

SPRINGFIELD

STCC's Gateway to College accepting applications

Gateway to College at Springfield Technical Community College, a program that helps students facing significant challenges or who have fallen behind or dropped out of high school, is accepting applications for the next academic year.

Students will begin the program this summer. Gateway to College is open to students between 16 and 20 years old who live in Springfield.

Jennifer Sanchez, director of the program, invites prospective students and their families to attend information sessions which will be held every Tuesday at 4 p.m. in Garvey Hall (Building 16), Room 277, through June 26.

Gateway to College, which started in 2013 at STCC,



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offers students an opportunity to pursue a high school diploma and earn college credits at the same time. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education funds the competitive scholarship program. The scholarship covers the cost of tuition, books and most fees.

Students enrolled in Gateway to College are assigned

an academic counselor who guides them through the college experience, teaches them about careers, organization and time management and provides them with referrals to community resources.

In addition to the age requirement, students must be able to obtain their high school diploma by the age of 21 (or 22 with an individu-

alized education program). They also must be able to read at an eighth-grade level at a minimum and meet other writing and math standards. Students accepted into the program must attend classes 100 percent of the time, be on time, be prepared and complete all class and homework assignments. Students are also expected to spend two to three hours studying or doing homework each day. They must attend regular meetings with an academic advisor and maintain close communication with their professors and Gateway staff, among other program expectations.

For more info about the program and to find out how to apply, visit stcc.edu/explore/communitied/gate-

way-to-college/, or contact Jennifer Sanchez at 413-755-4480 or jsanchez@stcc.edu.