Brad Turner and Max Page talk about "UMass to be become [UMuchFewer](#)" on WHMP.

**MTA calls Employers to task: DO YOUR JOB!** A capacity zoom mass meeting of 500 higher ed members on 8/10 discussed actions to bring to light the inaction by higher ed executives. The pandemic response from **UMass President Marty Meehan and Higher Education Commissioner Carlos Santiago** has been woefully misguided. In their rush to embrace austerity, campus executives have slashed jobs, academic and support programs and have undermined health and safety. [Add your name to the petition to higher ed executives.](#)

**STATE BUDGET:** MTA members have been meeting with legislators in their home district, asking for intervention with employers to stop layoffs and cuts, after the **Legislature voted for continued level-funding through October**. [Listen to testimony](#). Add your voice: [testimony@massteacher.org](mailto:testimony@massteacher.org).

