



Press Release

SANTANDER AND BRIDGEWATER EXPAND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS IN GATEWAY CITIES

BOSTON, May 6, 2015 – Bridgewater State University and Santander Bank, N.A. announced today an agreement where the Bank's Santander Universities will support the University's Bridge Partnership Program, a residential summer program on the University campus for middle school students in the gateway cities of New Bedford, Brockton, and Boston.

Starting this summer, Santander will support the Bridgewater State University Foundation to broaden the base of educational outreach services provided by the University for the Bridge Program. Santander's support will expand the number of students participating in the program over the next three years.

The brainchild of BSU President Dana Mohler-Faria, Bridge is a two-week residential program that has brought 500 middle school students to campus over the past three summers to experience college life. Students live in a university residence hall, take courses with BSU faculty and education majors as well as their own teachers; and tour educational, cultural and historic sites across Massachusetts.

"By collaborating with Bridgewater, we are investing in the future of these students," said Roman Blanco, CEO of Santander Bank, N.A. "This program enables young students to experience first-hand what it's like to be a college student, while emphasizing the importance of education. We hope the students who participate in this summer program are inspired to excel in the classroom when they return to school in the fall."

In addition to supporting the Bridge Partnership, Santander will also fund the new Santander Study Abroad Scholarship program at Bridgewater to increase student participation in expanded study or student teaching abroad opportunities.



BSU students will be selected as Santander Scholars on a semi-annual basis with eligibility being weighed by the degree of their documented financial need. Depending on other available aid sources, each Santander Scholar will be awarded \$1,000 to \$2,500.

“Providing and expanding educational opportunity in the region has always been central to the mission of Bridgewater State University,” Dr. Mohler-Faria said. “Whether it’s exposing first-in-family students to the college experience through our Bridge Program or providing a global perspective via study abroad, our new partnership with Santander enables us to expand our outreach efforts thereby enabling more students to experience life-changing educational opportunities.”

About Us

Bridgewater State University, the first permanently sited institution dedicated to the preparation of teachers in the commonwealth, is celebrating its 175th anniversary. It has grown to become the largest state university in the Massachusetts public higher education system as well as the 10th largest college or university, public or private, overall in the state with more than 11,000 graduate and undergraduate students. The comprehensive state university in Southeastern Massachusetts, BSU annually graduates nearly 2,500 students in majors ranging from business to education to humanities to the sciences. For more information, visit www.bridgew.edu or call 508.531.1000.

Santander Bank, N.A. is one of the largest retail banks in the United States by deposits. Its main corporate offices are in Boston and it operates principally in Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island. Santander’s 9,703 employees serve its 1.8 million customers through the Bank’s 703 branches, 2,092 ATMs, call centers, website and mobile app. Supervised by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency and a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Santander in the United States is a wholly-owned, financially autonomous subsidiary of Banco Santander (NYSE: SAN), a global commercial and retail bank. For more information about Santander, visit www.santanderbank.com or call 877.768.2265.

Santander Universities was founded in 1996 to advance the Santander Group’s commitment to its communities by supporting higher education. It provides funding for teaching and research, international cooperation, knowledge and technology transfer, entrepreneurial initiatives, student exchange and innovation. It maintains more than 1,100 agreements with universities and research centers worldwide, including 35 in the United States through Santander Bank. Since 1996, Santander



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Universities has provided funding for 4,100 university projects globally. Every year in the United States, Santander Universities funds more than 1,000 scholarships and supports over 70 initiatives. For more information about Santander Universities, visit www.santanderbank.com/us/universities.

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